

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

BIG-C MEETING MINUTES WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29, 2022

1. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

The **WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29, 2022** Barrier Islands Governmental Council (BIG-C) Meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m., by President Alan Johnson, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. ROLL CALL.

PRESENT:

City of Belleair Beach
Town of Belleair Shore
City of Clearwater
City of Indian Rocks Beach
Town of Indian Shores
Town of North Redington Beach
Town of Redington Beach
Town of Redington Shores
City of Madeira Beach
City of St. Pete Beach
City of Treasure Island

Mayor David Gattis
Absent
Councilmember Mark Bunker
Mayor Joanne Moston Kennedy
Vice-Mayor Diantha Schear
Mayor Bill Queen
Commissioner Rich Cariello
Mayor MaryBeth Henderson
Mayor John B. Hendricks
Mayor Alan Johnson
Mayor Tyler Payne

GUEST SPEAKERS:

Mike Twitty, MAI, CFA, Pinellas County Property Appraiser

ALSO PRESENT:

City of Indian Rocks Beach
City of Indian Rocks Beach
City of Indian Rocks Beach
City of Indian Rocks Beach
City of Indian Shores
City of Indian Shores
City of Indian Shores

Vice Mayor Denise Houseberg
Deanne Bulino O'Reilly, City Clerk
Kelly Cisarik, IRB citizen
Jose Coppen, IRB citizen
Mike Hackerson, Councilor
Diana L. Fuller, IS citizen
Hugh Smith, IS citizen

City of Madeira Beach	Ray Kerr, Madeira Beach citizen
Town of Redington Shores	Cinda Krouck, Commissioner
Town of Redington Shores	Jeannie Blackburn, Commissioner
Forward Pinellas	Whit Blanton, Executive Director
Foward Pinellas	Sandra Knoebel, Planner
Pinellas Co. Coastal Management	Zach Westfall
Pinellas Co. Emergency Management	Clayton Parrott, EM Coordinator
Pinellas Co. Emergency Management	Rick Walker
Pinellas Suncoast Fire & Rescue District	John Mortellite, Deputy Chief
Pinellas Suncoast Fire & Rescue District	Larry Schear, Fire Commissioner
RGA Network	Mack O'Donnell, President
RGA Network	Matt Coors, CMO
Seaside Seabird Sanctuary	Misty Huckabey, Scientist
Seaside Seabird Sanctuary	Alex von Gontard
Tampa Bay Beaches Chamber of Commerce	Jessica Morrow, Marketing
Tampa Bay Newspapers	Jeff Rosenfield, Reporter
Tampa Bay Times	Chris Kuo, Reporter
Waterfront Realty	Tim Johnson
Waterfront Realty	Gina Johnson
Candidate for Judge	Ken Afienko, Attorney
Resident	Missy Hahn
Resident	C.R. Hollamd (sp)

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA.

MOTION MADE BY MAYOR QUEEN, SECONDED BY MAYOR KENNEDY, TO APPROVE THE AMENDED JUNE 29, 2022 BIG-C AGENDA. UNANIMOUS APPROVAL BY ACCLAMATION.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES — MAY 25, 2022.

MOTION MADE BY MAYOR GATTIS, SECONDED BY MAYOR HENDERSON, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BIG-C MEETING OF MAY 25, 2022, AS SUBMITTED IN WRITTEN SUMMATION. UNANIMOUS APPROVAL BY ACCLAMATION.

5. APPROVAL OF THE MAY 2022 TREASURER'S REPORT.

Mayor Kennedy stated the current balance was nearing \$600, suggested keeping a balance of \$1,000, and suggested an annual membership assessment fee of \$100.

Mayor Queen recommended a one-time assessment fee of \$100.

Mayor Johnson stated this is the only organization he knows of that does not have annual dues.

Mayor Queen stated it is not the goal of the BIG-C to have a high bank balance like the Pinellas County Mayors' Council. The goal is to cover the BIG-C operating fees and assess a fee when needed.

Mayor Johnson stated it was his thought to have an annual assessment of \$100 and a bank balance of \$1,000, and when the bank balance reached a steady \$1,500, to no longer assess the yearly membership fee.

MOTION MADE BY MAYOR QUEEN, SECONDED BY MAYOR HENDRICKS, TO APPROVE A ONE-TIME ASSESSMENT FEE OF \$100.00. UNANIMOUS APPROVAL BY ACCLAMATION.

MOTION MADE BY MAYOR GATTIS, SECONDED BY MAYOR HENDRICKS, TO APPROVE THE MAY 2022 TREASURER'S REPORT AS SUBMITTED. UNANIMOUS APPROVAL BY ACCLAMATION.

6. CORRESPONDENCE.

- **Digital Eel Invoice #30824 in the amount of \$7.92 for updates to the BIG-C website.**

Mayor Johnson reviewed the invoice that was received this month from Digital Eel for updates to the BIG-C website for \$7.92.

Mayor Kennedy stated this invoice has been paid and will be reflected on the June bank statement.

