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Journal

Official publication of the Alabama League of Municipalities

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OF MUNICIPALITIES



**League Delegates Elect 2020-2021
Leadership; Greg Cochran Named
Fifth Executive Director**

See page 7



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On the Cover:

On July 23rd at the Annual Business Session held in Montgomery, Athens Mayor Ronnie Marks (second from left) officially passed the President's Gavel to Guntersville Mayor Leigh Dollar, who became president on June 1 when he resigned from the role in order to allow her a full term since the League's Annual Convention slated for May was upended by COVID-19. Also on July 23rd, the membership elected Opelika Mayor Gary Fuller (right) as Vice President and Greg Cochran (left) as the League's fifth executive director in its 85-year history. Cover photo by Sydney Foster.

Executive Director's Remarks

2020 Annual Business Session
July 23 • Montgomery

Gregory D. Cochran, CAE

I learned early in life, as the son of a Navy SEAL, what teamwork *means*, as well as what tools are necessary to guarantee a team operates efficiently and effectively. Every action a Navy SEAL makes is intentional – with the goal that the *team* reaches its full potential.

As a 2018 graduate of the Delta Regional Authority's Leadership Institute, I learned that sustainable community solutions are derived from inclusive partnerships.

From 20 years of marriage, I learned the value of having crucial conversations.

And, raising two boys into manhood, I learned how to make difficult and sometimes unpopular decisions that were in the best interest of our family as a whole.

These lessons, along with others, are what I purposefully attempt to demonstrate and what I expect from your League team.

Understanding that municipalities are the foundation of our state, and recognizing that we want ALM to be in a proactive position to support our cities and towns as they respond to the challenges and opportunities ahead, we are going to work harder than we have ever worked. However, if we are intentional and attentive, I have no doubt that our organization will provide the resources to our members that will foster communities where businesses want to invest and citizens want to live, work and play.

It is my intention to harken back to the early days of the League when our first Executive Director, Ed Reid, ensured our organization was recognized as the voice of and the most reliable resource for municipal government. As we move forward, ALM's focus will be advocacy, education, outreach and service development.



Enhancing our advocacy resources to reflect the 21st Century will allow us to expand our strategic partnerships; be more interactive with state policymakers throughout the year; develop strategic narratives that reflect the importance of municipalities; advocate on behalf of Alabama's municipalities at the congressional level; and identify and engage critical thought leaders who will not only help our cities and towns, but move Alabama forward. It is my commitment to you, that we will be inclusive and collaborative with *all* municipal officials from across our state to best represent citizens' needs and desires for a better Alabama.

We have already begun the necessary steps to put this structure in place. On June 1, we expanded and restructured our advocacy team. Kayla Bass was promoted to Director of External Affairs where she will work to promote League legislative positions through the development and implementation of grassroots campaigns and targeted advocacy strategies. Bryan Parker joined the League as our Director of Governmental Affairs with an impressive economic development background from his years with PowerSouth Energy and former Congressman Jo Bonner to focus his expertise on economic and community development. We recruited Baker Allen to join our team from the Governor's Office as Director of Policy and Research with extensive policy development skills, including substantial knowledge on issues that are vital to local governments such as broadband development, environmental regulation and Opportunity Zones. This will allow us to provide strategic data and statistics to back and enhance our position on issues. Furthermore, Kayla, Bryan and Baker will be working in collaboration with Lori Lein and Carrie Banks to enhance our outreach and services while ensuring we remain a steadfast

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President's Perspective

2020 Annual Business Session
July 23 • Montgomery

Mayor Leigh Dollar • ALM President

We are Stronger Together

2020 has been anything but normal as indicated by this year's convention – a condensed one day event where everyone was six feet apart and wearing masks. Every municipal leader has been faced with decisions and challenges that we never dreamed of; yet, we were elected to serve through leadership, and we all want to make a difference in our community no matter how large or small. We are going to make positive differences this next year together!

We are all navigating a pandemic that none of us have experienced in our lifetime. We have learned new terms such as social distancing, sheltering in place, zoom fatigue and flatten the curve. Over the last few months, we have been on more conference and video calls than we care to count. We have closed our cities, and we have opened our cities. We all are making the best decisions we can with the information we have to keep people safe while trying not to destroy the economy and our local revenues.

At the end of the day, I hope we have learned the value of human connections.

Also, many of our municipalities have experienced civil unrest in the past few months. It's difficult to put in words the many emotions our society is dealing with. In valuing human connections, we must stand together against racism and injustice. Municipal officials are a group of deeply motivated individuals who want the best for our communities. While we may not have all the answers, we were elected by our citizens to have critical conversations and make difficult decisions. We have lots of work to do. Let's commit together to hold ourselves accountable by



Athens Mayor Ronnie Marks officially passed the president's gavel to Gunter Mayor Leigh Dollar on July 23rd during the League's Annual Business Session in Montgomery.

listening, learning, doing better and being better. Local leaders – *all of us* – are at the grassroots level. We understand our communities because we live, work and play there along with our constituents. **Grassroots governance is where positive change happens.** We were mandated by the vote of our communities to be the conduit for positive change – to shape the narrative and to energize, inspire and engage our citizens!

As we look toward the next year, I want to thank everyone at the League for everything they do for all our municipalities. I want to also thank the League staff for making this year's unconventional annual convention a reality on July 23rd in Montgomery. It may have been smaller, but it still took a lot of work to put together and to navigate all the challenges associated with COVID-19. I look forward to working with Greg Cochran in his new role as Executive Director along with our excellent staff. Carrie Banks and her team always make us look good. Lori Lein and her team keep us legal. Kayla Bass and her team stay on top of all the legislative issues. Richard Buttenshaw and his team manage a host of financial and insurance services that are critical for our cities. Chuck Stephenson and his team keep up with all the League's technology – and actually make it work! Theresa Cook and Cindy Price make sure we are where we're supposed to be and that our CMO credit is logged and accurate. I also welcome our newest staff members and look forward to getting to know you and working with you. If I didn't mention you by name, it doesn't mean you are unnoticed – we appreciate each of you and your efforts on our behalf!

How fortunate are we to have these gifted professionals working so hard for all of us? We truly have a rock star crew and are blessed to have them on our side helping with anything we need. Our League is committed to putting the resources together to identify opportunities for our communities and help us as local leaders face unforeseen challenges. I have witnessed firsthand the League organizing task forces to get in front of an

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and reliable resource for our members, the Legislature, our congressional delegation and strategic partners.

Over the last three years, and especially during the last few months, we have enhanced our presence with state and local media. The League's advocacy and communication teams hosted "Media Days" the last two years, which serve as an opportunity to update reporters on legislative issues affecting Alabama's municipalities while also allowing elected officials to answer direct questions from media. Staff has also prepared and distributed relevant press releases and op-eds regarding municipal challenges and efforts throughout the year.

When the League expanded its advocacy efforts three years ago, it allowed us the opportunity to reevaluate how we focused on distinct municipal challenges. Since then, we have implemented strategic advocacy campaigns aimed at successfully sharing our narrative with the Legislature, the media and the public, while also narrowing our focus on legislative issues that have allowed us to take a proactive approach on behalf of municipalities. Additionally, we have intentionally endeavored to strengthen our relationships with our members in Congress and to expand our congressional network and outreach.

We are in the process of reevaluating conferences and trainings hosted by the League. When you attend an event hosted by us, whether it be our Annual Convention, the Municipal Leadership Institute, orientation sessions or other learning opportunities, we want you to feel there is purpose and intention – and that you leave our events with resources and relationships you can apply in your community to continue moving it forward.

In addition to these efforts I've just mentioned, ALM is working towards developing resources to educate citizens and children about the importance of municipalities, civics and good citizenship – while continuing to work strategically and intentionally with local, state and national organizations, agencies, stakeholders and partners to gather accurate, transparent revenue data; ensure municipal authority remains intact; and distribute critical information to cities and towns throughout the year.

On April 28th, in collaboration with the city of Tuscaloosa, ALM launched the COVID-19 Revenue Loss Portal at the recommendation of our 10-member Stimulus Task Force. Recognizing that Alabama's municipalities are on the front lines in the COVID-19 fight and are being hit the hardest by this pandemic, it was imperative that our organization join forces with municipal officials to identify the areas where our communities would experience the greatest loss of revenue, as well as a way to capture that data. Our hopes are that the COVID-19 Revenue Loss Portal will provide us with the accurate information we need to effectively advocate on behalf of our communities for replacement stimulus funds at the Congressional level.

It goes without saying that COVID-19 has upended lives and livelihoods and caused significant economic disruption throughout Alabama, particularly at the local level. Yet, even with the unprecedented challenges we're all now facing, in my 24 years with the Alabama League of Municipalities, I have never been more enthusiastic about our mission or the future of our cities and towns. I hope you feel the same way and will continue to be active in our organization as we work proactively to protect municipal authority. Our 22-member staff has a wealth of institutional knowledge – from advocacy to educational outreach to legal expertise on municipal government.

The Navy SEALs have a mantra: "The only easy day was yesterday." With that attitude, we can be mentally prepared for all we face each day. We know that Alabama is resilient. Its people are determined, innovative and ready to begin again – particularly at the local level – and ALM will continue to be at the forefront daily to ensure that the cities and towns across our state have the foundation they need in order for businesses to prosper and for citizens to live, work and play in their communities.

Strong, proactive local government matters now more than ever.

Thank you for your leadership in our organization and your community. ■



Minutes of the Annual Business Session

July 23, 2020 • Montgomery

The Annual Business Session of the Convention of the Alabama League of Municipalities was called to order at 3:00 p.m., July 23, 2020, by President Leigh Dollar at the Renaissance Hotel and Convention Center in Montgomery, Alabama. President Dollar welcomed the attendees and called on Councilmember Mack Arthur Bell, Roanoke, to give the invocation. The President then called upon Lori Lein, League General Counsel, who read the rules for voting during the League Business Session.

Following the reading of the rules, the President turned the gavel over to the Immediate Past President of the League, Mayor Ronnie Marks, to preside over the election of officers. Mayor Marks took a moment of personal privilege to discuss the change in leadership as a result of the postponement of the League's annual convention due to COVID-19. Mayor Marks commended the League staff for their hard work during the pandemic and expressed his gratitude to the staff and the League membership for supporting him during his term as President. Mayor Marks then noted that the Nominating Committee had a tough assignment choosing officers for the next year from an abundance of very qualified candidates. He reported that the Nominating Committee met earlier in the day to recommend a slate of officers to lead the League in the year ahead. Mayor Marks called on Lori Lein to read the names of the persons recommended to fill the League's leadership positions.

