

**CITY OF RIVIERA BEACH  
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA  
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 28, 2009 AT 6:30 P.M.  
MUNICIPAL COMPLEX CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

(The following may contain inaudible or misunderstood words due to the recording quality.)

Chairperson Pardo was present and presided. The following were present: Mayor Thomas A. Masters; Chairperson Dawn S. Pardo; Chair Pro Tem Judy L. Davis; Councilperson Billie E. Brooks; and Councilperson Shelby L. Lowe. Also present were: City Manager Ruth C. Jones; Deputy City Clerk Claudene Anthony; and City Attorney Pamala H. Ryan.

**CHAIRPERSON PARDO:** Thank you. Welcome, everyone, to the City of Riviera Beach. Tonight we have a special meeting to appoint a person to the District 3 seat. Before we do that I would like to invite everyone to stand for a moment of silence, followed by the pledge.

Everyone stood for a Moment of Silence with the Pledge of Allegiance being led by Chairperson Pardo.

**CHAIRPERSON PARDO:** I guess it was two weeks ago when we met, when the Council met and we laid out the procedure on how we were going to move forward, and the majority agreed that tonight we would just write our choice on a piece of paper with your name on it, pass it down to the Clerk and and see what happens. And so I would encourage my colleagues, your choice.

**COUNCILPERSON BROOKS:** Are we not going to introduce the people who are listed? I think -- I don't know if the -- if they just want to just see them or --

**CHAIRPERSON PARDO:** Remember, we went through all kinds of scenarios, and this is what the Council came up with.

**COUNCILPERSON BROOKS:** Okay.

**MAYOR MASTERS:** Madam Chair?

**CHAIRPERSON PARDO:** Yes, Mayor.

**MAYOR MASTERS:** I know that we did go through different scenarios, but and since this is being televised, I think it's in the interests of the general public that each candidate should be given at least two minutes, as we give everybody else two minutes to -- to speak, while they're here. I just think that's just the right thing and the fair thing

to do.

**COUNCILPERSON BROOKS:** But no public comments.

**MAYOR MASTERS:** No, I'm not saying public. I'm talking about the candidates, my –

**CHAIRPERSON PARDO:** That's fine.

**COUNCILPERSON BROOKS:** But you were saying, no public comments.

**MAYOR MASTERS:** That's what I think. That's what Mrs. Brooks –

**CHAIRPERSON PARDO:** Okay. Let's go through the list. Do we have a list, so I don't forget anyone? Thank you. Okay. We have Tonya Davis Johnson. We have Rodney R. Roberts. We have Eddie Runner [phonetic], Cedric Thomas, Elizabeth Wade, and Steve White.

**COUNCILPERSON BROOKS:** The five -- oh, six.

**CHAIRPERSON PARDO:** Six candidates.

**MAYOR MASTERS:** Eddie -- it was Eddie. Who is that person, Eddie?

**COUNCILPERSON:** Runner.

**CHAIRPERSON PARDO:** Eddie Runner. I'll repeat the names. Tonya Davis Johnson, Rodney Roberts, Eddie Runner, Cedric Thomas, Elizabeth Wade, and Steve White.

**MAYOR MASTERS:** Madam Chair, I'm asking that you would give those candidates two minutes to speak before the vote is taken.

**CHAIRPERSON PARDO:** With all due respect, Mayor, we went through our process two weeks ago, and this is what the majority came up with. This is how we said we were going to move forward.

**MAYOR MASTERS:** I understand, Madam Chair, but that was a workshop and it wasn't a vote.

**CHAIRPERSON PARDO:** No, actually, it was in the Council -- it was a Council meeting. We discussed it in a Council meeting.

**MAYOR MASTERS:** Okay. I just wish it was changed.

**CHAIRPERSON PARDO:** Uh-huh.

**MAYOR MASTERS:** But if my colleagues don't feel it should be changed, then I will

accept the -- the ruling of that meeting.

**COUNCILPERSON BROOKS:** Well, I had expressed before that I would wish that we would give everybody at least an opportunity just to -- to speak. There would not be public comments, but just as a courtesy, just to -- they took the time to fill out the application, expressed an interest in -- in -- in serving the City, and I -- I just think it would be a courtesy and what would 14 or 15 minutes really matter a lot? So that's my position.

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** Well, my -- excuse me. My position is, is anyone up here gonna change their mind because someone comes up here for two minutes? I mean, I've been agonizing over this since September, so --

**COUNCILPERSON BROOKS:** Well, it was just a courtesy. It's just a courtesy.

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** Yeah, I under -- I understand that, but you know, the time is now, so we just -- just gotta move forward.

**CHAIRPERSON PARDO:** Right. Okay. Okay, Council. You ready?

**COUNCILPERSON:** Can I get a -- fresh pencils?

**CHAIRPERSON PARDO:** Who used a pencil?

**COUNCILPERSON:** To write the names?

**COUNCILPERSON:** Huh?

**CHAIRPERSON PARDO:** Who used a pencil?

**COUNCILPERSON:** I need it.

**CHAIRPERSON PARDO:** Someone did not write a name.

**COUNCILPERSON BROOKS:** Isn't there a name on there?

**COUNCILPERSON:** You put your name.

**CHAIRPERSON PARDO:** Your name.

**COUNCILPERSON BROOKS:** Oh, I'm sorry.

**COUNCILPERSON:** Madam Chair?

**CHAIRPERSON PARDO:** Yes.

**DEPUTY CITY CLERK ANTHONY:** Before me I have Dawn Pardo nominates Cedric Thomas. Billie Brooks nominates Cedrick Thomas. Judy Davis nominates Tonya Johnson, and Shelby Lowe nominates Tonya Johnson. So –

**CHAIRPERSON PARDO:** Okay. Which means there is a tie, so the Mayor breaks it. Mayor?

**MAYOR MASTERS:** No, no, I don't -- I don't -- I don't wanna do mine on paper. I'll -- I'll do it on paper, but I need to as the only disenfranchised elected official, tonight I am prepared to break this tie. Madam Chair, I need to make a few comments on this vote. I want to make it absolutely clear that Mr. Cedrick Thomas is my friend, a longtime supporter of New Macedonia Baptist Church, he and his family.

