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2	SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING	
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8	HELD:	
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10	Thursday, October 15, 2015	
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12	LOCATION:	
13	Council Chambers	
14	Scranton City Hall	
15	340 North Washington Avenue	
16	Scranton, Pennsylvania	
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25	CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER	

CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL: ROBERT MCGOFF, PRESIDENT (Not present) PATRICK ROGAN, VICE-PRESIDENT WAYNE EVANS JOSEPH WECHSLER WILLIAM GAUGHAN LORI REED, CITY CLERK JAMIE MARCIANO, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK AMIL MINORA, SOLICITOR

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1	(Pledge of Allegiance recited and
2	moment of reflection observed.)
3	MR. ROGAN: Roll call, please.
4	MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler.
5	MR. WECHSLER: Here.
6	MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.
7	MR. ROGAN: Here.
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. GAUGHAN: I make a motion to
14	appoint Councilman Rogan as the temporary
15	Chairperson for the Committee on Rules.
16	MR. WECHSLER: Second.
17	MR. ROGAN: On the question? All
18	those in favor signify by saying aye.
19	MR. WECHSLER: Aye.
20	MR. EVANS: Aye.
21	MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.
22	MR. ROGAN: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
23	have it and so moved.
24	One brief announcement, there was an
25	executive session held this evening

regarding possible litigation prior to the caucus. Please dispense with the reading of the minutes.

MS. REED: THIRD ORDER. 3-A.MINUTES

OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF

SCRANTON HOUSING AUTHORITY HELD SEPTEMBER

14, 2015.

MR. ROGAN: Are there any comments?

If not, received and filed.

MS. REED: 3-B. TAX ASSESSOR'S RESULTS REPORTS FOR HEARING DATES HELD SEPTEMBER 23 AND SEPTEMBER 30, 2015.

MR. ROGAN: Are there any comments? If not, received and filed.

Do any council members have any announcements at this time?

MR. WECHSLER: Yes, Mr. Rogan, I have one. Just to repeat what was said last week, on Monday, October 19, there will be a Jimmy Hughes Appreciation Day that will be held in North Scranton. That appreciation party will take place at Stirna's. The hours of the party are 6 to 8 p.m. There will be light fare with a cash bar and the donation is \$10, all proceeds to benefit the

American Heart Association.

MR. GAUGHAN: And I have one. I just want to send my sincere condolences to the family of Sister Adrian Barrett who passed away this week. Her legacy is one of compassion and understanding. She was a champion for the poor, those without a voice, and those who suffered. She brought light to those who often lived in darkness. Her work for the people of Scranton will never be forgotten. Thank you.

MR. ROGAN: Anyone else?

MS. REED: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS' PARTICIPATION.

MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening.

Marie Schumacher.

MR. GAUGHAN: Good evening.

MS. SCHUMACHER: On agenda items, first, on 7-A during motions I would like to know how much will be left in the City's total Racehorse Development and Gaming Act allocation if this grant is approved and granted.

On 7-C, I would like to know what Mrs. Boyle's qualifications are for the

administrator, and while on the topic of Ms. Boyle, will she be retaining her law career as well as the two positions in this resolution? I ask this as Mrs. Boyle not only attended the September Scranton Sewer Authority meeting, but also voted on agenda items and signed legal documents before she was approved by city council. She also announced at the meeting that she would be leaving early because -- the 12:15 meeting early as she had to represent a client in Court at 1 p.m. and I would like to know whether this practice will continue during

position of assistant business

I also wonder whether her Scranton Sewer Authority votes and signatures are valid as she had not received final council approval and if those actions were legal then I would like to know why the council bothers putting such sprinkling of holy water, if you will, items on the agenda.

her city employment.

7-D, what are Mr. Hughes areas of expertise for this appointment to the Sewer Authority at this critical time of

determining the Authority's future?

And now onto the balance of my comments. Mr. Rogan, last week you first asked me to submit my questions in writing, is there a paper back there? I've lost one, but I would like to say to you that those comments in writing, questions are available in the minutes of last week's meeting which are available on-line.

MR. ROGAN: The Rules of Council state that any requests from the public should be issued in writing.

MS. SCHUMACHER: They are in writing.

MR. ROGAN: From the person requesting it.

MS. SCHUMACHER: And continuing, I would like to remind you, also, that you are elected officials. The business administrator is not an elected official, he is here to do his job and any of those items that I asked about would not be -- since they were status items there would be no document in place that I would assume you would know about it if there were they would

justify a Right-to-Know request, so that would be a futile avenue and I really am rather astounded and disappointed that you -- nobody on this council, despite the fact that those were all questions based on the revised recovery plan that you approved in February of 2015 and nobody knew the answers. I just would think somebody on council would be following up on those things and we're going to within four meetings you are going to have a new budget and I think we have a right to know what the status of those items are frankly.

And then another one that I recollect, I don't know if I have all of the numbers correctly since my notes are missing, but I have a question on the way we are negotiating the Scranton Sewer Authority monetization. It's been advertised -- or not advertised, but reported in the newspaper that our mayor and the administration, therefore, would be happy with \$50 million. Well, about the same time that statement was made one of their financial reports was published in the paper

and it said they have \$120 million worth of assets and they had 60 -- I believe it was \$69 million of long-term debt of which \$60 million of those is already covered and will be recovered through the fees that they charge us ratepayers, so \$50 doesn't seem like a good figure to settle on or to advertise that, hey, I'd be happy with \$50 million when you have got all of that money out there. I will be back next week, good Lord willing. I'm off to the school board, I'll be back.