For President: Leigh Dollar, Mayor, Guntersville

For Vice President: Gary Fuller, Mayor, Opelika

For Executive Director: Greg Cochran, Interim Executive Director of the League

For Chair & Vice Chair of League Policy Committees

Committee on State and Federal Legislation:

Chair: Adam Bourne, Councilmember, Chickasaw

Vice Chair: Jocelyn Tubbs-Turner, Councilmember, Marion

Finance, Administration and Intergovernmental Relations Committee:

Chair: Ruthie Campbell, Councilmember, Robertsdale

Vice Chair: Charles Black, Councilmember, Priceville

Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Committee:

Chair: Johnny Smith, Mayor, Jacksonville

Vice Chair: Connie Robinson, Councilmember, Citronelle

Community and Economic Development Committee:

Chair: Wayne Biggs, Councilmember, Saraland

Vice Chair: Joe Watson, Councilmember, Brewton

Transportation, Public Safety and Communications Committee:

Chair: Jerry Starnes, Councilmember, Prattville

Vice Chair: Michael Gay, Councilmember, Millbrook

Human Development Committee:

Chair: Jennifer Williams Smith, Councilmember, Jasper

Vice Chair: Barry Moody, Mayor, LaFayette

For Executive Committee

From the First Congressional District:

Jim Staff, Mayor, Atmore

Katherine Breeden, Councilmember, Loxley

Paul South, Mayor, Jackson

Newton Cromer, Councilmember, Saraland

Thomas Williams, Mayor, Satsuma

From the Second Congressional District:

Mickey Murdock, Mayor, Elba

Bill Gillespie, Mayor, Prattville

Darrell Wilson, Councilmember, Tallassee

Jason Reeves, Mayor, Troy

Mark Saliba, Mayor, Dothan



Author, consultant and motivational speaker Joyce E. Brooks was the opening keynote speaker for ALM's abbreviated Annual Convention in Montgomery on July 23rd. Originally from Prichard, Joyce is a former Alabama Power executive, two-time cancer survivor and a widow raising two teenage boys as a single mother. Her presentation, "What's Next?" based on strategies from several of her books, including Self-Inflicted Overload, It Ain't Over! and SHIFT Happens, was timely and thought-provoking and marked Joyce's fourth time speaking to League delegates.



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From the Third Congressional District:

Rusty Jessup, Mayor, Riverside
 Lawrence “Tony” Haygood, Jr., Mayor, Tuskegee
 Billy Pearson, Councilmember, Lincoln
 Alberta McCrory, Mayor, Hobson City
 Mack Arthur Bell, Councilmember, Roanoke

From the Fourth Congressional District:

Woody Jacobs, Mayor, Cullman
 Allen Dunavant, Mayor, Glen Allen
 Deverick Williams, Councilmember, Gadsden
 Mike Lockhart, Councilmember, Muscle Shoals
 Scott Reeves, Mayor, Hokes Bluff

From the Fifth Congressional District:

Randy Garrison, Mayor, Hartselle
 Gary Livingston, Mayor, Eva
 Tommy Battle, Mayor, Huntsville
 Sandra Burroughs, Mayor, Lexington
 Tommy Perry, Councilmember, Priceville

From the Sixth Congressional District:

Marty Handlon, Mayor, Alabaster
 Hollie Cost, Mayor, Montevallo
 Tom Henderson, Mayor, Center Point
 Bobby Cook, Councilmember, Clanton
 Rick Hayes, Councilmember, Pelham

From the Seventh Congressional District:

Marva Gipson, Mayor, Aliceville
 Randall Woodfin, Mayor, Birmingham
 Loxcil Tuck, Mayor, Tarrant
 Don Moore, Councilmember, Uniontown
 Gena Robbins, Mayor, York

Ex Officio Members (Active Past Presidents)

Harold Swearingen, Councilmember, Pine Hill
 Lew Watson, Mayor, Lincoln
 Melvin Duran, Mayor, Priceville
 Charles Murphy, Mayor, Robertsdale
 David Bradford, Mayor, Muscle Shoals
 Walt Maddox, Mayor, Tuscaloosa
 Wally Burns, Mayor, Southside
 Sadie Britt, Councilmember, Lincoln
 Howard Rubenstein, Mayor, Saraland
 Jesse Matthews, Council President, Bessemer
 Ronnie Marks, Mayor, Athens

Mayor Marks called for any nominations from the floor. Mayor Sheldon Day, Thomasville, moved adoption of the Nominating Committee Report as presented. Mayor Wayne Smith, Dadeville, seconded the motion. The motion

passed unanimously. Mayor Marks declared all officers elected. He then congratulated Mayor Dollar and turned the gavel back over to her to preside over the remainder of the business meeting. Mayor Dollar provided her remarks and thanked the membership for entrusting her with the position of President of the League.

President Dollar then informed the membership that Governor Kay Ivey had been invited to speak but due to COVID-19 had sent her remarks via video which was played for the membership. Following Governor Ivey’s speech, the President called on Greg Cochran, Executive Director, to present Hometown Hero awards to people who had gone above and beyond to help Alabama’s municipalities and the League during the COVID-19 pandemic. The following persons were presented with awards:

- **Steve Marshall**, Alabama Attorney General
- **Katherine Green Robertson**, Chief Counsel to the Attorney General of Alabama
- **Shane Black**, partner with Hand, Arendall, Harrison, Sale and city attorney for the City of Athens.
- **Benjamin Goldman**, partner with Hand, Arendall, Harrison, Sale and city attorney for the cities of Tarrant, Mulga and Cordova.
- **Will Parker**, General Counsel to Alabama Governor Kay Ivey.
- **Susan Snowden**, Chief Financial Officer for the City of Tuscaloosa
- **Alex House**, Communication Specialist for the City of Tuscaloosa

Following the Hometown Hero awards, Greg Cochran called on Steve Wells, President of the Alabama Municipal Insurance Corporation and presented him with his 25 year service award from the National League of Cities.

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Greg Cochran (third from left) with delegates to ALM's abbreviated Annual Convention on July 23rd shortly after being named the League's fifth executive director during the Annual Business Session.



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Opelika Mayor Gary Fuller Elected League Vice President

On July 23, Opelika Mayor Gary Fuller was elected by his municipal colleagues to serve as Vice President of the Alabama League of Municipalities for 2020-2021. He was elected and took office during the League's Annual Business Session, which was held in Montgomery.

"We appreciate Mayor Fuller's commitment to his community, local government and our organization," said League Executive Director Greg Cochran. "Municipalities are the foundation of Alabama's economy and Mayor Fuller understands that collaboration and partnerships across all levels are necessary to provide essential resources to foster safe, vibrant communities where our citizens can live, work, play and prosper."

Mayor Fuller serves on the League's Stimulus Task Force and is the past chair of the League's Committee on State and Federal Legislation.

He has completed the League's Basic and Advanced Certified Municipal Official programs and is currently working on his CMO Emeritus designation. He was elected mayor of the City of Opelika in 2004. He served on the Opelika City Council from 2000-2004 before becoming mayor. Mayor Fuller is the past president of the Lee County United Way, Opelika Rotary Club and the Opelika Chamber of Commerce. He was President and CEO of Fuller Broadcasting Company, Inc. from 1985 until he sold the company in December 1998. His six stations received numerous awards and accolades for community service and local news coverage. In 1988 WZMG and WKKR became the first stations in Alabama to earn the National Association of Broadcasters Crystal Award for community service. ■



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The League Welcomes New Advocacy Team Members Bryan Parker and Baker Allen



Bryan Parker
Director of Governmental Affairs

Bryan joined the Alabama League of Municipalities' staff in June 2020 as Director of Governmental Affairs responsible for federal and state legislation. He came to the League from PowerSouth Energy where he was an Economic Development Representative responsible for recruitment and business development initiatives. In that role, he worked with marketing allies, development organizations and their member cooperatives to recruit prospective companies and new industry to Alabama. Prior to his service at PowerSouth, Bryan served for five years as a Field Representative for United States Congressman Jo Bonner. He holds a Masters of Economic and Workforce Development from the University of Southern Mississippi and a Bachelor of Science in Finance from Auburn University Montgomery. A native of Greenville, Bryan and his wife, Katy, and daughter, Sybil, live in Pike Road, Alabama.



Baker Allen
Director of Policy and Research

An Eagle Scout, Baker was born and attended high school in the greater Birmingham area. Prior to moving to Montgomery, he attended Hampden-Sydney College graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Mathematical Economics. During his time at Hampden-Sydney, he was named the Paul Tribble Public Service Program Scholar and received the Lewis and Nell Drew Student Government Award. Since moving to Montgomery, Baker served as Economic Policy Advisor to both Governor Robert Bentley and Governor Kay Ivey. During his five years in the Governor's Office, he crafted economic development policy and legislation that frequently included broadband, environmental, opportunity zones, water and veterans' issues. Baker enjoys spending time with his lovely wife, Lydia, and their happy English bulldog, Maggie.

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Resolutions Adopted at the 2020 Annual Convention

RESOLUTION NO. 1

WHEREAS, the Alabama League of Municipalities' Annual Convention is its signature event as well as the venue for the League's Annual Business Session; and

WHEREAS it takes strategic collaboration with numerous entities as well as many hours to plan, organize and accomplish this event; and

WHEREAS, the nationwide COVID-19 pandemic required the League to postpone and then restructure its 2020 Annual Convention; and

WHEREAS, rescheduling, relocating and restructuring the Convention from Tuscaloosa to Montgomery and from four days to one required straightforward leadership and coordination from Tuscaloosa Mayor Walt Maddox and his team with League staff;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates of the Alabama League of Municipalities in Convention assembled in Montgomery, Alabama, on this the 23rd day of July, 2020, that we respectfully thank Mayor Walt Maddox and the City of Tuscaloosa for their assistance, understanding and support in rescheduling and relocating the 2020 Annual Convention and for working closely with League leadership and staff throughout this process.

