

APPROVED - 4/28/15

STATE OF MICHIGAN

City of Hamtramck

Receivership Transition Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 26, 2015

Hamtramck City Hall

Council Chambers - 2nd Floor

3401 Evaline

Hamtramck, Michigan 48212

RTAB MEMBERS PRESENT:

DEB ROBERTS

CATHY SQUARE

~~KAREN YOUNG~~

Mark Stema

Absent:

Karen Young

Reported by:

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SCAO FIRM NO. 08228
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Saline, Michigan 48176
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CALL TO ORDER:

1 MS. ROBERTS: It's 1:05, and I'll call the March
2 26th, 2015 Hamtramck Receivership Transition Advisory
3 Board meeting to order. I'll remind the audience, if
4 there is anyone that would like to speak, that they need
5 to sign up at the podium. And Mr. Van de Grift, can you
6 take roll call, please?

7 MR. VAN de GRIFT: Deborah Roberts.

8 MS. ROBERTS: Here.

9 MR. VEN de GRIFT: Cathy Square.

10 MS. SQUARE: Here.

11 MR. VAN de GRIFT: Mark Stema.

12 MR. STEMA: Here.

13 MR. VAN de GRIFT: Karen Young. Karen Young is
14 excused, and quorum is present.

15 MS. ROBERTS: Thank you. I would entertain a
16 motion to adopt the agenda as presented.

17 MR. STEMA: Motion.

18 MS. ROBERTS: Second?

19 MS. SQUARE: Second.

20 MS. ROBERTS: Any discussion? All in favor say
21 aye.

22 MS. SQUARE: Aye.

23 MR. STEMA: Aye.

24 MS. ROBERTS: Aye. Opposed, the same.

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(No response.)

MS. ROBERTS: Motion carried. The first agenda item is the approval of the February 24th, 2015 RTAB meeting minutes. I would entertain a motion to approve the RTAB minutes from the last meeting.

MS. SQUARE: So moved.

MS. ROBERTS: Second?

MR. STEMA: Second.

MS. ROBERTS: Any discussion?

(No response)

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

MS. SQUARE: Aye.

MR. STEMA: Aye.

MS. ROBERTS: Aye. Opposed, the same.

(No response.)

MS. ROBERTS: Motion carries. Currently we do not have any old business, so we'll move on to new business.

The first item under new business is approval of Resolutions and Ordinances for City Council meetings. The first resolution is from the regular city council meeting of February 10th, 2015. I will entertain a motion to approve all of the resolutions from the February 10th, 2015 city council meeting.

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MR. STEMA: Motion.

MS. ROBERTS: Second?

MS. SQUARE: Second.

MS. ROBERTS: Any discussion?

(No response)

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

MS. SQUARE: Aye.

MR. STEMA: Aye.

MS. ROBERTS: Aye. Opposed, the same.

(No response)

MS. ROBERTS: Seeing none, motion carried.

Moving on to the second item under new business,
is the resolutions from regular city council meeting of
February 23rd, 2015, and I would entertain a motion to
approve all the resolutions from the February 23rd, 2015
city council meeting.

MR. STEMA: Motion.

MS. ROBERTS: Second?

MS. SQUARE: Second.

MS. ROBERTS: Any discussion?

(No response)

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

MS. SQUARE: Aye.

MR. STEMA: Aye.

MS. ROBERTS: Aye. Opposed, the same.

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(No response)

MS. ROBERTS: Motion carries.

The third item under new business is resolutions from the regular city council meeting of March 3rd, 2015. I would entertain a motion to approve the resolutions.

MS. SQUARE: So moved.

MS. ROBERTS: Second?

MR. STEMA: Second.

MS. ROBERTS: Any discussion?

(No response)

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

MS. SQUARE: Aye.

MR. STEMA: Aye.

MS. ROBERTS: Aye. Opposed, the same.

(No response)

MS. ROBERTS: Motion carries. Fourth item is the resolutions from a special city council meeting, of March 9th, 2015. I will entertain a motion to approve all the resolutions from the March 9th, 2015 city council meetings.

MR. STEMA: Motion.

MS. ROBERTS: Second?

MS. SQUARE: Second.

MS. ROBERTS: Any discussion?

