

**CITY OF RIVIERA BEACH
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
HELD IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
SEPTEMBER 26, 2018 @ 6:00P.M.**

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

CALL TO ORDER

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: Good evening. I'd like to call the Special City Council Meeting of September 26th to order. Madam Clerk, roll call, please.

ROLL CALL

CITY CLERK ANTHONY: Mayor Thomas Masters?

MAYOR MASTERS: Present.

CITY CLERK ANTHONY: Chairperson Tonya Davis Johnson?

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: Here.

CITY CLERK ANTHONY: Chair Pro Tem Lynne Hubbard?

CHAIR PRO TEM HUBBARD: Here.

CITY CLERK ANTHONY: Councilperson KaShamba Miller-Anderson?

COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON: Present.

CITY CLERK ANTHONY: Councilperson Julia Botel?

COUNCILPERSON BOTEL: Here.

CITY CLERK ANTHONY: Councilperson Terence Davis?

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Here.

CITY CLERK ANTHONY: City Manager Karen Hoskins?

CITY MANAGER HOSKINS: Here.

CITY CLERK ANTHONY: City Clerk Claudene Anthony is present. City Attorney Andrew DeGraffenreidt?

CITY ATTORNEY DeGRAFFENREIDT: Here.

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: Like to stand for a moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by the Mayor.

Invocation

Pledge of Allegiance

(Everyone stood for a Moment of Silence with the Pledge of Allegiance being led by Mayor Masters).

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: Madam Manager, are there any additions, deletions or substitutions?

AGENDA Approval:

Additions, Deletions, Substitutions

CITY MANAGER HOSKINS: No, ma'am.

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: Any disclosures by council? **Disclosures by Council**

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Madam Chair?

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: Councilman Davis, you're recognized.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: There's an item in Community Benefits. The Mayor had reached out to me to discuss potential support. And I brought to his attention -- but I don't have the documentation with me today -- Bethune Elementary had recently sent some information out regarding a trip for the students to St. Augustine for the old Historical Florida trip. So I would present that information to staff to comply with what is needed for the Community Benefits for -- that the Mayor is suggesting today.

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: Mr. Davis, are you taking those dollars from the fiscal year that we're currently in, or are you looking to do that in the next fiscal year?

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: No, the Mayor, this is -- from this current fiscal year he's expending Community Benefits before we get to October. Is that -- is that correct, Mayor?

MAYOR MASTERS: Right. Yeah. I had extra money so we have to spend it before the end of this month.

COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON: Well, where is it?

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: So he -- he asked me that -- did I know any nonprofits that -- I said, Well, Bethune Elementary did reach out to me about a trip. They're trying to raise money for transportation for students to go to St. Augustine for the Historical Florida trip that they go every year where they have where the slaves come in off the ships, showing that whole historical trip. They do it every year. And I will present that information, submit it to them for backup. So just approving this information pending the information's all -- is correct. That's all.

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: What's the value of this benefit, do we know?

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: I -- I just told the Mayor -- I don't know how much is -

MAYOR MASTERS: \$200.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Just 200 so --

CITY MANAGER HOSKINS: Madam Chair?

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: So the Mayor is giving \$200 --

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: To Bethune.

MAYOR MASTERS: To Bethune.

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: -- to Bethune Elementary.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: For the purpose of the St. Augustine trip, education trip.

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: And we don't have any documentation and it's going to the school district?

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Yes, ma'am. I will submit the documentation tomorrow morning to staff.

MAYOR MASTERS: Madam Chair, we've always --

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: Mr. Mayor, you're recognized.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: It's his Community -- he's just trying to get rid of it so I said I knew -- and the only thing, I said, Well, I recently was just contacted by Bethune. I said, You can give it to them.

COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON: So he's talking. He --

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: So the Mayor is technically giving the money. You are just making it known that you provided --

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Providing the information.

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: -- the information to the Mayor for a potential benefit?

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Yes, ma'am.

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: Okay. And so Mr. Mayor, is your intent to -
- to provide \$200 to Bethune for this trip?

MAYOR MASTERS: I confirm. We felt -- and I was just going to add, in the past we have give -- I know I have given money to Bethune before. Maybe others have in the past. So it's -- it's not a new thing other than this project today. But in the past I've given to Miss Granger, the school.

CITY MANAGER HOSKINS: Madam Chair?

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: Madam -- Madam Manager.

CITY MANAGER HOSKINS: Just to clarify, are you saying the funds -- these are funds in your current fiscal year budget?

MAYOR MASTERS: Yes. Yes.

CITY MANAGER HOSKINS: Okay. Community Benefits?

MAYOR MASTERS: Correct.

CITY MANAGER HOSKINS: Okay.

COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON: Madam Chair?

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: Councilwoman Miller-Anderson, you're recognized.

COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON: So for the agenda, though, I don't think this one is on there. Are we -- are you adding this one on here?

MAYOR MASTERS: I am.

COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON: Oh, okay.

MAYOR MASTERS: I had turned it --

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: I am.

COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON: Well, nobody said anything.

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: I -- I hadn't gotten there.

CITY MANAGER HOSKINS: I didn't know.

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: I -- I asked -- I asked about additions. The Mayor was silent so --

MAYOR MASTERS: Well, I thought you were speaking to the City Manager when you said that. I'm sorry. You want me to tell her now about it?

COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON: 'Cause weren't we on Disclosures?

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: Just go ahead and publicly disclose it, sir.

MAYOR MASTERS: Yes. I had given that to the City Clerk to add on for the agenda for tonight.

CITY CLERK ANTHONY: And Madam Chair, that was a part of the notice that was advertised. If you recall, on the notice that I e-mailed to each --

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: On the notice?

CITY CLERK ANTHONY: -- each one of you it did say the approval of Community Benefits to expend funds.

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: That was on the document. You are correct.

COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON: Well, it -- Madam Chair?

CITY MANAGER HOSKINS: But it was not in Novus [phonetic].

COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON: Right.

CITY MANAGER HOSKINS: It was not input in Novus. It was --

COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON: Yeah.

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: But it was in a correspondence from the clerk that indicated that as a part of this agenda tonight we would be dealing with the expenditures of dollars for Community Benefits.

COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON: But Madam Chair?

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: Councilwoman Miller --

COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON: Usually don't we put it --

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: -- Anderson, you're recognized.

COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON: -- under consent, though, right? Usually Community Benefits is on the consent.

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: They technically are, but things are a little out of whack and they were not -- it wasn't put on in that fashion.

COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON: Okay.

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: It was a part of the original request.

COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON: So he's just adding it. He's just adding it?

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: Uh-huh.

COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON: All right. So are we gonna -- somebody gonna read it?

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: "A public benefits request sponsored by Mayor Thomas Masters to Nelson's Outreach Ministries for hurricane relief for North Carolina." So this organization -- you're giving hurricane relief for North Carolina through Nelson's Outreach Ministries to disperse the funds?

MAYOR MASTERS: Yes. I'm giving -- attempting to give \$1,400. They have a -- they're one of the nonprofit local organizations that have a program and projects to feed the hungry. They do it on a regular basis. So in addition to their efforts here in Riviera Beach, that will be used to further their efforts to feed the homeless and those that need food, hungry. They -- as you know, they have all those little boxes. They're also going to be sharing with the people who have been devastated because of the hurricane efforts in the Carolina and any other place that they're going to be trying to bless.

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: So they are sending -- so that I'm clear in my mind as to how this is going to work -- Nelson Outreach Ministries is going to be the -- they're going to receive the \$1,400, and then they are purchasing food to send, or are -- are -- are we talking about individuals that have relocated here to the City of Riviera Beach as a result of the hurricane to be serviced?

MAYOR MASTERS: They're going to do both. They're going to be servicing people here. Also we have some residents, people who are there in North Carolina, and they're going to be doing both and in addition to just the ordinary feeding that they do. So three different things that we're helping them -- I mean, we give them the money, and they can do as they choose as long as they're feeding the hungry and taking care of the homeless. So it won't be specifically for one thing or the other. But kind of umbrella, like, deal.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Madam Chair?

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: Councilman Davis and then Madam Mayor -- Madam Manager.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: I was on the phone today with a representative of a nonprofit in Wilmington, North Carolina. They have definitely reached a wall with a lot of resources. So this is something can be definitely supportive. Currently right now having a meeting with the Port of Palm Beach and some others so we can maybe do a county-wide with the Port sending a package up to the Carolinas, because what happened in Carolina was definitely something they weren't prepared for.

The water has just recently drained to where they can actually have access to get in and out of Wilmington, but the food is definitely -- hasn't been there effectively today. Today was very difficult for the families in that area, and a lot of the folks had to actually take off from their jobs to help out with the county and the local municipality and the churches, because they weren't prepared at a staff level and the infrastructure level --

MAYOR MASTERS: That's right.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: -- to -- to deliver, because a lot of the goods haven't made it there because of the flood. So in this situation I just -- you know, just hope that Nelson Outreach is actually buying items to send, and I definitely will support it for this cause. Definitely will be taking a trip there in another week or two. But I would like to have the cooperation when I bring back this initiative of the entire council. It won't be a Councilman Davis initiative but maybe a county-wide initiative we can all do to give back.

MAYOR MASTERS: Right.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Wilmington, North Carolina, is a dear home to my family. My grandfather, that's his home he was born and raised at, who retired from Riviera Beach. The young couple who lost their children and wife, that's my first cousin. So we are working quietly as a family to keep this together. But to help the actual community of Wilmington. Wilmington, 'cause there's a lot of outskirt cities that have been impacted that no one's mentioning about.

MAYOR MASTERS: Right. And Florence --

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COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Recently today they had a Hispanic community that no one knew was there. And -- and when they found out, that's a whole 'nother story. But no one provided any level of service. So they need a lot of help across the -- across the country to definitely support what's going on.

MAYOR MASTERS: Madam Chair?

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: Mr. Mayor, you're recognized.

MAYOR MASTERS: Also they're going to be -- I've been talking about it for a week and I've met with pastors. So we are working -- they're coordinating efforts to get clothing, bottled water and anything that is -- can be used to Nelson's Outreach Ministries for they can help to deliver it there. So it's not just that one profit but they're the ones -- nonprofit, but they're the one that's sort of coordinating the efforts as people will be donating boxes of food and -- and all kinds of stuff. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: You're welcome, Mr. Mayor. I just wanted to -- just for the record, you know, after you said as long as they just do the outreach, that's all that we were concerned about. But if we're specifically saying for North Carolina, then we need to understand that they are, in fact, sending and shipping those items based on the Community Benefit dollars that were given, if that is what we are doing with the dollars. And I just wanted clarity because what you said was as long as they do something with it. And I just wanted, for the record, for it to be clear so that there is no misunderstanding or misinterpretation of the use of the funds.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Madam Chair?

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: Mr. Davis, you're recognized.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: I support you on that. This is a serious matter and it can't be taken lightly.

MAYOR MASTERS: Madam Chair, I just want to be -- I'm sorry.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Hold on.

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: Are you done, Mr. Davis?

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: I'm just saying I support you on that. I think we need to make sure that is taking place. I'm not necessarily working with Nelson's Outreach, just for the record.

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: Uh-huh.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: But I understand how significant this is because just talking on the ground with these folks every day, you can really feel it and hear it in their voices about how much support they need. But I think we need to be very clear, and the Mayor need to make sure that Nelson Outreach is definitely providing services to those folks from this money. Not to say they won't, but we need to make it very clear. We have a lot of folks who have lost their lives that are really needing these funds, and we need to make sure that this is definitely taking place if you're going to send funds outside of Riviera Beach or any resources outside of Riviera Beach.

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: So for the record let me just say that there was no condemnation intended for Nelson's Outreach Ministries. I'm just following up on the statement that you made, and I just want you to be aware of how it -- how it was described.

MAYOR MASTERS: Yeah, Madam Chair?

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: Mr. Mayor, you're recognized.

MAYOR MASTERS: Yeah, I just wanted to state now they may be able to get -- the more that they get donated, whether it's a truck or whether the -- whoever is going to donate, whether it's a moving company, but whatever they get donated, the more they would have left to spend for other things. So it's -- I don't want it to just nail into just the delivery, but it's also inclusive of everything else that comes with deliver. They get that part taken care of, great. And then they'll have funds to do other things with it as far as relating, as Councilman Davis says, to North Carolina.

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: So perhaps you need to --

MAYOR MASTERS: To the relief efforts.

