

SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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HELD:

Wednesday, April 1, 2015

LOCATION:

Council Chambers

Scranton City Hall

340 North Washington Avenue

Scranton, Pennsylvania

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

ROBERT MCGOFF, PRESIDENT

PATRICK ROGAN, VICE-PRESIDENT

WAYNE EVANS

JOSEPH WECHSLER

WILLIAM GAUGHAN

LORI REED, CITY CLERK

JAMIE MARCIANO, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

AMIL MINORA, SOLICITOR

1 (Pledge of Allegiance recited and
2 moment of reflection observed.)

3 MR. MCGOFF: 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. MCGOFF: Here. Dispense with
14 the reading of the minutes.

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

16 MINUTES OF THE SCRANTON POLICE PENSION
17 COMMISSION MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 25, 2015.

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

20 MS. REED: 3-B. MINUTES OF THE
21 NON-UNIFORM MUNICIPAL PENSION MEETING HELD
22 FEBRUARY 25, 2015.

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

25 MS. REED: 3-C. MINUTES OF THE

1 SCRANTON FIREFIGHTERS PENSION COMMISSION
2 MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 25, 2015.

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

6 MS. REED: Nothing, Mr. McGoff.

7 MR. MCGOFF: A couple of
8 announcements prior to the meeting. First
9 of all, City Hall will be closed this
10 Friday, April 3. Also, Monday, April 6 is a
11 holiday for the DPW, refuse and recycling
12 collection will be delayed by one day, that
13 will be next week.

14 Also, next week at our meeting there
15 will be a public caucus at 5:30 to discuss
16 land banks. There will be a representative
17 from the Pennsylvania Housing Alliance that
18 will make a presentation and, again, it will
19 be held here in council chambers and anyone
20 interested in the land bank concept please
21 feel free to attend. And that's all I have
22 for announcements. Anything?

23 MR. ROGAN: I have one. This is
24 from State Rep Marty Flynn's Office and it
25 was also on WNEP. It says I'm pleased to

1 announce the deadline for Pennsylvania Low
2 Income Energy Heating Assistance Program,
3 known as LIHEAP, has been extended from May
4 1 - extended to May 1. The previous
5 deadline was April 3. LIHEAP helps income
6 eligible households to pay for heat during
7 the winter months and a family of four with
8 an annual income of up to \$35,775 can
9 qualify for this assistance.

10 For more information call the
11 Lackawanna County Assistance Office at
12 570-963-4842. Thank you.

13 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else?

14 MS. REED: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS
15 PARTICIPATION.

16 MR. MCGOFF: Ron Ellman.

17 MR. ELLMAN: Thank you, council.
18 Look who is running this city besides you,
19 three men that they don't live here, they
20 don't vote here, they don't pay taxes here,
21 that's who is running our city. Last week I
22 asked you about Mr. Amoroso and I have been
23 told he is being paid to stay here. This
24 man he is being paid to stay here. He
25 didn't even know about the pension plan, he

1 has done nothing in the world about the
2 nonprofits and now we are supposed to be
3 saddled with someone like that again? And
4 he has got a garbage plan, it's not a plan
5 for the future of this city. If these
6 businessmen knew what people say about
7 what's going on here maybe they would quit
8 paying him to hang onto the -- and tell us
9 we need to raise taxes and everything. He
10 is so out of touch with this city it's a
11 shame. It's an outright shame that somebody
12 like this has any authority over people that
13 vote that people that work here.

14 All right. I got that off my --

15 MR. MCGOFF: You want me to get you
16 angry?

17 MR. ELLMAN: When I leave.

18 MR. MCGOFF: Okay.

19 MR. ELLMAN: I'm not attacking you.

20 MR. MCGOFF: No, no, I was just
21 going to give you some more ammunition.

22 MR. ELLMAN: All right. I read that
23 little brief article in the paper about
24 Mr. Durkin who says, you know, the mall and
25 downtown are getting beyond help, I have to

1 agree with the article and some of the
2 things he says, but when I stood here a
3 couple of months ago and said that would
4 make a marketplace I never been to the
5 example he has, but I know the example in
6 Allentown which is what 110 and 10 or
7 15,000, it is packed. You just have to go
8 through crowds every time I have been there.
9 And outside of the Pottstown, I think it's
10 Schuylkill Haven.

11 MR. EVANS: Schuylkill.

12 MR. ELLMAN: That's only 20, 25,000
13 people, this is out of town and it's the
14 same way and it's bigger than the mall when
15 you go. They have an auction and they have
16 a big flea market when the weather is warm
17 and it would work downtown. I just don't
18 know how you get it started, and I don't
19 know what happened to these people that
20 picked up the ball and didn't do nothing
21 with it but I wish they would get it
22 rejuvenated. It's a shame to lose it to the
23 nonprofits, and I'd like to say something
24 about the paving, why are we -- who gave us
25 Main Avenue? You said that we are supposed

1 to be responsible for Main Avenue last week,
2 I never saw nothing come up that it's
3 legally ours?

4 MR. ROGAN: It's a very small
5 portion of Main Avenue.

6 MR. ELLMAN: I'm talking about the
7 paving, you know, of Main -- we got streets
8 in the city we can spend, you are talking
9 about a couple of hundred thousands dollars
10 that they -- last year they said they were
11 going to do. We got streets of our own, let
12 them do it.

13 MR. ROGAN: That portion is going to
14 be paved by PennDOT from the Taylor line to
15 the Scranton Expressway will be paved by
16 PennDOT this year.

