

May 27, 2009 Minutes

CALL TO ORDER: The Meeting of the Barrier Island Governmental Council (BIG-C) was hosted by the City of Treasure Island at Treasure Island City Hall located at 120 – 108th Avenue, Treasure Island, FL 33706. President Lawrence called the meeting to order at 9 a.m.

1. Pledge of Allegiance. President Lawrence led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Announcements: President Lawrence thanked Commissioner Collins, Mayor Bob Minning, Reid Silverboard, Jeff Jensen and Cathy Hayduke.

Commissioner Collins thanked everyone for coming to Treasure Island.

2. Roll Call. President Lawrence requested that each person introduce themselves.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Belleair Beach	Vice-Mayor-Kathy Mortensen
Belleair Shore	Mayor John Robertson
Clearwater	Councilmember George Cretekos
Indian Rocks Beach	Commissioner Terry Hamilton-Wollin
Indian Shores	Mayor Jim Lawrence
Madeira Beach	Mayor Patricia Shontz
North Redington Beach	Mayor William Queen
Redington Beach	Mayor Nick Simons
Redington Shores	Mayor Bert Adams
St. Pete Beach	Mayor Mike Finnerty
Treasure Island	Vice-Mayor Phil Collins

GUEST SPEAKERS:

Melissa Seixas, Progress Energy
Sally Bishop, Pinellas County Emergency Services

GUESTS PRESENT:

Vice-Mayor Joan Herndon	Indian Shores
Art Newsome	Indian Shore Property Owners Association
Representative Jim Frishe	Florida House District 54
Commissioner Alan Bildz	Treasure Island
Nick Fritsch	Sand Key Civic Association
Jim Guzman	Progress Energy (Systems Coordinator)
W.D. Higgenbotham	Madeira Beach, City Manager
Reid Silverboard	Treasure Island, City Manager
Commissioner Carol Coward	Treasure Island
Dennis Jones	Senator, District 13
Pam Dunbar	Pinella Property Appraiser
Sandra Knoebel	Pinellas City Planning
Linda Fisher	Pinellas Planning Council
Mary Maloof	Treasure Island
Cori Cutler	Southwest Florida Water Management District
Michele Cavallo	Progress Energy
Doreen Moore	Tampa Bay Beaches Chamber

Sally Bishop
Bob Minning
Councilperson Bill Smith

Pinellas County Emergency Management
Treasure Island, Mayor
Indian Shores

Pam Dunbar spoke about the property appraisals, and estimates last week took a nose dive. The reason there are residents part time, or part time owners, values go up they are not saved by the "Save our Homes". When values decline, the bottom line is greatly effected by non homestead value market. Retail stores are more vacant, there was a lot of foreclosures and short sales. There are exceptions to the rule, and she wants to assure that for every city there is an explanation what happened to the value. Her office is available for questions. She understands how difficult it is to do the budgets, many residents have suffered. If any groups want her to know she is available for any homeowner associations.

3. **Approval of Agenda:** Motion made by Mayor Robertson, seconded by Mayor Shontz to approve the agenda of May 2009, carried unanimously

4. **Approval of Minutes of April 2009:** Motion made by Mayor Queen seconded by Mayor Shontz to approve the agenda of May 2009, carried unanimously

5. **Approval of Treasurer's Report for April 2009:** Secretary/Treasurer Cretkos provided the Treasurer's Report for April 2009.

There was no income no expenditures in the month of April.

Register balance as of April 30, 2009.....\$2,210.91

Motion made by Mayor Robertson seconded by Commissioner Terry Hamilton-Wollin to accept the April 2009 Treasurer's Report, as presented, carried unanimously.

6. **Correspondence:** None

7. **New Business**

Melissa Seixas, Progress Energy has been moved to the June Meeting.

Sally Bishop, Pinellas County Emergency Services made her presentation. Ms. Bishop stated she would like to make annual visits with the BIG-C.

Ms. Bishop proceeded with her Power Point presentation about Emergency Management and all the different areas of preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation. The slide show also touched on disaster declaration, City and County Fire Districts (Comprehensive Emergency Management Plans [CEMP]), the roles for the different municipalities, the County, State and Federal with regard to disaster.

After the slideshow, Ms. Bishop discussed some things that were important for the beach communities; Make sure the city websites are operating no matter what so that the moment information is available, it will be available for the citizens.

An audience member asked what to do if a neighbor doesn't want to evacuate. Ms. Bishop said make sure they understand that they are vulnerable to 24 foot storm surges. What are they going to do when that much water shows up? Are you willing to gamble with your life? When they are ordering the evacuation, what has been proven over the years, they are usually within inches of what has been predicted. Storm surge is what kills more so than the wind.

8. Old Business:

Gulf Beaches Rays Day will be on June 14th for the Rays recognition day. So far, 250 tickets have been sold. The tickets are \$30 which includes a Rays' hat. There will be representatives for the BIG-C.

9. Miscellaneous

Legislative Update: Dennis Jones said the budget is a disaster. For example the University of Florida cut their budget by \$42 million which is the worst cuts they made in 24 years. On the bright side, \$1 million for beach renourishment, no dock stamp money, \$15 million was taken from others pockets, if we lose it we will never get it back. The Governor took a lot of time purchasing U.S. Sugar. There will be the same struggle as last year. Seventy percent of the State's budget is health care and education, and there is no where else to cut. There will be sales tax exemptions that they will be looking into.

Jim Frishe has asked for a Fire/EMS structure for Pinellas County. There needs to be an objective comprehensive study. We have excellent service in Pinellas County, but he is not sure we can afford to keep it and the tax base cannot support it. They were very successful with the beach funding stimulus money.

Beach Update: President Lawrence read an email from Nicole Elko, dock stamps re-appropriating the dollar with \$15 million. He gave special thanks to Jim Frishe and Dennis Jones.

President Lawrence stated Nicole Elko is moving away from the state.

Penny for Pinellas Update: North Redington Beaches request, sent out a letter to remind the date.

Announcements:

Redington Shores, beach access problems should be set up soon.

Treasure Island will be having "Bands in the Sand" for Memorial Weekend, as well as a future event on Labor Day weekend.

St. Pete Beach has approved financing for fireworks June 4th.

Madeira Beach will be having a triathlon, so go before 7 and after 10. June 12-14 John Lavique Day and is moving along.

Indian shores will be having a Memorial Day Picnic.

10. Adjournment 10:25