

WORKING TOGETHER

A Quarterly Newsletter of the City of Indian Rocks Beach

Oct/Nov/Dec 2020

www.indian-rocks-beach.com

Gregg Mims, City Manager

CITY OF INDIAN ROCKS BEACH ADOPTS 2020-21 BUDGET

The City Manager and staff started the budget season in March of 2020. The City Manager's proposed 2020-21 Budget and updated Five Year Capital Plan were recommended by the Finance & Budget Committee and approved unanimously by the City of Indian Rocks Beach City Commission. The new budget goes into effect on October 1, 2020.

FY 2020-21 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS:

- In accordance with state law, the adopted budget is balanced;*
- Provides a proactive budget plan while incurring no debt. The City of Indian Rocks Beach is debt free;*
- Reduces the total General Fund Expenses from \$3,861,000 to \$3,711,010;*
- Maintains the current mill rate of 1.8326%. One of the lowest in Pinellas County and the State of Florida;*
- Due to Covid-19, reduces anticipated state revenues received by the city by \$70,000;*
- Maintains a city reserve fund of \$3.4 million;*
- 2.58% increase in the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office contract. PCSO continues to provide EXCELLENT law enforcement services to the city;*
- Provides \$50,000 for storm drain videoing/repair/cleaning;*
- Elimination of two (2) full time positions;*
- Addition of one (1) part time Code Enforcement Officer;*
- Creation of one (1) Special Court Magistrate position;*
- No rate increases for Solid Waste Operations;*
- 5.7% increase in the tipping fee charged by Pinellas County to the city;*

FIVE YEAR CIP HIGHLIGHTS:

- \$500,000 annually for road reconstruction;*
- \$495,000 in park upgrades, including new LED lighting for the IRB Little League Field;*
- \$600,000 in stormwater reconstruction;*
- \$ 50,000 dune walkover repairs/maintenance;*

Page 1

Administration
727/595-2517

Library
727/596-1822

Public Services
727/595-6889



NATIONAL POLLUTION DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM

The N.P.D.E.S. (National Pollution Discharge Elimination System) regulations require municipalities to demonstrate adequate legal authority to prohibit illicit discharges to our storm sewer systems, provide maps of our storm sewers and outfalls, provide monitoring data showing the quality of runoff from local areas of various land use types, propose a management program that includes control measures to reduce pollutants in runoff, provide a program to detect and remove illicit discharges to our system, provide a program for monitoring compliance and the success of our programs, and provide an accounting of our fiscal resources available for carrying out this program.

In April 1994, the City of Indian Rocks Beach participated, along with other cities in Pinellas County, in jointly applying for our N.P.D.E.S. permit through Pinellas County.

The cities, FDOT and Pinellas County desire to continue to protect and promote the public health, safety and general welfare through the management of storm water runoff, and to continue the existing relationships and responsibilities for control of discharge to municipal storm sewer systems (MS4) as outlined in 40 C.F.R., Section 122.26.

The City of Indian Rocks Beach made a conscious decision, rather than creating new city positions to track and investigate illicit discharges to our storm sewer system, to utilize existing staff to carry this out as part of their normal work. **This is where you, as a resident, can help.**

WHY ARE WE INSPECTING FOR ILLICIT DISCHARGES?

The City of Indian Rocks Beach is basically responsible to ensure that our storm water discharges do not pollute the waters of the United States. The regulations require that we adopt an ordinance to prohibit illicit discharges. In May 1994, the City of Indian Rocks Beach enacted Ordinance No. 545 specifically dealing with storm water sewers.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I FIND A SUSPECTED DISCHARGE?

You should report it to the City of Indian Rocks Beach Public Services Department, at 727/595-6889, or the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office, at 727/582-6200. They will then decide whether to report it further and to whom. They will also decide, based on your observation, if it is an emergency that needs to be stopped right away.

