



Mayors' Council of Pinellas County, Inc.
Pinellas County, Florida

President: Mayor Sandra Bradbury
VP/Treasurer: Mayor Doug Bevis
Secretary/Treasurer: Mayor Julie Ward Bujalski

AUGUST 2, 2017 MEETING MINUTES

To provide continuity for research, items are listed in agenda order although not necessarily discussed in that order.

President Bradbury called the meeting to order at 12:07 p.m. at the St. Pete Marriott located at 12600 Roosevelt Boulevard North in St. Petersburg.

1. **Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.** Mayor Cretekos gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. **Introductions.** President Bradbury requested the attendees introduce themselves.

Members:

Belleair	Karla Rettstatt, Deputy Mayor
Belleair Bluffs	Joe Barkley, Vice-Mayor
Belleair Shore	Bob Schmidt, Jr., Mayor
Clearwater	George Cretekos, Mayor
Dunedin	Julie Ward Bujalski, Mayor
Indian Rocks Beach	R.B. Johnson, Mayor
Indian Shores	Mike Hackerson, Councilor
Largo	Woody Brown, Mayor
Oldsmar	Doug Bevis, Mayor
Pinellas Park	Sandra Bradbury, Mayor
Safety Harbor	Joe Ayoub, Mayor
Seminole	Leslie Waters, Mayor
St. Pete Beach	Alan Johnson, Mayor
St. Petersburg	Sally Everett, Intergovernmental Affairs Liaison
Tarpon Springs	Chris Alahouzos Mayor
Treasure Island	Robert Minning, Mayor

Administrative Staff:

Ann Nixon	Oldsmar, City Clerk
Diane Corna	Pinellas Park, City Clerk
Denise Kirkpatrick	Dunedin, City Clerk

Guests:

Gus Bilirakis	Congressman (Guest Speaker)
Kristi Cheatham-Pettit	Clearwater Gas
Bob Esposito	FDOT Governmental Affairs Liaison
Pat Gerard	Pinellas County Commission
Kathleen Peters	Florida Representative District 69
Summer Robertson	Administrative Assistant to Congressman Bilirakis

3. Approval of the Minutes

President Bradbury announced the July 5, 2017 and August 2, 2017 minutes will be sent for approval with the September 6, 2017 MCPC packet.

4. Approval of Treasurer's Reports

Vice-President Bevis advised the July 1st balance was \$9,405.07. The deposits totaled \$300.00 and the expenditures totaled \$365.96, leaving an ending balance on July 30, 2017 of \$9,339.11.

Motion made by Mayor Brown and seconded by Vice-President Bevis to approve the August 2, 2017 Treasurer Report, carried unanimously.

5. New Business

a. Guest Speaker – Congressman Gus Bilirakis

Mayor Bradbury introduced Congressman Gus Bilirakis and read some of his bio (attached).

Congressman Bilirakis let everyone know that he was here for them, whether they live in his district or not. He felt it is very important that legislators keep in touch with their Mayors, City Commissioners, County Commissioners and the school boards. He encouraged everyone to contact him, especially on the flood insurance issue. It will be reauthorized before the September 3 deadline. He stated they are working very hard on it and he has not committed which way he is going to vote, which was intentional, because he has been hearing from counties and they have made the bill better for Floridians, but they have much more work to do. Many are asking him what they can do to get his vote and they need the Florida legislative delegation to get this thing adopted.

He mentioned other issues of concern which include the Opioid Epidemic, the Healthcare Bill and the tax reform (the skinny bill). He did not believe it should be a partisan decision and that the parties need to work together.

He advised on some bills he is working on including one for rare diseases. There are over 7,000 diseases that do not have a cure, which is a very big issue.

Medicaid and medical fraud. He has a bill, and asked Cathy Caster to sponsor it with him to increase the civil and criminal penalties for those convicted of Medicaid and medical fraud. The penalties have not been changed for over 20 years. Recently, the DOJ cracked down on 412 defendants - - 80 of them in Florida.

He stated that the Veterans have always been his number 1 priority. Opioids are his number 2 priority.

After his presentation he answered some questions and thanked everyone for the opportunity to speak with them.

b. EMS Representative Appointment

President Bradbury advised she still needs someone to volunteer to be the Mayors' Council Liaison on the EMS Advisory Board. Mayor Brown of Largo volunteered and the rest of the membership were in favor and gave their support.

c. Holiday Luncheon

President Bradbury advised it was time to start discussing where they would like the December holiday luncheon. She asked Mayor Johnson of Indian Rocks Beach to research and possibly continue holding this function at the Salt Rock Grill. Mayor Minning stated he will also assist since he worked on it last year. She asked if anyone else had a suggestion.

