

**BARRIER ISLANDS GOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 29, 2006**

The November 29th, 2006 Meeting of the Barrier Islands Governmental Council was held at the Indian Shores Town Hall, 19305 Gulf Boulevard, Indian Shores, Florida.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

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

2. ROLL CALL:

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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| <i>Belleair Beach</i> | <i>Mayor Rudy Davis</i> |
| <i>Belleair Shore</i> | <i>Mayor John Robertson</i> |
| <i>Clearwater</i> | <i>Councilor John Doran</i> |
| <i>Indian Rocks Beach</i> | <i>Mayor Bill Ockunzzi</i> |
| <i>Indian Shores</i> | <i>Mayor Jim Lawrence</i> |
| <i>Madeira Beach</i> | <i>Commissioner John Wolbert</i> |
| <i>N. Redington Beach</i> | <i>Mayor Bill Queen</i> |
| <i>Redington Beach</i> | <i>Mayor Linda Wilson</i> |
| <i>Redington Shores</i> | <i>Mayor Jody Armstrong</i> |
| <i>St. Pete Beach</i> | <i>Commissioner Mike Finnerity</i> |
| <i>Treasure Island</i> | <i>Commissioner Richard Kraus</i> |

GUESTS PRESENT:

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| <i>Ed Ruttencutter</i> | <i>Commissioner, St. Pete Beach</i> |
| <i>Steve Sutch</i> | <i>Council Member, Indian Shores</i> |
| <i>Mary Sutch</i> | <i>Indian Shores</i> |
| <i>Janina Patrus</i> | <i>Town Clerk, Redington Beach</i> |
| <i>Nick Fritsch</i> | <i>Sand Key Civic</i> |
| <i>Jose Copen</i> | <i>Commissioner, Indian Rocks Beach</i> |
| <i>Ed Piniero</i> | <i>Commissioner, Indian Rocks Beach</i> |
| <i>Bill Smith</i> | <i>Commissioner, Indian Shores</i> |
| <i>Dennis Jones</i> | <i>Senator</i> |
| <i>Leslie Peck-Epstein</i> | <i>Vice Mayor, Redington Beach</i> |
| <i>Joe DeMoss</i> | <i>Pinellas County Public Works</i> |
| <i>Sandra Knoebel-Gamache</i> | <i>Pinellas Planning Council</i> |

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| <i>Marlene Clausen</i> | <i>Council Member, Indian Shores</i> |
| <i>C. Silva</i> | <i>St. Pete Times</i> |
| <i>Vice Mayor Herndon</i> | <i>Vice Mayor, Indian Shores</i> |
| <i>John Branch</i> | <i>Commissioner, Redington Shores</i> |
| <i>Rod Fischer</i> | <i>Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board</i> |
| <i>Captain Scott Steiner</i> | <i>Pinellas County Sheriff's Department</i> |
| <i>Phyllis Johnson</i> | <i>Tampa Bay Sun</i> |

Mayor Lawrence welcomed everyone to Indian Shores and announced the Town's Undergrounding of Utilities Project was scheduled to finish in January 2007, with the poles to come down in March 2007. **Mayor Lawrence** reported the County and State were to start the joint road improvements and reclaimed water projects in January.

Mayor Lawrence stated he is proud of the Town's Council and thanked them for all their work for today's meeting and thanked Councilor Clausen, Vice Mayor Herndon and Councilor Steve Sutch, and his wife Mary, for their decorating efforts, and recognized Vice Mayor Herndon for her work on the food served.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA.

MOTION by **Mayor Robertson** – seconded by **Mayor Lawrence** – to approve the Agenda, as presented. Unanimous approval by acclamation.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF OCTOBER 25, 2006.

MOTION by **Mayor Robertson** – seconded by **Mayor Lawrence** – to approve the Minutes of the October 25th, 2006 Meeting, as presented, subject to correcting Minutes to reflect Janina Patrus from Redington Beach instead of Redington Shores. Unanimous approval by acclamation.

Mayor Queen reported the cities had received a letter from Florida Shore and Beach Preservation Association (FSBPS) in the amount of \$454.00, and discussed with Mayor Wilson that funds are down, would like to request each city include another \$100.00 with that payment to build up the funds for the BIG-C.

MOTION by **Mayor Robertson** – seconded by **Mayor Armstrong** – to approve each city increasing their donation to the FSBPS by \$100.00, in order to build up the funds for the BIG-C. Unanimous approval by acclamation.

5. APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT OF OCTOBER 2006.

The Treasurer's Report for October 2006, was presented by Treasurer Armstrong, with a balance on-hand of \$1,248.43. The only disbursement was made to Digital Eel for Website hosting.

MOTION by **Mayor Robertson** – seconded by **Mayor Davis** – to approve the Treasurer's Report for October 2006, as presented. Unanimous approval by acclamation.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

A. POST HURRICANE DISCUSSION

Captain Scott Steiner, Pinellas County Sheriff's Department Disaster Coordinator, advised he has been with the Sheriff's Department for 35 years.

Captain Steiner stated the "bad news" is that all of us have chosen to live in this beautiful State of Florida, which is surrounded by water, three bridges and one road running north and south with traffic, which makes us very vulnerable when storms and hurricanes threaten the area. He further stated the last direct hit for this area was in 1928, however he pointed out the damage sustained from Elena, a no-name storm and Hurricane Charley in 2004, which if it had directly hit this area the clean-up would still be going on today.

Captain Steiner addressed the process of the Disaster Advisory Committee, which includes the involvement of the beach Mayors, and the Committee's recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners as to whether there should be a voluntary or mandatory evacuation.

Captain Steiner reported on the importance of a "mandatory evacuation", which saves lives and as required by law if someone refuses to evacuate they can be arrested.

Captain Steiner outlined the scenario should a Category 3 or 4 hurricane hit this area, it would result in the catastrophic failure of buildings and bridges, loss of power, road damage and loss of life due to tidal surge.

Captain Steiner stated the “good news” is that the areas emergency management, firefighters and leadership realize this is the number one threat, and have planned for this event, pointing out that each citizen as well needs to have a plan to evacuate to friends or leave early, as there are not enough shelters to handle all of the population.

Captain Steiner requested all Mayors to help get the message to citizens to have a plan should the area get hit hard, as the first 24 to 72 hours there will be massive confusion, and search and rescue teams will be in the hardest his areas, pointing out there would be curfews and later an organized re-entry process. **Captain Steiner** reported that all State, local and private commercial must be compliant with the National Incident Management System (NIMS), by October 2007.

Captain Steiner concluded by stating he hopes everyone recognizes the threat and takes it seriously, advising you will see the Pinellas County Sheriff’s Department and Police Officers shoulder to shoulder assisting, pointing out the need for the leadership of the BIG-C.

7. MISCELLANEOUS

A. Legislative Update.

Senator Jones stated he had served on the Insurance Committee after Hurricane Andrew, noting it was quite an experience seeing nothing but slabs of concrete left on the ground.

Senator Jones reported there would be one more Delegation meeting on January 4, 2007, and at the last meeting he had made a Motion that bills be presented to the legislature unless they have a House and Senate sponsor.

Senator Jones further reported he knew many people were hoping for a Special Session in December for the insurance and tax issues, however the direction Governor Bush is going will be different than Governor elect Crist will be going, so the session will probably be in January, and advise everyone not to anticipate a total cure at that time, as they will try and clear up some deficiencies, and during session try to totally fix problems.

Senator Jones advised of serious changes after the last election, as there will be a Democratic House, and there will be no advocate in power to secure Federal funds, and commended the cities for giving funds to the FSBPA.

Senator Jones stated it would be a learning curve with the transition as the new Governor put his team together and they adapt to new personnel, as there will be a different direct and priorities than the Bush administration.

Senator Jones reported the walking bridge is now open to the trail, and next fall will be opening on the South side.

Councilor Bill Smith, Indian Shores, asked *Senator Jones* if the legislature is going to repeal the law they passed that would cause Citizens' Insurance to charge another 60% increase.

Senator Jones responded stating the State should not be in the insurance business, and they need to find a formal fix to bring the industry back into the State.

B. MISCELLANEOUS

Mayor Ockunzzi reported Indian Rocks Beach Boat Parade would be on Sunday night.

Mayor Lawrence reported he had sent an e-mail requesting input on presentations for future meetings, and invited all to give input on what kind of programs and information they want to take away from the meeting, and announced Indian Shores' Boat Parade will be on December 17, 2006.

Mayor Queen announced there would be no meeting in December, however there would be a very important meeting in January at Redington Shores, as Steve Spratt, County Administrator, would be attending to address the Penney for Pinellas.

Mayor Armstrong reported Sunday they would have their tree lighting from 4 to 6 PM, with a Choir and Salt Rock providing chowder.

Commissioner Wolbert reported they would have their Boat Parade on December 2, 2006, advised they started a Crime Watch Group in Crystal Island and are looking for tips from everyone, and noted the Telecommunications Committee has no progress report as yet.

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Commissioner Kraus reported the tree lighting for Treasure Island would be on December 2, 2006.

Councilor Clausen, Indian Shores, presented an update on the Troop Support Program reporting 67 boxes had been sent at the end of October, advising they had received responses from some of the soldiers, thanked everyone for all the support, and wished everyone a happy holiday.

Sandra Knoebel-Gamache, Pinellas Planning Council, reported that Commissioner Seel has found sponsors for legislation relative to pedestrians crossing at signalized intersections and that cars must stop for them.

Nick Fritsch, Sand Key Civic, stated he would be at the Legislative Delegation meeting on January 4, 2007, to help Senator Jones support bridge legislation from the citizens' perspective.

8. *ADJOURNMENT.*

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Robertson made a Motion to adjourn, which Mayor Lawrence seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 A.M.

BILL QUEEN, Mayor
Town of North Redington Beach