

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

President John Thomas called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

**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)  
City Clerk Laura Houchens, Mary Esther (Recorder)  
Mayor Randall Wise - Niceville  
Councilman Al Swihart – Niceville  
Mayor Gary W. Combs – Shalimar  
Commissioner Heyward Strong – Valparaiso  
Commissioner Shirley Ransom – Okaloosa County  
Col. Jimmie Smith – Eglin Air Force Base

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

As of October 31, 2001, reported a balance of \$3046.15. Treasurer's report was filed for audit.

Discussion ensued regarding the amount of funds in the account, with concern that the balance was too large. A motion was made to leave it as it is by Coun. Swihart and seconded by Mayor Combs. The motion carried.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Mayor Thomas said that he thought the League should purchase a gift in honor of General Kostelnik's retirement to present at the party on December 11. Mayor Beaird suggested a painting in the Southwest motif apparent in the General's home, and Mayor Glover suggested a crystal. A plaque was not favorably considered, but a gift certificate was. Mayor Combs motioned for Mayor Glover to purchase a gift certificate for up to \$300, and Mayor Beaird seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Comm. Strong said that the President of the Florida League of Cities, Scott Black, wants to visit all regional leagues. It was decided that Comm. Strong would invite Mayor Black to the Christmas dinner meeting on December 13<sup>th</sup> at Soundside.

Mayor Thomas said that Eglin AFB would be assembling Travel bags and We Care bags on November 12<sup>th</sup>, and extra hands are appreciated. Response by 7 November is necessary if anyone is able to help.

**Election of Officers for CY 2002.** Mayor Beard presented a motion to nominate CWmn. Brenda Bush for the seat of President of the Okaloosa League of Cities, and Mayor Glover seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Mayor Beard then motioned to nominate Mayor Combs as the Vice President of the Okaloosa League of Cities, and Mayor Glover again seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Cwmn. Sara Carroll agreed to remain as Secretary/Treasurer.

Recorder Laura Houchens noted that according to the Charter, Article VI, Section 7 the secretarial function is to be provided by the Secretary/Treasurer. Effective with the installation of officers at the December dinner meeting, the support she had been providing to the Executive Board would be the responsibility of Cwmn. Carroll (Town of Cinco Bayou).

**Bill Frey, Financial Consultant.** Comm. Strong said that since the penny sales tax referendum had failed to pass, the cities could pool the requirements for funds and use Mr. Frey as a financial advisor. He asked if there was any interest. There was some discussion, with the determination being to set up a meeting with Mr. Frey for December 8<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m. in Cinco Bayou Town Hall chambers for those who were interested.

**Lunches.** Recorder Laura Houchens asked if Bon Appetit was still the favored choice for lunches for the meeting, and all agreed that it was fine to remain with them for now.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS / REPORTS FROM CITIES**

**Shalimar.** Mayor Combs said don't speed through his Town.

**Eglin AFB.** Col. Smith reminded said that the Armed Forces Appreciation Day was scheduled for this Saturday, and it would be great! (Col. Smith then left at 12:45 p.m.)

**Cinco Bayou.** CWmn. Carroll reminded all of the OLoC Dinner on December 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Crestview.** CWmn. Bush said that they were growing! Everyone was supportive of the I-10 – I-65 connector at the MPO meeting. She requested a letter of support from the cities, and said that words for a sample resolution would be forthcoming. (Mayor Combs departed at 12:50 p.m.)

**Destin.** A good seafood festival was held this month, and the fishing rodeo was successful (Mayor Beard's boat was the carrier of the 157 pound winning fish). Many new restaurants are

in process: Chili's, Cracker Barrel, Taco Bell, and Red Lobster. The Wyland Whaling Wall has been completed, with over 6,000 kids from County schools participating.

**Fort Walton Beach.** There is a new traffic light at Brooks Street and Highway 98. The parade on December 1<sup>st</sup> carries as it's theme "A Patriotic Christmas," with festivities led by a jingle bell walk and the lighting of the Christmas tree at the Indian Temple Mound. Construction of the Community Bank and Library are moving along nicely, as is the Golf Course clubhouse.

**Laurel Hill.** CWmn. Fay Miller said that the fall festival was successful, and is an annual event to be held the Saturday before Halloween. The City is encouraging this rather than Trick or Treating due to the lack of sidewalks. Also, Laurel Hill is applying for a grant to improve the water and maybe put in a sewer system.

**Mary Esther.** Mayor Thomas reminded all of the Veteran's Day parade scheduled for November 10 at 2 p.m.

**Niceville.** The revenue sharing cut and one-half cent sales tax cut severely impact the City's budget, and they will be seeking alternative funding sources, Coun. Swihart reported. The Christmas parade is scheduled for December 1<sup>st</sup>, and the tree lighting ceremony on the 6<sup>th</sup>. The Mullet Festival was fantastic this year!

**Valparaiso.** Comm. Strong noted that they participate in the Christmas parade with Niceville. They have changed garbage service, and added new trucks. A grant has been received for parks, and the planning board will be meeting for Land Development Code and Ordinance revisions.

**Okaloosa County.** Comm. Ransom reported that the redistricting efforts to get the Island back with Ft. Walton Beach was a dismal failure. This will be discussed again on November 20<sup>th</sup> in the Water/Sewer Building at 8:30 a.m.

**NEXT MEETING.** Mayor Thomas announced that the next meeting would be held on December 6<sup>th</sup> at Cinco Bayou.

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

President John Thomas  
Mayor, City of Mary Esther

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