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CITY OF FLINT
RECEIVERSHIP TRANSITION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 2016
2:00 P.M.

A meeting before the RTAB Board at
1101 S. Saginaw, 3rd Floor, Council Chambers,
Flint, Michigan, on Wednesday, April 13, 2016.

BOARD MEMBERS:

- Frederick Headen, Chairperson
- Michael Finney, Member
- Michael Townsend, Member
- Joel Ferguson, Member

ALSO PRESENT:

- R. Eric Cline (Department of Treasury)
- Mayor Karen Weaver (City of Flint)
- Sylvester Jones (City Administrator)
- Jody Lundquist (Finance Director)

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ADDRESSING THE BOARD:

- Kerry Nelson (Council President)
- Vicki VanBuren (Council Vice President)
- Eric Mays (Councilman)
- Wantwaz Davis (Councilman)
- Chris Del Morone (Flint resident)
- AC Dumas (Flint resident)
- Tony Palladino (Flint resident)

REPORTED BY:

- Quentina R. Snowden, (CSR-5519)
- Certified Shorthand Reporter,
- Notary Public

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1 Wednesday, April 13, 2016

2 Flint, Michigan

3 2:03 p.m.

4 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: The meeting will
5 be in order, please.

6 Let the record reflect that all four
7 members of the Board are present, so we do have a
8 quorum.

9 The next item is Approval of the
10 Agenda. Are there any additions to the agenda,
11 gentlemen? If not, is there a motion that the
12 agenda will be approved?

13 MEMBER FERGUSON: Move.

14 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Is there support?

15 MEMBER FINNEY: Support.

16 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Without
17 objection, the agenda is approved.

18 The next item is the Approval of RTAB
19 Meeting Minutes, first of the special RTAB meeting
20 on March 22nd, which you have as attachment number
21 one.

22 Are there any corrections or additions
23 to those minutes?

24 MEMBER FINNEY: Mr. Chair, I move for
25 approval.

1 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Is there support?

2 MR. FERGUSON: Support.

3 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Those in favor
4 please say "aye."

5 (All ayes.)

6 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Opposed? Minutes
7 of March 22nd are approved. The next will be
8 minutes of the special meeting of March 31st. They
9 are attachment two. Are there corrections or
10 additions to those minutes? If not, I'll entertain
11 a motion they be approved.

12 MEMBER FERGUSON: So move.

13 MEMBER TOWNSEND: Support.

14 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Motion has been
15 made and seconded. Those in favor please say "aye."

16 (All ayes.)

17 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Opposed? The
18 minutes of the March 31st are approved.

19 There is, to my knowledge, no
20 Unfinished Business.

21 Next item New Business. Yes, Mr.
22 Jones?

23 MR. JONES: If it's okay I'd like to
24 address the RTAB.

25 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Certainly.

1 Certainly.

2 MR. JONES: Good afternoon, everyone.

3 MEMBER TOWNSEND: Good afternoon.

4 MR. JONES: Mr. President (sic), I'm
5 coming because I'm asking if you would allow
6 -- there will be a resolution that will come before
7 you today, and the resolution specifically speaks to
8 a spending limit that must go to the Council before
9 the Mayor can conduct business. I'm asking that you
10 would send that back to the Council so that the
11 Council and this administration can work together,
12 so that we can determine an amount that would not
13 tie the Mayor's hands, nor the City Administrator's
14 hands to conduct business.

15 Based on the level that it is at right
16 now, I would ask you to consider this --

17 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: What's your
18 resolution, please?

19 MR. JONES: Resolution -- I don't -- I
20 think it states \$10,000 --

21 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Is there a
22 resolution number?

23 MR. MAYS: It's not on today.

24 MR. JONES: It's not on today? Okay.
25 Well, at some point that's going to come before you,

1 and what I want is for this administration to work
2 with the Council to make sure that we have a level
3 that, one, gives the Council back their authority,
4 but also does not tie this administration's hands so
5 that we cannot conduct the business of the City.

6 And so that's one of the things that
7 we hope that you would -- going forward, that we
8 would have more dialogue between this administration
9 and the Council, so that as things come before you,
10 they not only are in the best interest of the
11 Council, but also are in the best interest of this
12 administration going forward.

13 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Is there any
14 reason that we should anticipate that cooperation
15 would not occur before the resolution reached us?

