

# Big C Minutes

April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Zoom via City of Madeira Beach

- Roll Call:
  - Belleair Beach - Mayor Joseph Manzo
  - Clearwater – Council Member Hoyt Hamilton
  - Indian Rocks Beach - Mayor Cookie Kennedy
  - Indian Shores - Mayor Patrick Soranno
  - Madeira Beach – Mayor John Hendricks
  - N. Redington Beach - Mayor Bill Queen
  - Redington Beach - Mayor Nick Simons
  - Redington Shores - Mayor Mary Beth Henderson
  - St. Pete Beach - Mayor Alan Johnson
  - Treasure Island - Mayor Larry Lund
- **Mayor Patrick Soranno:** Approval of the agenda
  - **Cookie Kennedy:** Motion to approve
  - **Mary Beth Henderson:** 2<sup>nd</sup>
  - **Mayor Patrick Soranno:** All those in favor say aye,
  - Unanimous aye from remaining board members
- **Mayor Patrick Soranno:** Approval of the minutes for February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Big C Meeting in the Town of North Redington Beach
  - **Unidentified person:** I have a comment on that Pat, on page 3 of our packet item 7, the paragraph has to do with what Duke Energy is doing. It says increased restoration times, I don't think that is what they intended. Should be reduced restoration times.
  - **Mayor Patrick Soranno:** Absolutely, did everybody get that correction?
  - **Mayor Alan Johnson:** With that correction I move to approve
  - **Mayor Robert E. Schmidt, Jr.:** 2<sup>nd</sup>
  - **Mayor Patrick Soranno:** All those in favor say aye,
  - Unanimous aye from remaining board members
- **Mayor Patrick Soranno:** Approval for the February and March 2020 Treasurer's Report, Mayor Henderson.
  - **Mayor Mary Beth Henderson:** For the month of February 2020 we had no disbursements and had a ending balance of \$794.23 and in March we had 2 disbursements, we already approved both of these at the last meeting, one of them for the state registration for the Big C and also for digital ecommerce for hosting of the website with the total disbursement of \$130.00 which leaves the ending balance as of March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020 of \$664.23. Any Questions?
  - **Mayor Bill Queen:** Motion to approve
  - **Mayor Robert E. Schmidt, Jr.:** 2<sup>nd</sup>
  - **Mayor Patrick Soranno:** All those in favor say aye,

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- Unanimous aye from remaining board members
- **Mayor Patrick Soranno:** Next item Correspondence. A couple of items here related to the Penny IV allocation and distribution of funds per municipality. This has been discussed in prior meetings but we wanted to put to more of a formal vote, we have a county executive on board for any questions you might have.
  - **Mayor Bill Queen:** Over a per a period of several months in 2018 The Big C Beautification Committee of Soranno, Simons, and Queen had several discussions with County Administrator Mark Woodard regarding the number one priority of The Big C as it relates to the Gulf Blvd. beautification. The primary objective was to complete the undergrounding utilities on Gulf Blvd. with Penn IV money, an allocated amount of \$35 million was agreed upon and is the same amount of Penny III money that was distributed for the initial Gulf Blvd. eastside project. It was also recommended that the Penny IV project should be completed as one project under the direction of Pinellas County as economies have scaled and reduced the projected cost. On August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 The Big C Subcommittee met with County Administrator Barry Burton and [inaudible, time 17:32]. This meeting established a priority of Penny IV funds to be used for undergrounding projects along Gulf Blvd. After much discussion there were two options established for the project to move forward. Option 1: The project would be administered by the county and research conducted for cost analysis of the entire project. This estimate came in \$7-12 million over the \$35 million allocated. Option 2: Each city conducts their own project with money distributed by the formula established under Penny III. At this point we have two options; we have option 1 of adding our money into the \$7-12 million over the \$35 million, or we have option 2. I think this is where we need to decide what we want to go with.
  - **Mayor Robert E. Schmidt, Jr.:** We get the Pennies for Pinellas every year, can we get more money for the following year to help cover the difference?
  - **Mayor Bill Queen:** This is going to be a separate amount for what we are talking about. You still get your Penny for Pinellas money each year but this is a separate issue here.
  - **Mayor Robert E. Schmidt, Jr.:** That doesn't answer my question, do we use next years Penny money towards that.
  - **Mayor Bill Queen:** You can use your Penny Pinellas money with whatever projects you have that you want to accomplish. Should we take a vote on this option 1 or option 2?
  - **Mayor Patrick Soranno:** Does everyone understand the two options, we talked about this in a prior meeting, but I'm not sure if we are ready to vote on this, I am, but I am not sure about the rest of the Mayors.

