

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*

City of Belleair Beach BIG C Meeting Wednesday, July 31, 2024, 9:00 a.m.

Belleair Beach Community Center, 444 Causeway Blvd., Belleair Beach, FL 33786

1. **The BIG C Meeting was called to order by President Mayor Will at 9:00 A.M. on July 31, 2024, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.**

2. **Roll Call**

BIG C Representatives:

Mayor David Will, Redington Beach	Mayor Denise Houseberg, Indian Rocks Beach
Mayor Dave Gattis, Belleair Beach	Mayor Diantha Schear, Indian Shores
Mayor Lisa Hendrickson, Redington Shores	Mayor Steve Blume, Belleair Shore
Vice Mayor John Doctor, Treasure Island	Mayor Ann-Marie Brooks, Madeira Beach
Mayor Bill Queen, North Redington Beach	Vice Mayor David Allbritton, Clearwater

Also Present:

Hope Wyant	C.R. Hollands	Ray Kerr
Barry Rubin	Kyle Riefler	Stan Sofer
Simon Amesbury	Dawn Peters	Helen Roldan
CJ Hoyt	Lawrence Schear	Suzy Sofer
Jennifer Morris	Janet Wilson	Mary Palmer
Robin Gomez	Mike McGlothlin	CJ Buchanan
Kellie Hammer Levy	Jennifer Dull	Christina Porter
Matt Spoor	Kevin Hendrick	Eddie McGeehen
Michael Ballard	Tim Johnson	Gina Johnson
Sam Jenkins	Meagan Lapeire	Jeff Davidson
John Pfanstiehl	Joe Farrell	Beth Rawlins
Adriana Nieves	Renee Rose	

3. **Changes to the Agenda and Approval**

- Motion: Mayor Queen, 2nd: Mayor Gattis
- Approved unanimously

4. **Approval of Minutes**

Minutes for the City of Indian Rocks Beach June 26, 2024, BIG-C Meeting

- Motion: Mayor Gattis, 2nd: Mayor Hendrickson
- Approved unanimously

5. **Appointment of BIG-C Treasurer**

- Nominating Committee met and chose Mayor Lisa Hendrickson as the next Treasurer of the BIG -C.

- Mayor Hendrickson accepted.

6. Approval of the July 2024 Treasurer's Report

- Motion: Mayor Gattis, 2nd: Mayor Hendrickson
- Approved unanimously

7. Correspondence

- None

8. New Business

- Pinellas County Schools Superintendent Kevin Hendrick and Beth Rawlins, Pinellas County Schools referendum advocate, led a discussion about the history of the Pinellas County school referendum and the proposal that will be before the voters on the November 5th ballot. Voters have approved a half mill for the past 10 years, but this year the referendum is seeking a millage rate of 1.0 mill. A majority of the money, 85%, would go directly to teacher and support staff salaries. For the average single-family homeowner with homestead exemption would pay an additional \$223 a year. The referendums are in 4-year increments, with the current referendum expiring June 30, 2025 if there is no replacement.

Mayor Houseberg asked if the A grade impacts how much money the district will get from the state. Mr. Hendrick said no; there's no performance-based funding. Funding changes based on student population.

Mayor Queen asked what the total millage is for the school board. Mr. Hendrick said 5.844 across 4 areas. Last year was 5.911, so there was a slight decrease. Mayor Queen asked if the student population is going up or down. Mr. Hendrick said the student population in Pinellas schools has gone down as a result of birth rates. Mayor Queen asked about closing schools. Mr. Hendrick said they closed one this year and one last year. Mayor Queen asked if they could take the 1.5 mill and add it to the .5. Mr. Hendrick said the 1.5 mill is just for capital and can't be given to teachers. Mayor Queen asked if they could reduce the 1.5 to 1 and give that .5 to the referendum. Mr. Hendrick said they could potentially do that.

Mayor Will asked for an explanation for the two lines on the tax bill. Mr. Hendrick said the required local effort, RLE, is the larger of the two and is prescribed by the state. The second one is the local discretionary line. Mayor Will said the RLE goes to the state to be redistributed throughout all counties. Mr. Hendrick said Pinellas County gets all of the RLE back, but it's on a percentage basis. Mayor Will clarified the money on the tax bill goes back to the county. The county is paying for the schools. The referendum is every 4 years. If it doesn't pass this time, the school will lose the prior ½ mill. Mr. Hendrick confirmed it's all or nothing. If it doesn't pass, it leaves a \$60M hole in the budget.