17 MR. ELLMAN: The paper said from
18 Parker Street or Main Avenue or someplace
19 up --

20 MR. ROGAN: Right, that portion.

21 MR. ELLMAN: We shouldn't have to
22 pave an inch of it. This is their problem,
23 they don't patrol it or nothing, you know,
24 they don't take care of it, they should, and
25 I'll tell you something else, as long as

1 this city allows 80,000 pound tractor
2 trailers to go any place they want you are
3 not going to have any good streets. The
4 base -- the foundation of these streets it's
5 over 100 years old. You can see on North
6 Main Avenue in the potholes it's gravel and
7 bricks under there. It's not made for truck
8 traffic like. You got certain designated
9 routes like Keyser Avenue or something you
10 can't have trucks delivering downtown
11 blocking Washington and Adams delivering
12 pizza crusts and things like that, it needs
13 -- I don't know who is in charge of it but
14 something ought to be done, like I said,
15 80,000 pound trucks are not delivery
16 vehicles.

17 And I'd like to -- let me just say
18 one thing in leaving, several years ago I
19 stood here and said we need a curfew. I'd
20 like to say it again and I'd like to say we
21 should have some kind of city ordinance
22 about carrying handguns. I heard a
23 conversation a few days ago a 12 year old
24 showing off a handgun. That's what we got
25 going on. It's getting worse, not better.

1 I mean, I have a friend that I work with in
2 Wilkes-Barre and he's sort of gang related
3 and tells me these things what's going on
4 and there is some bad things going on in
5 this city full of undesirable children, I
6 guess you could call them, that don't go to
7 school or nothing, they don't contribute
8 nothing to society and nothing is being done
9 about it. Thank you Mr. McGoff.

10 MR. MCGOFF: You're welcome.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

12 MR. MCGOFF: Just before
13 Mr. Hodowanitz comes to the podium, I did
14 want to give Mr. Ellman a little ammunition
15 for next week, the HJA Strategies, which is
16 the firm, the consulting firm which
17 Mr. Henry Amoros is HJA, they are being
18 funded through several foundations through
19 the Chamber of Commerce for years 2015 and
20 2016, so that's this year and next year they
21 are being -- they are being paid through the
22 Chamber of Commerce through a number of
23 foundations.

24 MR. ELLMAN: Well, I don't want to
25 be a --

1 MR. MCGOFF: No, please, please,
2 next week. Next week. Let Ms.
3 Hodowanitz --

4 MR. ELLMAN: All right. Thank you.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr. Ellman.

6 MS. HODOWANITZ: Joan Hodowanitz,
7 resident and taxpayer. The 2013 audit is
8 now 305 days overdue, does anyone have its
9 current status?

10 MR. MCGOFF: At the PEL meeting on
11 Monday it was Mr. Bulzoni, the business
12 administrator, said another letter had been
13 sent to the auditors for the completion of
14 the audit, everything from the city's side
15 has been in the hands of the auditor for a
16 period of time now. It's in the auditor's
17 hands and they are being, what do I want to
18 say, slow in producing the audit.

19 MS. HODOWANITZ: Okay. Last Friday
20 I went to the opening of the bids for the
21 audits for 2014 through 2017, there was only
22 one bid from SB & Company, LLC, with offices
23 in Philadelphia and Maryland and they put in
24 a bid proposal of \$172,000 for the four
25 years, although, they are only going to

1 charge \$40,000 for the 2014 audit. That may
2 sound like a lot of money, but I wish them a
3 lot of luck considering the state of our
4 financial records and the fact that we don't
5 have the 2013 audit.

6 I looked them up on the web and they
7 have a lot of interesting marketing buzz.
8 "We promise that our most experienced
9 personnel will remain involved through the
10 entire engagement providing ongoing,
11 year-round consultation at no extra cost."

12 Be careful what you ask for -- or
13 what you promise. "In addition to insuring
14 quick issue resolution, our professionals
15 will provide valuable updates from their
16 involvement in industry and standards
17 setting organizations. We'll help assure
18 compliance with applicable reporting
19 standards, correct deficiencies and provide
20 insight to address important present and
21 future challenges. If your organization
22 expends more than \$500,000 in federal funds,
23 we'll perform a rigorous compliance based
24 audit of those transactions using our
25 extensive government and not-for-profit

1 expertise."

2 What I'm waiting to see is, I'm
3 going to try and get a copy of the
4 engagement letter, I would see if the city
5 does choose them as its auditor, and I guess
6 it's got a field of one to choose from, what
7 it's going to tell them it wants done and
8 what kind of deadline you are going to give
9 this auditor. Are we going to expect him to
10 finish the audit by May 31 of this year?
11 You need to change the Home Rule Charter.
12 You might as well clean that homework up.
13 That's housekeeping, but I would change it,
14 but you need a reasonable drop dead date and
15 if the auditor doesn't meet it he needs to
16 show cause why he can't meet the date. In
17 other words, produce the audit or get off
18 the dime and let somebody else take up the
19 challenge. None of this a year overdue.
20 This is ridiculous. It doesn't do the city
21 any good, it doesn't do the taxpayers any
22 good, it's going to have more of an impact
23 that you realize.

24 And then we find out we have all
25 kind of financial issues, no audit trail, no

1 pun intended, for things that happened in
2 the past, we have got to get this act
3 together. I would expect leadership of this
4 city to be kicking doors at this point in
5 time. Thank you.

6 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Ms.
7 Hodowanitz. Anyone else who wishes to
8 address council?