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- **Brian (not sure of last name):** I just wanted to make sure everyone was fully understood the second option. This would revert back to a new form of the formula that we used in Penny III for Gulf Blvd. undergrounding which was divided in between individual municipalities and based on right away along Gulf Blvd. This money is focused on undergrounding. The two communities Clearwater and Indian Shores they've already got their undergrounding down so these monies would be distributed between the nine remaining communities based on their right of way along Gulf Blvd. and those funds would be strictly for undergrounding until all of the undergrounding is complete along Gulf Blvd. In addition, the City of Clearwater and City of Indian Shores previously requested \$750,000 and \$500,000 for individual projects in their communities, that would be included in the \$35 million we would just want to make sure that we have a description of those projects to make sure they are eligible projects under the Penny. The one thing that is on here that we have discussed in the past is frontloading those funds. If you remember in the Penny III agreement those funds were backloaded based on timing and when we received Penny funds. We talked about frontloading, we didn't know what that really meant. I know there was some discussion about it in the first five years, however, given with what is going on right now with COVID-19 we're not in a position to commit to any frontloading of those funds to a time certain. I just want to make sure that is understood.
- **Mayor Bill Queen:** Brian, I had not gotten to that part yet. I was going to follow up with the other bullet points we have for this project.
- **Unidentified person [time 23:20]:** Brian just referred to Clearwater as \$750,000 but the printout I have says \$700,000.
- **Mayor Bill Queen:** I believe it is \$750,000. I looked at some of our correspondence and it was \$750,000.
- **Brian:** It is \$750,000
- **Mayor Bill Queen:** The undergrounding is the number one priority for the entire Gulf Blvd. project. Penny IV funds be may only be used for Gulf Blvd. undergrounding except in Clearwater and Indian Shores. Brian, here is the part that I think you've got a little bit of an issue with and it's the Penny IV money will be frontloaded and equally distributed during the first five years of 30%, 20%, 20%, 20%, 10%. Again, once the county figures out the impact for its budget on the COVID-19, I wouldn't imagine any of this would start and we can talk about the frontend loading at that time when we figure out where the budgets are at. Any money left over from the Penny III can be used for the Penny IV project. Any money left over after the completed project can be reallocated to a different municipality for undergrounding. The Big C Subcommittee will review all Gulf Blvd

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undergrounding projects for approval. The Big C will review future Gulf Blvd. improvements in the event there are remaining Penny IV funds at the end of the undergrounding project. So I think that we are back to the options that we have to pick from which is one and two. Which really there is only one option I can see which is number two. I don't think anyone is able to come up with the extra \$7-12 million to add to this pot. Also Patrick, everyone had been distributed a copy of chart that give the breakdown of their mileage, their Row, and the amount of money being allocated under this next formula.