Vice Mayor Allbritton asked if the school board would consider selling surplus properties to raise capital? Mr. Hendricks said they recently sold two properties, but those are one-time infusions into capital. Mayor Queen asked if they refurbished some old properties. Mr. Hendrick confirmed they repurposed some properties. Ms. Rawlins said repurposing schools and selling properties are not recurring revenues. They need recurring revenues to plan for the future of the district.

Mayor Schear noted the referendum is for 4 years. It would be easier for the district to have a longer term on the referendum rather than selling it to the public every four years. It's a harder sell for some beach communities that don't have a lot of children. Ms. Rawlins said the legislature set it up so that ad valorem taxes go to operating expenses and can be used for salaries but is limited to 4-year increments. Sales taxes go to capital but are 10-year increments.

Mayor Gattis attended the governor's press conference, and a reporter asked about Hillsborough County

taking a similar stance. The governor was against it, saying revenue was increasing from the state. Mr. Hendrick said there's \$1.25B in teacher salary allocation from the state and is increased incrementally over the years. The money the state gives them in that category must be spent on teacher salaries. The increase from last year to this year in that category was 1% to give teachers a 1% raise. The governor said there was a massive increase in the base student allocation. Most of that money was through the Family Empowerment scholarships, or vouchers. The total increase to Pinellas County that the board can use for salaries or insurance costs was about 2.8%, which will be passed on to employee initiatives. They have had the same 2.8% increase in recent years. Last year, the board approved a 4.5% salary increase for all employees. They did that by trimming positions and programs. As population goes down, they don't keep the same number of teachers. Voters in other counties that are "A" districts support their public schools. Voters need to ask if they want to be a district that continues to thrive and grow or not.

9. Unfinished Business

- None

10. Discussion Items

- Mayor Hendrickson shared a picture of a boat billboard with the most recent public service campaign she worked on with Helen Roldan from Ballyhoo Media. They've worked on campaigns on the importance of filling holes, protecting dunes, and most recently the importance of keeping e-bikes off the beaches and why. She and Ms. Roldan connected to come up with creative messaging. There is no cost; this is all a public service provided by Ballyhoo Media. One topic they may consider next could be hurricanes and emergency management. If anyone has any topics, she would be happy to work with Ms. Roldan on them. There is one boat that goes from Madeira Beach to Clearwater Beach. Their public service announcements are shuffled between paid advertisements, which is why it's free.

11. Legislative Update

- None
- Mayor Will said his Town Clerk emails all the legislators in Pinellas County to invite them to these meetings so everyone is aware of the opportunity.

12. Public Comments

- None

13. City Events

- North Redington Beach – Nothing to report
- Redington Shores – Nothing to report
- Belleair Shore – Nothing to report
- Indian Shores – New Town Administrator Christina Porter. Celebrating the town's 75th Anniversary this year
- Redington Beach – Nothing to report
- Belleair Beach – Nothing to report
- Madeira Beach – Trash Pirates Beach Cleanup is August 3. The week of August 23-30 is Burger Week.
- Indian Rocks Beach – City launched new website
- Clearwater – 5 nights of concerts over the next week at the BayCare Sound
- Treasure Island – New City Manager Charles Anderson

14. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:49am.

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, August 28, 2024, 9:00 A.M.

Hosted by City of Treasure Island

Location: Treasure Island City Center | 10451 Gulf Boulevard | Treasure Island, FL 33706

Minutes Prepared by: Renee Rose, CMC
City Clerk, City of Belleair Beach, FL

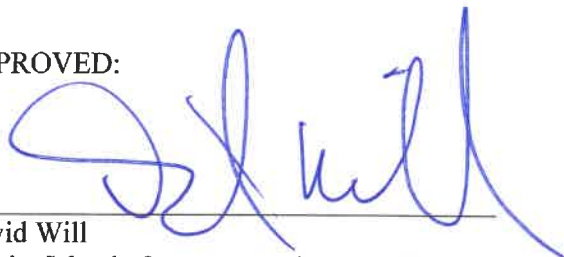
Date Approved: 8/28/24

ATTEST:



Adriana Nieves, CMC, Town Clerk
Town of Redington Beach, FL

APPROVED:



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

