## IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA NORFOLK DIVISION

THESLET BENOIR and )
CLEMENE BASTIEN, a married )
couple; and EBEN-EZER )
HAITIAN FOOD TRUCK, LLC, )

Plaintiffs, )

V. ) NO. 2:24-cv-00064-AWA-LRL
)
TOWN OF PARKSLEY, )
VIRGINIA; and HENRY )
NICHOLSON, in his official )
and individual capacities, )

Defendants. )

REMOTE DEPOSITION UPON ORAL EXAMINATION OF

MAYOR FRANK A. RUSSELL

VOLUME II

TAKEN ON BEHALF OF THE PLAINTIFFS

Parksley, Virginia

Tuesday, January 14, 2025

Stenographically reported remotely by: Kerry Zahn, RMR-CRR

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Remote deposition upon oral examination
of MAYOR FRANK A. RUSSELL, taken on behalf of the
Plaintiffs, before Kerry E. Zahn, Registered Merit
Reporter, a eNotary and Notary Public for the
Commonwealth of Virginia at large, taken pursuant
to Notice, commencing at 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday,
January 14, 2025, taken remotely from the offices
of the Town of Parksley, Parksley, Virginia; and
this in accordance with the Federal Rules of Civil
Procedure.
this in accordance with the Federal Rules of Civil

## MAYOR FRANK A. RUSSELL

was sworn and deposed on behalf of the Plaintiffs as follows:

MR. HARDING: Again on the record now for Mayor Russell's deposition.

This deposition is follow-up, is, you know, dealing with the retaliation claim, that's our understanding from the defense side, those allegations specifically, and it's not a continuation of, you know, the deposition for the other topics that might have been covered at that time. And we are going to just preserve our objections regarding the waiver of any



1 attorney/client privilege as we had discussed in 2 Lauren Lewis' deposition earlier today. 3 THE WITNESS: Sorry. Are you talking to me? 4 5 MR. HARDING: No, sir. 6 THE WITNESS: I didn't think you 7 were. I just wanted to be clear. MR. PEARSON: Dylan, you may have 8 9 heard this, but Madam Court Reporter swore in the 10 witness and Mr. Hardy gave his statement of their 11 position. 12 MR. MOORE: Perfect. 13 So we are ready to rock. 14 MS. LAHREN: Hey, ya'll. You can't 15 see me with the blurred out background, but it's 16 Anne here in the background and I'm joining the 17 depositions and good to see you all. 18 And, Mayor Russell, I hear you are 19 not feeling well. I hope you feel better soon. There's a lot of crud going around. 20 21 THE WITNESS: Thank you very much. 22 (Reporter clarification) 23 MR. MOORE: Well, a couple things. 24 Hi, Anne. Good to see you, even if it's blurry. 25



1	Second, Mayor Russell, sorry to
2	hear you're not feeling well. We'll try to make
3	this as painless as possible.
4	THE WITNESS: Thank you.
5	
6	EXAMINATION
7	BY MR. MOORE:
8	Q So if we're ready to go, I'll skip
9	with some of the formalities that we had last time
LO	that we spoke because you have been through this
L1	once before already.
L2	But if you could please state and
L3	spell your last name for the record.
L <b>4</b>	A Frank Russell, F-r-a-n-k
L5	R-u-s-s-e-l-1.
L6	Q Thank you.
L7	And I know we have spoken before,
L8	but my name is Dylan Moore and I represent the
L9	plaintiffs in this case.
20	A Okay.
21	Q Thank you for taking the time to
22	come and talk to us again about this situation.
23	And I just wanted to let you know a little bit
24	about what we're going to be doing here. This
25	won!t be as broad of a deposition as the one wou



1 have already had. Really we're going to be focusing on communications between Town Clerk 2 Lauren Lewis and Town attorney Andre Wiggins from 3 about -- toward the end of October 2023, mid 4 October, to beginning of November of 2023 related 5 6 to the food truck ordinance that's Ordinance 2301 7 and the letter that Mr. Wiggins sent the plaintiffs in this case about the Town of 8 9 Parksley's zoning code. 10 Okay. Α 11 So like I mentioned, I won't cover 0 12 everything like the throat-clearing for depos, but 13 I do want to remind you that you are under oath 14 today, the same oath you would be under if you 15 were in a courtroom, and I will assume that you 16 understand the questions that I ask you unless you tell me that you don't understand them. 17 18 Α Okay. 19 So if I say something that's 20 confusing, it's not intentional. Just let me 21 know. 22 Α Okay. 23 I will ask you that you provide Q verbal answers instead of shaking your head so 24



