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1	SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING	
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5	HELD:	
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7	Thursday, October 23, 2014	
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9	LOCATION:	
10	Council Chambers	
11	Scranton City Hall	
12	340 North Washington Avenue	
13	Scranton, Pennsylvania	
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23	CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER	
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CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL: ROBERT MCGOFF, PRESIDENT PATRICK ROGAN, VICE-PRESIDENT WAYNE EVANS JOSEPH WECHSLER WILLIAM GAUGHAN LORI REED, CITY CLERK KATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK AMIL MINORA, SOLICITOR 

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1	(Pledge of Allegiance recited and moment of reflection
2	observed.)
3	MR. MCGOFF: Roll call, please.
4	MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.
5	MR. WECHSLER: Here.
6	MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.
7	MR. ROGAN: Here.
8	MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.
9	MR. EVANS: Here.
10	MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.
11	MR. GAUGHAN: Here.
12	MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.
13	MR. MCGOFF: Here.
14	Dispense with the reading of the
15	minutes.
16	MS. REED: THIRD ORDER. 3-A. AGENDA
17	FOR THE CITY PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
18	HELD OCTOBER 22, 2014.
19	MR. MCGOFF: Are there any comments?
20	If not, received and filed.
21	MS. REED: 3-B. CONTROLLER'S REPORT
22	FOR THE MONTH ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2014.
23	MR. MCGOFF: Are there any comments?
24	If not, received and filed. Any Clerk's
25	notes?

MS. REED: No, Mr. McGoff.

MR. MCGOFF. Any announcements from council?

MR. WECHSLER: Yes, Mr. McGoff I
have one. On Sunday, November 2, the
Deutsch Institute will be having a champagne
celebrity brunch at the St. Mary's Center on
Mifflin Avenue. This year the celebration
will be called "Happy Birthday, Charlie
Brown." Tickets are \$25 in advance and
there will be continuous serving from 9 a.m.
to 1 p.m. Thank you.

MR. ROGAN: I have two as well. The first one, for a few years now state representative Marty Flynn has been conducting a coat drive for the needy in his office and this year Charlie Newcomb and Carrie Newcomb got involved with Representative Flynn to also incorporate a school uniform drive for underprivileged children within the school district. They asked myself and school director Paul Duffy to help in any way we can as well. So I wanted to announce that coats, blankets, uniforms for the needy can be dropped off at

two locations, they can be dropped off at State Representative Marty Flynn's Office on North Main Avenue in West Side or they could also be dropped off at Kost Tire in West Side, and if there is anyone out there that knows of somebody that is in need of a jacket or of a school uniform please contact any one of us so we can get these items to those who are in need.

Secondly, a bit of very good news, next Thursday at 10 a.m. there will be a ground breaking ceremony at the North Scranton Junior High School. This project will finally get underway. Thank you.

MR. GAUGHAN: And I have a few.

Please remember in your prayers the family of Robert Pugliesi who passed away this week. Mr. Pugliesi was a former Scranton police officer. Also, please remember in your prayers the families of former DPW workers Allen Wheeler and Richard Kashuba.

I received a call from DPW Director Gallagher. He has a good amount of grass seed that was given to them that's left over. If any organization, such as soccer,

baseball, football leagues throughout the city would need grass seed or could use it for their fields please call Tom Lynch at 570-348-4165 to make arrangements. Thank you.

MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else? Just a reminder that next week's meeting will be on Wednesday evening here at the Theatre at Lackawanna College at the same time, caucus will be at 6:00 and the meeting will begin at 6:30.

Also, on tonight's agenda the OECD 2015 action plan will be taken from the table and put into Seventh Order as Item 7-G. Citizens will have an opportunity in Seventh Order to comment if they wish, and that's it.

MS. REED: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'
PARTICIPATION.

MR. MCGOFF: Joan Hodowanitz.

MS. HODOWANITZ: Joan Hodowanitz,
Scranton. I'm not going to comment on Item
7-C I think Marie will probably speak
eloquently to that so you don't need to hear
it twice, but I was very interested this

afternoon to hear that West Hazelton has come out of distressed status under Act 47. Now, Hazelton is nowhere near the size of Scranton. It's finances are no where near as complicated, but, you know, that was a breath of fresh air to hear that somebody got out of distressed status, especially when you consider that in just under 18 months Scranton is going to celebrate its 150th anniversary on April 16, 2016, and I really hope that we are not in distressed status when that day comes around, it would be so nice.

I've also been listening to the news to see if Governor Corbett has signed the changes to Act 47, apparently hasn't done so yet, I don't know how long he has before he has to make that decision. Assuming he does sign Act 47 changes, which is what most newspapers and news organizations feel he will do, then we are going to have a clock that's going to start ticking and basically five years could be extended up to eight years. If that happens, then one way or the other, we are coming out of distressed

status. Hopefully it won't be on a stretcher being carried over to a receiver or to bankruptcy Court. Hopefully, it will be in good condition somewhat as West Hazelton's manage to exit and we need to do that.

The other issue that still concerns me is the upcoming 2015 budget which is due now in three weeks. That's due to you as a council on November 15, is it actually going to come to you on the 13th or will it come to you the following week because the 15th I believe falls on a weekend. How will that go?

MR. MCGOFF: I'm not sure and I talked to the mayor about that, and he was hopeful that it would be prior to the 15th, the Friday prior to the 15th.

MS. HODOWANITZ: Hopefully that's good and I would assume --

MR. MCGOFF: If not it would be that following Monday.

