

City of Hamtramck

Receivership Transition Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 27, 2017

Hamtramck City Hall

Council Chambers - 2nd floor

3401 Evaline

Hamtramck, Michigan 48212

RTAB MEMBERS PRESENT:

DEBORAH ROBERTS
KAREN YOUNG
PETER McINERNEY
MARK STEMA
AL BOGDAN

ALSO PRESENT:

PATRICK DOSTINE
Michigan Department of Treasury

Reported by:
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1 **Tuesday, June 27, 2017**

2 **Called to order at 1:00 p.m.**

3 *** * * * ***

4 MS. ROBERTS: It is 1:00 on Tuesday, June 27th,
5 and I will call Receivership Transition Advisory Board
6 meeting to order for the City of Hamtramck.

7 Mr. Dostine, will you take roll, please?

8 MR. DOSTINE: Peter McInerney.

9 MR. McINERNEY: Here.

10 MR. DOSTINE: Al Bogdan.

11 MR. BOGDAN: Here.

12 MR. DOSTINE: Karen Young.

13 MS. YOUNG: Present.

14 MR. DOSTINE: Mark Stema.

15 MR. STEMA: Present.

16 MR. DOSTINE: Deborah Roberts.

17 MS. ROBERTS: Here.

18 MR. DOSTINE: You have a quorum, Madam Chair.

19 MS. ROBERTS: Thank you.

20 As a reminder to the public, if anyone would
21 like to speak, they need to sign up at the podium. And
22 just as a reminder for public comment, everyone has two
23 minutes to speak that has signed up. Only the person with
24 the floor is allowed to speak. There is to be no cheering
25 or jeering from the audience. This is not a question and

1 answer session. Do not ask questions expecting answers.
2 And remarks should be limited to items on the agenda.

3 Mr. Dostine, has anyone signed up for public
4 comment?

5 MR. DOSTINE: So we'll just proceed. There's a
6 lot of --

7 MR. STEMA: Yeah. I think that's what you got
8 to do because everybody's allowed to speak.

9 MS. ROBERTS: Yeah.

10 MR. STEMA: If anybody wasn't able to sign up,
11 we can call --

12 MR. DOSTINE: Okay.

13 MS. ROBERTS: Can we set it at the end of the
14 table so that we can have the speakers --

15 MR. DOSTINE: Okay. Good idea.

16 Ma'am, can we move this here?

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Sure.

18 MR. DOSTINE: Because we'd like to start public
19 comment period.

20 MR. McINERNEY: Did you want her to take it in
21 the hallway?

22 MR. DOSTINE: Yeah, that might even work better.

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Perfect.

24 MR. DOSTINE: Okay. There's several requests,
25 Madam Chair. I'll start at the top. Mr. Bob Zwolak.

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MR. ZWOLAK: Good afternoon.

THE BOARD: Good afternoon.

MR. ZWOLAK: A couple items on the agenda I can address. One of them is the Resolution appointing Mr. Tertzag as the interim city manager. My only concern is, and it's been four years since Mr. Tertzag has been employed with the City of Hamtramck, I had worked with him in the past. I'm familiar with Mr. Tertzag. But my concern is whether or not there has been a background check in light of the four years for a psychological test and/or the gentleman is also not in default to the City of Hamtramck. Those would be my concerns and I think would be your concerns also.

I am making a recommendation and I have for the past couple of weeks now, I am making a strong recommendation that the TAB Board advise Ms. Powell, our city manager, to restore Mr. John Gabor, who is on administrative leave, as treasurer and deputy city manager, and also allowing his contract to be extended for another four to six months. I suggest that because I know, in speaking with Mr. Gabor, that he is available for that period of time, and also gives the city an opportunity to continue the search for a city manager. Mr. Gabor has been here for the past two-and-a-half years. He's very familiar with the operations, and you're

1 familiar with Mr. Gabor as a treasurer. He's made
2 presentations here in the past. I think he's a capable
3 individual to handle this interim situation for the next
4 four months. We have a critical administrative problem.
5 I've mentioned before we're up to about seven now key
6 department heads and administrators that are either --
7 have either exited Hamtramck or in process of leaving
8 Hamtramck. So that will continue, that will create the
9 continued problem we have administratively come July the
10 1st.

11 So my recommendation is to advise Ms. Powell to
12 restore Mr. Gabor and extend his contract for another four
13 or five months. Thank you very much.

14 MS. ROBERTS: Thank you, Mr. Zwolak.

15 MR. DOSTINE: The next name --

16 MS. ROBERTS: Wait, wait. I'm going to -- I
17 skipped two items on the agenda, approving the agenda and
18 approving RTAB minutes.

19 MR. DOSTINE: Okay.

20 MS. ROBERTS: So I'm going to stop public
21 comment for just a second, and I'm going to go back to
22 this.

23 So, I would entertain a motion to approve the
24 agenda as presented.

25 MR. STEMA: Motion to approve.

1 MS. YOUNG: Second.

2 MS. ROBERTS: Any discussion?

3 (No response.)

4 MS. ROBERTS: Seeing none, all those in favor
5 say aye.

6 MS. YOUNG: Aye.

7 MR. STEMA: Aye.

8 MR. BOGDAN: Aye.

9 MR. McINERNEY: Aye.

10 MS. ROBERTS: Aye.

11 Opposed the same.

12 (No response.)

13 MS. ROBERTS: Motion carries.

14 Next on the agenda is the approval of the RTAB
15 minutes from the May 23rd, 2017 regular meeting. I would
16 entertain a motion to approve the May 23rd, 2017 meeting
17 minutes as presented.

18 MS. YOUNG: Motion to approve.

19 MR. McINERNEY: Support.

20 MS. ROBERTS: Any discussion?

21 (No response.)

22 MS. ROBERTS: Seeing none, all those in favor
23 say aye.

24 MS. YOUNG: Aye.

25 MR. STEMA: Aye.

1 MR. McINERNEY: Aye.

2 MS. ROBERTS: Aye.

3 Opposed the same.

4 MR. BOGDAN: I abstain.

5 MS. ROBERTS: Okay.

6 MR. BOGDAN: I wasn't here.

7 MS. ROBERTS: Okay. Motion carries.

8 Now we can continue with public comment.

9 MR. DOSTINE: Okay. The next request is from
10 Ms. Andrea Karpinsky.

11 MS. KARPINSKY: Good afternoon.

12 MS. ROBERTS: Good afternoon.

13 MS. KARPINSKY: I have a couple of concerns.
14 Council passed during the special meeting on May 12th
15 Resolution 2017-37. The third point in that Resolution
16 states to instruct the HR director to provide all résumés
17 of candidates possessing charter mandated qualifications.
18 However, it did not pass Resolution 2017-47 on June 13th
19 to award a contract to GovHR to provide a city manager
20 search, and then proceeded to pass Resolution 2017-49
21 appointing Kyle Tertzag as interim city manager. Four
22 members of the council voted for this Resolution. No
23 résumé or background information was provided to the
24 remaining two members of council or the mayor so that we
25 could make an informed decision on the hiring of Mr.

1 Tertzag. We were forced to search the internet for
2 information on the candidate, which didn't produce many
3 perspective results.

4 Mr. Tertzag informed the council that he hadn't
5 added any work experience or education during the time he
6 was let go from the city and now, and I don't believe --
7 I'm sorry -- I don't believe he was qualified at the time
8 he was appointed in 2013, and therefore would still not be
9 a qualified candidate, going back to Resolution 2017-37
10 where the Resolution requested a qualified candidate be
11 searched out. So based on the information that was
12 provided to us by members of council who went along with
13 the Resolution for Tertzag, we were not provided a résumé.

14 While I don't know if it is possible to extend
15 the contract of Ms. Powell until a qualified permanent
16 candidate can be found, that would be my choice. Ms.
17 Powell has proven to do well for the City of Hamtramck and
18 get us in a positive place as a city as a whole. If this
19 option is not possible, I would request that the RTAB
20 appoint a qualified candidate based on charter
21 qualifications as I believe the city council is not
22 capable of making an informed and smart decision on this
23 matter as we are all divided on decisions in the last
24 year.

25 In addition, the four members of city council

1 voted to postpone voting on the Firefighter Local 750
2 contract, again voting foolishly. Their reasoning was --
3 MR. DOSTINE: Madam Councilwoman?
4 Your two minutes is up.
5 MS. KARPINSKY: I thought it was three minutes.
6 MR. DOSTINE: Two minutes.
7 MR. STEMA: Two minutes.
8 MS. ROBERTS: Two minutes. Sorry.
9 MS. KARPINSKY: Okay.
10 MS. ROBERTS: Thank you.
11 MR. DOSTINE: I mean, given the long list.
12 Madam Chair, the next request, Tia -- how do you
13 say your last name?
14 MS. KRAWCZYK: Krawczyk.
15 MR. DOSTINE: Krawczyk. Thank you.
16 MS. KRAWCZYK: I'll just be very, very quick.
17 If somebody wants the rest -- if you want the rest of my
18 time --
19 MS. KARPINSKY: No, it's okay. Somebody else
20 will finish my statement.
21 MS. KRAWCZYK: -- this is just going to take 20
22 seconds.
23 I just wanted to bring up -- sorry, I'm nervous
24 -- the power to rescind or amend any order issued by the
25 Emergency Manager shall rest solely with the Board and

1 approval by the treasurer.

2 I just want to say, none of us attend all these
3 meetings where the Emergency -- and I'm curious if the
4 Emergency Manager's orders were rescinded because I
5 counted 12 violations placed before this Board. This
6 community requested emergency management, accepted these
7 orders, and we just want them enforced, and I think a lot
8 of people feel the same and that's why we're all here. So
9 that's it. Thank you.

10 MS. ROBERTS: Thank you.

11 MR. DOSTINE: Next request, Bill, is it Meyer?

12 MR. MEYER: Yeah.

13 Hi, my name is Bill Meyer. I am the chair of
14 ONE Hamtramck organization, formerly with the Human
15 Relations Commission and also one of the founders of the
16 revised NAACP of Hamtramck. Our concerns are mostly
17 addressing issues of discrimination, racism, and justice
18 in the city. We're having a forum this Friday on the
19 emergency management system. I'd like to encourage all
20 residents to attend. We have Curt Guyette, a prominent
21 authority on the subject matter, speaking about that issue
22 and the non-democratic process.

23 What I'm here to do is simply to support the
24 vote of the majority of the council, which is a democratic
25 vote, and unfortunately people who aren't in the minority

1 didn't like that vote. The council is split, the city is
2 split, we know that; it's split in many ways, not only
3 politically, historically, racially, every way you could
4 think. We have problems to overcome, and the best way to
5 overcome it is to acknowledge the fact that we should have
6 public power back in the hands of the elected public
7 officials. We thank you for doing your job in the
8 interim, but I support the decision of the majority of the
9 council because that's the way you vote, and when they
10 voted to not renew the contract for the city manager, and
11 you accepted that back in February as far as I know, so I
12 don't think there should be any question about that.

13 As far as the interim city manager, that issue
14 was voted on also at the last council meeting by the
15 majority. There's no -- there's a lack of communication
16 between the council persons, which is nothing new in
17 Hamtramck, but now it's unfortunately divided in different
18 ways, and we won't want to talk about that and hope we
19 don't have to talk about those issues.

20 Thank you for your time.

21 MR. DOSTINE: Carrie Beth Lasley.

22 MS. LASLEY: Good afternoon.

23 MS. ROBERTS: The microphone is not on, so if
24 you guys want to push it out the way.

25 MS. LASLEY: Oh.

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MS. ROBERTS: I see you going up and down --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Can you guys turn it on?

MS. LASLEY: That is off.