- **Mayor Alan Johnson:** The only thing that is up in the air is the frontend loading and how fast we get the money, is that correct?
- **Mayor Bill Queen:** That's correct.
- **Mayor Alan Johnson:** Are we going to be able to get something in writing from the county? I have a design construct contract going on now that's part of the first phase of ours doing it and what we are going to end up doing is floating the money finishing the project and then as the money come is payoff the loans.
- **Mayor Bill Queen:** I'm not going to speak for the county but I can just about assure you that they are not going to give anything in writing until figure out exactly what the impact is with COVID-19 on their budget. Brian do you want to talk about that?
- **Brian:** I think Barry would like to.
- **Mayor Alan Johnson:** My concern is not as much the frontend loading as the actual dollar figure.
- **Mayor Bill Queen:** The \$35 million?
- **Mayor Alan Johnson:** If we can get that chart in an official letter from the county then I can proceed forward. The more frontloading we can get the better we will do.
- **Barry Burton:** That is something that obviously we have a concern of. We're trying to look at, and because we've got a lot of projects that people want done tomorrow: community centers, fire station, our own county projects, but we also have options and we have begun to talk about those options in terms of frontloading that, floating a loan out of our solid waste fund. We do have some options there. We are going to have to look at that. We're putting together our entire capital budget, but I will need some time to bring back to you some options. We certainly can give you the amount of money based on what we agreed to in the previous [inaudible, time 28:00] and how it impacts your community. The key piece is the time that I can get you money because you know like down in St. Pete Beach your already moving so I know you know that. We can work with you I'm

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just going to need a little time to figure that out. I really am concerned right now obviously.

- **Mayor Alan Johnson:** Yeah, we all are. I think my concern is getting something I can hang my hat on, we're going to get this much money out of Penny IV regardless of when.
- **Barry Burton:** We can do that. That we can put in writing. As you know everybody wants their projects today and we are going to have to figure that out because obviously we are not going to have all the money today. We will look at that, we can put down the commitment to where you can plan on that. We'll just have to work on the timing you actually receive a check.
- **Mayor Alan Johnson:** That's all I would need. That would be great.
- **Mayor Patrick Soranno:** Barry while we have you on the phone. The Penny III money [inaudible, time 29:28 – 29:35] because of the uncertainties here is it possible that some of that Penny III money that you guys are holding in escrow so to speak can be paid further out into 2021 or perhaps 2022? [inaudible, time 29:51 – 29:55]
- **Barry Burton:** Brian, what is the time period we provided? He wanted to know time period they have to complete their projects under Penny III and the options of extending that further than what we previously committed to.
- **Brian?:** If you recall the Penny III agreement was slated to end September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019. We went ahead in August and reached out to all the communities to find out how long you need to complete all your Penny III projects and submit those for reimbursement. We were told that if we extended it out to September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021 everyone would be able to complete their projects. So that's what we did in August. Currently you've got until September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021. I believe there is a provision in the agreement that at the expiration of that agreement those funds can be used at the county's discretion. I think we certainly would be willing to work with you guys on your project.
- **Mayor Mary Beth Henderson:** I am monitoring the chat and it looks like Cookie Kennedy needs to be unmuted and has something to say and also Mayor Manzo is muted and has something to say.
- **Mayor Patrick Soranno:** Mayor Manzo and Mayor Kennedy are you guys unmuted?
- **Mayor Mary Beth Henderson:** No they are both muted, I just checked.
- **Mayor Patrick Soranno:** According to our technology everyone should be unmuted, so who's first?
- **Mayor Cookie Kennedy:** Just a couple questions as far as the undergrounding. I was talking to Brian this morning about it and I just want to put this out there before we take any votes on it. Is there a possibility,

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for instance I will just use Indian Rocks Beach as an example, our estimated project at this point is \$5.7 million and of course our project is bigger than that. What if at some time if we just find some way for each city to take a percentage and we would supplement on our own until another year of funding can possibly can be added so that we could still progress with these projects. Does that make sense?