MS. HODOWANITZ: And as soon as it's presented to council it will be made available to public on the city's website?

MR. MCGOFF: I believe that that's been the practice in the past.

MS. HODOWANITZ: Yeah, I would -you know, many people are waiting for that
with bated breath. I'm waiting for it with
bated breath, especially since, you know,
the city is doing it without benefit of the
2013 audit. I don't think a lot of the
people understand how important the audit
is, okay? It is a touch stone to make sure
that you get realistic numbers in your 2015
budget, but, you know, if it's going to be
late it's going to be late and God willing
and the creek don't rise next Thursday at 10
a.m. I will be on the top of Greenridge
Street watching that groundbreaking ceremony
and saying hallelujah.

MR. ROGAN: I'll see you there.

 $\label{eq:ms.hodowanitz:} \mbox{ I'll be there.}$  Thank you.

MR. MCGOFF: Ron Ellman.

MR. ELLMAN: Hello, my ex-friends I guess. I wasn't even going to come tonight to alienate anybody any further, but I like to watch the Lone Ranger from seven to eight

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at night, but it will on the 12:30. know, whether I show it or not I think I'm somewhat intelligent like the average I went to Memphis State University person. and the University of Tennessee Medical School in Memphis for x-ray, and when I finally fulfilled my questions of owning property I made the mistake of Scranton it looks like. It just -- as much as I like the people in the city it's just going -- my neighborhood is just gone. It's just gone. You can't imagine what goes on around there. Yeah, I don't know what the solution is to I fought and fought and fought with a guy in New York City that is, as I mentioned, he has a 127 pieces of property, he lives in New York. He doesn't care one iota who is going to rent the house across from me. I even made him an offer to buy it, but he wants, you know, more, but owning that property makes me somewhat your boss and others. Don't like that, do you?

Well, when I tried to week to find out the tax on Mr. -- from the Licensing

Bureau I just was wondering how much of a

building permit they paid for the new college. I got the runaround and Mr. Hinton refused to return my phone calls. You know, he should have the common courtesy to answer a simple phone call. I never went through this with Mr. Seitzinger and he always told me that either in person or answered my phone call. That's common knowledge and for some reason they won't tell me. I have my own ideas why.

And I must have talked to 12, 15
people at the grocery store like I always
do, and people are just so totally
disappointed that you gave that money to the
banks last week. As much as this city -- as
much pressure there is on a quarter of this
population to pay taxes and all we hear is
it going up and up and up. You have made a
hero out of Mr. Amoroso's report and you
don't listen to what the people out here
tell you, the people that put you in those
seats. It just goes in one ear and out the
other I think.

The only reason you state that you want to have good relations with the banks

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so we can borrow more. This borrowing is what we are in trouble for all the time.

There is no way of getting out of it.

Nobody is going to do nothing about

getting -- doing something about the phony nonprofits. Every single day of the week we

are losing between fires and just

abandonment in tax we are losing our

property. It's just gone. You know, I

don't know pretty soon I don't know what the

Universities are going to do for police and

fire protection and streetlights because we

can't afford it no more. You know, you

people just don't -- you seem to be avoiding

the issue of your children and your

children's children that people talk to me

about briefly. They are not going to be

able to afford to live here. It's sad.

It's sad to me.

You know, I try to be a good citizen to try and make up for a lot of my past mistakes. You know, like I have said so many times I got cars going by my house 60, 80 miles an hour, and this isn't the police -- it's not their fault because I see police

cars, when they go by the cars speed up. I have no curbs, my yard flooded today, I had to get a shovel and clean up all the stones and dirt off the sidewalk. My sidewalks are 100 years old and I put pavement on it when I bought the house. I don't have no curbs. I'm not getting nothing for my dime with the people of this city.

MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr. Ellman.

MR. ELLMAN: I thank you for letting me come up here. Did I give you a headache tonight?

MR. MCGOFF: Not tonight.

MR. ELLMAN: Good. I changed my cologne. I got some good stuff instead of the Dollar Store. Thank you.

MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. Anyone else who wishes to address council?

MR. DOBRZYN: Better watch out I think that guy just bought a Samurai sword, Mr. McGoff, you might be using it on that doll. Okay, I'd like to once again bring up the DPW, and as we speak it's raining and last night I walked by a trash can with three trash cans full of cardboard. Now, in

the morning we will be paying for the rain water that soaks into that cardboard out at the trash, so I'm so tired of bringing up recycling, it's time we develop a plan and maybe I'll put something in writing and have some suggestions next week because I'm tired of talking about it, it's been two years. Ever since the DPW had to work for minimum wage I have been bringing this up.

Now, on that truck deal, I know it's past, but what happens after the lease is up? We have to get another lease because we won't have any trucks if the company recalls them and if you want to purchase them at that point you can purchase them. Usually it's at a ridiculously high price from my experience in the automotive industry, and, you know, one of my first jobs in a truck garage was putting together refurbishing trucks and it was mostly my boss, my bosses did that at a small shop. We took 20-year-old MAC trucks, put new transmissions in them, tore cylinder heads off and fixed the pistons or whatever was wrong with them, and people were tickled to

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death with what they got for their money and it's really ashame that we can't continue to do this because buying new is way more expensive than fixing in most cases unless perhaps you can't get somebody to fix them anyway.

