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1	SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING
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5	HELD:
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7	Monday, May 7, 2018
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9	LOCATION:
10	Council Chambers
11	Scranton City Hall
12	340 North Washington Avenue
13	Scranton, Pennsylvania
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23	CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER
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1	CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:
2	CITI OF SCRANTON COUNCIL.
3	PATRICK ROGAN, PRESIDENT (Not present)
4	TIM PERRY, VICE PRESIDENT
5	WAYNE EVANS
6	WILLIAM GAUGHAN
7	KYLE DONAHUE
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9	LORI REED, CITY CLERK
10	JEANNIE DAVIDSON, SECRETARY
11	AMIL MINORA, ESQUIRE - SOLICITOR
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1	(Pledge of Allegiance recited and
2	moment of reflection observed.)
3	MR. PERRY: Roll call, please.
4	MS. DAVIDSON: Mr. Perry.
5	MR. PERRY: Here.
6	MS. DAVIDSON: Mr. Donahue.
7	MR. DONAHUE: Here.
8	MS. DAVIDSON: Mr. Evans.
9	MR. EVANS: Here.
10	MS. DAVIDSON: Mr. Gaughan.
11	MR. GAUGHAN: Here.
12	MS. DAVIDSON: Mr. Rogan.
13	MR. PERRY: Please dispense with the
14	reading of the minutes.
15	MS. REED: THIRD ORDER. 3-A.
16	SINGLE TAX OFFICE CITY FUNDS DISTRIBUTED
17	COMPARISON REPORT 2017-2018 YEAR TO DATE
18	APRIL 30, 2018.
19	MR. PERRY: Are there any comments?
20	If not, received and filed.
21	MS. REED: 3-B. TAX ASSESSOR'S
22	REPORT FOR HEARING DATE TO BE HELD MAY 16,
23	2018.
24	MR. PERRY: Are there any comments?
25	If not, received and filed. Do any council

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1	members have announcements at this time?
2	MR. DONAHUE: Yeah, I do. The
3	Lackawanna County Land Bank has applied for
4	and received a local share account grant in
5	the amount of \$65,000 to establish a White
6	to Bright Program in Lackawanna County. The
7	Land Bank has joined with Neighbor Works of
8	Northeastern PA to present a series of town
9	hall public meetings in various Lackawanna
10	County communities to discuss and identify
11	the cause of blight, advertise the White to
12	Blight Program and to help them to
13	prioritize their immediate needs. The first
14	of these town hall meetings will be held on
15	Wednesday, May 23, 2018, at 6:00 p.m. at
16	Goodwill at North, 1539 North Main Avenue in
17	Scranton. And the mediator or that's all
18	I have. Thank you.
19	MR. PERRY: Any other councilmen? I
20	have one announcement. There will be a
21	motion no suspend council rules to move Item
22	6-B, extending the 10 percent waste disposal
23	discount period, to Seventh Order for final
24	passage this evening. If anyone would like
25	to speak on this particular piece of

5 1 legislation, they may do so during Fourth, citizens' participation. Thank you. 2 Fourth 3 Order Citizen's participation. 4 (The following speakers offered 5 public comment: Ray Pilch spoke on matter of general concern. Bob Bolus spoke on 6 7 agenda items and matters of general concern. 8 Lee Morgan spoke on city business and 9 matters of general concern. Joan Hodowanitz 10 spoke on agenda items and matters of general 11 John Marrow spoke on matter of concern. 12 Marie Schumacher spoke on general concern. 13 city business and matters of general 14 concern. Dave Dobrzyn spoke on matters of 15 general concern.) 16 MS. REED: FIFTH ORDER. 5-A. 17 MOTIONS. 18 MR. PERRY: Mr. Donahue, any motions 19 or comments tonight? MR. DONAHUE: Yes, just quickly. 20 As 21 a follow-up to Councilman Gaughan's request 22 from a few weeks ago I had also sent a 23 request for an update on the status of the 24 Crowley Park renovation project that was 25 announced in the fall. And also last week

we received a notification that the city issued an RFQ for special labor counsel sometime last week. Councilman Gaughan and myself will be sending a request for a meeting with the Law Department to, you know, hopefully get this delayed awarding this contract because this is something that's coming up in our shared services committee meetings as a possible shared service between the school district and the city.

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Also, in light of the fact that garbage bills have not still gone out, I have requested that Mrs. Reed send the Treasurer's Office a request to provide a memo detailing any and all issues that have prevented the bills from going out in a timely manner so that hopefully next year we could get this issue addressed.

