

**MINUTES OF THE OKALOOSA COUNTY LEAGUE OF CITIES  
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING  
APRIL 1, 1999**

**CALL TO ORDER:** President Glenda Glover called the meeting to order at 12 noon at Cinco Bayou Town Hall. Councilwoman Brenda Bush led in the invocation.

**PRESENT:** Councilman Dutch Payne – Cinco Bayou  
Councilwoman Brenda Bush - Crestview  
Mayor Glenda Glover – Fort Walton Beach  
Mayor Del Dunn – Mary Esther  
Councilman Al Swihart – Niceville  
Mary Gary Combs – Shalimar  
Commissioner Heyward Strong – Valparaiso

**ABSENT:** Councilwoman Sharon Slivko – Destin  
City of Laurel Hill  
Commissioner Paula Riggs – Okaloosa County

**GUESTS:** City Clerk Laura Houchens – Mary Esther

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**MINUTES:** Councilman Dutch Payne moved to approve the minutes of the Quarterly Dinner Meeting of 3-17-99, held at the Eglin Officers Club, sponsored by Town of Shalimar. Motion was seconded by Mayor Del Dunn and unanimously approved.

**TREASURER REPORT:** Mayor Del Dunn, Secretary/Treasurer, reported a balance of \$2,075.15. Further reported that all dues have been paid from member cities with the exception of one city. \$21.95 was authorized to obtain new checks. Further a check with Regions Bank revealed one signature is needed on each check for expenses less than \$500, two signatures over \$500. Authorized sending quarterly lunch fee statement in the amount of \$25 to each City except Laurel Hill, as they have not been attending the meetings.

**PANHANDLE LEAGUE OF CITIES:** Bylaws - Bylaws and policies of the Panhandle League of Cities was distributed to member cities at their request. PLC Board Meeting - Reminded Cities of the Board of Directors meeting scheduled for April 15<sup>th</sup> at the City of Niceville Community Center beginning at 5PM. Also a pre-caucus meeting of this league at 4:30PM for consensus. Remember they are coming to our area so we need a good attendance from Okaloosa County. Noted at the last meeting in Graceville, Okaloosa County was well represented even more than Graceville members were. PLC Committees - Further a letter was received from President Brenda Hendricks of the PLC asking for our member cities to become involved in chairing the seven issue driven committees which parallel the committee structure administered by the FLC. These include Municipal Finance & Taxation, Urban Administration, Intergovernmental Relations, Environmental Quality, Criminal Justice-Ethics and Personnel, Utilities & Telecommunications and Economic Development. Further President Glenda Glover sent a letter to each OCLOC City asking for consideration of chairing an issue committee and asked them to share with their respective Councils. This will be discussed at the PLC Board Meeting on April 15<sup>th</sup>. Further debate continued on this subject. Asked member cities to call City Clerk Helen Spencer announcing which committee they are interested in serving, also which committee they may be on for the FLC if they participate on that League. A report will be presented at the Caucus meeting at 4:30PM on April 15<sup>th</sup>. Further everyone agreed OCLOC could be the strongest League in the Panhandle.

**FLC Annual Conference:** A letter was received from the FLOC asking if the OCLOC wishes to host a breakfast at the conference. Discussion continued on this subject. Councilman Al Swihart moved that the OCLOC not sponsor a breakfast at the annual conference at the Wyndham Palace in Lake

**Buena Vista, FL. Motion was seconded by Mayor Del Dunn and passed unanimously.** The consensus was for those who attended the conference to join in the breakfast sponsored by the PLC.

**POLICE & FIRE PENSION BILL:** Discussed this issue and that the Governor signed these bills into law recently. It was noted the league's lobbying team tried on many occasions to obtain an audience with the Governor but by the time they met with him he had already made a decision to approve the bills.

**GOVERNOR:** Mayor Del Dunn advised he spoke with an aid of Governor Bush recently asking if the Governor could attend an OCLOC meeting sometime in the future. Further that it is doable and we would need to give the Governor plenty of notice but it could be worked out.

