

**MINUTES OF THE OKALOOSA COUNTY
LEAGUE OF CITIES
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 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 Combs – Shalimar (Vice President)
Mayor Sara Carroll – Cinco Bayou (Secretary/Treasurer)
Mayor Glenda Glover – Fort Walton Beach
Mayor John Thomas – Mary Esther
Mayor Randall Wise – Niceville
Councilman Larry Williges - Destin
Councilwoman Fay Miller – Laurel Hill
Commissioner Heyward Strong – Valparaiso
Commissioner Shirley Ransom – Okaloosa County

ALSO PRESENT:

Town Manager/Clerk Nell Webb – Cinco Bayou

ABSENT:

Col. Jimmie Smith – Eglin Air Force Base

MINUTES:

Meeting held with discussion by those in attendance. No action or minutes taken for lack of quorum. - *Mar Mein*

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Mayor Carroll, gave the report. The new balance was reported at \$3930.03. The balance represents February lunches \$37.95, February deposit \$300.00. The ending balance for February was \$3962.15. The March lunches were \$32.12 leaving a balance of \$3930.03. Councilwoman Bush did not ask for a motion to approve the Treasurers' report.

NEW BUSINESS:

Councilwoman Bush gave a report on the Quarterly Dinner Meeting hosted by the City of Crestview on March 21st. There were 96 in attendance with Mayor Scott Black of Dade City at the Keynote Speaker. Steve Garrett sang the National Anthem.

FLC MAGAZINE ARTICLE:

The Okaloosa County League of Cities (OCLOC) is host to the largest Air Force Base in the world. Nine cities comprise the league membership, which include Cinco Bayou, Crestview, Destin, Fort Walton Beach, Laurel Hill, Mary Esther, Niceville, Shalimar and Valparaiso. The Executive Board of the league consists of one representative (Mayor or Councilmember) from each of the nine cities. Representatives from Okaloosa County and local Air Force bases regularly attend the Executive Board meetings to assist in determining the impact on their entities to provide input on legislative efforts taken by the Board. Each city hosts a quarterly dinner meeting in their locale and presents a short program.

This league is extremely active in legislative initiatives, economic development and military affairs. Okaloosa County's population is approximately 175,000 citizens with more than 100,000 residing in the south end of the county. That population segment coupled with a major tourism effort along the Emerald Coast challenges the League to be active in the governance process throughout the county.

The current President of the FLC, Scott Black, Mayor of Dade City, was the keynote speaker at the quarterly Okaloosa County League of Cities dinner on March 21, 2002 and spoke to more than 96 members and guests in Crestview. Councilwoman Brenda Bush of Crestview is current President of the Okaloosa County League and can be reached at 198 North Wilson Street, Crestview, FL 32536; telephone 850-689-1618/1619 or fax 850-689-4575.

Councilwoman Bush presented to the Board the current By-Laws of the OCLOC. She suggested that the Board might consider changes to the By-Laws. It was decided that each Board member would take the list and review it to be discussed at the May Board meeting. Mayor Carroll noted that Uniform Business Report needed to be filed by May 1, 2002 and that Helen Spencer, City Clerk of Ft. Walton Beach was listed as the registered agent. Councilwoman Bush stated that she had the updated form to be submitted. Mayor Carroll will give Councilwoman Bush a check in the amount of \$61.25 to be submitted with the report. An updated list of Board members will be submitted at the next Board meeting. A motion for Mayor Carroll to sign a check for the Uniform Business Report was made by Mayor Combs and seconded by Mayor Thomas. Motion carried.

Legislative Update: Councilman Strong

The Presumption Bill passed with no oppositions. The bill will be at the Governor's office this week. The FLOC has asked all the cities to send a letter to the Governor requesting him to veto the Presumption Bill. The House did not take up one-cent municipal sales tax. Councilman Strong listed several bills that were considered.

Summer Dinner Meeting:

Councilwoman Bush reported that the Northwest Florida Summer dinner will in Panama City on Friday May 17th at the Bay Point Marriott.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/REPORTS FROM CITIES:

Cinco Bayou – Mayor Carroll stated that Cinco Bayou will be putting a Bat House under the Cinco Bayou Bridge. The funding for this project is donations collected by the students from Liza Jackson Preparatory School and donations collected at Cinco Bayou Town Hall. It is for the purpose of helping control mosquitoes.

Crestview - Councilwoman Bush stated Crestview will have the Relay for Life on April 12th at the Old Spanish Trail Festival. The Veterans Memorial meeting will be April 23rd at 10:00 am. The GroundBreaking will be at 11:00 am.

Destin - Councilman Larry Williges stated the Council voted to enact a moratorium on construction on the north harbor at 70 ft maximum. It will be retroactive. The ordinances had not been passed. The city is also trying to have hwy 98 put on the MPO needs list to six lane it to the Walton County line. They are asking for a priority on that.

Fort Walton Beach - Mayor Glover said that Fort Walton Beach Library is being furnished and expects a grand opening in mid May. Also the Northwest Ballet is expected to have a grand opening some time in May. The Clubhouse should open some time in June. The Police station and Fire Department are going well. Brooks Street improvements are slated to be complete by June 1st. The September OLOC dinner will be hosted at the new Clubhouse.

Laurel Hill – Councilwoman Miller said they are working on Grants for a Fire Department and a Housing Grant. They are getting a new restaurant. They are looking at animal control with PAWS and the County will pick up the tab for the service. Commissioner Ransom stated that if the county covers Laurel Hill that all of the municipalities in the county should be covered as well.

Mary Esther - Mayor Thomas reported that he and City Manager John Lulue will meet with Mr. Gay from OWCC to get concerns on transportation and streets for MPO. Will be contacting all cities.

Niceville – No Comment

Shalimar - Mayor Combs thanked Mary Esther for their old Police uniforms.

Valpariso - Commissioner Strong said that Valpariso went out on a lease purchase for a fire truck for \$290,000, sanitation truck for \$78,000, two police cars for \$58,000 and police upgrade for \$200,000.

Okaloosa County – Commissioner Ramson stated they hired their convention center manager from Universal Studio in Orlando.

Eglin Air Force Base – absent, no report

NEXT MEETING:

Councilwoman Bush thanked everyone for attending. The next meeting will be May 2, 2002, at Cinco Bayou Town Hall.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m.



Councilwoman Brenda Bush

05/02/02
Date Approved

