

## MEETING MINUTES

August 26, 2009

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

Vice Mayor Kathy Mortensen  
Mayor John A. Robertson  
Commissioner Terry Hamilton Wollin  
Mayor Jim Lawrence  
Mayor Pat Shontz  
Mayor William Queen  
Mayor Nick Simons  
Mayor Bert Adams  
Vice Mayor Phil Collins  
Mayor Mike Finnerty

Guest Speakers:  
Census 2010  
Florida League of Cities  
Oil/Gas Rig Drilling

Barbara Mabee and Keith Simson  
Tim Stanfield  
Mayor Minnig  
Councilor Smith  
Mr. Nick Fritsch

Guests Present:  
SSG Tampa Bay  
Clearwater Gas  
Barrier Islands Gazette  
Barrier Islands Gazette  
TDC – Tampa Bay Bch Chamber  
Redington Beach  
Sand Key Sun  
Census 2010  
Pinellas Planning Council  
Indian Shores  
Redington Shores  
Indian Rocks Beach  
Sand Key Civic

Amy Maguire  
Kristi Cheatham  
Rob Piccirillo  
Aaron Coder  
Doreen Moor  
Mark Deighton  
Phyllis Johnson  
Eli Senquiz  
Linda Fisher  
Steve Sutch  
John Branch  
Jose L. Coppen  
Nick Fritsch

Visit St. Pete/Clearwater  
Indian Shores  
Indian Shores  
Tampa Bay Newspapers  
St. Pete Beach  
Madeira Beach  
Senator Dennis Jones' Office

Rhonda Sanborn  
Carole Ireland  
Joan Herndon  
Bob McClure  
Jim Parent  
W.D. Higginbotham  
Doris Burns

### **1 – Pledge of Allegiance**

### **2 – Roll Call**

### **3 – Approval of Agenda**

Mayor Robertson moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Vice Mayor Kathy Mortensen and unanimously carried.

### **4 – Approval of Minutes of June and July 2009 meetings.**

June minutes have not been received from Treasure Island yet. Mayor Robertson moved to approve the minutes of July 2009, seconded by Mayor Adams and unanimously carried.

### **5 – Approval of Treasurer's Report for July 2009.**

One disbursement for \$98.16 noted on Treasurer's Report – possibly a bill from Digital Eel for website. Mayor Robertson moved to approve the Treasurer's report, seconded by Mayor Finnerty and unanimously carried.

### **6 – Correspondence:**

ASBPA – American Shore & Beach Preservation Association letter of August 24, 2009 received congratulating the BIG-C to be the recipient of the 2010 ASBPA Local Government Award. Award to be presented Thursday, October 15, 2009 at Awards Reception and Banquet. Mayor Lawrence seeking someone that will be attending to accept the award on the BIG-C's behalf.

### **7 – New Business:**

A. Census 2010 – Barbara Mabee: "Its in our hands." Simply a population count in order to be able to plan our money and our power for aligning districts and boundaries. Barbara stated that in 2000 many of the barrier islands didn't get a good response on their census and they are trying to get the word out on the importance of the census in order to get better Federal monies. About \$400 million federal dollars are funded each year based on census data. First census taken in the U.S. in 1790. Ms. Mabee pointed obstacles such as

mistrust of government, language barriers and isolated groups that we can help to overcome for increased participation in Census 2010.

There will be a job increase in Pinellas County due to Census 2010. Two new offices are projected to be opened – one in Pinellas Park and one in the Safety Harbor area. It is anticipated that approximately 800 – 1,000 people will be hired per office.

Keith Simpson advised 4 new offices – St. Petersburg, Clearwater, Brooksville and Brandon in addition to Tampa office. Offices will be opening around the first of October. Recruiting assistants and clerks jobs will run from mid-fall 2009 until March/April 2010. Come April 2010, it is hoped that questionnaires will be answered and non-response follow-up renumeration will begin. These are all temporary jobs. Most jobs are full time.

Mayor Robertson stated Belleair Shore was counted as a zero in Census 2000. He recommended that local people are hired to do the renumeration – people that are familiar with Pinellas County and the Gulf Beaches. Mayor Robertson also requested that notification be submitted to municipalities so an appeal can possibly be made if there is a glaring error in the count.

What changes will be made to the questionnaire? This will probably be one of the easiest ones to complete and will have about 10 questions. The census is no longer asking the personal detailed information on the questionnaire, strictly looking for a population count.

When will the data be available? The report has to be on the President's desk by the last day of this year and it is anticipated that it will be published approximately six months after that.

What do the jobs pay? Pay is dependent upon position – Manager is \$18 - \$24/hour, Recruiting Assistants \$15 - \$18/hour, Clerical Staff \$14, Enumerators - \$10 - \$14/hour.

Who will be included in the count? The census will include work visa, undocumented and illegals, it is a count of all people on American soil.

When will the more complex data be available? The American Community Survey is a more complex survey and is continuously run. It is dropped in to certain neighborhoods. Numbers are based on estimated population.

How do you handle part-time residents? April 1, 2010 has been designated the date of the count, so the count is on where you are on April 1, 2010.

How do we get the word out about jobs? Census 2010 is asking for local assistance from municipalities on getting the word out about the census and the jobs; that we pass information along to our residents and we are asking them to cooperate.