RESOLUTION NO. 2

WHEREAS, on March 13th, Governor Ivey declared a State of Emergency due to the spread of COVID-19 followed by an April 3rd Stay at Home order from the State Health Officer due to potential widespread exposure to an infectious agent posing significant risk of substantial harm to a large number of people; and

WHEREAS, the rapidly evolving circumstances of this unprecedented pandemic required municipal governments to adjust quickly and with little or no precedent as to how to proceed; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama League of Municipalities immediately began working closely with statewide leaders, lawmakers, agencies, organizations, partners and stakeholders to offer the best information, guidance and pathway forward; and

WHEREAS, responding to the daily challenges affecting local governments' ability to function would have been chaotic if not impossible without collaboration, transparency and compromise;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates of the Alabama League of Municipalities in

Convention assembled in Montgomery, Alabama, on this the 23rd day of July, 2020, that we commend Governor Kay Ivey and her administration, particularly Chief of Staff Jo Bonner, Finance Director Kelly Butler, Legal Counsel Will Parker and Legislative Director William Filmore; Lt. Governor Will Ainsworth; State Health Officer Scott Harris; Attorney General Steve Marshall and his Opinions Division; Alabama's legislative leadership; Alabama's Congressional Delegation; the Conference of Black Mayors; the National League of Cities; and the many elected officials and lawmakers from around the state who included the League in their video town hall meetings and task force discussions for their leadership and courage to protect Alabama's citizens while trying to limit the damage to lives and livelihoods.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alabama League of Municipalities is also especially grateful for the assistance of Tuscaloosa Chief Financial Officer Susan Snowden as well as attorneys Ben Goldman and Shane Black with Hand Arendall Harrison Sale for their unique municipal insight and professional guidance throughout the pandemic and as Alabama's cities and towns attempt to normalize and rebuild their economies.

RESOLUTION NO. 3

WHEREAS, Alabama's municipalities are responsible for providing services and protecting the wellbeing of citizens; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant and historic impact on municipal revenue streams, possibly endangering the ability to provide essential services; and

WHEREAS, in the early weeks of the pandemic the Alabama League of Municipalities formed the ALM Stimulus Task Force to determine the immediate economic impact of COVID-19 on Alabama's cities and towns, particularly through the loss of sales and use taxes, motor fuel taxes, lodgings taxes, rental taxes and occupational taxes, to provide a sound basis for Governor Ivey and Alabama's Congressional Delegation to fairly distribute potential federal stimulus aid to communities in an effort to keep them solvent; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force is chaired by League Immediate Past President Athens Mayor Ronnie Marks and is comprised of municipal officials from throughout Alabama including: Mayor Leigh Dollar, Guntersville and ALM President; Councilmember Adam Bourne, Chickasaw and Chair of ALM's Committee on State and Federal Legislation; Mayor Gary Fuller, Opelika; Mayor Tony Haygood, Tuskegee; Mayor Walt Maddox, Tuscaloosa; Mayor Mark Saliba, Dothan; Mayor Robert

Craft, Gulf Shores; Councilmember Bridgette Jordan-Smith, Vincent; Mayor Hollie Cost, Montevallo as well as support from Tuscaloosa Chief Financial Officer Susan Snowden, Tuscaloosa Communications Specialist Alex House and Mobile Executive Director of Finance Paul Wesch; and

WHEREAS, the members met multiple times via conference call and teleconference to determine the necessary resources and establish a matrix for gathering accurate information on a per municipality basis;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates of the Alabama League of Municipalities in Convention assembled in Montgomery, Alabama, on this the 23rd day of July, 2020, that we applaud the efforts of the ALM Stimulus Task Force to address the challenges to municipal revenue sources brought on by COVID-19.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alabama League of Municipalities will continue to support the Stimulus Task Force as it determines best practices and develops guidance following this unprecedented disturbance in Alabama's history.

RESOLUTION NO. 4

WHEREAS, Alabama's municipalities are responsible for providing services and protecting the wellbeing of all citizens regardless of race or national origin; and

WHEREAS, around the world people were shocked and angered by the tragic actions that led to the senseless death of George Floyd in Minneapolis; and

WHEREAS, George Floyd's death is one that should have never happened, and is a tragedy for which too many people, especially African Americans, are all too familiar; and

WHEREAS, as a result of collective anger and frustration, many citizens came together across Alabama to peacefully protest but in some instances, those protests turned violent resulting in harm to people and damage to property; and

WHEREAS, in the words of the Congressman and Alabama native, John Lewis, "rioting, looting and burning is not the way";

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates of the Alabama League of Municipalities in Convention assembled in Montgomery, Alabama, on this the 23rd day of July, 2020, that we support and protect the right of the people of Alabama to peacefully lift their voices, even in anger and frustration, and publicly demonstrate in nonviolent ways.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alabama League of Municipalities will continue to condemn systemic racism and violence in any form against people or property.

RESOLUTION NO. 5

WHEREAS, Ken Smith, Executive Director for the Alabama League of Municipalities, retired on



June 1, 2020, with 34 years of commendable service to the cities, towns and municipal entities of this state; and

WHEREAS, Ken began his career as a staff attorney with the League in 1986 after finishing a one-year clerkship for Justice Hugh Maddox on the Alabama Supreme Court; and

WHEREAS, throughout his three-plus decades with the League, Ken became an expert in municipal law as well as a respected and loyal advocate of municipal interests; and

WHEREAS, Ken was named the League's fourth Executive Director in 2011 following the retirement of Perry C. Roquemore, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, Ken successfully led efforts to implement several invaluable programs benefiting its membership, including the Alabama Municipal Funding Corporation and Municipal Intercept Services; and

WHEREAS, Ken was a champion of municipal government who worked diligently to protect municipal interests and expand educational, financial and quality of life opportunities for Alabama's municipalities, their staffs and their elected officials;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates of the Alabama League of Municipalities in Convention assembled in Montgomery, Alabama, on this the 23rd day of July, 2020, that we do hereby commend Ken Smith for 34 years of service and dedication to the Alabama League of Municipalities, its member cities and towns and to the many municipal officials and municipal employees throughout the State of Alabama.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we congratulate him on his well-earned retirement and extend our best wishes to Ken and his wife, Brenda, for continued success, happiness and good health in the years to come.

RESOLUTION NO. 6

WHEREAS, Steve Martin, Finance Director for the Alabama League of Municipalities, retired on July 1, 2020, with 29 years of commendable service to the League, its membership and its affiliate organizations; and

WHEREAS, in his role Steve efficiently and effectively managed League finances and advised the Executive Director and Executive Committee; and

WHEREAS, Steve was instrumental in significantly expanding services for the benefit of League members while serving as the Operations Manager of the Municipal Workers Compensation Fund for 25 years as well as managing the financial operations of the Alabama Municipal Funding Corporation and Municipal Intercept Services; and

WHEREAS, Steve helped develop and launch a full-service Loss Control Division in partnership with the Alabama



Municipal Insurance Corporation, allowing both programs to provide additional staff and expanded risk management services at a much-reduced cost to their members;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates of the Alabama League of Municipalities in Convention assembled in Montgomery, Alabama, the 23rd day of July, 2020, that they do hereby commend Steve Martin for his years of outstanding service to the League and its affiliate organizations and for his dedication to the sound financial practices that have benefited the League and its members.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we extend our best wishes to Steve and his wife, Loretta, for continued success, happiness and good health in the years to come.

RESOLUTION NO. 7

WHEREAS, Mayor Ronnie Marks of Athens, Alabama, served as President of the Alabama League of Municipalities from May 2019 until May 2020; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Marks' diligent attention to duty and outstanding leadership was imperative as the League responded to the COVID-19 pandemic, including rescheduling and relocating its Annual Convention; creating a 10-member Stimulus Task Force; and guiding a staff leadership transition to ALM's fifth executive director; and

WHEREAS, the members of the League shall always be most grateful for Mayor Marks' year of selfless service and unwavering efforts to ensure the League remained engaged and at the forefront throughout the state's reaction to COVID-19 to address the challenges faced by Alabama's cities and towns during this unprecedented time in Alabama's history; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Marks led the effort to examine the League's Constitution, which had not been revised since 1988, establishing a committee to review and recommend necessary updates;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates of the Alabama League of Municipalities in Convention assembled in Montgomery, Alabama, on this the 23rd day of July, 2020, that they do recognize and commend Mayor Marks, for his service as a municipal official in the State of Alabama and as a leader of our state organization.

RESOLUTION NO. 8

WHEREAS, League Past President and former mayor of Calera George Roy passed away on July 19, 2019, at age 91; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Roy served the City of Calera for nearly 42 years –



first as a councilmember and then as mayor; and

WHEREAS, Calera's population was just under 2,000 when he first took office and was approaching 11,000 when he retired in 2008; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Roy was an active member of the Alabama League of Municipalities, serving on numerous committees and as League President from 2002-2003; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Roy served for many years on the Board of Directors of the Municipal Workers Compensation Fund, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Roy was a long-time advocate of municipal government and its critical role in the success and wellbeing of Alabama's cities and towns and is remembered as one of Calera's most respected and beloved public servants;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates of the Alabama League of Municipalities in Convention assembled in Montgomery, Alabama, on this the 23rd day of July, 2020, that they do memorialize Mayor George Roy and pay tribute to the many years of dedicated service he gave to the City of Calera, the Alabama League of Municipalities and the Municipal Workers Compensation Fund, Inc. His devotion to local government and his friendship will be missed by his colleagues throughout Alabama.

RESOLUTION NO. 9

WHEREAS, League Past President and former mayor of Tuscaloosa Alvin "Al" DuPont passed away on July 30, 2019, at age 94; and

WHEREAS, Mayor DuPont served the City of Tuscaloosa as the city's assistant city engineer, public works director, city planner, planning and development director and as a grantsman before retiring and serving as mayor from 1981 until he retired on his 80th birthday in 2005; and

WHEREAS, as engineer, planner and an elected official, Mayor DuPont was involved with a multitude of city-wide infrastructure projects and improvements, including the creation of Lake Tuscaloosa and recruiting the Mercedes-Benz U.S. International manufacturing plant; and

WHEREAS, Mayor DuPont was an active member of the Alabama League of Municipalities, serving on numerous committees and as League President from 1991-1992 and again from 2000-2001; and

WHEREAS, Mayor DuPont was a member of the Building Subcommittee responsible for the expansion of League Headquarters in 1992 as well as an active member of the Advisory Council for the National League of Cities; and

WHEREAS, Mayor DuPont was a long-time advocate of municipal government and its critical role in the success and wellbeing of Alabama's cities and towns and is remembered as



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one of Tuscaloosa’s most respected and beloved public servants;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates of the Alabama League of Municipalities in Convention assembled in Montgomery, Alabama, on this the 23rd day of July, 2020, that they do memorialize Mayor Al DuPont and pay tribute to the many years of dedicated service he gave to the City of Tuscaloosa and the Alabama League of Municipalities. His devotion to local government and his friendship will be missed by his colleagues throughout Alabama.