And on that Landmark loan deal I did mention last week that it's probably more trouble than it's worth not to repay it, however, it's time to revise the authorities and the authority of the authorities they should not be allowed to go behind council and do whatever they want and then hand you the bill. I mean, nobody has been hearing from our previous mayor, rumor has it that he doesn't live here anymore and, I mean, maybe it's because he is disappointed in the way things worked out for him, maybe he don't want to hear it, Ron Ellman grabbing him at the supermarket and, you know, hopefully some day you will be able to walk out of this office and keep your head up high and, you know, enough sensible people will have or will say, "Well, geez, you did a fairly good job."

But it's up to you, you have what three more years? A little more than three years, so it's your game from there but it is really time to put a stop to authorities acting like they are the elected body or elected dictators of Scranton. The Parking Authority had nothing to say, they would not provide information, they would not -- it looked like the Kefauvre Commission there. It's like, "I pay my taxes," you know, Joe Costello back there around 1952.

And I really think it's time that we start looking in the bag fee collections especially for people that can damn well afford them. There are some pretty significant names on there. I know one of them both parties work for the government so you know that income is in excess of 100 grand a year. They owe \$15,000, they have six properties and it's just ashame that we are not getting after that because your only recourse from there is to borrow some more or raise taxes and fees on the otherwise paying customers, so it's not acceptable.

And the final message, I'll just

take a second, don't trust Harrisburg any more, please. The PILOTS, Mr. Amoroso, once again, it just goes on and on and on and we are getting all of the positive things that would help the people from the town knocked out by the courts, and then the new laws I'm seeing are, oh, we have to go for Court approval. Well, two-thirds of the county lives outside of Scranton so it's a no-win situation for us. Thank you and have a good night.

MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr. Dobrzyn.

MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening,
Council, Marie Schumacher. Tonight you all
have an opportunity to take the easy wrong
over the hard right. Paying back somebody
else's debt, especially when we are in the
shape we are in the city is a terrible
precedent to set.

Last week, I read to you the opinion of a well-respected solicitor on whether or not we owe this loan. Tonight I'll read you a second, which is excerpt from the 2012 audit, and it's talking about the Scranton Parking Authority and it says, "The

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management agreement," and this is with the receiver, "Cover single year periods beginning September 11, 2012. agreements are automatically renewed unless cancelled 60 days prior to the term. newly appointed manager provides budgets, consulting advice, records, collections and disbursements, operation of parking facilities, and record retention. Services not included in the management agreement that are still the responsibility of the receiver are structural repairs and maintenance to parking facilities and all of other capital expenditures, payment of real estate taxes of the receivership estate property, and debt service payments."

So this is Mr. Washo's problem, it is not city council's. It may make it easier for the city, but again, taking the easy way instead of the proper and more difficult way is the proper way to go in my estimation. What bothers me is you all were elected to represent the taxpayers, but in this instance you are picking winners and losers and you are picking the winner as

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Landmark Bank. They will get 100 percent of what they are looking for of what they say we owe, and the taxpayers are the losers because we will get to pick up the slack.

I'm going back to a meeting, city council minutes from the 2012. To provide a brief background, this is from the Finance Chair speaking, "To provide a brief background, a \$139,00 increase in real estate tax revenue results in a 1 percent real estate tax increase for Scranton residents. If one does the math -- and then -- So if one does the math for the \$1.9 million that's in our budget this year for picking up what the Parking Authority is not able to pay on their on the debt that the previous councils have guaranteed, which is what we actually owe, that alone accounts for 7.9, make it 8 percent of our property tax increase. If you take what you are going to be paying according to the terms ten years, sinking fund, all of that, it probably is going to be another 3 percent. I think that's an awful lot for the taxpayers to pay especially when you

probably noticed in today's paper the social security increase which a lot of people, unfortunately, have to try to live is going to be a grand 1.7 percent and I pretty much guarantee that the average property taxpayer that will be more than eaten up by what you are doing tonight.

Also, I think Landmark was somewhat shoddy in doing their due diligence for the loan that -- the money that they loaned to the Scranton Parking Authority, not to the city, and I think, again, the terms, I didn't have a chance to really look at it to deeply, but it appears to me that we must be making the assumption that the parking meters will not be sold, and as far as last I heard the sale, and if you would please stop using the fancy monetization, it just means sale. This is Scranton. Let's say we are going to sell them and not try to bamboozle people by monetization --

MR. MCGOFF: It would be a lease as well.

MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay, it could be a lease.

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MR. MCGOFF: We are just putting a dollar value on it, that's what monetization is.

MS. SCHUMACHER: Well. their assumption is they are getting paid from the parking meter revenue, and they don't have a thing in there about guaranteeing that you will not monetize or sell the parking meters. Again, it's a terrible precedent and I don't know why the mayor reconstituted the authority, all that does is add a solicitor's pay that -- we get to pay that to and I feel very bad for us city taxpayers and for the employees because they are not going to get 100 percent either. This is probably the only debtor that will get 100 percent and it's 100 percent of a bill that we don't even owe. The ones that are guaranteed and the ones that we have to pay will take a hit and this bank will not take any hit whatsoever. It's wrong and I hate to see you vote that way, but thank you.

MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. Anyone else?

MS. REED: FIFTH ORDER. 5-A.

MOTIONS.

MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Wechsler.

MR. WECHSLER: Thank you,

Mr. McGoff, I just have a few things this evening. I would like to point to a cooperative effort that was made by the DPW and the Scranton Sewer Authority, they worked together to repair a bad situation that was up on East Mountain Road that we were able to share some equipment and materials between the two agencies and fix a deteriorating situation up there and we are happy that that was repaired before winter set in.