7. NEW BUSINESS

- **Guest Speaker, Mike Twitty, MAI, CFA, Pinellas County Property Appraiser.**

Mayor Johnson introduced Pinellas County Property Appraiser Mike Twitty.

Mr. Twitty presented a PowerPoint Presentation showing the value trends, new legislation, and their new website.

Mr. Twitty reviewed the following new legislation:

- *CS/HB 7071 "Tax Package" — Signed into law by the Governor on May 6, 2022*
- **HB 13 – Widow/widowers, blind persons or persons 100% totally and permanently disabled, exemption increase from \$500 to \$5,000 of Assessed Value. (effective for 2023 tax year)**
- **HB 71/SB 568 - Abatement of taxes for residential dwellings rendered uninhabitable by catastrophic event, a refund based on the days the dwelling was uninhabitable.**

*Elevation of Residential Properties
Amendment 1 — November 2022*

*Limitation on Assessment of Real Property Used for Residential Purposes
(HJR 1377 / HB 1379)*

Senate Companion Bills (SJR 1182 / SB 1186)

- **Proposes amendment to State Constitution to authorize Legislature to prohibit consideration of changes or improvements made to real property used for residential purposes to improve property's resistance to flood damage in determining assessed value of such property for ad valorem taxation purposes.**

Effective Jan 1, 2023, if approved by at least 60% of Florida voters.

*Elevation of Residential Properties
Implementing Bill*

Incentivizes investment of private capital to proactively elevate residential properties above base flood elevation by leveraging the calamity provision within Florida Statutes.

- May elevate existing structure or rebuild up to 110% of total square footage (excluding grade level parking/storage/access areas) without a change in Assessed Value.
- Must lie within a SFHA (A or V Zone) with lowest living floor below Base Flood Elevation (BFE).
- Structure cannot be condemned.
- May not undergo a change of use.
- Applies to both Homestead and Non-homestead. Residential Properties (Up to 9 units).
- Assessed Value resets to Just/Market Value upon sale/transfer.

*Hometown Hero Tax Benefit — Amendment 3 — November 2022
Additional Homestead Property Tax Exemption for Specified
Critical Public Service Workforce (HJR 1 / HB1563)
Senate companion bills (SJR 1746 / SB 1748)*

Additional Homestead Property Tax Exemption for Specified Critical Public Service Workforce; Proposes amendment to State Constitution to authorize Legislature, for all levies other than school district levies, to grant additional homestead property tax exemption on \$50,000 of assessed value of homestead property owned by classroom teachers, law enforcement officers, correctional officers, firefighters, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, child welfare services professionals, active duty members of United States Armed Forces, & Florida National Guard members.

Effective Jan 1, 2023, if approved by at least 60% of Florida voters.

Mr. Twitty reviewed the Property Fraud Alert Service offered by the Pinellas County Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller's Office.

Property Fraud Alert Service

- Free Monitoring Service provided by the Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller's office
- Helps to detect fraudulent documents (e.g., deed) recorded in Official Records with your name (or your business' name) on it.
- The name you choose to subscribe for alerts is the only criteria that the site monitors
- Alert service will contact your preferred method (email or phone) with the OR document number and document type, you can then search Official Records online to review the document.
- Sign up at www.mypinellasclerk.org or call 1-800-728-3858

8. **OLD BUSINESS.** None.

9. **DISCUSSION ITEMS.**

- **Forward Pinellas Board — Beach Communities Rep Nominations.**

Whit Blanton, Executive Director, Forward Pinellas, explained the ten barrier island communities (BIG-C), excluding Clearwater, share a representative on the Forward Pinellas Board. The appointment is for two years with four consecutive reappointments. He explained the appointment process developed by the BIG-C.

Mr. Blanton stated Mayor Kennedy held this position for eight years and is no longer eligible for reappointment due to term limits. She also served on the MPO for two additional years prior to the establishment of Forward Pinellas.

Mr. Blanton briefly reviewed the duties and responsibilities of Forward Pinellas. He stated Forward Pinellas set transportation priorities for Pinellas County last month, including all 25 local governments. Those priorities were transmitted to the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), and FDOT placed those priorities into FDOT's 5-Year Transportation Work Program. That is the Metropolitan Planning Organization side of things. He stated Forward Pinellas' most important activity is to adopt that annual list of transportation priorities. This year, Forward Pinellas is beginning its next long-range transportation plan that looks out 25 years in the future. Forward Pinellas will identify what Pinellas County needs to do for the community to support, sustain its economy, serve its residents, and make sure that the County has well-planned transportation projects that are well-thought-out in line with where the County expects growth and redevelopment to happen in the community.

Mr. Blanton stated the Forward Pinellas Board is also the Countywide Land Use Planning Agency. It is responsible for reviewing and recommending approval or denial of any future land-use changes anywhere in Pinellas County, including unincorporated Pinellas County and within cities.