16 MR. JONES: At this point, no. At
17 this point, you should not anticipate that we're not
18 doing that.

19 Going forward, it is my hope -- and
20 we're going to do everything in our power to make
21 sure that the dialogue, the lines of communication
22 are open. Right? And we would hope that the
23 Council would do the same. I've had a number of
24 conversations with Council President Nelson, and
25 we're talking about the need to create a culture

1 that is respectful of both the Council, as well as
2 the Mayor's office, but also move forward
3 resolutions that are in the best interest of both.

4 And so, as we aim for home rule, it's
5 important that we -- the things that we do really
6 are in the best interest of both the Council as well
7 as this administration.

8 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Thank you.

9 MR. JONES: Thank you.

10 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Council President
11 Nelson?

12 MR. NELSON: Good evening.

13 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Council
14 President.

15 MR. NELSON: Yes. How is everybody?
16 I heard the comment made by Chief Administrator, and
17 that is true, we have been in talks, and we do want
18 to make sure that things are transparent, but we
19 also, as the Council, wish to have our powers per
20 the Charter. We support the Mayor when she received
21 her power, and per the Charter. If there was no
22 emergency manager or no Natasha Henderson, anything
23 that was 10,000 or greater had to come to the
24 Council.

25 And so we simply saying that we want

1 to get back to home rule. We want to do that. But
2 we want to do the job that we were elected to do.
3 And so, therefore, since Ms. Henderson is gone, and
4 since we're trying to get to home rule, I'm willing
5 to work with administration, but we do need our
6 powers to be able to do our job that we're
7 elected to do. And if anyone feels that we should
8 not have our powers, then shame on them, because the
9 people that I talk to on a day-to-day basis wants
10 this Council to be able to function and be the check
11 and the balance. But we're willing to work with
12 administration, and be very transparent and very
13 open.

14 But it's time for us to get back to
15 home rule and it's time for us to have our powers as
16 per the Charter request. And that is the wish of
17 this Council, or most Council people, I would say
18 that we're ready to go back to home rule. Not
19 saying we're not going to work with administration.
20 We respect the Mayor as mayor. I think we've been
21 giving and working with the Mayor, every appointment
22 she sent up we've approved. And so we're working
23 with her. But we do want her office to work with
24 us. And it is time for this Council to regain the
25 powers and responsibility that is due to them.

1 Thank you.

2 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Thank you,
3 Council President.

4 Next item is the Approval of
5 Resolutions and Ordinances for City Council
6 meetings. We'll begin with Resolution 19. It's
7 attachment 3. It's from the regular City Council
8 meeting of March 14th. I believe all of the
9 resolutions from that City Council meeting have been
10 addressed by us here on the 22nd or 31st. We have
11 Resolution 19 is the only one remaining.

12 Is there a motion that Resolution 19
13 be approved?

14 MEMBER FERGUSON: So moved.

15 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Is there support?

16 MEMBER TOWNSEND: Support.

17 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Is there any
18 discussion regarding Resolution 19 from March 14,
19 2016?

20 MEMBER FINNEY: I have a question, Mr.
21 Chair, and maybe it's a question to the City
22 Administrator and to the Council President.

23 I'm curious, so as these resolutions
24 come forward, obviously they are from the Council,
25 but are they coming forward with the support of both

1 the Council and the administration; or -- on a -- my
2 expectation is that these have in fact been vetted
3 and there's no opposition from the administration.
4 I just want to confirm that.

5 MR. JONES: There's no opposition.

6 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Mr. Jones, do you
7 wish to speak to that? Council President Nelson?

8 MR. MAYS: When you approach, be
9 specific as to 19 what was it about.

10 MR. NELSON: To the RTAB, I think
11 that's the resolution about Mr. Branch.

12 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Yes, it is.

13 MR. NELSON: And -- and we -- it was
14 to our understanding that that did not have to come
15 to the Council for approval. The Mayor had to do
16 that within her own budget of bringing Mr. Branch
17 on. That was to our understanding.

18 So, we agreed that when we moved and
19 supported the Mayor on bringing him on board, to our
20 understanding we did not have to vote on that
21 resolution, because he was part of her staff. And
22 so we supported that. But we didn't -- no one
23 mentioned that we had to take a vote on that.

24 MEMBER FINNEY: Thank you.

25 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Any further

1 questions about the resolution? If not, those in
2 favor please say "aye."

3 (All ayes.)

4 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Opposed?

5 Resolution 19 is adopted.

6 Madam Mayor, did you have any items
7 that you wanted to bring to the attention of the
8 Board?

9 MAYOR WEAVER: I'm fine. I think my
10 City Administrator -- I'm sorry that I'm late.

11 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: It's quite all
12 right.