Good afternoon. My name is Carrie Beth Lasley. I'm a zoning administer in this community. I've been here once before when I was just appointed and the qualifications of somebody being posted there and believe it was cronyism, and I think that this is no different, but I'd rather specifically talk about the violation of Order 4(b)(8) of the Emergency Manager's orders, which indicates that Katrina Powell as city manager is as designated as a person who will negotiate any collective bargaining agreement between the city and city employees and authorized representatives. This is what she did on -- before the council on 6/13/17, but our council said that four days was not long enough to read this; that they needed longer than two more weeks; they needed a full month to review this particular item. They also said they did not want to vote on it because they had not directed Ms. Powell to make this kind of negotiation. And my understanding is that the EM Order directs her to, and directs her to do all of these negotiations within five years. So why she needs the council's permission? I'm confused as to how the orders are reading.

That's all that I have. And I'm deeply

1 concerned about the lack of qualifications from the person
2 who is being appointed.

3 MS. ROBERTS: Thank you.

4 MR. DOSTINE: Sarah Ternin (sic).

5 MS. TERRIEN: Terrien?

6 MR. DOSTINE: Terrien. Sorry.

7 MS. TERRIEN: Hello. My name is Sarah Terrien.
8 I'm a Hamtramck recycling commission member. I'm here to
9 talk about Order 4(c)(6) from the Emergency Manager law
10 which states that the mayor, the city manager, and city
11 council shall do all of the following, including carefully
12 considering the advice provided by the city attorney. An
13 emergency session of council held on 5/12/17, Mayor Pro
14 Tem Miah called for a roll call despite being informed by
15 the city attorney that he was required to hear his legal
16 opinion before proceeding. Miah said, and I quote, "I
17 don't care. Roll call." On the emergency session council
18 had on 6 -- held on 6/14/17, the city attorney had
19 resigned and was unable to render his opinion.

20 MR. DOSTINE: Saad Alasmari.

21 MS. ALMASMARI: Hello. Good afternoon. My name
22 is Saad Alasmari. I'm a council member of Hamtramck.
23 And I'm going to talk about two items.

24 The first item is the city manager. We have
25 worked -- I have personally worked very close to the

1 current city manager, Katrina Powell, and unfortunately I
2 found her not the right person to be in Hamtramck.
3 Hamtramck is a diversity town and I think it's the best
4 diversity town in Michigan, so we want to keep it as is
5 and we don't want no dictatorship in Hamtramck.

6 Katrina Powell, after she brought her extension
7 negotiation resolution to us, we voted down that, and,
8 because we know her. Since that day, which was February
9 12th, she started using her power for her own personal
10 thing.

11 Now she's using the fire department against the
12 council because they voted not to extend her contract.
13 She's using some of the council against the council just
14 for her own personal thing. I think the local government
15 decides to take a different way with Katrina Powell, and
16 they decided not to extend her contract. That's a local
17 decision. If the RTAB board meeting decide -- RTAB Board
18 decides to take something else, definitely they will own
19 their own responsibility of this town. That's the first
20 item.

21 The second item is the search company for the
22 new city manager, it took her about four months to bring
23 it to us. She was taking advantage of time. She brought
24 it to us last meeting, last council meeting. During that
25 council meeting session I told her, "Where's the

1 contract?" It was not attached to the resolution. How
2 can I approve a contract or award a contract with somebody
3 and I don't see the contract? She said, "Oh, okay; I'm
4 going to go print it right now." Somebody went there and
5 printed and they gave it to me 12 minutes before I take
6 the decision about it. That's why I voted no, because I
7 need more time to read. And I doubt anything Katrina does
8 after we decide not to extend the contract. Thank you.

9 MS. ROBERTS: Thank you.

10 MR. DOSTINE: Mark Hausner.

11 MR. HAUSNER: Good afternoon. How are you?

12 I've grown up in Hamtramck. Just to give you a
13 short little history, owned several businesses in
14 Hamtramck and continue today. I'm also an attorney. And
15 my main reason I'm here is I just want process to be
16 followed. That's why there's laws, that's why there are
17 processes, and continually I'm on the Downtown Development
18 Authority and the Zoning Board, and the Zoning Board, we
19 just went through something two months ago where I believe
20 Melanie recommended some new candidates to be
21 commissioners. Those recommendations were tossed aside.
22 The gentleman that didn't show up for three years was once
23 again put back onto the commission, and that was
24 overturned by you guys. And I think that falls under
25 Section 4(a)(18) of the Emergency Manager's orders where

1 you are to confirm in a timely manner the appointment or
2 reappointment of qualified individuals to boards and
3 commissions, including the city council as terms expire or
4 vacancies arise. You guys stepped in when this was done,
5 in my opinion, I'm not even sure why it's done; I'm not
6 throwing out words or pointing fingers, but I just want
7 process. Hamtramck has been taken over by the state two
8 times, and it seems like we're on the verge of number
9 three. And it's just ridiculous. There's a process.

10 The city council, all they have to do is approve
11 this contract to search out a qualified person and once
12 they're found, then they can vote on who should be the
13 city council based on qualifications. As a resident,
14 that's all I ask for. I want to know who these people are
15 coming into the city. Whether they like the current city
16 manager, I know who she is based upon her employment
17 records, based upon the information we were given. That's
18 all I ask about. She's qualified, she was hired by the
19 state, we move forward. Same process should be in place
20 now; not this last minute finagling. I don't even know
21 what's going on behind the scenes, but it's just not the
22 proper way to treat the residents and business people of
23 Hamtramck. Thank you.

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Very well said.

25 MR. DOSTINE: Next request comes from Anam Miah.

1 MR. MIAH: Madam Chair, I ask, do you want me to
2 wait or? Because it might take a little bit more than two
3 minutes what I have to say.

4 MS. ROBERTS: You have two minutes.

5 MR. DOSTINE: You have two minutes, sir.

6 MR. MIAH: All right. This council asked for a
7 statement, and I'm going to try to summarize on the points
8 I want to make clear.

9 This council asked for state assistance in 2012
10 and 2013 largely because of state revenue sharing,
11 bottoming out property taxes, and a multitude of other
12 issues that was not only Hamtramck, but other communities
13 was dealing with.

14 I can find fault in many, many decisions that
15 was made by mayor and council in previous -- and council
16 and mayors, but that's not why we're here, and I don't
17 blame them, nor should you. When the State Treasurer
18 Dillon met with all of us on eve of Governor's declaration
19 of financial emergency, blame was far distinct from our
20 minds as well. He was committed to us that the period of
21 state supervision was short -- would be short and swift.
22 We all agreed what needed to happen in the reformation
23 primarily was on labor agreements and the contracts that
24 the Emergency Manager would be able to fix and right size
25 for our communities.

1 Move forward. I came to support Kyle Tertzag's
2 appointment as interim city manager. Just to give you a
3 timeline on his experience, he was previously served 22
4 months in Woodhaven from December 2009 to September 2011,
5 and 14 months in Hamtramck from August 2012 to September
6 2013. He's a member of APSA and MME. In addition, Mr.
7 Tertzag has performed admirably in his position before.
8 Any talk about his qualification cannot obscure this fact.
9 This Board has the word of our mayor written in --

10 MR. DOSTINE: That concludes your two minutes,
11 sir.

12 MR. MIAH: That's it?

13 MR. DOSTINE: Yeah.

14 MR. MIAH: All right, thank you.

15 MR. DOSTINE: Everybody gets two minutes.

16 The next request, Stanley Bankley or Buckley.

17 MR. BUNKLEY: Bunkley. Yeah.

18 MR. DOSTINE: Bunkley.

19 MR. BUNKLEY: Hello. My name is Stanley
20 Bunkley. I'm a current resident of Hamtramck. I was born
21 and raised here actually. Moved back here under the
22 lawsuit that was brought against Hamtramck. I'm here to
23 urge you to stop the racist attacks on the residents that
24 moved back here in those housings with the tax increases.
25 Some have doubled. I live in the building, a condo

1 building off Mitchell. Seven resident, all closely built
2 the same time, moved in the same time, and we got
3 different tax rates; that makes no sense. We all moved in
4 the same time, they were built the same time. Should be
5 the same rate. It's one across the street, different
6 rates than ours. One down the street, different rates.

7 I understand there's been a stay on the tax
8 thing. Guy said he, because we were new to the city he
9 went in and redid them because the guy before him didn't
10 know what he was doing. I agree with the person before
11 me, it's a mess going on here, people -- things that
12 happened at the last minute. You need to stop this. For
13 people to come to Hamtramck and stay here, this stuff
14 needs to stop. And this racist attack needs to stop also.

15 Now, I'm currently active with the historical
16 commission. I'm active with cleaning the city. I'm
17 active with a lot of things in the city, and I want to
18 continue to be active, keeping the city safe, and -- but
19 this stuff just going on needs to stop. And number one,
20 you need to back off this attack on the new residents. It
21 makes no sense. When the black people move back, because
22 of a lawsuit, and you're going to have another lawsuit if
23 continues. And it's going to get ugly. And why is it
24 only against our new housing? Why not the other new
25 housing in the city?

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Thank you.

MS. ROBERTS: Thank you.

MR. DOSTINE: Michelle Pearson.

MS. PEARSON: Hello. I'm Michelle Pearson. I'm a resident of Hamtramck and a business owner.

I'm here to speak on the Section 4(8)(a) sic of the Emergency City Manager's orders. Review and recommend approval of the board of proposed collective bargaining agreements as submitted by the city manager, subject to the limitations on collective bargaining under MCL 141.1567 Section 3.

One reason stated in the regular city council meeting on June 13th, 2017 for postponing the approval of the fire department contract was the city manager negotiated the contract without direction of the council. Also, that more time was needed for review to determine if -- if they would pass it. Review of the contract was delayed for two meetings, or one month. As the order is written, the negotiated contract is merely up for approval, not direction, discussion, or postponement or rejection.

MR. DOSTINE: Michael Barnhart.

MR. BARNHART: Good afternoon. Michael Barnhart. I'm the attorney for the Plaintiffs in this longstanding urban renewal lawsuit in Hamtramck. And what

1 I wanted to comment on was what has occurred in the last
2 one year period.

3 Last summer the summer taxes were effectively
4 doubled by doubling the rate for 2016 and then back
5 picking up 2015, and that impacted primarily Plaintiffs
6 from the lawsuit were able after a long time, I mean this
7 urban renewal occurred in the late sixties, and these
8 people have been waiting for this housing this period of
9 time, they all qualified for the housing. It had to be
10 affordable. They were screened to make sure they could
11 afford it; that they could pay the taxes, pay the
12 insurance. And then the taxes are doubled. And the
13 result has been a huge amount of fear, absolute terror
14 frankly, of people who are on the edge, know they're
15 heading toward foreclosure.

16 Now, in July of last year when this was done,
17 there were a lot of protests by the Plaintiffs to these
18 tax increases because they knew what was coming. The city
19 council and the mayor said, "Wait a minute; we've got to
20 discuss this. We've got to work on it further. We don't
21 want to do this; it could end up with foreclosure," which
22 is exactly where it's going. The city manager insisted on
23 proceeding, and did proceed. And a lot of people were
24 hurt in that process. We now have an interim order from
25 the Federal Court, and I'm confident will straighten this

1 thing out either through negotiation or more likely
2 through further orders of the Federal Court. You can't
3 allow people to be put out of the houses they've waited
4 this long to get. And that says something to me about the
5 city manager.

6 MR. DOSTINE: That concludes your time, Mr.
7 Barnhart.

8 MR. BARNHART: Thank you.

9 MS. ROBERTS: Thank you.

10 MR. DOSTINE: You're welcome.

11 Ian Perrotta.

12 MR. PERROTTA: Thank you for the opportunity to
13 speak. Please excuse the speed.

14 EM file directive 4(a)(12) says that the city
15 council meeting agenda packets must be posted on the
16 city's website no less than 24 hours prior to each
17 meeting. Nothing was provided in advance other than the
18 topic to be discussed. No resolution or supporting
19 documents were shared. There was not a proper agenda
20 provided, nor were copies of the resolution made available
21 -- readily available to members of council and the public
22 until the beginning of the meeting.