9 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening, Council.
10 Dave Dobrzyn, resident and taxpayer. Once
11 again I'd like to go through the working
12 life of my wife and I and how various things
13 negatively effected, all of which was
14 private sector employment. In 1974 I was in
15 the automotive-related industries and we had
16 the OPEC oil embargo. In '79, we had the
17 hostage crisis. In '83, Dave Stockman,
18 economic advisor to President Reagan, called
19 the jobs -- the automotive industry an
20 expensive job's program. In '85 we decided
21 to build nuclear power plants in China to
22 ease apparel restrictions. The typical wage
23 in the plants in the area was about what
24 minimum wage was today, seven and a quarter,
25 seven fifty an hour and that was a lot more

1 money back then, needless to say, well, a
2 year later I told her don't even go any
3 there anymore. Don't bother, 52 bucks for
4 showing up four days. In 1991, once again,
5 we had the first Gulf war started and
6 everybody kicks the Dom and, yeah, he was a
7 bad person but the people he is fighting
8 with also in the 80's which we are supplying
9 both sides weren't any better as it has been
10 shown to this very day.

11 Then in '98 we adopted China's most
12 favorite trade status, nation status, that
13 really helped jobs a lot in this country,
14 and then we had 9/11. Then in '05 we had a
15 few South American countries that we formed
16 trade agreements with, and in '07 we had the
17 crash, that effected everybody's wages all
18 around, and then in '11, so that we could
19 extend unemployment benefits for all of
20 these poor jerks that were out of work
21 thanks to our lovely trade packs and trade
22 agreements we had another trade agreement
23 with Korea and Panama and Columbia and, of
24 course, it wasn't a big trade pack, but the
25 quid pro quo was we will extend unemployment

1 benefits for the currently unemployed if, if
2 you pass this trade pack. Well, last year
3 we exported 40,000 cars to Korea and we
4 accepted \$450,000 cars, ten cents on the
5 dollar. Geez, thanks, guys.

6 Okay, back to city business. Now, I
7 spoke a little bit about paving and I am not
8 criticizing the DPW for anything, but I feel
9 that at least 50 percent, if not more, of
10 our bad roads are caused by utility
11 companies coming in here, digging and
12 putting inferior workmanship into their
13 patches, and then a year or two later you
14 see where they cut the pave, the sealer has
15 gone away and the water is getting in under
16 it and then you have a big pothole. Big
17 gapping pothole, that's called
18 externalization. You externalize your
19 liabilities to enhance your profits.

20 On the Sewer Authority with that
21 storm sewer business, now currently not
22 everybody is paying the same rate, I mean, a
23 commercial rate is different than the
24 consumer rate, but you are -- a part of your
25 storm water bill right now is because people

1 have in excess of impermeable surfaces and
2 that runoff goes into combined sewer and
3 then it has to be treated by law. We had 25
4 years to meet this obligation and --

5 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr. Dobrzyn.

6 MR. DOBRZYN: Well, the current
7 Sewer Authority, let me finish here, the
8 current Sewer Authority has a plan to take
9 and bill people for this impermeable surface
10 and the more you have the more it's your
11 problem, but it was going to finance a large
12 part of the required construction by the
13 federal government so before you fiddle with
14 the Sewer Authority think about it. Thank
15 you have and good night.

16 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening.
17 Marie Schumacher.

18 MR. GAUGHAN: Good evening.

19 MS. SCHUMACHER: First, the audit
20 report, I'm a little troubled by the fact
21 that the audit letters from Rossi & Rossi
22 for a long time showed that it was a
23 Scranton Parking Authority their audit that
24 was holding them up and then just a few
25 weeks ago it changed to the city had not

1 supplied the potential liability from a
2 number of lawsuits, I forget the number, six
3 or eight, something like that, when did
4 those figures go in?

5 MR. MCGOFF: I have no idea.

6 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. Wayne, could
7 you ask that?

8 MR. EVANS: Yeah.

9 MS. SCHUMACHER: And last week at
10 the end I said I was going to review the
11 paving list because I thought East Mountain
12 was getting shortchanged, I believe there is
13 confirmation of that. I travel -- five days
14 a week I travel both directions from my home
15 to the Howard Gardner School and the East
16 Mountain Road -- East Mountain Lake Road is
17 atrocious. Now, I have a low car and there
18 is all kinds of problems, there is drainage
19 problems, there is paving problems, there
20 are apparently drainage, because it's
21 wetlands along there, taking the water down
22 to the street that have corroded maybe and
23 collapsed or maybe it's just traffic. I
24 don't know what the weight limit is, but we
25 do get Colt's buses and school buses on that

1 road and the one they finally did come up by
2 Yeso and put in a steel plate on Monday, but
3 the road needs serious -- the sides are
4 deteriorating and that certainly needs to be
5 attended to sooner rather than later.

6 And that brings up the liquid fuels
7 dollars what have been doing with the liquid
8 fuel dollars for the past several years?
9 Nobody knows.

10 MR. MCGOFF: I don't know that it
11 was dedicated to any particular --

12 MS. SCHUMACHER: By statute, state
13 statute, you have to -- there are things you
14 have to invest in, paving or buying trucks
15 or -- -

16 MR. MCGOFF: Like I said, I'm not
17 sure.

18 MS. SCHUMACHER: I mean, I would
19 like to know. Also, the budget this year
20 was lowballed, which I appreciate rather
21 than going way over, but the allocations are
22 now available from the state and I didn't
23 bring the exact figures, but it's roughly a
24 half a million dollars. Now, I would like
25 to know how we are going to apply that half,

1 the extra half a million dollars of the
2 actual we are going to get over the budget,
3 and are we going to alter the budget to show
4 that?