13 Next item is the Resolutions and one
14 ordinance from the regular City Council meeting of
15 March 28th. Let's begin with item 55, which is an
16 ordinance. Is there a motion to approve ordinance
17 55?

18 MEMBER FERGUSON: So moved.

19 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Is there support?

20 MEMBER TOWNSEND: Support.

21 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Any discussion
22 regarding ordinance 55? If not, those in favor
23 please say "aye."

24 (All ayes.)

25 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Opposed?

1 Ordinance 55 is adopted.

2 That leaves Resolutions 45, 46, 62
3 through 69 and 70. They are attachment four. Any
4 questions regarding those resolutions? Is there a
5 motion those resolutions be approved?

6 MEMBER FERGUSON: So moved.

7 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Is there support?

8 MEMBER TOWNSEND: Support.

9 MEMBER FINNEY: Mr. Chair, I have a
10 question.

11 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Yes.

12 MEMBER FINNEY: The same question as
13 before. Again, given the requests and to ensure
14 that there is participation between Council and the
15 City Administration, I'm just curious if the
16 administration is supportive of all of the
17 resolutions that are a part of what we're
18 considering in this group?

19 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Mayor, Mr. Jones?

20 MR. JONES: We're not opposed to any
21 of them. No, we don't oppose any of them.

22 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: You're not
23 opposed?

24 MR. JONES: No. No.

25 MEMBER FINNEY: Thank you.

1 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Questions on the
2 adoption of the motion? Those in favor please say
3 "aye."

4 (All ayes.)

5 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Opposed? Motion
6 is adopted.

7 Next item, City Administrator Items.
8 Mr. Jones?

9 MR. JONES: And I'm going to defer to
10 our finance director, Jody Lundquist.

11 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Ms. Lundquist.

12 MS. LUNDQUIST: Good afternoon.

13 Similar to each month that I come before you, the
14 RTAB reports have been submitted for your review. I
15 have before you both the revenue and expenditure
16 reports showing budget-to-actual activity through
17 February 29th, 2016, as well as the cash investment
18 accounts.

19 No extraordinary activity outside of
20 that which we have already reported. The trends
21 continue the same for the Water and Sewer Fund as we
22 continue to respond to the ongoing water crisis.
23 The budget so far through February 29th, expended
24 66.7 percent of the year, so we're -- as I said
25 before, we're looking down the furthest right-hand

1 column we are looking at percentage of activity
2 year-to-date, we would hope to see on the revenue
3 side that those numbers would exceed the 66.7
4 percent and expenditures would fall below. So that
5 would show that we're doing better on revenue than
6 we may have anticipated, and that we are performing
7 and managing costs below those that which have been
8 projected.

9 Revenues in the general fund obviously
10 based on the timing of collecting property taxes,
11 our front load, our revenues at the beginning of the
12 year showing substantially more activity through the
13 early months, July through September, than
14 throughout the rest of the year, as opposed to Water
15 and Sewer Funds which are billed on a monthly basis,
16 so revenue tends to be more consist than throughout
17 the year with the exception of summer months,
18 obviously it increases.

19 I have nothing further unless there
20 are any questions by the Board.

21 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Under the Water
22 Fund, there's an item that says gain on sale of
23 fixed assets. Could you explain what that is,
24 please.

25 MS. LUNDQUIST: So that would have

1 been the sale of equipment. If, for instance,
2 throughout the year we had sold trucks or other
3 heavy equipment that may be used by the Utility
4 Services Department, you might note -- sorry, let me
5 see where that -- year-to-date, I'll have to go
6 back, actually I do have that circled. This is in a
7 copy of my notes to find out if we have indeed sold
8 something at a loss. The Water and Sewer Funds, the
9 governmental funds are reported on an accrual basis,
10 we do report those gains and losses as such net
11 depreciation.

12 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Thank you.

13 MEMBER FINNEY: Just going forward,
14 could you include in your cover memo a summary of
15 any highlights from each one of the different budget
16 categories or funds, any highlights that you think
17 are significant that we should really pay attention
18 to?

19 MS. LUNDQUIST: Sure. Yes.
20 Absolutely. Thank you very much.

21 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Thank you.
22 Public Comment, Mr. Cline.

23 MR. CLINE: Yes. Good afternoon. We
24 have four individuals that signed up for public
25 comment. We'll begin with Eric Mays.

1 MR. MAYS: Good evening.

2 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Good afternoon,
3 Councilman.

4 MR. MAYS: I listened real close and I
5 attend these meetings. I guess April would have
6 been the year, I'm understanding, since the
7 emergency manager, whatever, might have left. It's
8 a year review I heard last meeting in April.

