

MINUTES OF THE OKALOOSA COUNTY LEAGUE OF CITIES QUARTERLY SUMMER DINNER MEETING THURSDAY, JUNE 21, 2001

CALL TO ORDER

Following the 6 p.m. social hour at the Eglin Air Force Base Officer's Club, Mayor Gary Combs called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Combs led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRAYER

Commissioner Heyward Strong of Valparaiso gave the invocation.

WELCOME

Mayor Combs from the host city of Shalimar welcomed everyone. He thanked them for coming, and introduced special guests Col. and Mrs. Jean Mahalik, Don and Mrs. Carrie Perdue from Jerry Melvin's office, and Johnny Henderson from SouthTrust Bank, who provided the open bar for the social hour. Each table's designated representative then introduced those in attendance. County Commissioner Nick Nicholson and his wife Jo were introduced, as was Northwest Florida League of Cities President Sam Hayes, Councilman from Crestview, and his wife Florence.

DINNER

A delicious and plentiful buffet featuring roasted pork loin, carved roast beef and turkey with a variety of side dishes was proffered. Jeff Dowda, Maintenance manager for the Town, served as a disc jockey for musical entertainment throughout the evening.

FEATURED SPEAKER

Mike Chesser, City Attorney for Shalimar, spoke about the use of electronic mail (e-mail) in relationship to the Public Records law. He strongly encouraged all to be very cautious regarding its use, as e-mails are subject to public records and the Sunshine Laws.

Another topic he discussed within his allotted 15 minutes was the one-cent sales tax, recounting some of the area-wide problems (such as widening Highway 123) rather than focusing on individual needs. Each city has developed a list of needs, and a Penny for Progress committee has been formed mostly of citizens to guide the direction of this effort. He also mentioned an order received from the Chief Circuit Judge regarding the lack of judicial facilities for conducting trials.

(over)

Councilman Dan Farley asked Mr. Chesser if the Council or Mayor could participate in discussions on the internet (i.e., chat rooms). Mr. Chesser advised against it, because decisions could be prejudged in public forum between two or more that may affect the outcome of a civic action.

Councilman Larry Willages of Destin asked if the possibility of holding court at night had been considered, and Mr. Chesser replied that it would probably be too inconvenient for the judge and jury.

He also reminded all present to submit their Financial Disclosure (Form 1) to the Supervisor of Elections office prior to 2 July.

DOOR PRIZES

Commissioner Elaine Tucker conducted a drawing at each table for the winner of each table's door prize, which was a plant in a bucket with beach paraphernalia. Thanks were extended to Mr. Henderson once again for his contribution to the evening's festivities.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