RESOLUTION NO. 10

WHEREAS, League Past President and former mayor of Brewton Theodore “Ted” Jennings passed away on January 20, 2020, at age 76; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Jennings was a native of Brewton who was appointed to fill a council seat in 1986 and then served as mayor from 1988 to his retirement in 2012; and



WHEREAS, Mayor Jennings was an active member of the Alabama League of Municipalities, serving on numerous committees and as League President from 1998-1999; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Jennings served for many years on the Board of Directors of the Municipal Workers Compensation Fund, Inc. as well as the Board of Directors and then Advisory Council for the National League of Cities; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Jennings was involved with a multitude of city-wide quality of life projects and improvements; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Jennings was a long-time advocate of municipal government and its critical role in the success and wellbeing of Alabama’s cities and towns and upon his retirement from public office in 2012 was remembered by Congressman Jo Bonner as “a man gifted with a vision for our nation’s – and region’s – economic future” who “for decades promoted the development of telecommunications on the local and state level, leveraging the resources of businesses and universities”;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates of the Alabama League of Municipalities in Convention assembled in Montgomery, Alabama, on this the 23rd day of July, 2020, that they do memorialize Mayor Ted Jennings and pay tribute to the many years of dedicated service he gave to the City of Brewton, the Alabama League of Municipalities and the Municipal Workers Compensation Fund, Inc. His devotion to local government and his friendship will be missed by his colleagues throughout Alabama.

RESOLUTION NO. 11

WHEREAS, League Past President and mayor of Clanton Billy Joe Driver passed away on July 9, 2020, at age 84; and



WHEREAS, Mayor Driver served the City of Clanton for 48 years – first as a councilmember from 1972 until 1984 and then as mayor from 1984 until his death; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Driver worked with the Chilton Co. Engineering Department from 1953 until retiring in 1984; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Driver was an active member of the Alabama League of Municipalities, serving on numerous committees and as League President from 1999-2000; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Driver served for many years on the Board of Directors of the Alabama Municipal Insurance Corporation and as its Chairman since 2008; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Driver was a long-time advocate of municipal government and its critical role in the success and wellbeing of Alabama’s cities and towns and is remembered as one of Clanton’s most respected and beloved public servants;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates of the Alabama League of Municipalities in Convention assembled in Montgomery, Alabama, on this the 23rd day of July, 2020, that they do memorialize Mayor Billy Joe Driver and pay tribute to the many years of dedicated service he gave to the City of Clanton, the Alabama League of Municipalities and the Alabama Municipal Insurance Corporation. His devotion to local government and his friendship will be missed by his colleagues throughout Alabama.

RESOLUTION NO. 12

BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates of the Alabama League of Municipalities in Convention assembled in Montgomery, Alabama, on this the 23rd day of July, 2020, that they memorialize the following persons who have died in office since our last convention, namely:

- Bay Minette: Howard Danleigh Corbett, councilmember
- Brundidge: Arthur Lee Griffin, mayor pro tempore
- Clanton: Billy Joe Driver, mayor and former ALM President
- Coosada: Leon Smith, Sr., councilmember
- Dadeville: H.A. “Dick” Harrelson, councilmember
- Double Springs, Bill Hawkins, councilmember
- Geraldine: Orvil Bearden, councilmember
- Good Hope: John “Johnny” Edward Harris, councilmember
- Goodwater: Robert L. Graham, mayor
- Guin: Troy Hightower, councilmember
- Lanett: Shirley B. Motley, councilmember
- Lexington: Ronnie Mitchell, councilmember
- Lineville: Johnny Appleby, councilmember
- Loxley: Billy Middleton, mayor

- Millport: Kenny Pollard, councilmember
- Muscle Shoals: Neal Willis, councilmember
- Rockford: Nancy Gaddis, councilmember
- Sipsey: Jerry Sadler, mayor
- Warrior: James F. Jett, councilmember

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following former officials be memorialized:

- Abbeville: Dan Blalock, former mayor
- Alex City: Don McClellan, former mayor
- Andalusia: Lewis Carpenter, former councilmember
- Athens: Johnny Crutcher, former councilmember
- Autaugaville: F.B. Ward, former mayor
- Brewton: Ted Jennings, former mayor and ALM President
- Calera: George Roy, former mayor and ALM President
- Cherokee: Jimmy Eugene Brown, former mayor
- Coaling: Charley Foster, former mayor
- East Brewton: Lovelace Parker, former mayor
- Eclectic: Charles Powell, former councilmember
- Elberta: Donald Koontz, former councilmember
- Fayette: Brannen Perry, former councilmember
- Fayette: Jerry Bobo, former mayor
- Fayette: Mike Hardin, former councilmember
- Florence: Jean Gay Mussleman, former councilmember
- Gardendale: Garry Morris, former councilmember
- Hartselle: Scotty Maples, former mayor
- Hokes Bluff: Andy Gardner, former councilmember
- Hueytown: Lillian Putnam Howard, former mayor
- Level Plains: Gregory “Greg” Martin Swim, former councilmember
- Littleville: Kenneth Copeland, former mayor
- Mobile: Thomas Sullivan, former councilmember
- Montgomery: Herman Harris, former councilmember
- Mountain Brook: Alice Williams, former councilmember
- Opelika: Clarence Harris, Jr., former councilmember
- Opp: Arlin Davis, former councilmember
- Owens Cross Roads: Curtis J. Craig, former mayor
- Ozark: Tom Goff, former mayor
- Prattville: Gray Price, former mayor
- Priceville: Charles Atkins, former mayor
- Priceville: Kirkland Brown, former mayor
- Rainbow City: Barbara Mack, former councilmember
- Roanoke: Tommy Hill, former mayor
- Rockford: Carel Smith, former councilmember
- Rogersville: James Willis Hagood, former mayor
- Sylvania: Max Turner, former mayor

- Thomasville: Luther Gaddy, former councilmember
- Tuscaloosa: Alvin P. DuPont, former mayor and ALM President
- Tuscaloosa: Odessa Warrick, former councilmember

RESOLUTION NO. 13

WHEREAS, the Alabama Memorial Preservation Act of 2017 (Act) requires public entities to obtain state permission before moving or renaming historically significant buildings and monuments that date back forty years or longer; and

WHEREAS, the Act imposes a twenty-five thousand dollar (\$25,000) fine against any public entity that violates the Act and such fine is paid by the public entity with public dollars; and

WHEREAS, municipalities and other local public entities are in the best position to determine and address local issues with regard to monuments covered by the Act;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates of the Alabama League of Municipalities in Convention assembled in Montgomery, Alabama, on this the 23rd day of July, 2020, that we do hereby ask the Legislature to allow for local authority to relocate monuments covered by the Act to other areas, such as cemeteries or historical parks as local needs require. ■

The advertisement features three columns for IT in a Box Gold, Silver, and Bronze plans. Each plan includes a 'Save up to 15%' badge. Below the plans is a 'SIGN UP ONLINE & SAVE' button. At the bottom, there is a table comparing prices for 2 PCs, showing a 15% discount for ALM members. Contact information for Dave Mims and Chuck Stephenson is provided at the bottom.

Example: 2 PCs		Example: 2 PCs		Example: 2 PCs	
List price		List price		List price	
Onboarding	Monthly Fee	Onboarding	Monthly Fee	Onboarding	Monthly Fee
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Dave Mims
770.670.6940 x110
davemims@sophicity.com
www.sophicity.com

Chuck Stephenson
334.262.2566
chucks@alalm.org
www.alalm.org



Revised League Constitution

Adopted July 23 at the 2020 Annual Business Session

THE ALABAMA LEAGUE OF MUNICIPALITIES CONSTITUTION

(Adopted July 2020)

ARTICLE I

Name and Purpose

Section 1. Name. This organization shall be known as the Alabama League of Municipalities and its headquarters and staff shall be located in the City of Montgomery, Alabama.

Section 2. Purpose. The Alabama League of Municipalities (the League) shall be an association of incorporated Alabama municipalities as desire to join as members. The purpose of the League is to empower municipal government through advocacy, education, programs, and the advancement of effective local leadership to protect and enhance quality of life services for it citizens.

ARTICLE II

Membership, Dues and Property

Section 1. Membership. Any incorporated Alabama municipality may be a member by approval of the municipal governing body and by the payment of membership dues. There shall be no associate or non-corporate memberships.

Section 2. Dues. Membership dues shall be prescribed from year to year by the Board of Directors. In fixing schedules of membership dues or special assessments, the Board of Directors shall base the rate or schedule on the basis of population.

Section 3. Property. The League shall have the authority to purchase, hold, sell and lease both real and personal property.

ARTICLE III

Officers, Board of Directors, Executive Committee, Executive Director

Section 1. Officers. The officers of the Alabama League of Municipalities shall be a President, a Vice President and an Executive Director. The President and Vice President shall be elected at each annual meeting of the League membership as provided in Article V of this Constitution and serve until their successors are elected. The Executive Director shall be elected as provided in Section 4 of this Article. All officers, except the Executive Director, shall be active municipal Officials.

Section 2. Board of Directors.

a. Membership. There shall be a Board of Directors of the League composed of the President, the Vice President, all active past presidents still in office, as voting ex officio members, and five to seven members from each Congressional District all to be elected during the annual meeting of the League by a majority of the voting delegates present to serve until their successors shall have been elected. The Executive Director shall also serve on the Board of Directors as an advisory nonvoting member. The number of members from each Congressional District shall be equal and shall be set by the Board of Directors on recommendation from the Executive Committee.

b. Meetings. The Board of Directors shall meet at least twice per year and shall have such special meetings as are necessary at the call of the President or at the written request of three members. A majority of the membership of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum to conduct business. Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be presided over by the President. In the event of an absence on the part of the President during meetings of the Board of Directors, such meetings shall be presided over by the Vice President. In the event that the President and Vice President are both absent, the meeting shall be presided over temporarily by the Executive Director until the members in attendance can select a member to preside.

c. Authority. The Board of Directors shall be responsible for the financing of programs and the acquisition and maintenance of League property. The Board of Directors shall determine the membership dues or special assessments necessary to carry out the programs of the League. The Board of Directors shall have the power to organize itself as necessary and shall have the authority to establish committees, both standing and ad hoc, as deemed necessary. The Chair and Vice Chair of any standing committee established by the Board of Directors shall be elected by the membership as provided in Article V of this Constitution. Further, the board shall have such other powers necessary to carry out the objectives and purposes of the organization.

d. Vacancies. In the event the President, for any cause, shall become ineligible to serve the organization, the vacancy shall be filled by the Vice President. In the event the Vice President, for any cause, shall become ineligible to serve the organization, the vacancy shall be filled by the Board of Directors. Should there be a concurrent vacancy in the offices of President and Vice President, the vacancies in the office of President and Vice President shall be filled by the Board of Directors at its first meeting after such concurrent vacancy occurs. In the event that a vacancy should arise in the seat of any elected member of the Board of Directors, such vacancy shall be filled by the President of the League.

