

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE MANASOTA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.,  
HELD ON MARCH 12, 2015

MEMBERS PRESENT:

City of Anna Maria	-	Mayor Dan Murphy, Board Member
City of Bradenton	-	Councilman Patrick Roff, Secretary/Treasurer
City of Bradenton Beach	-	Mayor William "Bill" Shearon, Board Member
City of Holmes Beach	-	Commissioner Jean Peelen, Board Member
Town of Longboat Key	-	Vice Mayor Jack Duncan, President
City of North Port	-	Commissioner Linda Yates, Board Member
City of Palmetto	-	Commissioner Brian Williams, Alternate Board Member
City of Sarasota	-	Mayor Willie Charles Shaw, Board Member
Sarasota County	-	Chair Carolyn Mason, Vice President (Arrived at the meeting at 9:37 a.m.)
City of Venice	-	Councilman Kit McKeon, Board Member

ABSENT:

Pamela M. Nadalini	-	Executive Director
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ALSO PRESENT:

Ex-Officio Member	-	Sandra Haas-Martens
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PRESIDING:

-	President Jack Duncan
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## **I. CALL TO ORDER**

President Duncan called to order the March 12, 2015, Regular Meeting of the ManaSota League of Cities (MSLC) at 9:30 a.m.

## **II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

President Duncan led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

## **III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Member Williams made a motion, seconded by Member Shaw, to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 8, 2015, which carried by an 8-0 vote.

## **IV. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

None

## **V. PUBLIC INPUT**

President Duncan recognized Mark Lyons, Parking Manager for the City of Sarasota.

In response to a request from Mark Lyons to address the board with his concerns on House Bill 817, President Duncan stated that Mr. Lyons may also address the Board during the Advocacy Report.

## **VI. REPORTS OR REMARKS OF ASSOCIATE MEMBERS AND EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS**

None

## **VII. REPORTS**

### **1. President's Report**

President Duncan stated the Legislative Action Agenda has been distributed by the Florida League of Cities; that every Monday morning there is a call-in session to obtain Legislative information at telephone number (888) 670-3525, pass code is 9643438049; that he distributed a list titled "Are You Ready" which has contact names, titles, party affiliation, and other information; that members should see call alerts on their computers and, if not, members can contact the Florida League of Cities; that Legislative Bulletins distributed by Scott Dudley are also a source of information.

### **2. Vice President's Report**

Vice President Mason stated that Sarasota County Commissioner Caragiulo's father passed and asked that the Board observe a moment of silent meditation; that if there are any issues that arise for the cities, Sarasota County has an internal lobbyist, Rob Lewis, who may be helpful with Legislative lobbying, if needed.

President Duncan stated it would be helpful to have access to all of the lobbyists if the Board can be provided with that information; that Gail Loeffler will gather that information to provide to the Board.

### **3. Treasurer's Report**

Secretary/Treasurer Roff discussed and reviewed recent expenses and stated that the November/ December 2014 balance was \$28,214.06; that the January 2015 balance is \$28,514.23 with additional dues being added; that the ManaSota League is in good shape to lobby; that he will make his rounds of lobbying during the Board of Directors Meeting on Monday, March 16, 2015; that he attended the Federal Action Strike Team (FAST) Fly-In and topics of interest were discussed, including finding a permanent funding source for transportation, the EPA's new ruling, Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS), which would have been a financial budget buster but that appears to be a dead bill, Tax-Free Municipal Bonds, FEMA reimbursements, and Sober Homes.

In response to a question from Member Shaw asking about Sober Homes being on the radar, Secretary/Treasurer Roff stated it seemed to be the first time members had heard of it, but that it was well-received; that it was introduced as a result of asking the State for authority for Home Rule, which the State has said is covered under the Americans with Disabilities Act, which is Federal.

Member Shearon noted that Governor Scott was at the Manatee County Port Dedication, where the Governor stated that the State budget has \$10 billion for transportation funding and that he was looking for support to add another \$10 billion, to which Member Williams reiterated that Governor Scott was lobbying for more funding for transportation.

Discussion ensued concerning transportation proposals related to movement of goods via the interstate and Highway 27, how Port Manatee would be tied into transportation discussions, and other ports in the south of the state, which have found a way to tie-in to the transportation discussion at the state level.

