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2	SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING
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6	HELD:
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8	Thursday, May 28, 2015
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10	LOCATION:
11	Council Chambers
12	Scranton City Hall
13	340 North Washington Avenue
14	Scranton, Pennsylvania
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24	CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR – OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER
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CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

ROBERT MCGOFF, PRESIDENT (Not present.)

PATRICK ROGAN, VICE-PRESIDENT

WAYNE EVANS

JOSEPH WECHSLER

WILLIAM GAUGHAN

LORI REED, CITY CLERK

JAMIE MARCINO, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

AMIL MINORA, SOLICITOR

1 (Pledge of Allegiance recited and 2 moment of reflection observed.) 3 MR. ROGAN: Roll call, please. 4 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler. MR. WECHSLER: Here. 5 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan. 6 Here. 7 MR. ROGAN: 8 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Evans. 9 MR. EVANS: Here. 10 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan. 11 MR. GAUGHAN: Here. 12 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff. 13 MR. ROGAN: Here. Mr. McGoff did 14 contact me prior to the meeting. He DID 15 have a minor surgical procedure this morning 16 that he is still recovering from, but he is 17 in good spirits and should be seeing him 18 back next week. MR. GAUGHAN: I make a motion to 19 20 appoint Councilman Rogan as the temporary 21 chairperson for the Committee on Rules. 22 MR. WECHSLER: Second. 23 MR. ROGAN: On the question? 24 those in favor signify by saying aye. 25 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

1	MR. EVANS: Aye.
2	MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.
3	MR. ROGAN: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
4	have it and so moved. Please dispense with
5	the reading of the minutes.
6	MS. REED: THIRD ORDER. 3-A. TAX
7	ASSESSOR'S REPORT FOR HEARING DATE TO BE
8	HELD JUNE 10, 2015.
9	MR. ROGAN: Are there any comments?
10	If not, received and filed.
11	MS. REED: 3-B. AGENDA FOR THE CITY
12	PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING HELD MAY 27,
13	2015.
14	MR. ROGAN: Are there any comments?
15	If not, received and filed.
16	MS. REED: 3-C. MINUTES OF THE
17	COMPOSITE PENSION BOARD MEETING HELD
18	APRIL 22, 2015.
19	MR. ROGAN: Are there any comments?
20	If not, received and filed.
21	MS. REED: 3-D. CITY OF SCRANTON
22	ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED
23	DECEMBER 31, 2013.
24	MR. ROGAN: Are there any comments?
25	If not, received and filed.
	II

MS. REED: 3-E. TAX ASSESSOR'S
RESULTS REPORT FOR HEARING DATE HELD MAY 13,
2015.

MR. ROGAN: Are there any comments? If not, received and filed. FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS' PARTICIPATION. Our sign-in sheet is empty tonight so if anyone would like to address council.

MS. HODOWANITZ: Joan Hodowanitz, city resident and taxpayer. I'm wearing a Friends of the Library T-shirt, and that's to remind you that we will have our next book sale next week June 2 through June 7 at the Library Express second floor of the Steamtown Mall. This is a such a deal. Where else can you get hardcover fiction or non-fiction books in minute condition for \$2 or \$3? Who else gives you such bang for your buck, certainly not the city.

Speaking of bang for the buck, let's look at Item 5-B, a resolution to enter a contact with Rainey & Rainey for audit preparation services from 2015 through 2018. First, I object to outsourcing functions that should be performed by city employees.

Granted our employees lacked prior
experience in accounting and auditing, but
they have been here for almost 17 months.

If they have not learned their jobs by now
when will they learn? Are they untrainable
or has Mr. Bulzoni, the Business

Administrator, failed to provide adequate
training? Has anyone contacted the
University of the Scranton for help? They
teach governmental accounting.

Second, compare Mr. Bulzoni's RFP for this contract against the written job descriptions, duties and tasks for his finance manager senior accountant and financial analyst. I did a Right-to-Know request for those documents several months ago and guess what, the duties and tasks for these employees and the responsibilities listed in the RFP are identical. Should I assume that no one in the BA's Office had the expertise to write a proper RFP?

Let me give you a few examples to illustrate the absurdity of their RFP. The senior accountants duties are included in the RFP. These duties include, believe it

or not, decorating for Christmas and answering the phones. Then there is the other extreme, under the general group of responsibilities you will find these tasks." Preparation of the operating budget by November 15 and the capital budget by August 15. According to the BA's website, the preparation of these two budgets are the BA's responsibility. So if Rainey & Rainey is going to perform tasks previously assigned to the financial -- the finance manager, financial analyst and senior accountant, what will those employees do to earn their paychecks?

Third, what will this contract cost us? I have no idea. You are talking billable hours. \$82.50 per hour for the partner, \$67.50 per hour for the manager, and \$50 per hour for every staff person.

The total cost will depend on the number of billable hours. I suspect we are going to be surprised and probably not in a good way. I wish someone would pay me \$87.50 an hour to decorate a Christmas tree. I could use the money.

And finally, consider this quote from Mr. Bulzoni's cover letter: "Given the limited experience of the city staff, I believe the retention of an audit preparation firm is critical in the timely completion of the audit. While I expect the cost may be greater in the initial year of service, as the staff further develops the amount of experience should reduce the costs in subsequent years of contract. The completion of the audit on a timely basis is likely the most critical element of the function of the office of business administrator."

