

OKALOOSA COUNTY LEAGUE OF CITIES
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
Minutes
Thursday, January 3, 2002

CALL TO ORDER:

President Brenda Bush called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

THOSE PRESENT:

Councilwoman Brenda Bush – Crestview (President)
Mayor Gary W. Combs – Shalimar (Vice President)
Councilwoman Sara Carroll – Cinco Bayou (Secretary/Treasurer)
Councilman Al Swihart – Niceville
Mayor Glenda Glover – Fort Walton Beach
Mayor John Thomas – Mary Esther
Commissioner Shirley Ransom – Okaloosa County
Col. Jimmie Smith – Eglin Air Force Base

ABSENT:

Mayor Ken Beaird – Destin
Councilwoman Fay Miller – Laurel Hill
Commissioner Heyward Strong – Valparaiso

MINUTES:

Motion was made by Mayor Thomas and seconded by Councilman Swihart to approve minutes from the December 6, 2001 meeting; motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

As of December 31, 2001 the Treasurer reported a balance of \$2,935.90. Councilman Carroll presented a bill for the gifts at the Quarterly Dinner Meeting. Treasurer's report was filed for audit.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Menu for Monthly Luncheon: Councilman Carroll requested that each member take a copy of the lunch menu in order to fax their requests to Cinco Bayou Town Hall prior to each monthly meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Local Legislation Strategy Session will be Tuesday, January 8, 2002, Tallahassee City Hall. The meeting is scheduled from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Councilwoman Bush stated that each member should have received a packet from the League of Cities; however, that is not the case. Ms. Bush stated she will provide the information to each member for this meeting. February 20th is the scheduled date for the annual Legislation Action Day at the Tallahassee Leon County Civic Center.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/REPORTS FROM CITIES:

Shalimar – Mayor Combs said that Shalimar is doing great without spending a lot of money. A new Police Chief has been hired and is expected to do well.

Cinco Bayou – Councilwoman Carroll reported the City will have two council seats and the Mayor's position up for election in March. She stated the December Quarterly Dinner was a great success and complimented the staff for a job well done.

Crestview – Councilwoman Bush reported the Okaloosa Veterans Memorial was receiving good support from the surrounding communities. The newly formed Historical Preservation Board is well underway. The new Publix Supermarket has just opened along with six additional shops in their shopping center. Crestview also has a new Public Safety building under construction which will house the Fire Department and Police Department jointly.

Fort Walton Beach – Mayor Glover stated the library and golf club will open in April and possibly will be able to hold the September quarterly dinner in the restaurant. The police and fire departments have begun construction. The City will soon have a new sidewalk on the north side of the street to allow pedestrians safer travel.

Mary Esther – Mayor Thomas reported that the City will have three positions available in the upcoming elections (Mayor & 2 Council). The Bryn Mawr traffic problem still exists. The City has been approved for over \$2.5 million in state grants for parks and the Misty Water board dock is complete.

Niceville – Councilman Swihart reported there will be no City elections this year. Approximately 500 feet remains to be completed on the Turkey Creek Trail; however a lot of people have been enjoying it already. A new program has been initiated whereby senior citizens are allowed to go to the park pavilion and ride the trail via golf carts. The library and bookmobile continue to be a great success.

Okaloosa County – Commissioner Ransom reported on January 15th a budget workshop review due to the reduction in revenue sharing from the state. An estimated loss of approximately \$1 million is expected this year; however she feels there will not be cuts in library funding. The county received several grants this year in the north end of the county: approximately \$2.5 to \$3 million in three separate grants for the Bob Sikes Airport; also matched money funding for the restoration of Lake Silver. Some work is slated for the reservoir on Yellow River. There is some controversy over the junk car ordinance since an additional environmental officer has been funded in the current budget.

Eglin Air Force Base - Colonel Smith reported that the next big event will be an air show on the 27th and 28th of April with the Thunderbirds appearing and flying both days. In the event the base is not open for the show, the Thunderbirds will perform over the Gulf or the Bay.

Destin – Mayor Beard – absent, no report

Laurel Hill – Councilwoman Miller – absent, no report

Valparaiso – Commissioner Strong – absent, no report

NEXT MEETING:

Councilwoman Bush thanked everyone for attending. The next meeting will be February 7, 2002 at Cinco Bayou Town Hall.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 p.m.


COUNCILWOMAN BRENDA BUSH
President

07 Feb 02
DATE APPROVED 