MR. ROGAN: Joan Hodowanitz.

MS. HODOWANITZ: Joan Hodowanitz, resident and taxpayer. I wholeheartedly agree with Attorney Mulligan's letter to the editor on Sunday, October 11, in which he urged city council to enact legislation requiring sites similar to the Sandone Warehouse to provide the city with an emergency preparedness plan so that firefighters and other first responders would have access to the layout of the site facilities and an inventory of all the hazardous materials.

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Now, you discussed in caucus this very issue and you are correct that there is a federal OSHA requirement that mandates such preparedness, and you also made mention of the fact that you weren't sure whether or not this requirement was being met. I think this needs to be a city priority considering the number of warehouses and facilities in city limits that may have hazardous materials into which the fire department would have to respond in case of a fire, we don't want to be sending firefighters and other first responders into a situation where they are at risk more than they have to be.

Also, Marie termed it last week, the issue of the Greenridge goop, that black liquid that was released through the City's sewer system, I saw in the Times-Tribune that apparently it a petroleum-based liquid, but we don't know the source where it came from. My question is how has this incident impacted those parties who have expressed an interest in acquiring the Scranton Sewer Authority?

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Now, if I wanted to buy a house and they are asking top dollar and I find out there was a black liquid of unknown content in the basement you better believe if I bought it, I would not be paying top dollar so I would like to know how in the negotiations for the Sewer Authority this event is playing out because I can't believe they are not aware that this has happened.

I'm also very concerned about the number of pedestrian injuries and fatalities in downtown Scranton over the last few years. As you may know, on October 4, Loretta Kapinski, a resident of the Jermyn Hotel, was killed at the intersection of Wyoming and Lackawanna Avenue. Now, there was another pedestrian killed in that same intersection by a bus not many years ago and then there was a resident I believe of Mulberry Towers that was in a wheelchair that was killed at the intersection of Mulberry and North Washington not many years Then there was another incident of a pedestrian killed at the intersection of North Washington and Linden not many years

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My point is we have this invested \$5.6 ago. million with PennDOT on these wonderful traffic signal systems, which I'm not sure was ever properly synchronized. The intent was to make the flow of traffic better for motorists and businesses and hopefully the safety of pedestrians, but I don't think it's working and I think that's something that the city should be looking at and I think council should be pushing the mayor for some answers. This shouldn't be higher math. If the traffic signals are working you would know it, but you got a lot of elderly in downtown Scranton who move slowly, some of them are trying to cross the street with the aid of a walker and they cannot sprint across the street if the light changes before they have made it across. We used to have a Director of Public Safety, which we got rid of in 2010. Mayor Doherty said he could give those functions to his deputy mayor. I don't think that you can parse out those responsibilities to the fire Department, the police department, DPW, I think you need to relook at the entire

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issue. Mr. Wechsler, I believe public safety is your bailiwick? I would like you to look at that as we approach the 2016 budget. I think this is a worthy expenditure of tax dollars.

MR. ROGAN: Gerard Hetman.

MR. HETMAN: Good evening, Council, Gerard Hetman from Lackawanna County's Community Relations Department. To begin this evening, in accordance with the Lackawanna County's Home Rules Charter early this afternoon Lackawanna County Commissioners presented their tentative 2016 general fund budget for public review, and if you follow along with the handouts that I have provided, our top sheet contains our annual quick reference budget graphic that goes over some of the key points in the 2016 budget, typically that big item on top is the one most folks comment on that being will be no county tax increase for the county property millage rate for the 2016 budget as projected.

Our second sheet is our annual budget message which breaks down some of the

budget figures in a little bit more detail in an easy to read format, so if you follow through with me I'll skip around a little bit but I will go in order, just a little bit abbreviated from what you see there.

Important features in the budget are as follows:

First, the 2016 Lackawanna County general fund budget includes no tax increase. The county tax rate will stay the same as it is now at 57.42 mills.

Secondly, the county is renewing it's commitment to economic development in the 2016 budget. Beginning in 2013, the county includes programs that included the nationally recognized SBA Loan Fee Waiver Program, the Community Re-invest Grant Program, and the Permit Fee Waiver Program. The 2016 budget renews funding for these programs.

Third, the 2016 budget provides resources for the annual surveillance fee imposed by a bond insurer as a condition of past borrowing. This fee will be assessed until we are able to restore the County's

investment grade rating. Eliminating the surveillance fee continues to be on this administration's top priorities. We are currently engaging rating agencies with the hope of restoring our investment grade rating, and if successful, we will eliminate the annual surveillance fee. Something we hope to do over the next few months to a year. It is an ongoing process with many variables. We hope to see progress on that very soon.

Also, by completing its fourth consecutive financial audit in a timely fashion under the terms of its bond indentures, the County generated a modest operating surplus during 2012, and significant surpluses in 2013 and 2014, which resulted in an accumulated fund balance totaling \$11.1 million as of December 31, 2014. The County anticipates another moderate surplus during 2015 with a projected fund balance of \$11,21,295 as of December 31, 2015, despite being hit with many unbudgeted expenses during the 2015 fiscal year. This is viewed positively in

the eyes of the rating agencies. However, the surplus for 2016 and it's exact estimate is not guaranteed because of unexpected expenses that could arise at any time.

As another indicator of financial stability, the County's pension fund was funded at more than 80 percent as of the most recent valuation date.

To turn over onto the County debt portion of the address, the County continued to follow its policy of refinancing debt wherever possible at lower interest rates to produce savings to the county without extending the term of the debt.

