

BIG C

Barrier Islands Governmental Council

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



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

OFFICERS

Patrick Soranno
President
Mayor, Indian Shores

Alan Johnson
Vice-President
Mayor, St. Pete Beach

MaryBeth Henderson
Secretary/Treasurer
Mayor, Redington Shores

Meeting Minutes August 28, 2019

BIG C (Barrier Islands Governmental Council) President Patrick Soranno called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. at the Clearwater Community Sailing Center, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Clearwater Mayor Cretekos welcomed visitors to the Sailing Center, home of international sailing competitions, and thanked Clearwater Wine Bar & Bistro for providing breakfast.

To provide continuity for research, items are in agenda order although not necessarily discussed in that order.

2 – Roll Call

Present: Belleair Shore
Clearwater
Indian Rocks Beach
Indian Shores
Madeira Beach
North Redington Beach
Redington Beach
Redington Shores
St. Pete Beach
Treasure Island

Mayor Robert E. Schmidt Jr.
Mayor George N. Cretekos
Mayor Joanne “Cookie” Kennedy
Mayor Patrick Soranno
Mayor Maggi Black
Mayor Bill Queen
Mayor Nick Simons
Mayor MaryBeth Henderson
Mayor Alan Johnson
Mayor Lawrence Lunn

Guest Speakers:

Pinellas County Utilities
Pinellas County Utilities
Pinellas County
City of Madeira Beach
Ballard Partners

Director Megan Ross
Interagency Water Manager Joe Graham
Intergovernmental Liaison Brian Lowack
City Manager Bob Daniels
Todd Josko

Also Present:

Beach Bee
Beach Newsletters
City of Belleair Beach
City of Belleair Beach
Town of Belleair Shore

Brian Goff
Bob Griffin
Councilmember Wanda Schwerer
Councilmember Rita Swope
Barbara Colucci

“ELECTED OFFICIALS WORKING FOR YOU”

BIG C

Barrier Islands Governmental Council

Charter Communications	Albie Kaminsky
Citizens Climate Lobby	John Parks
City of Clearwater	Councilmember Bob Cundiff
City of Clearwater	Councilmember Hoyt Hamilton
City of Clearwater	Bill Horne
City of Clearwater	Rosemarie Call
City of Clearwater	Patricia Sullivan
Clearwater Chamber of Commerce	Kristina Alspaw
Clearwater Gas	Chuck Warrington
Clearwater Gas	Lisa Friday
Duke Energy	Leanne Haely
exp US Services	David Ardman
State of Florida Department of Transportation	Bob Esposito
State of Florida Senate District 24 Legislative Assistant	Melissa Meshil
Forward Pinellas	Sandra Knoebel
Indian Rocks Beach	Kelly Cisank
Town of Indian Shores	Councilor Bill Smith
Pinellas County	Brent Hall
Pinellas County Coastal Management	John Bishop
Pinellas County Emergency Management	Clayton Parrott
Town of Redington Beach	Commissioner David Will
Town of Redington Beach	Bruce McLaughlin
Town of Redington Shores	Commissioner Michael Robinson
St. Petersburg	Bill Marshall
Sand Key Civic Association	Patti Thompson
Tampa Bay Beaches Chamber of Commerce	Doug Izzo
Treasure Island & Madeira Beach Chamber of Commerce	Missy Hahn
Waterfront Realty	Chris Kelly
Waterfront Realty	Christian Smith

3 - Approval of Agenda

Mayor Queen moved to approve the Agenda as presented. The motion was duly seconded by Mayor Kennedy and carried unanimously.

4 - Approval of Minutes – July 31, 2019 BIG C meeting hosted by Town of Belleair Shore.

It was noted that Councilmember Hoyt Hamilton represented the City of Clearwater on July 31, 2019.

Mayor Johnson moved to approve the minutes of the regular BIG C meeting of July 31, 2019, as amended. The motion was duly seconded by Mayor Black and carried unanimously.

5 - Approval of July 2019 Treasurer's Reports.

BIG C Secretary/Treasurer MaryBeth Henderson referenced the July 2019 Treasurer's Report; the balance was \$1098.80.

“ELECTED OFFICIALS WORKING FOR YOU”

BIG C

Barrier Islands Governmental Council

Mayor Queen moved to accept the July 2019 Treasurer's Report. The motion was duly seconded by Mayor Kennedy and carried unanimously.

6 - Correspondence: None.

7 - New Business:

7a. Presentation by Pinellas County Utilities Director Megan Ross and Interagency Water Manager Joe Graham on "Water Utilities Rates."

Pinellas County Utilities (PCU) Director Megan Ross and Interagency Water Manager Joe Graham provided a verbal PowerPoint presentation. Stantec Study recommended rate increases were based on a review of the PCU rate structure and consideration of the long term sustainability of the water/sewer/reclaimed water systems. The Board of County Commissioners adopted study recommendations effective in 2020. Average residential customer accounts will increase from \$71.06 in 2019 to \$87.96 by 2023; rates were midrange for the region. Increases will cover capital improvements, planning, main repair and replacement, valve replacements, and sanitary sewer pipe lining. The 6-year CIP list was posted on the PCU website.

In response to a question, Mr. Graham said residential and commercial rate increases were an aggregate of 1% for water and 9.5% for sewer. Over the next 5 to 6 years, PCU will work with municipalities to standardize reclaimed water metering and install electronic meters. PCU's current flat rate for the first 15,000 gallons of reclaimed water was not scheduled to increase; higher use costs more. PCU was trying to recover system costs and encouraged reclaimed water use but not overuse of the limited supply. Many customers with reclaimed water access did not use it.

In response to questions, Ms. Ross said ground and rainwater leaked into sewer lines through cracks. PCU cameras and smoke testing examined sewer pipes systemwide. Municipalities could piggyback on the countywide PCU cooperative contract used to line miles of pipes. PCU also used flow monitoring program data to prioritize pipe repairs. Commercial business rates were based on pipe size. A pump was installed to improve low water pressure on the beach caused by underground construction. Master plans to improve the hydraulic model will address future demands and move water where needed.

7b. Presentation by Pinellas County Intergovernmental Liaison Brian Lowack on "Penny for Pinellas IV Gulf Boulevard Undergrounding Update." stop

Pinellas County Intergovernmental Liaison Brian Lowack provided a verbal PowerPoint update on Penny for Pinellas IV Gulf Boulevard utility line undergrounding. In 2012, Pinellas County approved a \$35 million Penny for Pinellas III interlocal agreement for beach municipal undergrounding projects consistent with the improvement plan. BIG C requested an additional \$35 million in Penny for Pinellas IV funds. The County will take the lead with a "One Project" approach to standardize projects and provide economies of scale and a single point of contact for utility owners.

Mr. Lowack said in February 2019, Pinellas County engaged Kidde Consultants Inc. for a cost estimate and feasibility report. Meetings in March and April collected information from municipalities, utility owners, FDOT, and the current contractor for 6 municipalities. From May to July, a planning draft was developed with cost estimates, feasibility report, and future escalations. The planning cost estimates and feasibility report were finalized this month.

"ELECTED OFFICIALS WORKING FOR YOU"

BIG C

Barrier Islands Governmental Council

Mr. Lowack said the project base cost estimate of \$41,718,390 for 2019 was estimated to increase to \$47,507,573 by 2025. Scheduling, services procurement, and post construction efforts will be determined. Local municipal assistance will be necessary for public and stakeholder engagement and easement acquisitions. The County will meet with Duke Energy, evaluate cost reduction options, present final costs to BIG C for recommendations, and present the project to the Board of County Commissioners. The next update will be this winter.

It was commented that construction needed to be coordinated with municipal projects such as sewer upgrades. Concerns were expressed that cost estimates were high, Penny 3 funding had excluded islands, Duke Energy had requested larger easements than necessary, some extending deep into private properties, and transformers and switch boxes should be elevated to protect from storm surge.

