

SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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HELD:

Thursday, April 9, 2015

LOCATION:

Council Chambers

Scranton City Hall

340 North Washington Avenue

Scranton, Pennsylvania

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

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 MS. REED: THIRD ORDER. 3-A. SINGLE
15 TAX OFFICE CITY FUNDS DISTRIBUTED COMPARISON
16 REPORT FOR 2015-2014.

17 MR. MCGOFF: Are there any comments?
18 If not, received and filed.

19 MS. REED: 3-B. AGENDA FOR THE BOARD
20 OF ZONING APPEALS MEETING HELD APRIL 8,
21 2015.

22 MR. MCGOFF: Are there any comments?
23 If not, received and filed.

24 MS. REED: 3-C. BREAKDOWN OF THE
25 ELIGIBLE SALARIES FOR THE LIQUID FUELS

1 ACCOUNT FOR THE MONTHS OF JANUARY, FEBRUARY,
2 AND MARCH, 2015.

3 MR. MCGOFF: Are there any comments?
4 If not, received and filed. Any Clerk's
5 notes?

6 MS. REED: Nothing, Mr. McGoff.

7 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. Any
8 announcements from council? Mr. Evans?

9 MR. EVANS: Mr. President, if you
10 could indulge me for just a moment. I would
11 like to recognize a gentle man who was laid
12 to rest today. Frank Golden was the founder
13 and owner of Golden Real Estate which was
14 located in Scranton for 32 years. He was my
15 friend, my peer, and my mentor for nearly 30
16 of those years. Frank was raised in the
17 Nativity section of Scranton and was a proud
18 Irishman and a gentle soul. He was a master
19 storyteller and a better joke teller.

20 When I was inducted as President of
21 the Greater Scranton Board of Realtors two
22 years ago, Frank did the honors, but if the
23 truth be told I was the one who was honored,
24 honored to know a man of such quiet dignity,
25 integrity and character for as long as I

1 have. His friendship was truly a blessing.
2 There is an Irish proverb that says time is
3 a great storyteller. To all those who knew
4 and loved Frank, we should not allow his
5 story to go unspoken, we should continue to
6 tell his stories and smile and laugh
7 together. He wouldn't have it any other
8 way. God bless and thank you for the time.

9 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. Anyone else?

10 MS. REED: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'
11 PARTICIPATION.

12 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Quinn.

13 MR. QUINN: Ozzie Quinn, president
14 of the Hill Neighborhood Association. Good
15 evening. Pursuant to the land bank
16 presentation I want to convey this over to
17 Mr. Gaughan, right now the city owns, these
18 aren't tax delinquent, they own 295
19 properties throughout the city, okay, and
20 they have been hanging around since 1960.

21 MR. EVANS: Since you were in charge
22 of it.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

24 MR. QUINN: I was born the year
25 after. Now, I'm concerned about the

1 repository and the land bank and what not,
2 it seems like in the Hill Section the horse
3 has already left the barn. We have all of
4 those houses that were purchased, and you
5 know what they have tax sales but, you know,
6 who is buying these properties,
7 out-of-towners. There is no doubt about it
8 and all they care about is getting that
9 rent. As long that rental registration
10 program isn't functioning and they don't
11 have the designated agent for these people
12 to go and call or for the Hill Neighborhood
13 Association to go call, we are out of luck.
14 That's a very important element.

15 In regards to the land bank itself,
16 you know, my experience with the
17 Redevelopment Authority I was on staff, and
18 I was on the board of the Redevelopment
19 Authority and I know the various tools the
20 Redevelopment Authority has and they haven't
21 been used and, for instance, you know, they
22 can float bonds or, you know, one thing they
23 can do that the land bank can't do is they
24 can acquire land through eminent domain, and
25 I'm just concerned from the standpoint of

1 are we creating another beurocratic mess,
2 you know? Maybe they are working some
3 places, fine, but you know what many don't
4 repository. There are 850 properties from
5 2012, 2013 will be coming, 2014. Now, what
6 about the these people that live in these
7 homes, a land bank going to take those
8 properties? No. Okay? This is a very
9 touchy situation. It's a dilemma because of
10 the fact that these people just cannot to
11 pay their taxes so I'm very concerned about
12 this repository, okay? So the only thing I
13 feel on my research on municipalities, and I
14 brought this up last year and I am bringing
15 it up again this year because of amount of
16 properties that are not sold to the City of
17 Scranton and continually go before the upset
18 sale, the judicial sale, and wind up in
19 purgatory in the repository, I'm asking for
20 the city council to consider and research a
21 tax amnesty for a year, tax amnesty.

22 Now, through a tax amnesty if you
23 eliminate the fees and the penalties you are
24 going to get some money. Right now you not
25 getting any money, you know? You're not

1 going anywhere, and I don't know what you
2 are going to do with these people that live
3 in these houses, you know? Right now they
4 are not paying taxes, at least give them a
5 tax amnesty, you know, you had an
6 opportunity for them to pay and get back on
7 their feet and put money back in the
8 coffers, but as it is right now, you know,
9 you are hoping and praying that you are
10 going to be able to get this sign and be
11 able to sell it, you can't sell land with
12 people in it.

13 So this here property, 850 in 2012,
14 2013 will be coming on board, 2014. It's
15 just a lot of properties and a lot of
16 heartaches and, please, you know, please, we
17 have have had enough of out-of-town absentee
18 landlords in the Hill Section. We don't
19 need anymore. We can't do -- we can't do
20 anything with the blight that's up there
21 now, we don't have the tools. The
22 Redevelopment has the tools if they work in
23 conjunction with the city council and the
24 mayor they have the tools to eliminate
25 blight.

