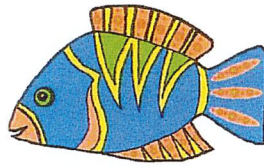


# *BIG-C*

## *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*

The BIG C meeting was called to order by President, Mayor Alan Johnson at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, February 23rd, 2022 at the Madeira Beach City Hall, 300 Municipal Dr, Madeira Beach, FL 33708.

### 1. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Johnson.

### 2. Roll Call

#### **Big C Representatives**

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

Vice Mayor Dave Gattis  
Councilmember Hoyt Hamilton  
Mayor Cookie Kennedy  
Mayor Pat Soranno  
Mayor Bill Queen  
Mayor Dave Will  
Mayor Mary Beth Henderson  
Mayor Alan Johnson  
Mayor Tyler Payne  
Vice Mayor Happy Price

#### **Guests**

Forward Pinellas  
Tourist Development Council  
Madeira Beach  
Chiquita Clark  
Bullseye Grafix  
North Redington Beach  
City of St Pete Beach  
Eric Lynn for Congress  
Redington Shores Commissioner  
Mad Beach Commission Candidate  
Redington Shores Commissioner  
Redington Shores Vice Mayor  
Indian Shores Vice Mayor

Sandra Knoebel  
Doreen Moore  
Robin I Gomez, City Manager  
Duke Energy  
Michael Sullivan  
Don Lewis  
Rita Bishop  
Eric Lynn  
Bill Krajewski  
David Tagliarini  
Jeannie Blackburn  
Michael Robinson  
Mike Hackerson

Redington Beach Commissioner	Rich Cariello
PCSB Candidate	Dawn Peters
Belleair Beach Clerk/Treasurer	Barbara Colucci
Clearwater Marine Aquarium	Paul Jacobs
Clearwater Marine Aquarium	Lindsey Flynn
Madeira Beach	Meghan Powers
Madeira Beach Fire Dept	Chief Clint Belk
PC Suncoast Fire Rescue	Deputy Chief John Mortellite II
PC Suncoast Fire Rescue	Chief Jeff Davidson
PC Emergency Management	Rick Walker
SBDC - PC Economic Development	Debra Schweikowsky
Aide to PC Commissioner Peters	Nicholas Eddy

### 3. Changes to Agenda and Approval

Mayor Will indicated he had written a letter to legislators regarding the erosion of home rule. Mayor Queen made a motion to amend and approve the agenda. Mayor Kennedy seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

### 4. Approval of Minutes of Redington Shores January 27, 2021 Hybrid Meeting

Mayor Will made a motion to approve the January minutes. Mayor Henderson seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

### 5. Approval of January 2021 Treasurer's Report

Mayor Kennedy reported the current balance of \$845.34. Mayor Queen made a motion to approve the treasurer report. The motion was seconded by Mayor Soranno. Motion approved unanimously.

### 6. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

### 7. New Business

- Guest Speakers, Sr Public Engagement Mgr., Libby Hocter and Sr Engineering Technologist, Ron Kennedy – also in attendance, Chiquita Clark, Jeff Baker, and Ginger Broslat “Duke Energy Substation Optimization and Storm Protection Plan” (Presentation to follow)

Kevin Underwood, Duke Energy Director of Project Management, presented information on the strengthening and hardening of the power lines throughout Pinellas County. Mr. Underwood stated the next projects are the Pasadena and Oakhurst substations. He gave an indepth explanation of the Pasadena substation lines affecting St. Pete Beach and the intended strengthening. Mr. Underwood explained the system would be hardened through the use of self-healing automation (the automation redirecting of power around trouble areas), upgrading poles, transformers and fuses and undergrounding trouble areas.

Mr. Underwood went over the outreach program which would be implemented to let customers know there will be work on their neighborhood. The outreach includes postcards, an educational webpage and detailed mailings for those who will need to give easements for undergrounding.

Mr. Underwood stated the point of contact would be Libby Hocter. Ms. Hocter would be available to answer questions and concerns.

Mayor Johnson stated that the first contact, prior to any project, should be the city as he found out about a project from a neighbor that Duke had contacted. Mr. Underwood agreed that the cities would be informed prior to implementation of any project.