Section 3. Executive Committee.

a. Membership. There shall be an Executive Committee which shall consist of the President, the Vice President, all active past presidents still in office and the Executive Director as an advisory, non-voting member.

b. Meetings. The Executive Committee shall hold meetings at the call of the President or upon the request of any two members of the committee. A majority of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum to conduct business.

c. Authority. Except as provided herein, the Executive Committee shall have the authority to carry out any function of the Board of Directors that may be necessary between meetings of the Board of Directors, except those duties required by law, this Constitution or reserved by action of the Board of Directors to be performed only by the Board of Directors. Any action taken by the Executive Committee must be passed by a 2/3 vote of the Executive Committee and shall be reported to the full Board of Directors at the next meeting of the Board.

Section 4. Executive Director. The Executive Director of the Alabama League of Municipalities shall be the chief executive officer of the League.

a. Election. The Executive Committee shall serve as the nominating committee for the position of Executive Director. At any meeting of the Board of Directors, the Executive Director shall be elected, upon the nomination and recommendation of the Executive Committee, by a 2/3rds vote of a quorum of the Board of Directors. Nominations from the floor shall be in order.

b. Duties. The Executive Director shall be the custodian of League's property, supplies and funds and shall be charged with the following unless otherwise directed by a majority vote of the Board of Directors:

1. Managing and overseeing the day to day affairs of the League pursuant to this Constitution, any by-laws adopted pursuant thereto, and any policies adopted by the Board of Directors;
2. Appointing and fixing the compensation for all League employees and being responsible for the proper and effective administration of the work of the League including the adoption of all personnel policies, rules and regulations;
3. Keeping an accurate record of financial accounts which shall be audited annually by a licensed accountant and reported to the Board of Directors;
4. Preparing a budget of the estimated revenues and expenditures and schedule of membership dues to be submitted to the Board of Directors for approval;
5. Executing and administering all contractual commitments and expenditures for the League pursuant to budget authority as well as responsibility for the efficient handling of the League's finances in the exercise of the performance of the League's programs and services.
6. Preparing and keeping accurate minutes of all Membership, Board of Directors, Executive Committee and Legislative Committee meetings as well as any other committee meetings for committees established in by-laws or by the Board of Directors.
7. Prepare such reports and statements as the Board of Directors or Executive Committee shall require regarding the League's operations, programs or finances.

c. Removal. The Executive Director may be removed from office by a 2/3rds vote of a quorum of the board of directors whenever, in the board's judgment, the best interests of the League would be served thereby. Provided, however, that such removal shall be without prejudice to the contract rights, if any, of the person so removed.

d. Vacancy. Should a vacancy develop in the office of Executive Director, an Acting Executive Director shall be appointed by the members of the Executive Committee to serve until a permanent Executive Director is elected by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE IV

Legislative Committee

Section 1. Membership. There shall be a Legislative Committee composed of a Chair and a Vice Chair, one member from each State Senatorial District, the Chair and Vice Chair of any standing committees established by the board of directors, and not more than twelve members chosen from the State at-large. The Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee shall be elected at each annual meeting of the League membership to serve until their successors are elected. Members of the Committee representing the Senatorial Districts and the at-large members shall be chosen by the Chair with the advice of the President and the Executive Director. The Executive Director of the League shall serve as an ex officio member of the Legislative Committee.

Section 2. Vacancy. In the case of a vacancy in the position of Chair, the Vice Chair shall become the Chair. Should there be a concurrent vacancy in the offices of Chair and Vice Chair, such vacancy shall be filled by the League President from the membership of the Legislative Committee.

Section 3. Meetings. The Legislative Committee shall meet at least once prior to each Regular Session of the Alabama Legislature and at such other times during and between sessions of the Legislature that may be deemed necessary for the accomplishments of its purposes. All meetings shall be called by the Chair with the advice of the Executive Director. A majority of the membership of the committee shall constitute a quorum to do business.

Section 4. Authority. The Legislative Committee shall be responsible for establishing a legislative program for every Regular Session of the Alabama Legislature and for actively working for the passage of legislation proposed by the League and against legislation which would prove detrimental to the welfare of municipal government and the urban citizen. It shall also be the responsibility of the Legislative Committee to establish policies in the best interest of Alabama's municipalities relating to legislation proposed in the United States Congress affecting the welfare of municipalities. Decisions of the Legislative Committee shall guide the League staff in its efforts to accomplish the goals of the Legislative Committee.

ARTICLE V

Annual Meeting of Membership; Voting and Representation

Section 1. Annual Meeting. An annual meeting of the League membership shall be held at a time and place to be designated by the Board of Directors for the purpose of apprising the membership on League business and to elect officers as required under this Constitution.

Section 2. Voting Delegates. As used herein, the term “delegate” shall mean that mayor or councilmember designated by the municipal governing body to serve as voting delegate, first alternate voting delegate or second alternate voting delegate at the annual meeting of the League membership. Each member municipality shall have one vote on any issue voted on during the annual meeting of the League membership, and that vote may only be cast by the delegate authorized by the governing body of the member municipality. The League shall send to the mayor of each member municipality a form to be used by the municipal governing body to designate the municipality’s voting delegate, first alternate voting delegate and second alternate voting delegate. In order for the municipality to be eligible to cast its vote during the annual meeting, the official delegate designation form must be returned to League Headquarters not later than fifteen (15) days prior to the day of the annual meeting. During the annual meeting, the vote of each member municipality shall be cast by the designated voting delegate; if he or she is not present at the time of voting, then the vote shall be cast by the first alternate voting delegate; if the first alternate voting delegate is not present at the time of voting, then the vote shall be cast by the second alternate voting delegate.

Section 3. Nominating Committee. There shall be a nominating committee composed of the Executive Committee who shall meet prior to the annual meeting of the League to consider potential candidates for the positions of League President, League Vice President, Chair and Vice Chair of the League Committee on Legislation, and Chair and Vice Chair of any League Standing committees created by the Board of Directors. Nominees shall be presented to the delegates during the annual meeting of the League for their consideration. Nominations from the floor by delegates shall be in order.

Section 4. Voting at Business Meeting. During the annual meeting of the League, votes on any matter shall be cast only by the officially designated delegate, and no votes shall be cast by proxy. A voice vote shall be taken on all uncontested nominees for election. In the event more than one candidate is nominated for a position, then an election, by secret ballot, shall be conducted for such contested position or positions. At such election if one candidate receives a majority of the votes cast he or she shall be declared the winner. If no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, then there shall be a run-off election held between the two candidates receiving the most votes. The candidate receiving a majority of the votes cast in a runoff election shall be declared the winner. The results of each vote shall be announced at the annual meeting of the League. The League President shall have the power to establish any additional procedures necessary for conducting an election during the annual meeting.

Section 5. Parliamentary Procedure. Questions of parliamentary procedure shall be determined in accordance with “Robert’s Rules of Order.”

ARTICLE VI

Amendments

This Constitution may be amended or replaced only during an annual meeting of the League membership by two-thirds of the authorized delegates present and voting on the proposal. A proposed amendment or replacement must be distributed to all members at least one month prior to the annual meeting.

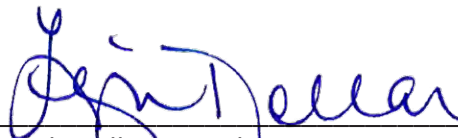
ARTICLE VII

Dissolution

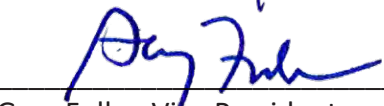
Upon dissolution of the League, any assets remaining after paying or making provision for all its indebtedness, financial obligations and expenses of administration shall be distributed to municipalities which were members of the League at any time within 36 months preceding the date of such dissolution on a pro rata basis based on population.

Effective Date. This amended Constitution shall be effective immediately upon adoption.

Adopted this the 23rd day of July, 2020.

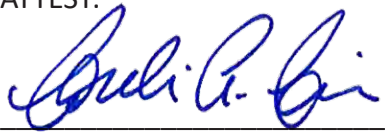


Leigh Dollar, President



Gary Fuller, Vice President

ATTEST:



Lorelei A. Lein
General Counsel



2020 Hometown Heroes

Presented July 23 at the 2020 Annual Convention

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the Alabama League of Municipalities has worked closely with statewide leaders, lawmakers, agencies, organizations, partners and stakeholders to offer municipal officials and staff the best information, guidance and pathway forward. Several key individuals have proven invaluable in this effort and were recognized as the League's 2020 Hometown Heroes on July 23rd during ALM's Annual Business Session.

Shane Black, partner with Hand, Arendall, Harrison, Sale in their Athens office serves as city attorney for the City of Athens. **Ben Goldman**, partner with Hand, Arendall, Harrison, Sale in their Birmingham office serves as city attorney for Tarrant, Mulga and Cordova. They have provided thoughtful, timely and sage legal (and often practical) advice. From Sunday brainstorming sessions with ALM General Counsel Lori Lein, to well-reasoned legal analysis, the League cannot thank them enough for helping guide our member municipalities through these trying times and for giving so freely of their time and expertise. (pictured)

Katherine Green Robertson serves as Chief Counsel to Attorney General Steve Marshall and has been instrumental in advising local government officials as they navigate the various legal issues surrounding COVID-19 and government operations. She has made herself readily available to the League and to League members and we thank her for her hard work and dedication to public service. (pictured)

Attorney General Steve Marshall has been available and instructive at every turn and has worked closely and tirelessly with League staff, particularly the League's legal division, to ensure that our members were making the best decisions in accordance with legal precedent. (pictured)

Will Parker serves as General Counsel to Governor Ivey and has worked relentlessly throughout the COVID-19 pandemic to navigate all the issues that have arisen while being mindful of the impact the Governor's decisions have on local government. From Open Meetings Act relief, elections issues and liability concerns, ALM appreciates Will for always reaching out to us for the municipal perspective on issues addressed in the Governor's numerous proclamations. (not pictured)

Susan Snowden, Chief Financial Officer for the City of Tuscaloosa and **Alex House**, Communication Specialist with Tuscaloosa, have collaborated with the League on the COVID-19 Revenue Loss Portal. They worked diligently with our advocacy team on this project and were instrumental in developing the portal and ensuring information and updates have been timely and instructional. ALM could not have launched the portal without their guidance and expertise. (not pictured)



Chief Counsel Katherine Green Robertson with the AG's office, ALM General Counsel Lori Lein and Attorney General Steve Marshall.