- **Mayor Bill Queen:** Yeah, it's the same as we are doing now Cookie. You can use your money and it will be reimbursed back to you. So as long as we've got that commitment from Barry that the \$35million is there, as far as I'm concerned we can go out there and do our projects, get them done and be reimbursed by the county whenever the timing is there.
- **Brian?:** Mayor Kenney, were you talking about city funds to cover the gap of \$7-12 million?
- **Mayor Cookie Kennedy:** Yes
- **Brian?:** Ok, so if that was the decision then we would work out a financing plan if you were willing to commit that money out of future Penny dollars. That's were I would then have to probably take out a loan from our Solid Waste or something like that in order to be able to get it, but what's going to hurt you on the project is cost escalation. That's the reason it is \$7-12 million, it depends on when we release the bids. If your solid as a group and willing to commit your Penny dollars above the \$35 million to cover that difference we really need to ask as the cost escalation can pick that up \$5-6 million in a matter of a year or two. That's the key piece on that. If that was the decision than we would try to work out a financing plan to advance it because if we don't do that now that the cost will skyrocket.
- **Mayor Patrick Soranno:** Bill, did you do some research on costing for the Redingtons?
- **Mayor Cookie Kennedy:** Yes
- **Mayor Bill Queen:** Yeah, we've got a cost estimate out to complete our projects for a little over \$5 million. All of our funds combined, we have enough funds under the \$35 million option 2 to complete our projects.
- **Mayor Patrick Soranno:** Joe?
- **Mayor Joe Manzo:** I just want to make sure I'm clear here. When you say there are two options, I'm not exactly clear as to what we are voting for and I've heard different things but this money is not to be spent now. Do we have a commitment? Do we not have a commitment? I would just like the questions clarified on exactly what we are voting on here.
- **Mayor Bill Queen:** Option 1 the cities are going to have to come up with excess of \$7-12 million through their funding however they want to do it and that would be over the \$35 million. We would move forward with the county running the project. Option 2 is that we keep it at \$35 million each

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city does their own project, and the chart that you have gives you the breakdown of how much money is allocated per city for Penny IV.

- **Mayor Joe Manzo:** Thank you, that takes care of my question.
- **Mayor Patrick Soranno:** My question is are the Mayors prepared to vote on this right now? I am, and I believe the Redingtons are.
- **Mayor Mary Beth Henderson:** Redington Shores is.
- **Mayor Cookie Kennedy:** I'm not ready to vote on this, I would have to take this back to the commission.
- **Mayor George Cretekos:** If I may Bill I can remember back in the early 2000's we were still talking about the undergrounding. I'm glad to see we are making such progress. I am willing to go with, as far as this project for Clearwater, we will support whatever the rest of the communities want to do because ours is already done. The only thing in the project is the \$750,000 coming back to us that we will use on a project that is approved.
- **Mayor Bill Queen:** Correct.
- **Mayor Cookie Kennedy:** Again I just want to say that I would need this in writing for all of our Commission to see it. I'm not sure the rest of the cities can do that either without it being documented.
- **Mayor Bill Queen:** I can do mine right now.
- **Mayor Patrick Soranno:** So can I, I need to do mine right now.
- **Mayor Mary Beth Henderson:** Bob Daniels is raising his had, you need to unmute him.
- **Bob Daniels:** What I heard difference from what Barry was saying is there is an opportunity for the cities to possibly deal with that funding gap. I didn't hear that in any of the two options. Maybe I miss heard you Barry but I though you had mentioned a possibility of going out for a loan to cover that reimbursement.
- **Barry Burton:** It's your option 1, you are going to cover the cost I just figure out a time period of when you can pay it back. We would keep that out future Penny allocations, out of your normal allocation. We would have to figure out a financing plan where we can do the project now and recover that money within the other Penny IV dollars from your normal city allocation. That's what I was referring to, but it's still option 1. I was just speaking to the fact that we can't wait until you give us all the money because the cost increase would in essence kill the project.
- **Bob Daniels:** I think the important part of that is that we are all going to be in some type of financial situation and we might not know what until we are back and a few weeks down the road. By having that opportunity to do that might be something we all might want to consider.
- **Mayor Patrick Soranno:** My concern here is without us having a vote on how to proceed puts some of our cities and towns on a tough situation. I'm

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not sure what direction we need to follow at this point, I'm looking for suggestions.

