

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



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

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**OFFICERS**

**Jim Lawrence**

**President**

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**Nick Simons**

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**Secretary/Treasurer**

Councilmember, Clearwater  
P.O. Box 4748  
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**April 29, 2009 Minutes**

**CALL TO ORDER.** The meeting of the Barrier Islands Governmental Council (BIG-C) was hosted by the City of Madeira Beach at Madeira Beach City Hall located at 300 Municipal Drive, Madeira Beach, FL 33708. President Lawrence called the meeting to order at 9 a.m.

1. **Pledge of Allegiance.** President Lawrence led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Announcements.** President Lawrence:

- Thanked Mayor Shontz City Manager Higginbotham and City Clerk Schlegel for hosting the meeting, providing the breakfast, and taking the minutes.
- Reminded everyone to place their cell phones on silent mode, so the meeting will not be disturbed.

Mayor Shontz welcomed everyone in attendance.

President Lawrence welcomed County Commissioners Neil Brickfield and Nancy Bostock.

2. **Roll Call.** President Lawrence turned to his left and requested that each person introduce him/herself.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Belleair Beach	Vice-Mayor Kathy Mortensen
Belleair Shore	Mayor John Robertson
Clearwater	Councilmember George Cretekos
Indian Rocks Beach	Commissioner Terry Hamilton-Wollin
Indian Shores	Mayor Jim Lawrence
Madeira Beach	Mayor Patricia Shontz
North Redington Beach	Mayor William Queen
Redington Beach	Mayor Nick Simons
Redington Shores	Mayor Bert Adams
St. Pete Beach	Mayor Mike Finnerty
Treasure Island	Vice-Mayor Phil Collins

**GUEST SPEAKER:**

Brian McClure, Meteorologist at Bay News 9

**GUESTS PRESENT:**

Kristi <u>Cheatham</u>	External Office Manager, Clearwater Gas
<u>Robin Grabowski</u>	President, Tampa Bay Beaches Chamber of Commerce
Nick Fritsch	Beach Chairman, Sand Key Civic Association
Bill Smith	Councilor, Indian Shores
Carole Irelan	Councilor, Indian Shores
Joan Herndon	Vice-Mayor, Indian Shores
Steve Sutch	Councilor, Indian Shores
Brian Smith	Planning Director, Pinellas County

Linda Fisher	Program Planner/Web Master, Pinellas Planning Council
Neil Brickfield	District 1 Commissioner, Pinellas County
Michelle Cavello	Senior Acc. Exec. CIG Account Management, Progress Energy
Chris Lauber	Florida Gulf Beaches Road Races
John Branch	Vice-Mayor Redington Shores
Jose Coppen	Resident, Indian Rocks Beach
R.B. Johnson	Mayor, Indian Rocks Beach
Bob Lasher	Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA)
Bob McClure	Reporter, Tampa Bay Newspapers
Frank N. Yurasko	Resident, Redington Beach
Bob Minning	Mayor, Treasure Island
Maggie Cinnella	Director, Gulf Beaches Public Library
Nancy Bostock	District 3 Commissioner, Pinellas County
Doreen Moore	TDC/Tampa Bay Beaches Chamber of Commerce
Melissa Seixas	External Affairs Community Relations Manager, Progress Energy
Denise Schlegel	City Clerk, Madeira Beach
W.D. Higginbotham, Jr.	City Manager, Madeira Beach

President Lawrence reminded the membership the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA) meets on the fourth Monday of each month and the BIG-C meets on the last Wednesday of each month; which is why Mayor Johnson of Indian Rocks Beach and Bob Lasher of the PSTA are able to be in attendance.

3. **Approval of Agenda. Motion** made by Mayor Robertson, seconded by Vice-President Simons to approve the agenda of April 29th, carried unanimously.
4. **Approval of Minutes of March 2009. Motion** made by Secretary/Treasurer Cretekos, seconded by Mayor Finnerty, to approve the minutes of March 25th, as amended, carried unanimously.

On page 1, the City of Clearwater is identified as Clearwater Beach  
 On page 1, add Kristi Cheathan's name as a guest in attendance.

5. **Approval of the Treasurer's Report for March 2009.** Secretary/Treasurer Cretekos provided the Treasurer's Report for March 2009.

Register balance as of March 1, 2009 .....	\$2,236.19
Total deposits/credits .....	\$00.00
Total disbursements to Indian Shores .....	\$25.28
Register balance as of March 31, 2009 .....	\$2,210.91

**Motion** made by Mayor Robertson, seconded by Mayor Finnerty to accept the March 2009 Treasurer's Report, as presented, carried unanimously.

6. **Correspondence** - None.
7. **New Business**

**A. Brian McClure, Meteorologist at Bay News 9**

President Lawrence:

- Welcomed Brian McClure, Meteorologist at Bay News 9, and advised he was a native of North Carolina and gave a brief review of his credentials.
- Announced his son called on April 28th from North Carolina to advise him that his first granddaughter was born.

Meteorologist McClure:

- Stated the tropical storm forecast for this year along with the average tropical storm forecast; and that a new forecast might come out within a couple of weeks.

<b>2009 Tropical Storm Forecast</b>	
Storms:	12
Hurricanes:	06
Major (Category 3):	02

<b>Average Tropical Storm Season</b>	
Storms:	11
Hurricanes:	06
Major (Category 3):	02

- Advised the last time a hurricane made a direct hit on Pinellas County was in 1950. However, everyone remembers or thinks it was the 1921 Storm. It was the worst major hurricane to hit this area.

- Gave a power point presentation which contained before and after pictures of the impact Hurricane Ivan made on Pensacola, Florida; and the impact Hurricane Ike made just north of Galveston, Texas.
- Explained that most people relate storm surges with hurricanes.
- Advised Pinellas County would typically get hit with a major hurricane in the month of October.
- Showed what a Category 1 Hurricane would do to this area.
- Stated the danger doesn't come with just strong hurricanes; it comes with the energy. Ike built up tons of energy in the water which resulted in huge storm surge that devastated a peninsula in an area north of Galveston. It had no seawall, which most beaches don't.
- Explained people think the beaches are closed because the winds are too bad. But it's not the wind - - it's the water. Usually the FDOT closes bridges before the storm is anywhere close.
- Meteorologists have begged for the National Hurricane to keep those two separate. To categorize tropical storms the use of wind speed is fine. However, a storm surge should be all alone.

- B. Road Races.** President Lawrence advised the BIG-C members that Mr. Lauber asked him for a few minutes to address the BIG-C about his plans to bring back the 26.2 mile marathon and create a new 13.1 mile half marathon in late October.

The marathon has been on hold due to construction on Gulf Boulevard. However, since construction will be finished the race would return in January 2010. Mr. Lauber stated it would be advantageous for him to promote a 3-Race half marathon series (i.e., the Halloween Half Marathon, the Holiday Halfathon, and the Clearwater Halfathon). It would allow him to promote it as a series, so it would promote more loyalty and keep people coming back to the area.

President Lawrence stated in his town, which is a two lane town, he is very hesitant to close the south bound lane again, because the residents have been through 3½ years of road construction. He advised Indian Shores now has a 10 foot strip (i.e. pedestrian walkway and bike-way) off the road and inquired if that could be used for the race. Mr. Lauber responded the amount of space wasn't an issue; however, his concern would be conflicts with residents coming out for their Sunday paper and local cyclist in the area.

Mr. Lauber advised he is seeking 5 year agreements to streamline the process. After additional discussion, Mayor Queen recommended that Mr. Lauber talk to the municipalities privately and individually.

- C. County News.** President Lawrence inquired if County Commissioners Bostock and Brickfield has anything they wanted to say.

County Commissioner Bostock advised that the County is working hard on its budget.

County Commissioner Brickfield advised the County will have a meeting on May 21st on the Penny for Pinellas. President Lawrence stated the last he heard was the May meeting was canceled and the workshop to talk about the Penny is going to be in June.

**8. Old Business** - This item was discussed after item 9.C.

**A. Gulf Beaches Ray's Day Update**

President Lawrence advised most of the membership saw Bonnie Dhonau prior to the meeting. She was pushing the sale of tickets for Gulf Beaches Ray's Day.

President Lawrence stated:

- Sunday, June 14th is the Gulf Beaches Rays Days at Tropicana Field.
- The Tampa Bay Rays will be playing the Washington Nationals.
- The tickets are \$30 each and include a lower Box Seat and a Rays hat (\$59 value).
- The tickets are being sold at the Indian Shores Town Hall and Madeira Beach City Hall along with the Clearwater and Tampa Bay Beaches Chambers of Commerce.

Secretary/Treasurer Cretokos advised:

- Sheila at the Clearwater Beach Chamber of Commerce has rented the Jolly Trolley. It has already filled one bus. The tickets are \$20 for a round trip
- The Chamber is trying to get a second Trolley. Therefore if anybody else wants to hop on the Trolley, they could probably identify a pickup point at Indian Shores and/or Madeira Beach.

**9. Miscellaneous:**

**A. Legislative Update.** President Lawrence advised since there were no legislative officers there would be no report.

**B. Beach Update.** President Lawrence invited Dr. Elko to give a Beach Update. Dr. Nicole Elko, the Coastal Coordinator of Environmental Management for Pinellas County, advised:

- Turtle Nesting Season starts on May 1st; therefore she reminded the elected officials to have their Public Works Directors wait to rake the beaches until the turtle monitors go through and give them an all clear. They start on both ends of the County at 6:30 a.m. and are to the center of the County by 8:30 a.m. at the latest.
- This month the County will start to get vegetation orders, so encouraged anyone who wants to improve their dune system.
- This year's beach replenishment project for Treasure Island-Long Key is on schedule and they are in the permitting phase. All the funding for that project is in place.
- Regarding the Sand Key Project, they are in the sand search phase and scheduled to start in October 2010.