Madam Court Reporter can pick up on yes's and no's

25

1	clearly.
2	I will ask that we try it's
3	harder for Zoom but try our best not to
4	interrupt one another while we're going through
5	this just so the record is clear.
6	And I will ask, is there anything
7	like a medication that would prevent you from
8	thinking clearly or testifying truthfully today?
9	A Not that I know. I'm full of cold
10	medicine, but no.
11	Q Okay. I know the feeling.
12	I wanted to ask, do you have any
13	notes prepared for this?
14	A No.
15	Q Okay. And just so you know, you
16	can take a break whenever you want if you're not
17	feeling well. Just let me know. Or for any other
18	reason, really. But if I've asked a question, I
19	will ask that you finish answering it before we go
20	on a break.
21	A Okay.
22	Q All right. So we'll just dive
23	right into some of these communications that we
24	wanted to ask you about.
25	And the first one, this was entered



1 as Exhibit 63, but, Mayor Russell, it's the exhibit beginning DEF 000394. 2 3 All right. Α 4 What about it? Well, if you could just take a 5 0 6 moment to review it, and once you have, just sort of tell me what we're looking at, if you don't mind. 8 9 Α Okay. 10 This was -- this was a letter that 11 we sent to the food truck folks saying that they 12 were out of compliance, if I'm reading it 13 correctly -- I just skimmed it. I haven't read it 14 word for word -- and that if they -- if they were 15 eligible for a fine, which -- which of course they 16 never paid -- yeah. Mayor Russell, I just want to 17 18 ensure are you looking at DEF 000394? 19 Α Yes. 20 Q Okay. So at the very top of that, it's an email. If you could just read through 21 22 like who it's from and who it's to, that might 23 help. 24 From Lauren Lewis, sent October 19, Α 25 2023, to Andre Wiggins. Subject, food truck



1 ordinance help. 2 Is that what you want? That's the document I was 3 Q Yeah. referring to. 4 5 Α Um-hum. 6 So we just talked through this O 7 document with Lauren Lewis, and it's an email from her to the Town attorney, Andre Wiggins --8 9 Α Right. -- discussing the plaintiffs in 10 Q 11 this case and the food truck ordinance; is that 12 right? 13 Α That is correct. 14 And do you recognize this email? 15 Is it something that you've seen before? 16 Α I may have. I don't remember it 17 specifically, no. 18 Okay. And just pretty much 19 everything that we're going to be looking at 20 today, just so you know, is an email from 21 Lauren -- or email exchanges between Lauren Lewis 22 and Mr. Wiggins. 23 Α Okay. 24 So did you instruct Miss Lewis to Q send this email to Mr. Wiggins? 25



1	A Man, I don't remember. What's this
2	been, almost two years ago?
3	I probably did. Yeah, I probably
4	did, but I don't specifically remember it.
5	Q Yeah. Just sort of in the normal
6	course of business, if Miss Lewis is contacting
7	Mr. Wiggins, is it because you've asked her to?
8	A Ordinarily it would be, yes.
9	Q Okay. And this email this
LO	Miss Lewis told us this was the first email
L1	exchange that she had with Mr. Wiggins concerning
L2	the food truck or really anything that has to do
L3	with this lawsuit, and it was October 19th that
L <b>4</b>	this was sent.
L5	Prior to then, did you ever
L6	personally communicate with Mr. Wiggins about this
L7	situation?
L8	A Not that I remember.
L9	Q Okay. And do you remember asking
20	Miss Lewis to reach out to Mr. Wiggins for his
21	advice on what to do about all of the things
22	concerning the food truck?
23	A I probably did. But, I mean,
24	ordinarily that would be the way it would work,
25	but I don't remember specifically, but I'm sure I