This week I also spoke to city engineer John Pocius. I think we are all familiar with the Green Light Go Program that was talked about last week for the traffic light and signal improvements, the city is putting together an application to participate in that program, the final details are not available yet but the application will be submitted before the due date which is November 17 the city will submit it's application on November the

14th.

In regards to the leasing of the garbage trucks, I had the opportunity to speak to a retired DPW worker who said that we are -- he is comfortable that we are doing the right thing by leasing. During his tenure he was working with the trucks that were purchased I believe from New York City and he told me that those trucks were junk and they were down more than they were up, so a person directly involved with that thinks we are doing the correct thing.

And the other items I have will be in motions. Thank you.

MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Rogan?

MR. ROGAN: Yes, just a few brief items, most of my comments will on the voting portion of the meeting as well. Just two items I wanted to mention: One, while I'm certainly glad to see paving in a lot of the neighborhoods from our OECD program I did have a resident that contacted me, they were gone away for -- they went away for vacation the day before the posting for the "No Parking" went up. The next day all of

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the cars in the neighborhood were towed for the paving. So what I want to look into is if the city has any protocol for it, and it wasn't the city that did the paving, this was all contracted out. What I want to look into to see if the city has any protocol so this doesn't happen again. Maybe a week, a little bit over a week for residents to plan so they know that the roads is getting paved on this date, we can't have any parking there, and I think it will be easier for residents and for the contractors as well to be able to plan ahead. I'd hate to see in this situation somebody that was going to visit relatives out of town, it was a day trip, they got a call from their neighbor saying, "Hey, your car is being towed the city is paving the road."

I don't think that's fair and that shouldn't happen so that's something I will be looking into.

And finally, I just want to comment briefly on a letter that we all received from the University of Scranton, it was actually addressed to Mr. McGoff, but since

we worked hard together on this project I did want to mention it, this is regarding the new rehabilitation education center that's being built and they partnered with NEPA Alliance to do a comprehensive economic impact study, and those who aren't familiar with NEPA Alliance they help a lot of local businesses with grants, loans, facilitating different programs to keep current businesses running into help up start businesses, trade partnerships, things of that nature. They are a great group, I have worked with them on a number of projects.

But to sum up this property it states that the construction and engineering involved with the new center is estimated to produce \$87.7 million in economic activity. Total estimated labor income is \$36.1 million, and the total estimated state and local taxes are \$3.1 million on this project. So just seeing a report like this it really -- it seemed to get men and women at work on that project when many people are out of work. It makes all of the hard work that myself and I know Mr. Councilman McGoff

worked very hard on it and we were able to convince former Councilman Joyce to vote with us to get this project going, so this is a good project for the city and we are glad to see this economic development. We certainly wish the University would provide more to us in lieu of taxes, but this is a good project nonetheless. And that is all. Thank you.

MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Evans?

MR. EVANS: Thank you. On pension reform I'm still gathering some information, I hope to have some more documentation next week, I think I'm going to make a recommendation of what I feel the type of changes we need to the pension reform.

On the Quality of life Ordinance status, I talked to Pat Hinton today and the ordinance is currently in draft form so hopefully we will see that in a week or so. I would point out on the Quality of Life Ordinance I did some research on Allentown, they also have a version of this and since 2006 Allentown has been averaging nearly 3,000 tickets annually and approximately

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\$220,000 yearly in fines. Some years as many as 5,000 tickets were issued in quality of life type situations where, you know, like our ordinances propose to do and many of those tickets were issued by the Allentown police officers, and if we combine the police department, and Chief Graziano was very much interested in this ordinance, the possibilities are really endless I would I don't know about matching those expect. numbers, but I think we could put a pretty good dent to it and it could be a large revenue producer for the city as well as positive reinforcement of what we need to be as a city cleaning up some of the blight in our neighborhoods. So that's all I have for now.

MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Gaughan.

MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, thank you. received a few inquiries about the status of the Rockwell Avenue Bridge project. According our city engineer there was a recently held utility coordination meeting held on-site. Shop drawings have been submitted and approved. There has been tree

clearing, fence removal, new detour signage has been installed, there has been a project information sign that's been posted, relocation of a neighbor's tool shed and they are preparing to construct the pedestrian bridge. No major work will be performed at the site from October 1 to December 31 due to the fact that Legget's Creek is a wild trout stream.

This week I was made aware of some issues on Froud Avenue with pipes being blocked by leaves. This affects the water run off and sends the water into neighbor's yards and it floods them. I forwarded that issue to our DPW director so hopefully that can be taken care of.

I attended the Bullshead
neighborhood meeting Tuesday night. I have
a list of requests from residents that we
forwarded to the DPW and police department.
Some of the issues included the stop sign at
the intersection of Phyllo Street and
Providence Road is faded and needs to be
replaced. There are three major potholes at
Langstaff and Stores Court that residents

would like filled if possible. Currently neighbors are filling them with gravel and they have caused damage to vehicles.

Residents reported that there is no street sign for Stores Court and would like one put up if that is possible. An elderly gentleman who lives at 905 Albright Avenue is having trouble with water run off flooding his yard, and in the 2500 block of Boulevard Avenue there is a catch basin that residents are reporting is blocked and causing problem. And finally, residents would like to request more crime watch signs in the Weston Field area if that is possible.

And that is all I have this week. Thank you.

MR. MCGOFF: Just once again very quickly, a reminder that next week's meeting will be on Wednesday evening, not Thursday, and it be will held here at the Theatre at Lackawanna College at the same time, caucus at 6:00, meeting at 6:30.

