

# *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*

The BIG C was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Mayor Bob Minning on Wednesday, January 31, 2018, at Town of Redington Shores, Town Hall, 17425 Gulf Blvd., Redington Shores, FL.

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

Mayor Adams welcomed all to Redington Shores, stating this will be his last meeting he will host, as he is retiring and wishes all well.

Mayor Minning recognized Pam Middleton, Deputy City Clerk of Treasure Island. Pam is retiring and her and her fiancé will be traveling the United States. Warm wishes to Pam!

Mayor Minning also recognized Bob McClure of the Tampa Bay Times, who is also retiring. On behalf of the BIG-C Mayor Minning presented Mr. McClure with a plaque of appreciation.

### **2. Roll Call (*according to the Sign-In Sheet*)**

#### **BIG C Representatives**

Belleair Beach  
Clearwater  
Indian Rocks Beach  
Indian Shores  
N. Redington Beach  
Redington Beach  
Redington Shores  
St. Pete Beach  
Treasure Island  
Madeira Beach  
Belleair Shores

Mayor Leslie Notaro  
Mayor George Cretekos  
Mayor RB Johnson  
Mayor Pat Soranno  
Mayor Bill Queen  
Mayor Nick Simons  
Mayor Bert Adams  
Mayor Alan Johnson  
Mayor Bob Minning  
Mayor Maggie Black  
Mayor Bob Schmidt

#### **GUESTS:**

Indian Shores  
Treasure Island  
Indian Shores  
Forward Pinellas  
Citizen, IRB  
Pinellas County  
Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority  
Tampa Bay Beaches Chamber of Commerce  
Tampa Bay Beaches Chamber of Commerce  
Spectrum/Charter Communications  
Beach Newsletters  
TB Newspapers  
Pinellas County Emergency Mgmt.  
Forward Pinellas

Vice Mayor Diantha Schear  
Pam Middleton, Deputy City Clerk  
Councilor Mike Hackerson  
Sandra Knoebel, Planner  
Nick Palomya  
Andy Squires  
Bob Lasher  
Doreen Moore  
Doug Izzo  
Iris Gonzalez  
Bob Griffin  
Bob McClure  
Rick Walker  
Brett Burks, Planner

Clearwater Marine Aquarium  
Clearwater Marine Aquarium  
Clearwater Marine Aquarium  
Redington Shores  
Redington Shores  
Forward Pinellas  
Indian Shores  
Florida Craft Art  
Sand Key Civic Association  
Treasure Island  
Pinellas County  
Shahra Anderson  
Jewels Chandler  
Ray Blacklidge  
Jennifer Webb

Yvette Fernandez, Biologist  
Shelby McKinney, Biologist  
Lindsey Flynn, Acting Sup. for Sea Turtle Conservation Program  
Commissioner MaryBeth Henderson  
Commissioner Pat Drumm  
Vice Mayor Cookie Kennedy  
Councilor Bill Smith  
Rhonda Sanborn, Community & Business Engagement  
Owen Gregg, Secretary  
Pam Middleton, Deputy City Clerk  
Brian Lowak, Executive Asst. to Comm. John Morroni  
US Senator Bill Nelson, Regional Director  
Council Member, Belleair Beach  
Candidate, House District 69  
Candidate, House District 69

### **3. Approval of Agenda**

A motion was made to approve the Agenda by Mayor Queen and seconded by Mayor Adams. The voice vote was unanimous.

### **4. Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Mayor Notaro to approve the December 6, 2017 Minutes and it was seconded by Mayor Johnson. The voice vote was unanimous.

### **5. Approval of November and December 2017 Treasurer's Report**

BIG C Secretary/Treasurer Mayor Sorrano read the November and December 2017 Treasurer's Report. A motion was made by Mayor Schmidt to accept the Treasurer's Report as read, and seconded by Mayor Queen. The voice vote was unanimous.

### **6. Correspondence**

Mayor Minning referred to the correspondence in the packets, asking for any questions. Andy Squires stated FSBPA is working diligently to get funding for the beaches. The push now is for the trust fund to handle all the beaches.

### **7. New Business**

Hunter Miller, Southwest Florida Campaign Organizer for Oceana to discuss "Hell No to Offshore Drilling"

Hunter Miller presented a power point "Stop the Drill!" Protecting Florida's Coast from Offshore Drilling. Mr. Hunter talked about the risk of oil spills, harm to marine life and the use of seismic air guns. Information that Florida is off the table for offshore drilling was released, but this is not the case and Mr. Hunter encouraged the cities to oppose the drilling via a resolution, also submit comments to BOEM opposing the plan. Mr. Hunter invited all to come to Tallahassee on February 8<sup>th</sup> for the Offshore Drilling Coalition Public Meeting.