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: -- so I would suggest, Mr. Mayor, that perhaps you amend the title to include that it will be doing some other local things as opposed to making it -- based on what we have here it appears that the \$1,400 would go specifically towards hurricane relief. So I would recommend that you amend that description to adequately reflect what it is that the dollars are intending to do.

MAYOR MASTERS: Okay. I so amend it. I have said that to chief of staff, I thought earlier, to make sure, but maybe you missed it. Debie? But it is for local efforts, as well. So we'll amend it. Because here it says "Hurricane relief North Carolina" implies it's only for North Carolina. But it isn't. It can be used -- huh?

DEBIE ISAAC: Description in the body, you have to also (unintelligible) read the description in the (unintelligible).

MAYOR MASTERS: "Nelson Outreach Ministry will accept and deliver anything kind and generous residents of Riviera Beach and those across Palm Beach County which will help people in dire need of assistance." So, yeah. But we will amend it to be inclusive of people who are in need of -- in Palm Beach County, as well. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Mayor.

MAYOR MASTERS: So amended.

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: I appreciate that.

COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON: Madam Chair?

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: I do have a question for the attorney with regards to the remaining dollars that I have in Community Benefits. The West Riviera Elementary School which sits in the heart of the district has a -- a moniker or a -- it's signage, and I wanted to be able to have that -- have that -- that -- that moniker revamped. Can I use --

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Yeah.

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: -- the Community Benefit dollars for that purpose?

CITY ATTORNEY DeGRAFFENREIDT: I'm aware of no (unintelligible).

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: Then I would ask the council to also approve the forwarding of the remaining balance of my Community Benefits dollars in the amount of \$700 to replace the signage that sits on Australian Avenue for West Riviera Elementary.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Oh, okay.

MAYOR MASTERS: I think that's a good idea.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: No problem.

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Mayor.

MAYOR MASTERS: You want to give a hundred towards the relief efforts? We'll take it. We'll take it.

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: Are there any other additions of Community Benefits to be added?

CHAIR PRO TEM HUBBARD: No.

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CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: Oh, good. Motion to adopt the agenda?

COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON: Madam Chair?

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: Councilwoman Miller-Anderson, you're recognized.

COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON: You -- you're -- we're doing the disclosure so let me kind of jump back. For disclosures, I spoke with Mr. Wilkins [phonetic] from TD Bank. That's my disclosure. I don't know. We jumped across and we went to --

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: No. I -- I asked for disclosures and no one made any but we kind of --

COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON: Well, then we went back to the Community Benefits.

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: Okay. So your disclosure is that you spoke to Mr. Wilkin [phonetic] at TD Bank?

COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: Okay. Did anyone else speak to Mr. Wilkin at TD Bank?

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: No.

CHAIR PRO TEM HUBBARD: No.

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: Okay.

MAYOR MASTERS: But I -- Madam Chair?

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: Mr. Mayor?

MAYOR MASTERS: I have a disclosure. I did speak -- have -- have a -- had a long-distance conversation with the regional manager, only person -- the regional manager for government banking at TD Bank. His name is Mr. Scott Kreiger,

K-R-E-I-G-E-R. And he's located out of Fort Lauderdale.

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: And he's a regional --

MAYOR MASTERS: He's a regional group manager, government banking. That's his position.

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: -- for TD Bank?

MAYOR MASTERS: For TD Bank.

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: Hearing no further disclosures, I've got a motion to adopt the agenda?

Adoption of Agenda

COUNCILPERSON BOTEL: So moved.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Second.

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: Then motioned and properly second. Madam Clerk?

CITY CLERK ANTHONY: Councilperson Davis?

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Yes.

CITY CLERK ANTHONY: Councilperson Botel?

COUNCILPERSON BOTEL: Yes.

CITY CLERK ANTHONY: Councilperson Miller-Anderson?

COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON: Yes.

CITY CLERK ANTHONY: Pro Tem Hubbard?

CHAIR PRO TEM HUBBARD: Yes.

CITY CLERK ANTHONY: Chair Davis Johnson?

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: Yes.

CITY CLERK ANTHONY: Unanimous vote.

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: Is it necessary for me to go through each of these since there is no action with Minutes, Resolutions, Unfinished Business, etc.? Should I do it for the record?

CITY CLERK ANTHONY: Not necessarily the minutes and the resolutions, Madam Chair. But however, your Community Benefits do fall up under your Consent Agenda.

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: Okay.

CITY CLERK ANTHONY: So you will have to do a motion for your Consent Agenda.

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: All righty.

Comments From the Public on Consent Agenda (Three Minute Limitation)

CONSENT AGENDA

ALL MATTERS LISTED UNDER THIS ITEM ARE CONSIDERED TO BE ROUTINE AND ACTION WILL BE TAKEN BY ONE MOTION. THERE WILL BE NO SEPARATE DISCUSSION OF THESE ITEMS UNLESS A COUNCILPERSON SO REQUESTS, IN WHICH EVENT, THE ITEM WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE GENERAL ORDER OF BUSINESS AND CONSIDERED IN ITS NORMAL SEQUENCE ON THE AGENDA.

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: Is there a motion to approve the Consent Agenda?

COUNCILPERSON BOTEL: So moved.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Second.

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: It's been moved and properly second. Madam, are there any comment cards for the Consent Agenda?

CITY CLERK ANTHONY: No, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: Madam Clerk.

COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON: Madam Chair, put -- your microphone isn't really --

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: Oh, my mike? Hello?

COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON: That's better when -- yeah.

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: Okay. Let me get closer.

CITY CLERK ANTHONY: Councilperson Davis?

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Yes.

CITY CLERK ANTHONY: Councilperson Botel?

COUNCILPERSON BOTEL: Yes.

CITY CLERK ANTHONY: Councilperson Miller-Anderson?

COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON: Yes.

CITY CLERK ANTHONY: Pro Tem Hubbard?

CHAIR PRO TEM HUBBARD: Yes.

CITY CLERK ANTHONY: Chair Davis Johnson?

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: Yes.

CITY CLERK ANTHONY: Unanimous vote.

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: All righty. We are here for discussion and deliberation regarding the payroll incident.