Mayor Soranno inquired as to strengthening the feeder lines to the beaches. Jeff Baker, Duke Energy, explained this is a 10 year project that will strengthen the entire Pinellas County grid, but that in instance of a severe storm event, there will be outages regardless of underground status if the substations are damaged or if lines are impacted which lead to the underground areas.

Mayor Gattis asked if there would be any incentives from Duke to help areas be undergrounded. Mr. Baker explained that for the first time, in 2017, legislation was passed that the company could bear cost for certain areas. He stated those areas must meet reliability criteria. However, he explained that if there was going to be work in a municipal area that was going to cost Duke a certain amount of money, the municipality could pay whatever the additional amount would be to underground that area.

- Introduction of Corey McMaster – Florida SBDC at Pinellas County Economic Development, New Director for the Office of Small Business and Supplier Diversity

Debra Schweikoswsky, of SBDC, explained that Mr. McMaster was the new Director and had intended to present but had to cancel. She reminded those present that the SBDC was available to help small businesses.

#### 8. Old Business

There was no old business.

#### 9. Discussion Items

Mayor Will stated he had written a letter to the state legislators regarding the repeated passage of bills that are eroding home rule and would like for it to come from the BIG C as a united effort. Councilman Hamilton stated he believed there should be specific examples of such bills included in the letter. Mayor Kennedy indicated she believed the letter should be written but that a contingent of the BIG C should travel to Tallahassee to make the point stronger. There was discussion and agreement for the letter to be revised and circulated via email for approval and signatures. Mayor Kennedy stated she would look into setting up a visit to Tallahassee.

Mayor Soranno suggested having the Florida League of Cities send a legislative update representative to their meeting. The members agreed this should be requested.

#### 10. Legislative Update

Mayor Payne gave an update on the proposed Sovereign Immunity, which increases liability amounts for governments. He explained that an amendment had been filed which would separate out cities with a population of less than 50,000 from the proposed increase in amounts. He indicated he had traveled to Tallahassee when this bill was discussed and it was a good example of being there in person making a difference.

#### 11. Public Comments

Eric Lynn, Candidate for Congress, spoke briefly until the Council indicated that it was not the forum for political campaigning. Mr. Lynn apologized and stated he was unaware he was violating the rules.

Nicholas Eddy, Aide for PC Commissioner Kathleen Peters, apologized on Commissioner Peters behalf for her being unable to attend the recent meetings. He stated that the beach communities were very important to her and to contact her office with any concerns.

Lindsey Flynn, Manager of the Sea Turtle Conservation Program, expressed interest in being on a future agenda to discuss the importance of sea turtle friendly lighting.

#### 12. City Events

Treasure Island - Garage Sale on Isle of Palms on March 6<sup>th</sup>.

Clearwater – Councilmember Hamilton stated he had termed out and would no longer be on the Council after the March election however, he would be in attendance at the March BIG C meeting.

Belleair Beach – Vice Mayor Gattis stated they also have an election in March.

Indian Shores – Mayor Soranno invited everyone to Indian Shores Farmer’s Market on Sunday mornings in front of Town Hall.

Madeira Beach – Vice Mayor Price gave information on an upcoming March 12<sup>th</sup> fishing tournament and stated they also have an election in March

Redington Beach – Mayor Will stated they had the short term rental referendum on the March ballot.

St. Pete Beach – Mayor Johnson invited everyone to their Sunday morning market on Corey Avenue. He also stated there was a U2 tribute band playing on the upcoming Friday night.

13. Adjourn


The meeting adjourned at 10:06 a.m. The next meeting will be Wednesday, March 30, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. Hosted by Town of Redington Beach at Madeira Beach City Hall, 300 Municipal Dr, Madeira Beach, FL 33708.

Minutes Prepared by: Mari Campbell  
Town Clerk, Town of North Redington Beach, FL

Date Approved: 3/30/2022

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Amber LaRowe, CMC, City Clerk  
City of St. Pete Beach  
MMC

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Alan Johnson  
Barrier Islands Governmental Council President  
Mayor of the City of St. Pete Beach, FL