

# *BIG-C*

## *Barrier Islands Governmental Council*

*Belleair Beach*

*Belleair Shore*

*Clearwater*

*Redington Shores*

*Indian Rocks Beach*

*St. Pete Beach Indian Shores*

*Treasure Island Madeira Beach*

*North Redington Beach*

*Redington Beach*



The BIG C meeting was called to order by President, Mayor David Will at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at the Madeira Beach City Hall, 300 Municipal Dr, Madeira Beach, FL. 33708.

### **1. Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Will.

### **2. Roll Call**

#### Big C Representatives

Mayor David Will

Mayor Denise Houseberg

Mayor Tom Kapper

Mayor Dave Gattis

Mayor Diantha Schear

Mayor Anne-Marie Brooks

Mayor John Doctor

Mayor Jay Super

Council Member Lina Teixeira

Mayor Adrian Petrila

Town of Redington Shores

City of Indian Rocks Beach

Town of Redington Shores

City of Belleair Beach

Town of Indian Shores

City of Madeira Beach

City of Treasure Island

Town of North Redington Beach

City of Clearwater

City of St. Pete Beach

#### Guests

Robin Gomez, City Manager

C.R. Hollands

Kelli Hammer Levy

Gina Johnson

Larry Schear

Nicholas Menchise

Margaret Carey

Mike Howard

Larry Maynard

Bobby Shay Lee

Janet Wilson

Kathy Thornsberry

David Connor

John Bigelow

Hilary King

Ashley Ierna

Madeira Beach

St. Pete Beach

Pinellas County

Waterfront Realty

Indian Shores

Indian Shores

Redington Shores

Indian Shores

Redington Shores

City of Treasure Island

Indian Rocks Beach

Belleair Beach

Pinellas County

Indian Rocks Beach

Indian Rocks Beach

Indian Shores

Michael Slattery  
Christina Porter  
Christy Herig  
Brennan Clay  
Meghan Blancher  
Ken Girmes  
Lyndsey Johannesen  
Fred Irwin

USGS  
Indian Shores  
Redington Shores  
Redington Beach  
TBRPC  
PSFR  
FMIT  
Sand Key Civic Association

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

Mayor Kapper made a motion to approve the agenda. **Motion approved unanimously.**

### 4. **Approval of Minutes of City of St. Pete Beach, May 28, 2025, Big-C Meeting**

Mayor Super made a motion to approve the minutes for May. **Motion approved unanimously.**

### 5. **Approval of May 2025 Treasurer's Report**

Mayor Brooks reported a beginning balance and an ending balance of \$908.91. Mayor Schear made a motion to approve the treasurer's report. **Motion approved unanimously.**

### 6. **Correspondence**

### 7. **New Business**

#### **Beach Nourishment Presentation**

**Barry Burton (Pinellas County Administrator)** addressed the Council to discuss the beach nourishment project. He thanked the Council for their support and explained that the County Commission had made a historic decision to move forward with a \$130 million emergency nourishment plan due to federal policy stalemates with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

He emphasized the need for temporary construction easements and highlighted the lack of progress in changing federal policy regarding 100% easement compliance. Mr. Burton noted the project is unsustainable long-term without changes, but critical for fall storm protection. He announced three public meetings to educate residents:

- July 9th, 6–8 PM at Treasure Island City Hall
- July 16th, 6–8 PM (Virtual/Online)
- August 6th, 6–8 PM at Belleair Beach

He appealed to local leaders and residents to help reach property owners, especially short-term rental owners, to obtain remaining easements.

**Kelly Levy (Pinellas County Public Works Director)** provided a comprehensive update on the upcoming beach nourishment project. She began by explaining that the project is being conducted under an emergency authorization granted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers following Hurricane Idalia. Due to this status, the typical 12–16-month construction window has been condensed into just 6 months, with 24/7 operations, seven days a week, expected.

The contractor, Weeks Marine, has subcontracted a portion of the work to Gator Dredging. Weeks Marine will begin nourishment from north to south on Sand Key, while Gator Dredging will work south to north, with both crews scheduled to meet in the middle.

Ms. Levy highlighted that pre-construction activities, including shorebird monitoring and sea turtle nest relocation in coordination with FWC and the Clearwater Marine Aquarium, are already underway. She noted the challenges of conducting work during sea turtle nesting season.