Also, a reminder that there will be an opportunity to speak on the OECD action

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1 plan which will be taken off the table and 2 prior to the vote in Seventh Order there 3 will be another opportunity to speak to the 4 action plan. MS. REED: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION -5 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER 6 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND 7 8 ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH ARRIS ENGINEERING 9 GROUP LTD. TO PROVIDE ARCHITECT/ENGINEER (A/E) SERVICES FOR PHASE 1 OF A STREET 10 LIGHTING PROJECT WITHIN THE DOWNTOWN AREA OF 11 THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO COMMENCE WITHIN 12 13 SEVEN (7) DAYS AFTER THE FINAL EXECUTION OF 14 THE CONTRACT AND BE COMPLETED WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS AFTER COMMENCEMENT. 15 16 MR. MCGOFF: At this time I'll 17 entertain a motion that Item 5-B be 18 introduced into its proper committee. MR. ROGAN: 19 So moved. MR. WECHSLER: 20 Second. MR. MCGOFF: On the question? 21 22 those in favor of introduction signify by 23 saying aye. 24 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. 25

MR. ROGAN:

Aye.

1 MR. EVANS: Aye. 2 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye. 3 MS. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The ayes have it and so moved. 4 MS. REED: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION - A 5 RESOLUTION APPOINTMENT OF JACK LOSCOMBE, 6 7 3115 PARALLEL DRIVE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 8 18504, TO THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION. MR. 9 LOSCOMBE'S EFFECTIVE DATE WILL BE OCTOBER 9, 2014. MR LOSCOMBE WILL BE REPLACING DOMINIC 10 GEORGETTI, WHO RESIGNED EFFECTIVE AUGUST 28, 11 12 2014 MR. LOSCOMBE'S TERM WILL EXPIRE WITH THE TERM OF MAYOR WILLIAM L. COURTRIGHT. 13 14 MR. MCGOFF: At this time I'll entertain a motion that Item 5-C be 15 16 introduced into its proper committee. MR. ROGAN: 17 So moved. 18 MR. WECHSLER: Second. 19 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? 20 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question. 21 I'll be voting "no" for this tonight. Not 22 anything personal against Mr. Loscombe, I 23 think he would do a good job on the 24 commission, but I don't feel that it's 25 proper to appoint someone to a commission

who is in litigation with the city.

Mr. Loscombe is currently suing the city so that is why I will be voting "no." Thank you.

MR. MCGOFF: I'd also like to mention that there was -- we did investigate and there is no prescription against Mr. Loscombe holding this position since it is not a compensated position.

MR. ROGAN: I would just state I voted to appoint Councilman Loscombe to city council I will be voting to appoint him to the Civil Service Commission. I had the pleasure of serving with him on council, he was a great colleague to work with and his knowledge and expertise of the Fire Department operations as a retired fireman and as a former Public Safety Chair of City Council will be a great addition to the Civil Service Commission.

MR. MCGOFF: All those in favor of introduction signify by saying aye.

MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

MR. ROGAN: Aye.

MR. EVANS: Aye.

1	MS. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed?
2	MR. GAUGHAN: No.
3	MR. MCGOFF: The ayes have it and so
4	moved.
5	MS. REED: SIXTH ORDER. 6-A.
6	READING BY TITLE - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.
7	54, 2014 - AN ORDINANCE SALE OF TAX
8	DELINQUENT PROPERTY MORE COMMONLY KNOWN AS
9	CORNER OF PARK AND TERRACE, SCRANTON,
10	PENNSYLVANIA, TAX MAP NO. 16806-010-031 TO
11	THOMAS J. KANE AND MARY M. KANE, 95 LINWOOD
12	AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18505, FOR
13	THE CONSIDERATION OF \$1,000.00.
14	MR. MCGOFF: You've heard reading by
15	title of Item 6-A, what is your pleasure?
16	MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-A
17	pass reading by title.
18	MR. WECHSLER: Second.
19	MS. MCGOFF: On the question? All
20	those in favor signify by saying aye.
21	MR. WECHSLER: Aye.
22	MR. ROGAN: Aye.
23	MR. EVANS: Aye.
24	MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.
25	MR. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The

1 ayes have it and so moved. 2 MS. REED: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON 3 FINANCE- FOR ADOPTION FILE OF THE COUNCIL 4 NO. 51, 2014 - SALE OF TAX DELINQUENT 5 PROPERTY MORE COMMONLY KNOWN AS 540 NORTH 6 REBECCA AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, TAX 7 8 MAP NO. 14510-020-003 TO ARNOLD DOMMES, JR., 9 NORTH REBECCA AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18504, FOR THE CONSIDERATION 10 11 OF \$650.00. 12 MR. MCGOFF: What is the recommendation of the Chair for the 13 14 Committee on Finance? MR. EVANS: As Chairperson for the 15 16 Committee on Finance, I recommend final 17 passage of Item 7-A. 18 MR. ROGAN: Second. 19 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? Roll 20 call, please? 21 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler. 22 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. 23 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan. 24 MR. ROGAN: Yes. 25 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