1 did. Okay. And it would be unusual for 2 Q Miss Lewis to just reach out to Mr. Wiggins on her 3 own accord; is that right? 4 5 It would be wildly unusual. Α 6 Okay. O 7 I don't remember an incidence of that ever happening. 8 This email, just correct me if I'm 9 Q 10 wrong to make sure we're on the same page, it sort 11 of notifies Mr. Wiggins about the situation with 12 the plaintiffs in this case, the food truck 13 owners, and asks for his advice on the ordinance 14 that the Town passed restricting the use of food 15 trucks in the Town of Parksley. 16 Α That's what it appears to be, yes. 17 Okay. And so I want to ask you to Q 18 look towards the very end of this email, it's -at the end of 394 and spills over onto the next 19 20 page, Miss Lewis says, I also just received a 21 phone call from the Mayor whose auto repair shop 22 is next door to the market and truck informing me 23 that they have a TV crew out there currently. 24 Do you see that? 25 I'm looking. Α



1 I don't see that specifically. must not have it in order here. 2 Oh, okay. Just take your time 3 getting it in order. It's 394 and 395. 4 5 All right. Let's find it. Α 394 I have. Let me find 395. 6 7 And if it's printed double-sided, Q it might just be on the flip side of that page. 8 Yeah. They are all out of order. 9 Α 10 Hold on. 11 I don't see a 395. 12 MR. HARDING: Mr. Mayor, are they doubled-sided? 13 14 THE WITNESS: I'm looking now. 15 Some of them certainly are. 16 MR. HARDING: It should be on the opposite side of 394. 17 18 THE WITNESS: Yeah. Well, I've got 19 that, but --20 MR. HARDING: Are you in front of a 21 computer? I can just email it to you. 22 THE WITNESS: I see it. It's just 23 one line. 24 Yeah, I found it, okay. 25 Yeah, okay. What was your



1	question?
2	MR. MOORE: Sure.
3	BY MR. MOORE:
4	Q So Miss Lewis tells Mr. Wiggins
5	that she received a phone call from you letting
6	her know that there was a TV crew out on the
7	property of the plaintiffs in this case; right?
8	A Right.
9	Q Do you remember that phone call?
10	A I don't specifically, but I'm sure
11	I made it.
12	Q And do you remember, I mean, what
13	you would have said to her, do you know?
14	A Traditionally what what our
15	policy is here, that no one that works for the
16	Town or any of the Council speaks to media other
17	than myself. That's probably what I said to her.
18	Or I might have just said, Hey, a TV crew is here.
19	Q Okay. And do you know if that
20	conversation was the same conversation when you
21	told her to or asked her to email Mr. Wiggins
22	about this situation?
23	A I do not. I do not remember.
24	Q Do you remember calling her or
25	communicating with her in any other way before



1 this asking her to reach out to Mr. Wiggins? Well, it -- on 394, I'm sure I 2 Α probably -- I probably -- because we were trying 3 to figure out whether we had -- what -- whether we 4 were on good legal ground. So I'm sure I called 5 6 her and said, Hey, call the lawyer and ask him, 7 you know? Right. 8 Q 9 And I'm just trying to figure out 10 if that was the same conversation where you told her about the TV crew. 11 12 I don't think it was, but I don't Α 13 know it's been so long. I don't know. But I 14 don't think it was. 15 Okay. And you may have already 16 mentioned this a little bit, so I apologize, but 17 why is it that you told Miss Lewis that there was 18 a TV crew, do you remember? 19 Because it's very unusual to have a Α 20 TV crew in the Town of Parksley. It never happens 21 here. 22 And was that something that you Q 23 wanted her to pass along to Mr. Wiggins? Not that -- no, not that I -- I'm 24 Α 25 sure I didn't because I don't care. I just wanted



