

**BARRIER ISLANDS GOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 26, 2003**

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 Beyrouti called the February 26, 2003 meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

ROLL CALL Each person was asked to introduce him/herself.

MEMBERS PRESENT: (Voting member – V; Alternate member – 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 Beach	Commissioner Tim Gregson (A)
Redington Shores	Mayor J. J. Beyrouti (V)
St. Pete Beach	Vice Mayor Peter Blank (V)
Treasure Island	Mayor Leon Atkinson (V)

GUESTS

Joan Herndon, Town of Indian Shores Councilor; **Steve Sutch**, Indian Shores Property Owners President; **Kristi Cuttler**, Clearwater Gas; **Lawrence R. Foerster**, Town of Redington Shores Commissioner; **Hoyt Hamilton**, City of Clearwater Commissioner; **Mike Nadeau**, Town of Redington Shores Building Official; **Joe Burdette**, Consus Group Partner; **Rand Baldwin**, Southwest Florida Water Management District Government Affairs; **Nick Fritsch**, Sand Key Civic Association; **Rodney Fischer**, Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board; **Jim Madden**, Madeira Beach; **Joe Jorgensen**, Madeira Beach; **David Healey**, Pinellas Planning Council Executive Director; **Paula Cohen**, Madeira Beach; **Vince Robertiello**, The Reporter; **Debbie Stambaugh**, Tampa Bay Beaches Chamber of Commerce Director; **Betsy Collins**, Senator Dennis L. Jones representative; **Donna Draper**, Town of Redington Shores Town Clerk; **Carol Ketterhagen**, Pinellas County Convention and Visitors Bureau Director; **Carl Hall**, Pinellas County Shore and Beaches Preservation Assn. President; **Sharon Proehl**, Town of North Redington Beach Deputy Clerk. Other guests were present but did not sign in.

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 2003 TREASURER'S REPORT

Secretary-Treasurer Tom DeCesare presented the February, 2003 treasurer's report showing a balance as of February 9th of \$2,060.93. Motion was made and seconded to approve the treasurer's report. All showed favor by voice vote. President Beyrouti reminded the group the BIG C had decided to pay \$500 to join the American Coalition lobbying group. Some comments were made that joining another group headed by Howard Marlowe may be more advantageous. The issue was tabled until Vice Mayor Blank can research the matter and bring it back to the Council.

APPROVAL OF JANUARY 22, 2003 MINUTES

A motion was made to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded and the minutes passed by voice vote.

GUEST SPEAKER: David Healey, Executive Director Pinellas Planning Council

Mr. Healey discussed a proposed three-step approach to solving problems with the Florida Department of Community Affairs regarding plan amendments which would allow additional density in the coastal high hazard area in Pinellas County. He apprised the group of two plan amendments, one by Madeira Beach and one by Indian Rocks Beach that involved relatively small areas which were approved by local agencies and turned down by DCA because they had the potential to increase density in the coastal high hazard area. The three steps proposed by Mr. Healey were:

1. Start off with the current issues. Assist in responding to DCA and make a case for approval of the two amendments under review.
2. Develop a process that would allow local jurisdictions to make amendments up to the limits of the current Countywide Plan categories with DCA approval.
3. Obtain DCA approval or sanction that recognizes the Countywide Redevelopment Plan (to be completed) as the basis for local plan amendments and get DCA to delegate authority for plan amendment review pursuant to the Redevelopment Plan.

He emphasized the importance of redevelopment to the health of communities and felt the redevelopment process itself would achieve the goal the Department of Community Affairs desires through zoning, building codes, FEMA studies, etc. The DCA has drafted a bill to create a pilot project statewide by which five communities can make a new plan to allow for new development. However, none of those communities can be in the coastal high hazard area.

The mayors of Madeira Beach and Indian Rocks Beach pointed out “density swap” situations should also be considered by DCA when reviewing local plan amendments.

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Gulf Boulevard Undergrounding and Beautification Report.** No action.
- B. Legislative Issues.** President Beyrouti mentioned two issues he is tracking—density and beach nourishment. Homeland security is a primary focus in the legislature along with funding.
- C. American Assembly.** President Beyrouti pointed out this process is slow. However, he stated the mechanism is now in place to get something accomplished through cooperation. Six task force committees—annexation, transportation, health care, fire/EMS, law enforcement, and recreation—have been set with 4 appointments by the county and 4 by the cities plus staff.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Mangroves Report.** Commissioner Gregson reported the County is working on this matter. He talked with Jewell Whitehall, County attorney, who said the limit for cutting is now six feet. The County is considering a change that to allow a cutting limit of nine or even twelve feet. Commissioner Gregson will share the information with the members when he receives it.
- B. BIG-C Meeting Times.** Mayor DiNicola explained one of his commissioners requested a late afternoon/early evening schedule for BIG-C meetings. Many people who work full-time cannot attend because of the morning timeframe. Mayor Atkinson objected and read a memo he wrote to Mayor Beyrouti stating each city is represented by a member or alternate at each meeting. That representative is charged with carrying thoughts and concerns of his governmental body to the council. Because attendance at morning BIG-C meetings by those representatives has been exemplary, Mayor Atkinson felt the time should not be changed. Mayor DiNicola made a motion to accept the change in meeting times. The motion died for lack of a second.

On a personal note Mayor Atkinson thanked the members for the privilege of working with each of them.

MISCELLANEOUS

Legislative Action Day. President Beyrouti reminded those present of the April 2, 2003 date for this event. The bus to Tallahassee leaves from Madeira Beach at 9:00 a.m. on the 1st.

Resolution Urging Beach Management Funding Carl Hall, President of the Pinellas County Florida Beaches and Shores, presented a resolution urging the legislature to fully fund DEP's beach erosion control project priority list for fiscal year 2003-04 for \$30 million as provided for in Chapters 161 and 201, Florida Statutes. He informed the Council the Governor's proposed budget dedicated \$20 million for beach management from which staffing will be paid, leaving only \$15 million for erosion control. Mr. Hall asked each community to pass the resolution supporting continued dedicated beach management funding. Mayor Atkinson made a motion to pass the resolution presented by Mr. Hall. Mayor Radcliffe seconded the motion to which all showed favor by voice vote.

Mayors' Council of Pinellas County The Pinellas County Mayors' Council will hold a reception tonight with five legislators to be in attendance. Next year the reception will be held in January so more state officials can attend.

211 Meeting There will be a 211 meeting held at 11457 Ulmerton Road on March 4th regarding collection of food donations.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:18 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Harold Radcliffe, Mayor
Town of North Redington Beach