5 And then Mr. Amoroso, you know, this
6 administration promised us transparency and,
7 I'm sorry, but this shell game of having
8 anonymous people supply a person to be a
9 consultant I think is wrong and it's bad
10 enough that this person because not employed
11 by the city is not subject to any
12 Right-to-Know issues for and I am calling
13 for the identification of the foundations
14 that are providing this two year's worth of
15 funding. I think it's important for the
16 public and the taxpayers to know who is
17 putting forth this money so we can make the
18 judgment on whether or not that money
19 influencing any of the outcomes that
20 Mr. Amoroso may come up with.

21 And then last year the state bought
22 us some software, which I thought was for
23 efficiencies, can anybody tell me what
24 software was procured and how it was
25 supposed to better the running of our

1 government?

2 MR. MCGOFF: At this point in time,
3 I don't have that in front of me.

4 MS. SCHUMACHER: Could we get that?
5 I would be interested. And then what is our
6 policy for the our city engineer when there
7 is a conflict of interest? For instance, I
8 really think that our city engineer should
9 be looking at some of the issues with the
10 landfill especially, I give you the pictures
11 and the same contractor for the engineering
12 for the landfill is also the employer of our
13 city engineer, which brings forth a conflict
14 of interest if the city were to get
15 involved, so what is the policy when a
16 conflict of interest arises as to who would
17 perform that and how that would be
18 determined? Anybody know?

19 MR. MCGOFF: No, I don't. I don't
20 have that in front of me.

21 MS. SCHUMACHER: Again --

22 MR. MCGOFF: I don't have that data
23 in front of me.

24 MS. SCHUMACHER: I would appreciate
25 that, also. Thank you.

1 MR. UNGVARSKY: Good evening, city
2 council, Tom Ungvarsky.

3 MR. GAUGHAN: Good evening.

4 MR. UNGVARSKY: About Mr. Amoroso,
5 do we have any other financial advisors for
6 the city besides him?

7 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

8 MR. UNGVARSKY: Is Mr. Judge still
9 an advisor?

10 MR. MCGOFF: No.

11 MR. UNGVARSKY: What other advisors
12 do we have?

13 MR. MCGOFF: Well, financial-- I
14 don't know what the right term is, but PFM
15 is involved in the negotiation of the
16 monetization of the Parking Authority and a
17 number of other items.

18 MR. UNGVARSKY: Well, that's the
19 park authority, I'm talking about the city
20 administration.

21 MR. MCGOFF: Well, that's -- okay.

22 MR. UNGVARSKY: That's all right,
23 we'll find out the answer. Does anyone know
24 what benefit Mr. Amoroso has done for the
25 city? Are we following his budget for this

1 year?

2 MR. MCGOFF: I don't understand.

3 MR. UNGVARSKY: What benefit has
4 Mr. Amoroso been for this city?

5 MR. MCGOFF: Okay. That part, he is
6 active as a consultant, has provided some
7 information concerning the financial status
8 of the city and offered suggestions for
9 resolution of some of the problems.

10 MR. UNGVARSKY: Are we following his
11 recommendations for the budget for this
12 year?

13 MR. MCGOFF: Some of it.

14 MR. UNGVARSKY: Okay.

15 MR. MCGOFF: And he is also the HJA
16 Strategies is also moved in I'll use the
17 word lobbying with the state and other
18 entities on behalf of the City of Scranton.

19 MR. UNGVARSKY: Okay. Thank you for
20 answering. On the quality of life, I
21 understand they are writing out tickets now,
22 are they just warnings?

23 MR. EVANS: Some are warnings and
24 some are not.

25 MR. UNGVARSKY: I'm sorry, I didn't

1 catch that.

2 MR. EVANS: Some are warnings and
3 some aren't. It's up to the discretion of
4 the police officer or the inspector.

5 MR. UNGVARSKY: When they write out
6 a ticket how many days do you have to
7 rectify the problem?

8 MR. EVANS: 48 hours.

9 MR. UNGVARSKY: What happens after
10 48 hours?

11 MR. EVANS: You get another ticket.

12 MR. UNGVARSKY: Sometimes it's hard
13 to get a contractor within 48 hours.

14 MR. EVANS: Well, there has to be a
15 certain level of common sense when you are
16 issuing a ticket. If you are dealing with
17 something that has to be done or fixed or
18 repaired certainly they would not adhere to
19 that 48-hour rule.

20 MR. UNGVARSKY: I think the city
21 opened up a bag of worms. Thank you.

22 MR. EVANS: Thank you.

23 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else who wishes
24 to address council? Prior to moving on, Ms.
25 Schumacher, just to answer a question that

1 you did ask, I searched it, I did find an
2 e-mail and it was dated March 19 and it was
3 sent from the business administrator to the
4 auditor and it said, "Latest update is that
5 the attorney letters have been received and
6 will be forwarded to you, GASB report is
7 completed, and waiting release which will be
8 no later than Tuesday, and it goes on then
9 to say that when all of this is received we
10 will expect a release of the, you know,
11 comprehensive draft of the audit no later
12 than month end.

13 MS. SCHUMACHER: Than when?

14 MR. MCGOFF: That was March 19 that
15 it was sent.

16 MS. SCHUMACHER: Thank you.

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

18 MOTIONS.

19 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Wechsler?

20 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you,
21 Mr. McGoff. I just have a few things this
22 evening. Last week we spent some time
23 talking about the garbage fee bills, I was
24 in contact with Wayne Beck this week and
25 according to him they are going through some

1 testing to make sure that the mailing -- the
2 barcodes coordinate with the PNC lockbox, so
3 right now he is anticipating that the bills
4 should be mailed out some time early next
5 week -- or the garbage tax. That puts us
6 about seven to ten days ahead of last year's
7 mailing.

8 I also had been in contact with the
9 Northeast Revenue Service, I will be meeting
10 with them on Monday just to go over some
11 facts about how we established the mailing
12 list for the garbage bills and also going
13 through how we may improve the reporting
14 process as we can keep track of it as it
15 proceeds through the year, so those things
16 will be happening next week.

17 I received a comment and a complaint
18 about a street in South Side, 1400 block of
19 South Irving Avenue. I will be forwarding
20 this list onto the mayor and DPW. It's a
21 streets -- a lot of areas that hasn't seen
22 paving in quite a number of years and it's
23 past the point of being repaired by patches.

24 In regards to Mountain Lake Road and
25 East Mountain Road, I spoke with the mayor

1 and the other day, those roads are going to
2 be repaired once the weather clears up by
3 the city. They are going to be worked on
4 independent of the current paving program.

5 In regards to the paving program, we
6 also have reached out to make sure that
7 utilities, the streets are matched with
8 utility work that's going to be going on
9 with both the gas company and water company
10 and the Scranton Sewer Authority so we are
11 trying to make sure that we are working on
12 streets that aren't going to be paved by the
13 utilities and also making sure that we
14 aren't going to put paving on streets that
15 may be torn up a few weeks later. That's
16 all I have this evening.

17 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Rogan?

18 MR. ROGAN: Yes. Just a few issues,
19 and I'll guess I'll pick up where Councilman
20 Wechsler left off regarding the paving, a
21 few comments with made about the paving list
22 and I know we have all heard in our travels
23 comments on this road should be paved or
24 this road should be paved. Regarding the
25 list that was publicized, that issue is the

1 tentative list. Those properties or those
2 streets on those lists are not set in stone
3 to be paved and the ones off the list are
4 not set in stone they will not be paved. We
5 did receive notification that a number of
6 the streets on the tentative list are going
7 to be -- are going to receive new water
8 lines this year, I believe this year and
9 next year so the water company will be doing
10 those repairs so they will be taken off the
11 list and other streets will be put on it.
12 You know, sorting through that process to
13 make sure we don't pave a road and then
14 months later it's ripped up, which is a very
15 common complaint that we receive and
16 definitely we want to thank the mayor and
17 especially DPW Director Gallagher for doing
18 their due diligence on that matter and, you
19 know, it's great when you utility can pave
20 the roads for us doing their work and it
21 certainly saves the taxpayers a lot of
22 money.

23 Also, regarding the paving, there
24 are some streets in the city that have just
25 gone to disrepair because they haven't been

1 maintained and there are others that there
2 are underlying issues as to why the road
3 deteriorates. I know in East Mountain it's
4 a problem with water, some of the same on
5 West Mountain. I know Division Street part
6 of that street is going to be -- is on the
7 proposed paving list, but there is also a
8 water problem on that section of Division
9 Street on West Mountain as well and I think
10 before paving takes place the water problem
11 needs to addressed, and it's deteriorating
12 the road and in the winter it becomes a
13 major hazard when you have a rainstorm and
14 water going across the road and then it
15 freezes. It's dangerous for the people
16 driving and then it destroys the road.

17 So I think we need to look to make
18 sure that all of the streets that are
19 getting paved don't have other underlying
20 issues that it's going to cause them to be
21 deteriorating within a short time again.

22 And then two other items, I have a
23 good story I guess to tell. The other day I
24 was driving through -- over to South Side by
25 the viaduct that link South Scranton and

1 West Scranton and I noticed a number of bags
2 sitting there that somebody cleaned it up
3 and I looked and thought it was great. Sure
4 enough, literally a day later I get this
5 message, and I want to read it. It says, "I
6 was told to message you. One of my
7 neighbors told me to reach out to you. I
8 have been cleaning out the West Side Elm
9 Street viaduct, this is my second season. I
10 just completed it on Sunday and DPW picked
11 up the trash on Monday. I was wondering if
12 we could get a \$300 litter fine posted or
13 some more police in the area."

14 He mentioned that there are glass
15 bottles, there are a lot of children walking
16 in the area, and I did speak to the
17 resident, who didn't want his last name
18 mentioned, but Bill from West Side we want
19 to give you a big thank you for everything
20 you have been doing, and I did talk to the
21 mayor regarding the request for the no
22 littering sign, he did inform the DPW to
23 take a look at that, and also there are
24 sidewalks on if you are driving down the
25 right-hand side of the viaduct that haven't

1 been visible in probably 20 years because
2 they are covered in dirt, and that's going
3 to be addressed as well for pedestrians in
4 this area. So a big thank you to Bill from
5 West Side for doing this work in this area
6 and making it look great. And that's all
7 for tonight. Thank you.

8 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Evans?

9 MR. EVANS: Thank you. Based on our
10 informative public caucus last week on House
11 Bill 316 I would like to make the following
12 motion: That Scranton City Council send a
13 letter of support for HB 316 and urge State
14 Representatives Flynn and Farina to support
15 that bill as well as to State Senator Blake
16 to support the senate version when it's
17 introduced at chamber.

18 MR. ROGAN: Second.

19 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? All
20 those in favor of the motion signify by
21 saying aye.

22 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

23 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

24 MR. EVANS: Aye.

25 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

1 MS. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The
2 ayes have it and so moved.

3 MR. EVANS: Thank you. A couple of
4 comments on the Pension Boards since they
5 have been in the paper most recently again.
6 It is becoming increasingly clear that past
7 and present or past and current decisions
8 made by Scranton Pension's boards have in
9 many cases not been in the best interest of
10 the city and, of course, the pensions
11 themselves. I think the makeup of the
12 current boards itself lends itself to a lack
13 of financial expertise, independence and an
14 inherent conflict of interest and, quite
15 frankly, if I was an employee of the city of
16 Scranton and this was my pension plan I
17 would be pressing for the most independent
18 and professional people I could find
19 overseeing my pension.

20 Recent reforms across the country
21 have addressed this issue. In San Diego,
22 California, it became apparent that there
23 was an underfunding scandal that may have
24 been caused by too much labor union
25 influence on the pension board resulting in

1 conflicts of interest. Proposition H was
2 placed on the ballot in 2004 and changed the
3 composition of retirement boards from being
4 dominated by union representatives, city
5 administrators and appointees to one with a
6 majority of financial experts. Proposition
7 H passed by a voter referendum with 65
8 percent of the vote.

9 In other example in San Jose,
10 California, in 2010 San Jose restructures
11 its pensions boards so that a majority of
12 board members would be independent members
13 of financial and investment expertise as
14 opposed to union and city representatives
15 who have conflicts of interest in
16 determining pension benefits.

17 These are just two examples of many
18 as to what is taking place across the
19 country. It is time for the administration
20 and its unions to sit down and talk about
21 this issue and if it means giving up some
22 control for the benefit of all then that is
23 what needs to be done. As a councilman who
24 has a fiduciary responsibility to our
25 taxpayers, I also feel that before any

1 assets or sold or leased for the super
2 funding of pensions that this is the
3 conversation that must happen and changes
4 need to be made. That's all I have.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Gaughan?

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, thank you. First
7 request, Ms. Schumacher, brought up
8 Mr. Amoroso, Mrs. Reed, could we please send
9 a request to the administration to find out
10 who the foundations are that are funding
11 Mr. Amoroso? I had asked months ago if he
12 was still on the job or off the job or what
13 the status was and I never -- my questions
14 were ignored, so if my colleagues would be
15 in agreement if we could send that request
16 and try to find out what the status of that
17 is. Thank you.

18 The street sweeping schedule has
19 been prepared by the administration for
20 2015. April 7 to April 10 the street
21 sweeper will in the lower West Scranton
22 area, Oram Street to Landis Street,
23 including all streets and avenues, and
24 council will again make a request that the
25 schedule is posted on the city's website as

1 it was last year.

2 I am extremely disappointed in the
3 recent news that the Rockwell Avenue bridge
4 project will be suspended due to the
5 possible contamination of the area. I know
6 how important that bridge is to the
7 residents of North Scranton and the last
8 thing any of us want is for the project to
9 be held up any longer. I understand the
10 anger, frustration and helplessness that
11 those in the effected area are feeling.
12 It's my hope that DEP and PennDOT will work
13 quickly to rectify these issues so the
14 bridge can finally be completed.

15 And I just would like to remind
16 everyone again, Mr. McGoff mentioned it at
17 the beginning of the meeting, that I have
18 invited with my colleagues' support Chris
19 Gulla from the Pennsylvania Housing Alliance
20 is a public caucus at 5:30 next Thursday,
21 April 9, here in council chambers to give a
22 presentation on the land banks. One of the
23 major issues facing Scranton and other
24 municipalities like us are the thousands of
25 blighted or abandoned buildings and homes

1 spread across our city. These properties
2 convey the image of an old and decaying
3 community. While many see these property as
4 eyesores, which they are, leaders of the
5 community should realize that they are
6 untapped assets that provide land for
7 redevelopment. When these eyesores are
8 transferred in a productive reuse it becomes
9 a great opportunity for our community to
10 modernize, revitalize and grow improving the
11 quality of life for all neighbors.

12 The Pennsylvania Land Bank Act 153
13 of 2012 authorizes counties and
14 municipalities with populations of 10,000 or
15 more to establish land banks, a flexible
16 tool meant to help strengthen our cities and
17 towns by enabling them to systematically
18 remove problem properties from an endless
19 and frustrating cycle of vacancy,
20 abandonment, and tax foreclosure in return
21 them to productive reuse.

22 One of the major issues is the
23 responsibility of handling the task of
24 vacant and under utilized property which is
25 often spread between redevelopment

1 authorities, municipalities, subdepartments
2 of both, non-profits development
3 corporations and others. Due to legal
4 restraints, lack of expertise and mission
5 creep, which means the tendency for a tax to
6 become unintentionally wider in scope than
7 its initial objectives, the problematic
8 properties become in essence no one's
9 responsibility.

10 Council has invited Mayor
11 Courtright, members of his administration,
12 the Lackawanna County Commissioners, Senator
13 Blake, State Representatives Flynn and
14 Farina and other members of local government
15 to be a part of this presentation next week.
16 It's clear to me after researching land
17 banks and speaking to many residents over
18 the past year and a half that this is a tool
19 the City of Scranton should use to battle
20 blight in our neighborhoods. We need all
21 elected officials to work together to put
22 this tool to use. And that is all I have
23 for this week. Thank you.

24 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. Again, very
25 briefly, there was -- I was reminded if

1 people have questions for council if you
2 would please put them in writing and give
3 them to the Clerk's Office it will allow for
4 council members to provide a better
5 response, we are getting a little old up
6 here and we are forgetful at times, so just
7 put them in writing and that will allow us,
8 you know, Mrs. Reed will send them to the
9 various council members for a response.

10 A couple of things, first of all,
11 the bid for the audit for the next three
12 years the company that submitted the only
13 bid is a company that has a history of doing
14 audits for municipalities. It is not a --
15 it is an out-of-town company, but they do
16 have a much longer history and more
17 comprehensive history of actually doing
18 municipal audits so it's believed that they
19 would be able to maybe better handle the
20 city's audit and perhaps expedite the
21 production of a final audit. That is one of
22 the things that we are looking at.

23 Also, it was brought up about a
24 letter that was in the paper or an article
25 in the paper from the Chamber of Commerce

1 concerning the mall. While I do -- while I
2 am friends with Mr. Durkin and appreciate
3 the work that he does, I think the people
4 should realize that the Chamber of Commerce
5 has a vested interest in the mall and what
6 happens with the mall, and personally I felt
7 that that article and the comments from the
8 Chamber of Commerce were somewhat
9 self-serving and maybe did not help or was
10 trying to sort of compete with some other
11 ideas that people may have for the mall. So
12 just be reminded that there are some
13 self-interests involved for anybody speaking
14 on the mall it seems.

15 And the last thing, I know on behalf
16 of council I will say that for all of those
17 of the Judeo-Christian belief we wish
18 everyone a very blessed sacred Passover and
19 Easter. And that's is all.

20 MS. REED: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION -
21 AN ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE CONTINUED
22 EXPLORATION OF THE FEASIBILITY OF ENTERING
23 INTO A CONCESSION OR LEASE AGREEMENT OF THE
24 PARKING SYSTEM OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON
25 COMPRISING VARIOUS GARAGES OWNED BY THE

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

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

8 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

9 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

10 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? I
11 would just like to comment that this
12 ordinance does not -- it's merely a
13 confirmation that council is in favor of
14 proceeding to see -- proceeding to see if
15 the feasibility of selling or leasing the
16 parking garages is still something that we
17 want. It commits us to nothing other than
18 furthering the process of the monetization
19 for the parking garages and perhaps parking
20 meters.

21 MR. ROGAN: I would just add, I
22 spoke to Solicitor Johns from the Parking
23 Authority and I just want to thank him for
24 his openness regarding some questions I had
25 on where the process stands and the city

1 certainly needs to do something to get this
2 liability off our backs. As I have stated
3 for years, we owe approximately \$50 million
4 in principal on the garages and if paid out
5 over the course of the payment schedule we
6 will wind up paying over \$100 million so
7 anything we can do to cut down those
8 interest payments will certainly help the
9 taxpayers.

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

12 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

13 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

14 MR. EVANS: Aye.

15 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

16 MS. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The
17 eyes have it and so moved.

18 MS. REED: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION - A
19 RESOLUTION - APPOINTMENT OF NELL O'BOYLE,
20 603 ARTHUR AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA,
21 18510, AS A MEMBER OF THE HISTORICAL
22 ARCHITECTURE REVIEW BOARD. MS. O'BOYLE WILL
23 BE REPLACING WAYNE EVANS WHO RESIGNED FROM
24 THE BOARD ON JULY 31, 2014 AND HIS ACTUAL
25 TERM WOULD HAVE EXPIRED ON OCTOBER 11, 2014.

1 MS. O'BOYLE'S TERM WILL BE EFFECTIVE MARCH
2 26, 2015 AND EXPIRE ON OCTOBER 11, 2019.

3 MR. MCGOFF: At this time I'll
4 entertain a motion that Item 5-C be
5 introduced into its proper committee.

6 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

7 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

8 MR. MCGOFF: On the question?

9 MR. EVANS: On the question, first
10 of all, I'd like to thank the mayor for
11 sending this appointment down to counsel.
12 Nell will do a great job for the city and
13 HARB. I know it will be a tough act to
14 follow trying to replace that Wayne Evans
15 guy, but I think she will do okay.

16 MR. MCGOFF: And also if we could,
17 could we see if we could contact Mr. Evans
18 and thank you him for his service on HARB.

19 MR. EVANS: Appreciate that.

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

22 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

23 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

24 MR. EVANS: Aye.

25 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

1 MS. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The
2 ayes have it and so moved. I'm sorry,
3 before we move on, I should have mentioned
4 that we have received a resume from Ms.
5 O'Boyle for this appointment.

6 MS. REED: 5-D. FOR INTRODUCTION - A
7 RESOLUTION - APPOINTMENT OF KATIE GILMARTIN,
8 1525 CAPOUSE AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA,
9 18509 AS A MEMBER OF THE HISTORICAL
10 ARCHITECTURE REVIEW BOARD. MS. GILMARTIN
11 WILL BE REPLACING JOHN MOORE WHOSE
12 APPOINTMENT BY RESOLUTION NO. 50, 2012 FOR
13 AN ADDITIONAL FIVE (5) YEAR TERM WAS
14 REPEALED BY CITY COUNCIL ON SEPTEMBER 19,
15 2013. MS. GILMARTIN'S TERM WILL BE
16 EFFECTIVE ON MARCH 26, 2015 AND WILL EXPIRE
17 ON OCTOBER 11, 2017.

18 MR. MCGOFF: At this time I'll
19 entertain a motion that Item 5-D be
20 introduced into its proper committee.

21 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

22 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

23 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? All
24 those in favor of introduction signify by
25 saying aye.

1 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

2 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

3 MR. EVANS: Aye.

4 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

5 MS. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The
6 ayes have it and so moved.

7 MS. REED: 5-E. FOR INTRODUCTION - A
8 RESOLUTION - DEDICATING THE 1000 BLOCK OF
9 LUKE AVENUE EN ROUTE TO ST. ROCCO'S CHURCH
10 BEFORE THE SCRANTON-DUNMORE BORDER AS
11 "GUARDIA DEI LOMBARDI WAY" IN FURTHER
12 RECOGNITION OF THE SISTER CITY RELATIONSHIP
13 BETWEEN THE CITY OF SCRANTON AND GUARDIA
14 DEI LOMBARDI, PROVINCE OF AVELLINO, ITALY.

