

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



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

The BIG C was called to order at 9:01 am by Mayor Robert Minning, President, on Wednesday, December 6, 2017, at the Town of Indian Shores Municipal Center, 19305 Gulf Boulevard, Indian Shores, FL 33785.

## **1. Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Minning.

Mayor Soranno of Indian Shores welcomed everyone to his Town Hall.

## **2. Roll Call (*according to the Sign-In Sheet*)**

### **BIG C Representatives**

Belleair Beach  
Clearwater  
Indian Rocks Beach  
Indian Shores  
N. Redington Beach  
Redington Beach  
Redington Shores  
St. Pete Beach  
Treasure Island

Mayor Leslie Notaro  
Mayor George Cretekos  
Mayor RB Johnson  
Mayor Pat Soranno  
Mayor Bill Queen  
Mayor Nick Simons  
Mayor Bert Adams  
Mayor Alan Johnson  
Mayor Bob Minning

### **GUESTS:**

Pinellas Suncoast Fire & Rescue District  
Indian Shores  
Treasure Island  
Indian Shores  
Forward Pinellas  
Indian Shores  
Redington Beach  
Redington Beach  
US Fish & Wildlife Services  
Tampa Bay Ferry  
Pinellas County  
Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority  
Forward Pinellas  
Pinellas Suncoast Fire & Rescue District  
Tampa Bay Beaches Chamber of Commerce  
FDOT  
Tampa Bay Beaches Chamber of Commerce  
Spectrum/Charter Communications  
Beach Newsletters  
TB Newspapers  
Pinellas County Emergency Mgmt.  
Forward Pinellas

Commissioner Larry Schear  
Vice Mayor Diantha Schear  
Pam Middleton, Deputy City Clerk  
Councilor Mike Hackerson  
Sandra Knoebel, Planner  
Town Administrator Bonnie Dhonau  
Commissioner David Will  
Vice Mayor Fred Steiermann  
Peter Plage  
Corey Hubbard  
Andy Squires  
Bob Lasher  
Whit Blanton  
Chief Mike Burton  
Doreen Moore  
Bob Esposito  
Doug Izzo  
Iris Gonzalez  
Bob Griffin  
Bob McClure  
Rick Walker  
Brett Burks, Planner

Pinellas County  
Clearwater Marine Aquarium  
Clearwater Marine Aquarium  
Clearwater Marine Aquarium  
Redington Shores  
Forward Pinellas  
Indian Shores  
Florida Craft Art  
Sand Key Civic Association  
Indian Shores  
Pinellas County

John Bishop  
Yvette Fernandez, Biologist  
Shelby McKinney, Biologist  
Lindsey Flynn, Acting Sup. for Sea Turtle Conservation Program  
Commissioner MaryBeth Henderson  
Vice Mayor Cookie Kennedy  
Councilor Bill Smith  
Rhonda Sanborn, Community & Business Engagement  
Owen Gregg, Secretary  
Stephanie Waters, Town Clerk  
Brian Lowak, Executive Asst. to Comm. John Morroni

### **3. Approval of Agenda**

It was moved by Mayor Queen to approve the agenda and seconded by Mayor Simons. The voice vote was unanimous.

### **4. Approval of Minutes**

It was moved by Mayor Notaro to accept the minutes from the October 25, 2017 BIG C Meeting and seconded by Mayor Adams. The voice vote was unanimous.

### **5. Approval of October's 2017 Treasurer's Report**

Secretary/Treasurer Mayor Pat Soranno read the October's 2017 Treasurer's Report. It was moved by Mayor Queen and seconded by Mayor R.B. Johnson to accept the October 2017 Treasurer's Report. The voice vote was unanimous.

### **6. Correspondence**

- 11/14/17 letter from Mike Renacker, Chief Water Resources Branch at the Army Corps of Engineers to Andy Squires, Section Manager, Coastal & Fresh Water Resources (Pinellas County)

Andy Squires reviewed the letter. He said the letter is referring to future beach nourishments, the impact lack of easements would have on future funding, and the project benefit to cost ratio calculation. Mr. Squires said that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers had received an additional \$10 million, due to Hurricane Irma, for the upcoming nourishment project.

Mayor Cretelos asked some general questions about the area of the upcoming project and future easements for Clearwater. John Bishop said that due to the location of the erosion line, easements were not required this time in Clearwater. Mr. Squires said Clearwater should expect to need easements for future projects. Mayor Cretelos commented that lack of easements could hurt the entire beach.

Mayor R.B. Johnson asked about the projected start date for the upcoming nourishment. Mr. Squires said unofficially he was hearing dates in early March. Dr. Bishop said he was also hearing the project may start in Treasure Island.

Councilor Bill Smith asked if they would need the same easement locations or different locations for future projects. Dr. Bishop said he did not have the numbers, but the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers wants easements for the entire beach length as well as adjacent properties. He said he thinks this will be over 400 easements.

Mayor Queen urged communities to not just send letters and have a big meeting, but to meet individually with property owners to secure easements.