(No response)

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

2 MS. SQUARE: Aye.

3 MR. STEMA: Aye.

4 MS. ROBERTS: Aye. Opposed, the same.

5 (No response)

6 MS. ROBERTS: Motion carries.

7 The fifth item is claims and accounts from the
8 regular city council meeting draft minutes of March 10th,
9 2015. And I would entertain a motion to approve the
10 claims and accounts from the March 10th, 2015 city council
11 meeting.

12 MS. SQUARE: So moved.

13 MS. ROBERTS: Second?

14 MR. STEMA: Second.

15 MS. ROBERTS: Any discussion?

16 (No response)

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

19 MS. SQUARE: Aye.

20 MR. STEMA: Aye.

21 MS. ROBERTS: Aye. Opposed, the same.

22 (No response)

23 MS. ROBERTS: Motion carries.

24 The next item is the status of the fund balance
25 policy. The financial emergency manager order adopted by

1 Ms. Square, mandates that an appropriate fund balance
2 policy is to be implemented 90 days after the appointment
3 of this Board.

4 That date has recently passed. City
5 Administrator Powell, could you please give us an update
6 regarding the status of the funds balance policy?

7 MS. POWELL: Yes ma'am. We actually have looked
8 at a policy, and are tweaking it. We, basically, we're
9 allowed to - it's encouraged through ~~GSOA~~ ^{GFOA} that we have at
10 least 15 percent in our fund balance. We're looking at
11 more along the lines of 20 to 25 percent. The controller
12 and I have set down and discussed that, and we're tweaking
13 the policy that we have, so you will have that at our next
14 meeting.

15 MS. ROBERTS: Okay, thank you.

16 Our third item on the agenda is a letter from
17 the city administrator, dated February 13th, ~~2005~~ ²⁰¹⁵
18 Approval of minutes, we've already addressed that in new
19 business.

20 The next item is the budget to actual, and I
21 believe that there may be some questions regarding budget
22 to actual, or is that on the five year budget, the next
23 item?

24 MR. STEMA: I actually just have one quick one,
25 probably for Bhama.

1 MS. ROBERTS: Okay.

2 MR. STEMA: Obviously, the general fund has
3 monies there. All the other funds that we receive, are
4 those all restricted funds, based on grants, then?
5 Because I see a lot of other funds, and I just, from an
6 educational standpoint, so I know what I'm looking at? .

7 MS. CAIRNS: Yeah. Not all of them are grants.

8 MR. STEMA: Okay.

9 MS. CAIRNS: The Fund 202 and the Fund 203 are
10 road funds. We get something called Act 51, money which
11 funds road projects.

12 MR. STEMA: Okay.

13 MS. CAIRNS: Maintaining the roads, et cetera.
14 That's Fund 202 and 203. Moving on to Fund 225, Building
15 Fund, this is the judge, when it comes to serving tickets,
16 he also recovers a little portion of the money towards the
17 building fund.

18 MR. STEMA: Okay.

19 MS. CAIRNS: And that goes to remodeling of --
20 to maintaining City Hall and the fire department building.

21 Moving on to 244, which is the Downtown
22 Development Authority, this is a tax millage.

23 MR. STEMA: Okay.

24 MS. CAIRNS: Towards -- I think it's 1.8, some
25 mills. Which we get to -- for this particular operation.

1 Then the 264, which is a 911 emergency. We get money from
2 City of Detroit, and some from State of Michigan, to run
3 the dispatch.

4 MR. STEMA: Okay.

5 MS. CAIRNS: Emergency dispatch. Then we have
6 266 and 267, which is drug law enforcement, one is state,
7 one is federal. The federal, we get a direct deposit into
8 our bank account. So we have to keep them separate. And
9 then especially the federal, we have to report back to how
10 we spent it.

11 MR. STEMA: Okay. Is that restricted just to
12 police department, or can it be used in part of the
13 general fund, too?

14 MS. CAIRNS: We cannot. It has to -- for drug
15 enforcement only.

16 MR. STEMA: Okay, that's right, okay.

17 MS. CAIRNS: And the monies are recovered also
18 from drug raids. Library fund, that's also a millage, and
19 that's for the library operations. It's a nonprofit, as
20 well. Then community development block grant, this is a
21 reimburse --

22 MR. STEMA: Yeah, I know that one..

23 MS. CAIRNS: Reimbursing grant, that's why we're
24 wanting increase our fund balance to 25 percent, because
25 we have to fund it up front.