MINUTES

RESOLUTIONS

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS FOR FILING

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS

PUBLIC HEARINGS

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC - 7:30 PM Non-Agenda Item Speakers (Three Minute Limitation)

Public Comment should be restricted to issues, matters, or topics pertinent to the City of Riviera Beach. Please be reminded that the City Council has adopted "Rules of Decorum Governing Public Conduct during Official Meetings", which has been posted at the entrance of the Council Chambers. In an effort to preserve order, if any of the rules are not adhered to, the Council Chair may have any disruptive speaker or attendee removed from the podium, from the meeting and/or the building, if necessary. Please govern yourselves accordingly.

Public Comments shall begin at 7:30 PM unless there is no further business of the City Council, which in that event, it shall begin sooner. In addition; if an item is being

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considered at 7:30 PM, then comments from the public shall begin immediately after the item has been concluded.

ITEMS TABLED

REGULAR

DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION

1. **MAYOR'S REQUEST FOR DISCUSSION ON THE PAYROLL INCIDENT OCCURRING ON SEPTEMBER 21, 2018.**

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE & ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES RANDY SHERMAN (561)845-4045

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: And I would like to go on record as saying that I believe that this meeting at this particular time is premature. We have not gathered all of the information that I believe that we need before bringing this to a public forum. And I will stand in support of the city manager should she determine it necessary to discipline individuals -- an individual or individual -- I will give my full support. It is not my decision to make, but I certainly want to go on to -- on the record as stating that we don't have all of the facts and the information that I believe that we need to have in order to have this discussion. So for the record, I am now on the record stating my position.

CHAIR PRO TEM HUBBARD: Madam Chair?

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: Chair Pro Tem, you're recognized.

CHAIR PRO TEM HUBBARD: My understanding is that this meeting will be just a matter to reassure the employees that there are protocols being put into place so that it doesn't likely happen again. And my understanding also was that we weren't going to analyze or dissect the situation here today. It was just a matter of letting the employees know that we are putting protocols in place to keep this from happening again. That was my understanding , Madam Chair.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Madam Chair?

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: Councilman Davis, you're recognized.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: I would like to say that I haven't received anything from the City Manager's Office for us to approve or review for the protocols. This is at -- something that should be addressed at the staff level. Too many times we have taken our business public when it should be City's business. We're -- there's no policy in front of us right now to address it. I do believe that staff -- unless we're going to be micromanaging staff or telling staff what to do, we're not in no position to give any

information out publicly unless someone has something that I don't -- that I'm not aware of.

This is a premature meeting. Maybe later at a later date, I believe the City Manager has that right and has authority to address all staff at her own meeting. And she should be allowed to move forward at that juncture when the time is appropriate. I do believe that this meeting is a little premature but not have -- because we don't have all the documentation to even conduct a -- a -- the meeting the way -- the way it should be done. And I don't support that we -- that we -- that we have a meeting at this point. And I support approving the Community Benefits moving forward, but Miss Hoskins is still reviewing the information based upon my knowledge, still waiting to hear from information. Until that is done we should not be conducting the meeting.

MAYOR MASTERS: Madam Chair?

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: Mr. Mayor, you're recognized.

MAYOR MASTERS: I called the meeting. I called it -- first of all, I don't -- I don't think it's ever too premature to talk about people's money and getting paid. Not to be in disrespect to Mr. Davis. I called the meeting because a lot of things are being said, a lot of accusations, a lot of controversies with employees kind of somewhat concerned. Maybe stressed out, not knowing if -- if there -- this will happen again.

And I've been stopped many, many times since that incident on Friday, asked questions about, Well, what is -- how -- how can we know? What will we know? What is in place that -- that this won't happen again? We're not here to shame and blame the bank or the City. We're here to, as Mr. Davis said or whoever said, let the employee -- I think Councilwoman Hubbard know that there are some safeguards and some checks and balances that have immediately been put in place by the finance director that will make sure that this -- this does not happen again on our watch.

And there was a memo that has gone out from the finance director, and the memo states what those safeguards are and also what the balance and checks are. And I think it's important that the public will know that, too. There are people out there that are using this issue for political purposes. They're saying that our -- our city messed up, that we're inept, that we can't get it right. And that's on the backdrop of a lot of other issues that have been -- been called into question.

So I certainly -- I don't -- try not to do anything premature. If there's -- if there's a reason to do it and if there's a reason to get ahead of something, if there's a reason to nip it in the bud and to put a rest that is -- everything's going to be all right on the next paycheck, it's -- at the next time to get a paycheck. And the other reason why I called it, I -- my signature is on -- there's only two people that sign for the City on payroll. That's the mayor and the finance director. So I felt that I had somewhat more of a fiduciary

obligation and responsibility to the employees 'cause they see Thomas Masters and they see Randy Sherman on there.

They ask Thomas Masters what will be the assurances. So this is not -- I agree. The purpose of this meeting was not to be a judge and jury or to shame and blame. I did have a 45-minute conversation with the bank, and they are working hand in hand with the City to address issues forthcoming and those that -- in the past, as well. So I'm at peace with the conversation that I had with the gentleman that's over the whole region.

So Madam Chair, I would like for the finance director who has -- who went -- who made a memo and sent it out yesterday to us, that that memo be made public for the employees will know that Mr. Sherman has put into play immediately these kinds of things -- I call it checks and balances -- that will make sure that that doesn't -- just for the employees' peace of mind. Facebook can -- can stop all the foolishness and all the social media and all the things, 'cause I think this memo will give that direction.

And our employees, who I'm mostly concerned about -- I'm always concerned about the public, but the people who are affected are those that receive checks and those that will be receiving checks. And they work very hard. Police, fire, general employees and others, they work very hard. And I don't want them to go two weeks -- another week -- it would be another week. It'll just almost be there so I thought it would be prudent for me to call this meeting, and I did have some support in calling the meeting from up here, as well as from employees, as well as the general public. That's why this meeting is being called for we can give our employees a peace of mind.

CHAIR PRO TEM HUBBARD: Madam Chair?

MAYOR MASTERS: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: Chair --

CHAIR PRO TEM HUBBARD: Madam Chair?

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: -- Pro Tem, you're recognized.

CHAIR PRO TEM HUBBARD: Just for a point of clarity here, when I mentioned giving the employees a peace of mind or to let them know that regulations and rules were being put in place, I was speaking that our administration, Miss Hoskins, is working diligently to make sure that that does not happen again and that she is reviewing the protocols that are in finance so we don't want to have the chicken guarding, you know, the hen -- the fox guarding the hen house.