President Bradbury also mentioned the St. Pete Marriott has a ball room right above them and would be all on one floor versus the three layers at the Salt Rock Grill.

Mayor Bradbury asked everyone to bring their ideas to the next meeting for further discussion.

6. Announcements and City Updates

Announcements - None.

City Updates - Members reviewed recent and upcoming events.

7. Updates

- a. **Legislative - Open Discussion**. Representative Peters suggested that if anyone has projects to meet and speak with their legislators. The legislators meet in September and the legislative session begins in January and ends March 9th.

She advised there will be another assault on Home Rule and urged everyone, not just the Mayors, to start demanding their legislators to stop this push. One bill states that you can no longer have more than 30 days in reserves and we know it takes FEMA a minimum of 90 days. Another bill states that you can't raise your millage rate above the rolled back rate unless you go to referendum, so a municipality would have to do two year planning to have have a referendum a year before it may be needed.

- b. **Forward Pinellas MPO Integrating Land Use & Transportation (formerly MPO & PPC)**. President Bradbury advised:

FDOT District 7 Government Liaison Stephen Benson presented the agency's new Complete Streets Handbook and forthcoming Florida Design Manual.

Consultant Jared Schneider with Kimley-Horn presented the recommendations of the West Bay Drive Complete Street pilot project study.

FDOT District 7 Director of Transportation Development Bill Jones presented an update on the Tampa Bay Next program, which is looking at interstate modernization and regional transportation that includes all modes of transportation.

- c. **Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council (TBRPC)**. Mayor Brown advised the TBRPC did not meet this month the next meeting is August 14, 2017.

- d. **Suncoast League of Cities (SLC)**. President Bradbury advised the FLC Conference is from August 16th through August 19th in Orlando.

The SLC meets on Saturday, August 19th for a big Tri-League Breakfast during the FLC Conference.

- e. **Barrier Islands Government Council (BIG-C)**. Mayor Leslie Notaro advised

Bob Esposito, Government Liaison at FDOT to discuss "**Local Governments Working with FDOT**"

Lindsey Flynn, Acting Supervisor of Sea Turtles at the Clearwater Marine Aquarium to discuss "**The 2016 Sea Turtle Nesting Season**"

- f. **Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA)**. Mayor Bevis advised the Board approved the Transit Rider's Advisory Committee (TRAC) recommended appointment to the Forward Pinellas CAC. Dave Kovar of Safety Harbor will represent TRAC issues and interests on the very important committee.

The current ongoing capital funding projection shows that we will be able to continue to fund equipment replacement through 2021. This is based on purchasing 21 smaller 35 foot BAE Hybrids in years 18 (9), 19 (6) and 20 (6). With the additional acquisition of two 35 foot BYD ZEB Electrics in each year 20 and 21. This is just the basis of the future projection and the Board has a “vigorous” discussion annually of the equipment selection.

- g. **Emergency Medical Services (EMS Advisory Board)**. Mayor Bujalski advised they just presented their budget, but the Board has no say. She advised she has been on this Board for about a year and is still trying to determine what the elected position’s role is. The Board doesn’t do anything; it’s just a lot of rubber stamping. She stated there is nothing to vote on, they just review log reports and there isn’t even anything to report on.

County Commissioner Gerard advised the Water Based Rescue stuff that’s happening now was started by the EMS Advisory Board many years ago.

Representative Peters also commented she was on it when they wanted to do away with all the Fire Departments and also they wanted to change the Sunstar protocols of what hospitals they were to go to. She stated it was a mess. She commented that although there is nothing happening at this time, something big might happen that you will vote on that will save someone’s life.

- h. **Tourist Development Council (TDC)** Mayor Bevis advised the TDC moved forward with the elite funding for the events that met the qualifications and will forward them to the County Commission.

The bed tax revenue continues to grow at a regular pace. The same amount of people are coming, but spending slightly more money.

The midwest continues to be a weak spot for Pinellas County, but the Canada and Latin America visitors continues to grow.

It’s not Shark Week in Pinellas County it is Grouper Week.

- i. **Florida League of Mayors**

Mayor Waters advised the following:

Florida League of Mayors Bylaws and the need for more Mayors. They would like to develop regions.

The legislators’ mentality regarding Home Rule and the proposed additional homestead exemption.

Educating the public on Home Rule and the proposed additional homestead exemption.

- 8. **Other Business** - None.

- 9. **Adjourn** – The meeting adjourned at 1:34 p.m.