

For Immediate Release: May 16, 2016

City of Clay Municipal Officials Briefed on Budgeting and Auditing Practices, Drone and Sign Regulation During League of Municipalities Annual Convention

Mayor Charles Webster, City Manager, Ronnie Dixon, Councilperson Becky Johnson, Councilperson Ben Thackerson, and Councilperson Bo Johnson joined more than 1,000 municipal officials, clerks, administrators and guests in Huntsville May 14-17 for the 81st Annual Convention of the Alabama League of Municipalities. Municipal Officials participating in the League's Certified Municipal Officials (CMO) program received credit towards their certification for attending sessions during the convention. Officials convened on Saturday morning, May 14, for a special Resolutions Committee meeting where delegates were presented reports and policy recommendations for the League's five policy committees: Finance, Administration and Intergovernmental Relations; Energy, Environment and Natural Resources; Transportation, Public Safety and Communication; Human Development; and Community and Economic Development. Resolutions on state and federal issues were also discussed and prepared for presentation to voting delegates at the Annual Business Session held Monday, May 16.

During the Opening General Session on Saturday afternoon, conference attendees were addressed by Councilwoman Sadie Britt of Lincoln, then-President of the League, as well as Sharleen Smith of Troy University who gave the keynote presentation. In addition, Alabama Communities of Excellence (ACE) awards were presented. Sunday afternoon, elected municipal officials, city clerks and city administrators from small, medium and large cities met in separate rooms for roundtable discussions to network and learn from each other.

Monday began with a general session on Effective Leadership followed by numerous concurrent sessions covering a variety of timely topics: Bicentennial Update; The Impact of the Film Industry on Alabama Municipalities; ADECA Update; Conflicts of Interest; Broadband (Alabama200) Update; Regulation of Drones; Affordable Care Act Compliance; Sign Regulation After Reed v. Town of Gilbert; How Cities Can Gain Maximum Value from Telecommunication Tower Leases; Budgeting and Auditing; Alabama Department of Mental Health – Is There a Crisis?; Public Employee Drug Testing Land Mines and How to Avoid Them; and Best Practices for Downtown Design. The League's Annual Business Meeting was held Monday afternoon at which time Executive Director Ken Smith presented the League's annual report, resolutions were approved and League officers were elected. Officers were installed and Distinguished Service Awards for municipal employees with 20, 30 and 40 years of service were presented on Monday evening during the President's Banquet.

Tuesday morning featured the ever-popular "Ask Your Attorney" session followed by the Closing General Session featuring Jim Hunt, former president of the National League of Cities and founder of Amazing Cities, an organization dedicated to creating excellence in municipal government. The Alabama League of Municipalities was organized in 1935 and has served since that time as the recognized voice of the cities and towns in Alabama. Representing 452 member municipalities, the League works to secure enactment of legislation enabling all cities and towns to perform their functions more efficiently and effectively; offers specialized training for both municipal officials and employees; holds conferences and meetings at which views and experiences of officials may be exchanged; and conducts continuing studies of the legislative, administrative and operational needs, problems and functions of Alabama's municipal governments. For more information, visit www.alalm.org.