

**MINUTES OF THE OKALOOSA COUNTY
LEAGUE OF CITIES
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2001**

CALL TO ORDER:

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

THOSE PRESENT:

Mayor Ken Beaird – Destin
Mayor Glenda Glover – Fort Walton Beach
Mayor John Thomas – Mary Esther (President)
Mayor Gary W. Combs – Shalimar
Commissioner Heyward Strong – Valparaiso
Col. Jimmie Smith – Eglin Air Force Base
Councilwoman Fay Miller – Laurel Hill (Vice-President)

ABSENT:

Councilwoman Sara Carroll – Cinco Bayou (Secretary/Treasurer)
Councilwoman Brenda Bush – Crestview
Councilman Al Swihart – Niceville
Commissioner Shirley Ransom – Okaloosa County

MINUTES:

Motion was made by Mayor Glover and seconded by Comm. Strong to approve the minutes from the September 6, September 20, and October 5, 2001 meetings. The motion was put to a vote and carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

As of November 30, 2001 reported a balance of \$2984.60. Treasurer's report was filed for audit.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Mayor Glover was uncomfortable with getting General Kostelnik a gift certificate and requested that she be able to get a gift for him. All board members were okay with this suggestion.

NEW BUSINESS:

Legislative Conference Update. Comm. Strong discussed the possible support of Ray Sansom, and how Okaloosa County was recommended as being a candidate for the demonstration program on the one-cent sales tax. Mayor Thomas thanked Comm. Strong for doing the work in Tallahassee at the Legislative Conference.

National League of Cities Annual Meeting. There was brief discussion for supporting the National League of Cities, and the need for maintaining our posture. The NLOC in turn supports our Congress. Mayor Beaird reminded the Board of the TDC meeting in Washington during the Spring, and its importance for the County.

Quarterly Dinner Reminder. Mayor Thomas reminded everyone of the quarterly dinner meeting, which is being sponsored by Cinco Bayou and will be held next week at Hurlburt Soundside.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/REPORTS FROM CITIES:

Shalimar - Mayor Combs said that Shalimar is doing great, and that the only problem they are having is people wanting to reposition their lighted reindeer Christmas decorations.

Cinco Bayou - Absent, no report.

Crestview - Absent, no report.

Destin - Mayor Beard reported that the City broke ground for their new library yesterday, and that the annual Christmas Parade will be on Saturday at 10:00 a.m. The City is also holding off on putting the public pool in the Sports Complex due to the high cost of maintenance and operation.

Fort Walton Beach - Mayor Glover said the City is moving forward with a \$5.7 million, 30 year loan at 5.11%. The Library construction is moving along and it should be open by late March or early April. The Clubhouse should be open around the same time. The Police/Fire Station is also under construction with no snags. Mayor Glover concluded that the Christmas Parade went very well.

Laurel Hill - CWmn. Miller said the City is considering extending their water line in response to requests to do so. Also, a CDBG Grant is being worked on. A small grocery store will be opening, the Tom Thumb is remodeling, and the restaurant will not be built. The City now has a City Clerk.

Mary Esther - Mayor Thomas reported that three positions would be opening for elections (Mayor and two Council seats). The Bryn Mawr traffic problem had been resolved, goals had been set, and speed bumps and "no through traffic" signs are to be installed. This is on a 60-day trial basis while continued studies are done. Comm. Strong said that the speed bumps that were installed on Bayshore Dr. in Niceville resulted in people driving around them on the edge of the lawn.

Niceville - Absent, no report.

Valpariso - Comm. Strong reported that money issues are the big topic right now. Bill Frey wanted a \$9000 fee from each city for planning purposes. He said the Christmas Parade went well. The judicial conflict over the waterfront pier on City property is over. Comm. Strong asked if anyone had met the new County Commissioner, and suggested that someone should go see her. Mayor Glover offered to welcome her.

Okaloosa County - Absent, no report.

Eglin Air Force Base - Col. Smith reported that there are Christmas parties, going away parties, and change of command parties going on. The next big event will be an airshow in March or April, and they are trying to get the Thunderbirds. Probably won't know anything for another two weeks, due to security issues. Col. Smith has met the new General, and he seems to have a similar background as General Kostelnik.

NEXT MEETING:

Mayor Thomas thanked everyone for their support during this past year. Mayor Glover and Mayor Beard both agreed that Mayor Thomas had done a great job. Comm. Strong told Mayor Thomas that he and the executive board really appreciated his efforts during the past year. Mayor Thomas thanked Ms. Houchens for all of her hard work, and Comm. Strong added that she had done a super job.

Mayor Thomas reminded everyone that the next meeting would be on January 3, 2002, at Cinco Bayou Town Hall.

Mayor Beard said that all of the cities in Okaloosa County do work well together, that they aren't in competition, like some other cities and counties throughout the State.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

John Thomas
Approved 1/3/02