1 So I'm not trying to be negative but
2 I just don't like to see another thing come
3 on board, you know, for the sake that
4 Philadelphia has it or some other place has
5 it, you know what, this is Scranton, PA, and
6 we have to look out for our people and there
7 are a lot of people and these properties
8 that we got to look out for, they are human
9 beings and they should have the opportunity
10 to have amnesty to pay their taxes. If they
11 don't pay their taxes then fine, we have to
12 find some way of moving them out, but you
13 cannot take an occupied home and put it in a
14 land bank. I don't see that working. Thank
15 you very much.

16 MS. MCGOFF: Ms. Hodowanitz.

17 MS. HODOWANITZ: Joan Hodowanitz,
18 Scranton resident and taxpayer. The 2013
19 audit is now 313 days overdue. Is there any
20 information on the projected completion
21 date? Okey-dokey.

22 I would like to thank Jim Lockwood
23 for his April 7 article "City Seeks Audit
24 Preparers." I did not know that the city
25 paid \$46,292 to the accounting firm of Baker

1 Tilly for their assistance in completing the
2 2013 audit. Apparently I was asleep at the
3 switch for most of 2014. Was there an RFP
4 for those services that I didn't notice?

5 MR. MCGOFF: For what services, I'm
6 sorry?

7 MS. HODOWANITZ: The services for
8 which we paid Baker Tillyu \$46,000, was
9 there an RFP associated with that? Was that
10 bid out?

11 MR. MCGOFF: I don't know offhand.

12 MS. HODOWANITZ: Okay. Did the mayor
13 or Mr. Bulzoni inform city council of this
14 expenditure before this article came out,

15 MR. MCGOFF: I'm not aware, Ms.
16 Hodowanitz.

17 MS. HODOWANITZ: Anybody else?

18 MR. GAUGHAN: I was aware of it when
19 I saw it when we were looking at the
20 transfers between departments so I found out
21 about it just the other day because I was
22 looking through my mail.

23 MS. HODOWANITZ: Because I know those
24 payments were made in December, most of
25 them. As you know, Mr. Bulzoni recently

1 published an RFP for a municipal auditor to
2 provide audit preparation services from 2015
3 through '18 thereby covering the city's
4 audits through fiscal year 2017. Mr. Bulzoni
5 estimates that these services will cost us
6 \$15,000 per year for a total of \$60,000.
7 It's a lot of money for a city that's
8 hemorrhaging money. Several weeks ago --

9 MR. MCGOFF: That will be taken out
10 of the professional services --

11 MS. HODOWANITZ: I understand that.

12 MR. MCGOFF: It's already in the
13 budget.

14 MS. HODOWANITZ: I understand that,
15 but it's still money we could dedicate to
16 other purposes. Several weeks ago I
17 requested copies of the job descriptions of
18 employees performing finance and accounting
19 functions. I did receive some of that
20 information on people in your
21 administration. Among other duties and
22 responsibilities the senior accountant is
23 responsible for assisting outside auditors
24 on the city's annual audit. The financial
25 analyst is responsible for providing

1 assistance and information to outside
2 auditors. The financial manager is
3 responsible for supervising and training
4 personnel and the business administrator is
5 responsible for developing and establishing
6 training programs. Clearly the Bureau of
7 Administration is responsible for preparing
8 the information for the audits and the BA
9 and his finance manager are responsible for
10 training the people as required.

11 I understand that prior to 2014 one
12 employee carried the burden of the preparing
13 the annual -- preparing for the annual audit
14 and when she left she took most of that
15 institutional knowledge with her. I'd also
16 note that her initial replacement left due
17 to illness. Having said all of that, I
18 would like to ask the following questions:
19 What is the total cost of the 2013 audit
20 considering that we have paid two different
21 firms for its completion? You can answer
22 this later on. I have also given it in
23 writing.

24 Also, has the city ever hired an
25 outside firm to help prepare for the annual

1 audit before? If so, what year or years and
2 for how many money? I'm concerned that we
3 are setting a bad precedent. And I am to
4 conclude that our employees will never be
5 able to prepare for the annual audit without
6 outside help? If so, what other functions
7 are we currently outsourcing or planning to
8 do so in the near future? How much is this
9 costing the taxpayers?

10 Is there a less costly way of the
11 providing this training? What about the
12 University of Scranton? Several professors
13 in their Kania School of Management are
14 CPA's and at least one professor teaches
15 governmental accounting. Instead of asking
16 for payments in lieu of taxes, why don't we
17 ask them to develop and conduct a training
18 program for our employees so that they
19 acquire the institutional knowledge which
20 was lost at the end of 2013.

21 In addition, they can give us
22 detailed lesson plans so that current
23 employees could train any new hires in the
24 future and when appropriate they could
25 provide lectures on new GASBE statements and

1 other changes in governmental accounting. I
2 think this makes more sense than paying for
3 help for the next four years. Please think
4 about what I have suggested. Thank you.

5 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

6 MR. MCGOFF: Lee Morgan.

7 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.
8 Lee Morgan. I'd just like to inform all of
9 our viewers today that the
10 Scranton/Lackawanna County Taxpayers and
11 Citizens' Association on Tuesday, April 14,
12 will hold a meeting here in Scranton City
13 Council chambers at 6:00 and anybody who has
14 an interest in attending I hope they do so.

