

**MINUTES OF THE OKALOOSA COUNTY
LEAGUE OF CITIES
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2002**

CALL TO ORDER:

President Brenda Bush called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m.

THOSE PRESENT:

Councilwoman Brenda Bush – Crestview (President)
Mayor Glenda Glover – Fort Walton Beach
Mayor John Thomas – Mary Esther
Councilwoman Fay Miller – Laurel Hill
Commissioner Heyward Strong – Valparaiso

ABSENT:

Mayor Ken Beard – Destin
Mayor Gary W. Combs – Shalimar (Vice President)
Councilman Sara Carroll – Cinco Bayou (Secretary/Treasurer)
Councilman Al Swihart – Niceville
Commissioner Shirley Ransom – Okaloosa County
Col. Jimmie Smith – Eglin Air Force Base

MINUTES:

Motion was made by Commissioner Strong to approve the minutes from the quarterly meeting on Dec. 12, 2001 as well as the minutes from the executive board meeting on the January 3, 2002 meeting with a correction on the second page under Eglin Air Force Base of the latter minutes from “and” to “or”. It was seconded by Councilwoman Miller and carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Because of the absence of Councilman Carroll, Councilwoman Bush gave the report. The new balance was reported at \$3700.10. Mayor Glenda Glover moved to accept the treasurer's report. It was seconded by Mayor Thomas, and the report will be filed for audit.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. FLC 2002 Legislative Action Day

The annual Legislation Action Day will be February 20th at the Tallahassee Leon County Civic Center. Councilwoman Bush requested the booklets “2002 Legislative Policy Statement” from the League of Cities since many of the members did not receive them. She said, even if council members cannot go to Tallahassee, each one should lobby from at home, either by e-mail or telephone. Comm. Strong said that going to Tallahassee is great. He gave a report on his last trip and said he started the day with a wonderful breakfast, then signed in, did what he came there to do, and the rest of the time he focused on legislators, starting with those from Pensacola. Commissioner

Strong was particularly interested in House Bill 1003 by Meadows, the referendum on surtax. He would like for the local elected people to lobby for the following amendment to be inserted:

(9) Municipal Surtax Pilot Program

In a county with a population of less than 175,000 on Jan. 1, 2002, and that has not levied a surtax pursuant to subsection (3), if the governing bodies of the municipalities representing a majority of the county's municipal population adopt uniform resolutions establishing the rate of the surtax and calculating for a referendum on the surtax, the levy of the surtax shall be placed on the ballot of the municipal electors and shall take effect if approved by a majority of the electors of the municipalities voting in the referendum on the surtax. The proceeds of the surtax shall be distributed to the municipalities according to an interlocal agreement. The proceeds of the surtax authorized by this subsection shall be used as provided by subsection (8)(e). This subsection shall be repealed effective January 1, 2008.

The Senate Bill is SB 1888.

He further reported on the CRA and that it would be a nightmare for the cities. He suggested to keep an eye out for billboards and that that could mess up the transport bill. He said that the bill to lower sales tax to 4 ½ percent should not be fought since it will not pass anyhow.

Commissioner Strong presented a resolution of the Northwest Florida League of Cities endorsing the candidacy of Mayor Pro Tem Clay Ford of Gulf Breeze to be elected as second vice president for the Florida League of Cities. He feels that Mr Ford would be a very important link to the local area.

2. Officers' Name change – Mayor Thomas said it would be unwise to change the name list now, since it will change in a few months again. Commissioner Strong said that it would be advantageous to have each member as well as the president have a two year term. Councilwoman Miller said that Laurel Hill is on a 2 and 4 year election cycle and they will have elections next year. Commissioner Thomas said he was asked by Mayor Beard if he would be president again, and Thomas answered yes. Thomas is unopposed. Commissioner Strong thinks he will be voted out, since the smear campaign has already started, and Valparaiso has four candidates running for two positions.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Governor's Mentoring Initiative – Councilwoman Bush presented the Governor's resolution. Commissioner Strong suggested that cities should support the mentoring initiative individually. He said that Valparaiso has put a cap on the expenses of \$1,000. Mayor Glover said that she had her city manager figure out the cost for 50 volunteers working for one hour each. The cost would be very high. The recommendation was to have each city make its own decision, but not sign the Florida League of City's resolution.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/REPORTS FROM CITIES:

Shalimar – no report

Crestview – Okaloosa County has its first Enterprise Zone in the City of Crestview. It will be close to the airport.

Cinco Bayou – Councilwoman Carroll was ill – no report.

Fort Walton Beach - Mayor Glover said that Fort Walton Beach is starting with construction on Brooks Street. They are getting a new infra-structure as well as sidewalks. The city also received a grant to buy the Sound Restaurant property. The building of the Library is going well.

Mary Esther - Mayor Thomas reported that the signs on Bryn Mawr are legal, but citizens want more police protection. Right now they are using posse members at \$7 an hour. Mayor Thomas said that there are 29 homes on the south end of Bryn Mawr, but only 4 voters.

Niceville - absent, no report.

Okaloosa County - absent, no report.

Eglin Air Force Base - absent, no report

Destin - Mayor Beard - absent, no report

Laurel Hill - Councilwoman Miller - present but no report

Valpariso - Commissioner Strong said that Valparaiso will get its new firetruck next week. It will cost them \$290,000 at an interest of 3.5%. They will also have an upcoming election with four candidates running for two slots. The Mayor is not opposed.

NEXT MEETING:

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

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.



Councilwoman Brenda Bush

05/02/02
Date Approved