**EGLIN AFB:** General Kostelnik is meeting with Governor Bush today to discuss base issues. Further the EDC will be inviting Governor Bush to a breakfast meeting in the future. It was the consensus that these breakfast meetings of the EDC was very informant and many cities attend.

**FALL LEGISLATIVE MEETING:** Discussed the proposed meeting to talk with our local legislatures possible in the fall. All agreed the meeting should be held in Destin and be a standup affair so that the members could walk through the group for conservation with the various cities. Commissioner Heyward Strong will contact Destin Councilwoman Sharon Slivko to set up a reception/meeting, possibly at their community center. More information is forthcoming.

**PROPOSED ADDITIONAL 1-CENT SALES TAX:** Discussed the possibility of continuing the 1-cent sales tax and the city share to come back proportionately according to population. Agreed the Mayors should compose a letter to the County Commissioners stating the cities would support an Interlocal agreement that distributes tax revenues on a per capita basis. Commissioner Heyward Strong will compose a draft letter to be sent to our member cities for approval. The final document will be dated April 15<sup>th</sup> and taken to each City for their respective Mayor's signature and then delivered to the Chairman of the County Commissioner Nick Nicholson on April 20<sup>th</sup>. All agreed education was needed to our citizens before the referendum in order for it to pass.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/REPORTS FROM CITIES:**

**Cinco Bayou** – Announced Rieker Industries will be developed next door to City Hall where the law firm was originally located. Also work is continuing on the townhouse project next door. Further the flowers/greenery is exceptional in the area with the beginning of spring.

**Crestview** – Mentioned the Spanish Trail Festival in early May and the Fire Station south of I-10 is moving along.

**Destin** – Absent.

**Fort Walton Beach** – Mentioned received preliminary approval for the traffic calming in our downtown area including placement of various plants and trees to hopefully slow the traffic down in this area. Also the Ballet is moving downtown and will begin construction in the very near future. The funds requested from the legislature for the water study did not get to the proper place for approval. Discussed the repaving of Elgin Parkway and noted it was delayed at this time.

**Laurel Hill** – Absent.

**Mary Esther** – Approached Hurlburt for possible land to construct a bypass to connect with Hollywood Blvd and around the City but was denied by them. Noted the new park, which they have a development plan that includes nature trails and other amenities. The City is also submitting applications for grants to help with the park and other things. Attended DOT Grant kickoff meeting that includes sidewalk money and talked about the point system available. Discussed cost of park and the help grants have been in the acquisition of the property.

**Niceville** – Recently opened the bids for their new library at \$1,835,000 and feel this is a fair price. Received \$500,000 grant and are applying for other grant money to assist with the building of the library.

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They hope to be able to break ground within the next month or so and the ground is being cleared now by City crews. The Turkey Creek project is going well but has come to a stop right now waiting for approval permits from the State. They expect to have the project completed by the end of the year. The widening of Hwy 20 from the East Side of Niceville all the way close to the bay bridge is beginning. Also the bridge at Turkey Creek is underway and should be completed in a year or two. Further Niceville is expecting some major traffic problems over the next few years due to all this road construction. Mentioned the millennium celebration invitation from Crestview.

**Shalimar** – Noted they have a whole new Mayor and Council and are all young and learning and have great new plans for the town. Have just finished up a CDBG grant recently and just entered their 4<sup>th</sup> lawsuit yesterday.

**Valparaiso** – Taking a look at TV cable that can come up with more channels. Have not made any decision as yet. Resolved the little Lincoln project and it will be a park shortly. Were not able to apply for a library grant this year but will do it next year. Resolved problems with Eglin on the softball project. Also discussed revenue sharing.

**Okaloosa County** – Absent.

**QUARTERLY DINNER MEETING:** Announced Valparaiso will host on 6-17-99 at the Eglin Officers Club. Suggested program will include the area legislative representatives as speaker.

**NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting will be held on May 6, 1999

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business to come before the Board, meeting adjourned at 1:03PM.

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Glenda Glover - President

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