What we're saying is we will trust with that level of experience, when she gets done, she will be -- she can -- she can assure the public, the employees, rather, that there are safe -- safeguards that -- that are being put into place. Now, any documents that

would be released to the public, to the employees, all should come from Mrs. Hoskins because we cannot have staff putting things out into the public that with 35 years of experience in finance -- that our city manager has not laid her eyes on and that she has -- she -- I'm sure she has read the memo. But we have nothing to say that this is what she is and wants to do.

So we have to -- the protocols that are going to be set out, the assurances that are going to be made, I want to see them come from Mrs. Hoskins once she finish her due diligence. And you know, for the -- the reassurance for the employees to also come from our city manager, because she is well-qualified to handle this situation and to give -- to give the assurances that -- that -- that we need.

MAYOR MASTERS: Madam Chair?

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: Mr. Mayor, you're recognized.

MAYOR MASTERS: Thank you. You know, for example, there's some things that the public needs to know now, as well as employees. For example, that there is an investigation that the City has launched, and the internal auditor has -- is -- has launched and will be looking in -- pardon me?

CHAIR PRO TEM HUBBARD: (Unintelligible).

MAYOR MASTERS: That -- that will be looking into the whole incident and -- and getting clarification. And that's fine. I mean, that's not what I'm talking about.

I just think that the memo -- that the public should know exactly what the safeguards are that are put in place. Has nothing to do with the investigation, has nothing to do with what happened, how it happened and all that. It's just that. And -- and I'm not asking for the entire memo. I'm asking to be -- not the entire memo read but that -- that is essential what those safeguards are. I think when people have information, information is powerful.

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: Uh-huh.

MAYOR MASTERS: And I would like for Mr. Sherman at this time to come and let the public know what those safeguards -- and the employees know what the safeguards are that you have implemented with the approval of the city manager. Karen Hoskins, I don't think is not -- this is no secret here. I think she has a -- you -- she got the memo and then signed off, as far as I know. So Madam Chair, I'm asking for the finance director to give us, at this time --

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: Before the finance manager --

MAYOR MASTERS: -- publicly --

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: -- comes, Mr. Mayor, color me naïve, but we have a citywide electronic system that can notify all of our employees of this memorandum. And at the appropriate time it would be responsive and responsible of this city to release a press release to outline what has actually happened. I still stand firm in my position. This what Mr. Sherman has submitted simply tells us what the steps were. There are no preventative measures contained in this document. It simply outlines the activities that happened. And I just think that we need to do a better job managing our narrative. And before we take things public --

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Uh-huh.

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: -- it is my opinion -- and this is my opinion - - that moving forward we should have notified the employees in writing by e-mail of our intent not to have this -- this incident repeated. And then secondly, once we have gotten all of the information that we need to be able to present the City's position, we could have very easily issued a press release. We've just gotta do a better job of controlling.

I am by no means saying that the public does not have a right to know. We want to make sure that when we are informing the public that we are informing the public with accurate information and what our true next steps are. So that is my -- my -- I -- I'm going to stand firm on that because I just believe that we should do a better job of managing our narrative and managing this city. And so Mr. Sherman --

CITY MANAGER HOSKINS: Madam Chair?

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: Madam Manager.

CITY MANAGER HOSKINS: First of all, as I apologized or spoke on Friday via e-mail to all the employees, something happened. And when I spoke with the mayor on Friday evening, you know, I urged him not to have this meeting at this time until we as staff knew exactly what happened. Now, we're at this meeting just, you know, talking about the memo and measures that will be put in place. Yes, we have talked about measures that will be put in place so this never, ever happens again. And I urge you not to go into detail.

MAYOR MASTERS: Correct.

CITY MANAGER HOSKINS: You know, you've talked to the bank and, you know, we -- I understand your name is on the check. However, as administrators of the city, I just wish you would follow the protocol and let city staff handle the day-to-day operations as it relates to, you know, working with the bank, trying to figure out, you know, what exactly happened.

Now, we are still looking at documentation, reviewing computer log -- logons and still obtaining information from the bank so we are assured that we weren't hacked or, you

know, anything out of the ordinary happened. It may have been just a simple mistake. But we don't know that at this point. As you stated, the internal auditor is looking at it and the bank has looked at it and provided us information as late as this -- this afternoon.

So I will assure you and then -- and guarantee that this will not ever happen again so the employees can be at a comfort level that when we say we have

direct-deposited your funds, your paycheck, that those funds are there. Now, the funds usually post at 12:01 a.m. Friday morning. They didn't post but they did post at 5 on Friday afternoon, which is out of the ordinary. Everyone got paid. There were no overdraft -- no one was charged any overdraft charges or anything of the sort. It was -- such. It was just a delay in the payment posted to their accounts. So, you know, if you still want Mr. Sherman to get up and talk about -- I don't think there is a need for him to get up and talk about the memo or, you know, anything. I assure you that this will not happen again.

MAYOR MASTERS: Madam Chair?

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: Mr. Mayor, you're recognized.

MAYOR MASTERS: That is not the -- the conversation that I had with the manager, I don't -- I don't recall her asking me not to do it. I -- I do recall her saying, "Really? Really?" But that was basically all I remember or recollect about the conversation.

The manager does what she feels that she has to do as manager. The charter gives the mayor the right or the responsibility to call special meetings. Does not have to be approved by the manager, did not have to be approved by the council. They just don't show up. Just like if two councilperson call a special meeting, if they don't show up you don't have a quorum. So we have a quorum. We have five people and the manager here. I do think it's important. Mr. Sherman does not have to speak, but I would like for the public to know, particularly the employees to know, there are some steps that have been put into place. What those steps are is all I'm asking. What those steps are that --

CITY MANAGER HOSKINS: I know those steps.

MAYOR MASTERS: Okay. Would you just --

CITY MANAGER HOSKINS: The additional step will be --

MAYOR MASTERS: -- the additional steps. That's all I'm concerned about, that the employees will hear those additional --

CITY MANAGER HOSKINS: The additional step will be that on Thursday afternoon, staff will have a third review of the file being sent to the bank and they will call the bank to verify that the -- the ACH file has transmitted.

MAYOR MASTERS: Okay. And that's an additional step?

CITY MANAGER HOSKINS: Right.