Shane Black (left) and Ben Goldman (right), partners with Hand, Arendall, Harrison, Sale with ALM General Counsel Lori Lein.



Certified Municipalities

Presented July 23 at the 2020 Annual Convention

The annual Certified Municipality award was created from the Certified Municipal Official Program to recognize and commend cities and towns where the mayor and all councilmembers have earned the professional designation of Certified Municipal Official thereby distinguishing the municipality as a Certified Municipality. This designation signifies the mayor and all councilmembers have completed a minimum of 40 credit hours of formal training on municipal government conducted or endorsed by the Alabama League of Municipalities. Qualifying municipalities are selected by ALM based on CMO program credit hour records during the previous calendar year. Qualifying municipalities receive a certificate and an annual Certified Municipal Achievement Award digital seal for their municipal website. Municipalities recognized on July 23rd were: City of Andalusia (not pictured), City of Ashford, City of Center Point, City of Foley, City of Midfield (not pictured), City of Opp (not pictured), Town of Priceville (not pictured), City of Robertsdale and the City of Saraland.



Ashford



Center Point



Foley



Robertsdale



Saraland



2020 Distinguished Service Awards

Presented July 23 at the 2020 Annual Convention

Each year during its Annual Convention, the League presents Distinguished Service Awards to mayors, councilmembers, municipal clerks, municipal administrative assistants, city managers, city administrators, police chiefs, municipal attorneys and municipal judges who have completed 20, 30, 40 and 50 – and this year 60! – years of service in municipal government. A total of 53 awards were announced during the abbreviated 2020 Annual Convention on July 23rd in Montgomery. Below is a list of the 2020 recipients as well as photos of those able to attend the Convention.

20-Year Service Awards

Michael T. Phillips, Councilmember, Bay Minette; Jill Bright, Clerk/Treasurer, Boaz; Thomas G. Owings, Councilmember, Brent; Mary Mell Smith, Councilmember, Clanton; Carl Craig, Councilmember, Chatom; Steve Kirkpatrick, Councilmember, Elberta; Ray Nelson, Mayor, Fayette; Alan Kelly, Police Chief, Glencoe; Willie Rose McClinton, Councilmember, Glen Allen; Johnny M. Davis, Sr., Councilmember, Greensboro; Gary Cowen, Councilmember, Jasper; Tammie B. Williams, Councilmember, LaFayette; Roy Adamson, Mayor, Lineville; Carolyn Smith, Councilmember, Lineville; Dennis Mathews, Councilmember, Midland City; Tim Fields, Councilmember; Millport; Tony A. White, Mayor, Oak Grove; Sue Cooper, Councilmember, Robertsdale; Paul Hollingsworth, Councilmember, Robertsdale; J. Scott Boman, Mayor, Sulligent; Laura Horton, Councilmember, Tarrant; Brian Scott Plant, Councilmember, Trussville; Don Dollar, Municipal Clerk, Vernon; D. W. Franklin, Mayor, Vina.

30-Year Service Awards

Arthur Taylor, Sr., Councilmember, Dora; Tommy Loden, Councilmember, Fultondale; Paul Brown, Councilmember, Holly Pond; Bruce Grantham, Mayor, Level Plains; W.C. Hayes, Jr., Mayor, Maplesville; JoAnn Grimsley, Mayor, Midland City; Brent White, Councilmember, Moulton; Cecil E. Driskell,

Councilmember, Mount Vernon; James E. Turnbach, Municipal Attorney, Rainbow City; Bennie E. Harton, Mayor, Reform; Patricia B. Truitt, Municipal Clerk, Roanoke; Robert Turner, Councilmember, Sulligent; Lynn B. Porter, Municipal Clerk, Trussville; Carl E. Chamblee, Jr., Municipal Judge, Trussville; Rebecca Leavings, Municipal Clerk, Vestavia Hills; Sue Raper, Municipal Clerk, Vina.

40-Year Service Awards

Albert Shumaker, Municipal Attorney, Centre; Cleophus Stephens, Councilmember, Chatom; Diane W. Perry, Assistant Municipal Clerk, LaFayette; Cheryl L. Royster, Administrative Specialist, LaFayette; Thomas M. Tartt, Mayor, Livingston; Ricky Williams, Clerk/Treasurer, Muscle Shoals; Melvin Duran, Mayor, Priceville; Alfred J. Danner, Municipal Judge, Slocomb; Patricia G. Carden, Municipal Clerk/Treasurer, Sylacauga; Mary Lee Reynolds, Councilmember, Vincent.

50-Year Service Award

Gail Busbey, Executive Consultant, Cullman

60-Year Service Award

James B. Grant, Mayor, Louisville



60 Years: James B. Grant
Mayor, Louisville



40 Years: Patricia Carden
Municipal Clerk/Treasurer, Sylacauga



40 Years: Diane Perry
Assistant Municipal Clerk, LaFayette

continued on page 31

Next, President Dollar called for the annual board reports of the Municipal Workers' Compensation Fund, Inc. (MWCF), the Alabama Municipal Insurance Corporation (AMIC), the Alabama Municipal Funding Corporation (AMFund) and the Municipal Intercept Services (MIS). The reports were presented to the membership via videos.

Following the board reports, the President called upon Councilmember Adam Bourne, Chair of the Committee on State and Federal Legislation, for the Resolution Committee's report. The Chair reported that the Resolutions Committee met earlier in the day and as a result of the decision by the Executive Committee on July 22, 2020, the Resolutions committee did not take up any proposed amendments to the League's *Policies and Goals for 2020*.

Councilmember Bourne then reported that the Resolutions committee considered and adopted substantive, honorary and memorial resolutions when it met and then moved that the reading of Resolutions 1-12 be dispensed with given that the resolutions were read and presented that morning to the same membership present for the business meeting. Mayor Rubenstein, Saraland, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Councilmember Bourne then moved for the adoption of Resolutions 1-12. Mayor Sheldon Day, Thomasville, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilmember Bourne then moved for the adoption of Resolution 13, presented by Councilmember Will Culver from Huntsville and passed by the Resolutions committee, relating to local authority to relocate monuments covered by the Alabama Memorial Preservation Act. Councilmember Mack Arthur Bell, Roanoke, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. (See pages 15-20 for complete set of Resolutions.)

The President then called on Lori Lein, General Counsel of the League, to report on the proposed changes to the Alabama



The League's fifth executive director Greg Cochran with Opelika Mayor Gary Fuller who was elected 2020-2021 ALM Vice President during the Annual Business Session on July 23rd.

League of Municipalities Constitution as recommended by the League's executive committee. After providing a history of the League's constitution and the proposed changes, Ms. Lein reminded the membership that a copy of the proposed changes had been mailed to the membership as provided in the existing constitution. Members were also provided with the opportunity to ask questions. Councilmember Mack Arthur Bell, Roanoke, moved for the adoption of the proposed constitution. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Arthur Day, Phenix City. The motion passed unanimously. The President thanked Mayor Marks for his leadership on reviewing and updating the League's Constitution and Lori Lein for her hard work and advice during the process. (See pages 21-26 for full Constitution.)

Following the adoption of the new constitution, the President called upon newly elected Executive Director, Greg Cochran, for his report. Mr. Cochran expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to be the 5th Executive Director to lead the Alabama League of Municipalities and provided an overview of the past year, including the hiring of new employees to build upon the League's advocacy efforts.

President Dollar thanked Greg for his leadership and congratulated him on his appointment as Executive Director. She then thanked all the sponsors who made the convention possible.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Lori Lein

General Counsel and Acting Secretary



On July 23rd, ALM Executive Director Greg Cochran recognized AMIC President Steve Wells with a 25-year service award from the National League of Cities recognizing Steve's commendable service to municipal governments.



*40 Years: Cheryl L. Royster
Administrative Specialist, LaFayette*



*40 Years: Cleophus Stephens
Councilmember, Chatom*



*30 Years: Paul Brown
Councilmember, Holly Pond*



*30 Years: JoAnn Grimsley
Mayor, Midland City*



*30 Years: W.C. Hayes, Jr.
Mayor, Maplesville*



*30 Years: Tommy Loden
Councilmember, Fultondale*



*30 Years: Patricia B. Truitt
Municipal Clerk, Roanoke*



*20 Years: Laura Horton
Councilmember, Tarrant*



*20 Years: Alan Kelly
Police Chief, Glencoe*



*20 Years: Ray Nelson
Mayor, Fayette*



*20 Years: Thomas G. Owings
Councilmember, Brent*



*20 Years: Brian Scott Plant
Councilmember, Trussville*

STATE HOUSE ADVOCATE

By Kayla Bass, Director of External Affairs

CARES Act

In March, the CARES Act was signed into law and, of that, approximately \$1.9 billion in direct funding was sent to Alabama. Localities with a population of more than 500,000 received direct funding, which only included Jefferson County in our state. Officials do have a plan in place to share CARES funding with the municipalities in their county; however, keep in mind it is only for those cities and towns that have a City Hall in Jefferson County.

During the final weeks of the 2020 Legislative Session, Governor Kay Ivey and the Alabama Legislature allocated \$250M of the remaining funds to localities, which was split 50/50 between municipalities and counties. ALM's advocacy team worked diligently with the Alabama Department of Finance to determine the best formula to distribute the monies allocated to our localities. It was agreed upon that, of the \$125 million allocated to cities and towns, each entity would be allocated \$25,000. The remainder, roughly \$110M, would then be allocated by population. For more information, you can visit comptroller.alabama.gov or email a member of our advocacy team.

COVID-19 Revenue Loss Portal and Impact Survey

In April, ALM created a 10-member Stimulus Task Force comprised of elected officials from throughout the state to determine the economic impact of COVID-19 on Alabama's cities and towns. Members of the task force took

into consideration all revenue streams where communities are experiencing the greatest loss – particularly sales and use taxes, motor fuel taxes, lodgings taxes, rental taxes and occupational taxes.