9 When you all came in, we had, I'm
10 going to call it a powwow with individuals. I know
11 I, as an individual, I was called in and I met with
12 you, Mr. Headen and some others. I would urge that
13 we do that process again prior to making a
14 recommendation. That's what I'm requesting at this
15 juncture, as we go through that year.

16 Also, the financial powers that was
17 referred to, that was put in place, I, too,
18 recommend that they go back to Finance Committee or
19 some committee, because they was done without the
20 input as far as from Councilman Mays from the
21 administration, I want to talk closer about that and
22 it wouldn't -- didn't show up on this meeting but it
23 was a resolution passed off the floor in the last
24 Council meeting.

25 And so I think we need some more

1 dialogue and your agenda gives us time to do that.
2 I hope that my colleagues take that posture. But as
3 you know, we operate of a body in most cases where
4 five votes rule, and so that's why I always, you
5 know, like to look at both sides. That's where I
6 can appreciate Mr. Finney, when you asked the
7 questions as to are our people communicating and
8 cooperating, because that has something, in my view,
9 how we deal with steering the ship in the future.

10 I know two Council people had met with
11 Mr. Bahr (ph). I guess Mr. Bahr or somebody is from
12 the Governor's office. And I wait for a report of
13 all of those communications. It was a letter sent
14 to the Governor asking him to -- Council people
15 could meet, in this case I think it was the
16 president and vice president, and I'm here to tell
17 you, when we have these type of meetings, I look
18 anxiously for my phone to ring as a Council person
19 and/or a report.

20 So that's why I'm asking that you meet
21 with us, because as we try to get this thing right
22 and get some information that you can digest, not
23 from Council leadership and majority, but from
24 Council minority as well.

25 And so, I would end by saying this:

1 It's a resolution, I don't know if it was in this
2 package, but it had to do with a \$21 million
3 investment of public hearing under the office of
4 rehabilitation, tax exemption certificate for the
5 Capitol Theatre. The resolution, I don't know if it
6 was in this package, had to do with a public
7 hearing. The majority voted not to hold a public
8 hearing, and the minority voted maybe to hold it,
9 but the minutes was changed in our last meeting,
10 because one Council person changed their vote after
11 the rotation, and made it four "no" and -- four
12 "yes" and five "no."

13 If the minutes is reflected right, and
14 you passed a resolution, it might be forthcoming
15 that now after the minutes is corrected, because we
16 got rules that talk about motion for
17 reconsideration, not changing your vote after the
18 rotation. I expect that that public hearing, if
19 nothing else happens, should happen to hold -- be
20 held on April 25th.

21 So I don't know if that is in here,
22 but if you approved that resolution, then I think in
23 reality, based upon correction of the minutes, that
24 will not be an issue.

25 So I still invite you as individuals

1 to sit in on the Council committee meeting or a
2 Council meeting as we hopefully have this powwow as
3 you get ready to make your recommendation. And I
4 thank you.

5 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Thank you.

6 MR. CLINE: Chris Del Morone.

7 MR. DEL MORONE: Thank you. My name
8 is Chris Del Morone and I live in Flint, Michigan.

9 You gentlemen are here because of the
10 financial status of the City, and I would think it
11 would be appropriate that whenever you meet, you
12 give the citizens, the City an update on that
13 status, whatever, we're losing money -- I hate
14 saying that -- making money. Because at some point
15 if the City is doing well, then you guys should step
16 away. But as residents, we don't know really the
17 status of the City right now. So I would think that
18 should be something that should be included in your
19 agenda every time you meet.

20 I heard mention of the Capitol Theatre
21 from the previous speaker, and you know, maybe,
22 maybe I say, tax breaks are good, but in the case of
23 the Capitol Theatre, I see no reason to do that.
24 Tax breaks might be good to pull businesses into our
25 community, but in the case of the Capitol Theatre,

1 the theatre, the building itself, is already here.
2 If we deny them a tax break, it's not like they're
3 going to move that building.

4 So at some point things need to stand
5 on their own, let me say, economics. And if it's
6 not good, then maybe it shouldn't happen. And if
7 it's good, then people should go ahead and without
8 the tax abatement. Again, there's a big difference
9 of giving, say, General Motors a tax break to bring
10 in a new facility, or any company, but in the case
11 of the Capitol Theatre, they're already here.
12 They're not going to go anywhere. That -- they're
13 not going to move that building to somewhere in the
14 outskirts of Genesee County or another community.
15 Thank you.