1 MR. STEMA: Yeah.

2 MS. CAIRNS: The last one is -- sorry, the
3 police training fund. This is a very little money we get,
4 about \$7000 a year. But if we don't use it within two
5 years, we lose it. So basically, we either -- police
6 training, or they have to go to the gun range. So, this
7 time we have \$6000 worth of ammunition which we had
8 purchased, and that will be -- it will be expensed, so, is
9 what I'm trying to say.

10 MR. STEMA: All right.

11 MS. CAIRNS: Then the last one is water and
12 sewer fund. This is a user fee fund. This particular
13 fund imitates like a business fund, like a business
14 operation fund.

15 MR. STEMA: Okay.

16 MS. CAIRNS: Because this -- the funding of the
17 water and sewer is financed by user fees.

18 MR. STEMA: Okay.

19 MS. CAIRNS: So we have to have a rate study, to
20 make sure that it covers our costs.

21 MR. STEMA: Okay. Great. Thank you.

22 MS. CAIRNS: You're welcome.

23 MS. ROBERTS: I would entertain a motion to
24 approve the budget to actual report as submitted.

25 MR. STEMA: Motion.

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MS. ROBERTS: Second?

MS. SQUARE: Second.

MS. ROBERTS: Any further discussion?

(No response)

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

MR. STEMA: Aye.

MS. SQUARE: Aye.

MS. ROBERTS: Aye. Opposed the same.

(No response)

MS. ROBERTS: Motion carries. The next item on the agenda is approval of the five year rolling budget plan. In compliance with the Emergency Manager Square's final order, a five year budget has been developed and submitted. I would entertain a motion to approve the five year budget as submitted.

MS. SQUARE: So moved.

MR. STEMA: I actually have some discussion and questions before that.

MS. ROBERTS: Okay.

MR. STEMA: Just some general questions. I'm not exactly an expert any more on fund accounting, it's been a while, so I have a question. I believe Hamtramck got an emergency loan from the state?

MR. JABOR: Yes, they did.

1 MR. STEMA: Would that be indicated on the five
2 year budget like it was awhile ago?

3 MR. JABOR: In a sense, it is. Previous to what
4 you're seeing there, it came in as revenue, but because
5 there's an offsetting expense, it just came in the one
6 year, so you won't see that revenue show up. So there's
7 like about a \$2 million dollar difference in the revenue
8 stream, because of that loan money coming in. In fact, I
9 think I just took one of the invoices up to the
10 controller's office for the interest payment on the loan.

11 MR. STEMA: All right.

12 MR. JABOR: That expense is in there.

13 MR. STEMA: So that expense is in there, and how
14 many years before it has to get paid off, just curious;
15 roughly?

16 MR. ZWOLAK: Ten.

17 MR. JABOR: Is it ten?

18 MS. CAIRNS: Yes.

19 MR. JABOR: Thank you. Okay. I wasn't sure if
20 it was ten or 15, so. So that's all reflected, then --

21 MR. STEMA: That's all reflected, then --

22 MR. JABOR: That's basically the balance sheet
23 of them, anyway.

24 MR. JABOR: Basically what you're seeing is, we
25 kept revenues flat, both from a real property and personal

1 property point of view?

2 MR. STEMA: Uh-huh.

3 MR. JABOR: I think there's about a one percent
4 increase on an annual basis over the five years for
5 revenue sharing, just typically because we've seen
6 something a little greater than that, but we showed that
7 on a revenue side, so what you're really seeing is five
8 years of flat revenue.

9 I don't anticipate that, but that's a very
10 conservative position, okay?

11 On the expenditure side, in the general fund,
12 almost everything was held flat, except the area of
13 pension and a couple of other items. Because, not so much
14 that the pension liability is going up, but the
15 methodology that they're going to use to calculate that
16 pension liability is going to make the contribution rate
17 go up.

18 MR. STEMA: Okay.

19 MR. JABOR: Okay, I just started to review some
20 of the pension stuff this past week with the Segal Group,
21 and there's a lot of areas we're going to work on and come
22 back with some recommendations, both for the city council,
23 as well as this for the -- in the not too distant future.

24 So that was the big driver of what you see in
25 the increase in the general fund, okay?

1 Library fund, basically, we held revenue and
2 expenditures pretty flat. They didn't have a huge fund
3 balance, but, we're picking away at it. We need to do
4 some improvements over there and we will work with them
5 through the budget process we're starting.