1	MR. EVANS: Yes.
2	MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.
3	MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.
4	MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.
5	MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I hereby declare
6	Item 7-A legally and lawfully adopted.
7	MS. REED: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION
8	BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE - FOR ADOPTION
9	FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 52, 2014 - SALE OF
10	TAX DELINQUENT PROPERTY MORE COMMONLY KNOWN
11	AS 532 PRESCOTT AVENUE, SCRANTON,
12	PENNSYLVANIA, TAX MAP NO. 15710-020-007 TO
13	JAMES SMITH AND DENISE SMITH, 528 PRESCOTT
14	AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18510, FOR
15	THE CONSIDERATION OF \$1,500.00.
16	MR. MCGOFF: What is the
17	recommendation of the Chair for the
18	Committee on Finance?
19	MR. EVANS: As Chairperson for the
20	Committee on Finance, I recommend final
21	passage of Item 7-B.
22	MR. ROGAN: Second.
23	MR. MCGOFF: On the question? Roll
24	call, please?
25	MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

1 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan. 2 3 MR. ROGAN: Yes. 4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans. MR. EVANS: Yes. 5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan. 6 7 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes. 8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff. 9 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I hereby declare Item 7-B legally and lawfully adopted. 10 MS. REED: 7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION BY 11 12 THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE - FOR ADOPTION FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 53, 2014 - APPROVING THE 13 14 ISSUANCE OF A NOTE BY THE PARKING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON IN A MAXIMUM 15 16 AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF \$4,000,000.00 17 TO FINANCE THE 2014 PROJECT (AS DEFINED 18 HEREIN); AUTHORIZING THE PLEDGE OF THE CITY'S ON-STREET METER REVENUES AS SECURITY 19 FOR AND THE SOURCE OF PAYMENT OF THE PARKING 20 21 AUTHORITY'S 2014 NOTE; AUTHORIZING THE 22 EXECUTION OF THE PLEDGE DOCUMENTS (AS 23 DEFINED HEREIN); AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND 24 OFFICIALS OF THE CITY TO TAKE OTHER 25 APPROPRIATE ACTION; PROVIDING FOR THE

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EFFECTIVENESS OF THIS ORDINANCE AND THE SEVERABILITY OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS; AND REPEALING ALL INCONSISTENT ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES.

MR. MCGOFF: What is the recommendation of the Chair for the Committee on Finance?

MR. EVANS: As Chairperson for the Committee on Finance, I recommend final passage of Item 7-C.

MR. MCGOFF: On the question?

MR. ROGAN: Second.

to I'd just want to say that we received very late today a term sheet that was agreed upon by the Parking Authority, the administration and the two banks that were part of this legislation. While we have not had a great deal of opportunity to review the terms, we did -- I did speak with Mr. Bulzoni, the business administrator, and also with Solicitor Shrive. We were also in contact with the bond counsel from the Parking Authority, Attorney Conaboy, and that the terms that were agreed upon are within the parameters of the legislation

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that was proposed to us. I will say that all of council was somewhat upset by the fact that we received this at such a late notice, but it was the decision of council that we would keep this on the agenda and that we would vote on it this evening. I'm sorry, I just wanted to --

MR. WECHSLER: Thank you,

Mr. McGoff. The comment that I would like to have is I think in this case the administration and the city effectively negotiated the terms of this settlement. of Monday, we were not going to have a deal, we are were going to table this, and in the course from Monday to tonight we were able to reach a settlement that is acceptable to the city and to the bank. It also shows that we can negotiate when we have to even though we may not be in the best negotiating I'm very happy of the fact that position. the city stood its ground where it was and we ended up with, like I said, a settlement that we can deal with.

I'd like to just reecho my comments from last week, I don't believe that putting

this off and not paying it will help us at all. I believe we have to get these type of issues settled so we can move forward and get our financial house in order. Thank you, Mr. McGoff.

MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else?

MR. ROGAN: Yes, just regarding this issue, this is an issue that I put a lot of time thinking about and spoke to a lot of people on both sides of this issue, and what this decision came down to for me was if we chose not to pay these debts it would be left for a judge to decide, obviously there would be hefty attorney fees involved and I think everyone in the city knows what Scranton's track record is when it comes to Court cases. I don't know if we have won one in my lifetime, so that being said we can't take the chance of rolling the dice and leaving it to the courts.

Should the loan have ever been made?

No, it shouldn't have. It should have came before city council for approval and it wouldn't have been approved, and I think part of the reason why this one never came

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before city council was because there was an attempt to hide how bad the finances at the Parking Authority were at that time. The parking garages in the city, many of them should have never been built. They were built on a mountain of debt so much that the city authority cannot make a profit, can't even break even never mind make a profit off these garages.

The former mayor, the former Parking Authority board, and the former director of the Parking Authority caused this entire mess by running up debt, building garages that never should have been built, and spending money as it if were free. nonetheless, at this point I believe it's in the best interest of the city to move forward with the sale of the bad assets of the Scranton Parking Authority. In order to move forward with that sale, these items first need to be taken care of. That's why I will be voting "yes" on these items, and I look forward to the city finally being rid of these assets that we are losing money on Thank you. every year.

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MR. GAUGHAN: I just have one comment, when we talk about who created this entire mess I think we need to take into account in 2012 when the previous council let the city default on the Parking Authority -- two Parking Authority bonds. That has not helped at all. In fact, I believe it's cost the city almost \$5 million. Five million dollars. So that has not helped, so I think when we talk about who caused this entire mess we shouldn't forget that part because that was a major, major, major mistake that we made and we can't forget that moving forward and making financial decisions for this city. Thank you.

MR. ROGAN: I don't want to debate what we did two years ago, but at the time if we recall city council called in members of the Parking Authority Board and asked for financial information. We were provided with a budget that was literally two pages and didn't provide any information and at that time there was no choice. The city taxpayers could not just keep out handing

out checks, handing out checks, handing out checks without any accountability at the Parking Authority. Although, some of us may differ how we got to this point, I think moving forward we can never let that happen again and that's something I think we can all agree upon.