16 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Thank you.

17 MEMBER FINNEY: Mr. Chair, I just have
18 one comment, because both of the previous speakers
19 have raised concern related to the Capitol Theatre
20 projects. We had a Resolution number 47. That does
21 call for a public hearing, unless I'm
22 misunderstanding what we have in front of us.

23 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: I believe
24 Resolution 47 was not on our list because that was
25 defeated. That's the item you and I discussed

1 before?

2 MR. CLINE: I believe so, yes.

3 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: That appears in
4 two places in the minutes. But on page 5 of the
5 minutes, it was defeated by a vote of five to
6 four -- four to five. Four for "ayes" and five
7 "nos", and that's why it was not in our votes.

8 MEMBER FINNEY: Okay. Thank you.

9 MR. CLINE: All right. Next speaker
10 is AC Dumas.

11 MR. DUMAS: Good afternoon. My name
12 is AC Dumas, and I reside in the City of Flint. I
13 did speak with I think you gentlemen about a couple
14 things.

15 First item was that I think it's
16 important to have public input prior to you all
17 making decisions. Seems as though you making
18 decisions and public comments back and say "Hey, we
19 didn't like that", or maybe we can give you some
20 insight on the -- some decision you're making,
21 seeing we're not elected officials, the only dog we
22 have in this race is our welfare of the residents of
23 the City of Flint. Like I don't serve for the Mayor
24 or for the City Council.

25 So I would appreciate if perhaps we

1 can have -- speak on the agenda items first before
2 you vote and then you can have public comment again
3 afterwards. That's a suggestion.

4 But I do want to say that I invite you
5 also to come to the Council meeting. You know, the
6 Council -- I live in the Third Ward, Mr. Nelson's
7 Ward, and it's nonsense when you have to come to a
8 regular Council meeting and stay eight, nine hours,
9 getting out at 12 midnight, or 11:30, 11 p.m. All
10 this wrangling and, you know, it's just terrible.
11 Until the people, the citizens just get up and
12 leave. We can't given put in the public session
13 because, I mean, it's late. You know, some of
14 us -- some people have jobs. I -- fortunately I
15 don't have to go to work anymore. But we do have
16 other obligations.

17 So when I hear that, you know -- and
18 you can even hear the tone when the Council comes in
19 to speak before you, the leadership of the Council.
20 It's not as harmonious as you would say. And so, if
21 people want to -- "Let's go by the Charter", I would
22 ask that not only does the Council go by the
23 Charter, but also that the administration go by the
24 Charter. And I think the Charter is -- just needs a
25 little tweaking and -- and I can see now -- well,

1 I'm not going to say that -- but I ask you to
2 consider that, but don't -- just come in, sit in the
3 back. Maybe -- maybe they'll act better if you all
4 sit in the back and listen to this eight-hour
5 Council meetings that starts at 4:30. And Mr.
6 Townsend knows because he's experienced it before,
7 and the committee home rule, then it comes out here
8 so it's quarter to 12, midnight. Midnight. And
9 this is -- and people want their powers back. I
10 don't know. Maybe they should get some powers back,
11 but on the record I'm saying, I don't know. And I
12 do have an audience. I have a broadcast, a
13 well-listened to broadcast every Saturday morning,
14 well-listened to. And so, that's my outlet. That's
15 where I can say, but when you hear from the people,
16 it's not like roses, like what -- what they
17 projected it to be. Oh, it's just nice and sweet.
18 We need --" No. Uh-uh.

19 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Thank you.

20 MR. DAVIS: Thank you, RTAB and Board
21 for allowing us to speak today. But I want to make
22 a statement. I think under these critical and
23 crucial conditions that Flint is suffering from
24 right now --

25 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: I'm sorry, would

1 you please state your name.

2 MR. DAVIS: Councilman Wantwaz Davis,
3 Flint City Council.

4 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Thank you.

5 MR. DAVIS: I think under these
6 crucial and critical times that we are suffering
7 from in the City of Flint, emotions begin to get
8 intense. It's kind of difficult to try to
9 distinguish irrational behavior from rational
10 behavior when you get so many people ill-affected by
11 this water condition that we suffer from.

12 So if the meetings go eight to nine
13 hours and we're doing business -- now, I don't think
14 it should go that long, don't get me wrong, I don't
15 think it should go that long, but when we got
16 conditions that are somewhat confusing to a lot of
17 people, there's a lot of information that's not
18 being disclosed to Council, so when people come up
19 and they got questions and we don't have answers,
20 it's kind of difficult for us to be able to expound
21 on situations that we're not a part of.