23 There are a few major concerns I have with
24 council's appointment of Mr. Tertzag as interim city
25 manager. I do not know Mr. Tertzag and I do not make

1 these remarks to disparage him in any way, but there are a
2 few things about his selection that I find troublesome.

3 The meeting left a lot of questions, and while I
4 don't know the answers, I think they likely point to a
5 collusion and violation of the Open Meetings Act. Why
6 would the majority of council suddenly and simultaneously
7 decide to not go forward with hiring a search firm for a
8 new city manager? Why would they approve a city manager
9 who has faults similar to the current one they are trying
10 to replace? Why would they be willing to entertain the
11 idea of hiring a person who approved spending 31 million
12 dollars without voter approval on a project that
13 ultimately sent his city into receivership? Why would
14 they be willing to approve a contract for a person whose
15 name was only brought up 21 hours prior, and whose résumé
16 and credentials still have not been seen? And why would
17 the council members who balk at hiring a search firm
18 because they hadn't read the contract be willing to hire a
19 city manager without even seeing his contract?

20 The first time I saw the contract was yesterday
21 after the RTAB meeting minutes were posted. I don't know
22 the answers to these questions, but they are troubling.

23 At the meeting I voiced my concern about the
24 circumstances surrounding this issue. I was also given a
25 chance to ask Mr. Tertzag a few questions. In doing so, I

1 learned that he has not worked as city manager since 2013,
2 and has also not participated in any continuing education
3 or other courses that are relevant to the job of city
4 manager. Mr. Tertzag also does not possess any advanced
5 degrees. Mr. Tertzag admitted that the job of city
6 manager is dynamic and changes with time, technology,
7 social issues, and laws, but since his last city manager
8 position he has worked as a private consultant and disc
9 jockey and not in government.

10 I say this to you because I believe the actions
11 of the majority of council do not reflect the will of the
12 people. About a dozen residents voiced their disapproval
13 of the hiring decision. One resident was in favor of it.
14 But more importantly it does not reflect sound governance.
15 The decisions are being made behind closed doors and
16 without logical basis. I think it was irresponsible of
17 the council to approve his hire, and I think it would be
18 irresponsible of the RTAB to do the same. This decision
19 will have repercussions for years and should not have been
20 made in hours.

21 Tax, titles, and license extra.

22 MR. DOSTINE: Impressive.

23 MS. ROBERTS: Fastest, clearest I have ever
24 heard.

25 MR. DOSTINE: Next request comes from Tom Dunne.

1 MR. GABOR: Good afternoon, RTAB and citizens.
2 John Gabor.
3 MS. ROBERTS: Tom -- didn't you say Tom Dunne?
4 MR. DOSTINE: Yeah, Tom Dunne.
5 MR. GABOR: I'm sorry. I thought you said John.
6 MR. DOSTINE: No, no, no.
7 MS. ROBERTS: That's okay.
8 MR. GABOR: I know I was real close to --
9 MR. DOSTINE: But you're next if he's not here.
10 Okay. Ready?
11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Oh, he's coming.
12 MR. DUNNE: I'm coming.
13 So the microphone does not work I hear?
14 MS. ROBERTS: The -- well, it could work, but we
15 don't --
16 MR. DUNNE: Okay, it's all right.
17 MS. ROBERTS: It's a small enough room.
18 MR. DUNNE: Okay. All right. I'll be quick.
19 My name is Tom Dunne. I've actually -- I'm here to
20 support Kyle Tertzag. I've actually known him for 45
21 years. I'm giving away my age now. But the whole time
22 I've known him, he's always shown integrity and always
23 done the right thing, so I just wanted to pass that on to
24 you guys, and that's my comment for today. All right.
25 MS. ROBERTS: Thank you.

1 MR. DUNNE: Thank you.

2 MR. DOSTINE: John Gabor.

3 MR. GABOR: Now it's -- sorry about that.

4 MR. DOSTINE: That's all right.

5 MR. GABOR: Good afternoon.

6 MS. ROBERTS: You'll have to change your name.

7 MR. GABOR: No, I didn't change my name. John
8 Gabor, deputy city manager and treasurer at the City of
9 Hamtramck.

10 First of all, I just wanted to take this
11 opportunity to thank the Board and the citizens of
12 Hamtramck for the last two-and-a-half years that I've had
13 to serve at Hamtramck. It's been an exciting time. We've
14 accomplished quite a bit, both in the area of pensions and
15 with regards to basic infrastructure that really needed
16 some updating within the city to smooth things out.

17 I'm not -- I don't have a long prepared speech
18 other than I just wanted to thank, again, the citizens of
19 Hamtramck and this Board.

20 The only other thing I would offer up is I know
21 the city's in a lot of turmoil right now, and I would
22 offer anywhere from three to four months to help through
23 the transition if that would fit into whatever the next
24 steps are within the City of Hamtramck.

25 With that, thank you.

1 MS. ROBERTS: Thank you.

2 MR. DOSTINE: Rachel Srodek.

3 MS. SRODEK: Hi, my name is Rachel Srodek. I'm
4 a 31 year resident of this city. I was born and raised
5 here. My concerns today for you are that I think you guys
6 should really not approve the appointment of Kyle Tertzag
7 as your -- as our city manager, and to extend Ms. Powell's
8 contract as either just interim or what it needs to be,
9 but she's been doing a great job where our city is in a
10 surplus of funds. We were in a huge deficit when she
11 first came here, so I would hope that the Board makes a
12 very good decision today.

13 And also it's to my understanding that the
14 council has no play in contract negotiations or anything.
15 The two parties, the fire department and Ms. Powell sat
16 down for months on end and came to an agreement on a
17 contract, and our council denied it. They, in that same
18 meeting they chose to approve the AFSCME contract but
19 denied our firemen their contract as they said that they
20 needed more time to read the contract. Well, four days
21 must not have been enough to read it. I get it, everyone
22 has lives, but four days should be plenty of time to read
23 through a contract and understand what is going on.

24 They said they had time to read the AFSCME
25 contract, but I highly doubt they did, and they just

1 approved it on a whim that they were going to just approve
2 it. I think they have some ulterior motives with our fire
3 department and our police department. It's in the orders
4 that it needs to be done, contracts need to be approved,
5 and it -- Ms. Powell is just following the EM's orders.

6 Perfect.

7 MR. DOSTINE: That concludes your time.

8 The next request, Karen Majewski.

9 MS. MAJEWSKI: Majewski.

10 MR. DOSTINE: My apoligies.

11 MS. MAJEWSKI: I shouldn't have to say that.

12 So, good afternoon. I hope the Board will take
13 very seriously the issues before it today. The state of
14 Michigan's obligation acting through this body is to
15 oversee city decisions in order to guarantee that the
16 Emergency Manager's final orders are followed, but more
17 than that, to see that the city is stable and sustainable.

18 I have never been a proponent of emergency
19 management, and I argued unsuccessfully against state
20 intervention, but you are here, and your legal mandate is
21 to intervene in the event of irresponsible, even illegal
22 city actions that place us at renewed risk of financial
23 failure. That, as you know, is in neither the interests
24 of the city nor the state. But that is the situation
25 you're faced with today. It's not a matter of the losing

1 side in a fair vote grasping at the straw of outside
2 intervention. Instead, it's a matter of exercising your
3 legislated responsibility to protect the city's still
4 fragile operational and fiscal integrity.

5 I've spoken to you before of my support for City
6 Manager Powell. I've told you that, though I haven't
7 agreed with everything she's done, I applaud the long
8 needed program she set in place, the relationships she's
9 built, and the creative and practical solution she's
10 always seeking on our behalf. These are the competencies
11 I've always sought in a city manager, and I know how rare
12 they are.

13 City council's actions over the last several
14 weeks have been flagrantly irresponsible, transparently
15 unsound, and quite possibly illegal. They do not serve
16 the interests of the city as a whole, and they threaten to
17 undermine the hard-fought progress we've made. As you all
18 know, we cannot cut our way to financial solvency; that
19 requires a combination of carefully considered cost saving
20 measures and strategic investments in the personnel and
21 infrastructure that will make our city attractive to new
22 investment and new residents.

23 It also requires a record of stable, informed,
24 and transparent leadership. I ask the Board to support
25 those principles which are essential to the eventual

1 successful conclusion of the state's record of financial
2 oversight in Hamtramck by exercising its responsibility to
3 keep the city on the path of sound, stable, and
4 professional management. Thank you.

5 MR. STEMA: Thank you, Madam Mayor.

6 MR. DOSTINE: Next request, Magdalena Srodek.

7 MS. SRODEK: Yes. Good afternoon. My name is
8 Magdalena Srodek. I'm a resident of Hamtramck, and also
9 the president of the Board of Education here in the city,
10 an elected official.

11 I'm here to voice my concern with 4(c)(7) which
12 dictates that there should be an annual budget to receive
13 training for the Open Meetings Act. What I witnessed at
14 the last meeting that was an emergency meeting here for
15 the city, with our city council, the majority of the city
16 council I should say, was a gross disregard for the law.
17 I suspect a violation of the Open Meetings Act, being that
18 their decisions were made in cahoots, for lack of a better
19 word. I ask that you investigate their actions and that
20 you investigate their voting record.

21 But beyond that, I'm also here to express my
22 concern for their lack of renewing the firemen's contract.
23 These men and women that are firefighters here in the
24 city, or any city, risk their lives on a daily basis to
25 keep all of us safe and sound; but not only that, but the

1 police department. Then again, I also believe that they
2 have ulterior motives for their decisions.

3 Ms. Katrina Powell has been a pleasure to work
4 with. Being on the Board of Education, she has always
5 stepped forward with integrity and professionalism. She
6 has been a helping hand to help foster a relationship
7 between the schools and within the city for the betterment
8 of the city, and for the community, and for the children
9 here in Hamtramck. It would be a complete and utter loss
10 for the City of Hamtramck to see her go.

11 Kyle Tertzag, I have not seen any type of
12 résumé, any type of papers given by our council to even
13 show that he is qualified for a position or any position
14 therefore within the city.

15 I urge you to please look into the actions of
16 our council members. I know it is the responsibility of
17 the community and the voters of the community, but there
18 is a time and a place where you need to step in, and you
19 need to take a look and a close look and comb through what
20 they're doing. Thank you.

21 MR. DOSTINE: Linda Wolyniec. Am I saying that
22 correctly?

23 MS. WOLYNIEC: Hello.

24 MS. ROBERTS: Hello.

25 MS. WOLYNIEC: I'm Linda Wolyniec. I'm a native

1 Hamtramckian and recently moved back here. I'm a business
2 owner and an investor here.

3 I'm concerned that we are under emergency
4 management order, and it needs to be followed. According
5 to 4(a)(12), they need to post the council meeting agenda
6 packets on the city's website no less than 24 hours prior
7 to each meeting. For the meetings of 5/12 and 6/13, no
8 material was posted on the website 24 hours in advance.
9 Not even an announcement was made on the website. No
10 notice was made prior to 18 hours in advance for either
11 emergency meeting.

12 I would like to be involved in what's going on
13 in this city, and if I can't access the information that
14 anything is happening, then it feels to me to be very
15 underhanded and secret. I'm interested in the stability
16 of this city, attracting new businesses to the city, which
17 is really what we need, because if you drive up and down
18 Joseph Campau, we are very empty. And as a business
19 owner, it's good for me to have other businesses that are
20 thriving around me, and that's just not happening. So the
21 reputation that we're getting as having the sneaky things
22 go on and having it be in the paper is a real detriment to
23 our society here, and I'm very, very concerned about that.

24 I'm also concerned about the violation of the
25 Open Meetings Act because how did this person just appear

1 with no information whatsoever, and no background, no
2 ability to check what's happening? I don't understand
3 that at all. We should be privy as a citizen to that
4 information.