Serving on the 10-member task force are: Mayor Ronnie Marks, Athens and ALM Immediate Past President; Mayor Leigh Dollar, Guntersville and ALM President; Mayor Gary Fuller, Opelika and ALM Vice President; Councilmember Adam Bourne, Chickasaw and Chair of ALM's Committee on State and Federal Legislation; Mayor Tony Haygood, Tuskegee; Mayor Walt Maddox, Tuscaloosa; Mayor Mark Saliba, Dothan; Mayor Robert Craft, Gulf Shores; Councilmember Bridgette Jordan-Smith, Vincent; Mayor Hollie Cost, Montevallo.

Since the portal's launch, 54 municipalities have participated with 117 entries that include losses from the months of March, April, May and June as they related to sales and use taxes, motor fuel taxes, lodgings taxes, rental taxes and occupational taxes. As of July 15, the total revenue loss of participating municipalities was more than \$41 million. Alabama's tourist destinations are experiencing a 30 percent loss and our college/university cities are seeing a 13 percent loss. Every penny associated with the revenue loss mentioned above impacts a municipality's ability to provide the quality of life services citizens depend on – fire and rescue, police, infrastructure, etc. The Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) was a critical step in mitigating costs associated with the COVID-19



pandemic; however, cities are an important part of the economic engine of this state, and the CRF does not address lost revenue – which is necessary for our municipalities to provide critical services to Alabama’s citizens.

It is becoming clear that the impacts of COVID-19 will continue to be felt across our state and that future revenue losses will be compounded the longer the pandemic lingers. Many municipalities are anxious, and rightfully so – especially as they attempt to overcome the challenges of opening schools, football season and events associated with economic development and tourism opportunities.

It is critical, now more than ever, that our advocacy team and municipal officials, continue to implore Congress to provide adequate financial support to address the lost revenue local governments are experiencing.

In addition to the COVID-19 Revenue Loss Portal, ALM created a COVID-19 Impact Survey. This survey allows our team to go beyond the numbers and see how revenue losses impact our cities and towns as it relates to critical quality of life services. When surveyed, 85 percent of our membership said they would cancel or delay major purchases due to lost revenue from COVID-19. More than 70 percent answered that they plan both a hiring freeze and to eliminate/reduce staff budget for travel, professional development and so forth.

ALM has continued conversations with our congressional

leadership, Governor Ivey’s administration, lawmakers, the State Health Department and municipal officials. On July 20, ALM’s Advocacy Team held a phone call with representatives from all seven congressional districts, as well as both Senate offices to discuss our findings from both the COVID-19 Revenue Loss Portal and Impact Survey.

Municipalities are the foundation of our state’s economy, and as we possibly enter another round of negotiations with stimulus funding, it is imperative that we continue our advocacy efforts with our strategic partners and officials to ensure our members have the resources needed to rebuild.

Looking Ahead

Following tradition, ALM’s Advocacy and Communication teams have been brainstorming on a 2021 legislative campaign. We look forward to announcing that, along with dates for the 2021 legislative dinners and CMO Advocacy Day, later this Fall. Additionally, we are actively monitoring legislative issues that are sure to be a hot topic during the 2021 legislative session. Small cell, police and planning jurisdictions and PTSD coverage are just a few issues that will be brought before the Legislature when they next meet. Legislation surrounding these topics could be detrimental to our communities; the League will continue to monitor every threat ... and opportunity. ■

NLC's City Summit will be Virtual; Early Bird Registration Pricing through September 30th!

NLC's team is developing engaging workshops and sessions, with the additional opportunity this year to record and share all the content (it will be available for up to six months after the conference) as well as lots of opportunities to connect and network with peers, familiar and new. While the pandemic has changed the world, it has not changed NLC's commitment to municipal leaders. NLC is dedicated to bringing officials the best City Summit experience. Now, more than ever, it's important to connect with colleagues and share knowledge and insights to help each other through these trying times. **For more information, visit citysummit.nlc.org.**



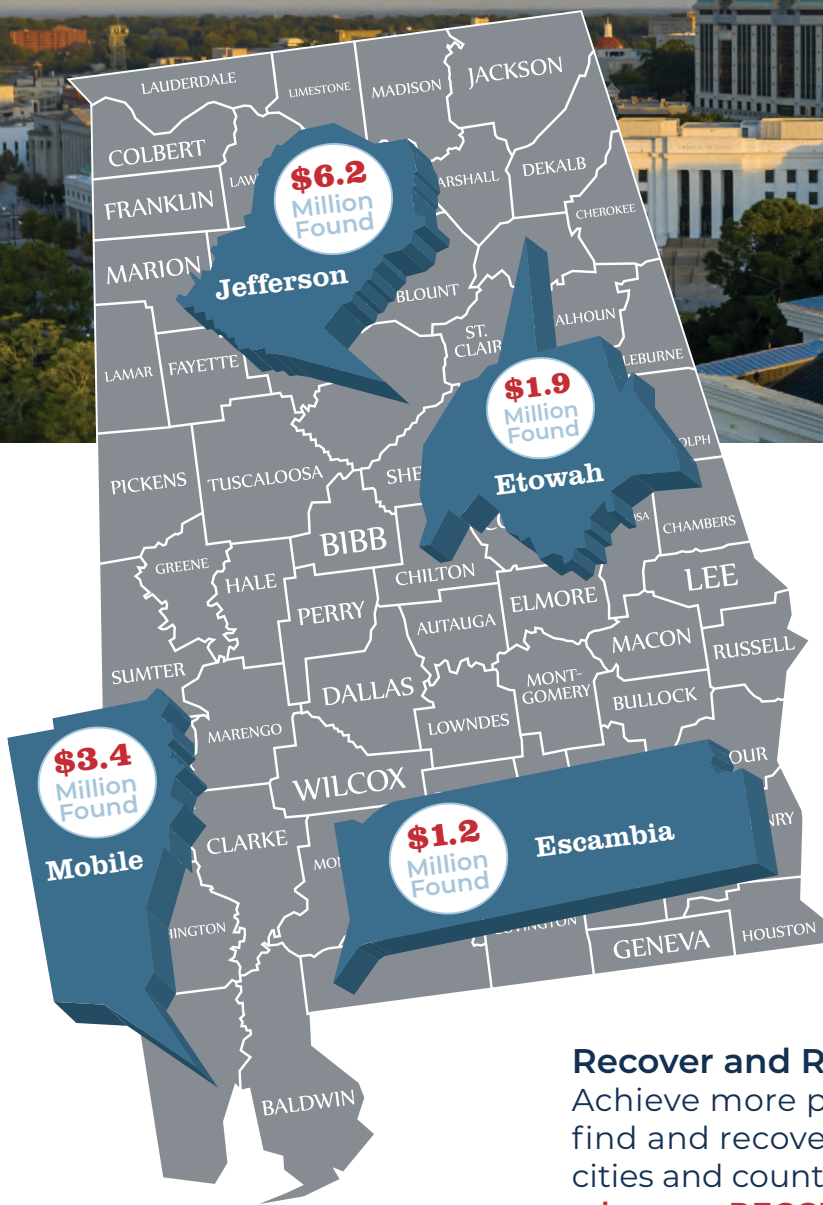
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By Lori Lein, ALM General Counsel

Eight Things Municipal Elected Officials Need to Know About the Open Meetings Act

The Alabama Open Meetings Act (OMA) generates a significant number of phone calls to the League Legal Department from municipal elected officials. As most of Alabama’s municipalities move towards a new term of office on November 2, 2020, it’s important for returning and new officials to have a good understanding of the OMA’s requirements. The OMA is codified at Sections 36-25A-1 through 36-25A-11, Code of Alabama 1975.

When it comes to the posting of notice, preparing minutes, and conducting meetings – which are not covered in this article – your municipal clerk will have the primary responsibility for making sure those details of the OMA are followed. Additionally, the OMA covers many governmental entities including some separately incorporated boards, which will also not be discussed here. Rather, this article spotlights in broad brush fashion some of the key areas of the OMA that generate questions for municipal elected officials regarding municipal council and committee meetings. A full detailed discussion of the OMA can be found in the *Selected Readings for the Municipal Official* (2020 ed.)

Here are eight things the League Legal Department wants you to know about the OMA:

1. Two things trigger the OMA: a quorum and deliberation.

The specifics of what constitutes a ‘meeting’ under the OMA are outlined in Section 36-25A-2(6), Code of Alabama 1975, but it can be distilled down to two words: quorum and deliberation. Most people understand that when a quorum of the council is convened and conducting official business that the requirements of the OMA apply. But what about when a quorum just happens to be together for a social or community event where they are not conducting any official business? Or my favorite hypothetical question to date: “What if a quorum of us happen to run into each other at Walmart buying ice cream?”

While it’s important to be mindful anytime there is a ‘quorum’ gathered, regardless of where or how that quorum is gathered (yes, even electronically), it’s important to also understand that the OMA is only triggered when that quorum begins discussing or deliberating municipal business. Both must be present under the OMA. Officials need to guard against the desire to discuss city business when a quorum is present unless the discussions are part of a properly noticed and convened meeting. This includes electronic communications. Sending out emails or group text messages to a quorum of the council isn’t in and of itself a

problem. In some municipalities, the mayor may push out the upcoming agenda or provide an update to the council on city hall business. Doing so does not set the OMA in motion. If, however, recipients hit ‘reply all’ and start discussing or deliberating what’s in the email, then there could be an OMA issue.

The OMA does provide for exceptions for things like social gatherings, training sessions, conferences and media events so long as there is no deliberation on matters that “at the time of exchange” the council members present “expect to come before” them at a later date. There are also exceptions for meeting with state or federal officials for the purpose of “reporting or obtaining information or seeking support of issues of importance” to the council. And finally, there is also an exception for meetings to discuss economic, industrial or commercial prospects or incentives so long as the discussion does not include a decision or conclusion on the part of the council or any final action on the terms of a request or offer of public financial resources. *See* Section 35-25A-2(6), Code of Alabama 1975.

2. Newly elected officials who have not yet taken office count towards a ‘quorum’ and are subject to the requirements of the OMA.

Simply put, a quorum is a number representing the majority of the voting members of a governmental body. The OMA goes further to make it clear that “members of a governmental body” for purposes of establishing a quorum, includes those persons who have been elected but have not yet taken office. *See* Section 36-25A-2(12) of the Code of Alabama 1975. Specifically, it provides that “between the date of election of members and the date such members take office, any person elected to serve on a governmental body shall be counted in the determination of whether a quorum of that governmental body is present”.