22 And if we're going to talk about the
23 Charter, which is taking us into home rule, and we
24 want to act according to this Charter, then we
25 should be in home rule. You can't act off the

1 Charter, in theory, and build a city, in actuality
2 and factuality. We're not acting in the Charter.

3 And so what I'm asking for you to take
4 a consideration -- you gave the Mayor back her
5 power. Then Council should be able to act
6 accordingly and act for the people that elected us.
7 Because if we can't act in the manner people expect
8 us to act in, then it makes us a substandard council
9 or legislative body. We have to be at a point where
10 people can be assured that their interests is taken
11 to Council, and Council can be able to deal with
12 that interest in the manner that the Charter allows
13 us to deal with it. Because if we can't deal with
14 it in that manner and assure people ease of mind,
15 then where are we at? And this is the problem that
16 we suffer from. People come up, they say you guys
17 have no power, but then they invert responsibility
18 on us, and that inversion of that responsibility is
19 null and void because we can't act on that.

20 And so I ask -- in my conclusion, as I
21 implore you to please consider giving the Council
22 some power back, if not all of it back, so that we
23 can make decisions that's beneficial to the people,
24 because people in the Fifth Ward elected me, people
25 in the Third Ward elected other people, and people

1 in those Wards should be able to get a good answer.
2 People in that Ward should feel assured that our
3 responsibilities is at the forefront, because I
4 would feel kind of bad if I have to come up here and
5 talk to somebody who really can't help me. It's
6 like talking to your assistant, and your assistant
7 can't help me unless you're there. But the
8 responsibility that I've read is that your assistant
9 can help me. That's not -- I don't think that's
10 fair in government that we can't do what people
11 elected us to do. This is one of the biggest
12 problems we have with the State. It's not that we
13 don't feel that the State should be a part of
14 something, but at least in this situation we suffer
15 from right here, the State should allow us to be a
16 part of what the people want us to be a part of, and
17 that's bringing some form of corrections to the
18 problems that we suffer from and have some precise
19 answers instead of just fumbling all over the place,
20 because that's where we're at right now. I have to
21 be honest. We're fumbling because nobody as a body
22 -- I can speak for myself -- is not getting any
23 information. So when I go to -- if you're going to
24 ask me questions that I should be able to answer, I
25 don't make up a fictitious response, I just tell

1 them I don't know. I don't know.

2 So, we want to be in the know. And
3 the only way we can be fully in the know, if we are
4 afforded the responsibilities that the Charter
5 afford us. And so I conclude imploring you to
6 please consider that. Thank you very much.

7 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Thank you,
8 Councilman. I can assure you that we will take your
9 comments and those of your colleagues into
10 consideration. We will not, at least officially, be
11 taking any position if there's a conflict between
12 Mayor and her administration and City Council. We
13 expect all of you, as elected officials, to work
14 those conflicts out on your own. I can assure you
15 though that we will treat both the administration
16 and Council with professionalism and respect, listen
17 to your points of view, and where we think
18 appropriate, try to assist all of the elected
19 officials and the staff in working toward full local
20 control. We certainly appreciate your comments, and
21 as I said, we'll take those into consideration.

22 MR. DAVIS: Thank you very much, sir.
23 Thank you very much.

24 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Anyone else?

25 MR. CLINE: Yes, one last speaker.

1 Tony Palladino.

2 MR. PALLADINO: Thanks, guys. Tony
3 Palladino, east side of Flint, still struggling.

4 Last time I was here, I was like, "Why
5 are you guys still here?" I'm still asking that.
6 Why are you guys still here? Madam Mayor, she's got
7 some backbone. Although we may not all agree how
8 things are happening and what's not happening, I
9 think you guys need to be let loose, you go on and
10 do whatever else. I want to ask -- I'm embarrassed
11 as a resident because, see, this whole situation
12 what you all are forgetting about, Mayor, I got to
13 say this, your City Council is not respected because
14 they're not a City Council. You understand what I'm
15 saying? If I had a substitute teacher, I would act
16 up. And that's exactly what they are. I can ask
17 Eric something, he'll give me an answer, this one is
18 going to disagree. We were here until 12:30. Could
19 you guys bring us in some water and sandwiches. I'm
20 telling you, this is ridiculous. We're already
21 fighting on the streets. We're coming in to be
22 heard. I'm not here for no job. Have I asked you
23 for a job? Understand what I'm saying. I'm a
24 resident who's been fighting on the street and so is
25 -- my neighborhood is forgotten. There's money

1 falling in here that's not reaching the people. And
2 they're forgiving 400,000 for taxes, they're
3 freezing taxes, and I'm being pushed out of here.
4 Everybody around me is dead. I'm trying to tell you
5 guys, I couldn't go into Eric without having seven
6 people jumping on what he responded to.