6 Both the local road and the major road had
7 expenditures in there because they have fund balances that
8 are huge, because nobody was doing anything. So, there is
9 some -- there's a small amount of capital, and I say small
10 amount of capital; I want to estimate around ~~101~~^{\$101,000}, and
11 maybe ~~100~~^{\$100,000} in both of them. To just get a couple pieces of
12 equipment, do some part time help to do some of the
13 patching out there. And there's already some projects
14 involved that will actually spend down some of that fund
15 balance, doing road repairs, okay?

16 Then the last one was water and sewer. There's
17 a little bit of capital in there, because we really think
18 we could put a couple of 29 hour people on it, and
19 actually make money with this, and knock down that
20 receivable amount from about ~~800,000~~^{\$} down to something
21 that's a little more reasonable.

22 Just working them four days a week, on water
23 turn ons and shut offs, so, that's the major elements
24 that were in there, so when you see major roads come down,
25 that's the reason why. We're actually anticipating

1 expenditures; Mark's putting a program together right now
2 that will go in front of city council as well. But we
3 wanted to forecast that within the next five years for
4 you, so.

5 Any other questions?

6 MR. STEMA: I do. When I'm looking at the five
7 year budget, and this is just strictly the general fund
8 I'm looking at. When I'm looking, and I'm even projecting
9 out the year six, year seven, based on the way that the
10 deficit is growing, for the last three years especially,
11 it looks like it's about ^{\$}200,000 a year. I mean, just
12 looking at it, and based on what the fund balance is going
13 to be year six, you're almost at even and it looks like
14 you're going to -- you're right back in receivership.

15 MR. JABOR: Well, keep in mind, that's without
16 any adjustments --

17 MR. STEMA: No, and I understand that, okay,
18 it's a projection.

19 MR. JABOR: And I don't understand -- the city
20 manager and I don't have our arms around what those
21 adjustments are going to look like.

22 MR. STEMA: Okay.

23 MR. JABOR: But that will have an impact,
24 because that's really the big driver on what's happening
25 with regards to that fund balance reduction and general

1 fund. Is the pension plan. And the other thing is, is
2 I'm not sure how much of that pension plan, or if it's
3 spread correctly to some of the other accounts, so, we're
4 in the process of reviewing that as well.

5 MR. STEMA: So you are ~~able~~ looking at long term
6 strategies?

7 MR. JABOR: Absolutely.

8 MR. STEMA: Okay.

9 MS. SQUARE: And I'll just make a comment too,
10 Mark.

11 MR. STEMA: Okay.

12 MS. SQUARE: The problem here -- it isn't that
13 the city will be back in receivership in seven years.
14 It's that the city's pension, the city's membership in
15 MERS, is challenged, because more people will be retiring.

16 MR. STEMA: Yeah.

17 MS. SQUARE: So that's why the Segal Group is
18 here, the state has hired the Segal Group to assist the
19 city to come up with some alternatives, which may result
20 in the city not being in MERS. So it's not as easy to
21 say, well, they'll just be back in receivership.

22 MR. STEMA: Oh, I understand that, but I mean,
23 I'm just going based on the projections, it's not looking
24 great.

25 MS. SQUARE: Well, I think that some of the

1 initiatives we are now, we have an assessor who's actually
2 going to assess property in the city. The city had not
3 been assessed since 1961. So we're going to see some
4 increases there.

5 I think that we're also going to see increases
6 in income tax collection, because that was another area
7 that we were very lackadaisical in, so; I think that the -
8 - it's a five year rolling budget, and what that really
9 means is that the city will have to pay close attention to
10 forecasting, and that budget will be constantly updated.
11 So this is just really a template for the city to move
12 forward, and it's something new and it's a great
13 management tool, and you know, I love rolling budgets.

14 MR. JABOR: I do, too.

15 MS. SQUARE: And so I think that this is a great
16 opportunity to forecast and get ahead of things.

17 MR. STEMA: Nope, I agree with that.

18 MR. JABOR: And, we're going to go through and
19 make the -- each department have, go through every one of
20 their particular funds, and actually do a budget on their
21 own. You know, with some coaching. So they're going to
22 get a real good handle on what expense and revenue looks
23 like.

24 I don't believe that's really happened at any
25 formal degree in the past, here, so our goal is to do that

1 for the '15-'16 budget, and see how that compares to the
2 one that's already approved. And then, they'll have a
3 better handle on how they're going to handle revenue and
4 expenses from this point on.