And also just to touch on human services area, a pretty much a focus with the ongoing state budget stalemate. Human services continue to be a hallmark of the services offered by county government. In spite of the State's budge crises, the county has continued to provide a high-level of community service programs at no additional cost to the taxpayers. In additional cost to the taxpayers. In

addition to the human service programs, emergency response, the Court system, corrections, and other vital functions performed by the county government provides the majority of the County's 2016 expenditures. The Courts and corrections alone comprise approximately 40 percent of the County's total anticipated 2016 expenditures.

Lastly, just some hard numbers. The 2016 general fund budget totals \$110, 263,499, which includes a fund balance of \$11,211, 2915. Combine that with our capital budget, our debt service fund and our special purpose funds budget the total of all County funds' budgets for 2016 is projected to be \$180,735,840.

I should note that the budget is very voluminous, it is over 100 pages long and it can be read on the County website at www.lackawannacounty.org in PDF format.

And the last, if you follow along at the bottom, according to the County's Home Rule Charter the Commissioners will host four public budget hearings on the 2016

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budget, the first being Tuesday, October 20, at 11 a.m. in the Commissioner's conference room, the sixth floor of the County Administration Building, 200 Adams, in The second is Wednesday, October Scranton. 21, 6:30 p.m. in the Mayfield Borough Building, 739 Penn Avenue in Mayfield and lastly on Thursday, October 22, 4:30 p.m. at the Moosic Borough Building, 715 Main Street in Moosic and Thursday, October 22, 6:30 p.m. at the Spring Brook Township Building, 66 State Route 307, Spring Brook Township. The public is welcome to attend and comment and ask questions on the budget in any of these four areas.

And if Council, or any members of the audience has questions on the budget tonight I will be happy to take them. Of course, there are many moving parts to it, so if it's not an answer that I can provide immediately I will be happy to check with our rep from the finance staff and provide them with the information.

MR. ROGAN: I just have comment, and we discussed this in our caucus earlier, I

noticed that -- and the County seeking no tax increase is certainly something that is very good news, I noticed that a historic surplus is mentioned, and in this news letter her and Council will be sending a letter to the County Commissioners requesting that because of this historic surplus that reassessment is looked at. It's something that the City of Scranton certainly needs and the County as a whole.

MR. HETMAN: Sure.

MR. ROGAN: And that letter will be forthcoming from us.

MR. HETMAN: Very good. Just to follow up on that, I will certainly let the Commissioners that the correspondence will be coming, and because that deals with a very specific policy issue that would require legislation, I always encourage this body and others to put those requests in writing just so we have them as a matter of record, so we do welcome that and I will let the Commissioners know it will be forthcoming.

MR. ROGAN: Thank you.

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MR. HETMAN: Thank you, ladies and gentlemen.

MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

MR. ROGAN: Lee Morgan.

MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.

MR. GAUGHAN: Good evening.

MR. MORGAN: The first thing I have here today, you know, I took the time to read the articles about the candidates for council, the three candidates, and I have to say that in all reality Mr. Perry talks about waiving the wage tax for a certain amount of time for people who move into the city and this city can't even pay its bills now and that's not to criticize him but, you know, is there any vision in these candidates? You know, Mr. Evans, you spoke about not monetizing the parking garages and the Sewer Authority if you didn't have some kind of plan to save the pension plan, well, that pension plan in all reality isn't salvageable, okay, and to be quite blunt and honest we have been in this distressed status for so long that it's beyond ridiculous, and I when I see the things that

this council does and I read them in the newspaper like Lackawanna College buying the building across the street, on the one side of our mouth we are going talk about how we are going to get the nonprofits to pony up and help pay, and the council is funding them. Take a look at, you know, Mr. Wechsler what you supported about giving rental vouchers to the North Scranton project. It's absolutely ridiculous.

We have created a country that is so impoverished and so beaten down by people who, I don't know actually have the ability to think? I mean, I'm just wondering because the county is talking about having a surplus and they're heavily in debt. I mean, read the article, look at the city, look at the state, look at the feds, they are over the top of the gross domestic product. And then they are saying to seniors, well, we are not giving you a cost of living this year because, you know, because I guess inflation is under control since the price of gas went down, but if you have ever gone to the grocery store the

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American dollar has no buying power.

Absolutely zero. None. Because we have elected a lot of people that are very silly. They are really good at putting up yard signs and they are really good at one-sentence lines that voters run into the election polls and vote with.

You know, the truth of the matter is, like, when I petitioned Mr. McGoff to cut the budget by 30 percent it wasn't a pipe dream. I brought up the pension situation when Mr. Rogan was running with the super majority and they laughed and thought maybe he should have an a yard sale or a rummage sale. It wasn't make believe, because you know what, I don't waste my time talking about things I don't know about because I'm not trying to impress anybody and I really don't care when people think about what I say or anything else for that matter because I don't run off half-cocked with illusions, and the truth of the matter is they've created so much damage to our city by electing that didn't understand that the neighborhoods are falling apart and we

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keep funding the downtown. People are borrowing to pay their property tax. We've got elected officials in Harrisburg that are playing games with the House Bill to get rid of school taxes. It's utterly ridiculous. Other states have gotten completely away from property taxes because to be honest with you it's an antiquated system that won't support the complex state, real simple.

And when you look at the election that's taking place now I don't know who is going to win, you know, maybe Hillary will come out on top on the Democratic side but only because Barry Sanders did so poorly in presenting the arguments about how important it was to protect national security and, Mr. Trump, he lit the Republican side of the ballot on fire. Bush's numbers are so bad I think he is embarrassed to go home because, you know, something the people finally see it for what it is. The people we elect they aren't representing us in all reality. Sometimes I wonder who ask this council represent honestly.

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Okay, you can't say out of one side of your mouth that the nonprofits have to pony up and out of the other side of the mouth fund. The same thing with Harrisburg does with them, okay? And when you walk around this city and see all of the kids on free lunch, doesn't it register that maybe the city is in such a very severe decline and the poverty rate is so high that maybe something real needs to be done besides giving away the parking garages that were built with the people's money, okay, and the Sewer Authority, okay, which is whose bond were paid off? It's just nobody is paying top dollar. We are just stealing off our own people and lying to them, but the suits do look good, gentlemen. Thank you.

MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

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

MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia, citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians, I know you are not going to do nothing to try to recover that three million that you

misappropriated, but I wish you had at least spent a little energy to find out who caused it. True, we may not get the money back, maybe them people can't pay, but Scranton is run like a family. If you ever realize everybody you hear, even council, every time Mr. McGoff supported Mr. Evans as a friend, another family member, look at the pension plan, the pension plan was run like a family, how do I put it, a charity best way to describe it. That's what's wrong with Scranton, it's run like a family and Mr. Bolus was right it should be run like a business.

Mr. Evans is committed to lowering his taxes with his plan to do away wit the mercantile and business privilege taxes, but he is also committed to raise our taxes, which he stated. What do we expect in the coming year? Heartaches. More and more heartaches. People got to realize Scranton is being run by a family, a family of politicians are running the city, getting votes and that's what's wrong. The best candidate that comes before you should be

voted for, but you don't. You go by a party line or by a name. This is why Scranton is falling apart. Even the recovery plan you realize they only want to sell the Sewer Authority and not the storm drains, and the storm drains need about \$150 million probably or close to it to bring it up to code so they don't want it. Anybody that bids on it don't want it.

The parking garages are a failure so they want the parking meters because the parking meters bring in about a million and a half dollars a year that the City of Scranton don't, but you think all of these sales are going to help the people of Scranton? They are not. They are not going to do a darn thing.

The trouble is the nonprofits and no matter what you try to do you got to get them on board and they are not on board. I told you before a long time ago, split the costs of the police and fire departments that are going to paid for safety, either for the fire and the police. Everybody in this city pays a portion of the taxes to

support them and as a fee, and then the nonprofits would have to pay it, too. Was that ever looked into? No. Why shouldn't they?

What do I expect from you people, nothing but higher taxes. I told you that in the very beginning when you sat there. That's all I expect from you is higher taxes. You are doing a darn thing to do anything to lower taxes or hold the line on taxes, and that's the sad thing.

Wondered why Mr. Bolus offered \$5,000 to anybody who would run, you should offered about \$10,000 maybe they would have got somebody to run, but I don't the solution no producer will be amends, other than getting more help from the nonprofits, and since you are not willing to do it, you are not willing to try to get our -- anything of that \$3 million back into our coffers. You are supporting a system that's utterly corrupt, and that's the sad thing about it.

If you look at who is working for the city, the county and the state you would

find a lot of relations, because it's one happy family. Maybe that's a good idea if you want votes, but it's really not a way to run the city, state, or the county and I'm sorry for the poor people, I'm up in age. My time has coming to an end, I know that. I don't have far too look, I could just look at the obituaries every day and look at my age group and they are popping up more and more, so I know it's going to happen to me, but I feel sorry for anybody that has children in this city. If possible, I told you before, get out. Sell your house if you can and get out of the city and hope for best.

MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening. Dave
Dobrzyn, resident. Taxes paid, fees paid,
dog license. Still a pain in the neck
probably. Once again, call your congressmen
and senators in Washington at
1-202-224-3121, and both senators and tell
them to can it under trade agreements. And,
also, the White House 1-202-456-1111.

I'd like to clear up, every time I get into a debate on this I get reminded

that Bill Clinton was big on trade packs, I never voted for Bill Clinton, but also now Obama has jumped ship and, unfortunately, the Democrats own it once they do.

Also, on schooling, once again, I had an article here last week about how people are trying to pay off student loans when their kids are already due to go to college, and I'd like to mention 6 percent of retirees are having as much as 15 percent of their retirement, social security, garnished because they were foolish enough to think that they were going to launch a new career at approaching 60 years old or whatever and it didn't work out, so enough of that. I'll try and put it to sleep until after the election.

On this double pension, I also agree that we should take all attempts to find out who was responsible and get it out to the public because anyone that's responsible for that type of debacle really isn't competent for public office. You don't belong there and I suspect it was to get rid of employees that they didn't exactly like or didn't feel

that it was on their side and on 7-A, the grants, in a way I have to object. We got Amoroso, Lackawanna gets a grant --

MR. GAUGHAN: Mr. Dobrzyn, real quick, just to correct you, not to interrupt you, but we are not giving them a grant, they are just applying for it. The city is just administering it so it doesn't come out of our coffers or --

MR. DOBRZYN: Well, I want that to be considered because last summer now I brought up about how people were being cut off from water services in Detroit at owing \$150. The golf course country club owed \$500,000. The sports stadium owed over \$100,000, and here these poor jerks owing \$150 have their water shut off.

Now, in Scranton, I don't know how it is in Detroit, but if LIPS got word of that, that I had no water service, they could come up and put a pink slip on my house. I can't even go in and get my old guitar out of that house. Now, I probably would just kick the door in and say, "To hell with it," but, you know, it's really I

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think I have got somebody's ear and they asked Mr. Amoroso about that and it is true. I don't state these things unless I can prove they are true. The 6 percent that was MSNBC and so was the Detroit MSNBC was my source.

And on candidates I would also suggest please stop suggesting tax and fee breaks on special interests. It's just you can't raise taxes fairly on somebody else and then turn around and cut somebody else's taxes or fees. If you did any research in a DPW you would probably find out that 80 percent of the cost of picking up trash is the crews and the trucks and the buildings and the infrastructure involved and the fuel. They have to go through your neighborhood irregardless of whether they pick up a five-pound bag or a 20-pound bag so the tipping fees are -- yeah, they are -they are a factor, but the rest of the people have to be paid to do. It's not a job I would ask for anyway even if I were to able to do it I would find something else.

And also on this traffic on Wyoming

Avenue and Lackawanna Avenue, that is a death trap over there because people can turn and just a couple of seconds people can turn when there is a green and also a walk sign. We need a three-way stop there that can get people across the street, even if we have it on an intermittent basis, but you are going across the street and somebody got the right to turn and it's not good, several people have been killed there already.

Thank you and have a good night.

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

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

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

MR. WECHSLER: Yes, thank you,
Mr. Rogan. Since last meeting I have been
working with the City Treasurer's Office and
Northeast Revenue Service in an effort to
monitor the collection of delinquent garbage
fees. NRS has done a very job of reviewing
the list and consolidating it so it can be

collected. In September 2014, council passed legislation that allowed NRS to begin issuing and collecting liens beginning in January of 2015. In May of 2015, myself and other council members began encouraging the administration and NRS to begin using this tool.

In August, NRS announced the time frame for the lien filing. The process included a courtesy letter and a certified letter to all property owners of 2011 and 2013 unpaid refuse fees and provided them with a 30-day period before filing the lien. For the property with a letter that was returned and not accepted another first class letter was mailed. If there was no response after that letter, a lien may be filed after ten days.

As a result of this mailing, the lien letters, \$460,000 from unpaid refuse bills from 2011 to 2013 have been received. In addition, the actual lien filing process has started with unpaid records being transferred over to Mary Rinaldi, Clerk of Judicial Records.

I would like to congratulate the administration and NRS for starting this process. We saw immediate dividends of filing the liens. This \$460,000 came in before one lien was issued. I am continuing to find out how many properties there are that do have delinquent fees and what the total dollar value is of those liens.

Unfortunately, this process is only for 2011 through 2013. The prior years of unfunded and unpaid garbage bills remain uncollected and I would encourage council and the administration to pursue ways to begin liening those properties as well. It's my understanding that liens become assets once they're filed. That would allow the city if they are interested in perhaps packaging those liens for purchase and to get some of this money back so that I'm very encouraged that this process has begun.

In regards to Item 7-A, just a general comment, the RFA grant are a state program. There is no specific funding for the City of Scranton, no specific funding. Any entity can apply for one and it's very

interesting for us is that the ones that come through the city we are going to be paid a fee for bringing them money in so I would encourage and hope that any of the projects that we have put through would be approved for funding. Thank you.

MR. ROGAN: Mr. Evans, do you have any motions or comments?

MR. EVANS: Thank you. As far as the audit prep is concerned, Rainey & Rainey, who is doing the audit prep, has completed the liquid fuels, workers' comp, debt service and pension fund and they are sending info to complete each fund as they if. Cash and accounts accruable are done so at this point it looks like about 90 percent completed with the audit prep.

I was encouraged today when I saw the article in the newspaper about the newest tenant at the Steamtown Mall, is it Crunch gym?

MR. ROGAN: Yup.

MR. EVANS: Crunch Gym. Clearly it's is a business that's going to bring some positive activity to the mall and

activity, of course. The other thing I heard was, and this may be true, I'm going to try to check with Mr. Basalyga, ut I understand that he may be removing those glass mirror windows, they are not windows, it's like glass mirrors off the bridge and replacing them with windows so that would really open up the bridge in the downtown for the first time since the mall was built so now people inside can see the outside and people outside can see inside so I think it's going to be a positive net effect for downtown.

positive activity brings more positive

On a similar discussion, a lot of people have talked about the Reading Market Terminal for the mall even prior to it being purchased. To those that who may not know, within the City of Easton there is a project being developed called the Easton Public Market. This is being developed by the Greater Easton Development Corporation, a nonprofit that owned the company, but with the full support of the City of Easton through a grant and a bond issue. This is

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the kind of public/private partnership that we need to look at for City of Scranton. The Easton Public Market is a 16,000 square foot space in downtown Easton, when built out it is expected to be home to at least vendors, some of them that were already signed on are a butcher, a seafood vendor, produce vendor, vendors of primarily local goods. A brewery or brew pub, a yarn outlet, a coffee and tea store and several on-the-go-type food vendors, so I think it's going to be a great model for a similar project in downtown Scranton. Now, would the Mall at Steamtown be the right location? I think that's something we need to talk about and take a look at and see what Mr. Basalyga thinks, but I think it really has great potential and I actually have a call into Mr. Basalyga looking for some feedback on his behalf.

I have also been in contact with the director of the Greater Easton Development Corporation, he has agreed to provide me with a tour of the facilities so next week or the week after I'll be heading down to

Easton to take a look at that and after that visit I'll report back to council. That's all I have. Thank you.

MR. ROGAN: Thank you. Mr. Gaughan, any motions for comments?

MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, thank you, just a few. Before the meeting I received a complaint from a resident about tractor trailer traffic on River Street in South Scranton. The resident wanted to know why tractor trailer traffic is banned on Moosic Street but not on River Street. Apparently, it's created quite a problem up there so I will try to follow-up with Chief Graziano and get an answer for that person.