7 Have you guys seen any of these
8 Council meetings? By the time we get up to speed,
9 I'm ten times louder than this. My voice is sore.
10 My Mayor's already left. The administration has
11 already left. The people that we need to speak to
12 are gone. But the main thing is we're here as
13 residents and we have no voice. We have no voice.
14 If you're not a business, a corporation, a
15 federation or whatever, foundation, we're nothing.
16 We are nothing but simple backstabbing taxpayers,
17 and we can't even do that. And you're pushing water
18 down our throats. When you go see Snyder (sic), tell
19 him we don't need you guys no more. I appreciate
20 talking to you, but you know what? I'd rather talk
21 to my Council, to my Mayor, to her administration,
22 to Wantwaz, to even Vicki, because these are the
23 people that we see every day. Take a look at here.
24 We can hardly even fill a Council chamber. We can
25 hardly get the people here, but when we do, we got

1 to listen to eight hours of conflict. And yes, some
2 of it is us doing it, you know what I'm saying? I'm
3 embarrassed. The other day we had some people in
4 here, I couldn't believe this, I said "You guys,
5 what are you doing?" I want you guys to hear me. I
6 know I'm out of time, but here's the deal. I've got
7 to go home now and deal with this water issue. I
8 got bags of hair. And, man, this water is not good
9 enough to drink, I don't care who's telling you
10 that, please don't repeat that. This water is
11 nasty. This pipe needs to be done. Forget the --
12 you know all this. Bring the pipes in. Let her do
13 her job. Let her administration work. Let the
14 residents have somebody to go to, to feel that we're
15 going to get something done. You guys to me are
16 like the teacher, and our Council, our City is like
17 subs. You got to go. I appreciate you listening to
18 me though. And he's right, come on in and take a
19 seat, just slide in. It is so embarrassing. And
20 there's a lot of knowledge up there that teaches us
21 that, hey, this is how things should be, but why we
22 have got to go 20 steps? I'm embarrassed. Thank
23 you.

24 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Thank you.

25 MS. VANBUREN: Sir, may I approach?

1 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Councilwoman,
2 yes, please.

3 MS. VANBUREN: Thank you very much. I
4 wasn't planning on speaking, but I think I need to
5 share the information with you.

6 My name is Vicki VanBuren. I'm the
7 vice president of Council. Yes, it's true, we've
8 had some long meetings, and many of us stay until
9 the end to give opportunity for exchange and try to
10 have an understanding are we doing the job we need
11 to do.

12 Many want to speak, and we want to
13 give them that opportunity. We could have maybe up
14 to 30 some people and we don't turn any of them
15 away. Some of them can't stay as long, you know,
16 because it is a long meeting, but there's two times
17 during our Council meetings that they're given
18 opportunity to speak. One is regarding items on the
19 agenda, and then later toward the end it's open to
20 anything that they would have concerns of.

21 As our job, as Council, each of us
22 represent somewhere about maybe 11-, 12,000
23 residents, we are trying to do the best we can.
24 This is the first time since the Mayor has been
25 elected that we've been given an opening to possibly

1 act on our responsibilities, because before that,
2 when the emergency manager was here, there was no
3 authority. It was either their way or forget it,
4 you know.

5 So a lot of things that were acted on
6 we had very little input on, and it didn't matter
7 what we said. Now we have an opportunity to be more
8 active in what goes on. We are all concerned about
9 this City, especially as a life-long resident, or
10 those who have been involved or made a commitment to
11 stay. If this does not get under some type of way
12 that we can help to manage, have input, have some
13 responsibilities, we might as well be prepared to
14 turn the keys over to you in December. The way that
15 we are hearing the budget, the monies are not there,
16 then monies are going to be taken from the general
17 fund and the monies that are in the general fund
18 will affect people's jobs, it will be enough to take
19 care of another month, and we are done. And we
20 don't like to give up. The budget is crucial and
21 that's something that Council can play a part in.
22 And I know that kind of what your role is to keep us
23 on the right track but by the time you get some of
24 this information, we have no time to react, and we
25 can't go back and then solve issues. There's monies