Sarah Hanson, Legislative Staff from Representative Crist's Office.

Ms. Hanson shared with the committee that Representative Crist urges all to be diligent in opposing the drilling. Florida is still officially in the plan, however the plan will go over several revisions over the next few years, so anything can happen. Representative Crist has cosigned two letters addressed to Interior Secretary Zinke, asking for Florida water to be

excluded from the plan and these letters will be submitted for official comments. Last year Representative Crist added numerous amendments to different bills to try to make off shore drilling impossible or at least more difficult. Beach Renourishment - Representative Crist is a strong supporter of the beach renourishment project, he knows how important it is for protecting lives, infrastructure, tourism, etc. Representative Crist is very much aware of the challenges of obtaining the easements that are now required and shares the committees concerns on the long-term liability of the project. He has been trying to educate the community on the importance of these easements.

Mayor Johnson asked what can be done at the Federal Level to get into discussion with Army Corps Engineers to modify the wording in the easements agreements to help with obtaining these easements. Ms. Hanson stated she cannot speak for him as how he wants to approach this, but she will bring these concerns back to him.

Flood Insurance is one of Representative Crist top issues. He sits on the House Financial Services Committee which has jurisdiction over the national flood insurance program. One of his major concerns is affordability for citizens.

Shahra Anderson, Regional Director, Senator Bill Nelson's Office

Ms. Anderson was asked to speak to the committee today in regard to Off Shore Drilling. Ms. Anderson stated we have always worked together through out the years to protect our waters. Every week there is something coming out in regard to off shore drilling. Letters have been written in opposition to off shore drilling. Ms. Anderson asked all to please create your resolutions, write letters. Ms. Anderson motivated all, to help with banning together opposing drilling off our waters. The Committee discussed that each city should pass their own resolution and BIG-C also do a resolution.

## **8. Old Business**

Mayor Minning asked Andy for an update on the renourishment project. Mr. Squires stated he has been meeting with the Core every week with the staff. They are now out surveying the areas. Start date April 1<sup>st</sup>, and placing sand down by April 15<sup>th</sup>, finishing the project around the end of October. Upham if the funding comes through, will be completed at the very end.

## **9. Miscellaneous**

- a) Nominating Committee

Mayor Queen volunteered to be on the committee, as well as Mayor Simons and Mayor Soranno. Both the Secretary and Treasurer are needed to be filled.

- b) Representative to Forward Pinellas Discussion

Mayor Minning wanted to bring to everyone's attention that if Cookie Kennedy is elected a new representative from the beaches would needed to be appointed.

## **10. Legislative Update**

Brian Lowak, Pinellas County - stated most of what he was going to say has already been discussed. He does encourage all to submit their comments in this comment period. There will be another proposed final plan and another comment period.

Mayor Minning spoke of the request from the BIG-C for the continuation of Penny Money from Pinellas County and to use monies not only for Gulf Blvd. improvements but for other infrastructure upgrades and for projects for other than along Gulf Blvd. Mayor Minning has recently spoke with Commissioner Welch; the outcome of the conversation was for Mayor Minning to ask the BIG-C if they would like to revisit this request. After discussion it was the consensus of the committee to continue with this request and to address the backend loading of the money. Mayor Minning will relay the request of the BIG-C to Commissioner Welch.

**11. City Events**

Mayor Queen – no events, but does encourage all to pay attention to SB 1400 on Short Term Rentals.

Mayor Johnson, Indian Rocks Beach – The Beach Art Center will be holding their Ruby and Roses Gala on February 10<sup>th</sup> and Calvary Episcopal is holding their annual Winter Fest on February 17<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Soranno, Town of Indian Shores – Continuing to complete their beautification project. Indian Shores will be holding their St. Patrick Festival on March 17<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Johnson - St Pete Beach - Seafood festival this weekend on Corey Ave. and Sunday Market.

Mayor Black – City of Madeira Beach – Close to hiring a new City Manager hopefully at tonight’s meeting.

Mayor Minning – City of Treasure Island – in the mist of elections. Friday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> former Mayor Maloof and himself will putting on the Mayor’s Prayer Lunch, all will receive invitations.

**12. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 10:20. The next BIG C will be Wednesday, February 28, 2018, Town of North Redington Beach, Town Hall, 190 173<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, N. Redington Beach, FL at 9:00 a.m.

February 28, 2018  
Date Approved

APPROVED: Leslie Notaro  
Leslie Ford Notaro, Mayor  
For Robert Minning, President

ATTEST: Patricia A. Gentry  
Patricia A. Gentry, City Clerk