

**MINUTES OF THE OKALOOSA COUNTY
LEAGUE OF CITIES
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
THURSDAY, AUGUST 2, 2001**

CALL TO ORDER:

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

THOSE PRESENT:

Councilwoman Sara Carroll – Cinco Bayou (Secretary/Treasurer)
Councilwoman Brenda Bush – Crestview
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
Col. Jimmie Smith – Eglin Air Force Base

ABSENT:

Commissioner Heyward Strong – Valparaiso
Commissioner Shirley Ransom – Okaloosa County

MINUTES:

None.

TREASURER'S REPORT

As of August 1, 2001 reported a balance of \$3,294.32, which included a deposit of \$6.50 (Ransom's lunch) and payment of July lunch fee in the amount of \$54.65. Treasurer's report was filed for audit.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Proposed 1-cent Sales Tax: Mayor Thomas said all cities submitted requests for needs and the lists must remain unchanged. The last lists were sent on the 12th of April. Mayor Glover felt these lists were preliminary. Mayor Combs said a meeting of the "Penny for Progress" Committee would meet on August 9, 2001 at 12 noon in Shalimar. The Committee expects some local citizens, one local official from each municipality, and City Managers at this meeting. They are requesting updated final lists before advertising begins. Mayor Combs said Shalimar is not taking anything off their list but they might prioritize and give a better definition of the list. All of our lists contain 5-years of infrastructure items and it has been decided to recommend the tax for 4-years. Once the "Penny of Progress" Committee goes forward with the lists and advertises it then there can be no more changes. Mayor Thomas said the Committee has been meeting every Thursday and he has been attending. Guy Clark is President and Mike Chesser is the Attorney. Mayor Combs said each city should submit a final list by August 9th to the Committee. The Committee plans to have a meeting in each municipality and formal advertising of the projects. They will be mapping out the strategy and is the reason they want final lists. Some representatives expressed concern about being able to discuss lists with various Councils due to no meetings before the deadline. A suggestion was to go through the libraries with advertisement, such as a bookmark in books checked out, in an effort to reach as many people as possible. Discussion continued concerning the 1-cent sales tax issue.

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NEW BUSINESS

AirTran: Mayor Thomas submitted two sample letters in support of AirTran remaining in our County. Both letters are the same with one having all the OCLOC members sign and the other has only the President. The consensus was to have each City sign the letter, as it may be more significant to

AirTran. An original letter will be available shortly at FWB City Clerk's office for signatures. Please stop by and sign the letter after lunch.
OCLOC September Dinner: Valparaiso will host dinner at Eglin Officers Club. A suggestion to invite (Melvin, Clary, Miller, & Peaden) to the dinner to show appreciation for their efforts to our cities. Discussed charges for payment of dinners for Representatives

attending. Several presentations will be made at the dinner. Col. Bird will also attend and will receive a proclamation and plaque including a hat from Mayor Thomas.

Miscellaneous: Discussed the FLOC conference in August and the resolutions that will be voted upon at one of the sessions. Touched upon the many individuals that attend the various council meeting throughout the County.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/REPORTS FROM CITIES

Cinco Bayou - Reported budget meetings at this time.

Crestview - Reported budget sessions; public safety building to be opened in 2002; completed park in South end of City including a children's park and planning dedication; library to be completed in early 2002; 5th Annual Music Festival in September; and Veteran's memorial meetings

Destin - Reported budget in progress; redoing Comprehensive Plan; Cemetery addition; and parks.

Fort Walton Beach - Reported in budget sessions also; new Library located downtown; Golf Clubhouse progressing; World Changers in City for 1 week; they painted 26 homes and 4 public buildings at no cost except for paint and they will return in 2002; and BMX bike park in process of being built.

Laurel Hill - Reported things are quieting down around Town; having budget sessions; and a lawsuit was filed against the Town.

Mary Esther - Discussed armed forces day parade and possible closing of street near Greek Church.

Niceville - Noted water tank has been completed and looks great; working on Turkey Creek trail; and Mullet Festival.

Shalimar - Mayor Combs said the yacht basin sold and the owner is a group out of Atlanta. Changes include the building being painted bright colors. Discussed the web site for Shalimar and reiterated the Town enforces the speed limit.

Valparaiso - Absent, no report

Okaloosa County - Absent, no report.

EAFB - Col. Smith reported the following key events on Eglin; 8-13-01 Okaloosa County Commissioners will tour Eglin beginning at 8am. 8-28-01 Quarterly awards breakfast with Mayors and MAC chairs, must RSVP. 8-30-01 Quarterly African American breakfast hosted by the General at the O'club. 9-8-01 Community reception at Camp Pinchot. No definite plans to date. 9-21-01 National POW/MIA ceremony and the F-22 on a stick dedication ceremony, back to back with community being invited. 9-22-01 Open House 9:30am until 3pm at Eglin. Also discussed the Military Appreciation Day scheduled for 11-3-01 at the fairgrounds. A memorial service and breakfast is scheduled at Hurlburt by invitation and then a parade down Lewis Turner and entertainment at the fairgrounds most of the day. Lee Greenwood, Jones & Company, and other artists will be part of the entertainment. They are expecting 50,000 people to attend the event. Also commented on the recent Tops in Blue concert held at Eglin.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:00pm.

Laura Houchens
Mayor John Thomas, President

for /s/ *Approved 9-6-01*

