

OKALOOSA COUNTY LEAGUE OF CITIES  
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING  
APRIL 24, 1997

**INTRODUCTION:** A meeting of the Okaloosa County League of Cities Executive Board was called to order on Thursday, April 24, 1997 at 12 Noon, at the Upper Crust Restaurant with the following members present:

**PRESENT:** Councilwoman Brenda Bush - Crestview - President  
Mayor Libby Arcemont - Mary Esther - Vice-President  
Councilwoman Sharon Slivko - Destin - Secty/Treasurer  
Councilman Al Swihart - Niceville  
Councilman Heyward Strong - Valparaiso  
Mayor Harry Montague - Shalimar  
Mayor Glenda Glover - Fort Walton Beach

**ABSENT:** Laurel Hill Representative  
Cinco Bayou Representative  
Nick Nicholson - County Commissioner

**ALSO PRESENT:** Helen Spencer - City Clerk - Fort Walton Beach  
Mayor Libby Arcemont's Granddaughter - Mary Esther

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**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by the President, Brenda Bush.

**INTRODUCTION:** The President introduced Mayor Glenda Glover representing Fort Walton Beach and welcomed her as a member of this Board.

**MINUTES:** It was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed to approve the minutes of the OCLOC QUARTERLY DINNER MEETING of March 27, 1997.

**TREASURER:** The Treasurer reported a current balance of \$1,710.14. Dues were received from Crestview, Destin, Fort Walton Beach, Laurel Hill, Niceville, Shalimar, Mary Esther and Valparaiso totaling \$400. Treasurers report was filed for audit.

**QUARTERLY MTG:** Reported a wonderful attendance at the last quarterly meeting hosted by Valparaiso with a turn-out of 80 attendees. Thanked everyone for their lobbying efforts through the PLOC. Discussed next Quarterly Dinner meeting which should be hosted by Cinco Bayou.

It was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved to forward a letter to Cinco Bayou requesting a representative to serve on this Board and inform Cinco Bayou they are scheduled to host the next quarterly dinner meeting of the OCLOC which is scheduled for June and include a deadline for action.

**DOUBLE TAX:** Mr. Strong gave a report to date on the double taxation subject stating they will be dealing with the three original cities....Fort Walton Beach, Valparaiso and Crestview to review data received from the Sheriff's Department. This percentage will be implemented County wide. Further updates to follow as appropriate.

**97 LOBBYING:** The lobbying effort has been going well and the closure will be the 2nd of May. The Legislative Action day in Tallahassee included lobbying by some of our delegates which proved to be highly successful.

**LIBRARY:** The public library cooperative support group in Okaloosa was discussed. The County will need to become a cooperative in order to receive state monies for libraries. Al Swihart gave a status report on the county wide library system noting a meeting had been held with the County Manager and representatives from each of the cities discussing it from a financial standpoint and other points of interest. There is a possibility a MSTU can be created for unincorporated areas of the County to help pay for a library thus not causing double taxation for the cities. He is now aware of the cities views and can take back to the County Commission. The committee is reviewing a draft of an inter-local agreement provided by the State Library system and will be brought back to all the cities for approval. A County wide support group has also been considered as an aid to eventually obtaining a County wide library system. This is a basic review of where it stands at this time. The County Commission will address at a workshop meeting on May 13, 1997. Further reports are forthcoming.

**REPORT FROM CITIES:**

**Crestview** - Presented information on inaugural of the Florida Local Government Health Technology Conference coming up in May in Tampa and asked that they be taken back to the cities for consideration. Youth Government day was the 14th of April and was very successful. This is an annual event each year for the schools to learn about City government. Raspberry Road drainage project is completed and will move on to more projects in the future. The City provided a deposit to DOT to complete a project at intersection I-10 and Hwy 85 thus will be completed two years in advance. This is a project that is really needed for safety, etc. Cleanup activities are also on-going. Also noted downtown renovation is in process for downtown.

**Destin** - Reported the City Manager is on a one-month leave of absence and the interim Administrative Officer is Sandra McDowell who is the present Finance Officer. Next Sunday is Destin's Founders Day and a celebration will be held along the harbor walk area and invited everyone to attend. The charge will be \$10 for adults and \$5 for children for a fresh fish dinner. Should be a real interesting festival relating to how Destin got its start.

Fort Walton Beach - The Mayor said she learned some things on her first visit and will work toward getting some of the things accomplished. Further very interested in the double taxation issue and will attend meetings to become up-to-date on this subject.

Laurel Hill - No representative present. Will send a letter requesting a representative attend the OCLOC Board Meeting.

Mary Esther - Received a CDBG grant and working on drainage in several areas. Mentioned serving 60% of children living west of Hurlburt with recreation services such as softball, etc., which make up 55% of Little League activities. Mary Esther needs help from the County and they are not getting any response from them. Remarked spending \$28,000 on lights for one ball field. Shalimar remarked the County assists with recreational services and feels very fortunate to have this assistance from the County. The Mayor asked for any information the other cities may have on this subject. Niceville and Valparaiso does not receive any assistance from the County also.

Niceville - Gone out for bid on several projects recently and the bid has come back very high thus the City is working these projects in-house. Said parents with small children are coming from various cities to play in the Children's Park recently completed in Niceville.

Shalimar - Participating in clean-up week and just had a park opening this past Sunday. Grant money was used for the park and they hope to get additional monies to expand the park in the future.

Valparaiso - Trying to clean up their Charter as they are still talking about horses and things like that. Ideas are being discussed through their environmental committee for a nature path to be built in the City.

ADJOURNMENT: As there was no further business to come before the Board the meeting adjourned at 1:00PM.

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Brenda O. Bush  
President - OCLOC

