

**BARRIER ISLANDS GOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL MEETING  
MINUTES - July 27, 2005**

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

Mayor John Robertson  
Mayor Rudy Davis  
Councilmember Hoyt P. Hamilton  
Vice-Mayor James R. Palamara  
Councilor Bill Smith  
Commissioner Art Thomas  
Vice-Mayor Jerry Knight  
Vice-Mayor Linda Wilson  
Commissioner Lee Holmes  
Vice-Mayor Deborah Nicklaus  
Commissioner Richard Kraus

Guests: Mike Kelly, Resident  
Chuck Warrington, Managing Dir.  
Phyllis Johnson  
Nick Fritsch  
Missy Pike  
Dennis E. Jones  
Steve Sutch, ISPOA  
Joan Herndon, Vice-Mayor  
Marlen Clausen  
Vince Robertiello, Reporter  
Ed Ruttencutter, Commissioner  
Sandy Shuler, Councilmember  
Nicole Elko, Coastal Coordinator  
Steve Verzwylvelt, Tampa Bay  
Clean Energy Organizer  
Michael Yakes, Mayor  
Katherine Barbridge, Intergovern.  
Liaison  
Ralph Stone, City Manager  
Mary Maloof, Mayor

Belleair Beach  
Clearwater Gas System  
Sand Key Sun  
Sand Key Civic Association  
Tampa Bay Beaches Chamber of Commerce  
State Senator, Treasure Island  
Indian Shores  
Indian Shores  
Indian Shores  
St. Pete Post  
St. Pete Beach  
Indian Shores  
Pinellas County  
Florida Public Interest Research Group  
Gulfport  
Pinellas County  
Treasure Island  
Treasure Island

Mary Burrell, Editor  
Kristi Cheatham, External Affairs Mgr  
Patricia O. Sullivan, Board Reporter

The Beacon  
Clearwater Gas System  
Clearwater

Barrier Islands Governmental Council Vice-President, Belleair Shore Mayor John Robertson, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. at the Palm Pavilion Restaurant, Clearwater, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, a welcoming statement by Host, Clearwater Councilmember Hoyt Hamilton, and Roll Call.

### 3 - Approval of Agenda

Mayor Robertson reported additions to the Agenda: 1) Steve Verzwylvelt and 2) Michael Yakes.

Indian Rocks Beach Vice-Mayor James R. Palamara moved to approve the agenda, as amended. The **motion** was duly seconded and **carried** unanimously.

### 4 – Approval of Minutes – June 29, 2005

Belleair Shore Mayor John Robertson moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of June 30, 2004, as recorded and submitted in written summation to each board member. The **motion** was duly seconded and **carried** unanimously.

### 5 – Approval of Treasurer’s Report – June and July 2005

There were no comments/questions regarding the June and July 2005 Treasurer’s Reports.

Redington Shores Commissioner Lee Holmes moved to approve the June and July 2005 Treasurer’s Report, as submitted. The **motion** was duly seconded and **carried** unanimously.

### 6 – Correspondence – None.

### 7 – Old Business

#### **Gulf Boulevard Speed Limit**

Redington Beach Vice-Mayor Linda Wilson reported that Redington Beach Mayor Bob Fountaine had a meeting scheduled on August 9, 2005, with Governor Jeb Bush to discuss traffic safety issues along Gulf Boulevard.

Indian Rocks Beach Vice-Mayor Palamara reported a meeting is scheduled for July 28, 2005, to discuss a consistent speed limit along Gulf Boulevard, south from SR 688 to the Don Cesar.

## **Beach Facts Brochure**

Nick Fritsch, of the Sand Key Association, reviewed sub group efforts to develop and distribute economically a beach brochure, intended to educate mainland residents regarding the benefits of beach renourishment.

## **Fifth Cent Bed Task**

Discussion ensued regarding the County Commission's recent approval of the fifth cent bed tax, following the adoption of supporting resolutions by various municipalities. Clearwater Councilmember Hoyt Hamilton reported that Clearwater had encouraged use of a first cent to recognize the arts community and market cultural arts, as rainy day diversions for tourists. St. Pete Beach Vice-Mayor Deborah Nicklaus recommended allowing the TDC (Tourist Development Council) to determine the best use for the funding. Missy Pike, Tampa Bay Beaches Chamber of Commerce, encouraged municipalities to write the TDC in support of increased funding for Chamber of Commerce efforts.

## 8 – New Business

### **Presentations**

#### PIRG representative Verzwyvelt

Steve Verzwyvelt, Tampa Bay Clean Energy Organizer, Florida Public Interest Research Group, reviewed his organization's new energy futures campaign that encourages the use of renewable energy sources, etc.

It was stated that this meeting is an improper forum for advocacy presentations.

#### Gulfport Mayor Yakes

Gulfport Mayor Michael Yakes reviewed problems experienced by his municipality related to abandoned vessels off Gulfport and in the hurricane hold at Bay Pines. Derelict, abandoned boats pose a danger to other vessels. He reviewed the lengthy procedures currently required to remove these vessels and requested BIG-C support to streamline the process by changing State law and allowing local governments to gain control of submerged lands, allowing them to control and remove derelict vessels that endanger public safety. The lack of proper registration by illegal vessels significantly delays current processes.

Pinellas County Coastal Coordinator Nicole Elko reviewed County authority to remove vessels. While the State's grant program has not been reinstated during the last two years, the County uses boating related monies to fund the removal of derelict vessels by a salvage company which takes them to a dump. Sarasota has had success with its mooring ordinance, which establishes maritime law and gives them authority to act after a vessel has been moored illegally for 72 hours. Resident Mike Kelly of Belleair Beach reported that municipality has a similar law that is enforced by the Marine Patrol.

Consensus was for each BIG-C municipality to report on the status of this problem in each community at the August 2005 meeting.

10 – Miscellaneous

**Legislative Update**

Senator Dennis Jones provided a brief update of legislative issues. He cited a *Miami Herald* article that reported that beach renourishment is a good value, with an average return of \$10 for every \$1 in cost.

He encouraged BIG-C members to attend a conference on this topic at the Ocean Reef in Key Largo, Florida, on September 28-30, 2005.

**Beach Renourishment Update**

Ms. Elko reported the US Army Corps of Engineers had awarded a beach renourishment contract for the Clearwater portion of Sand Key. The low bid was \$30-million. Fuel prices have increased costs from \$8.50/cubic-yard to \$21/cubic-yard. The quality of the sand is important to the beach community. The project will be funded with State, local, and Federal monies. A public, coordination meeting is tentatively scheduled for August 18, 2005, at 7:00 p.m. at the Sheraton Sand Key.

While not finalized, the project should start in mid-September on the north end, with sand from Egmont Key being offloaded from barges. If possible, the project also will add sand to the north end of Treasure Island.

Concern was expressed the meeting date conflicts with the opening day of the annual FLC (Florida League of Cities) conference in Orlando. Ms. Elko reported she will review the meeting date with representatives of the County, Contractor, and Army Corps of Engineers, who are planning to attend.

**Clearwater Gas System Announcement**

CGS (Clearwater Gas System) External Affairs Manager Kristi Cheatham said after CGS worked with TECO to install a transfer station in Redington Beach, service to beach communities was not interrupted after a contractor hit the gas line in Indian Shores. Clearwater Gas provides 99.999% reliability, on the beaches, south through Redington Beach.

Clearwater Councilmember Hamilton thanked CGS for providing refreshments for today's meeting.

8 - Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

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President  
Barrier Islands Governmental Council

Attest: