

BARRIER ISLANDS GOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES SEPTEMBER 27, 2006

The September 27, 2006 Meeting of the Barrier Islands Governmental Council, was held in the Indian Rocks Beach City Commission Chambers, 1507 Bay Palm Boulevard, Indian Rocks Beach, Florida.

President Bill Queen called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. ROLL CALL:

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Belleair Beach	Mayor Rudy Davis
Belleair Shore	Mayor John Robertson
Clearwater	Councilor John Doran
Indian Rocks Beach	Commissioner Ed Piniero
Indian Shores	Mayor Jim Lawrence
Madeira Beach	Commissioner John Wolbert
North Redington Beach	Mayor Bill Queen
Redington Beach	Mayor Linda Wilson
Redington Shores	Mayor Jody Armstrong
Treasure Island	Commissioner Richard Kraus

GUESTS PRESENT:

Martha J. Boos	Commissioner, City of Madeira Beach
Mary Burrell	Tampa Bay Newspapers
Kristi Cheatham	Clearwater Gas
Marlene Clausen	Councilor, Town of Indian Shores
Jose Coppen	Commissioner, City of Indian Rocks Beach
C. Cors	St. Petersburg Times
Nicole Elko	Coastal Coordinator, Pinellas County
Jim Frishe	Candidate, District 54, House of Representatives
Nick Fritsch	Sand Key Civic Association
Al Grieshaber, Jr.	City Manager, City of Indian Rocks Beach
David Healey	Director, Pinellas Planning Council
Joan Herndon	Vice Mayor, Town of Indian Shores
Dennis Jones	State Senator, District 13
Jerry Knight	Vice Mayor, Town of North Redington Beach
Larry Karisny	Director, St. Pete SmarTown
Bill Smith	Councilor, Town of Indian Shores

Ralph Stone
Art Thomas

City Manager, City of Treasure Island
Vice Mayor, City of Madeira Beach

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA.

Motion made by Mayor Robertson, seconded by Mayor Lawrence to approve the Agenda, as presented. Unanimous approval by acclamation.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF AUGUST 30, 2006.

Motion made by Mayor Davis, seconded by Mayor Wilson to approve the minutes of the August 30, 2006 Meeting, as presented. Unanimous approval by acclamation.

4. APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT OF SEPTEMBER 2006.

The Treasurer's Report for September 2006, was presented by Treasurer Wilson, with a balance on-hand of \$1,585.83.

Motion made by Commissioner Kraus, seconded by Mayor Robertson to approve the Treasurer's Report of September 2006, as presented. Unanimous approval by acclamation.

5A. PEDESTRIAN EXPERT VISIT REPORT.

President Queen reported that a number of cities were visited to ascertain the needs of those communities with regard to pedestrian ways throughout those cities and that a copy of the report will be forwarded to everyone upon completion. He stated that some of the items noted and/or action that needs to be taken are as follow:

- Indian Shores: Add a couple of crosswalks.
- Indian Rocks Beach: Updated marked crosswalk. Favorable comments were received on this City's present landscaped pedestrian median islands.
- Belleair Beach: Fence around marina area.
- Madeira Beach: Improve lighting.
- Reduce curb cuts.
- Improve/update signage.
- Improve night lighting.
- Improved road painting/markings.
- Traffic island planting.

6A. LAND USE DENSITY CHANGES.

David Healey, Executive Director of the Pinellas Planning Council, reported on a meeting of the Tourist Development Council (TDC), Board of County Commission (BOCC), and

the Pinellas Planning Council (PPC) to discuss issues relating the proposed Countywide Rule Amendments, with some issues, proposed additional considerations, and direction being addressed as follows:

- Increase maximum densities and intensities.
- Combined hotel and residential development.
- Conversion from hotel to residential use.
- Provide graphic representation of the densities and intensities being proposed.
- Address associated issues, including affordable housing, taxation, and insurance.
- Consider incentives, including infrastructure improvements and private/public partnership, e.g., area-wide drainage, shared parking, etc.
- PPC staff anticipates making a presentation to the PPC in October 2006, preparing a draft ordinance for review in November 2006, with public hearings in December 2006 and January 2007.