He and I have disagreed on several issues that have come before this Board. In the -- in the early stages, the financing of the Jazz Festival, the implementation and the execution of the curfew, Pull Up The Pants referendum, the renaming of the street after Elder Herman McCray, and the salary increase for elected officials, the three referendum issues -- referendum issues including not taking the authority of the mayor to suspend employees. We disagreed on the suspension of Bill Wilkins.

However -- however, Mr. Thomas and I have agreed on several other important issues: the referendum to save our public beach from over development, the insurance issue for our employees, the unwaiveable [sic] support for our police and fire departments and City departments, and of course, we've agreed on not raising our water bill, his fight for the MPO and stimulus monies, the uncompromising education of our children, leading the fight to save JFK, and to help the residents of Broadmoor to relocate in the city, and to keep all redevelopment projects, including the Ocean Mall project, and the Beach Erosion projects, on course.

Madam Chair, as I prepare to cast this decisive vote, let me conclude that I must say for the record that I disagree with anyone who calls Mr. Thomas in the press "fickle." This man has only sought higher office in the effort to enlarging his horizon to represent the people of Riviera Beach.

Madam Chair, I've spoken to many residents. I've received several phone calls, especially from seniors, who feel that when you move you lose, who feel that if you resign, then you don't come back and ask for your seat back, and that if you want your seat back, then you ask the people to put you back. Therefore, tonight I am casting this decisive vote for Mrs. Tonya Davis Johnson. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON PARDO:** Thank you, Mayor. Miss Johnson, congratulations. Yes, stand.

**MISS JOHNSON:** Good evening, Madam Chair and –

**CHAIRPERSON PARDO:** Good evening.

**MISS JOHNSON:** -- City Council members. I'd like to thank you for this opportunity. I am looking very much forward to working with you as we collectively work together to increase our city and to make our city the best city, the best waterfront city to live work

and play, but more importantly, some of the issues that I'm passionate about deal with community development, economic development, infrastructure, crime, community development. Those things are very near and dear to my heart, and I really look forward to working with you as we all have our unique districts, but we're working together collectively to ensure that our citizens receive the absolute best. So I thank you for your support and your vote of confidence, and for those of you that I did not get your support, I look forward to gaining that support as we work together to improve the conditions of our city. So thank you very much.

**CHAIRPERSON PARDO:** Thank you, ma'am. Okay? All right.

**COUNCILPERSON BROOKS:** Meeting's adjourned.

**CHAIRPERSON PARDO:** Motion to adjourn.

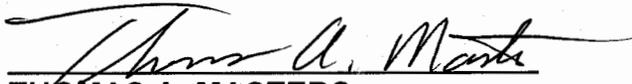
**COUNCILPERSON BROOKS:** Adjourn, yes.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**There being no further business, the meeting was duly adjourned at 6:45 p.m.**

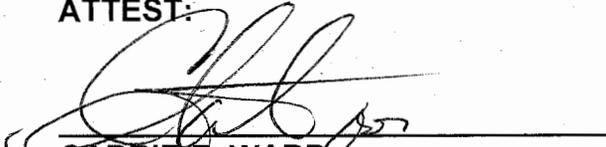
**PLEASE NOTE: A COMPLETE AGENDA PACKAGE AND RECORDING IS ON FILE IN THE OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK.**

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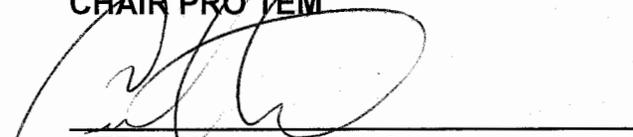
  
THOMAS A. MASTERS  
MAYOR

  
BILLIE E. BROOKS  
CHAIRPERSON

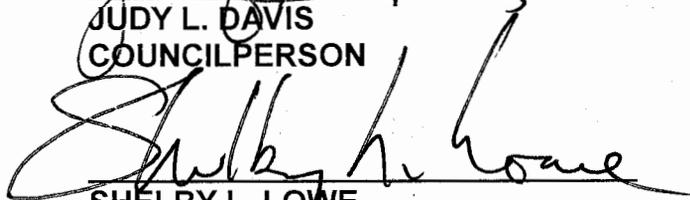
ATTEST:

  
CARRIE E. WARD  
MASTER MUNICIPAL CLERK  
CITY CLERK

  
DAWN S. PARDO  
CHAIR PRO TEM

  
CEDRICK A. THOMAS  
COUNCILPERSON

  
JUDY L. DAVIS  
COUNCILPERSON

  
SHELBY L. LOWE  
COUNCILPERSON

MOTIONED BY:     D. PARDO    

SECONDED BY:     J. DAVIS    

B. BROOKS     AYE    

D. PARDO     AYE    

C. THOMAS     AYE    

J. DAVIS     AYE    

S. LOWE     AYE    

DATE APPROVED: 08/15/2012