She emphasized that only areas with valid easements will receive full nourishment, leading to a “sawtooth effect” in areas where easements are missing. In those gaps, sand will be tapered to the erosion control line (ECL) to avoid placing material on private property without legal rights.

Currently, the project has 70.5% easement coverage, and an interactive dashboard is available online. She encouraged city officials and residents to help promote signing remaining easements, noting the county cannot place “a single grain of sand” on private property without the proper rights.

Mayor Gattis expressed concern that their lack of sand causes neighboring cities, such as Indian Rocks Beach and Belleair Beach, to lose protection during storms. He urged Ms. Levy to consider placing sand in this gap to better protect adjacent areas.

Ms. Levy responded that when the Erosion Control Line was originally established in Belleair Shore, the required initial nourishment was not completed in time, possibly voiding the ECL's legal status. Additionally, the county's permit is based on the Army Corps' existing template, which excludes Belleair Shore. She stated that she would follow up on the permitting and legal questions, but current regulations do not permit sand placement in that section.

Ms. Levy concluded by asking for continued support and cooperation from cities and property owners, emphasizing the importance of collective participation in the nourishment effort. She noted that the project permit expires March 6, so all work must be completed by that date.

### **Florida League of Cities – Hurricane Preparedness**

**Lindsey Johansen (Florida League of Cities/FMIP)** presented on hurricane preparedness. She discussed lessons learned from past storms, the importance of reviewing insurance policies, continuity of operations plans (COOP), pre-disaster contracts, and staff training.

- Key points included:
- Review building coverage and ensure recent appraisals reflect inflation.
- Confirm deductibles for All Other Perils (AOP) and Named Storms.
- Ensure Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is available for responders.
- Establish disaster response communication and public information officers.
- Document all mitigation actions post-disaster for insurance/FEMA claims.

Understand the options between insurance-managed vs. city-managed repairs

## **8. Unfinished Business**

### **9. Discussion Items**

Chair Mayor David Will informed the Council that he currently serves as the BIG-C representative on the Forward Pinellas Board. Due to scheduling conflicts, he is no longer able to dedicate the time required for this role. He asked if any member of the Council would be willing to volunteer to replace him as the BIG-C representative. Mayor Anne-Marie Brooks expressed interest.

## 10. Legislative Update

Ashley Overend (Office of Commissioner Kathleen Peters) provided a legislative update. She shared that both Senator Nick DiCeglie and Commissioner Peters sent letters to Governor DeSantis requesting support. Governor DeSantis could serve as a conduit between the County and the federal government.

## 11. City Events

- North Redington Beach:
  - 4th of July party at Backwaters – music, booths, drinks.
  - Fire Station groundbreaking ceremony (joint project for the Redington's).
- Redington Shores:
  - Fire Station groundbreaking ceremony (joint project for the Redington's).
- Indian Shores:
  - Preparing for tourist influx.
  - Beach cleanup scheduled for July 5th.
- Indian Rocks Beach:
  - No 4th of July events
  - A new law firm has been retained.
- Belleair Beach:
  - No current events; all quiet.
- Redington Beach:
  - Fire Station groundbreaking ceremony (joint project for the Redington's).
- Madeira Beach:
  - Fire station groundbreaking.
  - Sunset 5K at John's Pass on Friday.
  - Fireworks on July 3rd.
  - Beach cleanup on July 5th.
- Treasure Island:
  - New City Manager selected, pending contract.
  - 4th of July celebration with fireworks (8:45–9:00 PM).
- St. Pete Beach:
  - July 4th concert at Horan Park (6–9 PM).
- Clearwater Beach:
  - June 27th: Concert at Baycare Sound
  - July 4th: 'Clearwater Celebrates America' with music, fireworks, silent disco, and rooftop party.

## 12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:48 a.m. The next meeting will be Wednesday, July 30, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. Hosted by Belleair Beach Community Center, 444 Causeway Boulevard, Belleair Beach, FL 33708.

Minutes Prepared by: Lorin Kornijtschuk  
City Clerk, Indian Rocks Beach, FL

Date Approved: July 30, 2025

ATTEST:

APPROVED:



Adriana Nieves, CMC, Town Clerk  
Town of Redington Beach



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