15 The next thing I have is I haven't
16 read all of the legislation in regards to
17 the land bank, but, you know, I think our
18 greatest prolem is that we need to make some
19 really definite changes in the City of
20 Scranton. A couple of them probably people
21 may not appreciate, but the first thing I
22 think we should do is before the next
23 election I think we should abolish a pay
24 paid council. I also think that we should
25 make the mayor's position a part-time job

1 because obviously a city in the massive
2 decline we find ourselves in isn't finding
3 the answers. The city of 70,000 people
4 doesn't need a full-time mayor and when you
5 look at the performance of the various
6 departments in the city everything is a mess
7 here and we are going to allegedly go to a
8 land bank. You know, we need to reduce the
9 size of city government so that it can fall
10 in the constraints of the tax base and we
11 seem to have gone around here and spent a
12 lot of state and federal money and wasted a
13 lot considering that the South Side Sports
14 Complex was built with Section 70 funds and
15 it was will illegal according to federal law
16 to sell it and there is so many other things
17 that have happened in this city and, you
18 know, when you talk about blight in
19 neighborhoods I really think the governor of
20 Pennsylvania needs to abolish property tax
21 because it's definitely not the way to go.
22 The property owners cannot carry the massive
23 debt load this Commonwealth possesses nor
24 can it pay for the Commonwealth's day-to-day
25 operations let alone the pension mess it

1 has, and this isn't a Democrat or Republican
2 issue, this is an issue based in people.
3 You shouldn't work all your life for a
4 government that's mismanaged to come to you
5 and tell you that they demand that you pay
6 them 3,000, 4,000. Our tax structure is so
7 far outside of the wage base it's almost
8 baffling. We have a lot of low wage jobs.
9 I haven't seen anything in regards to SAPA
10 that's should have moved forward through
11 this council already.

12 I haven't seen any productive
13 things. I have seen some terrible political
14 statements made from that side, but as far
15 as change, reorganization of city government
16 we are talking about blight, well, what do
17 you think happens to a city that's
18 overtaxed? And when you talk about people
19 coming from out of town buying property I
20 have met a couple, they don't last long.
21 They find that they don't have a tenant base
22 to rent properties that can pay them. They
23 take a couple of people to the magistrate
24 and find out they can't collect judgments
25 and then, of course, well, in the City of

1 Scranton you go out and you condemn homes
2 outside of the realm of reality. You hold
3 them to building codes they were never
4 designed to meet and then after a couple of
5 days if they don't get to an appeals board
6 the condemnation takes place and, well, I
7 guess we got a lot of blighted property, and
8 then you have people come in here and talk
9 about the size of the lots.

10 These properties would not be
11 blighted, would not be empty, the decline of
12 the city would not be taking place without a
13 dysfunctional government, and when people
14 talk about the mall being in decline the
15 biggest problem the mall has is it where it
16 is because the city in this -- the residents
17 in this city have a Chamber of Commerce that
18 failed to realize that people have to earn a
19 wage to give them disposable income, and the
20 government can't come and take and seize all
21 their money and expect them to spend any, so
22 nobody in this city has any money to spend
23 at the mall, and the seniors when they
24 retire they are hoping they can get into a
25 high rise because they can't pay their

1 property tax and there is properties that
2 sold for almost next to nothing in this city
3 and there is people moving out. There are
4 people moving out of this city. There is
5 "For Sale" signs, as Mr. Evans already
6 knows, across this whole city, and not only
7 residential properties, commercial
8 properties because there is a lack of vision
9 not only in this council but in our country
10 because our state and federal senators have
11 made trade deals across this whole country
12 and forgot who they represented and we have
13 created vast problems. SSI and SSD are
14 going to run out of money in 2016, they
15 don't want to talk about until after the
16 election. Social security is going to run
17 out of money in 2030. Where are our
18 leaders? I think the Democrats and
19 Republicans are the problem. Thank you.

20 MR. MCGOFF: Ron Ellman.

21 MR. ELLMAN: Yes, Council. I got
22 five or six questions and when I sit down
23 maybe you can throw some answers at me. I
24 would like to know why council didn't know
25 about the double pensions and I did. I'd

1 the church dinner over at, Greenridge
2 Assembly of God were serving, and I talked
3 to a few people and it's ashame these are
4 the people that put you in those seats and
5 they are treated like third rate citizens.
6 Nobody seems to care about the low income
7 and the poor in this city. When I was
8 leaving there was this great big long line,
9 I was sitting at a round table, and this man
10 sat down and I said, "What is this line
11 for?"

12 I really thought it was a bunch of
13 people waiting for the bathrooms because
14 that's where they were, and he told me they
15 are waiting for some food packages from the
16 church to take home. This man told me
17 something like he said ten years ago I was
18 working I had two cars and I had a son at
19 Johnson Tech and another child down at
20 King's College and he said now I'm on the
21 verge of losing my house because of all of
22 the expenses involved except my two kids are
23 helping me but they didn't get to finish
24 college. These are the forgotten people
25 that you just don't seem to care about.

1 If by some chance the house passes
2 the bill for the homeowners 76?

3 MR. EVAN: SB 76.

4 MR. ELLMAN: Won't that mess up all
5 of the plans with the Amoroso plan?

6 MR. ROGAN: No. Senate Bill 76 will
7 eliminate school property taxes.

8 MR. ELLMAN: I know that.

9 MR. ROGAN: It doesn't do anything
10 for how the city is run.

11 MR. ELLMAN: But he is milking the
12 city dry, you people are helping him milk
13 the city dry, the taxpayers won't have to --
14 won't be there anymore if this goes through;
15 right? It's bound to have some
16 repercussions in all of this nonsense in
17 this brain dead stupid of Amoroso.

18 MR. ROGAN: Senate Bill 76 and Mr.
19 Amoroso have nothing to do with one another.
20 One is on the state level that if passed
21 would change the way schools are funded
22 throughout the entire state, Mr. Amoroso's
23 plan is only specific to the City of
24 Scranton.

25 MR. ELLMAN: It's still going to

1 relieve the taxpayers.

2 MR. ROGAN: Absolutely. You are 100
3 percent, right --

4 MR. ELLMAN: If it doesn't why are
5 our taxes doubling and doubling and doubling
6 every year.

7 MR. ROGAN: No, you are 100 percent
8 right and if you look at your tax bill the
9 school district is the biggest portion of
10 it. That's why I have been pushing for two
11 years now for Senate Bill 76 to passed to
12 bring relief to the taxpayers.