In response to a suggestion from Member McKeon to raise the gas tax to fund transportation, Secretary/Treasurer Roff stated that suggestion was not well-received, Senator Diaz indicated the proposal would go nowhere, and Senator Rubio indicated support for lowering the gas tax and then have the States provide a match to make up for the lowering of the gas tax.

Member Yates commented that she sits on the Transportation Infrastructure Policy Committee for the National League of Cities; that the Committee discussed raising the gas tax during a meeting and one area considered was to have cities start passing Resolutions to show that they recognize the issue; that this is not just about service transportation, but also bike and pedestrian transportation; that funding will need to come from a variety of different sources; that language will be shared with the Board if the Transportation Infrastructure Policy Committee develops a draft for the proposed Resolutions.

Secretary/Treasurer Roff stated the Legislature is working on a complete tax overhaul.

Member Yates noted that a bill relating to Marketplace Fairness had just been submitted and that members should watch for that bill.

President Duncan recognized Mark Lyons, Parking Manager with the City of Sarasota.

Mr. Lyons came before the Board and discussed House Bill 817, relating to Uber scenarios, and stated that the Florida League of Cities agreed to support legislation that would maintain Home Rule for local authorities to manage independent services related to transportation and maintain their own service and safety standards; that the bill provides the State the sole right to manage Transportation Network Companies (TNC) instead of local authorities; that the bill provides for permitting and licensing, insurance requirements, and background checks on drivers; that the bill stops short on setting standards for vehicles, ensuring that requirements are met, ensuring additional insurance coverage for citizens; that the goal is to prevent House Bill 817 from being passed.

In response to a question from President Duncan asking if these jobs will be considered as part of the employment rate in the State for statistical purposes, Mr. Lyons responded that he does not have a degree in Economics; that there is a white paper which debates the quality and long-term viability of these jobs; that a

third party nationwide background check is needed on employees and Uber will not hand those records over; that the City of Sarasota is working on a draft Ordinance that would define Transportation Network Companies so they can operate legally within our community; that the State would like to turn limo and taxi licensing over to the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV).

Discussion ensued regarding Uber, the number of individuals who will be employed, the insurance coverage that will be necessary, and the rate structure.

In response to a question from Member McKeon asking who is pushing for the Uber funding, Mr. Lyons responded that Uber is a private, nationwide company lobbying all possible interests.

Member Peelen indicated that she has utilized Uber; that it appears to be popular with the Millennial generation; that she likes this new technology because it is efficient and fast; that it was half the cost of a taxicab when she used it; that she supports local control.

Member Yates stated that Google is involved with Uber; that they are a transportation company which uses a different mechanism through the use of a software product, but that does not exempt them from following the rules.

President Duncan thanked Mr. Lyons for providing an update on Uber.

#### **4. Florida League of Cities' Board of Directors**

Secretary/Treasurer Roff stated he will attend a meeting of the Board of Directors on March 16, 2015.

#### **5. Executive Director**

Gail Loeffler came before the Board and spoke in the absence of Executive Director Nadalini. Ms. Loeffler discussed the Florida League of Cities (FLC) appointment process, and stated that the Board should make recommendations for appointments to the Nominating Committee, FLC Board of Directors, and the Resolutions Committee; that Board is working with the FLC to hold a Continuing Education in Ethics Workshop and suggested dates for the workshop may be in May or June.

President Duncan reminded the board that Secretary/Treasurer Roff has served as the representative for the Florida League of Cities Board of Directors, District 10 Seat for the past two years.

In response to a question from Vice President Mason asking if there will be a Florida Ethics Workshop held during the Florida League of Cities Conference, Ms. Loeffler stated she was unsure if one is scheduled; that Manatee County will hold one in the spring.

President Duncan asked Ms. Loeffler to collect information on other classes to be held in the area and discussion ensued concerning potential dates for the Manasota League to hold a Continuing Education in Ethics Workshop.

President Duncan noted consensus to move Agenda Item No.1, under New Business, so that it can be discussed immediately. Member Peelen made a motion, seconded by Member McKeon, to nominate Secretary/Treasurer Roff for the Florida League of Cities Board of Directors, District 10 Seat, which carried unanimously.

Secretary/Treasurer Roff stated this will be the last year that he will represent on the Board of Directors so that other Board members will have the opportunity to participate.

In response to a question from President Duncan asking when the Board needed to recommend appointment to the Resolutions Committee, Ms. Loeffler stated May.