Questions were raised regarding the issue of Floor Area Ratio (FAR), and whether it is possible to adjust the FAR requirement when developing a mixed-use development to allow the same number of residential units that would be permitted if the development was not mixed-use, specifically when the residential units are to be located over retail units. Mr. Healey stated that it can be done, but that the issue is determining the best way to do it.

Discussion ensued regarding the continuing decrease in small motel/hotels and the increase in the construction of condominiums and the conversion of residential to condominiums. Concern was expressed regarding the increase in property, sales, gas, and bed taxes.

6B. MUNICIPAL WIRELESS SERVICE.

Larry Karisny, Director of St. Pete SmarTown, made a presentation on the proposal to establish a municipal Wifi Service connecting all of the barrier islands, which would be patterned after the Wifi system that is currently at Baywalk in St. Petersburg. He proposed utilizing the Gulf Boulevard Mile Marker Program to implement the Wifi system along the barrier islands. He stated that in order for this program to work effectively, the following issues need to be addressed:

- Multiple cities and departments need to work together.
- Bring in non-municipal partners.
- Conduct studies.
- Setup a test site.

7A. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE.

Senator Dennis Jones reported that the number one issue before the Legislature for this year is the ever increasing property insurance and taxes. He advised that a number of meetings of the Property and Casualty Insurance Reform Committee have been

scheduled, with one meeting being held on October 12, 2006 in Tampa (location pending).

Senator Jones reviewed a number of questions that citizens have asked pertaining to insurance, including but not limited to the following:

- Why are insurance rates rising so quickly?
- Why am I being assessed for Citizens Insurance if they are not my insurer?
- Why did my insurance company drop my policy even if I have not had a claim in years?
- What have Florida's leaders done to address the insurance crisis?

Senator Jones stated that two general meetings are going to be held to address local bills coming before the Legislature (November 16, 2006 and January 4, 2007), and recommended that anyone having any issues or questions they would like to have addressed, to send a list of those issues/questions to his office, and he will in turn forward them to the Legislative Secretary.

7B. BEACH UPDATE BY NICOLE ELKO, PINELLAS COUNTY COASTAL COORDINATOR.

Nicole Elko reported that the beach renourishment projects have been completed, and that the next focus should be on maintaining the beach, specifically by planting vegetation. She stated that her department will provide the plants (sea oats) for free to the cities to give to the public for planting on the beach.

7C. MISCELLANEOUS.

President Queen advised that Vice President Hoyt Hamilton has tendered his resignation effective November 30, 2006, and recommended that a new Vice President be elected.

Motion made by Mayor Robertson, seconded by Councilor Doran to elect Mayor Jim Lawrence as Vice President. Unanimous approval by acclamation.

Marlene Clausen reported that a First Friday's Event for Support Our Troops will be held on October 6, 2006 from 5:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M., and encouraged everyone to attend. She stated that a display table will be setup containing letters and cards received from the members of the military serving in Iraq.

Mayor Jody Armstrong reported that Ft. Walton Beach recently started its first beach renourishment project. However, that project has been challenged by a group of homeowners on the legality that it is a regulatory taking. She stated that the 1st District Court of Appeals ruled in favor of the homeowners, and the case is now being heard by the Supreme Court. She stated that it is hoped that the Supreme Court will overturn the ruling of the 1st District Court of Appeals.

Mayor Armstrong reported on the dolphin named "Winter" that was saved by and is now living at the Clearwater Marine Aquarium, and encourage everyone to go see the dolphin.

Commissioner Ed Piniero stated that pertaining to the issue of the Countywide Rule Amendments that what the County wants to do and what the cities want may be in conflict, stating that each City wants to keep its own identity. He encouraged everyone to attend the meetings that the PPC and the BOCC will be holding on the Countywide Rule Amendments.

President Queen advised that the next meeting of the BIG-C will be held at the City of Belleair Beach on October 25, 2006, at 9:00 A.M., and hosted by the Town of Belleair Shore.

8. ADJOURNMENT.

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 10:20 P.M.

Bill Queen, Mayor
Town of North Redington Beach

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