1 to remind everybody that there would be no communication with the TV crew from anybody 2 working for the Town of Parksley or -- other than 3 4 myself. 5 0 Sure. 6 And is that policy that you're the 7 only one talking to TV crews, is that written down somewhere? 8 9 Α No, not that I know of. 10 Okay. So it's just sort of an Q 11 informal policy in the town? 12 Α Correct. 13 0 Okay. 14 Α Just like the same thing as --15 well, that's an academic. Go ahead. 16 No, finish your thought. No, it's just like a lot of things 17 Α 18 that I take care of specifically because I want to 19 make sure that I get my point across. 20 Okay. And was -- do you know, was 0 21 that the TV crew that you talked to about whether 22 the town would enforce the food truck ordinance 23 against the plaintiffs in this case? 24 Did I talk to a TV crew? Α 25 Yeah. We talked about that a Q



```
1
     little bit in your last deposition.
                    There was a WOBC article that came
 2
     out on October 19th of 2023 where you mentioned
 3
     that the town wasn't planning to enforce the food
 4
     truck law against the plaintiffs in this case
 5
     until their business license expired, is that
 6
 7
     ringing any bells?
             Α
                    I don't even remember talking to a
 8
 9
     TV crew, so... so if I did, I'm sure that's the
10
     one I talked to, you know?
11
                    Okay. Do you remember telling a TV
             0
12
     crew or anybody else that the Town didn't plan to
13
     enforce the food truck law against the plaintiffs
14
     in this case?
15
             Α
                    I honestly don't remember.
16
     probably did say that, but I don't remember,
17
     honestly.
18
                    And do you remember --
             Q
19
                    At the time --
             Α
20
                    Oh.
             0
21
                    At the time -- at the time we
             Α
22
     didn't realize that we already had an ordinance in
23
     place that prevented it, you know?
                    We didn't realize -- until
24
     Mr. Wiggins enlightened us, we didn't realize that
25
```



1 we had an ordinance in place that specifically --2 or not specifically -- but generally made it null and void to have a food truck here. 3 But at this time the law or the 4 ordinance specifically limiting permanent food 5 trucks was also on the books; right? 6 7 Α It may have been. I don't know. Do you know the dates? 8 9 wouldn't -- it wouldn't help with dates because I 10 don't remember. Like I say, it's been almost two 11 years ago. 12 0 Sure. 13 Well, I can just tell you that that 14 ordinance was passed on October 9th. 15 Α October 9th, right. 16 And this email and the date of the Q publication of that article was October 19th. 17 18 Α Okay. 19 So at the time there was a law on 20 the book -- the specific food truck ordinance was 21 on the books in Parksley? 22 Α Yes. We just didn't know it. 23 Q No, no, no. 24 The ordinance 2301 that was passed specifically about food trucks. 25



1	A Oh, the one that we passed?
2	Q Yeah.
3	A We did that when?
4	Q The 9th of October.
5	A Okay. And what was your point
6	again?
7	Q Well, what I'm trying to figure out
8	is when the Town determined that the zoning code
9	also covered food trucks.
LO	A Oh, I don't know. It was whenever
L1	the lawyer talked got back to us. I don't know
L2	what the date would have been.
L3	Q And the Town's position when it
L <b>4</b>	didn't know about the zoning code and it was the
L5	only law that the Town knew of on the books that
L6	affected food trucks was this specific ordinance
L7	that you all passed, there was a time when the
L8	Town didn't plan to enforce that against the
L9	plaintiffs in this case; right?
20	A What we had talked about and it
21	was I don't think it was ever codified or
22	anything, but what we had talked about was before
23	we realized that they we didn't that they
24	couldn't do it, we had talked about at one point
25	letting them try to run out until we got some



1 verification. But once we got verification, we realized we couldn't do it. 2 Well, okay. Let's talk a little 3 4 bit more about that because what do you mean by 5 "verification," I suppose? 6 Α Verification from our lawyer, from 7 our lawyer. We had talked about -- and we said -because in the beginning, it was -- it was like, well, we -- we weren't sure. And we had talked 9 10 about letting them go until we found out what our 11 lawyer said. It wasn't like we were going to let 12 13 them go forever. 14 Right, I understand -- sorry. 15 Finish your thought. 16 Α No. 17 Once our lawyer said, You can't do 18 it, you can't do it. 19 But didn't the food truck 20 ordinance, that one that was passed on the 9th, 21 already say that they couldn't operate? 22 I -- I don't remember. It may 23 I don't remember. I don't remember the have. details of it anymore because we -- we went 24 25 through two or three different plans on which way