## **6. Advocacy Report**

President Duncan reviewed the Advocacy Report and discussed the following: Communication Services Tax, Senate Bill 110 (Senator Hukill), which affects the State's revenue, but not the municipalities' revenues; Pensions, Senate Bill 172 (Senators Bradley and Ring) and House Bill 341 (Representative Cummings), which will reduce municipalities' flexibility of using premium tax dollars in the manner municipalities deem appropriate; and Pensions, Senate Bill 242 (Senator Brandes), which will force municipalities to use Florida Retirement System (FRS) mortality tables, and Senate Bill 216 (Senator Bradley), which will allow municipalities providing Fire Service interlocally to other municipalities to receive insurance premium tax dollars for providing that service.

President Duncan read from a table produced by the Florida Department of Management Services in 2013 concerning local municipalities' unfunded pension liability, and stated that the data is only coming from the one source; that the data may be inaccurate; that the following figures were noted:

- Longboat Key- \$23 Million dollars
- City of Palmetto- \$9 Million dollars
- Venice- \$31 Million dollars, with a breakdown of \$9.4 for Police and \$21.5 for Fire
- Bradenton- \$26.7 Million dollars, with a breakdown of \$13.9 for Police and \$12.8 for Fire
- North Port- \$10 Million dollars, with a breakdown of \$7.2 for Police and \$2.85 for Fire
- Sarasota- \$176 Million dollars, with a breakdown of \$65 for Police, \$45 for Fire, and \$56 for General

President Duncan continued to review the Advocacy Report and discussed the following: Vacation Rentals, House Bill 735 (Representative Moraitis) and companion bill Senate Bill 1344 (Senator Altman), which puts in a seven day minimum requirement for a vacation rental and also allows municipalities with grandfathered-in Ordinances/Legislation to make modifications to their Ordinances; Sober Homes, Senate Bill 326 (Senator Clemens) and companion bill House Bill 21 (Representative Hager), which will allow for volunteer regulation and the Department of Children and Families to develop the certification process for sober homes; Medical Marijuana, Senate Bill 528 (Senator Brandes) and House Bill 683 (Representative Steube), which allows for treatment of eight different medical conditions through medical marijuana and has regulations for growing, selling, etc; and Gun Ranges, House Bill 623 (Representative Rouson), which may be a dead bill regarding gun laws.

President Duncan continued to review Legislation and discussed Bill EDTS3, which came out of the Economic Development Tourism Subcommittee, and stated that Senator Avila has determined there is no advantage to the State, nor a return to the State on Enterprise Zones; that the bill asks that the Enterprise Zone Program sunset in 2015; that local municipalities would be allowed to create their own Enterprise Zones and fund them, which is the case now; that the bill hits Impact Fees hard, placing a two year suspension on Impact Fees, Business Permitting Fees and Building Permits, and prohibits Impact Fees from being levied on small businesses with twelve or less employees; that Impact Fees can be restored after two years with a supermajority vote.

## **VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

President Duncan asked if the Board feels the Legislative Priorities need to be modified at this time, which the Board declined.

In response to a question from Member Shaw asking for information concerning Senator Detert's position on the Enterprise Zone, including alternatives and how soon they may be effective, Member Yates stated Senate Bill 392 by (Senator Clemens) calls for the reauthorization of the Enterprise Zone through 2025, which Senator Detert does not support.

Member Yates further stated that the Board should be aware of House Bill 391 in regards to utilities that will impact communities by attempting to require that local governments would be funding any movement of utilities.

Member Shearon stated that the combination of receiving short summaries on legislative items and limiting meetings to 90 minutes would be beneficial.

Discussion ensued regarding the roles of the members in advocating, the varying comfort level in understanding issues, references in the By-Laws concerning responsibility of members in advocating, anticipating the time it takes to progress through the Agenda, preparing short summaries to include with the backup material to assist with facilitating discussion, and assigning timeframes to each item on the Agenda to reduce the length of meetings.

President Duncan stated that the Board needs to establish a date for a Special Meeting to discuss the By-Laws; that a discussion concerning the date for the election of officers also needs to be reviewed.

**IX. NEW BUSINESS**

None

**X. OTHER MATTERS**

None

**XI. FUTURE MEETINGS**

Next Regular Meeting will be held on May 14, 2015.

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:14 a.m.



President Jack Duncan