5 And you've got a -- some new staff in here as well,
6 and they're anxious to learn that, and take that on. So
7 we're going to see some differences, and keep in mind that
8 we kept the revenue flat, basically it's at zero over the
9 five year period, or very little increase.

10 MR. STEMA: Yeah.

11 MR. JABOR: The assessor is going to go through
12 -- he thinks there's going to be at least a million dollar
13 increase, and so, activities that he's going to have. You
14 know, granted, it's one time, but it's one time that goes
15 out year after year, so.

16 Next year, that, like you said, it's a rolling
17 budget. You're going to see that improvement. We think
18 we can easily make back the ^{\$}200,000, once we get our arms
19 around it, so.

20 MR. STEMA: Yeah. Okay. Do you do zero based
21 budgeting, then?

22 MR. JABOR: Yes.

23 MR. STEMA: Okay. Excellent.

24 MR. JABOR: Any other questions?

25 MR. STEMA: No, that's it.

1 MS. ROBERTS: I think I had a motion, I'm not
2 sure I had a second.

3 MS. SQUARE: Second.

4 MS. ROBERTS: Any further discussion?

5 (No response)

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

7 MR. STEMA: Aye.

8 MS. SQUARE: Aye.

9 MS. ROBERTS: Aye. Opposed, the same.

10 (No response)

11 MS. ROBERTS: Motion carries.

12 ~~FDCVT~~ Okay, next up is approval of Resolution 2015-9,
13 for ~~FDCVT~~ grant funding for infrastructure and public
14 safety. Administrator Powell, you requested
15 that this Board review certain resolutions which
16 ordinarily would be outside the review period for this
17 meeting. Please briefly summarize the rationale for your
18 request?

19 MS. POWELL: These three resolutions are grants
20 that we've received from the state, and we are ready to
21 move forward on these projects today, if, you know, once
22 you guys approve those. Particularly, our street light
23 program; we are converting normal street lights to LED,
24 which will save us about \$200,000 a year, or, \$22,000 a
25 year?

\$22,000

1 MS. CAIRNS: ~~Twenty two thousand.~~

2 MS. POWELL: Just in our street light fund
3 alone. Also, we are looking to start doing the
4 reappraisal of all the parcels; that kind of goes along
5 with what the assessor's deal. That's huge for us, it's a
6 revenue maker for us as well.

7 And also, we are looking to the very first
8 resolution, for infrastructure and public safety, we are
9 doing key fob entry into the city hall. Right now
10 everything is done by keys, and we have five million keys
11 and nobody knows what they go to. So, we want to put in a
12 security system so we can track who's coming and going, we
13 can, you know, allow people in during certain hours of the
14 day and not on the weekend, or, you know, so on and so
15 forth.

16 So these are things that we have to submit a
17 resolution from not only the council, but the RTAB board
18 to the state in order to receive this money, so, that's
19 why it's on your agenda for this meeting.

20 MS. ROBERTS: Okay, thank you. I will entertain
21 a motion to approve, deny, or postpone --

22 MS. SQUARE: So moved.

23 MS. ROBERTS: Approve?

24 MS. SQUARE: So moved.

25 MS. ROBERTS: Motion to approve? Second?

1 MR. STEMA: Second.
2 MS. MS. ROBERTS: All those in favor say aye.
3 MR. STEMA: Aye..
4 MS. SQUARE: Aye.
5 MS. ROBERTS: Aye. Opposed, the same.
6 (No response)
7 MS. ROBERTS: Motion carries.
8 MS. SQUARE: I have a comment. Highland Park
9 has the fob, and it's great.
10 MS. POWELL: Yes.
11 MS. SQUARE: It's strategically located
12 throughout the building, and you don't have to have the
13 keys, and it's just nice. And so, it's -- it will be
14 convenient to ^{modernize} ~~modern cars~~, to get the key fob here.
15 MS. ROBERTS: The next item up is approval of
16 Resolution 2015-10, for conversion of MV and HPF street
17 lights to LED citywide. I would entertain a motion to
18 approve.
19 MR. STEMA: Motion.
20 MS. ROBERTS: Second?
21 MS. SQUARE: Second.
22 MS. ROBERTS: Any further discussion?
23 (No response)
24 MS. ROBERTS: All those in favor say aye.
25 MR. STEMA: Aye.

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MS. SQUARE: Aye.

MS. ROBERTS: Aye. Opposed, the same.

(No response)

MS. ROBERTS: Motion carries. The next is Resolution 2015-11, for reappraisal of all parcels and integration of updated dates into the BS&A system. I would entertain a motion to approve.

MS. SQUARE: So moved.

MS. ROBERTS: Second?

MR. STEMA: Second it.

MS. ROBERTS: Any discussion?

(No response)

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

MR. STEMA: Aye.

MS. SQUARE: Aye.

MS. ROBERTS: Aye. Opposed, the same.

(No response)

MS. ROBERTS: Seeing none, motion carries. It is time for public comment.

Mr. Van de Grift, do we have public that would like to comment?

MR. VAN de GRIFT: We do.

MS. ROBERTS: Okay.

MR. VAN de GRIFT: Councilman Zwolak?

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MR. ZWOLAK: I'll let --

MS. GORDON: Should be ladies first.

MR. ZWOLAK: I was going to say --

MS. GORDON: You've always been a gentleman.

MR. ZWOLAK: Thank you. . .

MR. VAN de GRIFF: Very good, Ms. Gordon?

MS. GORDON: Ms. Square, and thank you very much for allowing me to speak. My name is Kathy Gordon, I'm a former councilwoman; continue to be a political activist, and I am a business owner and a resident of this city.

I want to thank you for all the diligent work you do to keep us afloat, as a taxpayer, and a large taxpayer, I might add. My issues today are two. I understand where you guys are going. I know I'm probably one of the few councilmembers that really looked into the budget and was kind of informed.

To me, it's one thing to look at budgets and to look at expenditures, and to budget those expenditures. But the problem~~s~~ has been for the city for many years, as long as I was a councilwoman for six years, was not long-term debt, but daily expenditures.

The thing is, you have all this paperwork, and you can budget and you can do all of that. But if you don't look at day-to-day spending, we're going to end right back here. It's day-to-day spending that hurts us.

1 It's people's personal projects, their pet projects. We
2 had council people that had pet projects, and those are
3 the projects that go forward. Not community, but pet
4 projects.

5 We have -- I have a question related to that.
6 There has been word, and I attended a council meeting last
7 week and I'm going to give you an example. The council --
8 the city manager, Ms. Powell -- and I'm not faulting her
9 for that; she's new. She has no clue what she's in for.

10 But putting that lightly, there was a comment
11 made that they were going to do a pacer study. Now, I
12 know it's only \$3,000, somewhere in that neighborhood.
13 But nobody came to anyone and said have we ever done this?
14 Ms. Byrd (phonetic), you know we did them last year. We
15 did.

16 So, in saying that, if you're doing your
17 homework, why would you repeatedly spend the same money
18 when you just did that a year ago? They want to spray the
19 -- they want to try something new, I met with
20 councilmembers, they said we're going to try a new
21 project, we're going to spray the potholes.

22 We did that. It contaminated the water, it got
23 in the sewer lines; that's why we didn't continue. So, if
24 we keep spending all this money investigating this stuff--

25 MR. VAN de GRIFT: That is two minutes.

1 MS. GORDON: It's only two minutes?

2 MR. VAN de GRIFF: Yes, ma'am.

3 MS. GORDON: Oh. Okay. And I also want to know
4 where in the TAB board minutes does it allow public
5 comment to be removed from the agenda? There's only one
6 public comment there. I looked; I've been told it's in
7 the TAB board minutes. I don't understand how you guys
8 allow that, to restrict public comment. To everything
9 before anything's discussed. We need to have public
10 comment back at the end of the meeting. It's
11 transparency, guys.

12 MR. VAN de GRIFF: That concludes public
13 comment.

14 MS. ROBERTS: Did the councilman have -- did
15 you? I -- think he had signed up for comment, didn't you?

16 MR. ZWOLAK: Yes.

17 MS. ROBERTS: Oh. Yeah. We went out of order.

18 MR. VAN de GRIFF: Oh, I see. I thought that
19 was a waiver.

20 MS. ROBERTS: I don't think he was waiving, he
21 was just letting ladies go first.

22 MR. ZWOLAK: I might ask for more than two
23 minutes, though. But in any event, I want to start out
24 with basically, good news, and if you heard today, Wayne
25 County unfortunately lost 1,000 residents; 10,000

1 residents in Wayne County, with the last census. Good
2 news is, is that Hamtramck picked up 25 percent of them,
3 so we've got 2500 new residents in Hamtramck.

4 We have new households, we have new housing, and
5 we now have still, I think, the youngest median age
6 population in the state of Michigan. Which means we have
7 a lot of children in Hamtramck, okay. So we need those
8 parks, that's for sure, new park renovations. But, in
9 light of that, and one of my concerns as a councilman, and
10 I have brought as a memo, that I'm concerned in terms of
11 the timing of the council and the TAB working together.

12 One of the items I'm concerned with is that when
13 the council approves something, actions, projects -- then
14 we have to wait for the TAB in order to approve those
15 resolutions. I'm concerned more with the timing, because
16 I'd hate to see things slowed down based upon this
17 particular schedule.

18 And maybe in the near future we can visit that,
19 but inasmuch as we have so many projects going on, coming
20 up, that we need to do more things more in a quickly,
21 timely basis.

22 We're competing with other cities, we're
23 competing with counties for resources, and contractors,
24 you name it. So, with all that's going, all the positives
25 going in Hamtramck, I'd like to see us accelerate the

1 process quicker, so that we can get these things done,
2 rather than wait until midsummer or fall, or whatever the
3 case may be.

4 And I -- and I know, you can appreciate what I'm
5 saying in that respect, so I would hope to -- and we've
6 also concerned about some of the directives, some of the
7 orders, and I think we've asked what would be the protocol
8 to revisit some of these directives so that we might be
9 able to modify them or change them. So, that's something
10 that we've been addressing also.

11 So, rather than prolong, you know, this
12 discussion, maybe I'll need two minutes, now, but, -- but
13 in any event, that's a concern. We'd like to move forward
14 as quickly as we can, as much as, and as the treasurer
15 said, we do have funding, we do have some money; we need
16 to start spending it and fixing things around here. And
17 give our residents something to talk about.

18 Thank you.

19 MS. ROBERTS: Thank you. Time for Board
20 comment; any comment?

21 I would just like to make one comment. Public
22 comment has been on every agenda. So I'm not sure where
23 someone thinks it may have been removed; it's been on
24 every agenda, and I think this is only our third agenda,
25 but I know I've brought it up each time. So, public

1 comment is on every meeting.

2 MS. GORDON: The problem is, as I see it, they
3 have additions and deletions, that's been added to that
4 agenda. If you add or delete something from that agenda,
5 if you're sitting at home watching a council meeting --

6 MR. STEMA: Can I ask a quick question? Sorry
7 to interrupt you, do you mean our meetings, or council
8 meetings?

9 MS. GORDON: No, council meetings.

10 MS. ROBERTS: Oh, okay, I thought you said RTAB
11 meetings.

12 MR. STEMA: I thought you were talking about our
13 public meetings, too.

14 MS. GORDON: No, your public comment is great.
15 But you're watching city council meetings --

16 MS. ROBERTS: Okay, I thought you said RTAB
17 meetings.

18 MS. GORDON: No, no, no. And the thing is, I
19 can find nowhere in your rules, and I have a copy of them
20 Mr. Zwolak was nice enough to send me. Nowhere does that
21 address, and give the city manager the power, to redo that
22 agenda. We have a council rules ordinance. Now, are you
23 telling me that elected officials and appointed officials
24 are not held to comply with council ordinances? And city
25 ordinances?

1 MS. POWELL: I'll answer these questions later,
2 if you'd like.

3 MS. GORDON: I mean, I need to know like --

4 MS. ROBERTS: I thought she said the RTAB; I was
5 addressing that. We do.

6 MS. GORDON: No, no, no. And the thing is, what
7 about additions and deletions to a council meeting, and
8 you have a public comment after, why even have a council
9 meeting? Might as well meet privately and do what the
10 hell you want. Because we don't even have a chance to
11 respond to that.

12 Thank you.

13 MS. ROBERTS: Thank you. Okay. Is there any
14 further business before the RTAB?

15 (No response)

16 MS. ROBERTS: Okay, I would entertain a motion
17 to adjourn.

18 MS. SQUARE: So moved.

19 MS. ROBERTS: Second?

20 MR. STEMA: Second.

21 MS. ROBERTS: Any further discussion?

22 (No response)

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

24 MR. STEMA: Aye.

25 MS. SQUARE: Aye.

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MS. ROBERTS: Aye. Opposed, the same.

(No response)

MS. ROBERTS: The meeting is adjourned, and it is approximately 1:35. Thank you, everyone.

(At 1:35 p.m. meeting adjourned.)

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED: March 30, 2015

s/ Nina Lunsford

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