I did receive this week complaints about the 200 block of Cabrini Avenue, two homes on that block overgrown weeds, garbage everywhere, a lot of problems in that lot so I will be forwarding that to the Licensing and Inspections Department.

I have update on the progress being made at the North Scranton Junior High School. Construction crews are on site every day, interviews are being conducted

for residential units and move in should begin in December and January. A grand opening is being planned after the new year sometime after the holidays, so very encouraging news on that front.

I mentioned last week, and I discussed it in caucus, about receiving complaints concerning pave cut issues throughout the city. I did speak with our DPW Director Mr. Gallagher today and he did assure me that the ordinance is being enforced and we did talk about some of the areas that I have concerns about and that were given to me by some residents, so we'll continue to follow up on that front.

I asked for an update several weeks ago on revenue that has been collected with the new civilian parking enforcement program, \$300,000 was the amount that was expected to be collected. The program, if you remember, was launched on March 27 of this year. As of October 8, the total revenue received by the city has been \$113,250. The civilian parking tickets issued to date are \$8,080, including 1,148

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warnings that were issued for wrong way violation, and I'd like to thank Chief Graziano for this information.

I was extremely pleased to learn that a well-attended meeting was held this week in the Poconos aimed at reviving a Scranton to New York City passenger train service. The potential economic impacts of high speed rail service in our city would be tremendous. As it stands now we are only connected to New York City by one congested and dangerous highway and a few commercial bus lines leaving us clamoring for another High speed rail service would promote wav. economic development by creating jobs and boosting tourism which, as we know, we desperately need. It would also promote environmental stewardship and infrastructure rehabilitation.

In addition to providing Scranton with a viable transportation alternative to a heavily congested interstate, the high speed rail project would improve access to jobs by linking our region with New York City and New Jersey business hubs. I want

to thank our Congressman Matt Cartright to try and reinvigorate this whole project. If my colleagues would be in agreement I would like city council to send a letter to Congressman Cartright, State Senator John Blake, State Secretary of Transportation Leslie Richards, and federal transit administration acting administrator Theresa McMillan pledging our support and urging them to commit permanent funding for this project.

I did send an e-mail and I discussed it with Councilmen Evans to Gerry Cross from PEL asking for an update on all items in our recovery plan and the progress that is being made as Mrs. Schumacher has asked for the past few weeks. Mr. Cross did respond that he should have something at this week's PEL meeting so hopefully he will have that and able to move on that.

In the caucus tonight we did discuss
the letter that Mr. Mulligan had sent all of
us as president of the Greenridge
Neighborhood Association concerning the
emergency preparedness plan for buildings in

the city that store hazardous materials such as tires and oil and this is all regarding the Sandone tire fire, so we are discussing it in our caucus and we are committed to making sure that we do move on this item and make sure that we have all of the warehouses in the city and old buildings in the city have plans and the firemen and police en in our city know what kind of things are being stored in there so we don't run into that problem again, so we will be discussing this as we move forward. Thank you.

MR. ROGAN: Thank you. Just two brief comments tonight. One that I did mention when Mr. Hetman was speaking, regarding the county budget we are certainly all happy that there is no tax increase this year, but there is a dire need for reassessment in Lackawanna County. For instance, just taking a look at some of the assessments and comparing them to properties within the city I know of a two-unit property in South Scranton with a total tax bill of less than \$1,000. Just a few blocks over is a similar two-unit with a tax bill

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of over \$3,000. Now, obviously there is something wrong with this picture. I encourage everybody to go on the County's website and take a look at your tax assessment and your tax bill and compare it to your neighbor's because the tax system in Lackawanna County currently is very unfair. There is no standard calculation for land. There are many lots in the city that are being taxed at a higher rate than other lots that are larger in size which certainly makes no sense when you are talking just on the land tax.

On the improvements, there is a little more room to negotiate down there because there is one house might have maybe much further improved than another house, the number of fireplaces in the home, different items are used in that calculation when it was done 40 years ago, but there is a dire need for a reassessment within Lackawanna County to have a fair tax system.

Through the last 40 years since the last assessment took place, just take a look at how neighborhoods are changed and how

properties have changed and all of the changes within -- specifically within the city but in the county at large so in order to have a fair tax it's something that desperately needs to be done.

And the other item Mr. Evans touched on just briefly is Crunch Fitness who has announced they will opening a 30,000 square foot facility within the mall and the archway in the bridge over Lackawanna Avenue, and I believe I have been told the same thing that Councilmen Evans was that it will be an open plan whereas if you are driving down you will see an active gym right on top of the mall in that area and those in the gym can look down and see the city, so it's something that we are definitely looking into, we looking forward to seeing it opening.

They are looking at a March 2016 opening, they will be hopefully taking applications at the end of this year so that's very good news for the mall and for the city.

And finally, a number of people

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brought up to the double pensions again, and We need to find out how these were I agree. awarded. I have in the past asked Attorney Minora to reach out to the state police who was conducting the investigation to get a go ahead for council to conduct our own hearings and possibly subpoena key members, people that were involved with the pensions being awarded at that time. It's something that I'm certainly not going to give up on. Obviously, we have to let the state police do their job, hopefully there will be an answer as to when they are done investigating or a report may be released now as was the case with the tax office. Whether something criminal or not criminal happened that's certainly not the job of city council to investigate, that's the job of law enforcement, but how and why millions of taxpayer dollars were wrongly given out certainly is a function of city council and that's something I'm hoping that we can take up in the very near future, and that is all for tonight.

MS. REED: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION - A

RESOLUTION - APPOINTMENT OF PEDRO L. ANES, 1 2 900 JAMES AVENUE, SUITE 5216, SCRANTON, 3 PENNSYLVANIA, AS A MEMBER OF THE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION, EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 4 16, 2015. MR. ANES IS BEING APPOINTED TO A 5 THREE (3) YEAR TERM THAT WILL EXPIRE ON 6 SEPTEMBER 16, 2018. 7 8 MR. ROGAN: At this time I'll 9 entertain a motion that Item 5-B be 10 introduced into its proper committee. MR. WECHSLER: So moved. 11 12 MR. EVANS: Second. MR. ROGAN: On the question? 13 A11 14 those in favor of introduction signify by 15 saying aye. 16 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. 17 MR. EVANS: Aye. 18 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye. 19 MR. ROGAN: Aye. Opposed? The ayes have it and so moved. 20 21 MS. REED: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION - A 22 RESOLUTION - APPOINTMENT OF LISA J. 23 STANVITCH, 1813 SWETLAND STREET, SCRANTON, 24 PENNSYLVANIA, 18504 AS A MEMBER OF THE HUMAN 25 RELATIONS COMMISSION, EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER

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1	23, 2015. MS. STANVITCH IS BEING APPOINTED
2	TO A THREE (3) YEAR TERM THAT WILL EXPIRE ON
3	SEPTEMBER 23, 2018.
4	MR. ROGAN: At this time I'll
5	entertain a motion that Item 5-C be
6	introduced into its proper committee.
7	MR. WECHSLER: So moved.
8	MR. EVANS: Second.
9	MR. ROGAN: On the question? All
10	those in favor of introduction signify by
11	saying aye.
12	MR. WECHSLER: Aye.
13	MR. EVANS: Aye.
14	MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.
15	MR. ROGAN: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
16	have it and so moved.
17	MS. REED: 5-D. FOR INTRODUCTION - A
18	RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
19	APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND
20	ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH D.G. NICHOLAS
21	COMPANY TO PROVIDE THE CITY BULK OIL
22	DELIVERED FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2016
23	THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2016.
24	MR. ROGAN: At this time I'll
25	entertain a motion that Item 5-D be

introduced into its proper committee. 1 2 MR. WECHSLER: So moved. 3 MR. EVANS: Second. 4 MR. ROGAN: On the question? A11 5 those in favor of introduction signify by 6 saying aye. 7 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. 8 MR. EVANS: Aye. 9 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye. 10 MR. ROGAN: Aye. Opposed? The ayes 11 have it and so moved. MS. REED: 5-E. FOR INTRODUCTION - A 12 RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER 13 14 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH KEYSTONE QUARRY, 15 16 INC. TO PROVIDE THE CITY 2000 TON (MORE OR 17 LESS) ANTI-SKID SAND FOR THE PERIOD OCTOBER 18 25, 2015 THROUGH APRIL 30, 2016. MR. ROGAN: At this time I'll 19 20 entertain a motion that Item 5-E be 21 introduced into its proper committee. 22 MR. WECHSLER: So moved. 23 MR. EVANS: Second. 24 MR. ROGAN: On the question? those in favor of introduction signify by 25

1	saying aye.
2	MR. WECHSLER: Aye.
3	MR. EVANS: Aye.
4	MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.
5	MR. ROGAN: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
6	have it and so moved.
7	MS. REED: SIXTH ORDER. 6-A.
8	READING BY TITLE - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.
9	123, 2015 – AN ORDINANCE – CLOSING AND
10	VACATING A PORTION OF JONES COURT, BETWEEN
11	BEECH STREET AND MAPLE STREET.
12	MR. ROGAN: You've heard reading by
13	title of Item 6-A, what is your pleasure?
14	MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Chairman, I move
15	that Item 6-A pass reading by title.
16	MR. EVANS: Second.
17	MR. ROGAN: On the question? All
18	those in favor signify by saying aye.
19	MR. WECHSLER: Aye.
20	MR. EVANS: Aye.
21	MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.
22	MR. ROGAN: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
23	have it and so moved.
24	MS. REED: 6-B. READING BY TITLE -
25	FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 124, 2015 - AN

ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 92, 1 2 1994 (AS AMENDED) ENTITLED "ESTABLISHING A 3 RESIDENTIAL PARKING PERMIT PILOT PROGRAM FOR 4 CERTAIN ELIGIBLE RESIDENTIAL AREAS AS DEFINED HEREIN: PROVIDING FOR CERTAIN POWERS 5 AND DUTIES FOR THE ADMINISTRATOR OF SAID 6 PROGRAM WHO SHALL BE DESIGNATED BY THE 7 8 MAYOR; AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION 9 OF THE SAID ORDINANCE", BY DELETING THE 700 BLOCK OF MONROE AVENUE FROM THE STREETS 10 DESIGNATED AS ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 11 PERMIT PARKING PROGRAM AND THAT PERMIT 12 PARKING SIGNS BE REMOVED FROM THE 700 BLOCK 13 14 OF MONROE AVENUE. MR. ROGAN: You've heard reading by 15 16 title of Item 6-B, what is your pleasure? 17 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Chairman, I move 18 that Item 6-B pass reading by title. MR. EVANS: Second. 19 20 MR. ROGAN: On the question? All 21 those in favor signify by saying aye. 22 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. 23 MR. EVANS: Aye. 24 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye. 25 MR. ROGAN: Aye. Opposed? The ayes

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have it and so moved.

