

Belleair Beach
Belleair Shore
Clearwater
Indian Rocks Beach
Indian Shores
Madeira Beach



North Redington Beach
Redington Beach
Redington Shores
St. Pete Beach
Treasure Island

OFFICERS

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March 28, 2007

Minutes

The Meeting of the Barrier Island Governmental Council was hosted by the Town of Redington Beach, at Town Hall located at 105 164th Avenue, Redington Beach, FL 33708. The meeting was called to order by President Bill Queen at 9:00 a.m.

- 1) **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.** President Queen led the assemblage in the Pledge of Allegiance
- 2) **ROLL CALL:** President Queen reminded everyone to turn off their cell phones, there would be a \$1 fine if the phone were heard ringing. President Queen then asked everyone to introduce themselves.

MEMBERS: *(According to the Sign in Sheet)*

Indian Rocks Beach	Commissioner Jose Coppen
Indian Shores	Commissioner Bill Smith
Madeira Beach	Commissioner John Wolbert
No. Redington Beach	Mayor Bill Queen
Redington Beach	Mayor Nick Simons
Redington Shores	Mayor Jody Armstrong
St. Pete Beach	Commissioner Mike Finnerty
Belleair Shore	Mayor John A. Robertson

GUESTS: *(According to the Sign in Sheet)*

Gary Curtis	Commissioner, North Redington Beach
Linda Fisher	Program Planner, Pinellas Planning Council
Jerry Knight	Vice-Mayor, North Redington Beach
Sandra Knoebel Gamache	Planner, Pinellas County MPO
Janina Patrus	Town Clerk, Redington Beach

Phyllis Johnson	Tampa Bay Sun
Linda Wilson	Redington Beach
Fred Steiermann	Commissioner, Redington Beach
R. B. Johnson	Vice Mayor Indian Rocks Beach
Stan Sofer	Belleair Beach
Leslie Peck-Epstein	Commissioner, Redington Beach

- 3) **APPROVAL OF AGENDA-March 28, 2007.** A motion to approve was made by Mayor Armstrong, seconded by Mayor Robertson, all ayes, motion carried.
- 4) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES- February 28, 2007.** A motion was made to approve the minutes, seconded. All ayes, motion carried.
- 5) **APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 2007 INTERIM TREASURER’S REPORT:** Commissioner Wolbert stated that balance as of February 28, was \$1,248.43; Revenue recorded and deposits balance as of March 19 was \$6,100.05. Outstanding checks of \$5,000 and outstanding deposits of \$554.55 left a recorded balance as of March 19, of \$2,348.48 A motion to approve the report was made by Mayor Robertson, seconded by Mayor Simons, all ayes. Motion carried.

President Queen welcomed new member to the Council, Mayor Nick Simons of Redington Beach. President Queen thanked Redington Beach for their hospitality.

6) NEW BUSINESS

A. Leslie Waters, former Representative 1998-2006, presently with Government Relations Consulting. addressed a some key legislative issues of concern to Floridians.

1. Homeowners Insurance Crisis

Current legislation out of Tallahassee is a good start and moving in the right direction. Once again this is not an easy subject to deal with; who is our main opponent? Mother Nature. If you couldn’t get insurance, the State would take you on, Citizens Insurance Company was the last resource. Now Citizen’s has to compete with the regular insurance companies.

When the Hurricane CAP Fund was established in 1992, it was set up to be a tax free fund. However, the 2004-05 hurricane season almost depleted the account. There is only about 1 billion dollars in the fund right now; if we have a bad hurricane season it will be drained.

The Florida Cap Fund may be the only resource we need. Working with the congressional members of coastal states, I have campaigned to get Federal assistance. A possible agreement with the coastal states Georgia and South Carolina would help, but we need the Florida congressional members to get on board. Bottom line is Floridians are taking care of themselves.

2. Property Taxes

Florida House plans to roll back property taxes to the 2001 rate and do away with property taxes and increase the sales tax. This is a step the right direction. The House is working toward this, but the Senate has not yet put out their plan.

Then there is the doubling of the homestead exemption plan. The governor is flexible and waiting to see what the House or Senate will come up with; it is not easy.

The Taxation and Budget Reform Commission, established March 2007, set up to review the entire tax situation state wide and make recommendations to the Legislature.

3. No-Fault Auto Insurance

Auto insurance is in total turmoil. No fault policy started up over 30 years ago. The entire system of our auto insurance was revamped to no-fault, to reduce court sessions. We have closed some of the loop holes in this bill. Times have changed, if no fault goes away, then our auto insurance will be different.

4. Apportionment of Damages

The appropriations Committee had over 8 billion dollars to work after 2001. We had money appropriated for transportation, roads and bridges, railroads and economic development in Florida. After Hurricane Charlie all the tourism was funded through the bill. Citizens were all unhappy because their appropriations were withheld.

Question and Answer period followed.

Ms. Waters replied to question on the proposed House property tax bill.

Question, what ever happened with the \$5,000 credit for hardening your home? Ms. Waters said it got off to a slow start. They started in Dade County, possibly by geographic area to rework the plan.

Question as to why the insurance companies raise the rates on property insurance for Florida homes. Ms. Waters responded that insurance companies are a business, and that business is there to take risk. Vice -Mayor Knight said there is no answer to this question. The insurance companies are using the government system to make money. The only answer to this question is greed. They are just tracking this into one big package even through they write flood insurance, they also raised the rates on all other coverage. Basic premise of insurance is taking risk, but they don't want to accept risk.

Statement on the possibility of the roll back of property taxes, it is a good idea, but a roll back of property values and not a roll back of revenue.

1) MISCELLANEOUS

President Queen thanked Ms. Waters for her presentation.

President Queen asked for a motion to name April 2007 Pedestrian Safety Month; Motion made by Mayor Armstrong and seconded by Mayor Robertson, all ayes, so moved.

Rob Prisher, Pinellas Construction Licensing Board asked if the right of way line will be affected by the widening of Gulf Blvd. Reply was this is just a beautification project with underground changes, no change is proposed to the road, we are obtaining easements for the proposed work.

8) ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business Meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Mayor Bill Queen
Town of North Redington Beach