

**MINUTES OF THE OKALOOSA COUNTY
LEAGUE OF CITIES
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 2000**

CALL TO ORDER

President Glenda Glover called the meeting to order at 12 noon at Cinco Bayou Town Hall.

PRESENT

Councilman Dutch Payne-Cinco Bayou
Mayor Glenda Glover-Fort Walton Beach
Councilwoman Fay Miller-Laurel Hill
Mayor John Thomas-Mary Esther
Mayor Gary Combs-Shalimar
Commissioner Heyward Strong-Valparaiso
Commissioner Ray Sansom-Okaloosa County

ABSENT

Councilwoman Brenda Bush-Crestview -In Tallahassee as a lobbyist
Mayor Ken Beaird-Destin
Councilman Al Swihart-Niceville

ALSO PRESENT

Laura Houchens-City Clerk-Mary Esther

MINUTES

Commissioner Heyward Strong moved to approve the regular minutes of March 2, 2000. Motion was seconded by Councilman Dutch Payne and carried unanimously.

TREASURER

Reported an ending balance of \$2,818.41 as of March 31, 2000. The Treasurer's report was approved and filed for audit.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Update on Water Computer Model

Commission Sansom said there is another 12 months left on the study and information concerning this subject will be mailed to each City to have a look at it. No area of the study is becoming a problem that is known as they expected it to take at least 18 months to complete.

Update on Proposed 1-cent sales Tax

Commissioner Sansom said they are setting a date for another workshop to determine what direction the County is going to go on the proposed 1-cent sales tax which will probably be on their next agenda and he will let everyone know when the date has been scheduled. The Commissioners wanted to have a workshop together and not one-on one as previously proposed to come to an agreement with the Cities. Additionally meetings have been held previously with the County Commission on this subject. Commissioner Strong passed out articles on this subject that appeared in the Beacon Express recently which was discussed by the Board. Commissioner Strong said each City was supposed to send in their capital improvement program so we can get an idea of why the 1-cent sales tax was needed for the Cities on a per capita basis. He passed out the list from his City and asked everyone to review it to see if there was anything that could cause a problem in getting the voters to agree on the proposed 1-cent sales tax. Further, felt if the Judicial Center was included that it would cause the tax to fail with the voters. Each City needs to put a list together that would be acceptable to their voters. All the cities felt they needed the 1-cent sales tax. Mayor Glover asked each City to bring their list at the next meeting and that would be the main discussion

Page 2 – Okaloosa County League of Cities Executive Board Meeting – April 6, 2000

during the Board meeting. Commissioner Strong asked when the County may call a meeting with the Cities and Commissioner Sansom did not know but would notify everyone when it is scheduled.

Update on Okaloosa County Leisure Service Department

Commissioner Samson said a workshop is scheduled this coming Monday, 4-10-00 at 6:30pm on Leisure Services and he hoped each City had been notified. The meeting will be held at the Water & Sewer Building on Lewis Turner Blvd.

Census 2000

Mayor Glover reminded the cities on the Census 2000 count and asked everyone to do what they could to have a true count for their City.

NEW BUSINESS

Report on NWFLC Board Meeting on March 23, 2000 in Graceville

Commissioner Strong attended and said the focus was on wastewater and to see that monies were appropriated by the State on this requirement which will be passed on to the Cities. Lobbying resulted on this becoming positive for small cities. In the Senate everything really looks good for Municipal Revenue Sharing but it is only a 50% jump. The focus is on replacing the funds that fund the Municipal Revenue Sharing and the County Revenue Sharing with sales tax dollars. Further discussion continued on lobbying efforts in Tallahassee by the Cities. The lobbying efforts assist but it all depends on if these bills will be voted upon in the end.

Update on Legislative Day

The League, including John Wayne Smith and others, assisted greatly with the lobbying efforts on behalf of the Cities. Mayor Glover said the end result is healthy Cities and Counties. Commissioner Strong gave a synopsis on the happenings at Legislative Day in Tallahassee. Further, visiting many offices with information left on concerns of the Cities. The politics require elected officials to lobby along with the FLC in Tallahassee as much as possible in order to get concerns of the cities transmitted to voting officials. The main concern of small cities is to get the revenue sharing restored to 1989 figures. Further the larger cities are not as much affected because they are growing more and don't notice the decline in revenue sharing funds. Further discussion continued on lobbying efforts. Commissioner Strong said there is no end to the lobbying efforts in Tallahassee because things change from day to day.

Annual Meeting NWFLC

Reminded everyone to try and attend the Annual Summer Dinner/General Membership Meeting on June 9, 2000 at the Bay Point Marriott in Panama City.

Nominations

Councilman Dutch Payne moved to nominate Valparaiso Commissioner Heyward Strong as a 2000-2001 Florida League of Cities District 1 Representative. Motion was seconded by Mayor Gary Combs and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Heyward Strong moved to nominate Laurel Hill Councilwoman Fay Miller to serve on the 2000-2001 NWFLC Board of Directors. Motion was seconded by Councilman Dutch Payne and carried unanimously. -

THE APPROPRIATE NOMINATING FORM WILL BE FORWARDED TO THE NWFLC FOR CONSIDERATION ON THE ABOVE MOTIONS. Any other OCLOC member wishing to serve can submit their name for consideration.

It was noted the NWFLC is one of the strongest Leagues in the State of Florida.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/REPORTS FROM CITIES

Cinco Bayou Issued a CO for Laguna Landing so things are moving right along on that project. Announced newly elected officials for Council. Noted a cleanup for the Town.

Crestview Absent, no report.

Destin Absent, no report.

Fort Walton Beach Announced the first reading of the Title Loan ordinance passed and is expecting a packed house at the 2nd reading. Also looking at the possible purchase of land downtown for the new library. Discussing the rumble strip downtown and almost a zero tolerance for speeders which will be a six month program initiated to remind people that we

have 25MPH speed limit downtown. We had a good workshop on title loans last month and favorable that it will pass second reading on 4-11-00.

Laurel Hill Reported the Sunnyside Avenue project is finally completed. Only normal City business is proceeding and they are working on them. Having a problem getting the projects listed on Capital Improvement projects for the proposed 1-cent sales tax. Commissioner Strong will assist after the meeting.

Mary Esther Mayor Thomas said they are trying to set up a Code Enforcement Board for the City in an effort to clean up some of the lots in the City. They are also working on a Motor Vehicle Title Loan ordinance, which passed the first reading. Also an amendment to the Comprehensive Plan which has passed on first reading. Also working on how to calm traffic in the City which will include the elimination of speeding on City streets and the possibility of speed bumps which is wanted by the citizens. Also are in the process of obtaining grants for parks and beachfront property. Also announced the newly elected officials for the City.

Niceville Absent, no report.

Shalimar Noted a speeding problem in Shalimar and they are offering zero tolerance. Gardner Drive seems to be a problem and tickets are being written. They have no more lawsuits for Shalimar as all have been settled. Considering annexing Enclaves, which could be taken into the Town. Other annexation is on going also.

Valparaiso Advertised for a City Clerk. An amendment was voted upon to be able to hire the City Clerk and Police Chief from applicants outside the City limits but it failed. Therefore they have to hire within the City and have received approximately 20 applicants within the City limits which have zero clerk experience. A lot of learning is yet to come on this position. Noted the recent election in Valparaiso and cited the newly elected ^{Commissioners} citizens. Also expect sidewalks from Eglin East Gate to Valparaiso Elementary School. Encouraged the Cities to asked the MPO to vote for them.

Okaloosa County No report.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 4, 2000.

ADJOURNEMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:15pm.

Glenda Glover, President

/s