Councilor Smith of Indian Shores advised that both he and Nick Fritsch have been getting great updates from Debbie Flack at FSBPA (Florida Shore Beach Preservation Association) on what's going on in the legislature. There is still stuff going on with regard to Off Shore Oil and Gas Drilling that the BIG-C should be concerned about.

The bad news is that earlier the House passed HB 1219 which will allow equipment or structures above the waterline as close as 3 miles to the beaches. The good news is that the Senate came back and said it was too late for them to act on it at this session.

But in an email last night he received more bad news. A portion of the email stated "The American Petroleum Institute today (April 29th), assembled a giant interactive display on the third floor of the Capitol to educate law makers, reporters, and the public about what it considers minimally invasive drilling techniques.

On Monday, in the House Vote that occurred, all but one of the Pinellas County House Members (Tom Anderson, District 45) were opposed and voted no. Commissioner Smith advised that Peter Nehr of District 48 did not vote, and he would guess that he was absent. But all the others: Janet Long, Bill Heller, Rick Kriseman, Jim Frishe, and Darryl Rouson voted no.

Ms. Flack also thought it would be nice if the BIG-C sent a letter of thanks to the members of the Pinellas County Legislative Delegation who voted no on HB 1219.

**Motion** made and seconded to send a letter to the members of the Pinellas Legislative Delegation thanking them for their vote, carried unanimously.

**C. Penny for Pinellas Update.** Vice-President Simons reported:

- The subcommittee had a meeting earlier and the Town of North Redington Beach has submitted a project for Out-of-the-Ground work. Brian Smith of Pinellas County has already looked at it and asked that it be sent to his office for additional review and then he will pass it on to the appropriate authorities. The subcommittee felt it was consistent with Phil Graham's Gulf Boulevard Beautification Plan. It will be the first request for an Out-of-the-Ground Project.
- Along with that was a request for \$30,619 for reimbursement, but the total estimated cost is \$500,000.

Mayor Queen advised:

- He has a meeting with Progress Energy to discuss the estimate for their cross-wire undergrounding.
- Redington Shores got their estimate for 29 lines to be placed under ground at \$260,000.
- When he made his request for 13 lines to be placed under ground, Progress Energy told him it would be \$600,000. Therefore he is trying to figure out what the difference is.

**Motion** was made by Vice-President Simons, seconded by Mayor Shontz to pass on the Town of North Redington Beach's Request for Gulf Boulevard construction and funding from the Penny for Pinellas, carried unanimously by acclamation.

**D. Announcements**

**St. Pete Beach.** Mayor Finnerty:

- Reported that Sunday Market is doing very well.
- Advised that he and City Manager Bonfield are flying to Washington on Wednesday to try and create more stimulus money.

**Madeira Beach.** Mayor Shontz reported John's Pass Village had a great season, despite the bridge and road construction.

**Belleair Beach.** Vice-Mayor Mortensen reported that Belleair Beach should be able to move into the new City Hall some time in August. On May 15th she received an update on the bridge stating it should be open by the end of the month.

**Indian Shores.** President Lawrence stated:

- Indian Shores is rapidly approaching the end of their road construction. They are saying it will be complete by the beginning of August and the residents can't wait.
- On May 6th, Indian Shores is having their 3rd Annual Hurricane Awareness Party. The guest speakers will include:
  - Brian McClure, Meteorologist at Bay News 9;
  - Tom Iovino of the Pinellas County Communication Department;
  - Rick Walker, the Suncoast Fire and Rescue's Chief; and
  - Jason Routzahn, Indian Shores Police Detective.
- On Memorial Day (May 25), Indian Shores sponsors a Memorial Day Celebration and he will be sending an invitation to all the municipal elected officials to join them for a free chicken dinner and all the beer you can drink. Indian Shores has asked Congressman Young to be a guest speaker; and he is trying to work it into his schedule.

- 10. Adjournment.** Being no further business to come before the BIG-C, the meeting adjourned at 10:27 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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James Lawrence, President  
Barrier Islands Governmental Council  
Mayor of Indian Shores

During item 9.B., Nick Fritsch distributed a slip of paper encouraging the elected officials to send emails opposing Offshore Drilling to the following legislators:

Senator Dennis Jones	(850) 487-5065	jones.dennis.web@flsenate.gov
Representative Jim Frishe		jim.frishe@myfloridahouse.com
Senator Charlie Justice		justice.charlie.web@flsenate.gov
Governor Charlie Crist:		Charlie.Crist@myflorida.gov
Senator Jeff Atwater		atwater.jeff.web@flsenate.gov
House Speaker Larry Cretul		larry.cretul@myfloridahouse.com
Representative Baxter Troutman		Baxter.Troutman @ My Florida house.com