Well, where was Mr. Bulzoni for the past 12 months when I was asking about the status of the 2013 audit? Where was the sense of urgency and why hasn't he set up a training program for his staff before now? We are paying Mr. Bulzoni \$79,900 a year, what are we getting for our money? Not much, I fear. Thank you.

MR. ROGAN: Thank you. Is there anyone else who would like to address council?

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MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.

Well, the first thing I have is, Mr. Evans, congratulations on where you sit at this time and I hope you don't forget there is another Republican in the race possibly with you if you decide to make a positive decision on that.

The other thing I have here is, you know, I applaud Mr. Boscov for just basically saying that he is not going to allow the mall to be converted and he is going to be -- he wants it to stay a mall and I think he is absolutely right. whole downtown has been abandoned and we've played politics long enough. You know, our country is caught in a very severe situation because nobody has any -- nothing personal to anybody here, nobody has any faith in the Democratic and Republican parties. They are just two monstrously large, ineffective and quite possibly corrupt organizations that just have no he place left in America, and if there was a viable solution to get rid of these people they would be gone, because when you take a look at what they have done

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for our country, nothing. Look at the mess they have created in the middle east.

That's only one thing they have done. Look at -- look at the poverty in our country, unemployment, I mean, everything that's happened wrong in this country has happened because of the Democrats or Republicans, elected officials. All the trade treaties, everything.

You know, the most troubling thing is we take a look at the city government we have here they want to get rid of the parking garages and the Sewer Authority, but the Auditor General came out and said that the pension plans is so severely unfunded that they don't see any hope for any solution without the city being bailed out by somebody. So, I mean, I can't even understand how the council or the mayor would even entertain selling assets that belong to the residents and then come up with a rental registration and all of the other silliness you've created and the truth of the matter is it's not possible for the city to pay it's way out.

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And, you know, we listen to politics and utter silliness and, you know, my question is you can't even run this city and you are going to try tell a successful businessman what he should do with the mall. It's the most ludicrous statement I have ever heard in my life and, you know, this gentleman is running a business as he is being taxed to death just like all of the residents in this city. You have not one solution for any of the problems that the residents of this city have in any aspect whatsoever and we are going to sit here with our pretty little suits on and pretend like we have got an answer to something, and we don't have an answer.

The state comes up with Act 47, that's not an answer, it hasn't been an answer for over 20 years, and the sale of the -- look it, it's real simple, selling the South Side Sports Complex was illegal by federal law because it was built with Project 70 money and the city still did it. The state legislature let it happen.

And I just think in my humble

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opinion the America people over 200 years threw the British out of here and maybe it's time to just tell the government we are not going to pay anymore, and my point is it, honestly, what do you think are you going to do about it? Honestly. Because if it gets to the point where people are enraged and they have enough to guts to stand up like some of the people have in this country about the police shootings across this country, you know, the most troubling part of this is there is twice as many Caucasians killed by at police as minorities, and you know what President Obama said about militarizing the police, he is absolutely right. Their job is to protect and serve, but we have an overbearing government that's going to control every single think we do and steal off our every paycheck, they are come like the city does and take the wage tax off us and tax our property and tax everything we touch and still not be able to run the city.

There is just no excuse, you know, people come here and ask for the audits. I

think we are way beyond that. I respect them asking for it, but look it, where are the answers? I mean, you dress nice but let's hear something intelligent happen. Let's see something happen. I mean, people aren't interested in how you are dressed, they are interested on how they live. You know, all of the politics where is it taking us? This country is -- when I was kid everything was made here, nothing is made here now. Mass unemployment double digits, there is no leadership from the top right to the bottom. Thank you.

MR. ROGAN: Thank you.

MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening. Dave
Dobrzyn, resident, taxpayer. Once again we
lost last week in the Senate, but for all
representatives 1-202-224-3121, and for the
White House 1-202-456-1111. Please call and
tell them to can their Transpacific
partnership. We have enough unemployment to
go around for the rest of the century, let
alone dragging it into the next century.

Now, getting onto local issues, I'd like to make a mention, I talked to somebody

from Madisonville and a lot of people feel that they only have one little bag of garbage or trash, whatever you want to call it, it's \$5 a bag in Madisonville to pick it up. So that translates to \$260 a year. Hopefully our DPW will use the money wisely.

A thought occurred to me with the Harrison Avenue bridge could it be chopped off with the park that runs over the highway and turned into a scenic lookout with the rest being more or less demolished? It's unsafe if you walk under it, which I have, along the brook there is a huge crack right in the middle that runs right through the top and it would be nearly impossible to replace or repair.

I'd like to entertain a notion, do
we have -- the tea party says we have too
much government or governments, whichever
you want to call it, but do we have too many
governments? Currently we have the federal
government, the state government, we have
the school board, we have the county and
municipal government, and whenever a tax
issue come ups at any given one they are

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quick to point out that somebody else is taxing us, too, so I think part of our problem here is a lack of coordination and it's a big issue. It's a big issue. Everybody points the finger back and forth, it's the school district, it's the city, it's the county.

And as far as the mall is it concerned, the working class has no money to What kind of a nut would want to walk around the store with them empty pockets? If you can't buy anything, there is no sense of being there. You're just walking around, you might even get tempted to shoplift and get yourself in trouble so, what's the point, you know? There was an article in the paper this morning that the mall in Taylor is in trouble, the mall at Montage is in trouble and the mall in Pittston is in trouble and currently our Chamber of Commerce sounds like they got some kind of grants and to go ahead and to start building malls up above Jessup. is the point? What is the point? We are spending money that really could have gone

somewhere else. I have often wondered about these grants, so to speak, where we get told, well, we have to spend it on this because that's what the government gave it to us for, but if we try applying it for something more worthy I don't know. It's just a question.