5 I'm also concerned with the firemen's contract.
6 I actually live right up the street from the fire
7 department, and they are on the go non-stop. This is a
8 huge safety issue for us, and I don't know how we can
9 attract anyone to live here or to do business here if we
10 don't have that in place. So thank you.

11 MR. STEMA: Thank you.

12 MR. DOSTINE: Rodney Srodek.

13 MR. SRODEK: Good afternoon. Thank you.

14 MR. DOSTINE: You're welcome.

15 MR. SRODEK: Good afternoon, Board.

16 BOARD IN UNISON: Good afternoon.

17 MR. SRODEK: Employees, citizens, awake and
18 alert city council, my concern today is the stability --
19 I'm here to be pro-fire department and police as for the
20 welfare of all the citizens of Hamtramck. We get rid of a
21 fire department, property taxes are going to skyrocket,
22 and make Hamtramck, you know, financially unlivable.

23 Another reason I'm here is due to the Emergency
24 Manager regulation of 4(a)(7) which states, "Ordinances
25 and resolutions are subject to approval of the board

1 before taking effect, except as otherwise directed by the
2 board, including but not limited to, ordinances and
3 resolutions providing for the appointment or the
4 reappointment of individuals to city offices."

5 In this provision, the actions taken by the
6 emergency council session on June 14th of this year are
7 specifically forbidden. The action is scheduled to take
8 effect prior to scheduled review by RTAB. So then again,
9 I don't know what personal issues they have with Ms.
10 Powell. You take a city manager that takes over a city
11 budget at negative eight million and brings it up to, what
12 are we at now, plus twenty-two? Or --

13 MS. ROBERTS: Not quite that high.

14 MR. SRODEK: No?

15 MS. ROBERTS: Four or five.

16 MR. SRODEK: Okay, so, but still, so you're
17 still plus seven.

18 MS. ROBERTS: Uh-huh.

19 MR. SRODEK: So you're plus seven million during
20 her tenure. And then you have allegations that she has
21 personal interests, which are strong allegations; until,
22 you know, the proof comes out, we need you guys to step in
23 and help the community out. Thank you.

24 MR. DOSTINE: Andrew Perotta.

25 MR. PEROTTA: Hello. Thanks for your time. I'm

1 here to speak on 4(a)(1), "The mayor and council shall
2 implement all of the following financial best practices
3 within the city and do all of the following: (1) Safeguard
4 the financial stability of the city by seeking out,
5 approving, and implementing cost-saving measures
6 recommended by the city manager or the board."

7 One reason stated in the regular city council
8 meeting on 6/13/17 for postponing the approval of the fire
9 department contract was the city manager negotiated the
10 contract without the direction of the council. Also, more
11 time was needed for review to determine if they would pass
12 it. Review of the contract was delayed for two meetings,
13 or one month. As the order is written, the negotiated
14 contract is merely up for approval, not discussion or
15 rejection.

16 I'd also just like to point out, like, the --
17 recently it just seems like the council is giving us the
18 bare minimum, and the bare minimum stems usually from
19 laziness, lack of understanding, or a lack of caring, and
20 if you were in school and you were giving the bare
21 minimum, you would get a C or a D. So if you are happy
22 with a C or a D council, carry on.

23 MR. DOSTINE: The next request comes from Jeremy
24 Duncan.

25 MR. DUNCAN: Good afternoon. I'm here to talk

1 about the Emergency Manager's Order, Section 4(a)(5) which
2 says, "The mayor and council shall fill in a timely manner
3 and with the approval of the board any vacancy in the
4 office of city manager with an individual that meetings
5 qualifications established by the Board."

6 Now, it's unknown what qualifications, if any,
7 were presented to any members of council or the mayor
8 previous to the vote to hire Mr. Tertzag. We do know that
9 at least two council members, if any, were not provided
10 with a résumé or a list of any qualifications of any sort
11 when it was brought to a vote. It makes me wonder if any
12 qualifications have been verified or submitted to the HR
13 department or to the RTAB.

14 On the date of the vote to hire Mr. Tertzag, a
15 roomful of constituents got up one after another to ask
16 the council why Mr. Tertzag was chosen. No real answer
17 was given. And in the hallway afterwards, one council
18 member was asked why Mr. Tertzag was their choice, and his
19 answer was, "Why not?" rather than give an actual reason
20 to a constituent.

21 Since the council refused to inform the
22 constituents as to why they would vote to cancel the
23 search for a city manager and picked Mr. Tertzag without
24 considering any other qualified candidates for the job,
25 many of us went to Google to find out more about him.

1 What we found there were stories about the complete
2 bankrupting of Allen Park under his watch, stories about
3 half the Hamtramck Fire Department losing their jobs under
4 his watch, and stories about him leaving a job in
5 Woodhaven under an air of disgrace.

6 So I'm asking you now to consider telling the
7 city council that they need to go back to the drawing
8 board, conduct a proper search for a qualified city
9 manager, to draw up qualified candidates from a
10 competitive field, and that all members of council receive
11 résumés of perspective managers, and are given adequate
12 time to review the information before being made to vote
13 on whether to hire somebody who has the power to greatly
14 impact our city. Thank you.

15 MR. STEMA: Thank you.

16 MR. DOSTINE: Reverend -- excuse me. Reverend
17 Swint.

18 REVEREND SWINT: Good afternoon, everyone. I'm
19 Reverend Darla Swint. I believe that I'm probably the
20 oldest person in this room who has been in this city all
21 of my life, other than going away to school, getting
22 married, living on the Army bases, and coming back, so I
23 have seen this city at its worst.

24 My grandparents were first generation here when
25 this city was still a village. So I take very strong

1 feelings as to what's happening in our city now. I have
2 never seen this city in such a state of disgrace. I think
3 the council -- some of the council members are not in a
4 position to make the rulings that they are trying to make,
5 that I will read the ordinance that they have violated,
6 but I am begging you to take time and feel the feelings of
7 the citizens of this city and make the right decision, and
8 that's to leave Ms. Powell in place until a city manager
9 that can carry on from where she will be leaving with the
10 qualifications that are needed, because right now, this
11 city is a disgrace. And I do not bite my tongue in saying
12 it; I'm not standing here saying that everything Ms.
13 Powell has done has been at the best, but she's done her
14 best. She has brought a lot, just as Mark said and some
15 of the others said, she has done a great job for our city.
16 So to take us backwards with someone we don't even know
17 the qualifications of?

18 What you just heard the young man say that in
19 doing his research because council couldn't give him a
20 résumé, it shows where he has negative, negative marks on
21 him. So why even present him? What is going on here that
22 we have members that are trying to take us backwards?

23 Ms. Powell --

24 MR. DOSTINE: Your time is up.

25 MR. STEMA: Thank you, ma'am.

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MS. ROBERTS: Thank you, ma'am.

REVEREND SWINT: Okay.

MR. DOSTINE: Your time is concluded.

LaTeele (sic) Sanders.

MS. SANDERS: Good evening. How are you?

Do I need the microphone --

MS. ROBERTS: It's not -- it's not on, so.

MS. SANDERS: I'm LeTeece Sanders, and I'm here because I'm a citizen here, and no, my mother is the oldest, just to add that. And I feel we have a right to live in Hamtramck; be up under good leadership. It hurts me when we go into court and they put a freeze on all the taxes for something Katrina could have easily stopped. Because she joined -- the NAACP, you get up here and you say these things. Yes, I do feel if a person is not the right person, then don't put them in the seat. But I do have a problem when we have city council meetings and they start making racial slurs and calling them ignorant, and we put these people in office. They have a voice. They have a right to say who they don't want to run their city, just as well as I, and if they made a decision to say no Katrina, then that's what we have to follow, because we voted them in. They never said they wasn't going to sign a contract for the fire department. They kept saying it over and over again, that's not true. To get in front of

1 you guys and make it seem like they're not doing their
2 job, when you sit there, the mayor sit there, allow him to
3 make -- make racial slurs and call them aces and then ask
4 my mother, do you know what an ace is? That's a racial
5 slur. My mother looked at him like, "Why would you come?"
6 And you are a city representative and you making racial
7 slurs in front of everybody and fighting in front of us,
8 that's not polite or right either.

9 So you -- these men made a decision. Let's
10 stand by 'em, give 'em a chance. That's why they were
11 voted in, to do this job. Give them the chance to do
12 their job. And I don't think that is fair that we saying
13 no to what they -- what they decided. They made the right
14 decision because now --

15 MR. DOSTINE: Ms. Sanders, your two minutes.

16 MS. ROBERTS: Thank you.

17 MS. SANDERS: Our taxes is all freezed. Nobody
18 getting any money.

19 MR. DOSTINE: John Knappmann.

20 MR. KNAPPMANN: Hello. John Knappmann. Do you
21 want me to give my address?

22 MR. DOSTINE: Sure.

23 MR. KNAPPMANN: Okay. 2836 Jefferson in
24 Trenton, Michigan. I'm an attorney; that's where my
25 office is. I've known Kyle Tertzag for approximately 28

1 years. I also know the family, his sister, the attorney,
2 his mother who was a community activist Downriver, and of
3 course his father who is a Judge. But I've known Kyle for
4 a long time. I know that he's worked at several cities
5 and he's achieved impressive results at each of those
6 cities, saving money in various projects at each of them
7 for tax payers.

8 When he was here, I followed what was going on,
9 and he was doing a good job for the residents here trying
10 to keep a lid on costs. Now, unfortunately by then the
11 die was cast and the state was coming in. When they did,
12 it made perfect sense that you didn't need two people
13 doing the same job, and essentially the Emergency Manager
14 would be doing what Kyle was doing, ergo, he was taken out
15 of that position. But now that there's not an Emergency
16 Manager, Hamtramck is trying to get back on their feet, I
17 would suggest that this Board ratify the decision of the
18 Hamtramck City Council. I think -- he showed when he was
19 here the results he could get, and their vote was a vote
20 of confidence for his leadership.

21 I don't think this really comes down to a him or
22 somebody else in particular kind of question. The real
23 issue is an up or down on him. This is who the Hamtramck
24 city government through their process selected. It's not
25 about anybody else.

1 MR. DOSTINE: Your time is concluded, Mr.
2 Knappmann.

3 MS. ROBERTS: Thank you.

4 MR. KNAPPMANN: Okay, thank you.

5 MR. DOSTINE: Andrew Robinson.

6 MR. ROBINSON: Ladies and gentlemen of the
7 Board, my name is Andrew Robinson. I'm the President of
8 AFSCME Local 666. Our contract is before you for approval
9 today. Businesswise I'd ask you to approve that. It's a
10 good contract. It's a very good rewrite.

11 It was a pleasure working with Ms. Powell. We
12 spent a lot of time together rehashing a contract that was
13 legalese garbage. We came up with an entirely new
14 contract with some great benefits for our city and our
15 city employees. That being said, once again, Ms. Powell,
16 I thank you.

17 Onto that, I am a resident of this town. Not
18 only do I work here, but I am a resident. My father was a
19 police officer in this town for 25 years. My mother still
20 works for the school system. My great-grandfather helped
21 to found this town back when it was a village. His name,
22 Adam Otrompke, sits on the wall of the fire department as
23 one of the founding members of the Hamtramck Fire
24 Department.

25 I'm not here to proselytize to you and ask --

1 try to change your mind for anything that you have already
2 set down to do. I simply ask that you make a decision
3 that allows our city to continue on for a long time,
4 because as a lifelong resident with ancestral ties to this
5 city, I would like to think that my ancestors and my
6 progeny will one day grow up in this town just as I have.
7 Thank you.