1 coming into the City. We hear it all the time in
2 the media, through the -- even the citizens that
3 attend "Where's the money going? We want to know.
4 Is it really going in the direction that it should
5 to help our community?" But if we have no -- no way
6 to check or to gather that information, then it's
7 almost like why are you here? Maybe like they say
8 for you to watch Council, Channel 17 carries those
9 meetings on Comcast, and -- where you can see. And
10 yes, it's not easy to be here. You know, some of
11 them have other responsibilities. I know for myself
12 as being one of the older ones on the Council. I
13 suffer the next day because of the time, and I don't
14 like having to leave. I mean, I try to stick it out
15 to the end, you know, but you need to hear the
16 people and we need to do for the people. So I hope
17 somehow we'll be given the ability to do that,
18 otherwise, the State will have the City of Flint by
19 the end of the year. Thank you.

20 MR. PALLADINO: We don't want that.

21 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Thank you.

22 Further public comment?

23 MR. CLINE: No.

24 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: We have a motion
25 to adjourn. Before I entertain a second, I just

1 want to make two comments. One is Councilman Mays
2 talked about the one-year RTAB review. I expect
3 staff will be starting that within perhaps the next
4 two months or so. And I expect as part of that
5 process, among others, that all nine Council members
6 will be interviewed to have an opportunity to
7 provide comments of the sort you're referring to.

8 As to Mr. Palladino's question about
9 why are we still here, my answer to your question is
10 because it's not yet time to leave. This City has
11 been under emergency management on two occasions
12 now, 2002 to 2004, and 2011, November 2011 until
13 this past April. I was involved in facilitating
14 both of those, and I don't want to be involved in a
15 third one. I don't expect the RTAB will be around
16 any longer than necessary, but that means also not
17 leaving prematurely. I want to make sure that when
18 we leave this time, that the City has all the tools
19 it needs to succeed on its own and that there's no
20 need, at least in the rest of my professional
21 career, for the State to intervene in the City's
22 business again, and so the elected officials can run
23 the City. And as soon as we make the collective
24 assessment that that time is appropriate, I can
25 assure you we will probably make a recommendation to

1 the Governor that the receivership should be
2 terminated because financial conditions are on a
3 solid footing and the City can proceed on its own.

4 So that's my response to your
5 question. But, feel free to continue to ask it at
6 each meeting.

7 MR. PALLADINO: I'm going to.

8 MEMBER FINNEY: Mr. Chair, I have a
9 couple thoughts I want to share as well.

10 First of all, I'm very encouraged by
11 the level of dialogue that at least we get from this
12 meeting from the various citizen that come, and
13 obviously there are faces that appear at every
14 single meeting, and within my tenure here on the
15 RTAB, which has been fairly brief, we've not had to
16 reject anything that has come from the City
17 administration or from the City Council as a
18 resolution. And that's very encouraging to me,
19 because as much as it may be challenging to stay up
20 late at night and to argue, you know, I only wish
21 that all families would argue as much because
22 there's a process that we normally go through and I
23 just think that given where the City has been, that
24 process is what we're going through right now of
25 figuring out how to work and how to work

1 effectively. And from my vantage point, as a member
2 of the RTAB, I actually see information coming
3 forward where there is clear support from both the
4 administration and the City Council, at least for
5 our consideration. Things that have not come to us
6 and that you're still debating, you know, that's
7 your purview to have at it and hopefully those
8 things get resolved so that when they come to us,
9 it's in a unified voice. And to me that's -- that's
10 why I would just encourage you to continue doing.
11 That is where -- the signal that it's time for the
12 RTAB to move on, and so that we can actually get,
13 you know, things done like budgets and other things
14 where everybody is on board and everybody had an
15 opportunity to participate.

16 And I think that's the process that
17 you're going through. It's very encouraging to me,
18 in spite of the fact that you think we should --
19 some of the folks think we should leave immediately,
20 others don't, and the fact that there are ongoing
21 issues, I'm encouraged that we're making very good
22 progress, all things considered.

23 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Motion is pending
24 to adjourn. Is there support?

25 MEMBER FERGUSON: Support.

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CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: I believe you
made the motion.

MEMBER FINNEY: Support.

CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Without
objection, we're adjourned.

(Meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Quentina Rochelle Snowden, do hereby certify that I have recorded stenographically the proceedings had and public comment taken in the meeting, at the time and place hereinbefore set forth, and I do further certify that the foregoing transcript, consisting of (38) pages, is a true and correct transcript of my said stenographic notes.

Dated: April 19, 2016



Quentina R. Snowden

Quentina R. Snowden, CSR-5519

Notary Public, Genesee County, Michigan

My commission expires: 1/4/2018