

**MINUTES OF THE OKALOOSA COUNTY
LEAGUE OF CITIES
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
MONDAY, JULY 10, 2000**

CALL TO ORDER

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

PRESENT

Councilwoman Brenda Bush-Cinco Bayou
Mayor Ken Beard-Destin
Mayor Glenda Glover-Fort Walton Beach
Mayor John Thomas-Mary Esther
Mayor Randall Wise-Niceville
Mayor Gary Combs-Shalimar
Commissioner Heyward Strong-Valparaiso

ABSENT

Councilman Dutch Payne-Cinco Bayou
Councilwoman Fay Miller-Laurel Hill
Commissioner Ray Sansom-Okaloosa County

ALSO PRESENT

Tom Burns, Town Manager-Shalimar
Bill Readdy-Candidate for Okaloosa County Commission

MINUTES

Councilwoman Brenda Bush moved to approved the regular meeting of 6-1-2000 and the Quarterly Dinner Meeting of 6-15-2000. Motion was seconded by Mayor Ken Beard and carried unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

No report due to absence of Treasurer.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Update on Proposed 1-cent Sales Tax

Mayor Glover said the 1-cent sales tax could only be implemented on January 1 through December 31 of each calendar year per State Statute. This is why there is an urgency to bring this issue to a vote by the County Commissioners. Commissioner Heyward Strong passed out a proposed letter to County Commissioners from all the Mayors concerning the proposed 1-cent sales tax in an effort to get the Commissioners to make a decision and immediately proceed with the vote on a per capita basis and vote on it in early December for a January 2001 implementation. Further, Heyward said he spoke with Judge Barron on the issue of the Judicial Center. The Judge laid out his position on the need for the Judicial Center and Heyward explained what was going on with the cities on the proposed tax issued. Felt Judge Barron had a better idea of what the cities were up against with all the needs that are necessary for them. Suggested to Judge Barron to justify to the County Commissioners the need to fund the

Judicial Center with the proposed 1-cent sales tax just like the cities are doing and all concerned would abide by the vote. Heyward expressed to the Judge that the cities felt the citizens would not agree to fund the Judicial Center through this proposed tax. Heyward said his concern was getting the Mayors from the cities that did not pass a resolution and he agreed to come to the Council meeting to explain the concept. Most felt the letter should go out as soon as possible. Discussion continued on the proposed 1-cent sales tax. The proposed letter was revised and agreed to send out after the Mayors signed it. Heyward will take around to all the Mayors to sign and then sent to the County Commission Chairman Paula Riggs with a copy to all commissioners. Mayor Ken Beard moved to send letter to County Commissioners as discussed above. Motion was seconded by Heyward Strong and carried unanimously. Further, Heyward said the press will not come off the shopping list instead of the actual needs of the cities and he will not talk with them unless they want the list of needs from the Cities not the shopping lists that they have been printing. Discussion continued on per capita Verses State default portion to cities should the citizens approved the proposed sales tax.

Mr. Bill Readdy, candidate for County Commission, offered his suggestion on how the cities can get the County to consider a vote. It would be by having the cities lead the concept for a vote, as the Commissioners do not want to take the initiative.

General discussion followed on the telecommunication bill which was explained is a very important item to the cities.

NEW BUSINESS

E. Drew Harris award Councilwoman Brenda Bush nominated Crestview Councilman Sam Hayes for consideration of this prestigious award given by the Florida League of Cities as Florida's Municipal Official of the Year for 2000. She asked the League for support of the nomination by submitting a letter on his behalf. Mayor Ken Beard moved that the OCLOC support Mr. Hayes nomination for the E. Drew Harris award and submit a letter to the Jeff Hendry at the NWFLC on behalf of his nomination. Motion was seconded by Mayor Gary Combs and carried unanimously. Directed Mayor Glover to send a letter on behalf of the OCLOC.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/REPORTS FROM CITIES

Cinco Bayou Absent, no report.

Crestview Came from hospice ribbon cutting which is a sanctuary for so many families in our area and other places throughout the County. Further this is really a wonderful organization, which needs the support of all citizens.

Further Councilman Sam Hayes was submitted for the prestigious E. Drew Harris award by the City of Crestview. She recited some of Councilman Hayes' accomplishments during his 19 years serving on the Crestview City Council and his natural leadership serving the citizens and community.

Destin Talked about the transportation problem in Destin and efforts to accomplish a solution. Further said fishing is good in Destin.

Fort Walton Beach The City is working on new buildings for the Fire & Police, Library and Golf Course which is taking a lot of time to accomplish. Further the City hopes there is some way the 1-cent sales tax can be approved for much-needed infrastructure and other necessities for the citizens.

Laurel Hill Absent, no report.

Mary Esther Continuing to improve the park system in the City. They are in the budget process, which is about the same time the 1-cent sales tax issue is coming up, and are alerting their citizens of this possibility.

Niceville The new library will be opened on August 5th which is a long awaited event in Niceville. Several members from Fort Walton Beach visited the new library and feel it is really nice and so well thought out.

Shalimar Introduced Tom Burns as the Town Manager. Further, they are in the budget mode and trying to lower ad valorem taxes at this time.

Valparaiso They are in the budget process at present and they are in a struggle over dollars to fund everything necessary for the citizens.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Board will be Thursday, August 3, 2000.

ADJOURNMENT

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

President Glenda Glover

/s

