

# *BIG-C*

## *Barrier Islands Governmental Council*

*Belleair Beach*

*Belleair Shore*

*Clearwater*

*Redington Shores*

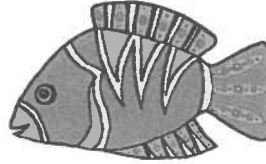
*Indian Rocks Beach*

*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 Pat Soranno at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 31st, 2021 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 Soranno.

#### Roll Call – **Present at Town Hall:**

Indian Rocks Beach

Indian Shores

Redington Shores

North Redington Beach

Redington Beach

St. Pete Beach

Madeira Beach

Treasure Island

Belleair Shore

Clearwater

Mayor Kennedy

Mayor Soranno

Mayor Henderson

Mayor Queen

Mayor Will

Mayor Johnson

Mayor Hendricks

Mayor Payne

Mayor Schmidt

Council Member Hamilton

#### Attendees:

Madeira Beach

Chris Kelley

Gina Johnson

Tim Johnson

Mike Clarke

Doreen Moore

Michael Robinson

Dawn Peters

Richard Cariello

C.R. Hollands

Diantha Schear

Larry Schear

Ray Kerr

Megan Powers, Asst. to City Manager

Waterfront Realty

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PW Director, St. Pete Beach

Resident, Madeira Beach

Vice-Mayor, Redington Shores

Resident, Redington Beach

Commissioner, Redington Beach

Resident, St. Pete Beach

Council Member, Indian Shores

Commissioner, Indian Shores Fire and Rescue

Resident, Madeira Beach

**2. Approval of Agenda** – Mayor Soranno would like to make changes to the agenda under New Business. Brian Lowack of Pinellas County would like to discuss 2 letters- one for additional funding, and one from the Army Corp of Engineers to Congressman Charlie Crist. Mayor Queen moved to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Mayor Henderson. Motion carried unanimously.

**3. Approval of Minutes**

Mayor Queen moved to approve, seconded by Mayor Johnson. Motion carried unanimously.

**4. Approval of the January and February 2021 Treasurer's Report.** Mayor Henderson, reported January 1 opening balance was \$362.83, closing balance January 31<sup>st</sup> was \$362.83. Opening balance February 1 was \$362.83, BIG-C dues were received in the amount of \$1100.00, leaving a closing balance on February 28, 2021 of \$1,462.83. Mayor Queen moved to approve the treasurer's report, seconded by Mayor Johnson. Motion carried unanimously.

**5. Correspondence**

- a. Department of State 2021 annual report is due. The filing fee is \$70. Mayor Henderson reported that the fee was paid and the report was filed.
- b. The City of Indian Rocks Beach drafted a letter to Governor DeSantis regarding local regulation of short-term rentals. The letter was signed by the Mayor and 4 Commissioners. Mayor Soranno asked if there was any follow up to this letter. Mayor Queen reported that North Redington Beach had sent a similar letter to Governor DeSantis as well.
- c. The City of Belleair Beach sent a letter to the BIG-C Gulf Boulevard Beautification Committee requesting approval to proceed with the undergrounding project. Mayor Soranno raised the discussion if the subcommittee is still necessary.
- d. The Town of Indian Shores sent a letter to Senator Jeff Brandes requesting the Coastal Protection Zone Act of 1985 be amended to allow local control of electric bicycles on the beach. Mayor Queen feels certain the issue would be corrected before the legislative session ends.