13 MR. ELLMAN: The reason they are
14 doubling continuously is the streets look
15 like hell is because there is no leadership
16 in this city. That's the bottom line.
17 There is absolutely no leadership. I thank
18 you for letting me preach. I got some good
19 news for you, I'm going to go play golf in
20 Georgia for a week and I won't be here next
21 week to get on everybody's nerves. I'm
22 going with a bunch of Elvis impersonators I
23 went to high school with and they --

24 MR. MCGOFF: Can we help, make it two
25 weeks.

1 MR. ELLMAN: Yes. Yes. You can have
2 a holiday up here. Thank you.

3 MR. DOBRZYN: Now that Ron got us
4 sufficiently riled. Dave Dobrzyn, resident
5 and taxpayer. Last week I talked about pave
6 cuts and the subject of paving, it is on the
7 agenda, or was, and we funded some hopefully
8 what I mean by pave cuts is not cutting the
9 sidewalks for disabled people it's when the
10 utilities come in and dig it all up after we
11 have spent boo-koo money on paving. If you
12 go up Mulberry Street, which was paved not
13 long ago, there is a choo-choo track up
14 there after it levels off past the
15 University, past the pizza shops and
16 obviously a pipe was dug up or it wasn't
17 sufficiently built and now it's sunken in.

18 On River Street and Stafford Avenue
19 and, Joe, you might want to check it on the
20 way home, it's up to you, just turn right
21 off of River Street at the top of the hill
22 there and you will hit some lovely bounces
23 and it looks sick. I mean, it looks sick as
24 far as that's what we get from the utilities
25 and they are dumping their problems on us

1 and they don't have to spend the money. And
2 I think they should have to post bond and it
3 should have to be inspected a year later to
4 make sure that the seal at the edge of the
5 pavement where they cut into the pave is
6 still sealed so we don't have water entry
7 and a big hole, potholes forming. It's just
8 a shame when you see that. Davis Street is
9 another one. What a choo-choo track, you
10 know. I'm waiting to see a diesel
11 locomotive going up there. So it's our
12 money and we spend it and we try to make
13 things better and they don't wind up staying
14 better they're kind of like a party that you
15 shouldn't have thrown, you know?

16 Okay, I have been talking about some
17 of our economic problems in the last couple
18 of weeks and, believe me, I don't want
19 council to try to create jobs because all we
20 seem to get, it's not council's problems, we
21 got KOZ's and a couple of companies moved in
22 and moved out, the information center down
23 there in the Globe Store about two weeks ago
24 I talked to a girl and she didn't have
25 sufficient transportation to get to their

1 new place so she has out of a job and she as
2 been out of job for quite some time now, but
3 in 1974 we had the oil embargo, in '79 we
4 had Iran, all of these were directly
5 effecting my wife and I, or both, economic
6 life. In '83 we had a recession, plant I
7 worked for ten years closed, I worked my way
8 up from dismantler to technical supervisor.
9 Over half of the people in the plant in '85
10 we decided to build nuclear power plants in
11 China and we eased apparel restrictions and
12 by about 1990 most of the people that I knew
13 worked there were just barely working there
14 or working their for minimum wage and they
15 were making two to three times that at least
16 at the time.

17 And then '91, of course, we had the
18 Gulf War. Once again, that automotive
19 industry, well, self-explanatory. '94 we
20 signed up for NAFTA. A lot of of companies
21 went under. Thompson moved out of the area
22 and found that there was insufficient water
23 to run a plant in Mexico so they moved to
24 Malyasia. '98 China we had the China trade
25 act and then things really got going and

1 poor Georgie Bush took it for that because
2 things don't happen in a year or two, they
3 happen in much larger frames of time. Then
4 we had 9/11 and in '07 the recession
5 started. In '011 Korea trade pack, in '015
6 now we have the Transpacific Trade Pack.
7 Don't be a rhino, don't be a dino, don't be
8 a dino, I'm going to say dino because dino
9 sounds too powerful, Democrat in name only.
10 Call your Congressman whether you are union,
11 non-union, Republican, Democrat, if you get
12 tired of listening to this stuff every week
13 I mean, give them a call and say scrap the
14 Transpacific trade pack and happy to say
15 that somebody bought the house next to me
16 that was taken for taxes. So hopefully it
17 will turn out already. And one other
18 thing --

19 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Dobrzyn, your time
20 is up.

21 MR. DOBRZYN: Okay.

22 MR. MCGOFF: Each week you do this,
23 give us a history lesson and go over the
24 time period.

25 MR. DOBRZYN: All right. I'll save

1 it for next week then.

2 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

3 MR. GAUGHAN: May I make one comment,
4 briefly, Mr. McGoff?

5 MR. MCGOFF: Sure.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Mr. Dobrzyn, just you
7 mentioned in the beginning when you were
8 speaking about the pave cut ordinance, just
9 to let you know I know that the
10 administration is working on revising the
11 pave cut ordinance. It is a major issue so
12 it's in the infancy stage now, but hopefully
13 sometime soon we will be able to --

14 MR. DOBRZYN: Yeah, we need a strong
15 ordinance to deal with that because --

16 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

17 MR. DOBRZYN: -- we spend a lot of
18 money paving the streets and it looks like
19 hell.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

21 MR. DOBRZYN: A month later
22 sometimes, a month later and it's not right.
23 Thank you and have a good night.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. You, too.

