

**MINUTES OF THE OKALOOSA COUNTY
LEAGUE OF CITIES
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
THURSDAY MARCH 1, 2001**

CALL TO ORDER

President John Thomas called the meeting to order at 12:00pm at Cinco Bayou Town Hall.

PRESENT

Councilman Dutch Payne – Cinco Bayou (Treasurer)
Mayor Ken Beaird – Destin
Mayor Glenda Glover – Fort Walton Beach
Councilwoman Fay Miller – Laurel Hill (Vice-President)
Mayor John Thomas – Mary Esther (President)
Councilman Al Swihart – Niceville
Mayor Gary Combs – Shalimar
Commissioner Heyward Strong – Valparaiso

ABSENT

Councilwoman Brenda Bush – Crestview
Commissioner Shirley Ransom – Okaloosa County

MINUTES

Mayor Glenda Glover moved to approve minutes of February 1, 2001 Board of Directors meeting. Motion was seconded by Mayor Gary Combs and carried unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Reported a balance of \$1,720.17, which included deductions for March lunch and payment of incorporation documents. Treasurer's report was filed for audit.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Proposed 1-cent Sales Tax: Members held a discussion on what the monies would be used for in each respective City or Town. Commissioner Strong presented a memo on Valparaiso's needs, along with estimated dollars each entity would receive. Further, gave a recommendation of giving the three smaller communities double what they would actually receive should the split be 60/40 as the County Commissioners are leaning toward. Requested Cities to come up with a similar projection of needs to be used to educate the public on the need of the Cities. **It was consensus for each City or Town to come up with a similar list of needs and fax to Commissioner Strong before the next Executive Board Meeting.** Mayor Glover suggested, along with educating the public that we contact Various organizations, such as the Board of Realtors, Rotary, Teachers, Nurses, etc. which

would be a big avenue of citizens. Commissioner Strong advised the County would organize a group to educate the public so everyone should be on the same wavelength. Recommended each City returns to their Council and agree on projects for the proposed tax. Mayor Thomas led a discussion on projected needs and avenues of approach, listing and description of projects. The main idea is for voter to know the Cities are united in this effort.

Library Access Network Funding: Councilman Swihart said this is a dead issue.

Storm-water Runoff: Discussion was held concerning pollution of our waterways and attendance at various meeting on this subject. Suggested having County officials, such as PWD Danielle Slaterpryce, attend one of our meetings to give an update on the County level. It was the consensus not to do this now.

NEW BUSINESS

Due to the FLC Legislative Day in Tallahassee on April 4, 2001 it was recommended to move the next OCLOC Board meeting to Friday. **Mayor Glover moved to reschedule the April Board Meeting to Friday, April 6, 2001. Motion was seconded by Mayor Combs and carried unanimously.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS/REPORTS FROM CITIES

Cinco Bayou – Councilman Payne announced hurricane shutters would soon be installed on City Hall paid for by a grant. Further Councilman Jim Kendrick is seriously ill but is making progress. Also Town Manager, Nell Webb, is recovering from surgery and is anxious to get back to work.

Crestview – Absent, no report.

Destin – Mayor Beaird said he gave his annual "State of the City" this past Monday and the City is in good shape. Further discussed number of condos going up in Destin including a mention of Noriago Point plans. Mentioned EDC trip to Washington, DC in May in which many of the local Mayors' attend. He stated this is an interesting trip and encouraged the Mayors' to attend if possible.

Fort Walton Beach – Mentioned Russell Mills outlet next to City Hall may get a starter school that will have 400 – 500 students. NWF Ballet is beginning renovations on their building in the downtown area. We are working on plans for a new clubhouse at the Golf Course and also the library and Police and Fire Departments renovations. Mentioned the Royal View and New Port condos on Hwy 98 and the Sound property across from City Hall that the City would like to obtain for a park.

Laurel Hill – Reported the election has 8 people running for 6 offices, which the 6 obtaining the highest number of votes will take office. Further they will be getting a restaurant soon, which will be an asset for Laurel Hill. The upcoming election has created a great deal of vocal concerns among the citizens and she hopes to be elected. She feels she has done her part in getting Laurel Hill recognized through her activities with the various League of Cities organizations.

Jary Esther - Reported they are working on trying to get Hollywood Blvd extended to connect with Hwy 98.

Niceville – Turkey Creek walkway is almost ready to use for citizens to enjoy a walk or take your lunch and have a quiet moment. Also water tank is about finished, which will supply 700 thousand gallons of water and hold offices around the perimeter for Recreation people. Hwy 285, from Hwy 20 up to College Blvd will be repaved also.

Shalimar – Mayor Combs announced they have a complete turn over in their Police Department and they will be naming a Chief very shortly. Further that we will be seeing some new and younger officers on the Police force in the future. The Town Hall renovation will be completed in April that is a \$100,000 project, which included about \$40,000 of funds from a grant.

Valparaiso – Wolverine Avenue, a true college bypass around the softball diamond, was opened and turned out to be a very good road. Hwy 190, Valparaiso Parkway, was repaved including sidewalks and will repave John Sims Parkway up to the Chamber. The Chamber will be building a new facility and a new lease will be initiated.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 1:05pm.



Mayor John Thomas, President

