



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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September 22, 2004 Minutes

The meeting of the Barrier Islands Governmental Council, held at the Indian Rocks Beach City Hall, 1507 Bay Palm Boulevard, Indian Rocks Beach, Florida, was called to order by President Mike Kelly at 9:05 A.M.

1. ROLL CALL:

MEMBERS PRESENT: (Voting = V; Alternate 1 = A1; and Alternate 2 = A2)

Belleair Beach
Belleair Shore
Indian Rocks Beach
Indian Shores
Madeira Beach
North Redington Beach
Redington Beach
Treasure Island

Mayor Mike Kelly (V)
Mayor John Robertson (V)
Vice Mayor Bill Ockunzzi (A1)
Mayor Don Taber (V)
Vice Mayor John Wolbert (A1)
Mayor Harold Radcliffe (V)
Mayor Bob Fountaine (V)
Mayor Mary Maloof (A1)

GUESTS PRESENT:

Nancy Ayers
Wayne Ayers
Rand Baldwin
Katherine Burbridge
Joe Burdette
Doris Burns
Jim Coats
Kristi C. Cottier
Robert H. DiNicola
Nick Fritsch
Joan Herndon
Jerry Knight
Mike Meidel
Larry Pflueger
Manny Pumariega
Vince Robertiello
Ralph Stone
Steve Sutch
Missy Pike

Tampa Bay Newspapers
Tampa Bay Newspapers
Southwest Florida Water Management District
AICP, Pinellas County Administration
Census Group
Senator Denis Jones' Office
Chief Deputy, Pinellas County Sheriff's Office
Clearwater Gas
Mayor, City of Indian Rocks Beach
Sand Key Civic Association
Councilor, Town of Indian Shores
Vice Mayor, Town of North Redington Beach
Director, Pinellas County Economic Development
Pinellas Planning Council
Executive Director, TBRPC
The Reporter, Treasure Island
City Manager, City of Treasure Island
President, ISPOA Indian Shores
President, Tampa Bay Beaches Chamber of Commerce

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA.

Motion made by Mayor Robertson, seconded by Mayor Taber to approve the agenda as presented.

Unanimous approval by acclamation.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

Motion made by Mayor Taber, seconded by Mayor Fontaine to approve the minutes of August 25, 2004.

Unanimous approval by acclamation.

4. APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT.

The Treasurer's Report for September 2004 was presented by Secretary/Treasurer Fontaine, with a balance on hand as of September 2004 being \$967.62.

President Kelly advised that each municipality has been assessed for the \$250, which was approved at the August 25, 2004 meeting for operating expenses.

Motion made by Mayor Fontaine, seconded by Vice Mayor Wolbert to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented.

Unanimous approval by acclamation.

5. PINELLAS COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - MIKE MEIDEL.

Missy Pike, President, Tampa Bay Beaches Chamber of Commerce, introduced Mike Meidel, Director, Pinellas County Economic Development, who would be speaking to the Council on the Business Assistance Partnership Program.

Mr. Meidel explained the Business Assistance Partnership Program, and the services the Program will offer the businesses in the County, stating an individual will be hired to act as a liaison to work with the businesses in handling any possible conflicts, provide universal support, assist businesses in obtaining funding, and assisting in the redevelopment of areas and businesses within the County. He stated workshops would also be held to better educate business owners in obtaining funding and establishing their businesses. He explained that if each beach community plus Clearwater paid approximately \$1,500 that would total \$15,000, which would be matched at the County level, which the Tampa Bay Beaches Chamber of Commerce would match with a mixture of in-kind and cash contribution and which would go toward paying the salary for the liaison position, although it is unsure whether this will begin as a part-time or full-time position. He stated this individual would not be a government or a Chamber employee, although they will be supervised by the Chamber.

Concern was expressed by members of the Board regarding adverse publicity that is or may be taking place as a result of the damages incurred from Hurricane Charley, Hurricane Frances and Hurricane Ivan, with discussion including how to counteract this adverse publicity in order to encourage tourists to continue to visit the area.

Vice Mayor Ockunzzi inquired how the cities can have the Pinellas County Board of County Commission to recognize and begin helping the various cities with dollar subsidies for things such as cleaning of the beaches that are directly related to the barrier islands, especially if the barrier islands are going to be the hosts for tourists, with Mr. Meidel stating the best source at this point, is to go through the Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB), which is a separate agency within the County that is entirely funded by the bed tax.

Brief discussion was held regarding the extension of the runway at the St. Petersburg/Clearwater Airport, with it being

noted that it is expected the project will take one year to complete, with a plan being worked on to attract other airlines to the airport and increasing the number and location of ticket stations at the airport.

OLD BUSINESS:

6A. MILE MARKER UPDATE - JOE BURDETTE.

Joe Burdette, Census Group, explained the Mile Marker Program and distributed copies of brochures depicting the Program's fish logo. He explained there is a license agreement for the trademarking and marketing of the fish logo. He stated Pinellas County wants to take a hands-off position on the Program with the BIG-C taking over the Program, and the County only overseeing what is done with the profits. He stated there are approximately 25-mile markers that have been or will be installed along the barrier islands, which will broaden the exposure of the beaches as a territorial group and geographical place in Pinellas County by accenting the fish.

6B. CROSSWALKS ON GULF BOULEVARD - MAYOR BOB FOUNTAINE.

Mayor Fontaine presented a resolution, which he proposes the BIG-C submit to the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), stating the resolution needs to be amended to reflect that Gulf Boulevard is a state and county road.

Discussion ensued regarding the speed limit along the length of Gulf Boulevard with PCSO Deputy Chief Coats stating he believes it is better for the speed limit to be consistent the entire length of Gulf Boulevard, but noted that each City regulates the speed limit in their own City, and stated that most cities have set the speed limit at 35 miles per hour, with a couple of cities having 40 miles per hour and Indian Rocks Beach having the speed limit set at 30 miles per hour.

Vice Mayor Ockunzzi inquired what can be done to have more consistent enforcement of the crosswalk laws and legislation with Deputy Chief Coats stating Clearwater has more crosswalks and individuals are more aware of that.

Discussion ensued that 30 miles per hour is too low a speed limit for Gulf Boulevard and that 35 miles per hour would probably be a better speed limit, with it being noted that FDOT wants the new sections of Gulf Boulevard, once it is improved, to have a speed limit of 40 miles per hour.

Mayor Robertson suggested amending the resolution to include "a safe speed limit not to exceed 35 miles per hour," which allows the cities to make an adjustment if they have to.

Consensus of the Board to revise the proposed resolution to include "a safe speed limit not to exceed 35 miles per hour", obtain recommendations and support from each City and include the resolution on the October 27, 2004 BIG-C Agenda for approval.

NEW BUSINESS:

7A. PINELLAS SUNCOAST TRANSIT AUTHORITY DISCUSSION.

President Kelly stated he and Mayor Robertson have received letters from members of the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA) Board as it relates to Countywide inclusion of all municipalities as members of the PSTA, including those cities that have opted not to be a part of the PSTA, stating this would force those cities to become a part of the PSTA.

Mayor Robertson stated there are four towns in the BIG-C that are not members of the PSTA, specifically Treasure Island, St. Pete Beach, Belleair Beach and Belleair Shore, stating he thinks it is a mistake to force these towns to join the PSTA when they do not want to belong.

Discussion ensued that last year opposition regarding this issue was expressed to Senator Dennis Jones, who assured this would not occur. However, there appears to be discussion of the issue beginning again with Mayor Maloof stating she received a letter from Mayor Arbutine of Belleair Bluffs inquiring of Treasure Island's position on this issue, because he wants to take the issue to the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for discussion. She stated Mayor Arbutine has stated that most cities in Pinellas County with whom he has spoken have indicated they are favorable to the membership of the PSTA being countywide.

Mayor Radcliffe stated he does not think those cities that are a member of PSTA should force those who are not to join.

MISCELLANEOUS:

8A. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE - SENATOR DENNIS JONES/DORIS BURNS.

Doris Burns stated Legislative Delegation Public Hearings will be held on November 9, 2004 and December 9, 2004, and that notices will be sent out regarding the location and time of the meetings.

Mayor Kelly advised the BIG-C will be sponsoring a breakfast at the Florida Shores and Beach Preservation Association Conference at Marco Island, stating everyone is invited to attend.

8B. OTHER ITEMS.

Mayor Radcliffe stated for several years discussions have been held with the Pinellas County Board of County Commission regarding improvements to Gulf Boulevard, stating the County had a study done a year or two ago, which listed the project at an estimated cost of \$74 million dollars for the entire 25 miles.

Mayor Radcliffe reviewed the results of a study he made pertaining to this issue, stating in 1998 for the ten beach communities, excluding Clearwater, had a total taxable value of \$2.8 billion, with the County having a millage rate of 5.5380 mills for strictly operating costs, which generated revenues of \$15.5 million for the ten communities. He stated in 2003, the assessed valuation increased to \$5.8 billion, with the millage at 6.414 mills, with the total County revenue being \$36 million. He stated looking at the cost of the improvement to Gulf Boulevard, two years of what the ten communities have contributed to the County's general fund would pay for the improvements. He stated he thinks the BIG-C needs to move ahead and push the County to help with the improvements to Gulf Boulevard.

Mayor Taber stated the estimated cost for the undergrounding of utilities in Indian Shores is \$6 million.

Vice Mayor Ockunzzi reminded everyone of the Suncoast League of Cities Meeting being held at the Holiday Inn Harbourside, 401 Second Street, beginning at 11:00 A.M., with the Legislative Committee Meeting beginning at 9:00 A.M. He distributed a summary of issues submitted for consideration as Suncoast League Legislative Priorities.

Nick Fritsch stated he has reserved time during the December 9, 2004 Legislative Delegation Public Hearing to discuss full funding for beach nourishment. He requested each community notify him regarding the measurement of their beach of sand lost since the storms with Mayor Kelly stating Belleair Beach lost approximately 100 feet of beach. Mr. Fritsch stated he would compile that information to include as part of the discussion at the Florida Shore and Beach Preservation Association (FSBPA) Conference. He distributed a document containing four key points regarding beach nourishment for review.

Mr. Fritsch stated the four points are what the BIG-C as a unified body needs the County and State to understand, specifically that the BIG-C has been good stewards of the taxpayers dollars and of the government's budget by not asking for money when it was not needed. He stated the BIG-C needs to take every opportunity to share these points with every elected official in the County and the State. He stated as a result of the storms, the barrier islands are now in competition for funding for beach renourishment with other beach communities who also suffered damage.

Mr. Fritsch suggested the four points as presented be placed on the agenda for the breakfast being held by the BIG-C at the FSBPA Conference.

Mayor Taber stated the breakfast will be held in Salon H, Island Ballroom, Thursday, September 30, 2004, beginning at 7:00 A.M.

9. ADJOURNMENT.

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 A.M.

Michael E. Kelly

Michael E. Kelly, Mayor
City of Belleair Beach