When does recruiting for jobs begin? Recruiting begins Mid-Oct. to the beginning of November. There will be a national toll-free number to call to inquire about jobs that will be routed by caller entering in their zip code. Logos, drop in articles, tests for jobs are online at [www.2010census.gov](http://www.2010census.gov) The job website is [www.2010censusjobs.gov](http://www.2010censusjobs.gov).

Will people that worked for the census previously be called back up or do they need to reapply? They will be kept in an applicant pool and will be called.

B. Florida League of Cities – Tim Stanfied, Assistant General Counsel on Upcoming Legislative Session in Spring

1. Info on Oil Drilling – Didn't really engage last year. Florida League of Cities utilizes a Policy Development Committee process. In this case it would be an Energy and Environmental Quality issue. The President of the Association is Mayor Marks from Tallahassee appoints members to committees. There are about 50 members on each committee. These committees vet out issues and this item is #1 on their agenda. Eric Draper from 1,000 Friends of Florida will present, Stacy Web, Southern Strategies will present, and then Dave Mica will give a Federal View of the realities of what has gone on in Congress will present, then the committee will meet four times and take a position for the League of Cities on drilling. Tim encourages anyone wanting to participate to contact Florida League of Cities. Right now it is a very open discussion. Rep. Cannon is going to shepherd this issue along, unknown timeline. Also, contact Senator Jones Office on this and let him know what your specific concerns are.

2. Revenue Caps – TABIR – Taxpayers Bill of Rights; Revenue Caps or Smart Caps would, in its form from last year, cap all government revenue, state, county, municipal, taxing districts and school districts at the 2010/2011 budget plus a growth factor plus a population growth. It would also require a voter's referendum to pass any new tax, fee or raise an existing tax or fee. It is really an experiment in direct democracy and an abrogation of responsibility. Senator Jones is one of the best friends the League of Cities could have on that issue.

Those are the two big issues coming this year. You will probably be seeing some police and fire pension stuff flying around – hopefully we'll address the extra benefits issue; maybe be allowed to use our insurance premium taxes to fund existing benefits instead of funding new benefits every year. The legacy costs of funding police and fire pensions are crushing municipal budgets just like legacy costs of union workers did to auto manufacturers.

Two sounding board issues from Orlando Conference posed by Mayor Lawrence – home rule and unfunded mandates; do you envision any attacks in those areas coming up in this next session? The idea of home rule is anything that gives us leeway outside of our policy development process. If we have an issue

that goes outside of our policy development process we generally cannot engage as the League. If it is an issue that impedes your home rule powers that then gives us under our by-laws gives us the ability to go into the legislature and attack. So, anytime you see a home rule problem; we're on that.

As far as unfunded mandates, that plays into the taxpayer bill of rights issue directly. If the taxpayer bill of rights keeps going on we're going to have to change our position from, "no, hell no" to where can we live in this world? There may come a point in time that we will have to negotiate. We believe that before you can ever talk about capping revenues and capping expenditures you have to deal with unfunded mandates because the assumption is that if you can cap someone's revenues and expenditures you would assume that they would have control over those expenditures and you clearly do not. So, if we even go to the table and begin to discuss taxpayer bill of rights this discussion will start with an absolute prohibition on unfunded mandates.

Senate Bill 216 has been fought by the League. Tim encourages asking your city attorney before taking any action; but if you're speaking to the public your voice is not closed off. Remember that you are expending public funds. There are areas that you can operate in and you can refer to Mark Herron's presentation on the Florida League of Cities website. You may want to have city attorney download the presentation and then present to the city commission what you can and cannot do.

C. Oil/Gas Rig Drilling Update: Nick Fritsch advised the committee is partnering with the four communities that have not yet passed resolutions. Bill is working on government – both local and state issues, Bob is taking the science and environmental and Nick is taking the business and economy issues. They have set timeline for the three segments at the end of September, joint consolidation on October 15 and they have decided on two products: a white paper with an official position and an FAQ that breaks it down.

Bill Smith would like to suggest that a resolution for offshore drilling be considered at the next Big-C meeting.

Committee is meeting in September at Indian Shores Town Hall on 9/11 and 9/25 at 1:30PM. Invitation is extended to come to the committee meetings.

## **8 – Old Business**

Dr. Nicole Elko status update - Big-C Plaque displayed, card available to be signed and also opportunity to donate for a gift for her baby.

Mr. Nick Fritsch representing Sand Key Civic Association wrote a letter to Mr. LaSala in support of hiring Dr. Elko for the consultant position with a lucid political argument.

Mayor Lawrence wrote a draft letter to Mr. LaSala also recommending that the county hire Dr. Elko as a consultant. Mayor Robertson made a motion that Mayor Lawrence's letter be sent to Mr. LaSala on behalf of the BIG-C, seconded by Mayor Adams and unanimously carried.

### **9 – Miscellaneous**

- A. Legislative Update – No Legislative Update at this time.
- B. Beach Update – No Beach Update at this time.
- C. Penny for Pinellas Update – Meeting to be scheduled with Brian Smith.
- D. City Updates:
  - Belleair Beach – moving in to the new building mid to end of Sept.
  - St. Pete Beach – One of their residents has been named Florida Citizen of the year for taking care of the sea turtles.
  - Redington Shores – Stormwater project in final stages.
  - Indian Shores – 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – 9/24 Charter re-signing @ The Pub
  - Treasure Island – Labor Day Bash with Fireworks

### **10 - Adjournment**