

BIG-C
BARRIER ISLANDS GOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
July 30, 2008

Present:	Belleair Beach Belleair Shore Clearwater Indian Rocks Beach Indian Shores Madeira Beach North Redington Beach Redington Beach Redington Shores Treasure Island	Councilmember Kathy Mortensen Mayor John A. Robertson Vice Mayor George N. Cretekos Vice Mayor Terry Hamilton Wollin Mayor Jim Lawrence Mayor Pat Shontz Commissioner Bill Queen Mayor Nick Simons Mayor Jody Armstrong Commissioner Phil Collins
Guest Speakers:	Board of County Commissioners Chair Progress Energy Progress Energy	Commissioner Bob Stewart Melissa Seixas Mark Wimberly
Guests Present:	Barrier Islands Gazette Clearwater Clearwater Clearwater Gas System Florida State Representative, Dist. 54 Florida State Senator Dennis Jones Office Indian Rocks Beach Indian Shores Indian Shores Indian Shores Madeira Beach Madeira Beach State House Candidate Pinellas County Planning Pinellas Planning Council Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority Progress Energy Sand Key Civic Association Clearwater Board Reporter	Dev Fuller Councilmember John Doran Councilmember Paul Gibson Kristi Cheathan Jim Frishe Doris Burns Mayor R.B. Johnson Vice Mayor Joan Herndon Councilor Carole Irelan Councilor Steve Sutch Commissioner Terry Lister George A. Gonzalez Sandra Knoebel Linda Fisher Bob Lasher Jim Guzman Nick Fritsch Patricia O. Sullivan

Big-C President Lawrence called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m. at the Clearwater Community Sailing Center, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

3 – Approval of Agenda

Mayor Robertson moved to approve the agenda of the July 30, 2008, Big-C (Barrier Islands Governmental Council) meeting. The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

4 – Minutes Approval – June 25, 2008

Mayor Robertson moved to approve the minutes of the June 25, 2008, Big-C meeting as submitted in written summation to each member. The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

5 – Approval of Treasurer's Report – June 2008

Big-C Secretary/Treasurer George N. Cretekos presented the Treasurer's Report for June 2008. After a \$175 disbursement to Digital Eel for the server, the balance is \$1,455.84.

Mayor Robertson moved to approve the Big-C Treasurer's Report of June 2008, as submitted. The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

6 – New Business

A. Board of County Commissioners Chair Bob Stewart

Board of County Commission Chair Bob Stewart said the County had allocated \$35 million of Penny for Pinellas 3 funds toward Gulf Boulevard beautification. Apportionment will be based on the percentage of Gulf Boulevard linear feet in each community. Each community will determine how to spend the funds and will be responsible for maintenance. County Commission approval of reimbursements will be sought for communities that previously began beautification work.

Commissioner Stewart said a significant decrease to next year's County budget will eliminate many positions and have major impacts. Millage and MSTU (Municipal Services Taxing Units) rates will not be increased. Two public hearings are scheduled for September.

Commissioner Stewart said a final decision on the national search to hire a County Administrator is anticipated in September.

Commissioner Stewart reviewed the use of CVB bed tax for beach renourishment. He said the region needs to increase awareness of the importance of beach renourishment as State and Federal funds, an important part of the process, could be reduced.

Commissioner Stewart reviewed the Tampa Bay Rays' plan to use the bed tax for a waterfront stadium. He said the tourist community and TDC (Tourist Development Council) had questioned if this was the best use of tourism money. Research on the value of baseball to the local economy was not submitted. The team withdrew its proposal. He said the team still needs a new stadium. A coalition is working to determine funding and locations in the Tampa Bay region that offer a base of community support.

A guest questioned County priorities when it considered spending \$175 million on baseball and only approved \$35 million for Gulf Boulevard beautification. A guest proposed that regional participation be pursued as the entire region benefits from the Tampa Bay Rays and should be responsible for related costs.

Commissioner Stewart said once municipalities pool their funds for the Project Hope homeless project, the County will determine its level of contribution.

B. Progress Energy: Melissa Seixas and Mark Wimberly

Melissa Seixas and Mark Wimberly of Progress Energy addressed the committee. Mr. Wimberly said as burying utilities requires significant coordination among utility companies and communities, he encouraged a Task Force of BIG-C members work with Progress Energy to help manage Gulf Boulevard beautification projects.

In response to a question, Mr. Wimberly said the PSC (Public Services Commission) needs to consider the economic feasibility of alternative energy technologies. He said the southeast has insufficient wind to produce wind energy and as a base load technology, solar energy would be viable in the southwest. He said nuclear energy is the best way to reduce the carbon footprint here.

In response to a concern, Mr. Wimberly said the majority of electric bills cover passed through fuel costs. While upfront costs are higher, he said nuclear energy is the cheapest fuel except for sun and wind. He said Florida law allows Progress Energy to collect infrastructure costs from customers while related construction is underway. He said customers will not be double charged for this expense.

Discussion ensued regarding the proposed Task Force. Mr. Wimberly said community collaboration would allow Progress Energy to coordinate necessary studies, determine time lines, and provide cost estimates. It was stated that communities need to know how much Penny for Pinellas funding they will receive before they can determine if undergrounding utilities will be affordable.

7 – Miscellaneous:

A. Legislative Update

In response to a question, State Representative, Jim Frishe reported the application for Port Dolphin was withdrawn. The legislature is not in session. He thanked committee members for their input.

Items not on the Agenda

BIG-C President Lawrence said last month, BIG-C representatives indicated they were mostly against offshore drilling until there is more technical safety. Kristi Cheatham, of Clearwater Gas System, spoke in favor of natural gas drilling, which she said differs greatly from oil drilling and would not pollute.

A guest reported the Pinellas County TBARTA (Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority) workshop is scheduled for August 7, 2008, at the Largo Cultural Center.

Bob Lasher, of PSTA (Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority), announced a \$0.25 fare increase. No service cuts are planned for beach communities

Concern was expressed that United States Army Corps of Engineers plans changes to dock permits and wake zones. Consensus was to agenda the item for discussion in August.

The next Big-C meeting will be hosted by Belleair Beach at the Town of Indian Shores on August 27, 2008.

It was recommended that November and December Big-C meetings be combined and scheduled for early December. Mayor Lawrence suggested Wednesday, December 10, 2008, and asked members to check their schedules for conflicts. The issue will be on the August agenda.

8 – Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:37 a.m.

President, Barrier Islands
Governmental Council
Mayor – Town of Indian Shores

BIG-C
Barrier Islands Governmental Council

Belleair Beach
Belleair Shore
Clearwater
Indian Rocks Beach
Indian Shores
Redington Shores



North Redington Beach
Redington Beach
Madeira Beach
St. Pete Beach
Treasure Island

TREASURER'S REPORT

FOR

JUNE, 2008

REGISTER BALANCE AS OF JUNE 1, 2008.....	\$1,630.84
TOTAL DEPOSITS/CREDITS.....	-0-
BALANCE.....	1,630.84
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS*/DEBITS.....	175.00
BALANCE AS OF JUNE 30, 2008.....	\$1455.84

Respectfully submitted,

George N. Cretekos
Clearwater Councilmember
BIG-C Secretary/Treasurer

*Disbursements—Check #1013 made payable to Digital Eel (\$175.00)