**6. New Business**

- Brian Lowack of Pinellas County presented on a request from the County to provide a letter of support for beach nourishment. Congress brought back federal earmarks. Pinellas County will be submitting an earmark request to Congressman Crist for design funding for the Sand Key portion of the project for FY 2022. Mayor Soranno asked for a motion to approve drafting a letter of support. Mayor Queen made the motion, Mayor Kennedy second. Motion carried unanimously.
- Mr. Lowack discussed a letter written by Congressman Charlie Crist to the Army Corp of Engineers regarding easements for the Sand Key beach nourishment project. The letter before the BIG-C was the Corp's response to Congressman Crist. The County will pursue every option to ensure the Sand Key project continues to move forward. Mayor Hendricks would like to incorporate the John's Pass issue as he believes the beach nourishment is causing John's Pass to fill in. Mr. Lowack responded that the request is specific to only the Sand Key Design project. The John's Pass issue would be a separate request and project. Mayor Kennedy reported that she will lead the conversation of beach nourishment with Pinellas County and the Army Corps of Engineers.
- Nominating Committee recommendations for BIG C President, Vice President, and Secretary/Treasurer for consideration of appointment at the Annual Meeting scheduled for April 28, 2021. Mayor Queen announced that the nominating committee met and recommends Mayor Kennedy for Secretary/Treasurer, Mayor Johnson for President, and Mayor Henderson for Vice-President. Mayor Queen made the motion to approve the nominating committee's recommendation, Mayor Hendricks seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- The Audit Committee recommends approval of the Treasurer's books. Mayor Johnson moved to accept the Audit Committee review of the Treasurer's books, seconded by Mayor Schmidt. Motion carried unanimously.

- Presentation on "Comprehensive Plan for Water Risk" by St. Pete Beach Public Works Director Mike Clarke. Mr. Clarke addressed the BIG-C regarding St. Pete Beach's stormwater management plan. There have been a lot of studies and reports compiled over the years addressing stormwater management along the barrier islands. Abnormally high tides, King tides and sea level rise combined with rain events are causing flooding. In mid-2020 the city changed its policy to prepare projects to mitigate flooding from Bay tidal events instead of localized flooding from rain events. Mr. Clarke reported that the recommendations from the new study are as follows:

Seawall heights need to be a minimum of 5 feet NAVD 1988 for the next 30 years.

Use NOAA Sea Level rise tracking device to monitor water levels.

Form a team of experts working together.

Mayor Johnson reported that Tropical Storm Eta caused a lot of flooding in his city. In anticipation of 2-3 foot sea level rise projections, many projects are expensive. They must be completed in phases to make the costs less burdensome.

Mayor Queen reported that North Redington Beach changed their seawall elevations and installed stop valves.

**7. Old Business - None**

**8. Miscellaneous – none**

**9. Legislative Update –** Mayor Kennedy reported the short-term rental bill stalled in the Senate. Mayor Payne reported that the home-based business bill is still moving. Mr. Lowack reported that the County encourages the Mayors to contact their Senators to stop the passing of the Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFB) bill.

**10. Public Comments –**

- Ray Kerr of Madeira Beach commented that the RRFBs work well except at night and suggests installing lights in the crosswalk areas to improve pedestrian visibility. Referring to the St Pete Beach presentation, approves the plan to separate rain events from Sea Level Rise. He commented that properties located on the Bay should drain into the Bay, and inland properties should drain into storm drains, not the roads. He suggests elevating the roads.
- Larry Schear of Indian Shores reminded the Council members that at the last meeting, they were presented with an alternative to beach renourishment – low-cost offshore structures which would eliminate need for costly and ineffective renourishment.

**11. City Events –** each city reported their upcoming events.

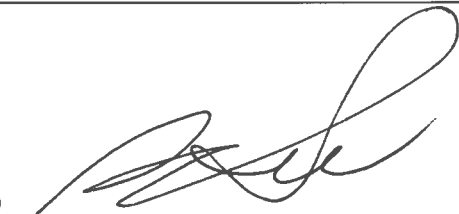
The meeting adjourned at 10:32 a.m. The next meeting will be Wednesday, April 28th, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. Hosted by Town of Madeira Beach at Madeira Beach City Hall, 300 Municipal Dr, Madeira Beach, FL 33708.

Minutes Prepared by:  
Adriana Nieves  
Deputy Town Clerk of Redington Beach, FL

*April 28, 2021*


Date Approved

APPROVED



Patrick C. Soranno, President,  
Barrier Islands Governmental Council  
Mayor, Town of Indian Shores

ATTEST



Freddie Lozano, CMC, Town Clerk  
Town of Indian Shores