

**BARRIER ISLANDS GOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 23, 2005**

PRESIDENT: Mayor Mike Kelly, City of Belleair Beach
VICE PRESIDENT: Mayor Don Taber, Town of Indian Shores
SECRETARY-TREASURER: Mayor Bob Fountaine, Town of Redington Beach

President Kelly called the February 23, 2005 meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

1. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Mayor Kelly then led the group in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

2. **Roll Call:** Each person was asked to introduce him/herself.
Members Present: (Voting member – V; Alternate member – A)
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|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Belleair Beach | Mayor Mike Kelly (V) |
| Belleair Shore | Mayor John Robertson (V) |
| Clearwater Beach | Councilmember Hoyt Hamilton (V) |
| Indian Rocks Beach | Vice Mayor Bill Ockunzzi (A) |
| Indian Shores | Mayor Don Taber (V) |
| Madeira Beach | Vice Mayor John Wolbert (A) |
| North Redington Beach | Mayor Harold Radcliffe (V) |
| Redington Beach | |
| Redington Shores | Mayor J. J. Beyrouti (V) |
| St. Pete Beach | Vice Mayor Deborah Nicklaus (V) |
| Treasure Island | Mayor Mary Maloof (V) |

Guests:

Bill Smith and Joan Herndon, Town of Indian Shores Councilors; **Steve Sutch**, Indian Shores Property Owners President; **Marshall Reynolds**, Town of Redington Shores Commissioner; **Bill Queen**, North Redington Beach Commissioner/Mayor Elect; **Jerry Knight**, North Redington Beach Vice Mayor; **Ed Ruttencutter**, St. Pete Beach Commissioner; **Carol Coward**, Treasure Island Candidate for Commissioner; **Nick Fritsch**, Sand Key Civic Association; **Len Ciecieznski**, Pinellas County Communications; **Katherine Burbridge**, Pinellas County Government; **Nancy Loehr**, Progress Energy; **Missy Pike**, Tampa Bay Beaches Chamber of Commerce President; **Kristi Cheatham**, Clearwater Gas; **Doris Burns**, Senator Dennis L. Jones representative; **Joe Burdette**, Consus Group Partner; **Phyllis Johnson**, Sand Key Sun Reporter; **Bob McPherson**, Beach Beacon Reporter; **Jade Jackson Lloyd**, St. Petersburg Times Reporter; **Sharon Proehl**, Town of North Redington Beach Town Clerk. Other guests were present but did not sign in.

3. **Approval of Agenda:** There were no changes to the Agenda.

4. **Approval of Minutes of January 26, 2005 meeting and**
5. **Approval of Treasurer's Report February 2005**

President Kelly, in the absence of the Secretary/Treasurer, presented the January 26, 2005 minutes and February 2005 treasurer's report showing a balance as of February 7th of \$2,804.91. Motion was made and seconded to approve the reports. All showed favor by voice vote.

6. **Guest Speaker: Pinellas County Commissioner John Morrone**

President Kelly introduced John Morrone, Chair of the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners. Points made during his talk were:

- The Tourist Development Council passed a resolution supporting the Gulf Boulevard beautification. Mayor Radcliffe distributed an updated chart with ad valorem taxes collected by Pinellas County from the beaches, part of which he would like to see used for undergrounding Gulf Boulevard. Mayor Beyrouti thanked Commissioner Morrone for his strong, clear position on Gulf Boulevard. Hopefully the BOCC will mirror TDC's statement. Mayor Beyrouti informed the group of Congressman Bill Young's interest in the project.
- The Task Force for the Beautification of Gulf Boulevard has been reinstated with Bob Stewart and Susan Latvala as members.
- Communities need to let the County know their feelings on the condo conversion issue. Some support condo development and some are working to keep tourist facilities intact. Sand Key is a

benchmark for condo/hotel as well as the East Coast cities--50 to 75% converted to condo/hotels. Several of the mayors voiced their cities choice; i.e. St. Pete Beach encourage condo/hotels, North Redington Beach just went for a comprehensive plan to increase tourist density to bolster tourist units, and Clearwater just approved a project with condo and condo/hotel mix. However, because of the disproportionate cost of the land, developers need more units than are permitted by the County Comprehensive plan to make tourist facilities a viable alternative.

- Beach renourishment is in the works with the Sand Key Renourishment project due to start this year.
- With regard to hurricane evacuation, Marcia Frawley is working to have evacuation zones printed on utility bills. The evacuation message group needs more Spanish-speaking people on the phone and they are working on that. Mayor Taber opined that using a five-day plan for evacuation watch causes the schools to be closed for too long a time.
- Mayor Robertson questioned Pinellas County's request for a resolution supporting the "areas of agreement" established during the Pinellas Assembly process. Most cities had passed the resolution, but Indian Rocks Beach specifically rejected it.
- Vice Mayor Ockunzzi gave his opinion that the County should roll back taxes. People are being taxed out of business and they need some relief.
- Commissioner Morrioni explained the County is doing a lot of bridge and transportation projects. He further explained the unfunded mandates that are being passed down from the state, which eats into funding usually used for specific purposes.
- Commissioner Morrioni recognized Mayor Radcliffe retirement from politics and spoke of him of one of his favorite people.

7. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Update discussion: Update on Mile Marker project: Joe Burdette said the contract was signed to allow use of the fish on BIGC letterhead.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Assessment for Florida Beaches and Shores: Mayor Beyrouti informed members the \$5,000 assessment from FSBPA is needed again this year. Mayor Maloof made a motion to send the cities an assessment for the \$5,000. The motion was seconded by Mayor Robertson and passed by a unanimous voice vote.

B. Discussion on Gulf Boulevard Undergrounding Resolution: Vice Mayor Wolbert presented a draft of a resolution supporting the undergrounding of utilities the entire length of Gulf Boulevard. A motion was made and seconded to have Mayor Radcliffe finalize the resolution. The motion passed by affirmation.

9. Miscellaneous

A. Legislative Update: Senator Jones/Doris Burns: Nothing.

10. Adjournment: Mayor Beyrouti reported on block grants, COPS grants, Federal budget cuts, the Federal government's displeasure with the FEMA has handled debris removal in Florida, and a pending transportation bill that should mean more fuel tax monies.

Mayor Radcliffe reiterated his thoughts about the revenue source that he has proposed for undergrounding/beautifying Gulf Boulevard and his hope the BIGC would continue working toward this goal. This was his last meeting--the last of the charter members of BIGC-- and he expressed his pleasure to work with and know its members.

Mayor Kelly stated he is not running this election either--he is just stepping aside for awhile. He said BIGC is the best group in the area. Mayor Taber will take over as President next month.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:16 a.m.

The next meeting will be held March 23, 2005 at the Town Hall in Redington Beach.

Respectfully submitted,

Harold Radcliffe, Mayor
Town of North Redington Beach