And I'm happy to see about utility repairs. Please, an extended inspection maybe a year later or so and make sure that the cracks are reasonably sealed and water isn't entering into them because our streets are mainly, our poor streets are mainly the cause of utility repairs as far as I'm concerned. There is some bad ones where there is water problems, but the utilities just keep ripping us off with their repairs and you can't get them -- you can't get them to replace all the infrastructure when you are paving it. It just wouldn't happen.

And finally, one quick thing, I want to sue the State of PA in Federal Court for property tax replacement, and that's the only thing that's ever going to bail us out. When they have to take the tax exempts and

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replace the money they give our money away
like Santa Claus. Thank you and have a
great night.

MR. ROGAN: Thank you.

MS. SCHUMACHER: Marie Schumacher. I wasn't even going to speak tonight, but after that big brother caucus that started at 5:30 and then what Jones shared on that totally -- I don't know how to describe that RFP, I just can't believe it, and I will tell you this that if I have to go back to work for pay if you people try anything that prohibits my private property from being vacant if I want it vacant, we'll go to the Supreme Court with it. I have a constitutional right to free property and if I want it to be vacant and I maintain it then that's my business. It's not yours, it's not any government's business, and.

MR. ROGAN: The idea --

MS. SCHUMACHER: It can wait until
Fifth Order. That's okay. And, I mean,
what are we going to do next? Maybe we
could get rid of the code inspectors and we
can get one of those Google vans and just

drive around every day so at least what's being looked at is looked at -- everybody's property is looked at equally, or maybe we could get robots to surveil all of our people, make sure we don't miss anything in their back yards. I mean, you people are getting ridiculous and you still refuse to do the things that you have, already have power to do that you don't do as far as bringing revenue in to the city. You are just -- it's a war against the payers.

And I can't tell you how many times this week I thought of the caucus in the back room where that company was making the pitch about collecting the taxes, giving us a million and a half dollars. What was his famous line? We know they have checkbooks. Now, isn't that a wonderful way to look at the citizens of this city? If they have a checkbook let's find a way to go after them, and it's a war on property owners, it's a war on the people, and I think you have got to stop.

And one of the reasons I wasn't going to speak tonight was because of the

under whelming response I got when I asked for status on and the 2015 revenue action items that were contained in the budget, but because of what's happened I'll go through them maybe a couple of the expense ones as long as I have time. Did the mayor ever hire the part-time receptionist? And has the DPW consultant been approved by council or selected?

MR. GAUGHAN: What do you mean DPW consultant?

MR. SCHUMACHER: Read the budget you approved.

MR. GAUGHAN: Yeah, but explain to me, I want to know what you mean. DPW consultant, consultant for what? That's what I'm trying to --

MS. SCHUMACHER: I would assume it would be for increasing the revenues or doing a better job, doing things more efficiently. I don't know, it was in the budget you guys approved.

MR. GAUGHAN: Yeah, and I'll have to go back and look, I don't remember seeing that.

MS. SCHUMACHER: Yeah, I would suggest, and also for other areas. We are going to hire interns, or I don't know maybe they are going to be pro bono interns and, you know, these guys sat here tonight and talked about how difficult it is to research a deed and who owns a property, that's BS. You can sit at your computer at home and go on the IDS -- the County's IDS site and get a current holder of a deed. Have we brought any interns to help -- for helping with the audit? Did we ever go out and -- we were supposed to go out and bring in in interns, did we? Will we?

MR. GAUGHAN: Would you like an answer to this?

MS. SCHUMACHER: Um-hum.

MR. GAUGHAN: Last week Evan Weiss, who is I guess the assistant to Henry
Amoroso, stopped in to see us in caucus for a second, before the caucus began, and he explained that there is some sort of effort being undertaken by the administration to set up an internship program with the University of the Scranton. Now, to answer

your question, you are asking about all of these items and I understand that, I have asked for that, too, that's why we want these guys in here for the caucus so we cant get a full update on everything. So I totally agree with you, but that's why we want Henry Amoroso, Mayor Courtright and Dave Bulzoni in to give us an update on all of these action items.

MS. SCHUMACHER: I don't think we really should need them, I think the administration should be capable of providing those answers. And then, may I finish?

MR. ROGAN: Sure.

MS. SCHUMACHER: I'll take one more item here, the procedure -- another item in the expenditures item was to investigate a procedure for a rolling way of salary increase for the non-representatives employees, and how would that work and what is the status of that evaluation? What's a rolling -- I mean, do you get one department this year and another department the next year? Is it by seniority? What was behind

that? You people had the budget, you approved it, not Mr. Evans didn't you.

MR. EVANS: My understanding that was something that they wanted to do some cross-training between departments, but I'm sure that's something that the administration and unions are having discussions with, but that was the intent.

MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. Thank you.

MR. ROGAN: Is there anyone else who would like to address council?

MR. DRASDIK: I'm John Drasdik, I live at 902 Ferdinand Street and my concern is I'm on a corner, it's a 25-mile speed zone, and the cars go 50, and I was talking to my neighbors, and I'm here to represent them, we'd like to see about getting a three-way stop sign there. I know the police have stopped, they stopped on the top of hill, but as soon as they are gone they just go back to what they are doing. They actually splash cinder and dirt up on the houses there. It's dangerous. It's a narrow street when you come out it's kind of blind and it's hard for those people to get

out. It's hard for one neighbor to get out of his driveway and I was just coming to speak for me and the neighbors.

MR. ROGAN: What's the intersection again?

MR. DRASDIK: 902 Ferdinand and Sweeney.

MR. GAUGHAN: There is a whole process that has to be undertaken to do, the city engineer does a study of the intersection and then he recommends whether or not a stop sign is legitimate for that area. So, Mrs. Reed, if we can take care of that for this gentleman we will definitely send a recommendation for that study to be undertaken by the city engineer, and if you want to leave your address and your name with Jamie, our secretary, we will get in touch with you and keep you abreast of the situation.

MR. DRASDIK: Okay. There is another thing, when the rain comes down it's like a washout. The dirt keeps coming down that hill constantly. It's probably going to plug a drain up so that needs to be

looked at to, probably just patch it with some macadam or something if they look at it the right way and take of that dirt that coming down the hill there.

And another thing the trucks keep coming out of there, they need more signs on Sweeney because the trucks can't make that turn. Yesterday they took a pole and took the cords off my neighbor's power box, the truck that came around that corner, and there is not enough signage on that street to warn them that they can't come out that end so.

MR. GAUGHAN: And what street is that, Ferdinand?

MR. DRASDIK: This is coming up from Sweeney onto Ferdinand, the tractor trailers can't make that, little signs or anything else in this area. There is going to be more and more traffic through there because of the work on Keyser is just destroying everything up there with trucks. So that's all I have.

MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you very much.

MR. ROGAN: Is there anyone else who

would like to address council?

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

MR. ROGAN: Councilman Wechsler, do you have any motions or comments?

MR. WECHSLER: Just a few, Mr.

Rogan. First of all, I'd like to thank
everyone that came out for the Memorial day
celebrations that were held on Monday. I
attended a few of them and it was great to
see so many people ought and offering their
support for our veterans and those that gave
the ultimate sacrifice.

I'd also like to give a special congratulations to Bob Gattens and the neighbors of Connors Park in South Scranton. The fund drive that the group had to sell pavers to raise money for the flag pole it was a success and it's still an ongoing success. Bob is still taking requests for pavers and he wishes to continue making that paved area even bigger, but the turnout for that, at least the neighbors, it was the largest turnout that I saw. I attended three of these events on Monday and the one

in South Side was the most attended and it was for myself, being from East Mountain and South Side I took great pride in everyone that came out to that.

The DPW has taken care of a few of the potholes problems that I had identified and sent a request to take care of. They are making progress on that list and they are still doing some more as they go on.

On Tuesday night Tom Lynch, the director of Parks and Recreation, attended a meeting of the East Mountain Residents

Association. The group up there is trying to get a plan together for them to resurface the basketball court and is just asking the city for some assistance on some of the fencing and prep work up there so I'd like to thank Tom for coming up to that meeting.

I also had some -- been contacted about some illegal dumping that's taking place off Lakeview Drive. I will be contacting Mr. Gallagher to put some signage about that.

I just want to touch on today in the paper we saw the stories about some lawsuits

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and over the past couple of weeks we have been seeing this. There has been problems with the pension raises, the double pensions and the rental registration. I am never a fan of lawsuits, but the reason why these lawsuits are being generated is the fact that the city, the administration and council are being proactive and trying to make some progress on those problems. pensions and the double pensions and we are part of that. We are trying to revise the pension legislation and we are trying to control the cost of the pension and the reason why the rental registration is coming forth now I think the landlords are finally starting to feel like the city is going to be active in enforcing that legislation.

I agree with the ideas that

Mr. Evans has been putting out that the fee probably is too high, but there is a requirement to have a fee so I think that's why you are seeing some activity in these lawsuits.

In regards to what we spoke about tonight about the audit, the audit is kind

Administrator's Office. Since the new administration came in and the new council has come in there has been a focus on the financial reporting system of the city and there has been great strides made. I know that dealing with the information I am hearing from PEL our reporting is much better and the fact that we have so many different financial institutions interested in us now is prove that we are getting out financial house in order.

of the tip of the iceberg in the Business

This RFP gives us the opportunity to look at the tasks that are being done in that office up there. As we discussed, there may be some functions that aren't properly defined or people aren't in the right positions, and it is a reality that this year we did put an obligation on Mr. Bulzoni that he may have to leave us at the end of this year. We only allowed him to stay one year and there is a possibility that he possibly or probably will not be here next year. So I also think we have to start looking at who is going to take his

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place, what's the procedures to have this smooth transition and to not lower or lessen the progress that we have made in the past couple of months.

I usually don't comment on what speakers say, but tonight I am going to do it, and I disagree with Ms. Schumacher that this is a war against property owners. believe this is a war for property owners. The people that we are addressing here, this rental registration and the absentee landlord, the quality of life ordinance, these issues are coming out of concerns that we get from the people in the neighborhoods. They are frustrated with the abandoned They are frustrated with people properties. who don't take care of their properties. I don't believe it's a war against, I think it's a war for the property owners and the That's all I have tonight, taxpayers. Mr. Rogan.

MR. ROGAN: Thank you, Councilman Wechsler. Councilman Evans, do you have any motions or comments?

MR. EVANS: Thank you. I'm going to

piggyback on some of the things Councilman Wechsler mentioned. I did attend as well the Memorial Day celebration at Connors Park and it was really impressive, there probably had to be 150 to 200 people there and I think at this point at least 200 plus brick pavers were purchased in memory of many soldiers that had passed away that were from South Side or just family members or whoever so it was very touching tribute. Connors was there, Mayor Courtright, of course, Mayor Wenzel and Judge Munley officiated and it was a very, very respectful and wonderful celebration.

On Lake View Drive. I know Councilman Wechsler mentioned that, there was some concerns with illegal dumping. I'm not sure, should we send a letter to Mr. Gallagher on that, and also, I think that the neighbors would like to request a meeting for some other issues up there so we can discuss that in the letter as well.

See what else we talked about. audit prep, I'm going to wait a little bit and comment until Mr. Bulzoni has an

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opportunity to come to our caucus, and he is going to come next week. I understand the importance of it. We are not quite there yet, our employees aren't prepared, training wheels aren't off yet, but I think four years might be a little bit too long so we really have to take a good hard look at what's in the RFP and if it's best for the city at this time.

On the rental registration ordinance, as you may know, a lawsuit was filed again -- or not again but for the first time against the ordinance. To recap, Councilman Rogan and myself have been discussing revising this ordinance since I have been on city council. A few months ago we met as part of the mayor's committee on blight at that time and I verbally made known what I felt needed to be done to revise the ordinance. Several weeks ago I restated that position at a city council meeting, including suggestions like removing the \$150 structure fee, reducing the per unit fee, and also using the registration to increase participation to a dramatically

higher level than the current 25 percent.

That would have allowed for reduced fees,
more equitable distribution of those fees
and a dramatic increase in trash fee
collection on units that were not previously
registered. So there was a lot of
discussion about, you know, how can we
afford to cut the fees. We can't afford not
to cut the fees because this is what has
lead to the lawsuit.

So I'm extremely disappointed that we got to the point and frustrated that the lawsuit was filed, but we just have to leave it at that for now.

On the pension reform that

Councilman Wechsler mentioned as well, the

Firefighters' Union pension has joined the

lawsuit asking for increases in retirement

pay. Somehow, I don't know how, but somehow

they didn't get the memo. The Uniform

Pension plans are on the verge of

insolvency. There is most likely less than

three years left in the funds and the

Auditor General has described the plans as

severely distressed, a category that doesn't

allow for any type of these increases. So as pensions go so goes the financial stability of the city, so that by some strange thought process the ultimate goal is to drive the city into bankruptcy, congratulations, you are winning. That's all I have for now.

MR. ROGAN: Thank you, Councilman Evans. Councilman Gaughan, do you have any motions or comments?

MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, thank you. I forgot to mention at the beginning of the meeting that the Divine Mercy Parish in Minooka will be holding their annual picnic a little earlier this year, Thursday, June 4, Friday, June 5, and Saturday, June 6, and I hope everyone would attend that picnic. It's always a very nice time.

The street sweeper is scheduled to be in Scranton from June 1 to June 5, Lemon Street and School Street, including all avenues and streets.

I received a complaint about inhumane treatment of a dog in South Scranton. We forwarded the issue to the

animal control officer. There does seem to be some sort of confusion about the agreement between Griffin Pond Animal Shelter and the city and how the city interacts with the shelter and what the duties and responsibilities are, and all of these issues are being discussed between the business administrator and Griffin Pond so hopefully that will be resolved relatively quickly.

I asked for an update on the Rockwell Avenue bridge project. The city engineer, John Pocius, reported that a revised design of the new foundation system for the bridge is currently being reviewed. As soon as the review has been completed and PennDOT signs off on it, work will resume at the bridge. Mr. Pocius could not provide a definite timeline as to when we should expect this to happen, but I know the residents in North Scranton are eager so we will try to keep everyone updated on that situation.

There was a -- I did pose a question about a month or two ago about whether or

not the administration was on track to hit their projection of \$350,000 in revenue from the civilian parking enforcement. I did request a monthly or a quarterly report. We received a report of how many citations were issued and the location but it was a little confusing as to how money was actually received, so I will be requesting just a simple spreadsheet that shows how much money was actually brought in monthly or quarterly and then we'll be able to see if we are on track to hit the \$350,000 benchmark.

I did meet with Mayor Courtright

last Friday, and discussed a number of

different issues, one of them was land bank.

Mayor Courtright said that he put Jason

Shrive, the city's attorney, as a point

person for land banks and he directed me to

speak to Attorney Shrive with any questions

I might have. Apparently there is some sort

of committee being formed, it's kind of

unclear as to where we are at in this whole

process, so I will be asking Mrs. Reed to

send correspondence to Attorney Shrive since

he is now the point person for this

potential project and ask him where we are at in this process and when we can expect some sort of movement.

And I do have a few comments for agenda items and I'll speak on them when we get to them. Thank you.

MR. ROGAN: Thank you, Councilman Gaughan. Two announcements, actually three announcements that I neglected to make at the beginning of the meeting as well. Next Thursday, June 4, there will be a public caucus at 6 p.m. in council chambers with the city engineer and PennDOT officials regarding the Harrison Avenue bridge project for an update.

Secondly, the Lackawanna County
River Corridor's Association Riverfest 2015
is Saturday, May 30. Activities on the
river and that the Olive Street Bridge area
are at 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. It's a full day of
river activities music, food, fun for all
ages. For more information, visit
www.LRCA.org or call 570-347-6311.

Secondly, public notice is given that the City of Scranton second year action

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plan from January 2016 to December 31, 2016. Effective Monday, June 1, 2015, applications will be available through the City's second year action plan to be funded through the Community Development Block Grant, HOME and the Emergency Solutions Grant administered by the Department of Housing and Urban Development. They action plan covers the period of January 1, 2016, through December 31, 2016, and the activities must be consistent with the needs and objectives identified in the City of Scranton's five-year consolidated plan principally for extremely low and moderate income families. Eligible applicants may be incorporated for profit, nonprofit, public organizations or businesses able to undertake their approved activity within the boundaries of the City of Scranton. Applicants must demonstrate the financial management and pragmatic experience to successfully develop, design, implement and monitor all proposed activities.

All applicants must meet other federal requirements concerning equal

opportunity, fair housing, affirmative marketing, environmental review, displacement, relocation, acquisition, labor, lead based paint, conflict of interest, must be provide access suspension and flood insurance where applicable.

Anticipated 2016 allotments are as follows: The CDBG program \$2.5 million dollars, the HOME program \$400,000, and the ESG program \$240,000. Applications are available on-line at www.ScrantonPA.gov or through OECD Office. Applications must be submitted or hand delivered no later than 3 p.m. on Friday, August 7, 2015. Failure to provide any necessary information may disqualify applicants.

Next, a piece of good news that was in the newspaper this week, there is a boutique butcher shop opening in North Scranton. One of the speakers mentioned trying to bring up some more positive economic development activity within the community and I thought this would definitely fit it. Kevin Locker is the business owner -- is the owner of the new

business. He was a butcher for 30 years and he recently opened in North Scranton the Meat Locker on Albright Avenue. It's 1513 Albright Avenue, and the article goes on at length about many of the products that are offered and it's definitely a stop I'm looking forward to attending especially during barbecue season.

Next, regarding the double pension issue, we did receive another packet of minutes from all of the pension boards and to this day there still have been no definitive answers regarding the double pension scanned will. I am still interested in how this happened and what needs to be done to correct it. I understand that hearings are going to be held regarding individuals who are receiving the double pensions and what will happen with that payment, but what am I'm more concerned about is how they came to be in the first place.

Obviously, it wasn't legislation that was enacted by council at the time, there are many, you know, many ideas on how

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these were approved, but nothing definitive.

I know there have been many agencies investigating into this matter and I think the people of Scranton deserve answers and every day that this goes on these double pensions are being paid is more taxpayer money that is going out the window that

shouldn't have.

So I'm hopeful that answers will come and if they don't I think we are quickly approaching the point where city council should consider subpoenas. We have gotten very few answers regarding this process and how we got here, not so much what's going to happen with the -- that will most likely play out in the courts, whether the excess pension payments will continue to be made and whether they will be asking for them to be repaid back, that's something that I believe that council will not have a role, but finding out how this happened so it never happens again is something that city council needs to take very active role in so I'm hopeful, and I know I have said this at least three times, that they will

receive answers soon and if not, I think the city council may be forced to take action and bring in the members of the Pension Board from that time. Maybe bring in former elected officials to see what exactly what happened and how we got ourselves into this mess. And that is all I have for tonight. Thank you.

MS. REED: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE
AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH RAINEY &
RAINEY CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS FOR CITY
OF SCRANTON AUDIT PREPARATION SERVICES
MUNICIPAL AUDITOR FOR THE YEARS 2015 THROUGH
2018.

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

MR. WECHSLER: So moved.

MR. GAUGHAN: Second.

MR. ROGAN: On the question?

MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.

I'll be voting tonight to introduce this legislation, but I do have serious

reservations and concerns. The Business

Administrator's Office is seeking assistance
from a municipal services auditor to support
the audit prep tasks associated with the
completion of the post-audit for years 2014
and 2017, which would be a four-year
contract. In the memo from the Business

Administrator attached to the legislation,
he outlines the reason we need the firm

Rainey & Rainey to help prepare this audit
because of the limited experience of the
staff.

I requested resumes and job descriptions of each employee of the BA's Office which we received this afternoon, so I will take a look at that. I find it alarming that 18 months into Mayor Courtright's term we still have a staff that aren't experienced enough to help prepare for the audit. Mayor Courtright hired an additional person in the BA's Office and salaries have been increased due to a grant that the administration advocated for in front of council and received. How can we justify an increase in salaries and an

additional position if the job isn't getting done and we have to hire an outside firm an additional and possibly expensive cost?

The administration wants us to approve this expense for a firm for a four-year contract and do the job the employees of that office should be capable of doing. I'm also concerned about the hourly rate that Rainey & Rainey will be charging the city. \$82.50 for a partner an hour, \$67.50 an hour for the manager, and \$50 an hour for the staff. How many hours a week will this firm work and what is the costs for a whole year?

I had a brief opportunity to speak to Mr. Bulzoni before the meeting tonight and he estimated the cost to be around \$30,000 a year, but that's not a definite figure, and he wasn't able to say how many hours a week the firm will actually work.

I'm concerned that being locked into a contract for four years in an hourly rate could end up costing the city more than it can afford, and as we all know here we are in no position financially to do this, so I

do have additional questions, I will vote to introduce it, as I said. Mr. Bulzoni will be at our caucus next week and I'll be interested to hear some of the responses.

And that is it all I have. Thank you.

MR. ROGAN: Thank you. Anyone else on the question?

MR. EVANS: On the question, my comments are same or similar to what were before, I'm looking forward from hearing from Mr. Bulzoni. I'm interested in what he has to say. I'm curious to see, again, what his strategy is for the BA's Office going forward, will he be able to handle the audit prep services on an ongoing basis. We all know how critical is, we know how critical the audit is so the conversation is well worth having, so I am looking forward to that next week.

MR. WECHSLER: I just think the thing that we have to realize or look at together with this is what functions were not being done prior to this? I know we added extra people in the office and should they be doing audit work or should they be

doing or billing and paying work, I think we need this to part of a whole evaluation of the roles in the BA's Office.

MR. GAUGHAN: I would just say that I think historically the audit prep has always been done by employees of the Business Administrator's Office, I think that's what they get paid for. I agree with my colleagues though that the audit is a concern and it needs to be done. I think we need to take a hard look at this legislation before we pass it.

MR. ROGAN: I would agree with what many of my colleagues mentioned, I am looking forward to this discussion because I have been on city council for five years and I don't remember an audit ever being done on time, so there is definitely something that has been broken with the audit process and it's been broken for a long time. I hope that Mr. Bulzoni's plan will fix it and we will have timely audits which are critical to constructing budgets based on real items so I think, again, I will also vote to introduce this legislation and I would be

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1	interested to hear what Mr. Bulzoni has to
2	say next week.
3	All those in favor of introduction
4	signify by saying aye.
5	MR. WECHSLER: Aye.
6	MR. EVANS: Aye.
7	MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.
8	MR. ROGAN: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
9	have it and so moved.
10	MS. REED: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION -
11	A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
12	OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE
13	AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH MAIN POOL AND
14	CHEMICAL COMPANY, INC. FOR SEASONAL
15	CHEMICALS FOR SWIMMING POOLS EXCLUDING NAY
16	AUG POOL FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2015.
17	MR. ROGAN: At this time I'll
18	entertain a motion that Item 5-C be
19	introduced into its proper committee.
20	MR. WECHSLER: So moved.
21	MR. GAUGHAN: Second.
22	MR. ROGAN: On the question? All
23	those in favor of introduction signify by
24	saying aye.
25	MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

MR. EVANS: Aye.

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MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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MR. ROGAN: Aye. Opposed? The ayes

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have it and so moved.

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MS. REED: SIXTH ORDER. 6-A.

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READING BY TITLE - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.

101, 2015 - AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF

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THE COUNCIL NO. 85, 2015, AN ORDINANCE

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ENTITLED "APPROVING THE TRANSFER OF A

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RESTAURANT LIQUOR LICENSE CURRENTLY OWNED BY

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KOSMART ENTERPRISES, INC. D/B/A PIZZA HUT OF

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DUNMORE LICENSE NO. R-14852 TO BAR PAZZO,

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INC. FOR USE AT 131-133 NORTH WASHINGTON

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AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA AS REQUIRED

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BY THE PENNSYLVANIA LIQUOR CONTROL BOARD" BY

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MAKING A CORRECTION TO THE LIQUOR LICENSE

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NUMBER, REFERENCING LACKAWANNA COUNTY IN

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ADDRESSES AND CONFIRMING THAT THE ORDINANCE

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WAS ADOPTED BY A PUBLIC MEETING TO READ AS

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FOLLOWS: APPROVING THE TRANSFER OF A

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RESTAURANT LIQUOR LICENSE CURRENTLY OWNED BY

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KOSMART ENTERPRISES, INC. D/B/A PIZZA HUT OF

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DUNMORE LICENSE NO. R-13458 TO BAR PAZZO,

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INC. FOR USE AT 131-133 NORTH WASHINGTON

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AVENUE, SCRANTON, LACKAWANNA COUNTY,

PENNSYLVANIA AS REQUIRED BY THE PENNSYLVANIA 1 LIQUOR CONTROL BOARD. 2 3 MR. ROGAN: You've heard reading by 4 title of Item 6-A, what is your pleasure? 5 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Chairman, I move that Item 6-A pass reading by title. 6 7 MR. EVANS: Second. 8 MS. ROGAN: On the question? All 9 those in favor signify by saying aye. 10 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. 11 MR. EVANS: Aye. 12 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye. 13 MR. ROGAN: Aye. Opposed? The ayes 14 have it and so moved. MS. REED: 6-B. READING BY TITLE -15 16 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 102, 2015 - AN 17 ORDINANCE - AMENDING THE ADMINISTRATIVE CODE 18 OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON CHAPTER 412 STREETS AND SIDEWALKS, SECTION III GOVERNING 19 EXCAVATIONS BY MAKING ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, 20 21 RELETTERING AND CHANGING THE NAME OF THE DEPARTMENT IN PORTIONS OF SECTION 111 22 RELATING TO EXCAVATIONS IN ORDER TO BRING 23 24 THE CODE UP TO DATE. 25 MR. ROGAN: You've heard reading by

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title of Item 6-B, what is your pleasure?

MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Chairman, I move that Item 6-B pass reading by title.

MR. EVANS: Second.

MS. ROGAN: On the question?

MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question. My colleagues had a few questions last week and some residents had questions about this legislation and since it falls under my committee of public works I talked with our city engineer, John Pocius, and got some One of the questions was will the answers. additional costs incurred by the utility companies be born by city customers? other words, because the utility has to use more resources that cost more money will they then put that additional cost on the back of the ratepayers by increasing their prices? Mr. Pocius responded, no. Even if there were costs that were passed it would be very insignificant. The utility companies could not just pass the cost onto Scranton residents, it would have to be a region wide increase and they would have to go in front of the Public Utility Commission

and get approval for that.

One of my colleagues asked does this legislation apply to state roads? No, it does not apply to state roads and Mr. Pocius feels because the state highway occupancy permit is required those rules and regulations may be even more stringent.

Someone had also asked about the work order inspection tracking ticket has it been developed yet? Is there a model or draft version available for council or the public to take a look at? Mr. Bulzoni's response to this question was, "The work order inspection tracking ticket has not yet been formally created. Once the ordinance is approved, the document will be created, reviewed by the above parties and implemented for use by the department. Council is welcome to review the draft upon completion."

Mr. Evans, Councilman Evans had a request about the fee schedule, what is the justification for this new fee schedule.

Mr. Bulzoni's response is as follows: "The fee schedule is reviewed by the

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above-parties, the utility companies. There was some initial disagreement and the final schedule was basically a compromise. justification pertains to the inclusion of the inspector's initial time dedicated to the work order, including processing permits, site visits, communication with the contractors and utilities. The ordinance also addresses the issues of larger excavation by a contractor that requires the city inspector review and monitoring. The table of fees is not designed to be punitive in any way, but only compensable for the time and efforts that are dedicated to the process."

And again, I would just like to give my approval for this legislation. I think that we have to protect the integrity of our streets and infrastructure and I think that this legislation does that in a number of different ways, and I think there has been an outcry in the past few years about the pave cuts throughout the city, especially on newly paved streets so I think we are moving in the right direction with this

1 legislation. Thank you. 2 MR. ROGAN: All those in favor 3 signify by saying aye. MR. WECHSLER: Aye. 4 5 MR. EVANS: Aye. MR. GAUGHAN: Aye. 6 7 MR. ROGAN: Aye. Opposed? The ayes 8 have it and so moved. 9 MS. REED: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. F0R CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES- FOR 10 11 ADOPTION - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 99, 2015 12 - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO ENTER INTO A 13 14 LEASE AGREEMENT WITH THE LACKAWANNA RIVER CORRIDOR ASSOCIATION. THE LACKAWANNA VALLEY 15 16 CONSERVANCY, AND THE LACKAWANNA VALLEY 17 CHAPTER OF TROUT UNLIMITED KNOWN AS 18 SWEENEY'S BEACH LOCATED ON THE EAST BANK OF THE LACKAWANNA RIVER APPROXIMATELY 1000 FEET 19 DOWNSTREAM FROM THE POPLAR STREET BRIDGE 20 21 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA FOR A TEN (10) YEAR 22 PERIOD WITH FOUR (4) CONSECUTIVE FIVE (5) YEAR RENEWAL TERMS AT TENANT'S OPTION. 23 24 MR. ROGAN: As temporary chairperson 25 for the Committee on Rules, I recommend

1 final passage of Item 7-A. 2 MR. WECHSLER: Second. 3 MR. ROGAN: On the question? Ro11 4 call, please? MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler. 5 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. 6 7 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Evans. 8 MR. EVANS: Yes. 9 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan. 10 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes. 11 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan. 12 MR. ROGAN: Yes. I hereby declare 13 Item 7-A legally and lawfully adopted. 14 MS. REED: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES- FOR ADOPTION -15 16 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 100, 2015 -17 APPROVING THE TRANSFER OF A RESTAURANT 18 LIQUOR LICENSE CURRENTLY OWNED BY KOSMART ENTERPRISES, INC. NO. R-14852 TO 16TH WARD, 19 20 LLC. FOR USE AT 306 PENN AVENUE, SCRANTON, 21 PENNSYLVANIA AS REQUIRED BY THE PENNSYLVANIA LIQUOR CONTROL BOARD. 22 23 MR. ROGAN: As temporary chair for the Committee on Rules, I recommend final 24 25 passage of Item 7-B.

MR. WECHSLER: 1 Second. 2 MR. ROGAN: On the question? Ro11 3 call, please? 4 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler. MR. WECHSLER: Yes. 5 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Evans. 6 7 MR. EVANS: Yes. 8 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan. 9 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes. MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan. 10 11 MR. ROGAN: Yes. I hereby declare 12 Item 7-B legally and lawfully adopted. MS. REED: 7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION 13 14 BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY - FOR ADOPTION RESOLUTION NO. 147, 2015 -15 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE 16 17 CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO AN 18 AGREEMENT SETTING FORTH THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS BY AND BETWEEN THE CITY OF 19 20 SCRANTON AND TOYOTA OF SCRANTON, INC. TO 21 ACCEPT THE DONATION OF A NEW TOYOTA CAMRY TO BE USED BY THE SCRANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT AS 22 A SUPERVISOR'S CAR. 23 24 MR. ROGAN: What is the 25 recommendation of the Chairperson for the

1	Committee on Public Safety?
2	MR. WECHSLER: As Chairperson for
3	the Committee on Public Safety, I recommend
4	final passage of Item 7-c.
5	MR. GAUGHAN: Second.
6	MR. ROGAN: On the question? Roll
7	call, please?
8	MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler.
9	MR. WECHSLER: Yes.
10	MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Evans.
11	MR. EVANS: Yes.
12	MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan.
13	MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.
14	MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.
15	MR. Rogan: Yes. I hereby declare
16	Item 7-C legally and lawfully adopted.
17	If there is no further business,
18	I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.
19	MR. WECHSLER: Motion to adjourn.
20	MR. ROGAN: This meeting is
21	adjourned.
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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