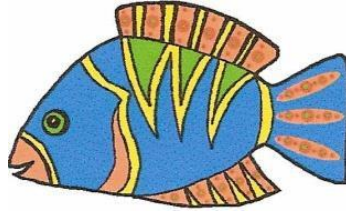


# BIG-C

## 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*

### Indian Shores BIG-C Meeting Minutes Wednesday, December 3, 2025, 9:00 a.m.

Indian Shores Municipal Center, 19305 Gulf Blvd., Indian Shores, FL 33785

#### 1. Pledge of Allegiance

The BIG C Meeting was called to order by BIG-C President Mayor David Will at 9:00 A.M., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### 2. Roll Call

##### BIG C Representatives:

Mayor David Will, BIG-C President	Town of Redington Beach
Mayor Dave Gattis, BIG-C Vice President	City of Belleair Beach
Mayor Bruce Rector	City of Clearwater
Mayor Denise Houseberg	City of Indian Rocks Beach
Mayor Diantha Schear	Town of Indian Shores
Mayor Anne-Marie Brooks	City of Madeira Beach
Mayor Jay Super	Town of North Redington Beach
Mayor Tom Kapper	Town of Redington Shores
Vice Mayor Karen Marriott	City of St. Pete Beach

##### Absent:

Mayor Steve Blume	Town of Belleair Shore
Mayor John Doctor	City of Treasure Island

##### Also Present (from meeting sign-in sheets):

Kyle Riefler, City Manager	City of Belleair Beach
Suzy Sofer, Commissioner	City of Belleair Bluffs
Stan Sofer, Visitor	City of Belleair Bluffs
Debra Sullivan, City Administrator	City of Belleair Bluffs
Chris Arbutine, Mayor	City of Belleair Bluffs
Hilary King, Commissioner	City of Indian Rocks Beach
Megan Wepfer, Public Works Director	City of Madeira Beach
Clint Belk, Acting City Manager and Fire Chief	City of Madeira Beach
Bobbie Shaylee, Asst. City Manager	City of Treasure Island



## 7. New Business

Belleair Bluffs representatives Mayor Chris Arbutine, Commissioner Suzy Sofer, and City Administrator Debra Sullivan discussed with members of the BIG-C concerns regarding proposals to eliminate ad valorem property taxes, highlighting the absence of a clear and sustainable replacement funding plan and the potential consequences for municipal operations. Speakers warned that shifting reliance to state-controlled funding could result in significant preemption, reduced local autonomy, and long-term financial instability, particularly for smaller municipalities with limited commercial tax bases. It was emphasized that property taxes directly fund essential services such as police, fire, emergency response, infrastructure maintenance, and neighborhood standards, and cautioned that eliminating this revenue source could undermine quality-of-life services and local governance. The discussion concluded with agreement on the need for coordinated advocacy and public education efforts to ensure residents understand the real impacts of property tax elimination before any ballot initiative or legislative action moves forward.

## 8. Old Business

**Vice Mayor Karen Marriott, City of St. Pete Beach**, reported that their City approved the first reading of an ordinance aimed at increasing local oversight of wireless communication facility installations, following resident concerns regarding the number and placement of 5G towers near homes, parks, and schools. The ordinance was developed with input from residents and reviewed by the City Attorney to provide greater awareness and limited control over tower locations. She noted the ordinance may face legal challenges from telecommunications providers and stated the City anticipates considering adoption on second reading at the next meeting.

## 9. Discussion Items. None.

## 10. Legislative Update

**Charlie Justice, Tampa Bay Beaches Chamber of Commerce**, provided an update on regional issues, noting concerns with proposals to replace property taxes with tourist development taxes due to potential impacts on beach nourishment and marketing efforts. He also reported that the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management has opened the eastern Gulf for oil drilling exploration, which the Tampa Bay Beaches Chamber strongly opposes. Several municipalities have already adopted proclamations on the issue, and a public comment period is open until January 23, with encouragement for local governments and residents to participate. Charlie also offered to share sample proclamations and resolutions for consideration.

**Ashley Giovannetti, Pinellas County Communications Project Coordinator**, reported on the County's dune and sand stockpile efforts, noting that additional dune requests were accommodated across multiple barrier island communities and that truck hauling on Indian Rocks Beach is expected to be completed earlier than anticipated, with Sunset Beach nearing completion as well. Dune planting is anticipated to begin in January pending contract approval. She thanked property and business owners for their patience and emphasized safety around active construction areas. Ms. Johnson also provided an update on the Pinellas Recovers hurricane recovery program, which currently has more than 2,700 active cases across the county, and encouraged residents to apply while funding remains available. She advised there is no new update from the Army Corps of Engineers and reiterated that the County's sand placement effort is a one-time measure while longer-term solutions continue to be explored.

## 11. Public Comments. None.

## 12. City Events

The BIG-C representatives provided a brief overview of their respective cities' holiday celebration schedules taking place throughout December, including tree lightings, parades, boat parades, community festivals, charitable drives, and family-friendly celebrations, and invited residents and visitors to participate.

Indian Shores Councilor Mike Howard announced the 2026 Tampa Bay Polar Plunge scheduled on January 1, 2026, 11:15 a.m., at the Town of Redington Shores, FL.

## 13. Adjournment.

**Mayor Will** adjourned the meeting at 9:44 a.m.

### **NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday, January 28, 2026, 9:00 A.M.  
Hosted by the Town of Redington Shores  
Location: Indian Shores Municipal Center  
19305 Gulf Blvd. | 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Community Center | Indian Shores, FL 33785

Minutes Prepared by: Freddie Lozano, CMC  
Town Clerk, Town of Indian Shores, FL

Date Approved: January 28, 2026

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

*Adriana Nieves*

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Adriana Nieves, Town Clerk  
Town of Redington Beach, FL



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David Will  
Barrier Islands Governmental Council President  
Mayor of the Town of Redington Beach, FL