Mr. Blanton stated that Forward Pinellas focuses on transportation safety, which has been a big issue here in the beach communities, specifically on Gulf Boulevard. Forward Pinellas has adopted a Safe Street Pinellas Action Plan, a very high-level plan with a goal of zero deaths on the roadways by 2045. Forward Pinellas has a more realistic target of a 20% reduction in fatalities and injuries over two years.

Mr. Blanton stated many cities, including several beach cities, have adopted the Forward Pinellas Safe Street Program Resolution. He would love to see the BIG-C entertain the Forward Pinellas Safe Street Program Resolution. That way, Forward Pinellas would have all beach communities, and then Forward Pinellas could apply for grants from the Federal government.

Mayor Queen asked if anyone was interested in serving on this board.

Mayor Queen stated Mayor Will has volunteered to serve on the Forward Pinellas Board if no one else was interested.

Mayor Kennedy stated Mayor Johnson is interested in serving on the Forward Pinellas Board.

10. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:

Mayor Queen reminded BIG-C Members that by July 31, 2022, an annual status report that reflects the progress on each element of the work plan is due to the County Administrator as outlined in the Gulf Boulevard Undergrounding Interlocal Agreement.

Mayor Kennedy introduced Denise Houseberg, Vice Mayor of the City of Indian Rocks Beach. She stated that Vice Mayor Houseberg developed and designed a Welcome to Indian Rocks Beach magnet that was mailed to all short-term vacation rental properties and is available to all residents. The magnet advises owners, tenants, visitors, and residents about trash, sound, beach/turtle, smoking, crosswalks, golf carts, speed limit, pets/dogs on the beach, parking, and fireworks. (A magnet was provided to each guest.)

Mayor Kennedy stated she would like to see how in place Indian Rocks Beach's regulations are with the other beach communities regarding short-term vacation rentals. She would like to see the beach communities more in alignment with registration fees and legal regulations.

Mayor Kennedy stated Governor DeSantis signed HB 205, no smoking on the beach. *[A measure that will allow cities and counties to restrict smoking at their beaches and parks. The bill builds on a 2002 constitutional amendment prohibiting smoking in restaurants and other indoor workplaces. Under it, however, local governments will not be able to prevent smoking unfiltered cigars.]*

Mayor Kennedy asked if the other communities would enact an ordinance prohibiting smoking in their parks and on the beach. She would like to see the beach communities have uniform requirements concerning no smoking on the beach. The idea is for the beach communities to be in line with each other.

Mayor Johnson stated that St. Pete Beach Beach Stewardship Committee is working on an ordinance. From what he understands, they would recommend eliminating smoking because it is the biggest litter source.

Vice Mayor Schear asked about public beach vs. private beach.

Mayor Johnson stated the City has police powers over the entire beach, and it is an alcohol-free beach. The beach is 70% private, but the City has police control over the whole beach.

Mayor Queen stated the beach communities need to be consistent.

11. PUBLIC COMMENTS.

John Mortellite, Deputy Chief, Pinellas Suncoast Fire Rescue District, stated the Fire District, in partnership with the City of Indian Rocks Beach, will be hosting Paddling for Autism on July 16, 2022, at 9:00 a.m., 18th Avenue Beach Access. The event will incorporate therapeutic paddleboard lessons in a social setting for autistic children.

Mack O'Donnell, President & Founder, RGA Network, stated RGA Network would be doing a beach cleanup in August with "Your Friend Trash Collin on Tik Tok." It would be announced at their Summer Business Expo on July 27, 2022, at Ruth Eckerd Hall.

Misty Huckabey, Seaside Seabird Sanctuary, stated there will be a beach release today at 1:00 p.m. behind the Seabird Sanctuary on the beach in Indian Shores. They will be releasing pelicans, shore birds, that they have rescued and rehabilitated.

Diane Fuller, Indian Shores, stated if no smoking ordinances are adopted, 19% of the population would be deprived of coming and enjoying the beach. She said she has more problems with Styrofoam cups than cigarette butts. She stated smokers would walk over and put their butt in if a receptacle was within walking distance.

Kelley Cisarik, Indian Rocks Beach, stated Governor DeSantis vetoed SB 620. *[This bill would have allowed a business that has been engaged in a lawful business in a municipality for at least three years to claim business damages from the municipality if it enacts or amends an ordinance or charter provision that will cause a reduction of at least 15% of the business' profit as applied on a per location basis of a business operating within the jurisdiction.]*

12. CITY EVENTS.

BIG-C members reviewed their City's upcoming events.

Mayor Hendricks stated the City of Madeira Beach will be holding an Ethics Training Session on Wednesday, July 13, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. All elected officials are invited.

13. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Minutes Prepared by: Deanne B. O'Reilly, City Clerk
City of Indian Rocks Beach, FL

Date Approved: July 27, 2022

ATTEST



Amber LaRowe, MMC, City Clerk
City of St. Pete Beach

APPROVED:



Alan Johnson
Barrier Islands Governmental Council President
Mayor of the City of St. Pete Beach, FL