- **Mayor Alan Johnson:** Mayor Pat, I would like to see which option we want with the stipulation that we get a commitment for the total dollars from the county in writing per municipality. They can work on the timing of the payout later on when we know more.
- **Mayor Patrick Soranno:** If you vote for option 1 then you are coming under the county umbrella for the project. That's not what you are talking about is it?
- **Mayor Alan Johnson:** I'm talking about we take a motion to vote that we say yes or no to option 2 with the stipulation that we get a written commitment from the county for the funding per municipality regardless of the timing on when we get that money.
- **Mayor Patrick Soranno:** Got it.
- **Mayor Mary Beth Henderson:** I'll second that
- **Mayor Patrick Soranno:** I have a motion and a second? Any further discussion or questions/concerns?
- **Mayor Cookie Kennedy:** Yes, I won't be voting on it. I will need all of this in writing to give it to our City Manager and also our Board of Commission.
- **Mayor Larry Lund:** I am the same, I think I would have to go back to the City Manager and Commission for approval.
- **Mayor Patrick Soranno:** I guess than the questions would be if Treasure Island and Indian Rocks beach decide to go with the county umbrella we can carve that out. I would give that question to Barry. Would it be a carve out?
- **Barry Burton:** I missed that last part, I'm sorry.
- **Mayor Patrick Soranno:** If the majority of Mayors vote for option 2 where the cities do their own project and receive their allocation but Treasure Island and Indian Rocks Beach out would you than carve that money out and work with them directly?
- **Barry Burton:** The reality is that if the majority of the Big C votes for option 2 than that's really what we have to do because you all have to be in this together to do option 1, it doesn't work any other way otherwise we would just do the allocation from the formula and to Mayor Johnson's point we'll break that down by city.
- **Mayor Patrick Soranno:** Makes sense.
- **Mayor Bill Queen:** Patrick we already have a carve out, we already have option 2 with St. Pete Beach as we stand. That's where they are going. I think what we need to do is take a vote for either option 1 or option 2 and just move forward. The cities that need to go to their city councils can go to them and talk to them and see what they want to do but its almost

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destine that is the majority Big C wants to go with option 2 than that's where we need to go.

- **Mayor Patrick Soranno:** There is a motion and a second on the table. Further questions before I put it to a vote?
- **Mayor Cookie Kennedy:** I think it would be best if we just waited until were all together at a meeting where all of the audio is functioning well , we have all of the paperwork, all of the cities have the commission know what is going on. We have a lot of new people on here and I don't see what 30 days is going to do to change that.
- **Mayor Alan Johnson:** You're assuming we will be able to get together in 30 days. Seriously I can't wait.
- **Mayor Mary Beth Henderson:** John Henderson is raising his hand if you can unmute him Freddie.
- **Mayor John B. Hendricks:** I think the best option for Madeira Beach is option 1 where we are using future Pennies for Pinellas funding to pay for this so we don't have to do the loan and pay back from future Penny allocations. I think this probably needs to go in front of our Commission so I'm not sworn in yet so I don't know if I even vote yet. Even with that I think we would need to go to the Commission on this.
- **Mayor Cookie Kennedy:** You know the last time we had a resolution all the cities went to all the commissions before we went forward. I really think we need to do the same again. I'm sorry that some can't wait a month but I think we need to do this as a whole not just cities that are in a hurry to get started. I don't see where [inaudible, time 47:21-47:24] since 2003, I'm right there with him. I don't think 30 days is going to hurt anything.
- **Unidentified person [time 47:33]:** If I may, I understand what Cookie is saying I don't disagree with it. Can we get a firm commitment from all of the municipalities that in the next 30 days they will as their commission make a commitment to where they want to go so that in 30 days we can have this vote and move it forward.
- **Unidentified person [time 48:01]:** I can do it Friday.
- **Mayor Cookie Kennedy:** You know we need a lot more information and the different [inaudible, time 48:12-48:14] so that we can make sure we have the correct information to give to our commission.
- **Mayor Joe Manzo:** I'm pretty sure I know which way our council wants to go but do have to defer and I have to agree Mayor Kennedy. Some of us have to go back to our councils we are not empowered to decision unilaterally. I think option 2 is where we want to go but I'm not going to make that decision for us unilaterally. I think that exceeds my authority they've given me. So at this point I'm going to make a motion to table this

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until the next meeting with a commitment that there will be a vote next meeting.