MR. GAUGHAN: Just one --

MR. MCGOFF: Okay.

MR. GAUGHAN: I was just going to say if no matter -- and I followed that in 2012 and I remember the caucus, but just to bring it down a little bit, if you have a credit card and you sign that agreement, you have you a Sears credit card and you charge I don't know \$5,000 on it and you don't pay the \$5,000 you are going to get whacked. That's what happened. When you guarantee a debt and you guarantee a bond and you don't pay it you get in trouble and this is one of the results of that, so that did have an effect. I just wanted to point that out.

MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Rogan and I have disagreed on this since the time that it took place, the original Landmark loan was

to allow the Parking Authority to make good on its debt payments. When council voted to basically bankrupt the Parking Authority it caused them to default in the only on the Landmark loans but also on the other debt that they had. Now, whose responsibility that was is at this point it's a moot point. It is my feeling that the city, whoever was at fault, caused the defaulted debt in one way or another and it's my belief that it is the city's responsibility to make it right. I know that there is disagreement with people, but I think it is the ethical thing to do as far as the city is concerned.

To answer one other question, it is believed that upon the sale, I'll use the Scranton term rather than monetization, or the lease of the garages this debt would be -- the loan that we are voting on this evening would be repaid at that time. It is hoped that this loan will be repaid in full within a year. That is the purpose of taking care of these debts. It's like trying to sell a house that has two liens against it, it's better to pay off the liens

to give you a better opportunity to sell your house and that's what we are trying to do with this legislation, and hopefully we will get to the point where we can monetize the parking garages and pay off this loan. It is the intent to do that within, as I said, within a year. Thank you. Anyone else?

MR. EVANS: Yes. My comments are, number one, the term sheet meets the criteria that were laid out in our legislation, that's the most important issue. The credit amount or the loan amount is actually less than, the interest rate is less than, and term is less than so on that side of it it's very positive. I feel that the city administration did a very good job of getting that to this point.

On a going forward basis, this is about the future, it's about rebuilding our credibility in the financial community.

That's what this does as well, so for that reason I'm voting "yes" tonight.

MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else? Roll call, please?

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler. 2 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. 3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan. 4 MR. ROGAN: Yes. MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans. 5 MR. EVANS: Yes. 6 7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan. 8 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes. 9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff. MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I hereby declare 10 Item 7-C legally and lawfully adopted. 11 12 MS. REED: 7-D. FOR CONSIDERATION 13 BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE- FOR ADOPTION 14 RESOLUTION NO. 93, 2014 - RATIFYING AND APPROVING OF THE EXECUTION AND SUBMISSION OF 15 THE GRANT APPLICATION BY THE CITY OF 16 17 SCRANTON, ON BEHALF OF AKSHAR LACKAWANNA 18 STATION HOSPITALITY TO THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA ACTING THROUGH THE COMMONWEALTH 19 FINANCING AUTHORITY FOR A LOCAL SHARE 20 21 ACCOUNT GRANT, PURSUANT TO THE PA RACE HORSE 22 DEVELOPMENT AND GAMING ACT IN THE AMOUNT OF 23 \$2,500,000.00 FOR THE PROJECT TO BE KNOWN AS 24 "LACKAWANNA STATION RESTORATION SCRANTON 25 PROJECT" LOCATED IN SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA.

AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE
CITY OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO
ACCEPT THE GRANT, IF SUCCESSFUL AND EXECUTE
AND ENTER INTO A LOCAL SHARE ACCOUNT GRANT
CONTRACT AND COMMITMENT LETTER WITH THE
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA TO ACCEPT AND
UTILIZE THE GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF
\$2,500,000.00 AWARDED BY THE COMMONWEALTH OF
PENNSYLVANIA FOR SUCH PROJECT.

MR. MCGOFF: What is the recommendation of the Chair for the Committee on Finance?

MR. EVANS: As Chairperson for the Committee on Finance, I recommend final passage of Item 7-D.

MR. ROGAN: Second.

MR. MCGOFF: On the question? I would just like to comment that while we have in the past heard on this project, the station, this is a project that I think everyone in the city would like to see developed. It's right at the gateway to the city from West Scranton or to the downtown from West Scranton. It's a great property that needs to be rehabilitated and developed

1 and become a cornerstone for the downtown 2 area, so I think that approving this grant 3 application is a great benefit to that 4 project. Roll call, please. MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler. 5 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. 6 7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan. 8 MR. ROGAN: Yes. 9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans. MR. EVANS: Yes. 10 11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan. 12 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes. 13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff. 14 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I hereby declare Item 7-D legally and lawfully adopted. 15 16 MS. REED: 7-E. FOR CONSIDERATION 17 BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE- FOR ADOPTION 18 RESOLUTION NO. 94, 2014 - RATIFYING AND APPROVING OF THE EXECUTION AND SUBMISSION OF 19 THE GRANT APPLICATION BY THE CITY OF 20 21 SCRANTON, ON BEHALF OF SCRANTON-LTI, LP, 335 ADAMS AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA 18503 22 23 TO THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA ACTING 24 THROUGH THE COMMONWEALTH FINANCING AUTHORITY 25 FOR A LOCAL SHARE ACCOUNT GRANT, PURSUANT TO

THE PA RACE HORSE DEVELOPMENT AND GAMING ACT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$615,000.00 FOR THE PROJECT TO BE KNOWN AS "LEONARD THEATER ADAMS AVENUE PROJECT" LOCATED IN SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA. AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO ACCEPT THE GRANT, IF SUCCESSFUL AND EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A LOCAL SHARE ACCOUNT GRANT CONTRACT AND COMMITMENT LETTER WITH THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA TO ACCEPT AND UTILIZE THE GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$615,000.00 AWARDED BY THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA FOR SUCH PROJECT.