25 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening, Marie

1 Schumacher. I don't have too much tonight,
2 but I do expect to hear answers from
3 questions from Mr. Evans and Mr. McGoff, I
4 did send the questions in so I'm hopeful
5 that I will get answers tonight and I have
6 one for Mr. Rogan, a new one tonight, and I
7 would like to acknowledge the efforts of the
8 Department of Public Works. They did come
9 up this week and start working on the worst
10 of the worst of Mountain Lake Road. The
11 road was closed for a bit today because of
12 that and had to detour, but I checked it out
13 last this afternoon and it's passable again
14 now so that's good for the fire protection
15 as well as transiting.

16 The question I have, and it's only
17 tangentially related to 7-A, but since in
18 Seventh Order I know we loaned this 520
19 Madison Avenue property money, is that
20 current, Mr. Rogan.

21 MR. ROGAN: I don't have that in
22 front of me.

23 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. Maybe you
24 could tell us if they are current on their
25 obligations there, and also does, Wayne,

1 will know the answer to this I'm sure, does
2 it effect the tax position of that property
3 at all? Does that reduce taxes making it
4 historical?

5 MR. EVANS: No, not at all. The
6 assessment stays the same.

7 MS. SCHUMACHER: Thank you. And
8 then and now I just want to say that April 3
9 was the most demoralizing day that I have
10 spent since I have returned to this area.
11 Two issues on the front page, one, "City
12 School's Chief Lays out Three-Part Plan."

13 "The incoming superintendent of
14 Scranton School District wants the school
15 board to hire external experts in
16 communications, finance and executive
17 assistance to help execute her transitional
18 leadership plan."

19 Second article, the Allied Services,
20 Geisinger and Lackawanna College are to pay
21 an advisor \$40,000 more per year year than
22 our mayor to do something. I'm not sure
23 what. They are obviously working -- this
24 man is working for a private entities. He
25 is not working for the city, he is working

1 for those people who pay his salary, as we
2 all do. I note, and I could be wrong on
3 this, but I do not recall either of those
4 three nonprofits previous to this doing --
5 sending in any PILOTS and so the fact that
6 -- I could be wrong, if I am, if anybody
7 knows differently if they sent PILOTS, I
8 know that Geisinger paid for the Fourth of
9 July fireworks last year at Nay Aug and I
10 hope that they will continue and I'm sure
11 they probably made some others and maybe
12 Lackawanna College has and maybe Allied has,
13 I don't know, but I just -- the timing is
14 really curious because when Mr. Amoroso
15 worked for Newark, and that will be final
16 issue and this, but when he worked for them
17 what they did is the path that we are on, we
18 are selling our assets, and then when the
19 assets were gone and we are still not any
20 better off than we were what does a receiver
21 have to work with except the poor property
22 taxpayers? And, frankly, I think we have
23 been hit enough and I find it strange that
24 there seems to be a common thread among
25 those three entities and maybe people who

1 have a private interest in -- an interest in
2 some of these properties and Mr. Amoroso
3 will be -- in his position I would assume he
4 will be privy to all kinds of insider
5 information and I just don't feel right, I
6 have to tell you. It just -- it just isn't
7 right.

8 And then Mr. Amoroso and his
9 company, again, they went into Newark and
10 the latest I have, you know, they sold a
11 bunch of their assets and this is almost a
12 year old now, it's 2014, but the title
13 speaks for it all and then I'll be seated,
14 "Newark Budget Woes Makes State Take Over
15 More Likely." So they have didn't get out
16 of trouble and I'm not sure that we will
17 and I just feel very uncomfortable about
18 this situation if they have been given this.
19 Uncomfortable. Thank you.

20 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else who wishes
21 to address council?

22 MS. REED: FIFTH ORDER. 5-A.

23 MOTIONS.

24 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Wechsler.

25 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you,

1 Mr. McGoff. Today I received a call from
2 fire chief Pat DeSarno informing me that as
3 of today Engine 10 on East Mountain is
4 temporarily closed. The closure was due to
5 a problem with mold within the building. In
6 order to correct this problem there will be
7 a visit tomorrow by an air quality
8 specialist who will do an evaluation of the
9 building to see what revenues can be done to
10 correct this problem. As of right now,
11 Engine 10 is operating out of headquarters,
12 and we all know the concerns that we have
13 when Engine 10 is not open.

14 I received assurances from Chief
15 DeSarno that they were working to remedy
16 this problem, also they were working to come
17 up with a new solution for the roof problem
18 at Engine 10, but I was assured by the chief
19 that the city and administration, and I know
20 myself and city council, is determined to
21 keep Engine 10 open because of its
22 importance to our community so we will know
23 better tomorrow after this report is done.

24 A few weeks ago I had requested that
25 the city engineer do a study on the problems

1 with East Mountain Road. This week City
2 Engineer Pocius got back to us. There are
3 few recommendations that he has for possible
4 cures to the problem on East Mountain Road
5 and like everything else some are a little
6 cheaper and some are a little more
7 expensive. These suggestions will be
8 evaluated and we will go and see what we can
9 do. It is a major concern to get that road
10 repaired because of the investments that was
11 made a few years ago, we don't want to lose
12 that road.

13 Just at comment on Mr. Amoroso, the
14 one thing that we to remember is Mr. Amoroso
15 is a consultant. Mr. Amoroso was hired by
16 three private companies through the Chamber
17 of Commerce and Mr. Amoroso is acting as a
18 consultant to the mayor. I have not had any
19 many conversations with Mr. Amoroso and I'm
20 sure that his ideas go through the mayor and
21 come to us.

22 I don't think it's right that
23 Mr. Amoros is given credit for our success
24 or failure. I believe that it's up to us as
25 elected officials to come with the final

1 solutions for the problems that face the
2 city and, I mean, I look forward to working
3 with him, he does have a great reputation
4 throughout the community, he opened some
5 doors for us that have been closed to us in
6 the past, some of his ideas have worked and
7 some of them have not, but, like I said, he
8 is only a consultant and I think it's up to
9 us to take responsibility to help solve the
10 problems here.