Mr. Lowack said easements were necessary to accommodate 10 foot by 10 foot transformers that would not fit in rights-of-way; FDOT and Duke Energy approved transformer locations had not been determined. Cable lines would be installed in rights-of-way. The County will meet with the utilities and each municipality during the design process and consider cost reduction opportunities.

8 - Old Business:

8a. Update from Penny for Pinellas IV Joint Review Committee Representative Bob Daniels, City Manager of Madeira Beach.

Madeira Beach City Manager Bob Daniels said the Joint Review Committee (JRC) had discussed housing guidelines and forwarded comments to consultants re changes or modifications. The purpose of the JRC, in partnership with the Pinellas County Housing Finance Authority which provides funds under the Penny for Pinellas IV Land Assembly program, was to acquire land to increase the number of affordable rental units. The JRC was reviewing the draft to clarify the program's financial feasibility and eligible uses for the funds.

9 – Miscellaneous: None.

10 – Legislative Update:

10a. Presentation by Todd Josko of Ballard Partners on the “Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Program.”

Todd Josko, of Ballard Partners representing Renew Financial, reviewed Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing which provided upfront, voluntary financing to pay the full cost of wind mitigation, renewable energy, and energy efficiency upgrades. He said RenewPACE assessed a homeowner's property, the value and useful life of upgrades, determined the homeowner's ability to pay, and provided contractor oversight and single purpose financing. He said following local government action to opt in, a homeowner could apply for PACE financing, begin working with local PACE approved contractors, sign verification that the project was completed before funds would be released, and repay the special tax assessment as a line item on the homeowner's property tax bill. He said homeowners would have up to 10 years to repay the financing based on the useful life of the project. He said Renew Financial would review the homeowner's obligation with the homeowner prior to contract. He said the program vetted contractors for quality and customer protection. He said many Florida counties had opted in for the PACE program with Renew Financial; Pasco County was creating an Ordinance to codify program rules and consumer protection regulations to be followed by an

BIG C

Barrier Islands Governmental Council

Interlocal Agreement. He said he would work with governments through the process which was cancelable at will.

In response to questions, Mr. Josko said depending on the length of financing, interest costs averaged 7%. He said 3 firms did the majority of PACE assessments in Florida. He said Hillsborough County had contracted with Renew Financial's PACE program for 3 years. He said homeowners had other financing options; less than half of 2,000 applications in Pasco County were approved and 25% of approved applications moved forward with PACE projects.

Senate District 24 Legislative Assistant Melissa Meshil said Senator Jeff Brandes was refiling bills not approved last session. She invited BIG C members to reach out to the Senator. She said following meetings in St. Pete Beach and Largo, Senator Brandes would head to Tallahassee in the next few weeks.

Doug Izzo, of the Tampa Bay Beaches Chamber of Commerce, invited all to the September 4, 2019 hurricane summit, hosted by the chamber in partnership with Pinellas County, the Sheriff, and Fire Department, to review and improve on local actions during Hurricane Irma.

John Bishop, of Pinellas County Coastal Management, announced the County had 15 beach nourishment easements. A planning meeting in Redington Shores in early October will be posted online for other beach community residents to watch.

Indian Rocks Beach Mayor Kennedy invited BIG C members to submit beach issues for presentation to the legislative committee. The short term rentals issue would be submitted again for legislative consideration.

11 – City Events:

BIG C members reviewed upcoming events.

12 - Adjourn


The meeting adjourned at 10:11 a.m.

September 25, 2019 BIG C meeting at
City of Indian Rocks Beach Civic Auditorium,
1507 Bay Palm Boulevard


Minutes Prepared by:
Patricia O. Sullivan
Board Reporter
City of Clearwater

09/25/2019
Date Approved

APPROVED


Patrick C. Soranno, President

ATTEST


Freddie Lozano, Town Clerk
Town of Indian Shores, Florida

“ELECTED OFFICIALS WORKING FOR YOU”