And then lastly, I'm not going to dignify the Majority Commissioner Cummings ignorant and, quite frankly, despicable comments at last week's commissioner's meeting with a lengthy response, but I must say that in light of the opioid epidemic

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1	that is racing throughout our community,
2	it's disgusting that we have an elected
3	official who is so stubbornly ignorant
4	towards actual facts. That's all I have.
5	MR. PERRY: Thank you, Mr. Donahue.
6	Mr. Evans, any motions or comments tonight?
7	MR. EVANS: I do, and I will dignify
8	the comments that were made last week. I'm
9	going to talk about medical marijuana so,
10	like I say, I just can't help myself. The
11	comments made at last week's or recently at
12	on the of the county commissioner's meeting
13	should not be ignored. First of all, it's
14	very clear that one of the commissioners has
15	strong negative feelings toward the
16	burgeoning industry of medical marijuana.
17	So let me be perfectly clear, this
18	city council welcomes the industry to the
19	City of Scranton, even if there are unwanted
20	or is unwanted by other elected officials at
21	the county level. We want your
22	dispensaries, we welcome your growing
23	facilities, we welcome your jobs, we welcome
24	your commerce and we welcome your mission.
25	I was somewhat dumbfounded learning

that a county commissioner who railed against the medical marijuana industry did not know that the state legislature passed into law the use of medical marijuana in 2016. For the record, the Republican controlled House voted 149 to 43 in favor. The Republican lead Senate voted 42 to 7 in favor. In the divided political climate that we live in, that's a landslide.

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On a more personal level I found many of the comments made by the commissioner almost heartbreaking, and while the level of misinformation was certainty evidence it was a lack of compassion in some of the statements I found most disturbing. If I may I'd like to explain my comment a little further. My mother spent 32 years of the 72 years she had on this earth battling various types of cancer. I cannot even count the times she received chemotherapy treatments during those decades. I only wish at the time that she could have had access to medical marijuana because if it gave her one day of relief from the severe nausea and gave her one day of comfort from

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	the constant pain it would have been a gift.
2	The study from the Journal of the
3	American Medical Association stated that
4	states that allow medical marijuana,
5	including Pennsylvania, have seen a 6
6	percent drop in opioid prescriptions. I
7	only wish that the daughter of one of my
8	best friends could have had the opportunity
9	and access to medical marijuana and that
10	somehow she could have been one of those 6
11	percent and maybe she would be alive today
12	and my friend would still have his daughter
13	and her daughter would still have her mom.
14	As we all know, words have
15	consequences and millions of people who seek
16	relief and comfort through the use of
17	medical marijuana are not stupid, they just
18	want help. That's all I have for tonight.
19	Thank you.
20	MR. PERRY: Thank you, Mr. Evans.
21	Mr. Gaughan, any motions or comments
22	tonight?
23	MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, just a few.
23	First, I'd agree with Councilman Donahue on
24 25	
20	asking the treasurer for an estimation on
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why the garbage bills have taken so long to Quite frankly, there are people in qo out. this city who budget for this every year and they are waiting for it so, I mean, the city, you know, goes to people and says that they need this money every year and they don't really act like it, so I do think that an explanation is warranted and, you know, we had this legislation on our agenda and it really should have came as backup with the legislation. If we are going to ask for a deadline, we should have an explanation from the administration as to why it's taking so long to get the garbage bills out.

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Secondly, I just want to read into the record a letter that Councilman Donahue, Councilman Perry and I are going to send out to Mr. Justin Davis, the CEO of Moses Taylor Hospital regarding the recent strike with the nurses.

"Dear Mr. Davis, the Council of the City of Scranton strongly supports the nurses at Moses Taylor Hospital who are exercising their right to stand up for a fair union contract and improve working

conditions and increase the quality of the patient care in our region. Our constituents and all patients throughout Northeastern Pennsylvania deserve the highest quality of care. That care is compromised when hospitals are understaffed causing nurses to be pulled from unit to unit and forced to work overtime when they are undeniably exhausted. We are grateful to the Moses Taylor nurses who are standing up for patient care and holding Commonwealth Health accountable for putting profits before patients.

