# 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. PeteBeach Treasure Island

# City of St. Pete Beach BIG C Meeting Wednesday, August 27, 2025 St. Pete Beach Community Center, 33706

1. The BIG C meeting was called to order by President David Will at 9:00 A.M. on August 27, 2025, at the St. Pete Beach Community Center, 7701 Boca Ciega Drive, St. Pete Beach, FL, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### 2. Roll Call

#### **BIG C Representatives:**

Belleair Shore Mayor Steve Blume
Clearwater Mayor Bruce Rector
Indian Rocks Beach Mayor Denise Houseberg
Indian Shores Mayor Diantha Schear
North Redington Beach Mayor Jay Super

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Redington Beach President, Mayor David Will

Redington Shores Mayor Tom Kapper

Madeira Beach Treasurer, Mayor Ann-Marie Brooks

St. Pete Beach Vice-Mayor Karen Marriott

Treasure Island Mayor John Doctor

**Absent:** 

Belleair Beach Vice President, Mayor Dave Gattis

## **Guests (sign in sheet):**

Lee Ann Holroyd Indian Shores

Michael Slattery U.S. Geological Survey

Adriana Nieves Redington Beach
Megan Wepfer Madeira Beach
Frances Robustelli St. Pete Beach

R J Myers MCG

Ellen Bauer Indian Shores
Larry Maynard Redington Shores
Barry Taylor Redington Shores
René Flowers Pinellas County
Janet Wilson Indian Rocks Beach

Ashley Giovannetti **Pinellas County** Belleair Beach Kathy Thornsberry Nicholas Menchise **Indian Shores Christy Herig Indian Shores Indian Shores** Larry Schear Michael Howard **Indian Shores Margaret Carey Redington Shores Danny Doherty Indian Shores Indian Shores** Tina Porter St. Pete Beach Laura Canary **David Connor** Pinellas County Doug Harr **Redington Shores** Ashley Overend Pinellas County Clint Belk Madeira Beach Madeira Beach John Mortillite Ken Grimes Pinellas Suncoast St. Pete Beach Ginny Bodkin Renee Rose St. Pete Beach

# 3. Changes to the Agenda and Approval

MOTION made by Mayor Schear and seconded by Mayor Brooks to approve the agenda.

#### Motion carried unanimously.

#### 4. Approval of Minutes

MOTION made by Mayor Schear and duly seconded by Mayor Brooks to approve the July 30, 2025, BIG C Meeting minutes.

#### Motion carried unanimously.

**5. Approval of the July 2025 Treasurer's Report:** Mayor Ann-Marie Brooks reported an opening balance of \$908.91 with one expense of \$66.67 for the website and a closing balance of \$842.24.

MOTION made by Mayor Houseberg and duly seconded by Mayor Schear to approve the July 2025 Treasurer's Report.

#### Motion carried unanimously.

# 6. Correspondence

#### 7. Unfinished Business

Mayor Will reported the Forward Pinellas appointment of Mayor Anne-Marie Brooks; all members of the Big C voted in favor at their respective Commissions and Councils.

# Motion carried unanimously.

#### 8. New Business

David Connor, Public Information Manager for Pinellas County reported on larger conversations they have had with Public Works regarding post storm debris management. Peak hurricane season is mid-September and preparation is key, with consistency across all levels of government. Be proactive and share information with your community. Mr. Connor is available to assist with communications.

Cathie Perkins, Director of Emergency Management for Pinellas County explained that the community is still in recovery nearly a year later and issued the reminder that we are headed into peak of season; everyone should know their risk. Barrier islands are the first line of defense. There are tax-free disaster prep items listed on the County's website and a preparedness tip sheet on the state's website; please share that information with residents. Ms. Perkins stressed the importance of evacuation. Twelve people died in Hurricane Helene last year. When evacuations are called, people need to leave. Shelters will be available, including pet-friendly shelters, transportation, and special needs transportation. Evacuation is serious business.

Ms. Perkins reviewed some of the requirements that have been initiated with the passage of SB 180:

- Publishing a recovery guide online for each local government
- Providing information on websites
- Creating a post-storm permitting plan
- Debris management sites for each city through FDEP

Every jurisdiction must understand and have a plan in place. Pinellas County is sponsoring 184 outreach events. The community wants preparation information. <u>Disaster.pinellas.gov</u> is a one stop shop for information to be shared with the community and printed guides will be available. She reported that there is a special needs registry with 2,300 individuals currently on the list; please let people know. She reminded the attendees that preparation is useless without action at the time of the storm – don't look at the cone, look at the bigger picture.

## Ms. Perkins also reported on:

- Elevate Florida has been initiated
- SBA disaster loan available
- Forerunner software recommended for substantial damage estimates; FEMA allows the development of other tools
- Pinellas Emergency Operations Center (EOC) last year 4,200 resource requests
- Dashboards with community status
- Send a representative to the EOC for your community
- County working with Duke and TECO on determining outages
- Water gauges in lakes and rivers and real-time flood risks

- Shelters are always looking for support and training is available
- \$813Million Community Development Block Grant launching in October recover.pinellas.gov
- Evacuation importance 911 is not guaranteed
- Challenges re-entry; clearing sand and roads, securing basic services, no law enforcement
- County needs volunteers
- Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD) voad@pinellas.gov or 727-464-5500
- Please contact cperkins@pnellas.gov

#### 9. Discussion Items

# 10. Legislative Update

Pinellas County Commissioner Rene Flowers reported that the next legislative session begins early in January of 2026.

- Pinellas County is in the middle of budget season with 6 workshops
- A little over 40% is budgeted for sheriffs
- Fire districts most municipalities have their own fire depts. and work with unions
- Last three years have had decreased millage rates to give back to the residents; current is 4.666% and hoping for another reduction but need to have funds to get communities back in order while waiting for outside services
- Fiscal conservative policy has allowed reserves for service before FEMA hit the ground
- Encouraged attendance at the next two budget hearings; she has received emails for special requests and projects. Attendees can call in or watch live video
- Co-signed letter from Commissioner Peters to POTUS regarding USACE's chaotic structure and beach renourishment policies has made some inroads but further interpretation will be necessary
- National Assoc. of Counties resolution on legal action for damage caused by severe weather
- Ms. Flowers is president-elect of Florida Assoc. of Counties; please reach out to learn what she does and how she can add a voice for communities
- Pinellas County will be breaking ground for their new facility on Ulmerton Road
- St. Pete Mayor Welch would consider opening negotiations with new Rays owners if asked
- The County is in negotiations with the Clearwater Phillies (tourist development)

#### 11. City Events -

**Redington Beach:** A 9/11 Memorial will take place on 9/11 at 10:00 AM at the Fire Department.

**Madeira Beach:** Trash Pirates Waterways clean up will be on 9/6/25; Burger Week is 8/23 – 8/30/25; There will be a 9/11 Memorial at the Fire Dept.

**Clearwater:** The Clearwater Marine Aquarium continues patrols and rescue operations to protect turtle nests. Please communicate amber lighting to residents.

**Treasure Island:** Barktober Fest in will take place in October and Sanding Ovations in November

**St. Pete Beach:** A new roof is being installed on the Recreation Center; City Hall's is complete.

**Indian Shores:** A blood donation event will take place today from 11:00AM – 2:30PM at the Municipal Center; the beach renourishment project begins today.

David Connor from Pinellas County interjected that pipeline will be placed on Indian Shores today at 193<sup>rd</sup> Ave.

The anticipated timeline is available at Pinellas.gov/pcbeaches or text 888777.

**Clearwater:** Mayor Rector reported on upcoming concerts in September, and the Clearwater Offshore Nationals Boat Races will be September 26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>.

**Redington Shores:** The Town of Redington Shores 70th Anniversary kickoff celebration will take place on Thursday, august  $28^{th}$  from 5-7 PM at Town Hall.

# 12. Adjournment 10:16 AM

# **NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday, September 24, 2025 9:00 A.M. Hosted by City of Clearwater

Location: Clearwater beach Library & Rec. Complex | 69 Bay Esplanade | Clearwater Beach, FL 33767

Minutes Prepared by: Ginny Bodkin  Deputy City Clerk, St. Pe	ete Beach, FL
Date Approved:9-24-25	
ATTEST:	APPROVED:
Adriana Nieves	Duill
Adriana Nieves, CMC, Town Clerk	David Will
Town of Redington Beach	Mayor of the Town of Redington Beach, FL