- **Mayor Cookie Kennedy:** I'll second that.
- **Mayor Patrick Soranno:** I don't know if we can do that. We have a motion and a second that would have to be defeated I think before we can make a motion to table. I will vote to decline the motion myself based on all this conversation so that it gives the other towns an additional 30 days. Will the Redingtons be ok with that?
- **Mayor Bill Queen:** I'd give them 30 days
- **Mayor Nick Simons:** Just to clarify for all . Regardless if it is option 1 or option 2 we all have the ability to use Penny for Pinellas money to supplement the funding from the county whether it be under the option 1 where the county manages the project of which we already know there is going to be a \$7-12 million over the \$35 million and just using the Redingtons as an example under option 2 we feel like we can get that project done cheaper than the allocation for the Redingtons as opposed to the county managing the project. That may or may not be the case for other municipalities. I'm certainly comfortable with the 30 days as well but I just want to make sure every one knows you can use Penny for Pinellas money regardless of whether it is option 1 or option 2. Thank you.
- **Mayor Patrick Soranno:** I have a motion and a second to get to the table motion we need to vote no. Curt would you pole the council?
- **Mayor Joe Manzo:** Can the maker of the original motion withdraw their motion? Then we don't have to have this vote.
- **Mayor Patrick Soranno:** I could but I won't.
- **Mayor Joe Manzo:** Ok, so a yes vote is to kill the first motion correct?
- **Mayor Patrick Soranno:** No, it is a no vote that kills it.
- **Below is the role call and vote per municipality:**
  - Belleair Beach - Mayor Joseph Manzo: No
  - Clearwater – Council Member Hoyt Hamilton: No
  - Indian Rocks Beach - Mayor Cookie Kennedy: No
  - Indian Shores - Mayor Patrick Soranno: No
  - Madeira Beach – Mayor John Hendricks: Cannot vote yet, not sworn in
  - N. Redington Beach - Mayor Bill Queen: No
  - Redington Beach - Mayor Nick Simons: No
  - Redington Shores - Mayor Mary Beth Henderson: No
  - St. Pete Beach - Mayor Alan Johnson: Yes
  - Treasure Island - Mayor Larry Lund: No
  - Indian Shores- Mayor Robert M. Schmidt Jr.: Cannot vote yet, not sworn in

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- **Mayor Patrick Soranno:** Motion failed. New motion, motion to table and we had a second on that?
- **Mayor Cookie Kennedy:** Yes, Cookie Kennedy
- **Mayor Joe Manzo:** And that is a motion to table with the commitment that we will vote in 30 days? That give everyone time to go back to their council.
- **Mayor Patrick Soranno:** That is correct. I have a motion and a second. Any discussion? Curt would you pole the council on this?
- **Below is the role call and vote per municipality:**
  - Belleair Beach - Mayor Joseph Manzo: Yes
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  - Indian Rocks Beach - Mayor Cookie Kennedy: Yes
  - Indian Shores - Mayor Patrick Soranno: Yes
  - Madeira Beach – Mayor John Hendricks: Cannot vote yet, not sworn in
  - N. Redington Beach - Mayor Bill Queen: Yes
  - Redington Beach - Mayor Nick Simons: Yes
  - Redington Shores - Mayor Mary Beth Henderson: Yes
  - St. Pete Beach - Mayor Alan Johnson: Yes
  - Treasure Island - Mayor Larry Lund: Yes
  - Indian Shores- Mayor Robert M. Schmidt Jr.: Cannot vote yet, not sworn in
- **Mayor Patrick Soranno:** Motion passes. We have a call at 10am. There is one of two things we can do here. We can suspend this meeting or we can move to adjourn.
- **Mayor Bill Queen:** Move to adjourn.
- **Mayor Robert M. Schmidt Jr.:** I second.
- **Mayor Patrick Soranno:** I have a motion and a second. All in favor?
- Unanimous aye from remaining board members
- **Mayor Patrick Soranno:** See you in 30 days, thank you.

**Minutes Prepared by:**

Megan Powers  
Executive Assistant to the City Manager  
300 Municipal Dr.  
City of Madeira Beach, FL 33708

Date Approved: June 24, 2020

APPROVED:

  
Patrick C. Soranno, President

ATTEST:

  
Freddie Lozano, Town Clerk