11 One other comment, in the paper this
12 week we saw and approved the effort of the
13 city to get a bond issue to help solve the
14 award problem. However, I would like to see
15 that effort instead of going to the award I
16 would like to see that money go into the
17 pension system. The pension system is the
18 biggest problem facing us right now. That
19 money can help make the pension a little
20 more solvent and that would also help us in
21 terms of the money that we have to put into
22 the system.

23 I do encourage though that as we
24 look for the lease for the Sewer Authority I
25 would suggest that the money that's as a

1 result of the Sewer Authority lease if it
2 happens would go towards paying the fire
3 board union, the union board claim. I do
4 understand that the city is responsible for
5 these bills, through court awards and
6 through our problems we created this
7 financial situation. I do believe that we
8 have to come up with plans to remedy both of
9 those problems for us to move on but I would
10 like to see the pension become more solvent
11 first. That's all I have this evening.
12 Thank you.

13 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Rogan?

14 MR. ROGAN: Yes, two brief items.
15 First, this morning I did attend the elected
16 officials meeting that PennDOT held with
17 Denny Gallagher from DPW and John Pocius,
18 the city engineer. Two main points that
19 were important for the City of Scranton at
20 that meeting, one is the Rockwell Avenue
21 bridge that has been in the paper the source
22 of the contamination was not as everyone
23 expected, which it wasn't the underground
24 tank under the tire store so they are still
25 investigating on that and hopefully that

1 project will get moving forward shortly.

2 And the second issue is the
3 condition of the Main avenue, particularly
4 in West Scranton into North Scranton. I
5 have been given assurances by PennDOT that
6 there will be patching done to bridge the
7 gap between now and when the project is
8 fully completed. As I mentioned the
9 previous weeks, the reason why this project
10 will take longer than a standard street
11 paving, like if the expressway were to be
12 paved, is because of the handicap curb cuts
13 that need to be made from Taylor all the way
14 to where the project is going to conclude,
15 but the engineers at PennDOT did assure me
16 that that project is one of their top
17 priorities because of the poor condition of
18 the road.

19 And finally, just because it was
20 brought up and Mr. Wechsler brought it up as
21 well, Mr. Amoroso doing consulting work for
22 the city paid for by nonprofits, at the end
23 of the day the only people that can make
24 decisions on how Scranton is going to
25 proceed are the five members of council and

1 the mayor. Any consultant can give an idea,
2 to us and we decide whether it's a good idea
3 or a bad idea. I will welcome the fact that
4 nonprofits are willing to pay in lieu of
5 taxes or whether it be out of the generosity
6 of organizations for somebody to come in and
7 give us idea and we could take it or leave
8 it. There are things that Mr. Amoroso has
9 advocated for that I support, and there are
10 things that he advocated for that I oppose,
11 and when those items come up for a vote in
12 front of city council that's when we get to
13 make our voice heard, but many of the same
14 people that are against the nonprofits
15 making this payment are the same people that
16 were upset that the nonprofits aren't paying
17 enough to the city. I certainly agree we
18 need more PILOTS from the nonprofits but
19 sometimes it's not always a payment in lieu
20 of taxes it can be a service in lieu of
21 taxes.

22 I mentioned in the past trying to
23 get nonprofits to maybe chip in to pave
24 streets in their section of town or provide
25 for a fire truck that serves where that

1 non-profit is or things of that nature,
2 anything we can get from the nonprofits is
3 certainly a plus and I welcome hearing
4 Mr. Amoroso's suggestions, but at the end of
5 the day they are just that, they are just
6 suggestions, they are not policy. That
7 would be set by the mayor and by city
8 council. And that is it all I have. Thank
9 you.

10 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Evans?

11 MR. EVANS: Thank you. I'm going to
12 touch on land banks again. At the end of
13 the day foreclosed upon properties are
14 driving down home values. They are
15 destabiling and destroying the quality of lie
16 of many of our residents. Urban planners
17 have long known that most properties lower
18 cost on adjoining property owners in the
19 short term and the long term and they effect
20 the very fabric of the neighborhood as well
21 as creating lack of vitality in the city.

22 Some of other costs are, decreased
23 property values of these adjacent
24 properties, decreased property tax revenues
25 from non-payment of taxes, decreased

1 property tax revenues from declining
2 property values of adjacent properties.
3 Increased cost of police and public safety.
4 Increased incidents of arson. Increased
5 cost of local government and code
6 enforcement activities and increased cost of
7 judicial sales. I think it's fair to say
8 that all of those are true, accurate and
9 conferrable, but while land banks are not
10 the sole answer to all of those issues, land
11 banks should be considered another tool in
12 the toolbox to fight urban blight through
13 true economic and community development. A
14 land bank can focus on the conversion of
15 those vacant, abandoned and foreclosed
16 properties into property that can once again
17 be productive.

18 The idea of land banks have been
19 discussed in Scranton for many, many years,
20 since 2012 actually, yet today we seem to be
21 no closer to implementation so maybe today
22 after today's meeting and some talk of
23 cooperation and talk of getting together we
24 can finally get to the point where we can
25 move land banks forward. Thank you.

1 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. Just a few
2 items. The street sweeper will be in the
3 East Mountain area from April 13 to April 17
4 from Moosic Street to East Mountain Road
5 and the 2015 street sweeping list is on the
6 city's website under Public Works.

7 Residents in the area of Pennwood
8 Drive, Park Drive and Barbara Drive in South
9 Scranton had contacted me about the potholes
10 in the area. Also, residents of Morris
11 Avenue in West Side request that patching be
12 done on their street. Our office will
13 forward these requests to the DPW. Our
14 office has also reported the pothole
15 Mr. Hetman mentioned last week on the corner
16 of North Webster and Pine Street.