8 MS. ROBERTS: Thank you.

9 MR. DOSTINE: Madam Chair, that concludes public
10 comments.

11 MS. ROBERTS: Thank you.

12 The first item of old business is approval of
13 contract addendums for directors and essential personnel.

14 Ms. Powell, would you like give us an update on
15 this item for the Board?

16 MS. POWELL: Yes, ma'am. I will. Thank you,
17 Madam Chair.

18 As you directed for us to go back and correct
19 some of the typos and put additional language in, which
20 included the previous contract so that you could see the
21 actual changes that were being made, not just what was on
22 the addendums. So we've included that, we've cleaned up
23 those errors, and have presented them. Again, this is
24 something that I'm trying to give our directors that most
25 of the time don't have the time or the personnel that

1 allows them to take vacation as regular employees do
2 because we are so short staffed. This would just allow
3 them to carry over 40 hours of vacation, and it will only
4 be paid out in the event that they leave under good terms.

5 MS. ROBERTS: Thank you.

6 I would entertain a motion to approve, deny, or
7 postpone contract addendums for directors and essential
8 personnel.

9 MR. STEMA: Motion to approve.

10 MS. YOUNG: Second.

11 MS. ROBERTS: Any discussion?

12 (No response.)

13 MS. ROBERTS: Seeing none, all those in favor
14 say aye.

15 MS. YOUNG: Aye.

16 MR. STEMA: Aye.

17 MR. BOGDAN: Aye.

18 MR. McINERNEY: Aye.

19 MS. ROBERTS: Aye.

20 Opposed the same.

21 (No response.)

22 MS. ROBERTS: Motion carries.

23 Onto new business. First on the agenda is
24 resolutions from the regular city council meeting of May
25 9th, 2017. I'd like everyone to note that Items 33, 34,

1 and 35 were approved at our last meeting. I would
2 entertain a motion to approve the remaining ordinances and
3 resolutions from the May 9th, 2017 regular city council
4 meeting.

5 MR. McINERNEY: So moved.

6 MR. STEMA: Second it.

7 MS. ROBERTS: Any discussion?

8 (No response.)

9 MS. ROBERTS: Seeing none, all those in favor
10 say aye.

11 MS. YOUNG: Aye.

12 MR. STEMA: Aye.

13 MR. BOGDAN: Aye.

14 MR. McINERNEY: Aye.

15 MS. ROBERTS: Aye.

16 Opposed the same.

17 (No response.)

18 MS. ROBERTS: Next on the agenda is resolutions
19 from the special city council meeting on May 12th, 2017.
20 This item will not be taken up due to the open question of
21 whether or not there was a violation of the Open Meetings
22 Act.

23 So we will move on to the next item. It is
24 resolutions from the regular city council meeting of May
25 23rd, 2017. I would entertain a motion to approve all

1 ordinances and resolutions from the May 23rd, 2017 regular
2 city council meeting.

3 MR. STEMA: Motion to approve.

4 MR. McINERNEY: Support.

5 MS. ROBERTS: Any discussion?

6 (No response.)

7 MS. ROBERTS: Seeing none, all those in favor
8 say aye.

9 MS. YOUNG: Aye.

10 MR. STEMA: Aye.

11 MR. BOGDAN: Aye.

12 MR. McINERNEY: Aye.

13 MS. ROBERTS: Aye.

14 Opposed the same.

15 (No response.)

16 MS. ROBERTS: Motion carries.

17 Next on the agenda are the claims and accounts
18 from the regular city council meeting draft minutes of
19 June 13th, 2017. I would entertain a motion to approve,
20 deny, or postpone the claims and accounts from the regular
21 city council meeting draft minutes of June 13th.

22 MR. McINERNEY: Move to approve.

23 MR. BOGDAN: Second.

24 MS. ROBERTS: Any discussion?

25 (No response.)

1 MS. ROBERTS: Seeing none, all those in favor
2 say aye.

3 MS. YOUNG: Aye.

4 MR. STEMA: Aye.

5 MR. BOGDAN: Aye.

6 MR. McINERNEY: Aye.

7 MS. ROBERTS: Aye.

8 Opposed the same.

9 (No response.)

10 MS. ROBERTS: Motion carries.

11 Next, onto the city administrator items. The
12 city council meetings were already done.

13 Approval of the budget to actual and cash flow
14 reports. I would entertain a motion to approve, deny, or
15 postpone the budget to actual and cash flow reports.

16 MS. YOUNG: Motion to approve.

17 MR. BOGDAN: Second it.

18 MS. ROBERTS: Any discussion?

19 MR. STEMA: I just have a question. We're
20 obviously one month ago, so we're -- the revenues are
21 coming in a little bit lower than what would be the
22 average per month. Is that because there should be
23 another payment coming?

24 MS. POWELL: There are, and actually I had
25 Plante Moran look at it just yesterday. And so it looks

1 like we're going to come in just under the line; like,
2 literally our expenditures to revenues are right there.
3 So she didn't see that there was any concern, but yes,
4 it's trickling in, so we're looking good for the end of
5 the year.

6 MR. STEMA: Okay.

7 MS. ROBERTS: So the motion before us is to
8 approve the budget to actual and cash flow. All those in
9 favor say aye.

10 MS. YOUNG: Aye.

11 MR. STEMA: Aye.

12 MR. BOGDAN: Aye.

13 MR. McINERNEY: Aye.

14 MS. ROBERTS: Aye.

15 Opposed the same.

16 (No response.)

17 MS. ROBERTS: Motion carries.

18 Next on the agenda is approval of the invoice
19 register and preapproved expenditures. I would entertain
20 a motion to approve, deny, or postpone the invoice
21 register and preapproved expenditures.

22 MR. STEMA: Motion to approve.

23 MR. McINERNEY: Support.

24 MS. ROBERTS: Any discussion?

25 (No response.)

1 MS. ROBERTS: Seeing none, all those in favor
2 say aye.

3 MS. YOUNG: Aye.

4 MR. STEMA: Aye.

5 MR. BOGDAN: Aye.

6 MR. McINERNEY: Aye.

7 MS. ROBERTS: Aye.

8 Opposed the same.

9 (No response.)

10 MS. ROBERTS: Motion carries.

11 Next on the agenda is approval of Ordinance
12 2017-5; L-4029, the fiscal year 2017-18 budget and the fee
13 schedule for future fund balance allocation. While action
14 on this item occurred during a council meeting outside the
15 normal review period for today's board meeting, the city
16 manager has asked us to bring this item forward for early
17 review. This item was approved by city council on June
18 13th, 2017.

19 Ms. Powell, would you please provide a summary
20 of this item for the Board?

21 MS. POWELL: Yes, Madam Chair.

22 So this is our next fiscal year budget. It's a
23 very good budget. As you can see from our fund balance
24 and from within our general fund our ending fund balance
25 is a little over five-and-a-half million dollars. Our

1 major street fund has a fund balance of two-and-a-half
2 million. Our local street fund has a fund balance of 1.7
3 million. The majority of our funds, our miscellaneous
4 funds are in good shape. Our library fund is doing
5 amazing. And our water and sewer fund, our ending fund
6 balance is almost seven million. And the ending fund
7 balances for all funds are about eighteen million dollars.

8 MS. ROBERTS: Thank you.

9 I would entertain a motion to approve, deny, or
10 postpone Ordinance 2017-05; L-4029, fiscal year '17-18
11 budget.

12 MR. McINERNEY: I move to approve the budget.

13 MS. YOUNG: Second.

14 MS. ROBERTS: Any further discussion?

15 (No response.)

16 MS. ROBERTS: Seeing none, all those in favor
17 say aye.

18 MS. YOUNG: Aye.

19 MR. STEMA: Aye.

20 MR. BOGDAN: Aye.

21 MR. McINERNEY: Aye.

22 MS. ROBERTS: Aye.

23 Opposed the same.

24 (No response.)

25 MS. ROBERTS: Motion carries.

1 Next on the agenda is approval of Resolution
2 2017-42, contract for National Park Service African
3 American Civil Rights Grant for pre-development work for
4 the Hamtramck Stadium.

5 While action on this item occurred during a
6 council meeting outside the normal review period for
7 today, the city manager is requesting that we bring this
8 item forward. This item was approved by city council on
9 June 13th, 2017.

10 Ms. Powell, do you want to provide a summary of
11 this item for the board?

12 MS. POWELL: Actually, I am going to defer to
13 the city planner, Melanie Markowitz, to come forward and
14 speak about this grant that she worked so hard on.

15 MS. ROBERTS: Okay, thank you.

16 MS. MARKOWITZ: Thank you for having me.

17 This is a grant from the National Park Service
18 for an African American Civil Rights Program grant for
19 pre-developmental work for Hamtramck Stadium. This is a
20 grant in the amount of \$50,000 which was the top which we
21 applied for and successfully received in a competitive
22 process. It was one of 39 given in the United States out
23 of 168 applicants. We're very happy to have it. This
24 grant money will pay for a conditions assessment, a
25 historic structures report, also a accurate construction

1 estimate which respects the historic integrity of that
2 very important site in our community, and will also make
3 some architectural and engineering specifications for the
4 redevelopment of this site.

5 With those plans we will be able to accurately
6 raise funds and apply for other grants to pay for the
7 construction of the rehabilitation of this stadium for our
8 community for public use and enjoyment.

9 MS. ROBERTS: Congratulations.

10 MS. MARKOWITZ: And it is a non-matching grant.

11 MS. ROBERTS: I would entertain a motion to
12 approve, deny, or postpone Resolution 2017-42, contract
13 for National Park Service African American Civil Rights
14 Grant for pre-development.

15 MR. STEMA: Move to approve.

16 MR. McINERNEY: Support.

17 MS. ROBERTS: Any further discussion?

18 MR. STEMA: No, just congratulations. It's a
19 great project.

20 MS. MARKOWITZ: Thank you very much.

21 MS. ROBERTS: All those in favor say aye.

22 MS. YOUNG: Aye.

23 MR. STEMA: Aye.

24 MR. BOGDAN: Aye.

25 MR. McINERNEY: Aye.

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MS. ROBERTS: Aye.

Opposed the same.

(No response.)

MS. ROBERTS: Motion carries.

Next on the agenda is approval for Resolution 2017-45, AFSCME Local 666 agreement.

While action on this item occurred during a council meeting outside the normal review period, the city manager has requested that we bring this item forward for review. City council approved it on June 13th, 2017.

Ms. Powell, do you want to give us an overview of this item for the board?

MS. POWELL: Actually, I do, and I would like Andrew also to speak if there's something that I miss.

First of all, I would like to say thank you to Andrew and his team on the board for this particular union. They were very great to work with. We were in negotiations for a very long time. We ended up having to change out union reps on the AFSCME side, not on our side, and we came to a resolution where we were able to provide boot allowances for our outdoor workers that tend to go through their boots fairly quickly, and they're very expensive, so we put a cap on the amount of money that they're able to receive for that, but at least now they'll have something to help them purchase those boots.

1 We also clarified a lot of the language and
2 rewrote it. We provided -- clarified some language for
3 our holidays. There were holidays that were listed twice
4 when in fact they should have been listed once. We also
5 were able to give them a \$1,100 bonus this year, next
6 year, and the following year. These are people that have
7 not received a raise in almost a decade. So this was
8 certainly something that is not a raise, but it will
9 certainly help them, particularly, you know, in the summer
10 and around, you know, the Christmastime.

11 So I think it's a good contract, it's very well
12 written. It protects the city. It protects the
13 employees. We put a lot of safety information in here
14 that requires the city to maintain their vehicles and
15 their equipment properly, and if not, if an employee
16 complains and it's not fixed, then there's an issue on the
17 management side. So, you know, we tried be very fair with
18 our employees and treat them like family. And so this
19 contract really reflects that.

20 MS. ROBERTS: Thank you.

21 I would entertain a motion to approve, deny, or
22 postpone Resolution 2017-45, AFSCME Local 666 agreement.

23 MS. YOUNG: Motion to approve.

24 MR. STEMA: Second it.

25 MS. ROBERTS: Any further discussion?

1 (No response.)

2 MS. ROBERTS: Seeing none, all those in favor
3 say aye.

4 MS. YOUNG: Aye.

5 MR. STEMA: Aye.

6 MR. BOGDAN: Aye.

7 MR. McINERNEY: Aye.

8 MS. ROBERTS: Aye.

9 Opposed the same.

10 (No response.)

11 MS. ROBERTS: Motion carries.

12 Next on the agenda is approval of Resolution
13 2017-47, contract extension, Green For Life Environmental
14 USA for solid waste and compost removal services for two
15 years.

16 While action on this item occurred during a
17 council meeting outside the normal review period, the city
18 manager has requested that we bring this item forward for
19 early review. This item was approved by city council on
20 June 13th.

21 Ms. Powell, would you like to provide a summary
22 of this item?

23 MS. POWELL: Yes, ma'am.

24 So, Green For Life is the new company that
25 bought Rizzo, and they've been providing garbage removal

1 services for this community since Rizzo was created. We
2 were their first actual municipal contract. Green For
3 Life has now purchased them. In many years the city has
4 not had a raise in their pricing for garbage removal.
5 This particular contract for the next two years will raise
6 the per unit price by twenty-five cents, and, which is
7 still cheaper than the original contract that Rizzo put
8 forth back in the very beginning.

9 So for whatever reason their prices have gone up
10 and down, but now they're down, that they're going back up
11 to twenty-five cents more over the next few years.

12 In two years the city can either decide to
13 further extend the current contract or they can go out to
14 bid. I didn't feel that it was appropriate for us to go
15 out to bid at this point given that it's a pretty long
16 process and it's very detailed. And so, you know, whoever
17 the city manager is in two years can go through that
18 process.

19 MS. ROBERTS: Than you.

20 I would entertain a motion to approve, deny, or
21 postpone Resolution 2017-47, contract extension, Green For
22 Life.

23 MR. BOGDAN: So moved.

24 MS. ROBERTS: Moved to approve.

25 MR. McINERNEY: Support.

1 MS. ROBERTS: Any further discussion?
2 (No response.)
3 MS. ROBERTS: Seeing none, all those in favor
4 say aye.
5 MS. YOUNG: Aye.
6 MR. STEMA: Aye.
7 MR. BOGDAN: Aye.
8 MR. McINERNEY: Aye.
9 MS. ROBERTS: Aye.
10 Opposed the same.
11 (No response.)
12 MS. ROBERTS: Motion carries.
13 Next on the agenda is approval to hire two part-
14 time library page positions.
15 Ms. Powell, would you please provide a summary
16 of this item for the Board?
17 MS. POWELL: Yes, ma'am.
18 So we are very fortunate to have great people
19 working in our community, and one of the great people that
20 we have working was actually a full-time employee in the
21 library, and he has since been interviewed and will be
22 becoming our assistant assessor at one point. He'll come
23 in as an appraiser come July 1st. So with that promotion
24 and with that move to a completely different fund in a
25 completely different department, the library was short a

1 couple of people. So she has suggested that she would
2 like to replace one full-time employee with two part-time
3 employees with no benefits.

4 MS. ROBERTS: Thank you.

5 MS. POWELL: You're welcome.

6 MS. ROBERTS: I would entertain a motion to
7 approve, deny, or postpone hiring two part-time library
8 page positions.

9 MR. STEMA: Motion to approve.

10 MR. BOGDAN: Second.

11 MS. ROBERTS: Any discussion?

12 (No response.)

13 MS. ROBERTS: Seeing none, all those in favor
14 say aye.

15 MS. YOUNG: Aye.

16 MR. STEMA: Aye.

17 MR. BOGDAN: Aye.

18 MR. McINERNEY: Aye.

19 MS. ROBERTS: Aye.

20 Opposed the same.

21 (No response.)

22 MS. ROBERTS: Motion carries.

23 Next on the agenda is the approval of contract
24 for city treasurer position.

25 Ms. Powell would you please provide a summary of

1 this item for the Board?

2 MS. POWELL: Yes, ma'am.

3 So Ms. Gargano has served in the city
4 treasurer's office for quite -- since 2014. Prior to that
5 she worked in the city since 2008. She does the majority
6 of the work in that office. She's also now a certified
7 Michigan public treasurer. And so with the contract
8 ending of the current treasurer, I have promoted Ms.
9 Gargano to treasurer and this is the contract to do that.
10 She's a Hamtramck resident, born and raised, and we love
11 to keep our people here.

12 MS. ROBERTS: Thank you.

13 I would entertain a motion to approve, deny, or
14 postpone a contract for city treasurer.

15 MS. YOUNG: Motion to approve.

16 MR. McINERNEY: Support.

17 MS. ROBERTS: Any further discussion?

18 MR. STEMA: I have a question just on the -- in
19 the current year budget for July 1st, the one that's going
20 to be starting up, was the new annual salary for deputy
21 treasurer budgeted or was it the 115 of what it prior --
22 was?

23 MS. POWELL: No, it was re-budgeted. Actually
24 we are -- we have the budget for the new treasurer salary,
25 and we're also adding a customer service representative to

1 come in. We're hoping we can get someone bilingual that
2 will be able to come in and help our customers. So
3 instead of replacing the deputy city manager and all of
4 the costs associated with that, we promoted the deputy
5 treasurer to treasurer, and now we're going to hire
6 another customer service representative.

7 MR. STEMA: And this isn't an interim position;
8 this is an actual appointment to be the --

9 MS. POWELL: This is an actual --

10 MR. STEMA: -- leader of the treasury?

11 MS. POWELL: Correct. Correct. Full-time
12 position.

13 MR. STEMA: My next question is, I mean at least
14 for the Board, I think it's great that she's been here for
15 so long and can do it, but I -- in a position like this
16 where it's going to be treasury, have some concerns
17 because unfortunately your contract is done. And I really
18 believe in the leadership position like this. If it was
19 interim, I'd have no issue saying yes on it, but the fact
20 that -- I think somebody, the next city manager should be
21 appointing that leadership position. I just believe in
22 that type of transition. And that it's nothing against
23 her job, the work she's done, or whether she's qualified;
24 I just have some concerns that the next city -- I think, I
25 believe in those positions the next city manager should be

1 appointing. If it was an interim with a bump in pay, I
2 could easily support it, but I do have a concern that the
3 next city manager I believe should appoint it, the
4 permanent position. And that's just my opinion.
5 Obviously everybody else has theirs.

6 MS. ROBERTS: So are you saying just because
7 this position is vacant now that --

8 MR. STEMA: I --

9 MS. ROBERTS: Because the next city manager is
10 not going to appoint all of the department heads because
11 we have department heads in place.

12 MR. STEMA: And I agree. I'm not saying this --

13 MS. ROBERTS: Okay.

14 MR. STEMA: -- but because it's vacant. If
15 Katrina was staying on, you know, what I mean, beyond
16 this, I believe it's appropriate. If there was interim
17 with a bump in pay to justify the extra work she's doing,
18 I believe in that. I just believe that the interim acting
19 or this or if it came back with that adjustment, it'd be
20 very easy for me to do, but I believe that the next city
21 manager should appointment this leadership position
22 because it's part of their team running a department. And
23 -- that's my belief.

24 MS. ROBERTS: Okay.

25 MR. STEMA: I don't know what anybody else

1 thinks.

2 MS. ROBERTS: Well, the motion -- well, two
3 people already support it.

4 MR. STEMA: Okay.

5 MS. ROBERTS: So the motion before us is to
6 approve a contract for city treasurer. All those in favor
7 say aye.

8 MS. YOUNG: Aye.

9 MR. BOGDAN: Aye.

10 MR. McINERNEY: Aye.

11 MS. ROBERTS: Aye.

12 Opposed.

13 MR. STEMA: Nay.

14 MS. ROBERTS: Motion carries.

15 Item 10 was already taken care of.

16 Next on the agenda is approval of settlement of
17 lawsuit Alani v. Hamtramck.

18 Ms. Powell, would you please provide a summary
19 of this item for the board?

20 MS. POWELL: Yes, Madam Chair.

21 So this was an issue that happened back in 2014
22 with one of our police officers that was involved in a car
23 accident, and the Plaintiff had originally requested
24 \$175,000. We believe that the award should have been
25 18,000. We were able to settle for 39-5. And we feel

1 like this is a good award given that the Plaintiff may
2 have to undergo three surgeries and have continuing back
3 and neck problems.

4 MS. ROBERTS: Thank you.

5 I would entertain a motion to approve, deny, or
6 postpone settlement of lawsuit Alani v. Hamtramck.

7 MR. STEMA: Motion to approve.

8 MR. McINERNEY: Support.

9 MS. ROBERTS: All those in favor say aye.

10 MS. YOUNG: Aye.

11 MR. STEMA: Aye.

12 MR. BOGDAN: Aye.

13 MR. McINERNEY: Aye.

14 MS. ROBERTS: Aye.

15 Opposed the same.

16 (No response.)

17 MS. ROBERTS: Motion carries.

18 Next on the agenda is the approval of Resolution
19 2017-49, appointment of Kyle Tertzag, at-will interim city
20 manager.

21 Filling key positions in the City of Hamtramck
22 is one of the most important roles the city council has,
23 particularly as the city continues to chart its own
24 course. We want to be supportive and we want the city to
25 be successful in that effort.

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However, the candidate put forth for interim city manager does not meet the required qualifications in the city's own charter. City council should not violate the city charter and the RTAB should take into consideration that.

I encourage the city council to do the following:

-Put forth a qualified candidate or engage a professional search firm to assist in finding an interim manager that meets the qualifications that are outlined in the city charter.

-Engage a professional search firm to conduct a search for a permanent city manager and to fill the other key positions in this city.

-Bring in expertise in the form of an accounting firm or accounting professional to manage the city's finances until a permanent finance director can be found.

The state wants to help with the resources needed to assist in completing this process because we believe hiring qualified people is the best path for the future of Hamtramck. And therefore, I will entertain a motion to deny the approval of Resolution 2017-49.

- MR. STEMA: Motion to deny.
- MR. McINERNEY: Support.
- MS. ROBERTS: Any discussion?

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(No response.)

MS. ROBERTS: Seeing none, all those in favor say aye.

MS. YOUNG: Aye.

MR. STEMA: Aye.

MR. BOGDAN: Aye.

MR. McINERNEY: Aye.

MS. ROBERTS: Aye.

Opposed the same.

(No response.)

MS. ROBERTS: Motion carries.

Next on the agenda is approval of Resolution 2017-48, award of contract to GovHR USA for city manager candidate search. Council did not pass this resolution, therefore there is no action to be taken by this Board.

Next on the agenda is approval of citywide overtime report.

Ms. Powell, would you please provide a summary of the progress the city is making in regards to this issue?

MS. POWELL: Madam Chair, yes. It's pretty much the same. There is not any large increase or any large decrease unfortunately. Fingers crossed next month it'll be going down again.

MS. ROBERTS: Okay. I will entertain a motion

1 to approve, deny, or postpone the citywide overtime
2 report.

3 MS. YOUNG: Motion to approve.

4 MR. STEMA: Support.

5 MS. ROBERTS: Any discussion?

6 (No response.)

7 MS. ROBERTS: Seeing none, all those in favor
8 say aye.

9 MS. YOUNG: Aye.

10 MR. STEMA: Aye.

11 MR. BOGDAN: Aye.

12 MR. McINERNEY: Aye.

13 MS. ROBERTS: Aye.

14 Opposed the same.

15 (No response.)

16 MS. ROBERTS: Motion carries.

17 Next on the agenda is 31st District Court
18 revenues. This is an informational report. Ms. Powell,
19 do you want to provide us an update on this?

20 MS. POWELL: Yes, Madam Chair, and actually this
21 is low, but it's towards the end of the fiscal year, so
22 we're probably getting a lot of things coming in so that
23 hopefully by next month we'll see that increase again.