MS. REED: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE -FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 196, 2015 -RATIFYING AND APPROVING OF THE EXECUTION AND SUBMISSION OF THE GRANT APPLICATION BY THE CITY OF SCRANTON, ON BEHALF OF LACKAWANNA COLLEGE TO THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA ACTING THROUGH THE COMMONWEALTH FINANCING AUTHORITY FOR A LOCAL SHARE ACCOUNT GRANT, PURSUANT TO THE PA RACE HORSE DEVELOPMENT AND GAMING ACT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$434.175.00 FOR THE PROJECT TO BE KNOWN AS "STREET AND FACADE IMPROVEMENTS AT 401 ADAMS AVENUE AT LACKAWANNA COLLEGE" LOCATED IN SCRANTON. PENNSYLVANIA. AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO ACCEPT THE GRANT, IF SUCCESSFUL, AND EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A LOCAL SHARE ACCOUNT GRANT CONTRACT AND COMMITMENT LETTER WITH THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA TO ACCEPT AND UTILIZE THE GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$434,175.00 AWARDED BY THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA FOR SUCH PROJECT.

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1	MR. ROGAN: What is the
2	recommendation of the Chair for the
3	Committee on Finance?
4	MR. EVANS: As Chairperson for the
5	Committee on Finance, I recommend final
6	passage of Item 7-A.
7	MR. ROGAN: Is there a second?
8	MR. GAUGHAN: Second.
9	MR. ROGAN: On the question?
10	MR. WECHSLER: Yes, Mr. Rogan, I
11	will be abstaining from this vote.
12	MR. ROGAN: Anyone else? Roll call,
13	please.
14	MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Evans.
15	MR. EVANS: Yes.
16	MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan.
17	MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.
18	MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.
19	MR. ROGAN: Yes. I hereby declare
20	Item 7-A legally and lawfully adopted.
21	MS. REED: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION BY
22	THE COMMITTEE ON RULES- FOR ADOPTION -
23	RESOLUTION NO. 197, 2015 - AMENDING
24	RESOLUTION NO. 167, 2015, A RESOLUTION
25	ENTITLED "AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
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1	APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO GRANT A
2	SPECIAL ENCROACHMENT PERMIT TO THE 16TH
3	WARD, LLC TO OPERATE AN OUTDOOR RESTAURANT
4	AT 306 PENN AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA"
5	IN ORDER TO INCREASE THE DIMENSIONS OF THE
6	OUTDOOR SEATING AREA TO COMPLY WITH THE
7	PENNSYLVANIA LIQUOR CONTROL BOARD
8	REGULATIONS.
9	MR. ROGAN: As temporary Chair for
10	the Committee on Rules, I recommend final
11	passage of Item 7-B.
12	MR. WECHSLER: Second.
13	MR. ROGAN: On the question? Roll
14	call, please?
15	MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler.
16	MR. WECHSLER: Yes.
17	MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Evans.
18	MR. EVANS: Yes.
19	MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan.
20	MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.
21	MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.
22	MR. ROGAN: Yes. I hereby declare
23	Item 7-B legally and lawfully adopted.
24	MS. REED: 7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION
25	BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES- FOR ADOPTION -

1	RESOLUTION NO. 198, 2015 - APPOINTMENT OF
2	JESSICA L. BOYLES, ESQUIRE, OF SCRANTON,
3	PENNSYLVANIA, TO THE POSITION OF DIRECTOR OF
4	HUMAN RESOURCES/ASSISTANT BUSINESS
5	ADMINISTRATOR EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2015.
6	ATTORNEY BOYLES WILL BE REPLACING REBECCA
7	MCMULLEN WHO TOOK ANOTHER POSITION WITH THE
8	CITY.
9	MR. ROGAN: As temporary Chair for
10	the Committee on Rules, I recommend final
11	passage of Item 7-C.
12	MR. WECHSLER: Second.
13	MR. ROGAN: On the question? Roll
14	call, please?
15	MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler.
16	MR. WECHSLER: Yes.
17	MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Evans.
18	MR. EVANS: Yes.
19	MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan.
20	MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.
21	MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.
22	MR. ROGAN: Yes. I hereby declare
23	Item 7-C legally and lawfully adopted.
24	MS. REED: 7-D. FOR CONSIDERATION
25	BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES- FOR ADOPTION -

1	RESOLUTION NO. 199, 2015 - APPOINTMENT OF
2	PATRICK J. HUGHES, 15 FAWNWOOD DRIVE,
3	SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18504 AS A MEMBER OF
4	THE BOARD OF THE SCRANTON SEWER AUTHORITY
5	EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2015. MR. HUGHES WILL
6	BE REPLACING JESSICA L. BOYLES, ESQUIRE WHO
7	RESIGNED SEPTEMBER 29, 2015. MR. HUGHES
8	WILL FILL THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF ATTORNEY
9	BOYLES, WHOSE TERM IS SCHEDULED TO EXPIRE ON
10	DECEMBER 31, 2016.
11	MR. ROGAN: As temporary Chair for
12	the Committee on Rules, I recommend final
13	passage of Item 7-D.
14	MR. WECHSLER: Second.
15	MR. ROGAN: On the question? Roll
16	call, please?
17	MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler.
18	MR. WECHSLER: Yes.
19	MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Evans.
20	MR. EVANS: Yes.
21	MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan.
22	MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.
23	MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.
24	MR. ROGAN: Yes. I hereby declare
25	Item 7-D legally and lawfully adopted.

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1	If there is no further business,	
2	I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.	
3	MR. WECHSLER: Motion to adjourn.	
4	MR. ROGAN: This meeting is	
5	adjourned.	
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CERTIFICATE

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