17 A resident asked about the
18 percentage of taxes the city collects. Bill
19 Fox, our city tax collector, reported that
20 from years 2012 to 2014 the collection rate
21 remained consistent at 86 percent.

22 And just to touch on the caucus that
23 we had tonight on land banks. First of all,
24 let me thank Chris Gullotta from the
25 Pennsylvania Housing Alliance for giving the

1 presentation on land banks in our caucus. It
2 was extremely informative. I'd also like to
3 thank everyone who attended. Being part of
4 this important dialogue and blight in our
5 community is very important. One of the
6 crucial parts of starting a land bank is
7 having all of the community stakeholders on
8 the same page. Everyone in the City of
9 Scranton has that one vacant home or empty
10 lot on their block or within their
11 neighborhood that is an eyesore. These
12 eyesores diminish the sense of community
13 among neighbors, erases the value of
14 life-long investment and homes and hampers
15 the ability for Scranton to attract and keep
16 its citizens. Allowing vacant, abandoned
17 and foreclosed properties that dot our
18 neighborhoods and decimate our core values
19 to define us as city is unacceptable. Our
20 job as leaders of this community is to
21 realize that within each one of these
22 eyesores lies the possibility of renewal and
23 renaissance.

24 As we heard in our caucus tonight,
25 the land banks are a tool Scranton and our

1 region can use to acquire and maintain
2 properties that have been rejected by the
3 open market and left us growing liabilities
4 for our neighborhoods.

5 Land banks can acquire title to the
6 properties, eliminate the liabilities and
7 transfer the property to new owners in a
8 manner that supports our communities' needs
9 and priorities.

10 Across the country, land banks have
11 become an effective tool to address these
12 challenges, reversing the cycle of decline
13 and decay, facilitating the transfer of
14 vacant property and promoting economic
15 development and neighborhood stabilization.
16 More than 80 local governments and 23 states
17 have created land banks to turn the
18 liability of vacant properties into
19 community assets. The land bank can also
20 operate side lot programs, which I think
21 would be particularly beneficial in our
22 city. Ownership of vacant lots is
23 transferred to adjacent property owners for
24 a nominal fee. This insures that abandoned
25 properties are back on the tax rolls, it

1 increases revenues and reduces maintenance
2 costs. The side lot program also allows for
3 community gardens that beautify
4 neighborhoods.

5 As Mr. Evans mentioned, land banks
6 certainly will not solve all of the problems
7 of blight in our community, but I believe
8 with the right structure and strategic
9 vision from our leaders it can be a key tool
10 for returning vacant problem properties to
11 productive use. I have had many
12 conversations with elected leaders and
13 government officials in our community over
14 the past few months regarding land banks.
15 It's clear that there is an interest in
16 using this tool for the benefit of our
17 community. It's time to turn that interest
18 into action.

19 At this time I would like to make a
20 motion that Scranton City Council send a
21 letter to Mayor Courtright and the
22 Lackawanna County Commissioners recommending
23 that they establish an official exploratory
24 committee to discuss a collaboration between
25 the City of Scranton and Lackawanna County

1 for the creation of a land bank.

2 MR. EVANS: Second.

3 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? All
4 those in favor of the motion signify by
5 saying aye.

6 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

7 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

8 MR. EVANS: Aye.

9 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

10 MS. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The
11 ayes have it and so moved.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: I would like to thank
13 my colleagues for standing with me on this
14 initiative that I think will be a great tool
15 for the city, for the county and for our
16 whole region. That is all I have for
17 tonight. Thank you.

18 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. Just to
19 answer one question, I believe Allied
20 Services is one of the entities that is
21 providing funding, and last for Mr. Amoroso,
22 last year I believe it was Allied that also
23 gave I think it was \$25,000 to the city for
24 the swim program or swimming at Nay Aug and
25 Lackawanna College did provide a venue for

1 our meetings free of charge while we were
2 unable to hold meetings within this
3 uilding. So, as Mr. Rogan said, some of
4 these entities may not provide actual
5 funding but, you know, there may be a some
6 type of quid pro quo, you know, for services
7 rendered rather than actual revenue.

8 And as far as Mr. Amoroso is
9 concerned, it should be noted that
10 Mr. Amoroso, as my colleagues have said, is
11 a consultant to the mayor. His employment,
12 if you will, was never brought before
13 council in any way, he is simply a
14 consultant to the mayor being funded by
15 something other than city funds. I don't
16 know how anybody could argue with an
17 experienced, you know, financial strategist
18 acting on behalf of the city for nothing.
19 Whatever Mr. Amoroso could provide in terms
20 of value, ideas is a plus as far as I am
21 concerned and hopefully Mr. Amoroso
22 will continue to work on behalf of the city,
23 and that's all.

24 MS. REED: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION - AN
25 ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.

1 58, 2014, AN ORDINANCE "ENTITLED GENERAL
2 CITY OPERATING BUDGET 2015" BY CREATING A
3 NEW REVENUE ACCOUNT NO. 01.331.33120
4 CIVILIAN PARKING ENFORCEMENT TICKETS.

5 MR. MCGOFF: At this time I'll
6 entertain a motion that Item 5-B be
7 introduced into its proper committee.

8 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

9 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

10 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? All
11 those in favor of introduction signify by
12 saying aye.

13 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

14 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

15 MR. EVANS: Aye.

16 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

17 MS. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The
18 ayes have it and so moved.

19 MS. REED: SIXTH ORDER. 6-A. READING
20 BY TITLE - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 94, 2015
21 - AN ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE CONTINUED
22 EXPLORATION OF THE FEASIBILITY OF ENTERING
23 INTO A CONCESSION OR LEASE AGREEMENT OF THE
24 PARKING SYSTEM OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON
25 COMPRISING VARIOUS GARAGES OWNED BY THE

1 PARKING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON,
2 PENNSYLVANIA, AND THE OPERATION AND
3 ADMINISTRATION OF THE ON-STREET PARKING
4 METERS OWNED BY THE CITY OF SCRANTON.