Just as soon as election results are canvassed after the August 25, 2020, election, we’ll start getting questions from newly elected officials who have yet to take office. For those that aren’t facing a run-off, it’s just over two months before they are actually sworn in to take office. Often, those newly elected officials are eager to start meeting to discuss what they plan to do once they do take office. Both incumbents and newly elected officials need to understand that they can all be counted towards a quorum and any gatherings before November 2, 2020 – when the new term begins – may be subject to OMA requirements including notice and public access, as well as penalties.

3. Work sessions are covered by the OMA even though no business is conducted and no votes are taken.

Work sessions of the council have traditionally not been considered meetings because no official action is taken during a work session. However, as discussed above, official action isn't required to meet the definition of a 'meeting' under the OMA. The only two things required to constitute a meeting under the OMA are a quorum and deliberation. As such, a work session, where a quorum of the council is gathered, is a 'meeting' that must comply with the requirements of the OMA including proper notice, public access and minutes kept.

4. The OMA applies to committee meetings.

Like work sessions, committees are also covered by the requirements of the OMA. For council committees which are made up of only the mayor and/or council members, it's important to remember that the quorum requirement under the OMA is the majority of the committee, not the majority of the entire voting council. For example, if you have a council committee on finance consisting of three council members, two constitutes a quorum of that committee even though it is less than a quorum of the entire voting council. When, in this example, two members of the finance committee gather to discuss city finances, the OMA must be complied with.

5. Executive sessions are *never required* but the OMA allows for executive sessions in certain instances.

The OMA specifically states that executive sessions are not required for any reason. Section 36-25A-7(a). But there are often reasons why a council might prefer to discuss matters in executive session. There are nine reasons, under the OMA, that a council could go into executive session. For a complete list of those reasons please review Section 36-25A-7(a), Code of Alabama 1975 and the article titled "The Open Meetings Act" in the *Selected Readings for the Municipal Official* (2020 ed.).

6. If you go into executive session you must follow the specific procedures for doing so.

One common issue we deal with in the legal department is when we get a call from a mayor (or council president for those municipalities over 12,000 population) who start their question with: "I'm going to call for an executive session ...". Before we can even answer the underlying question of why they might need an executive session, we must make sure that the mayor or council president understands they can't just call for an executive session. The council can only go into executive session from an already convened, open and properly called meeting under the OMA.

The OMA sets out a specific procedure to be followed in order to go into an executive session. Other than an executive session held for a quasi-judicial or contested case hearing, the council must adhere to the following steps:

- (1) A quorum of governmental body must first convene in an open and properly called meeting under the OMA (this could be a regular or special called meeting or a work session).
- (2) A majority of the members of the council (or committee)

present must adopt, by a roll call vote recorded in the minutes, a motion to go into executive session. The motion must state the reason for the executive session. If the stated reason requires an oral or written declaration to justify the executive session as required by law, the oral or written declaration must be made prior to the vote.

- (3) Prior to going into executive session, the presiding officer shall state whether the council (or committee) will reconvene after the executive session and, if so, the approximate time the body expects to reconvene.

See Section 36-25A-7(b), Code of Alabama 1975. Failure to follow these procedural steps is a violation of the OMA.

7. Voting not to go into executive session but choosing to attend anyway does not protect an official from liability under the OMA.

Not infrequently, we will get a call or email from a councilmember who is upset about an executive session held by the council. Typically, the councilmember voted not to go into executive session but was on the losing side of the vote. When the executive session started, the councilmember, despite disagreeing, chose to attend the executive session anyway and now wants to challenge the executive session under the OMA.

Two things to keep in mind. First, the enforcement provisions of the OMA provide that no member of the council may serve as a plaintiff in an action brought against other members of the council for an alleged OMA violation. Second, if someone else brings an action (citizen, Attorney General, district attorney), the complaint must name all members of the council "who remained in attendance" at the meeting. *See* Section 36-25A-9, Code of Alabama 1975. If you feel strongly that an executive session is not appropriate under the OMA, then you should not attend the meeting.

8. While there might be extenuating circumstances calling for an exception, only the voting members of the body and the municipal attorney should participate in an executive session.

Lastly, another area we get questions on regarding executive sessions is who can or should attend. Simply put, only those persons who are absolutely necessary for the executive session should attend. Often this will be the mayor, city council and the city attorney. Because there are no minutes kept and no action taken, the city clerk should not be in executive session except in those rare instances where the matter directly relates to the clerk.

Conclusion

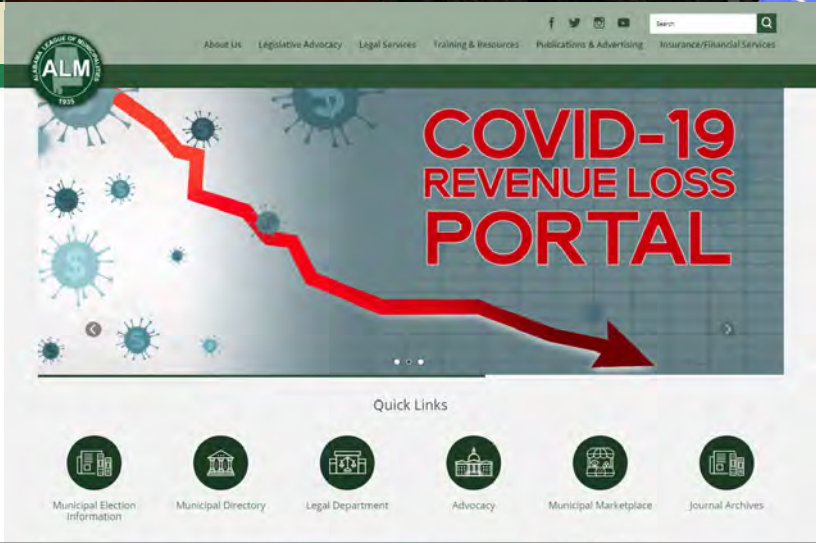
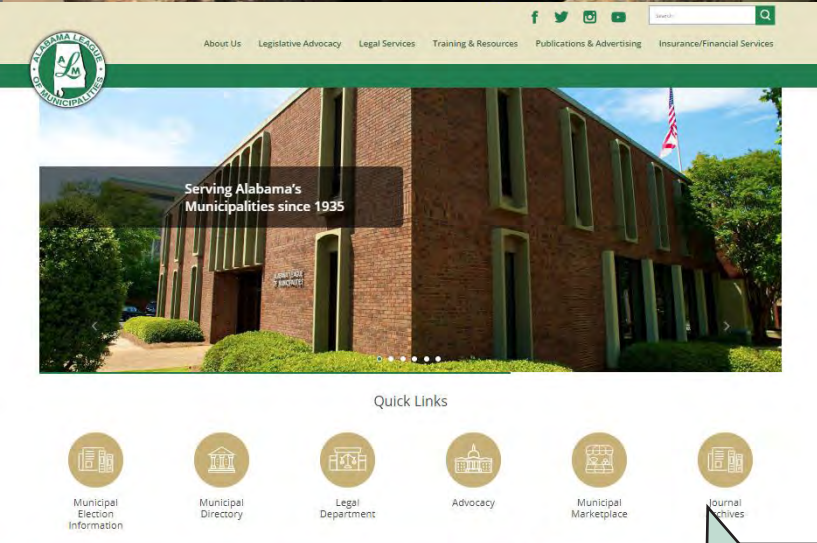
In conclusion, elected officials must always remember that the purpose of any open meeting law is to promote transparency, accountability and better decision-making in government. The Alabama Open Meetings Act is no different. Through the OMA, citizens are guaranteed a level of transparency and access to the inner workings of municipal government and as elected officials, it is your duty to make sure that transparency and access are provided as required by law. Please do not hesitate to contact the League Legal Department for further guidance. ■



Renovation and Rebranding

Revised Logo • Refreshed Website • Renovated Conference Room

For the League's summer board meeting on July 22nd in Montgomery, board members assembled in a completely renovated (top to bottom) conference room with new furniture and upgraded state-of-the-art technology, including multiple monitors and advanced digital capabilities (before and after photos below). This space had not been refreshed since the mid-1990s and is now properly equipped to carry the organization well into the 21st Century. Additionally, the League debuted its revised logo featuring a darker green and including the League's incorporation year as well as a refreshed website to reflect the changes along with a new web address: www.almonline.org. And there's more to come! *Stay tuned!*



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issue, whether it be online sales tax or the loss of revenue during this pandemic. The League has formed solid relationships with the Governor's office, legislative leadership, key state agencies and with our congressional delegation to put our municipalities first. Our League is called on to have a seat at the table when crucial discussions happen and decisions are being made. Your municipality is important and lots of work is going on daily through our organization to help your municipality stay solvent.

The League is monitoring newly introduced and potential legislation that may impact our cities and towns. Even so, we need you to help us with this. Local leaders know their legislators personally and have a relationship with them. If you don't, please make it a priority to form a relationship with your legislative delegation. It is so important that we work in unison as we fight for or against legislation that affects our municipalities. Please let the League know your thoughts on legislation because your input matters!

You and your municipality are important to the League. We need you to be active because the only way we can be better is together. Together we can address any opportunity or challenge presented. There is strength in numbers. I encourage you to get involved – whether it's on a committee, through CMO workshops or by serving on a task force. We CAN make a difference by having a unified voice.

As I accept this responsibility to lead the League over the next year, I promise to you it is not for a title. We have lots of opportunities and challenges ahead of us. I look forward to meeting these opportunities and challenges head on with energy and enthusiasm to benefit all municipalities in Alabama. However, this can't be accomplished without your help because we are stronger together.

I want to thank the Guntersville City Council and staff for allowing me this opportunity to not only represent Guntersville but to represent all municipalities. I have the best team in Guntersville which makes my job so much easier. The most important group I want to thank is my family. Without them, I wouldn't be where I am today. They are my rock but also keep me grounded.

I have enjoyed working with Past President Mayor Ronnie Marks this year as he taught me the ropes. I look forward to working with Vice President Mayor Gary Fuller who will be an excellent ambassador for the League. I look forward to working with all of you as we continue to make positive differences in the great State of Alabama together.

I will conclude by recognizing that for most of us, it is election time. If you are running for reelection, I wish you the very best. If you've decided not to run for reelection, thank you for your service to your municipality. Community service is one of the greatest honors and privileges. ■

Convention Snapshots



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