15 MR. MCGOFF: At this time I'll
16 entertain a motion that Item 5-E be
17 introduced into its proper committee.

18 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

19 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

20 MR. MCGOFF: On the question?

21 MR. ROGAN: Yes. I would just like
22 to thank a few people. First, our city
23 clerk, Lori Reed; the city solicitor, Jason
24 Shrive; and the mayor for their quick action
25 on this. Stephanie Longo, of the Heritage

1 Trial for the UNICO Scranton Chapter
2 contacted me about three or four weeks ago
3 asking what the process would be to have a
4 street dedicated for our sister city. I
5 reached out to our city clerk who got in
6 touch with the law department. We received
7 a formal request from UNICO, that was on
8 March 8, and the rest is history. So I
9 would like to thank everyone for their good
10 work on this.

11 MR. MCGOFF: And I would like to
12 remind people that no addresses will change
13 on this, this is merely a dedication of a
14 part of the street to this sister city, so
15 all of the addresses will remain the same.

16 All those in favor of introduction
17 signify by saying aye.

18 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

19 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

20 MR. EVANS: Aye.

21 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

22 MS. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The
23 ayes have it and so moved.

24 MS. REED: SIXTH ORDER. 6-A.

25 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.

1 93, 2015 - AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF
2 THE COUNCIL NO. 110 OF 2005 AN ORDINANCE
3 ENTITLED "AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.
4 45 OF 1996 REGARDING THE COMPREHENSIVE
5 PROGRAM FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION IN THE
6 CITY OF SCRANTON BY UPDATING THE LIST OF
7 HISTORIC PROPERTIES" TO FURTHER UPDATE AND
8 ADD THE CLELAND HOUSE AT 520 MADISON AVENUE
9 TO THE HISTORIC PROPERTIES LIST.

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

12 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-A
13 pass reading by title.

14 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

15 MS. MCGOFF: On the question? All
16 those in favor signify by saying aye.

17 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

18 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

19 MR. EVANS: Aye.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

21 MR. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The
22 ayes have it and so moved.

23 MS. REED: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR
24 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE -
25 FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 92,

1 2015 - AN ORDINANCE INCREASING THE
2 INDEBTEDNESS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON,
3 LACKAWANNA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, BY THE
4 ISSUE OF A GENERAL OBLIGATION NOTE IN THE
5 AMOUNT OF \$2,242,820.00 FOR SUNDRY PURPOSES;
6 FIXING THE FORM, NUMBER, DATE, INTEREST, AND
7 MATURITY THEREOF; MAKING A COVENANT FOR THE
8 PAYMENT OF THE DEBT SERVICE ON THE NOTE;
9 PROVIDING FOR THE FILING OF THE REQUIRED
10 DOCUMENT; PROVIDING FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A
11 SINKING FUND DEPOSITORY FOR THE NOTE; AND
12 AUTHORIZING EXECUTION, SALE AND DELIVERY
13 THEREOF.

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

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

20 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

23 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler.

24 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

25 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

1 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

2 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Evans.

3 MR. EVANS: Yes.

4 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan.

5 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

6 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

7 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I hereby declare

8 Item 7-A legally and lawfully adopted.

9 MS. REED: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION BY
10 THE COMMITTEE ON RULES- FOR ADOPTION -
11 RESOLUTION NO. 131, 2015 - APPOINTMENT OF
12 JONATHAN C. KRIEGER, 1233 SLOAN STREET,
13 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18504, AS A MEMBER
14 OF THE SCRANTON REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY.
15 MR. KRIEGER WILL BE REPLACING ROBERT TIMLIN
16 WHOSE TERM EXPIRED ON FEBRUARY 5, 2015. MR.
17 KRIEGER'S TERM WILL BE EFFECTIVE MARCH 19,
18 2015 AND WILL EXPIRE ON FEBRUARY 5, 2020.

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

22 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

25 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler.

1 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

2 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

3 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

4 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Evans.

5 MR. EVANS: Yes.

6 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

8 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

9 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I hereby declare
10 Item 7-B legally and lawfully adopted and
11 congratulations to Mr. Kreiger, and once
12 again it pains me, but I would like to thank
13 Mr. Timlin, a basketball official, for his
14 service to the City of Scranton.

15 MS. REED: 7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION
16 BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE- FOR ADOPTION
17 RESOLUTION NO. 132, 2015 - AUTHORIZING THE
18 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS
19 TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH
20 SSS PRINTING A DIVISION OF SECURITY SAVINGS
21 SYSTEMS, INC. FOR THE PRINTING AND MAILING
22 OF CITY OF SCRANTON 2015 THROUGH 2017 WASTE
23 DISPOSAL BILLS.

24 MR. MCGOFF: What is the
25 recommendation of the Chair for the

1 Committee on Finance?

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

5 MR. ROGAN: Second.

6 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? Roll
7 call, please?

8 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler.

9 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

10 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

11 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

12 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Evans.

13 MR. EVANS: Yes.

14 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan.

15 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

16 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

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

19 Before we adjourn, I would like to
20 again remind people that city hall will be
21 closed this Friday, April 3, and that DPW
22 will not be picking up refuse or recyclables
23 on Monday next week, that all pick up will
24 be delayed by one day. If there is no
25 further business, motion to adjourn.

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MR. ROGAN: Motion to adjourn.

MR. MCGOFF: This meeting is
adjourned. And again, blessed Passover and
Easter.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER