

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. Pete Beach
Treasure Island

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, May 29, 2019
City of Treasure Island
120 108th Avenue, FL 33706
9:00AM

1. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Sorrano called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM and led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call

Members Present: Alan Johnson, Bill Queen, Cookie Kennedy, Joseph Manzo, George N. Cretekos, Larry Lunn, Maggi Black, Nick Simons, Patrick Sorrano and Robert Schmidt

Members Absent: and Mary Beth Henderson

Others Present: Bill Smith, Diantha Schear, Mike Burton, Brian Goff, June VanScoyoc, Mike Twitty, Representative Jennifer Webb, Steven Cary, Senator Charlie Crist, Doug Izzo, Bob Lasher, Jeff Baker, Kelly Cisarik, Jason McDarby, David Ardman, Bruce McLaughlin, Rick Walker, Christian Smith, Chris Kelly, Tim Johnson, Gina Johnson, Brent Hall, Darryl Henderson, Marv Behm, Kristi Pettit, Barbara Colucci, Ashley Johnson, Melissa Meshil and Susan MacLeod

3. Approval of Agenda

A majority vote in the affirmative approved the Meeting Agenda as presented.

4. Approval of Minutes

A majority vote in the affirmative approved the Meeting Minutes for the April 24, 2019 BIG C Meeting at the City of Madeira Beach

5. Approval of April 2019 Treasurer's Report

A majority vote in the affirmative approved the April 2019 Treasurer's Report.

6. Correspondence

None

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7. New Business

Mike Twitty provided a sneak peek at the most recent taxable growth value. Official estimates will be sent out to the taxing districts on Friday. Bellair Beach – 4.25%, Bellair Shores – 7.00%, Clearwater 6.00%, Indian Rocks Beach 6.50%, Indian Shores 6.50%, Madeira Beach – 5.25%, North Redington – 5.75%, Redington Beach 5.50%, Redington Shores – 2.0%, St. Pete Beach - 6.00% and Treasure Island - 7.50%. Those in the higher end had more new construction. The lower end has a higher number of homestead properties. There is a 1.9% cap on all homestead properties. Pinellas County taxable value growth is 7.5%.

Mr. Twitty spoke regarding his recent trip to Washington and gave an update on flood insurance. He spoke regarding the most recent changes to the flood maps and the new risk rating methodology. This will be focused more like the private sector. Every home on the same street could have a different flood premium because the premiums will be property specific. It appears it could be more equitable and could save some home owners money. Mr. Twitty responded to questions from the Mayors, explaining that the maps will still be a determining factor. Another zone is being created, “Coastal A,” that will mostly affect properties on the east side of the barrier islands. Discussion took place regarding the changes to base flood elevations across Tampa Bay.

Brent Hall from Pinellas County affirmed that the feasibility study is moving along as expected and should be complete by the middle of July.

- **Congressman Charlie Crist to provide an overview on:**
 1. **Beach renourishment, long-term beach renourishment solutions, future re-easements, and Army Corps of Engineers requirements.**
 2. **Appropriations availability.**

Congressman Crist thanked the members of the Big-C for the opportunity to be here today and expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to serve and know the residents and voters in our communities. He told how he believes it very important for him to be focused on the kinds of things that really matter to Pinellas County. Congressman Crist serves on three sub-committees in the appropriations committee; defense, commerce, justice and science, and financial services/general government. This is home. Congressman Crist moved to St. Petersburg when he was three years old; and considers it a privilege to represent and fight for coastal residents.

He affirmed that 10 million dollars have been secured to research the algae bloom. Congressman Crist commended Pinellas County for their stellar work during this past Red Tide. He spoke highly of the work being performed at the Marine Center at USF, stating that they have the best data in the State. It is this data that will make combating the algae blooms possible. The critical piece is making sure the necessary funding is available.

As a new member of the Beach Renourishment Committee, Congressman Crist is fighting for more money for the Army Corp of Engineers to continue with beach renourishment projects, finding long term solutions and structures to help prevent the erosion of sand. 50 million dollars have been secured for beach renourishment in 2020.

Mr. Crist told how he is working with house leadership for a short term extension of the flood program. He stated his support for the National Weather Service and the National Hurricane Center. Supporting these agencies if one of the best ways to be prepared.

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He then spoke regarding the effort to permanently ban off shore drilling of the Florida coast; citing environmental and safety concerns as a very important part of the bill. The Congressman affirmed that the effort to ban off shore well drilling is incredibly bi-partisan. The entire Florida delegation supports the ban. The Florida economy and environment are directly linked together. We depend on tourism and people love coming here because it is beautiful, but if it is not beautiful and we do not maintain it people will not want to come here. We want to protect our coast forever. Responding to a question from the group, Mr. Crist affirmed that the specific distance for drilling will be about 300 miles from the coast.

Congressman Crist assured that regardless of what is seen on the news, most members of Congress get along just fine. They all work hard looking out for you and for America. What you see on cable tv is not necessarily a true reflection of what is going on in Washington.

With 1,000 new resident coming to Florida every day, Congressman Crist affirmed that he is major focused on getting infrastructure done.

8. Old Business

- ***Update from Penny for Pinellas IV Joint Review Committee Representative Jonathan Evans**

Mr. Evans was absent. This update did not take place.

9. Miscellaneous

None

10. Legislative Update

- **State Representative Jennifer Webb to provide a Legislative Update.**

Representative Webb announced how happy she is to be home. She told of the bills she sponsored this session and spoke of three policy projects she participated in that will become law on July 1st.

The Career and Technical Education Bill - Some of Representative Webb's policy solutions were added to this bill that she co-sponsored.

The Office of Drug and Alcohol Prevention Bill – This bill is part of the governor's effort to alleviate the opioid drug abuse crisis.

Home Warranty Consumer Protections Bill – This bill makes it so if you have a home warranty all parts of the AC will be covered. It also provides a substantial warning that details what the home warranty covers.

Infrastructure Water Projects – 1.5 million

Special Education - \$600,000

Heritage Tourism - \$250,000

Only 32 water projects in the state were funded. If you got any kind of water project funded consider yourself fortunate.

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Clean Recycling Bill, with a preemption of banning straws. – The Governor vetoed this bill because of the straws.

Pinellas County has not opted to give teachers the option of arming themselves.

You can apply for a voucher if you want your children to go to private school and you are a family of three and earn about \$75,000.

State agencies will cooperate with ISIS.

Fines, fees and restitution will need to be paid in full and you will need to complete your sentence in order to obtain your right to vote.

The Sprinkler – Fire/Safety Bill only applies to buildings that are over 75 feet tall which is about 7 stories tall.

House Bill 3 had no impact on Pinellas County. This is a great example of how a bill can change.

The CRA Bill is in its final version. I worked really closely with the bill sponsor. This bill does not undermine community based programming it simply added an accountability measure with regard to social programming and job training.

Visit Florida was funded. This was Representative's Webb big budget ask.

There is a business rental tax reduction of .2%. This will be offset with online sales tax. One will supplement the other.

Short Term Vacation Rentals – We do a fantastic job balancing commerce and community, making sure that our businesses are meeting tourism needs and resident rights. There was a bill presented to the Commerce Committee. We were able to put up enough of a fight that it was not taken up in the Senate. We have worked really hard to promote zoning and to protect residents. Ms. Webb thanked Mayor Kennedy for her effort in supporting this bill.

Representative Webb touched upon the two awards she received. One from the Florida League of Cities and one from the Suncoast League of Cities.

Undergrounding – This bill provides a ten year plan to have all utilities undergrounded. The expenses will be shared among rate payers.

Ms. Webb thanked the Mayors and told how it is fun to work with them to maintain our quality of life here on the Barrier Islands.

11. City Events

Mayor Kennedy thanked Jennifer Webb for being a superstar.

Mayor Lunn invited everyone to come to 4th of July Fireworks in Treasure Island.

Mayor Cretokos spoke about the recent Human Trafficking Conference that recently took place in Clearwater. He then invited anyone who is interested in purchasing a plaque in honor of deceased veterans

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or anyone currently serving to reach out to the Tampa Bay Veteran's Alliance. The plaques are being offered at a Memorial Day discount for \$150.00. They are displayed at the Florida Veteran's Memorial Plaza in Clearwater.

Mayor Black affirmed that Madeira Beach is searching for a City Manager. 25 applications and resumes have been received.

Mayor Queen gave a big shout out to Jennifer Webb for doing such good work. Fantastic job.

Mayor Manzo announced that for the first time in a century Bellair Beach will be putting their City Attorney position out to bid. Bellair Beach is working on putting together a City wide picnic for the 4th of July. Mayor Manzo thanked Mayor Sorrano for being his guest at the Memorial Day Picnic in Indian Shores. It was a fantastic event.

Mayor Johnson affirmed that St. Pete Beach will be putting their fireworks display on a barge. The resorts pooled \$15,000 to pay for the barge. A lot more people will be able to watch and enjoy our fireworks. St. Pete Beach is in the process of pumping sand on Upham Beach.


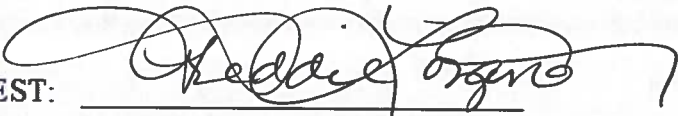
Mayor Sorrano shared that it is good to be back from Australia. He thanked today's speakers and noted that the folks in Indian Shores had a great Memorial Day.

It is turtle nesting season. Lights Out!

12. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:14 AM.

Ruth Nickerson
City Clerk
Treasure Island, FL

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| Minutes Prepared by: Ruth Nickerson, City Clerk Treasure Island, FL | |
| <u>JUNE 26, 2019</u> Date Approved | APPROVED:  Patrick C. Soranno, President |
| ATTEST:  Freddie Lozano, Town Clerk | |