MR. MCGOFF: What is the recommendation of the Chair for the Committee on Finance?

MR. EVANS: As Chairperson for the Committee on Finance, I recommend final passage of Item 7-E.

MR. ROGAN: Second.

MR. MCGOFF: On the question? Once again, this property is one that has been sort of undeveloped for many years. It's a great property. The people applying for the grant have already done major work at the

Leonard Theatre and I think everyone, again, would be happy to see the completion of this project, and again, make the Leonard Theatre a property to be proud of within the City of Scranton.

MR. GAUGHAN: If I could just add -oh, were you going to --

MR. EVANS: Well, my only comment was that it's a very interesting location because that part of Adams Avenue, at least that half of Adams Avenue is sort of our little version of Greenwich Village and this is it going to go a long way to even enhance that even more.

MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, I was just going to say Councilman Evans and myself were at the University of Scranton neighbor night last night and one of the things that was brought up was The Leonard and the impact that this theatre will have downtown.

Roll call, please?

MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

MR. ROGAN: Yes.

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1	MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.
2	MR. EVANS: Yes.
3	MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.
4	MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.
5	MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.
6	MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I hereby declare
7	Item 7-E legally and lawfully adopted.
8	MS. REED: 7-F. FOR CONSIDERATION BY
9	THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION
10	RESOLUTION NO. 95, 2014 - AMENDING
11	RESOLUTION NO. 174, 2009 ENTITLED
12	"AUTHORIZING APPOINTMENT OF THE CITY OF
13	SCRANTON'S REPRESENTATIVES TO THE TAX
14	COLLECTION COMMITTEE ("TCC") PURSUANT TO ACT
15	32 OF 2008" BY REPLACING THE CURRENT
16	DELEGATES WHO ARE NO LONGER EMPLOYEES OF THE
17	CITY OF SCRANTON WITH CURRENT EMPLOYEES IN
18	THE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION OFFICE.
19	MR. MCGOFF: As Chairperson for the
20	Committee on Rules, I recommend final
21	passage of Item 7-F.
22	MR. ROGAN: Second.
23	MR. MCGOFF: On the question? Roll
24	call, please?
25	MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

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1	MR. WECHSLER: Yes.
2	MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.
3	MR. ROGAN: Yes.
4	MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.
5	MR. EVANS: Yes.
6	MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.
7	MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.
8	MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.
9	MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I hereby declare
10	Item 7-F legally and lawfully adopted.
11	MR. ROGAN: I make a motion to take
12	File of Council No. 44, 2014, from the
13	table.
14	MR. WECHSLER: Second.
15	MR. MCGOFF: On the question? All
16	those in favor signify by saying aye.
17	MR. WECHSLER: Aye.
18	MR. ROGAN: Aye.
19	MR. EVANS: Aye.
20	MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.
21	MS. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The
22	ayes have it and so moved. Item 7-G, which
23	is now on the agenda is the OECD 2015 Action
24	Plan that was tabled for a 30-day public
25	comment period. If anyone would like to

address council on File of Council No.

44-2014 you may do so at this time. Thank
you.

MS. REED: 7-G - PREVIOUSLY TABLED FOR CONSIDERATION - BY THE COMMITTEE ON
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - FOR ADOPTION - FILE
OF COUNCIL NO. 44, 2013 - AUTHORIZING THE
MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE
CITY OF SCRANTON TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY
ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE CONSOLIDATED
SUBMISSION FOR COMMUNITY PLANNING AND
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS TO BE FUNDED UNDER THE
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)
PROGRAM, HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP (HOME)
PROGRAM AND EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANTS (ESG)
PROGRAM FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING JANUARY
1, 2015.

MR. MCGOFF: What is the recommendation of the Chair for the Committee on Community Development?

MR. ROGAN: As Chairperson for the Committee on Community Development, I recommend final passage of Item 7-G.

MR. WECHSLER: Second.

MR. MCGOFF: On the question?

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MR. ROGAN: Yes, very briefly. would just like to thank Linda Aebli and the 2 3 entire staff at OECD for doing a great job 4 of putting together this years action plan. 5 In the past, those of you that follow council, there have been numerous amendments 6 7 to the action plans. This year as funds 8 each year become even more restricted, this 9 year it was already allocated in a manner 10 that was satisfactory to council with a 11 strong emphasis on two of the most important 12 programs that we use these funds for, number 13 one, which is neighborhood police patrols; 14 and number two, which is neighborhood 15 paving. 16 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else? 17 call, please? 18 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler. 19 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. 20 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan. 21 MR. ROGAN: Yes. 22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans. 23 MR. EVANS: Abstain. 24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

MR. GAUGHAN:

Yes.

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1	MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.
2	MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I hereby declare
3	Item 7-G legally and lawfully adopted.
4	If there is no further business,
5	I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.
6	MR. ROGAN: Motion to adjourn.
7	MR. MCGOFF: Meeting adjourned.
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## <u>C E R T I F I C A T E</u>

I hereby certify that the proceedings and evidence are contained fully and accurately in the notes of testimony taken by me at the hearing of the above-captioned matter and that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the same to the best of my ability.

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER