

**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.