5 MR. MCGOFF: You've heard reading by
6 title of Item 6-A, what is your pleasure?

7 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-A
8 pass reading by title.

9 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

10 MS. MCGOFF: On the question? I
11 would like to say that I attended a phone
12 conference this afternoon concerning the
13 ongoing negotiations with the Parking
14 Authority and people have asked in the past
15 what is happening with it and these
16 negotiations are ongoing and actually moving
17 forward quite quickly, you know, as we move
18 towards the end of the year.

19 All those in favor signify by saying
20 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
3 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES- FOR
4 ADOPTION - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 93, 2015
5 - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 110 OF
6 2005 AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED "AMENDING FILE OF
7 THE COUNCIL NO. 45 OF 1996 REGARDING THE
8 COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM FOR HISTORIC
9 PRESERVATION IN THE CITY OF SCRANTON BY
10 UPDATING THE LIST OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES" TO
11 FURTHER UPDATE AND ADD THE CLELAND HOUSE AT
12 520 MADISON AVENUE TO THE HISTORIC
13 PROPERTIES LIST.

14 MR. MCGOFF: As Chair for the
15 Committee on Rules, I recommend final
16 passage of Item 7-A.

17 MR. ROGAN: Second.

18 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? Roll
19 call, please?

20 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

21 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

23 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

25 MR. EVANS: Yes.

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

2 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

4 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I hereby declare
5 Item 7-A legally and lawfully adopted.

6 MS. REED: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION BY
7 THE COMMITTEE ON RULES- FOR ADOPTION
8 RESOLUTION NO. 133, 2015 - APPOINTMENT OF
9 NELL O'BOYLE, 603 ARTHUR AVENUE, SCRANTON,
10 PENNSYLVANIA, 18510, AS A MEMBER OF THE
11 HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURE REVIEW BOARD. MS.
12 O'BOYLE WILL BE REPLACING WAYNE EVANS WHO
13 RESIGNED FROM THE BOARD ON JULY 31, 2014 AND
14 HIS ACTUAL TERM WOULD HAVE EXPIRED ON
15 OCTOBER 11, 2014. MS. O'BOYLE'S TERM WILL BE
16 EFFECTIVE MARCH 26, 2015 AND EXPIRE ON
17 OCTOBER 11, 2019.

18 MR. MCGOFF: As Chairperson for the
19 Committee on Rules, I recommend final
20 passage of Item 7-B.

21 MR. ROGAN: Second.

22 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? Roll
23 call, please?

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

25 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

2 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

4 MR. EVANS: Yes.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

8 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I hereby declare
9 Item 7-B legally and lawfully adopted.

10 MS. REED: 7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION BY
11 THE COMMITTEE ON RULES- FOR ADOPTION
12 RESOLUTION NO. 134, 2015 - APPOINTMENT OF
13 KATIE GILMARTIN, 1525 CAPOUSE AVENUE,
14 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18509 AS A MEMBER OF
15 THE HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURE REVIEW BOARD.
16 MS. GILMARTIN WILL BE REPLACING JOHN MOORE
17 WHOSE APPOINTMENT BY RESOLUTION NO. 50, 2012
18 FOR AN ADDITIONAL FIVE (5) YEAR TERM WAS
19 REPEALED BY CITY COUNCIL ON SEPTEMBER 19,
20 2013. MS. GILMARTIN'S TERM WILL BE EFFECTIVE
21 ON MARCH 26, 2015 AND WILL EXPIRE ON OCTOBER
22 11, 2017.

23 MR. MCGOFF: As Chair for the
24 Committee on Finance, I recommend final
25 passage of Item 7-C.

1 MR. ROGAN: Second.

2 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? Roll
3 call, please?

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

5 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

7 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

9 MR. EVANS: Yes.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

13 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I hereby declare
14 Item 7-C legally and lawfully adopted.

15 MS. REED: 7-D. FOR CONSIDERATION BY
16 THE COMMITTEE ON RULES- FOR ADOPTION -
17 RESOLUTION NO. 135, 2015 - DEDICATING THE
18 1000 BLOCK OF LUKE AVENUE EN ROUTE TO ST.
19 ROCCO'S CHURCH BEFORE THE SCRANTON-DUNMORE
20 BORDER AS "GUARDIA DEI LOMBARDI WAY" IN
21 FURTHER RECOGNITION OF THE SISTER CITY
22 RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE CITY OF SCRANTON
23 AND GUARDIA DEI LOMBARDI, PROVINCE OF
24 AVELLINO, ITALY.

25 MR. MCGOFF: As Chair for the

1 Committee on Rules, I recommend final
2 passage of Item 7-D.

3 MR. ROGAN: Second.

4 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? Roll
5 call, please?

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

7 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

9 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

11 MR. EVANS: Yes.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

13 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

14 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

15 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I hereby declare
16 Item 7-D legally and lawfully adopted. If
17 there is no further business, I'll entertain
18 a motion to adjourn.

19 MR. GAUGHAN: I have one comment, I'm
20 sorry, I forgot to mention it during my
21 comments,.

22 MR. MCGOFF: Please.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: A gentleman contacted
24 our office today regarding a nice complaint,
25 very loud music at Hilltop Manor. Mrs. Reed

1 contacted Chief Graziano and did respond
2 that additional patrols will monitor that
3 complaint in that area, so thank both of
4 them for that. Thank you.

5 MR. ROGAN: Motion to adjourn.

6 MR. MCGOFF: Meeting is adjourned.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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