

**MINUTES OF THE OKALOOSA COUNTY
LEAGUE OF CITIES
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2000**

CALL TO ORDER

In the absence of the President, Vice-President Heyward Strong, called the meeting to order at 12:00 noon at Cinco Bayou Town Hall.

PRESENT

Councilman Dutch Payne-Cinco Bayou
Councilwoman Brenda Bush-Crestview
Councilwoman Fay Miller-Laurel Hill
Mayor John Thomas-Mary Esther
Town Manager Tom Burns-Shalimar
Commissioner Heyward Strong-Valparaiso

ABSENT

Mayor Ken Beaird-Destin
Mayor Glenda Glover-Fort Walton Beach
Councilman Al Swihart-Niceville
Mayor Gary Combs-Shalimar
Commissioner Ray Sansom-County Representative

MINUTES

Councilman Dutch Payne moved to approve minutes of regular meeting on 8-3-2000 and Fall Dinner Meeting on 9-28-2000. Motion was seconded by Mayor John Thomas and carried unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Councilwoman Fay Miller reported a beginning balance of \$2,752.71, with two checks written in the amount of \$78.75 to Florida Secretary of State for incorporation fee and \$73.14 for lunches to Incredible Edibles. The ending balance is \$2,600.82. There being no corrections to the treasurer's report, it was filed for audit.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Update on proposed 1-cent sales tax – City Independence

Reported no additional information on this subject at the moment. Further, last year we had a reception for all the legislators but this year let it slide because of all the things going on there was no appropriate time to hold the reception. At one of the debates for County Commissioners Candidate Readdy said he did not support the 1-cent sales tax issue even after he was at our August meeting in which he said he would support the issue. Further that Candidate Jackie Burkett was luke-warm on the issue. Additionally, it was discussed on the Niceville radio talk show in which the 1-cent sales tax issue was blasted on the program. Commissioner Strong said he called Chuck Kelley, who is the moderator, and said we need another side to the issue and he said he would call him later to be on the show to explain the issue from the Cities viewpoint. We should make up a booklet with all the information pertaining to the subject so everyone will be on the same wave when asked a question. Believes he has not been called back because the County Commissioners did not want to bring up the issue and that it has to be in place by January 1st according to law. Lastly, the County Manager told Mayor Glover they were not happy with the way the Cities was handling the issue and if they did receive a letter they probably would not answer it. Do not understand this as the Cities went to the County a year ago last May and begged their representative to meet with us on the subject. Mayor Glover is recommending each City to meet one-on-one with the County Commissioners to get this resolved. We need a resolution from the Cities stating we will help involve the public and educate them on the issue. All details should be put in the resolution to make it clear so everyone can understand why it is needed for our communities. Discussed where each of the County Commissioners stand on the issue and need to contact each of them individually. Agreed that tourists would pay 34% and local citizens would pay the remaining 66% when and if the 1-cent sales tax was initiated. Agreed that

34% would be paid by tourists and local citizens would pay the remaining 66% when and if the 1-cent sales tax was initiated. Suggestion was to hire an outside agency to coordinate the 1-cent sales tax's effort to educate the public.

NWFLC 74TH Annual Conference

Commissioner Heyward Strong gave a synopsis on the Finance & Taxation Committee he attended in Ft. Lauderdale in August. Further, double taxation needs to be solved and per capita for the cities needs to be adopted. Also suggested was the Cities could go for the 1-cent sales tax individually and not go through the County. All agreed that would be the way to go if it could be initiated. This would be a very positive way to go for the Cities. Insurance tax was discussed at length during a sub-committee meeting dealing with distribution of funds. Revenue sharing was also discussed and the way it is distributed throughout the State. Have a lot of good things happening and we need to stay on top of these things with our Legislators.

NWFLC Annual Fall Dinner

Encouraged everyone to attend the dinner at Bayside in Sandestin. Agreed the NWFLC is doing an excellent job representing the Cities by being much stronger and more representative than it has every been, and advancement of all the communities is beginning to pay off to cover all of northwest FL instead of just a select few. Of concern are that so many Cities in NW FL are not members and this will be looked at during the year. Agreed this should be a priority.

Briefing on Parks Issue

This was in reference to the letter sent to the County on the park issue. Basically, they would continue the same as in the past.

NEW BUSINESS

Election of Officers for 2001

In the past a sub-committee has been appointed to select officers for OCLOC. Recommend this year all representatives should be part of the selection committee. Brenda Bush moved each representative be part of a sub-committee to select officers for 2001 year. Motion was seconded by Dutch Payne and carried unanimously. All members agreed they would come back next month with their individual selections.

Incorporation of OCLOC

Members agreed there is no accountability and incorporation is necessary. Fort Walton Beach City Attorney, Jerry Miller, has volunteered his services at no cost to the group to file the incorporation papers.

Issues for future 2 years

Every two years there are elections and the Cities need to list issues important to the Cities and check off how each of the Legislators and County Commissioners have voted. The issues will be tracked during the two-year period and the public will be advised on results of voting by them. Expected Shirley Ransom to attend this meeting, and will request that she be the County representative for the coming year.

FL Defense Alliance Infrastructure Grants Program

Reminded everyone to attend the meeting on 10-29-00 at OWCC at 7:45am. Further that grants are available for infrastructure projects within Cities.

Legislative Conference 11-16/17-00 – Orlando

Reminded everyone to attend, as this is a very informative conference.

Request from Cities submitted to Rep. Jerry Melvin

Requested member Cities to submit their list of needed requirements to be submitted to Rep. Melvin. Agreed the NWFLC was the leader in Northwest FL and FLOC is beginning to notice the activities of this group. Further the Mayors are banding together on issues affecting our cities.

Briefing on Cherokee Park CDBG Grant Process

Tom Burns, Town Manager of Shalimar, gave an update on Cherokee Park and the grant process.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/REPORT FROM CITIES

Cinco Bayou Advised of the new alcohol law which is in line with surrounding communities. Further the news media blew it out of proportion. Spoke about a local church that would like to open a soup kitchen in town. Also an update on park grants.

Crestview Noted a senior citizen, Emma Lee Grove, who always attended Council meeting, has passed away. She will be missed as he was in attendance at the Council meeting for many years.

estin Absent, no report.

ort Walton Beach Absent, no report.

Laurel Hill Advised Sheriff Deputy stationed locally for the North County and a sub-station established temporarily at the Fire Department. Some disagreement on this issue. The Hobo Festival will be this next Saturday, October 7th, from 10am until 5pm. Invited everyone to attend. Further water rates have increased.

Mary Esther Having our 2nd annual Veterans Day parade on 11-11-00. Discussed the Sheriff's Deputy proposal and the Hollywood extension or alternate.

Niceville Absent, no report.

Shalimar Discussed grants received in the town. Further the Mayor had an important meeting and would try to attend the end of this meeting if possible.

Valparaiso Discussed health insurance and amount it has increased. Stayed with FLC for this year for insurance needs but will look at other alternatives for next year.

Okaloosa County Absent, no report.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be Thursday, November 2, 2000.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 1:25pm.

President Glenda Glover
by Vice-President Heyward Strong