Mayor Adams said that there are a couple of residents on the beaches that are campaigning strongly against beach nourishment. He said he thinks pictures from the Irma damage may help in the future.

Mayor Soranno suggested Pinellas County consider the Florida customary use law to get around the easement issue. Mr. Squires said this has been brought to the attention of the County Attorney.

Dr. Bishop said the erosion control line is set once and was not set at the sea wall but rather close to it. He said the U.S. Army Corps wants easements to the seawall not just the dune line. He said Pinellas County did not create the erosion control line, it was set years ago.

Mayor Soranno said he did not feel the County would get all the easements, as many people are suspicious, and that the County and the BIG-C communities need to consider another solution.

- 12/1/17 letter from FSBPA to the BIG-C

Mayor Minning advised there was a letter from the Florida Shore & Beach Preservation Association (FSBPA) reviewing BeachWatch objectives for the next year and the legislative session.

## 7. New Business

- Peter Plage, Biologist at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services to discuss “The Red Knot”

Mr. Plage provided an overview of the Red Knot, a bird which breeds in the Arctic but visits Pinellas during the winter. He said the bird is known for its reddish markings which are visible during mating season, but that they are a dull gray in the winter, so they are harder to recognize when they visit our area.

Mr. Plage said the birds are endangered. He said there are some which have bands for tracking and provided the website [www.bandedbirds.org](http://www.bandedbirds.org) as a place to report sightings and/or track the birds. He said when possible it is best to avoid the birds and walk around them on the beach, as they use more energy than one would think every time they fly up and re-land. He said the birds need to conserve energy to make it back to their Arctic breeding grounds.

- Whit Blanton, Executive Director & Cookie Kennedy, Beaches Representative from Forward Pinellas to discuss “Countywide Transportation and Land Use Planning Initiatives”

Vice Mayor Kennedy and Mr. Blanton reviewed some of the plans and initiatives from Forward Pinellas. They reviewed highlights from the Countywide Land Use Plan.

Mr. Blanton reviewed the Long-Range Transportation Plan that must be adopted by November 2019. He said that local projects must be in the plan to qualify for Federal funding.

Mr. Blanton and Vice Mayor Kennedy also discussed the Multimodal Transportation Network and plan. They said that Pinellas has two-times the national average for bicycle and pedestrian related accidents.

Mr. Blanton and Vice Mayor Kennedy also discussed some pushes to merge the Metropolitan Planning Organizations of Pasco, Pinellas and Hillsborough into one large MPO. They said the proposed bill would remove the 25-member restriction to accommodate the large number of local jurisdictions.

## 8. Old Business

Mayor Soranno asked about the status of the Gulf Boulevard Penny for Pinellas interlocal agreement with Pinellas County.

Mayor Minning advised to date that the agreement is verbal and would be formalized into an interlocal agreement at some point.

Mayor Soranno said he wondered what the possibility would be for BIG-C municipalities to spend some of the Penny IV money now and get reimbursed later during Penny IV (2020-2030).

Mayor A. Johnson said that St. Pete Beach needed to do more work to finish undergrounding utilities, and that if they could do it now and get reimbursed later, it would be more cost effective.

Mayor Adams also said his community may be interested in spending some of that money now for a future reimbursement as well.

## **9. Miscellaneous**

None.

## **10. Legislative Update**

Brian Lowak, Executive Assistant to Commissioner John Morroni, said he would be bringing Federal Priorities to the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners. He said he would have a conversation with the lobbying team about the easements for beach nourishment and the Federal easement language.

## **11. City Events**

Mayor R.B. Johnson said Indian Rocks Beach will have the Holiday Tour of Homes including old beach cottages on December 9<sup>th</sup> and a Boat Parade starting at the Holiday Inn on December 16<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Adams said Redington Shores will be having a Holiday Parade on December 9<sup>th</sup>, and the Boat Parade will be on December 17<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Soranno said that Indian Shores has planted and will continue to plant over the next few weeks for a total of almost 500 trees along Gulf Boulevard. He said the Town will be hosting three holiday parties this week, the Mayor's Council Holiday Luncheon will be held in Town at Salt Rock Grill on December 8<sup>th</sup>, and the Boat Parade will be on December 17<sup>th</sup>.

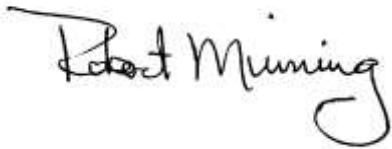
Mayor Cretekos said that Clearwater will have the Isla Estates Boat Parade on December 9<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor A. Johnson said St. Pete Beach will hold a Boat Parade on December 8<sup>th</sup> and a Holiday Parade on December 9<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Minning said Treasure Island will have a Boat Parade on December 15<sup>th</sup>, and the Gasparilla Bowl Beach Event will be on December 19<sup>th</sup>, behind the Bilmar Resort.

## **12. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 10:14 am. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 31, 2018 at the Town of Redington Shores, Town Hall, 17425 Gulf Boulevard, Redington Shores, FL 33708, 9:00 a.m.



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Mayor Robert Minning  
BIG C President