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As the women and men on the front lines, nurses must have a voice in how care is delivered to their patients. For more than a year, the dedicated nurses at Moses Taylor Hospital have been trying to address critical staffing issues that they believe could compromise patient care. In response, Commonwealth Health has let their contracts expire and engage in unfair labor practices. Commonwealth Health has a responsibility to the community we represent and it is time to agree to union contracts that put patient

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1	care before profits. We are proud to stand
2	with Moses Taylor nurses."
3	And we will be sending that out once
4	the three of us sign it.
5	Secondly, I'd like to make a motion
6	that Scranton City Council invite Mayor
7	Courtright and his administration along with
8	the Pennsylvania Economy League to a public
9	caucus in council chambers for the purpose
10	of discussing the Act 47 exit plan for the
11	City of Scranton that was adopted by this
12	council in July of 2017.
13	MR. PERRY: There's a motion on the
14	floor, do I have a second?
15	MR. DONAHUE: I'll second that.
16	MR. PERRY: There's a motion and a
17	second. On the question?
18	MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.
19	I mentioned this last week but I just wanted
20	to put it into motion form, I think this
21	caucus is extremely important for a number
22	of different reasons. Number one, to get an
23	update a year late on any progress that's
24	been made towards several provisions within
25	the exit plan. Work force cost containment,

debt management policy recommendations, worker's comp funding recommendations, Pension disability, economic development initiatives, storm water management and general exit plan provisions, revenue and financial management. The design of the exit plan is to ensure the termination of the city's distressed status after three This exit plan includes revised vears. baseline financial predictions for the city for the period 2017 to 2020, and I think it is important to hear a year later from the mayor and the Pennsylvania Economy League where we stand as we approach that Act 47 exit deadline.

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I'd also like to make a recommendation to the mayor and his administration to follow what the governor of Pennsylvania has been doing, Tom Wolf, with something called cabinet in your community. This is a new initiative formed by the governor. Oh, we have to vote on the motion, I'm sorry.

MR. PERRY: Bill was just getting ahead of himself. Anyone else on the

14 1 question? I agree with Mr. Gaughan, there is a lot of moving pieces and there's a lot 2 3 of enemies to leaving Act 47 so I think council getting an updated by the 4 5 administration is very much warranted. A11 in favor. 6 MR. DONAHUE: 7 Aye. 8 MR. EVANS: Aye. 9 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye. 10 MR. PERRY: Aye. Opposed? The ayes have it and so moved. 11 12 MR. GAUGHAN: What I was Thank you. 13 saying before I got ahead of myself there, 14 Governor Wolf has been doing something 15 called cabinet in your community and this is 16 a new initiative to provide a platform for 17 engagement between cabinet secretaries and 18 local communities throughout Pennsylvania, 19 and my recommendation to the mayor, to his 20 administration is that I think Scranton 21 should do something similar and we could 22 call it cabinet in your neighborhood and I 23 think this has been done years ago maybe 24 under Mayor Connors where you would bring in 25 the DPW director, the OECD director,

different members of the cabinet to neighborhood meetings and a give a presentation on what goes on in their departments and most importantly to take questions. I think it would be a great opportunity to increase the civic engagement and give an understand of city operations within our neighborhoods.

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I'll be attending a neighborhood meeting at the end of May in the Hill section, and I can guarantee you that I'll receive a ton of questions about the DPW, about the police department and about other departments in the city and I think it would a good initiative on the part of the mayor to bring his cabinet people out to the neighborhoods so that people get the opportunity, number one, to meet them and to get to know them and to ask them questions and for the cabinet members to let the public know what's going on in the City of Scranton, so I think that is very important.

Councilmen Donahue also mentioned something that I think is extremely important and that is that the City of

Scranton recently issued an RFQ, a request for qualifications for labor counsel for the City of Scranton, and we recently had a meeting with Directors Cognetti and Gilmartin about shared services between the city and the school district so the first area that I think we are going to take a look at is if we can share labor counsel services between the school district and the city. I believe that it would be a way to save real money and be more efficient so we are looking to streamline the city and school district legal structure to benefit the taxpayers of the City of Scranton.

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Some of the possible benefits that we are looking at include a higher quality, more consistent and joined up legal service to government, better sharing of expertise and good practice, building greater specialism in crosscutting areas as well as savings and efficiencies through the sharing of common processes and the more flexible and responsive use of legal resources.

