

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



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

William Queen

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BARRIER ISLANDS GOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

July 26, 2006

DRAFT

Present: North Redington Beach
Indian Shores
Indian Shores
Belleair Shore
Belleair Beach
Clearwater
Treasure Island
North Redington Beach
Indian Rocks Beach
Madeira Beach

Vice-Mayor Jerry Knight
Mayor Jim Lawrence
Councilor Bill Smith
Mayor John Robertson
Mayor Rudy Davis
Councilmember John Doran
Commissioner Richard Kraus
Mayor Bill Queen
Mayor Bill Ockunzzi
Commissioner John Wolbert

Guests: Kristi Cheatham
Jerry Knight
Mike Petruccelli
Sandra Gamache

Ed Ruttencutter
Linda Fisher
Susan Dveill
Joan Herndon
Marlene Clausen
Dennis L. Jones
Rod Jones
Leroy Sullivan, Jr.
Rand Baldwin
Bob MacPherson

Clearwater Gas System
Vice Mayor, North Redington Beach
Candidate District 54
Pinellas County/MPO (Metropolitan Planning Organization)
Commissioner, St. Pete Beach
Pinellas Planning Council
Pinellas County/MPO
Indian Shores, Vice Mayor
Indian Shores
State Senator, Treasure Island
House Candidate, District 54
TECO Peoples Gas
Southwest Florida Water Management District
Beach Beacon

Christina Rahija
Chuck Warrington
Debra Kennaugh
Sally Tibbetts
Nicole Elko
Brenda Moses

Coastal Property Protection
Clearwater Gas System
Florida Department of Transportation
Representative, Senator Mel Martinez
Pinellas County
Board Reporter - City of Clearwater

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m. at the Palm Pavilion Restaurant, Clearwater, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call.

Items are in agenda order and summarized, although not necessarily discussed in that order.

3 – Approval of Agenda

It was moved and seconded that the agenda be approved. The motion was adopted.

4 – Approve of Minutes – June 28, 2006

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of June 28, 2006, be approved. The motion was adopted.

5 – Approval of Treasurer’s Report of July 2006

It was moved and seconded that the Treasurer’s Report of July 2006 be approved. The motion was adopted.

6 – Old Business – None.

7 – New Business

a) Gulf Boulevard Update – Debra Kennaugh, Department of Transportation

FDOT (Florida Department of Transportation) representative Debra Kennaugh said following a seven-month study, FDOT established a uniform speed limit of 35 mph along Gulf Boulevard. The study revealed that increased enforcement slowed drivers. While citations appear to have kept crosswalks safe, she said the number of accidents is unchanged. One pedestrian-related accident occurred following completion of the study.

b) Offshore Drilling – Sally Tibbetts, Tampa Bay Representative for Senator Mel Martinez

Sally Tibbetts, Tampa Bay representative for Senator Mel Martinez, reviewed the senator’s position regarding offshore drilling in the Gulf of Mexico. She said pressure to drill has intensified as energy prices increased. She said Senator Martinez has agreed to a compromise, but opposes drilling closer than 125 miles from Florida’s coast. Due to local military bases, she said, as proposed, drilling would be prohibited within 234 miles of Tampa until 2020. She said Senator Martinez is working with other senators to find alternative fuel sources. In response to a question, she said Senator Nelson supports Senator Martinez’s

compromise. She said last year's energy bill included incentives for solar and renewable energy sources, etc.

Discussion ensued with comments that most oil spills occur during transport, that drilling would increase the potential for spills, that coastal water near Texas oil rigs is filthy, that energy costs for Floridians would not decrease if drilling is allowed, and that once drilling is permitted, more would be allowed. Exploring the conversion of hydrocarbons as an energy source was recommended.

8 – Miscellaneous

a) Legislative Update

Senator Dennis Jones said the biggest legislative issues are residential and commercial property insurance and property taxes. He was pessimistic that a special session on insurance would be called. He said the State Insurance Commissioner had stated that the only solution appears to national catastrophic coverage that spreads risks. The Legislature has funded a study of insurance issues. A long-term solution is needed.

It was reported that Ron Turner, Hillsborough Property Appraiser, was appointed to a State property tax commission, formed to determine how property assessments are calculated. It was suggested that the BIG-C (Barrier Islands Governmental Council) agenda discussion and offer recommendations or form a committee to develop ideas on the issue. Concern was expressed that permitting Save Our Homes portability could be a disaster for communities, when residents relocate there. Concern was expressed that property taxes are increasing faster than personal income.

b) Beach Update by Nicole Elko, Coastal Coordinator, Pinellas County

It was reported that the North Redington Beach renourishment project features good quality sand and is nearly complete.

Pinellas County Coastal Coordinator Nichole Elko reported that the Sand Key renourishment project will be completed next week. She said water can pond and beaches can lack sand between shorelines that are renourished or those that are not. The next project, in 2011, will tie adjacent segments of beach to renourished areas. Work on Indian Rocks Beach will begin once the North Redington Beach project is completed. The next phases will be from Sixth Avenue to Central, Upham Beach, and Treasure Island from Sunset Beach to John's Pass. The Ft. Desoto project will follow the Egmont Key project, scheduled to begin soon.

Other Business

It was reported that the Florida Shores & Beaches meeting will be held in Ft. Lauderdale.

Mayors Council

Indian Shores Mayor Jim Lawrence reported at June Mayors' Council meeting, the FLC (Florida League of Cities) political consultant discussed the County's charter review commission and recommendations. The Mayors' Council formed a subcommittee, with Mayor Lawrence

representing the BIG-C. The subcommittee has recommended that mayors take the lead in opposing charter amendments 3 - 7, and support the first two amendments regarding the County Manager's position and mosquito control board. The Mayors' Council will ask for BIG-C support. He encouraged the BIG-C to support home rule and the ability of municipalities to make their own decisions.

Miscellaneous

Pat Siracusa introduced himself as a candidate for Circuit Court Judge Group 32.

Donations to overseas military personnel were encouraged.

Future BIG-C meetings: 1) August 2006 – Belleair Beach; 2) September 2006 – Indian Rocks Beach; and 3) October 2006 – Belleair Shore (at Belleair Beach).

9 – Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.