24 MS. ROBERTS: Okay, thank you.

25 Next on the agenda is the final words from the

1 city manager, Katrina Powell.

2 MS. POWELL: It will be quite a few words, Madam
3 Chair. I'm sorry.

4 MS. ROBERTS: Five to seven minutes of words?

5 MS. POWELL: Yeah, lots of minutes.

6 So, first of all I'd like to thank the city
7 council and the RTAB for allowing me the opportunity to
8 serve the people of this community for the past couple of
9 years.

10 I would just like to take a few moments to talk
11 about how I came to Hamtramck and clear up some of the
12 misinformation provided by conspiracy theorists, print
13 media reporters, and several council members over the past
14 two-plus years.

15 I would also like to talk about some of the
16 amazing things that have been accomplished by my team and
17 I, as I've done a poor job of pointing out all of the
18 hundreds of issues that had to be encountered and fixed
19 because that's not what leaders do.

20 You see, I received leadership training over 20
21 years provided by the United States Army that teaches
22 soldiers not to talk about the issues, but to parachute in
23 under fire, assess the situation as quickly as possible,
24 and get to work addressing the issues. While on
25 deployment, there's no time for talking. And yes, I refer

1 to the past two-plus years as a deployment of sorts.
2 You'll understand why I say that as my presentation
3 progresses.

4 On the screen in front of you is a screenshot of
5 a text message sent to me on September 6th, 2014 by a
6 well-respected city manager in Florida who was contacted
7 by the state's recruiter who represented the Emergency
8 Manager in an effort to fill the vacant city manager's
9 position that she was required to fill in order for her
10 tenure to be complete. As you can see by reading this
11 text, he asked if I was ready to be a city manager again,
12 and my immediate response was, "LOL, What??!! Who got
13 fired?" And his response was, "In Michigan," of which my
14 response was the deer in the headlights looking emoji, and
15 the question of, "In Michigan??? Um, where in Michigan?"
16 And he responded, "Hamtramck, Michigan." I of course
17 immediately Googled Hamtramck and responded, "It's five
18 miles from Detroit...tha hell???" His response was, but
19 if you fixed it, you'd be a hero. He, nor I, had ever
20 heard of Hamtramck, and he only reached out to me after
21 speaking with the recruiter and hearing about the city and
22 its issues. He gave the recruiter my name without
23 checking with me first, and said he thought that I would
24 be a perfect fit as I had served in multiple countries
25 while in the military and would welcome the diversity of

1 Hamtramck, and that I was considered a well-respected
2 change agent manager in Florida.

3 I've been in the city management profession as
4 an assistant and a city manager since 2001. Working in
5 communities with populations of 7,500 to 85,000 with more
6 than 300 employees. I've been a member of the
7 International City Managers Association since 2001 and
8 have served on multiple boards within the City County
9 Managers Association and here in Michigan with the
10 Michigan Municipal Executives Association. Here is my
11 profile on the front page of their website as a matter of
12 fact.

13 At the time I was contacted, I was a very happy
14 and successful entrepreneur who had started a business
15 just three short years before after resigning from another
16 city manager position, and I had amassed 12 governmental
17 contracts across the country totaling over 12 million in
18 sales over a two year span. I'd never heard of an
19 emergency management law because where I'm from, if you
20 can't govern yourself, you are unincorporated and absorbed
21 by the county in which your community resides. You no
22 longer get the opportunity to govern yourself or have all
23 of the perks and services afforded by being in an
24 incorporated city.

25 After speaking with the recruiter who shared

1 only the good things about Hamtramck, and just a handful
2 of the issues, I decided to apply for the position. I was
3 given a DISC personality test and went through three
4 rigorous interviews with the recruiter and his team, the
5 EM, and the Michigan State Treasurer's Office which
6 included a Deputy State Treasurer, before I ever made it
7 to Hamtramck for a face-to-face interview with the
8 council.

9 As has been reported, I booked a studio
10 apartment in town to stay in while I was here for my
11 interview with the city council. On the day of my
12 interview I walked this entire town, visiting restaurants,
13 stores, and the parks. I FaceTimed some friends to show
14 them how bad the streets, parks, and entryway signs were,
15 and none of the cities I had worked in before had those
16 kind of issues, so they were additional challenges that I
17 believed I could conquer; all of which I eventually
18 changed, and it started with the entryway sign before you.

19 Upon arriving for my interview in Hamtramck, I
20 felt an animosity of sorts from the council and others,
21 and as I have recently reflected back on that time, I
22 should have immediately withdrawn my name from
23 consideration. However, I had no idea why people who I'd
24 never met had such disdain for my, so I felt challenged to
25 change their feelings by showing them all the great things

1 could be accomplished in such a short amount of time.

2 Contrary to what's been written in almost every
3 article even before I arrived to work here, it has been
4 implied somehow that I was associated with the EM and the
5 Governor's agenda when I had never been to Michigan and
6 did not know one single person in Michigan, and I
7 certainly was not part of the friends and family program
8 of Hamtramck as so many of the city's employees, past city
9 managers, and vendors had been for years. I had no axe to
10 grind or pockets to line of anyone's.

11 During my interview in front of a large crowd,
12 which I considered odd at the time, normally interviews
13 only include the elected officials and one or two
14 gadflies, never a full room of irritated people, the
15 discussion was filled with hostility and anger. There was
16 one highlight, however, of Councilman Hassan stating my
17 résumé was the only résumé he read and that he was
18 impressed. Is he still here?

19 I was asked about how I would go about repairing
20 Conant Street, which was riddled with potholes big enough
21 to lose your car in, by Councilmen Miah and Musa. The
22 recruiter had driven me all over town, so I was aware of
23 how bad that particular street was, so I replied that it
24 depended on who was responsible for the repair and
25 maintenance of that street, and I asked if it were a city

1 or county street. The reply was it was a county road. I
2 replied, "Well, then I would need to meet with the county
3 to figure out a solution and work to repair it." I was
4 immediately challenged by Councilman Miah who replied, "I
5 thought you were a fighter? You just need to go in there
6 and fight to get it fixed!" I replied, "I only like to
7 resort to fighting when I know I'm going to win. I have
8 found that working together instead of fighting gets
9 things done quicker." Ironically, that was the only thing
10 discussed during my interview as a goal that I needed to
11 meet.

12 After being selected by the city council at the
13 time, I was contacted and told that I was everyone's first
14 choice and that they wanted to offer me the job.

15 Upon the first month of my employment, I met
16 with the liaison of the Wayne County executive and voiced
17 my concerns about a couple of things, one of which was
18 Conant Street. Not long after the meeting I was told it
19 was number 63 on the county's list for repair and probably
20 wouldn't be touched for possibly another ten years. I was
21 told by members of the city staff and council that every
22 city manager and some elected officials had tried to get
23 the county to repair it, but nothing ever happened.

24 On March 16th, 2015 Councilman Titus Walters,
25 God rest his sweet soul, and I just showed up at a county

1 commission meeting, spoke about the issue during public
2 comment and walked out. Before we could take five steps
3 out of the chambers, four county staff members, which
4 consisted of the chief of staff, the deputy chief of
5 staff, the county transportation engineer, and the DPS
6 director, approached us all wanting to know how they could
7 help us.

8 In July, just seven months after arriving in
9 this town, Conant was repaired for the first time in over
10 30 years.

11 Much of the negative press and bullying I've
12 received from on council member and various members of
13 this community, revolves around placing the former police
14 chief under investigation just 60-plus days after I
15 arrived. I would just like to speak briefly about this
16 issue, as it has been reported and talked about for years
17 now, as if I did something wrong, fired him, or forced him
18 to resign, which none of that is true.

19 I placed him under investigation on Friday
20 afternoon, March 5th, 2015 at which time he slipped into a
21 private bathroom in his office while the city attorney and
22 HR director turned their backs for a very brief moment,
23 and he texted the media about being placed on leave and
24 under investigation, as well as he deleted all of the
25 information and reset his city cell phone to the factory

1 settings. He then proceeded to yell, while standing in
2 the hallway on the second floor of the police department
3 for officers and detectives to hear, that he hoped this
4 had nothing to do with the rumor that he was selling drugs
5 with a certain councilmember, of which I immediately
6 replied, "No, it doesn't, but I'll certainly add that to
7 the list of things to check out."

8 On Saturday night, March 7th at 6:53 p.m., I
9 received a message from Councilman Miah stating that he
10 wanted to call a special meeting on Sunday, March 8, at
11 6:00 p.m. based on the issues of the city. I returned his
12 call and stated that it would be highly inappropriate to
13 call a special meeting on this Sunday, a day that many
14 people acknowledge as the Sabbath day, and that we have a
15 council meeting on Tuesday night, couldn't it just wait
16 until then. We went back and forth for a few minutes and
17 he decided that he wanted the meeting on Monday night
18 instead. So an agenda was put out for the Monday night
19 special meeting.

20 The chief, a standing room only crowd, and
21 various media outlets showed up for the meeting. The
22 chief spoke about not understanding why his badge, gun,
23 and I.D. were taken or why he was under investigation.
24 Members of the public spoke on his behalf favorably. I
25 did not speak at all during the meeting about the

1 investigation or the chief. After the meeting I was
2 surrounded by the media and was asked to make a comment.
3 Until that time I had not made a comment to the media
4 about the investigation because it was an investigation,
5 and because I knew he was a 36-year old man who had a
6 family and needed a job, so I did not want to jeopardize
7 his ability to do that before the investigation was
8 complete. The only statement I made was that I had called
9 an IT forensic specialist to investigate.

10 The very next morning the chief's attorney
11 contacted our city attorney asking to begin resignation
12 proceedings. At no point in time did I speak to the chief
13 after placing him under investigation, and until today I
14 believe I have only spoken to him once, and that was in a
15 social setting at a Hamtramck Review party. So the rumors
16 that I fired him or forced him to resign are all lies. He
17 requested to resign and signed an agreement that stated he
18 agrees to submit a letter of resignation to the City of
19 Hamtramck resigning from any and all positions in which he
20 serves in any capacity. There was a waiver of right to
21 future employment within that agreement as well that
22 states he waives any right to be rehired by, nor reapply
23 for any position with the city, and agrees that he will
24 not apply for employment with the city in the future, and
25 if he does, the separation agreement will constitute

1 adequate consideration for the city to deny his
2 application for employment. Therefore, he is not coming
3 back to the City of Hamtramck in any capacity, regardless
4 of how many people are told by him or others that he is
5 coming back. I am sure if someone tries to illegally
6 bring him back, this community will stand up for what's
7 right.

8 Speaking of what's right, I would like to
9 highlight some of the many accomplishments your city
10 manager and staff have achieved in the just two-and-a-half
11 years.

12 One of the first things we did was bring
13 snowplow operations in-house. Upon my arrival in January
14 of 2015, we were contracting our snow removal program. I
15 had read about how much the city had paid a contractor the
16 year before, and only the snow routes and collector roads
17 were plowed that year. So I took the advice of our former
18 DPW director, because I didn't know anything about snow,
19 that we plow all streets and instructed our contractors to
20 start plowing all streets, and that we would be keeping a
21 close watch on what was plowed and the billings.

22 During that year, we set a goal of bringing all
23 the plowing operations in-house by the following winter.
24 We were aggressive in saving money to purchase equipment
25 and hire part-time employees until we could solidify our

1 spending and operations plan. The following year we
2 purchased vehicles, plows, Gators to do the sidewalks in
3 the business districts, snow blowers, salters, et cetera.
4 We hired just a couple of very hardworking employees and
5 cross-trained our office employees, most of which were
6 females, to plow as well. We brought in calcium chloride
7 to treat the streets before the snow fell, and then
8 immediately started salting and plowing as soon as the
9 first snowflake fell. It was a huge success both
10 operationally and financially.

11 Last year, we were able to purchase a dump truck
12 with a belly blade -- I don't know if it's on this
13 picture; no, it's not -- with a belly blade and salter
14 and a backhoe to further enhance our programs. I
15 anticipate this program will continue to be a success, but
16 it needs to be maintained.

17 Our second huge success -- my allergies are
18 kicking me -- was the attack on the potholes and horrific
19 streets that plagued our town. We were featured in
20 multiple media outlets for having one of the worst streets
21 in Metro Detroit, and people planting flowers in our
22 potholes. We had resident volunteers called the Guerilla
23 Road Crew, I think some of them are here, fundraising to
24 purchase cold patch and who dedicated their time on the
25 weekends to fill potholes, and they received instant fame

1 for helping out a community that seemed unwilling or
2 unable to address the issues, or so they thought.

3 I called a meeting with the city engineer, my
4 DPW crew, and the city controller to figure out a solution
5 to repair our streets over the long-term and pay for the
6 program as well. In the first year we did a PASER study
7 to determine which streets were the worst and started the
8 road repair program, which consisted of spray patching
9 most all streets, reconstructing several streets, and only
10 cold patching temporarily when absolutely necessary
11 because it was a total waste of money, striping the
12 streets, and sitting at the table of Wayne County's
13 Federal Assistance Committee meetings. Because of our
14 established relationships with Wayne County, we have
15 received federal assistance funding to us in the next two
16 years to reconstruct all of Holbrook Street from Lumpkin
17 to Conant. We have also restricted general fund revenues
18 in our fund balance, because we can't use state supplied
19 Act 51 monies, to start repairing the alleys beginning in
20 the business districts of Conant and Campau this summer.
21 Hopefully the city will continue those relationships and
22 continue to be good stewards of the city's money moving
23 forward so that the road and alley programs can continue.
24 Our community depends on it.

25 None of this would be possible -- what's next?

1 Oh, these are just pictures, random pictures.

2 None of this would be possible without money, so
3 I want to take some time to discuss our financial
4 situation.

5 During the first year I was here, the EM
6 predicted in her budget that we would have a 2 million
7 dollar fund balance, which included an emergency loan and
8 a state revolving fund loan. In that year, we added an
9 additional 1.9 million to that 2 million, and the second
10 year we added another 1.5 million on top of that almost 4
11 million to bring the total to over 5-point million dollars
12 in the general fund budget in just two years.

13 The total audited amount for all of our funds is
14 over 18 million dollars in fund balance. That is amazing,
15 considering what I walked into, and it would not have been
16 achievable without the help of the team of employees we
17 have working here.

18 I would like to talk about our incredible and
19 amazing employees that make this city move. Since my
20 arrival I have appointed the first female police chief,
21 the first brought in from the outside fire chief, have
22 hired six qualified directors that have master's degrees,
23 and 29 full and/or part-time employees that are awesome.
24 The employees here are some of the most resilient,
25 hardworking, dedicated people I've ever had the pleasure

1 of working with in my city manager career. They had been
2 previously mistreated, taken pay cuts, given horrible high
3 deductible insurance, have to pay ten to fifteen percent
4 of their salary into their retirement accounts, which is
5 one of the highest in the state by the way, all because of
6 the mismanagement of this city over the past years, of
7 which an Emergency Manager has had to come in twice over
8 the past 16 years and the employees got the brunt of the
9 changes they imposed.

10 During my tenure here, if I've done nothing
11 else, I've showed the employees here that they are
12 important to me and necessary for our success. Early on I
13 started a once a month program called Lunch with the
14 Bunch, where my assistant pulls one name of an employee
15 from each department and the employees get to meet each
16 other and, as well, and I get to meet them. They then get
17 to decide where they would like to go for lunch anywhere
18 except the casino, strip club, Hooters, or Twin Peaks.
19 And it's all paid for on my dime. Not the city's; mine.
20 We are not allowed to talk about city business, only
21 personal things. I'm proud to say I know the names of
22 every employee that works here, I know their children's,
23 spouses, and pets. I know what they like to do on
24 vacations and who in their house is suffering an illness.
25 I give out birthday cards to every employee handwritten by

1 me every month. We have cookouts twice a year and
2 celebrate Thanksgiving and Christmas with fun parties,
3 most of which I pay for myself. I gave them affordable
4 healthcare options that they didn't have. I have all
5 employees with life insurance because there were some that
6 had it and some that didn't. Now everyone has \$30,000
7 worth of life insurance.

8 Why do I do these things you ask? Because
9 they're my family and they're my friends. So you see,
10 when a newly elected official who knows nothing about me
11 or my employees, accuses me of being a dictator, I just
12 laugh because I am confident that if you stopped anyone of
13 the employees right now and asked them if I'm a dictator
14 or how I am as a city manager, they would say I leave them
15 alone until there is a problem, and when there is a
16 problem I say, "Okay, honey, well let's figure this out.
17 It's gonna be all right; this too shall pass," and we'll
18 set about fixing whatever the issue is. Please feel free
19 to ask my employees about me. I encourage it.

20 I want to encourage this community to stay
21 diligent, not just in times of adversity, but always.
22 This town has so much potential, but you have to let
23 quality, educated individuals who care about the community
24 and actually live here. You have candidates in this
25 upcoming election for both mayor and council seats who do

1 not live here. Having an address in your name and having
2 it homesteaded does not mean you live here, especially
3 when you go home to your husbands, wives, and family every
4 night, it means you're committing fraud, and this
5 community should not tolerate it. The election fraud and
6 drug dealing are real in this town. Providing meals,
7 buying TVs, paying someone \$5 in cash to fill out an
8 absentee ballot is illegal. Taking bribes from votes on
9 contracts and services is illegal and should not be
10 tolerated by this community. It all ends --

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (unintelligible).

12 MS. ROBERTS: One person speaking.

13 MS. POWELL: It all ends when the community
14 stops sitting on its couches --

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Unintelligible).

16 MS. POWELL: -- posting on Facebook --

17 MS. ROBERTS: You need to leave if you cannot
18 keep your mouth quiet.

19 MS. POWELL: It all ends when the community
20 stops sitting on its couches, posting on Facebook, and
21 actually gets involved in their local government.

22 I encourage you to reach out to your Bengali,
23 Yemeni, and other immigrant neighbors, as they too are
24 sick of the corruption and voter fraud. They visit my
25 office regularly to report things to me because they feel

1 safe, but are afraid to speak up in their communities
2 because of the bullies and thugs. They may not feel
3 comfortable enough to come to a council meeting alone if
4 they've not been to one, so please offer to attend one
5 with them.

6 Also, many are unaware of the laws that protect
7 them, but we need to teach them that they don't have to be
8 bullied or intimidated. There are laws in place to
9 protect them. They have a pulse on the community; tap
10 into it.

11 I have so many great memories of this town and
12 the people I've met along the way, and I will miss it
13 immensely. I have eaten in more homes here of people I
14 don't know than my entire 49 years of life. The people of
15 this town are welcoming, hardworking, and humble, and I am
16 blessed to have met them. I have also been blessed with
17 some remarkable right hand ladies assisting me in running
18 this town. DanNisha Reeder was my very first hire who
19 started the first day that I was here. She just left a
20 couple of weeks -- months ago to take another position
21 because of the instability of the CM's position. She had
22 an impeccable taste in fashion and an incredible calming
23 demeanor with the residents and me, partnered with an
24 unbelievable work ethic to boot. She is my ride or die
25 chick always.

1 Kristin Rutkowski, who has been my life saver
2 since Nisha left, as I try to get things completed or
3 projects started and completed, brings a different
4 skillset that is like none I've seen. She instantly
5 competes everything I give her, and it's perfect the first
6 time out of the gate. She has brought the iPads online
7 for the council, as well as the online agenda packets
8 program called BoardDocs for the council and community to
9 view, and she is now implementing another program for the
10 residents and guests called Q-Alert. Q-Alert is a program
11 that will -- wait, where is it -- that allows residents
12 and guests to report issues in the community like
13 potholes, water main breaks, code enforcement issues,
14 graffiti, et cetera, via their smartphones, computers, or
15 by telephone. You get to receive updates on your request
16 and you can see where your request is in the process of
17 being handled, and the install and training are almost
18 complete, so stay informed of when this comes online and
19 absolutely use it. She brings a master's degree from
20 DePaul, city government experience from the cities of
21 Denver and Chicago, and given the right mentoring, she
22 will make a great city manager one day.

23 In closing, when I first arrived here, I was
24 asked by the local newspaper to provide a statement about
25 working here, and this is what I wrote: "As the newly

1 appointed city manager, I'm excited about working with the
2 community, the elected officials, and city staff in
3 continuing to maintain and enhance the current financial
4 stability of the city, while creating a long-term economic
5 strategic plan that will further improve the finances and
6 the way of life for residents, business owners, and
7 visitors of Hamtramck. Like other cities in Michigan,
8 Hamtramck is in a positive transition, whereby it achieved
9 a clean slate financially with the diligence of the
10 community and Emergency Manager, elected officials, and
11 city staff. We must persevere in building on that success
12 moving forward ensuring future stability and growth.
13 Together we can make a positive change happen, and I'm
14 delighted to have been chosen to lead that charge for the
15 future."

16 I never planned on staying here longer than my
17 two-and-a-half years, because when on deployment, you go
18 into a hostile environment, you correct all that you can
19 as quickly as you can, you take care of the troops who
20 take care of you, and you leave the location in a much
21 better place than it was when you got there. You see, I'm
22 not an operative of the former EM, or the Governor, who
23 I've never met, by the way, like some officials, city
24 officials, former city attorneys, obstructionists, or
25 newspapers want you to think I am. I'm just a girl who

1 likes a challenge and to make the world a better place,
2 one mission at a time. I can undeniably say, I've
3 completed the mission. KP out.

4 MS. ROBERTS: Thank you.

5 Board comment?

6 MR. STEMA: Just thank you for all the hard work
7 you've done. As a resident, I appreciate that.

8 MS. POWELL: You're welcome, sir.

9 MS. YOUNG: I second that, Ms. Powell. Thank
10 you for your service.

11 MS. ROBERTS: I would entertain a motion to
12 adjourn.

13 MR. TERTZAG: Madam Chair? May I address the
14 Board? My name was brought up, and I was never allowed to
15 even come and speak. I was -- the approval for my
16 contract, and I was not even allowed to come and speak. I
17 thought I'd be allowed to address the Board.

18 MS. ROBERTS: There was public comment at the
19 beginning of the --

20 MR. TERTZAG: Right, but my name was on the
21 agenda.

22 MS. ROBERTS: And I read a statement on the
23 agenda and --

24 MR. TERTZAG: Your statement was not accurate.

25 MS. ROBERTS: A statement was read.

1 MR. TERTZAG: And you won't allow me -- won't
2 allow me to address the Board?

3 MS. ROBERTS: There's nothing to address.

4 MR. TERTZAG: I'll address the TV crew
5 afterwards, most certainly.

6 MS. ROBERTS: I'll entertain a motion to adjourn
7 --

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (unintelligible) address
9 to the public.

10 MR. STEMA: Motion to adjourn.

11 MR. McINERNEY: Support.

12 MS. ROBERTS: All those in favor say aye.

13 MS. YOUNG: Aye.

14 MR. STEMA: Aye.

15 MR. BOGDAN: Aye.

16 MR. McINERNEY: Aye.

17 MS. ROBERTS: Aye.

18 Opposed the same.

19 (No response.)

20 MS. ROBERTS: Motion carries.

21 (Proceedings adjourned at 2:37 p.m.)

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STATE OF MICHIGAN
COUNTY OF WASHTENAW) .ss

I certify that this transcript is a complete, true, and correct transcript to the best of my ability of the RTAB meeting held on June 27, 2017, City of Hamtramck. I also certify that I am not a relative or employee of the parties involved and have no financial interest in this case.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED: July 7, 2017

s/ *Amy Shankleton-Novess*

Amy Shankleton-Novess (CER 0838)
Certified Electronic Reporter