So what are going to ask for a meeting with the city administration and the

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law department and we will ask them to hold
off on issuing an award for that request for
qualifications so that we can explore this
possibility, as I said, to save money.
We also in our meeting with the
school directors discussed possibly sharing
legal services between the council and the
school board with our solicitors and
possibly building that out as well in the
future to save money and become more
efficient, so we are looking at these
options and this will be one of the first
things that we do I think with our shared
services committee, and that's all I have
this week. Thank you.
MR. PERRY: Thank you, Mr. Gaughan.
The only thing that I want to address
tonight that some of my councilmen already
addressed and it seems like it was a hot

The only thing that I want to address tonight that some of my councilmen already addressed and it seems like it was a hot topic locally was the issue of medical marijuana. Now, I have seen the benefits of medical marijuana firsthand in my life, and anyone who knows me knows how opposed to opioids and how involved I am with the abuse of opioids watching a love one die due to

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1	the abuse of opioids. This is just it
2	makes so much sense to endorse, be a
3	proponent and encourage the use of medical
4	marijuana for the people who need it.
5	The benefits that I have seen
6	firsthand is with my wife, who is a
7	currently a cancer patient, it relieves her
8	anxiety, it relieves some pain, it helps her
9	sleep and it helps her eat which helps her
10	keep her weight on, all of the things that
11	are first and foremost in anybody who is
12	recovering and battling cancer in their life
13	and she is doing fantastic and I can't
14	you know, seeing it firsthand it makes so
15	much sense. So, of course, you know, I like
16	many of us up here, if not all of us, are
17	for medical marijuana and definitely the
18	dispensaries, groweries and having them in
19	our city, but I'll do you one better, you
20	know, I'm in favor of actually
21	decriminalizing it the City of Scranton as
22	well. I think it ties up our police
23	officers. I think it ties up our judicial
24	system and our correctional facilities.
25	There is many other cities out there that

are looking at this and I think it's a waste of time and waste of money to go after these issues, just like prohibition was back in the day. Now, that opens up the door to the use of the recreational in the State of Pennsylvania. You want to talk about an immediate revenue stream let's talk about recreational marijuana. In a state that is in dire need of a revenue stream, you know, why is this not first and foremost in the front in our communities and in our state. We need to get it there in my opinion. You know, it's a hot topic so there is probably going to be as many people out there that disagree with me that agree with me, and that's okay. So let's get the discussion started, let's keep it going and let's benefit from what it has to give. There is lot of research, there's a lot of data out there so let's dig in and let's bring this up to our local governments and our state reps and our state senators and let's see if this is an avenue that we need to take, but to say that medical marijuana isn't a

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benefit and knowing that the opioid addiction and crisis is out there it just very nicely doesn't make too much intelligent sense, and that's all I'm going to say. I'm going to go further and take the road that Mr. Donahue took and I'll just leave it there. That's all I have. Thank you.

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MS. REED: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION – A RESOLUTION – AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO APPLY FOR AND EXECUTE A GRANT APPLICATION BY THE CITY OF SCRANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT AND, IF SUCCESSFUL, A GRANT AGREEMENT, AND ACCEPT THE FUNDS RELATED THERETO FROM THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION ON CRIME AND DELINQUENCY NATIONAL CRIME STATISTICS EXCHANGE (NCS-X) PROGRAM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$23,400.00.

MR. PERRY: At this time, I'll entertain a motion that Item 5-B be introduced into its proper committee. MR. EVANS: So moved. MR. DONAHUE: Second.

MR. PERRY: On the question? All

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1	those in favor of introduction signify by
2	saying aye. Aye.
3	MR. DONAHUE: Aye.
4	MR. EVANS: Aye.
5	MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.
6	MR. PERRY: Opposed? The ayes have
7	it and so moved.
8	MS. REED: SIXTH ORDER. 6-A.
9	READING BY TITLE - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.
10	16, 2018 - AN ORDINANCE - ESTABLISHING A "NO
11	PARKING ZONE" ALONG THE EASTERLY SIDE OF
12	STAFFORD AVENUE (S.R. 3021) BEGINNING
13	APPROXIMATELY
14	FORTY FIVE (45) FEET NORTH FROM ITS
15	INTERSECTION WITH WILLOW STREET AND
16	CONTINUING ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY (170) FEET TO
17	ALLOW FOR SIGHT DISTANCE FOR A PROPOSED
18	DRIVEWAY BY DALE AND LISA KRAMER FOR A
19	PROPERTY LOCATED AT 623 STAFFORD AVENUE.
20	MR. PERRY: You've heard reading by
21	title of Item 6-A, what is your pleasure?
22	MR. EVANS: I move that Item 6-A
23	pass reading by title.
24	MR. DONAHUE: Second.
25	MR. PERRY: On the question? All

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1	those in favor signify by saying aye.
2	MR. DONAHUE: Aye.
3	MR. EVANS: Aye.
4	MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.
5	MR. PERRY: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
6	have it and so moved.
7	MS. REED: 6-B. READING BY TITLE -
8	FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 17, 2018 - AN
9	ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.
10	4, 2018 ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING FILE
11	OF THE COUNCIL NO. 17, 1994 ENTITLED "AN
12	ORDINANCE (AS AMENDED) AUTHORIZING THE
13	GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO
14	ENACT 'A WASTE DISPOSAL AND COLLECTION FEE'
15	FOR THE PURPOSE OF RAISING REVENUE TO COVER
16	THE WASTE DISPOSAL AND COLLECTION COSTS
17	INCURRED BY THE CITY OF SCRANTON FOR THE
18	DISPOSAL OF REFUSE", BY IMPOSING A WASTE
19	DISPOSAL AND COLLECTION FEE OF \$300.00 FOR
20	CALENDAR YEAR 2018 AND THE SAME SHALL REMAIN
21	IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT ANNUALLY
22	THEREAFTER" TO EXTEND THE MAY 1, 2018
23	DISCOUNT DATE TO MAY 31, 2018 TO ENABLE
24	RESIDENTS TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE 10%
25	DISCOUNT WHEN PAYING THEIR REFUSE BILL IN

	23
1	FULL.
2	MR. PERRY: You've heard reading by
3	title of Item 6-B, what is your pleasure?
4	MR. EVANS: I move that Item 6-B
5	pass reading by title.
6	MR. DONAHUE: Second.
7	MR. PERRY: On the question? All
8	those in favor signify by saying aye.
9	MR. DONAHUE: Aye.
10	MR. EVANS: Aye.
11	MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.
12	MR. PERRY: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
13	have it and so moved.
14	MR. EVANS: I make a motion to
15	suspend the rules to move Item 6-B to
16	Seventh Order for final passage.
17	MR. DONAHUE: Second.
18	MR. PERRY: On the question? All
19	those in favor of introduction signify by
20	saying aye.
21	MR. DONAHUE: Aye.
22	MR. EVANS: Aye.
23	MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.
24	MR. PERRY: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
25	have it and so moved.

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1	MS. REED: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A -
2	FORMERLY 6-B - FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE
3	COMMITTEE ON FINANCE - FOR ADOPTION - FILE
4	OF THE COUNCIL NO. 17, 2018 - AN ORDINANCE -
5	AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 4, 2018
6	ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING FILE OF THE
7	COUNCIL NO. 17, 1994 ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE
8	(AS AMENDED) AUTHORIZING THE GOVERNING BODY
9	OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO ENACT 'A WASTE
10	DISPOSAL AND COLLECTION FEE' FOR THE PURPOSE
11	OF RAISING REVENUE TO COVER THE WASTE
12	DISPOSAL AND COLLECTION COSTS INCURRED BY
13	THE CITY OF SCRANTON FOR THE DISPOSAL OF
14	REFUSE", BY IMPOSING A WASTE DISPOSAL AND
15	COLLECTION FEE OF \$300.00 FOR CALENDAR YEAR
16	2018 AND THE SAME SHALL REMAIN IN FULL FORCE
17	AND EFFECT ANNUALLY THEREAFTER" TO EXTEND
18	THE MAY 1, 2018 DISCOUNT DATE TO MAY 31,
19	2018 TO ENABLE RESIDENTS TO TAKE ADVANTAGE
20	OF THE 10% DISCOUNT WHEN PAYING THEIR REFUSE
21	BILL IN FULL.
22	MR. PERRY: What is the
23	recommendation for the Chair for the
24	Committee on Finance?
25	MR. EVANS: As Chairperson for the

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1	Committee on Finance, I recommend final	
2	passage of Item 7-A.	
3	MR. DONAHUE: Second.	
4	MR. PERRY: On the question? Roll	
5	call, please?	
6	MS. DAVIDSON: Mr. Donahue.	
7	MR. DONAHUE: Yes.	
8	MS. DAVIDSON: Mr. Evans.	
9	MR. EVANS: Yes.	
10	MS. DAVIDSON: Mr. Gaughan.	
11	MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.	
12	MS. DAVIDSON: Mr. Perry.	
13	MR. PERRY: Yes. I hereby declare	
14	Item 7-A legally and lawfully adopted.	
15	If there is no further business,	
16	I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.	
17	MR. DONAHUE: Motion to adjourn.	
18	MR. PERRY: Adjourned.	
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3	<u>CERTIFICATE</u>
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5	I hereby certify that the proceedings and
6	evidence are contained fully and accurately in the
7	notes of testimony taken by me at the hearing of the
8	above-captioned matter and that the foregoing is a true
9	and correct transcript of the same to the best of my
10	ability.
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13	CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR
14	OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER
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