LEGAL DISCHARGES

Some discharges are not considered illegal under the City of Indian Rocks Beach's Ordinance and include:

- Flows from firefighting, Irrigation water, Diverted stream flows, Rising ground waters,
- Water line flushing and other contributions from potable water sources,
- Uncontaminated pumped groundwater, Foundation and footing drains,
- Water from crawl space pumps, Uncontaminated air conditioning condensation,
- Individual residential car washings, Springs, Flows from riparian habitats and wetlands,
- Swimming pools direct infiltration of ground water to the separate storm sewer system.

The City of Indian Rocks Beach appreciates everyone's efforts in this most important issue.

CITY OF INDIAN ROCKS BEACH LIBRARY UPDATE

The IRB Library is open to the public Monday - Friday from 1:00p to 4:00p. The Library is open at 50% capacity with four (4) members/guests at a time maintaining 6 ft. social distancing. Curbside pick up is available Monday - Friday, from 10:00a to 4:00p. For curbside delivery information, please call 727/596-1822.

MASKS ARE REQUIRED IN THE LIBRARY!

The Book Store remains closed; however, there are three public computers available with a thirty minute limit.



FEMA — COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM

DID YOU KNOW that the City of Indian Rocks Beach participates in FEMA's Community Rating System? The system rewards those communities that participate in flood mitigation-related activities that exceed the minimum National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) standards.

A flood insurance premium rate reduction of 20% is available to all residents and business owners in the city located in the Special Flood Hazard Area. That's any flood zone beginning with the letters "A" or "V". Voluntary participation in the Community Rating System (CRS) saves flood insurance policyholders in the city more

than \$597,000 in premium discounts annually.

It is important to note that a reduction in flood insurance rates is only one of the rewards communities like ours receive from undertaking the activities credited under the Community Rating System; others include:

- √ *increased public safety*
- √ *reduction of damages to property and public infrastructure*
- √ *avoidance of economic disruption and losses*
- √ *reduction of human suffering, and*
- √ *protection of the environment*

If you don't already have flood insurance to protect your building and its contents, please consider purchasing a policy today! Call your insurance agent, or (888) 379-9531 to find an agent, and be sure your premium includes the 20% discount. You can find more information about flood insurance at www.FloodSmart.gov or the City of Indian Rocks Beach website at www.indian-rocks-beach.com and click on *Flood Information*.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

UTILITY UNDERGROUNDING PROJECT (Gulf Boulevard from Whitehurst to Walsingham) - This project is approximately 75% complete at this time with completion "tentatively scheduled" for the middle of November 2020 (based on Duke Energy's Emergency Operations that are currently activated due to tropical weather situations that recently impacted Texas).

IRB SOLAR INITIATIVES (Solar Panels) - These projects commenced in August 2020 at the City Hall Complex and Historical Museum and are scheduled for completion in September 2020. These projects illustrate the City's continued commitment to energy conservation and reducing our carbon footprint.

STORMWATER DRAINAGE PROJECTS (at 319 Harbor Drive and 360 La Hacienda) - These projects commenced in September 2020 and will now employ modern stormwater management techniques such as run-off mitigation, attenuation, filtration and means to update the stormwater discharge from the area to current environmental standards.

These projects are cooperatively funded through a reimbursable grant from the Southwest Florida Water Management District in the amount of \$122,114.00

STORMWATER DRAINAGE CLEANING - This maintenance activity is approximately 60% complete and includes the jet pressure cleaning/vacuuming of the conveyance pipes, outfalls and catch basins.

You can view each recorded IRB City Commission meeting by following the link on the City's website at: www.indian-rocks-beach.com





City of Indian Rocks Beach

1507 Bay Palm Boulevard
Indian Rocks Beach FL 33785

CITY COMMISSION

Joanne "Cookie" Kennedy
Mayor-Commissioner

Phillip J. Hanna
Vice Mayor-Commissioner

Diane Flagg
Commissioner

Edward G. Hoofnagle
Commissioner

Joe McCall
Commissioner

CITY MANAGER

Brently Gregg Mims

