

**BARRIER ISLANDS GOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL
MEETINGMINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2003, 9:00 A.M.**

PRESIDENT: Mayor J. J. Beyrouti, Town of Redington Shores
VICE PRESIDENT: Mayor Mike Kelly, City of Belleair Beach
SECRETARY-TREASURER: Mayor Tom DeCesare, City of Madeira Beach

President Mayor Beyrouti opened this Meeting at 9:05 a.m.

ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT: (Voting – V; Alternate – A)

Belleair Beach	Mayor Mike Kelly (V)
Belleair Shore	Mayor John Robertson (V)
Indian Rocks Beach	Mayor Robert DiNicola (V)
Indian Shores	Mayor Don Taber (V)
Madeira Beach	Mayor Tom DeCesare (V)
North Redington Beach	Mayor Harold Radcliffe (V)
Redington Shores	Mayor J. J. Beyrouti (V)
St Pete Beach	Vice Mayor Peter Blank (V)
Treasure Island	Mayor Leon Atkinson (V)
Redington Beach	Absent

GUESTS

PCCLB Executive Director Rod Fisher, Beach Restoration Tim Engle; Beach Restoration Bill Parnell; Town of Indian Shores Councilor Joan Herndon; Indian Shores Property Owners President Steve Sufch; Shoreline Reporter Vince Robertiello; Indian Shores Property Owners Treasurer Marlene Clausen; Pinellas County Sheriff's Office Chief Deputy Jim Coats; SWFWMD Government Affairs Rand Baldwin; City of Clearwater Commissioner Hoyt Hamilton; City of Safety Harbor Commissioner Neil Brickfield; Town of Redington Shores Building Official Mike Nadeau; State of Florida Representative District 54 John Carassas; Joe Jorgenson; Conus Group Partner Joe Burdette; Progress Energy Community Relations Nancy Loehr; Progress Energy Vice President Michael Lewis; Town of Indian Shores Building Official Lawrence Nayman; City of Treasure Island Vice Mayor Butch Ellsworth; City of Madeira Beach Commissioner Charles Parker; City of St Pete Beach former Commissioner Jim Myers; Board of County Commissioners Chairman Karen Seel; Town of Redington Shores Town Clerk Donna Draper. [Others were present, but did not sign in.]

APPROVAL OF TREASURERS REPORT

Treasurer Mayor Tom DeCesare presented Treasurers' Report balances since the last Meeting of October 30, 2002. Ending Balance on hand at January 8, 2003 is \$2,060.48.

Motion by: Mayor Robert DiNicola to approve the Treasurers' Report.

Second by: Mayor Don Taber.

Roll Call: All yes.

APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 30, 2002 MINUTES

Motion by: Mayor Kelly to approve the October 30, 2002 Minutes.

Second by: Mayor Atkinson.

Roll Call: All yes.

AWARD PRESENTATION

Mayor Beyrouti gave honor to and read the appreciation plaques presented to Commissioner Charles Parker and Commissioner James Myers for their long time service to the BIG-C. This Council expressed many thanks to both officials.

GUEST SPEAKER

Mayor Beyrouti introduced Guest Speaker Michael Lewis, Vice President for the Coastal Region of Progress Energy. Mr. Lewis and Community Relations Manager Nancy Loehr spoke in regard to the three-year plan—Commitment to Excellence. Progress Energy has adopted a new program whereby it is contributing \$100,000 to the Pinellas County school system. These funds will be matched by two state grants. Its employees are also starting a mentoring program with the middle schools. These two programs will provide more money as well as time to better the education in the County school system. Progress Energy is also looking at environmental and economic development projects.

OLD BUSINESS

Gulf Boulevard Undergrounding and Beautification

Mr. Lewis and Ms. Loehr spoke of how the undergrounding project would be paid for. They would like to partner with the individual municipalities to determine the needs of the cities. This would then determine when the conversion process would begin. If a tariff were to be imposed, the cities would pay the cost up front, passing it down to each customer accordingly. The undergrounding conversion could take place simultaneously with the reclaimed water project. Progress Energy is committed to this project as soon as all the cities are ready. Mayor Beyrouti noted that the cost estimate is higher than originally planned. The finance committee met and scaled the project back to come within the original \$30- to \$40-million. Residents are in support; the County now needs to approve the price. The BIG-C will need to write to the County Commissioners defining what the cities wants to do, and the Mayors' Council will need to confirm support. Creation of a gas tax fund could see revenue from tourist that would help fund the project.

Pinellas County Assistant Administrator Gay Lancaster, realizing the importance of Gulf Boulevard Undergrounding and Beautification, spoke in regard to balancing expenditures for the many needed projects throughout the entire county, mentioning that the BIG-C needs to indicate what the cities are going to do and be willing to share taxations necessary. The County is open to explore other avenues to support the entire community's needs.

County Commissioner Chairman Karen Seel stated that the County surveyed all the cities asking for their priorities for 2010; Underground and Beautification was not noted as a priority. If a gas tax were to be imposed, all the cities would be asked for support.

Motion by: Mayor Taber that the BIG-C support whatever financing mechanisms the County recommends to finance all County projects.

Second by: Mayor Atkinson.

After discussion, it was the consensus of this Council to wait until Chairman Seel comes back with a list of what the County wants to do. Mayor Taber rescinded his Motion; Mayor Atkinson rescinded his Second.

Legislative Issues

PCCLB Executive Director Rodney Fisher stated that Senator Dennis Jones is sponsoring a bill for the PCCLB, which would expand the PCCLB Board to include a Beach Building Official. Once approved, they would be looking to the BIG-C to nominate the Official to serve a two-year term. Commissioner John Morroni will speak to this Bill at the Pinellas County Legislative Delegation Meeting on January 28. The Meeting will be at the St Petersburg College Tarpon Springs Campus. The BIG-C is encouraged to attend and support this bill.

American Assembly

Mayor Beyrouiti stated that the Mayors' Council is gathering names of those recommended for membership to serve on the individual Task Force Committees. Mayor Beyrouiti, Mayor Frank DiDonato, Chairman Karen Seel, and Commissioner Susan Latvala are heading up these Task Forces and will be meeting February 6 to recommend County approval.

NEW BUSINESS

International Round Table

Mayor Beyrouiti reviewed the recent International Round Table, sponsored by the FLC, held at the Wine Cellar. The main issue of discussion was the Sister Cities Project and the importance of connecting with cities outside the United States. The general consensus at this Round Table was to have the BIG-C get involved.

Reclaimed Water

Mayor Atkinson reported that Treasure Island has had many problems with the Reclaimed Water Project and asked Chairman Karen Seel and Assistant Administrator Gay Lancaster to look into this. Mayor Beyrouiti noted that Redington Shores had some problems also, but Pick Talley (Pinellas County Utilities) overseer of this Project, saw that everything was taken care of to satisfaction. Chairman Seel will contact Mr. Talley.

Appointment to MOP Technical Committee

Motion by: Mayor Taber to nominate Larry Nayman, Indian Shores Building Official, to represent the BIG-C on the MPO Technical Coordinating Committee (an Advisory Committee).

Second by: Mayor DiNicola. Mr. Nayman spoke of his background.

Roll Call: All yes.

Pinellas County Redevelopment Summit

Chairman Karen Seel reported there were over 400 who attended the recent Redevelopment Summit. This group is looking at how the county will redevelop in areas e.g. land use plans and transportation. The County will be hosting a summit with the City of St Petersburg and with County staff. Another Countywide Summit will be held in October.

Tourist Development Council

Executive Director Carol Ketterhagen reported that the TDC is working on the Vision 2010 plans. 2002 was a record year for tourism. The domestic market is up and the International Market is beginning to grow again. The Canadian financial and job strength is also growing.

Gulf Beaches Chamber of Commerce

Joe Burdett spoke of the installation dinner a few weeks ago mentioning that Madeira Beach Commissioner Doreen Moore is the new Chairman. The Chamber is presently working on density issues throughout the beaches. In regard to redevelopment in Pinellas County, Representative John Carassas mentioned that the county is trying to come up with a limited plan whereby the State will authorize or allow it to redevelop certain areas. There is an administrative appeal to the State asking for help to those communities that want to help themselves. David Healey (PPC) will discuss this issue at the February BIG-C Meeting.

MISCELLANEOUS

American Coastal Coalition Membership

Since St Pete Beach Commissioner James Myers resigned from the BIG-C, Mayor Beyrouti recommended St Pete Beach Vice Mayor Peter Blank be appointed to represent the BIG-C on the American Coastal Coalition Membership. The consensus of the Council was in agreement.

FLC International Academy – Will be held February 20 – 22, 2003.

Suncoast League of Municipalities – Grassroots Advocacy Workshop will be held January 27 at Clearwater's Harborview Center. Mayor Atkinson announced that the League's May Meeting will be at Treasure Island.

2-1-1 Tampa Bay Cares Inc

Indian Shores Commissioner Sandy Schuler noted that there will be a Food Drive Planning Meeting on February 4 at the Tampa Bay Cares office. A letter has been sent to all cities.

March Municipal Elections

Mayor Beyrouti noted that Mayor Atkinson will not be running for Mayor in the next municipal election and thanked him for his years of service to the BIG-C. He also congratulated Belleair Beach Mayor Michael Kelly, Belleair Shore Mayor John Robertson and Indian Shores Mayor Don Taber for their unopposed reelection.

Mayor Beyrouti thanked everyone for attending this Meeting.

Time being 10:40 a.m. and no further business, this Meeting was adjourned.

J. J. Beyrouti
Mayor, Town of Redington Shores
President, Barrier Island Governmental Council

JB:dd