MAYOR MASTERS: That we haven't done in the -- in the past?

CITY MANAGER HOSKINS: That's correct.

MAYOR MASTERS: Okay. And --

CITY MANAGER HOSKINS: We have always relied on technology and sometimes technology do fail you. That just by looking at the bank and seeing it's approved, that's what we relied on. But we're going to go that additional step and call the bank to verify that those funds -- that the ACH deposit was transmitted.

MAYOR MASTERS: Wonderful. And I also think -- I have reason to believe that the bank also will probably have an additional step, which will be good. So we have more eyes, more hands on it.

But I'm very sensitive about this issue because I had a bad experience personally. I was paid a payroll check from the City Friday. It's been months ago. Several months ago. Maybe four or five months ago. I don't recall the exact date. But I went to the bank on a Saturday morning to cash my payroll check and they couldn't cash it. And the manager -- I had to get the manager on the phone. And the manager worked it out with the bank to transfer, I guess, funds from somewhere else in the bank on another account that we had in order for the mayor's check to be cashed. That was something happened to me.

And so I don't want employees -- for that to happen to an employee. I -- I was just glad to get my money. I didn't make an issue out of it but it happened. I went to the bank and they didn't cash it. So things happen. Whether it's the bank, whether it's the City, stuff just happens. And I'm glad to see that the manager, Mr. Sherman and the bank are working together as a team to make sure that things just don't happen again. I'm satisfied now that the manager has stated what those steps are so when I'm stopped in moving around the city, I will be able to share that with the employees. And I'm sure that as someone said, the memo or whatever -- I'm sure that will be made public at some point, as well, for the public can know exactly that -- the memo. I'm -- I'm good.

COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON: Madam Chair?

CITY MANAGER HOSKINS: And -- and Mayor, the -- Madam Chair, I'm sorry.

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: Uh-huh. Madam Manager.

CITY MANAGER HOSKINS: The memo that you received are just the steps, what occurred on September 19th. So those are the steps that are followed each pay period. I don't think that this is the type memo that we would -- we -- we will not release this memo to the employees but a memo, you know, insuring that it won't ever happen again, the incident that happened last week.

MAYOR MASTERS: And it would include those steps?

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: Thank you.

MAYOR MASTERS: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: Councilwoman Miller-Anderson, you're recognized.

COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON: I -- I heard everything that all of you said. And I -- I agree. It should be the manager that handles it. But what I think the reason I'm in support and wanted to find out more is because I was not being given all of the information.

I know when I spoke to Mr. Wilkins on yesterday, he did indicate that he had given all of the documents to you all already. And -- and we -- you know, we know what happened and -- and the fact that someone did not -- they went back in -- and you mentioned this on that Friday to me when I spoke to you, that the bank was showing that someone went back into the file and modified the file after it had been approved first sign. And -- but the second approval was not applied in order for it to go through so it was basically just sitting there because of the modification. But you said that there was some sort of discrepancy. You all didn't show that here on the city side but the bank did indicate that was what the issue was. And I think for me, we -- I understand trying to make sure that our narrative is positive --

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: Correct.

COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON: -- and correct --

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: No, correct.

COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON: -- but we need to make sure that we are transparent and just tell what happened. If it's a mistake, it's a mistake. If it is someone did not do what they were supposed to do, then discipline him.

But to sit here and pretend that, Oh, we're still working on it, we're not still working on it. The documents have been provided. They are doing -- they -- Mr. Wilkins said that

the extra tech IT work that's being done, he said, basically would still indicate what it is you've already received, which was Monday. I guess you all received some more documents which is what you all sent me today which had the additional -- the additional steps. Remember I said on the Friday -- what Mr. Sherman put with the memo only covered for Wednesday the 19th, and the modifications is the one that you sent today which has all of the additional dates on there where the partial modifier was done, which is what caused the file to reopen and get stuck and not move forward. Do you -- you know what I'm talking about?

CITY MANAGER HOSKINS: Yes.

COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON: Okay.

CITY MANAGER HOSKINS: But Madam --

COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON: Go ahead.

CITY MANAGER HOSKINS: -- when we receive --

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: Madam Manager.

CITY MANAGER HOSKINS: -- well, I received information as late as 2:00 today from the bank.

COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON: Right. Right. He said he was sending --

CITY MANAGER HOSKINS: So --

COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON: -- they were doing a deeper --

CITY MANAGER HOSKINS: -- okay.

COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON: -- but he said it should support what you all already had.

CITY MANAGER HOSKINS: Okay. But just to clarify, we're not finished with the investigation.

COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON: I -- I'm -- uh-huh.

CITY MANAGER HOSKINS: Because, you know, a staff member has stated that they did not go back in the --

COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON: Uh-huh.

CITY MANAGER HOSKINS: -- file. And I believe I know why he's saying that but I don't want to say it now.

COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON: Uh-huh.

CITY MANAGER HOSKINS: I have our IT staff looking at his computer just to, you know, look at some other things.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Uh-huh.

COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON: Uh-huh.

CITY MANAGER HOSKINS: Now, as I stated, I don't want to, you know, give out any other information.

COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON: Right. And I -- I understand that. I'm just -- I'm just saying --

CITY MANAGER HOSKINS: Right.

COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON: -- we need to be transparent about an -- you know, I mean, if you're still investigating it, fine. But we have --

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: Well --

COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON: -- we have the documents.

CITY CLERK ANTHONY: Madam Chair?

COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON: Well, you have the documents.

CITY CLERK ANTHONY: Madam Chair?

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: Madam Clerk.

CITY CLERK ANTHONY: Please be advised that all documents that you all have talked about here on this dais in this meeting need to be in the City Clerk's Office tomorrow morning for it is now public record.

COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON: Well, the manager has it. She gave it to me so it -- it -- it's always public record. Yeah. Is every --

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: But she doesn't have it, though, is -- is what she's saying. Just make sure that she gets a copy.

COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON: That's fine. And so I just want to make sure that we put that out there that it was because someone went into it. That part I don't think we kind of said what happened. You did say that to me on Friday.

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: We were trying to get to the --

COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON: Madam Chair, please, let me -- could I finish my comment?

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: By all means, please excuse me.

COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON: Thank you. And so with the document that you're -- you sent --

CITY MANAGER HOSKINS: Uh-huh.

COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON: -- okay, it has the additional dates on there. So that information was given to you all already. But that was not provided until after I spoke with them and I asked for the additional documents to show what was already stated and what everyone already knew. So it wasn't like we -- we don't know. There may be an ongoing investigation, but we need to put it out there this is what happened.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: No.

COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON: And if you need to discipline someone, if you need to just correct -- put corrective measures in like you're doing --

CITY MANAGER HOSKINS: Uh-huh.

COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON: -- that's fine. But I'm talking about the transparency part of it. Everybody's up here, you know, we don't -- We shouldn't be talking about it. We need to keep it quiet, do --

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: No, no, no.

COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON: -- just -- let's just --

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: No, no, no.

COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON: -- say what it is and then we move on.

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: So let -- let me just clarify. I never said let's keep it quiet. What I simply said was let's get all of the facts before we begin to put things out. If the manager conveys to us that there is still information that she is gathering, then we need to give her an opportunity. I don't believe that anyone here is suggesting that

we keep anything quiet and it's not a matter of giving a pretty narrative. It's important to me that we give an accurate narrative. And that is the position in this statement that I made. So let's just keep it clear that when we are --

COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON: Madam Chair?

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: -- as you asked, may I finish?

COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: So what we need to do is the manager has indicated to us -- and -- and the use of the word transparency is suggesting that we're trying to keep something under wraps. By all mean I want to -- by all means, I want to get to the very bottom of this situation, and whatever needs to happen by way of disciplinary action should be taken. Because there is no way that you cannot tell me that for a city of this size, processing the dollars that we process, that we are unaware of what the requirements are and what changes where.

But I have to believe that if the city manager says that she is conducting additional information, then when all of the information is ready to be divulged, we should do it at that time. We tend to give pieces and parts and, therefore, you know, the narrative does go out and then you have all of this misinformation circulating which tends to just continue to keep us in this state of -- of madness. And so I'm going to stand firm of that, and it's not a matter of not trying to be totally transparent. It is a matter of being correct in what we put out there as it relates to what happened, how did it happen, what -- what -- was there any disciplinary action necessary, what was done and how we intend for this not to happen again.

So I just want when -- when it's regurgitated as to what I'm saying, let's just state it clearly for the record so that there is no misunderstanding, because this is a serious issue. And yes, we need to get resolved and we need to understand what happened, why, who did it, who was responsible for it, who oversaw it, etc.

COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON: Madam Chair?

CHAIR PRO TEM HUBBARD: It was my turn.

COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON: No, I -- I said Madam Chair a while back.

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: Chair Pro Tem, you're recognized.

CHAIR PRO TEM HUBBARD: When we have -- we all have a certain amount of information. We have bits and pieces. We cannot take one sheet out of a whole stack of sheets or one sheet out of an entire investigation and say that this is what happened. We

know what's happened; we don't know what happened. That might be a part of what happened; that might be something that happened.

But we have no concrete evidence that that's the only thing or that that's what made everything happen that did take place. So I think it's incumbent upon us if we really want to be transparent or if we want to live off of bylines and headlines, or if we want to give concrete information when we tell what's going on. Because we do the culprit and the city and ourselves a disservice when we -- when we don't give all the information. Being transparent doesn't mean giving a little bit.

I do want to be transparent. I want to give it all and I want to give it correctly. And I want the public to know actually what happened, not what I think happened based on a portion of the evidence. So I do want the city manager to conclude her investigation, gather all the information and allow her the respect to give us her report, because as I said before, she's well-qualified to do so.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Madam Chair?

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: Councilman Davis, you're recognized.

COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON: Madam Chair, when do I get to go?

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: As we -- as we --

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: I'm sorry. What? Pardon?

COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON: Do I get to go?

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: I recognized him and I'll come right back to you, please.

COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON: But I had already said it.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: That -- that -- Madam Chair?

(Unintelligible).

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: Point of order, please. Mr. Davis, let --

let -- let's let Councilwoman Miller-Anderson complete her -- her statement and then I will continue.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: No -- no -- no problem.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Unintelligible).

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: Point of order, please. Thank you. Councilwoman Miller-Anderson, you're recognized.

COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON: With the -- my concern is that we've had a number of investigations or a number of things looked into. And as we know, sometimes they're not always wrapped up. We never get a conclusion of it. So do you have an estimated date of when you think this may be wrapped up?

CITY MANAGER HOSKINS: Well, it should be by the end of the week. I had IT and I thought I would have received a phone call from IT before the meeting started. But it -- they are still looking at some things. So by the end of the week it should be wrapped up.

COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON: Okay. And you will be able to provide us with an update on that?

CITY MANAGER HOSKINS: Yes. Sure.

COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON: And I want to reiterate what I said. I stand firm on what I said, and that making sure that we just tell what it is. And that's it. That's the end of that. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: We -- we are in agreement.

COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: We want to know what it is.

COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: Collectively. Any further comment?

CITY MANAGER HOSKINS: And --

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Madam Chair?

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: Mr. Davis, you're recognized.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: As we continue to try to -- to keep this city and build this city together, we need to make sure we talk about we as a city. Until the investigation is complete and the city manager determines how she needs to go, I think it's only fair that none of the board members outside of the city manager or the chair should we have any conversation with the media about what's going on with this matter. Because I think our residents, our employees deserve some time to operate appropriately.

When the city manager has done what she needs to do with her investigation, she has the capacity to go to each department and have a discussion and have a working lunch, whatever she choose to do, to inform all employees currently. She has the capacity to send out a press release. She has the capacity to do a press conference. She has the power of this entire city.

We as a board, if we would like to know what's going on, we can sit down with her on a one-on-one and get the information and be that. We must protect the integrity and the brand of this city. And by all means that means if something is done a certain way, get -- gather all the information, stay on one accord and let the facts speak for themselves.

But when we get out in front of the facts, it shows us as if we're in a place of not being together. We have to stop this. This has been going on for almost two years of throwing around loosely transparency. We all support transparency but it means all inclusive of all information. It's come to a point where folks have come to meetings and thrown transparency around from the public, from the podium. And we must focus on us, not I. The residents deserve better. The employees deserve better.

Miss Hoskins, you're the city manager. You have the right to get all the information out. If we want to know, we all have the right to sit down with her at -- at any time of day to get the information. But until this investigation's complete, I do believe it's only fair to - that Miss Hoskins should be the only one speaking to the media regarding this matter on -- on -- on this -- on this situation. Madam Chair, I'm complete.

MAYOR MASTERS: Madam Chair?

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: Mr. Mayor, you're recognized.

MAYOR MASTERS: I respect his opinion, of Councilman Davis. That's not my opinion. I will speak when I choose to speak, number one. And number two, if the media contacts me and asks me anything and I know it I'm going to speak. And I'm going to share with them or the employees or anyone else.

I did not and have not spoken to the media about this. Because I didn't have all the facts at the -- at the -- on that Friday when someone else may have spoken to the media. It wasn't the mayor. They tried to get me -- and I said, Well, hold on. Wait a minute. I need -- I haven't spoken to the manager. I haven't spoken to the finance director. But once that happens, if the -- if they call me, I'm going to always speak to the media.

They look for me, hound me. I'm not looking for them. If they ask the mayor of the city, an elected official, I'm going to speak. No one will ever restrict the mayor as to when to speak, how to speak, what to say. I have been the mayor for longer than anyone sitting up here in their terms, and I think I have always been fair. I think I have always dealt with

the mayor -- with -- yeah, with the mayor, too -- with the media in a way that they can appreciate how I've dealt with them.

I just want to say again, everyone say "for the record." They want to say this for the record; they want to say that for the record. But I want to just repeat again, we have a charter. Either we're going to follow it or we're not. Either we're going to change it or we're not. In the charter -- I didn't ask for the charter. The charter was here before I even knew City of Riviera Beach existed. But in the charter it gives the mayor of the city certain responsibilities that no one else has that's an elected official. And it spells it out. Suspension is one of them. Veto is one of them. And the right to call a special meeting as the mayor deems necessary.

And I've used that and I think it was the right thing to do then. I think it's the right thing to do now. And I don't apologize by any means. At the time that when I spoke to the manager, there wasn't a memo out then. There wasn't an -- nothing about an investigation. Heard about it probably a little later on. But still, this was not about the -- wasn't about the investigation.

The other thing is I want to make it clear: There are times that the manager or the -- and the mayor may disagree on what should be done and when it should be done. And that's why the charter gives the mayor the responsibility and the direction. You call the meeting, Mr. Mayor, as you deem. I've -- I have never -- I've only used that -- probably I can count on one hand how many times the mayor has called for a special meeting. And I do it by my own conviction and my own conscience when I feel it's absolutely necessary.

So that me calling a meeting is not predicated on what -- what the manager feels what I should do or what I shouldn't do. Just as I don't predicate what she should do, or he or whoever the manager may be. The mayor has to look at certain things and make a decision. Whether Mr. Horton agrees or disagrees, which he disagreed, also, about meeting. His comments were to -- Oh, we don't want to air our laundry out in the public and we need to wait, and this and that. And I said, Well, that's your opinion. And I'm not trying to dramatize it but he has a right to his opinion. But it was for me to make a decision. Not to disrespect him. I was very -- we -- we had a nice conversation. But I was very fair and honest and I spoke to the manager. And I said to the manager that when I have a conversation with you, that conversation wasn't with Mr. Horton. It was with the manager. But she thought that it was okay.

But it wasn't okay for an assistant or anyone else to come to me after the mayor has made a decision except for the manager. So we've called this meeting. I think

it's -- it was good to have happen. I think the manager has spoken, and the employees are now assured and the media should report that, that there -- there's two steps that are going -- now going to take place that this won't happen again, one.

The second thing, the media should report -- I'm not telling them what to do but -- but I am. No, I'm just kidding. It should be reported that this was an isolated incident and it will not happen again. Point-blank. And that's good -- good enough for me. I've done my job and I thank the council for showing up. They didn't have to show up if they thought it was premature. I'm glad they did. And I hope that when two council people call a meeting, I hope they all show up. And there's been times when one or two people called a meeting and the other three didn't show up. 'Cause they disagreed with --

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: (Unintelligible).

MAYOR MASTERS: Let me finish. They didn't show up, or a notice went out from the Clerk's Office and stated that there doesn't seem to be enough support to have the meeting. But this time, because it's not two people that are necessary to call the meeting, I want to thank the council for at least respecting the Office of the Mayor and coming out to see exactly what I did and why I did it and where we go from here. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Mayor.

COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON: Madam Chair?

COUNCILPERSON BOTEL: Madam Chair?

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: Councilwoman Botel?

COUNCILPERSON BOTEL: Make a motion to adjourn.

COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON: I wanted to just say --

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Second.

COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON: I want to say something right quick, though.

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: I -- I'm waiting on that. You're recognized.

COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON: Madam Chair? The memo that you were mentioning, you know it's on Novus. It is on Novus. So you were saying -- Miss Hoskins, you were saying -- somebody said about it --

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: The clerk. The clerk said.

COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON: -- someone was saying about not having it, you know -- maybe not giving that to the employees, but it is on Novus so it's already released.

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: It's on -- there's been a motion to -- there's been a motion and a second.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Yeah.

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: All those in favor?

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Aye.

CHAIRPERSON DAVIS JOHNSON: Well, Madam Clerk?

DISCUSSION BY CITY MANAGER

DISCUSSION BY CITY ATTORNEY

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

STATEMENTS BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

ADJOURNMENT

APPROVED:

THOMAS A. MASTERS
MAYOR

TONYA DAVIS JOHNSON
CHAIRPERSON

ATTEST:

CLAUDENE L. ANTHONY
CERTIFIED MUNICIPAL CLERK
CITY CLERK

LYNNE L. HUBBARD
CHAIR PRO TEM

KASHAMBA MILLER-ANDERSON
COUNCILPERSON

JULIA A. BOTEL, Ed.D
COUNCILPERSON

SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
American High-Tech Transcription
Largo, FL 33771

August 20, 2018
2600 East Bay Drive, Suite 215
727-535-1066

TERENCE D. DAVIS
COUNCILPERSON

MOTIONED BY: _____

SECONDED BY: _____

L. HUBBARD _____

K. MILLER-ANDERSON _____

T. DAVIS JOHNSON _____

J. BOTEL _____

T. DAVIS _____

DATE APPROVED: DECEMBER 5, 2018