1 to handle it and I don't remember which one we actually went with. 2 3 Q Sure. Well, ultimately, the plaintiffs 4 5 received a letter telling them that they couldn't 6 operate because of the zoning code, the one that 7 had been around for a long time, not the specific food truck ordinance that was passed. 9 Α Correct. That was -- that was the 10 nail in the coffin right there, yes. 11 Q Right. 12 But I guess what I'm trying to get 13 at is why wouldn't the food truck ordinance have 14 been verification enough? 15 Α Why wouldn't the food truck --16 MR. HARDING: Object to form. 17 THE WITNESS: -- have been 18 verification enough... 19 You mean to stop them from 20 operating? BY MR. MOORE: 21 22 Yeah, yeah. Q 23 Well, I -- why wouldn't that have Α been enough. 24 25 Well, I guess -- I guess we thought



1 it was enough until... 2 But we didn't know. We were -- we were pawing around in the dark. We weren't sure, 3 and that's why we wanted some -- some legal 4 5 advice, you know? 6 If I remember correctly, that's --7 that was the deal. I don't know what you're trying to 8 get at with why wouldn't that have been enough. 9 10 I guess it would have been enough 11 if we had known that we didn't have to do it to 12 begin with. 13 Yeah, I guess what I'm trying to 0 14 get at, and I apologize if I'm not explaining 15 myself clearly, is that there was this specific 16 food truck law, right, that was on the books --17 Α Right. 18 -- that limited the permanent Q 19 operation of food trucks in the Town. 20 Α It had already been there for a 21 long time, is that what you're talking about or 22 the new one? 23 No, no. I'm talking about the one Q that was passed in October of '23. 24 25 Okay. Α



1	Q That specifically was about food
2	trucks.
3	A Yeah, okay.
4	Q But that law, it seems like the
5	Town Council or the Town of Parksley wasn't
6	planning to enforce that against the plaintiffs
7	until their business license ran out; right?
8	A Well, that was one of the things
9	that was suggested, but but we were still
LO	waiting to hear from our lawyer.
L1	We talked about a number of things.
L2	That was one of the things that maybe let it
L3	run until their business license ran out.
L <b>4</b>	But in but through the whole
L5	thing, even though that was being discussed at one
L6	point, it was all predicated on what our lawyer
L7	said.
L8	We talked about a half dozen
L9	different ways to handle it. That was certainly
20	one of them. But when our lawyer said, You can't
21	do it anyway, we we just felt a little bit like
22	why did we go through all this trouble? We just
23	didn't know it, you know.
24	Q Okay. And when the Town first got
25	the lawyer involved, is this email that we're



1 talking about, this October 19th one from Lauren Lewis to Mr. Wiggins, is this the first time that 2 the Town reached out to Mr. Wiggins for help with 3 the food truck situation? 4 5 As far as I know, it was. Α 6 Okay. O 7 As far as I can remember, it was. Α Okay. And, again, Lauren Lewis 8 Q wouldn't have sent this email to Mr. Wiggins 9 10 without you asking her to. 11 No, absolutely not. Α 12 O Okay. 13 Α Absolutely not. 14 And it's at least possible that the 15 same call where you asked her to reach out to 16 Mr. Wiggins about this was the call where you told her that there were TV crews? 17 18 I don't think so. I don't think 19 the TV crews came until a couple of days later. 20 Okay. Okay. We can move on from 0 21 this document. 22 Α That -- after you all got all this 23 hubbub started, that's when the TV crews showed 24 up. 25 I'm sure you called and told them



1 or sent them emails or something and wanted to start to raise a lot of sand. 2 But that's when the TV crews showed 3 up and the phones started blowing up and everybody 4 started going crazy and -- that's when the TV 5 6 crews showed up. And did the TV crews, I mean, was that a big -- a big deal in the Town? Were people 8 9 talking about the TV crews a lot? 10 No, not really. I don't think the Α 11 majority of people even knew they were here, 12 because my -- where the food truck is and my 13 establishment, which is next to it almost, is 14 going out -- out of town. It's not guite at the 15 town limits, but it's getting there. 16 Q Okay. And just one more thing I 17 wanted to ask you about. 18 Lauren Lewis mentioned in that 19 email that your auto repair shop is next door to 20 the plaintiffs -- their market and where the food 21 truck is. 22 Α Right. 23 Is it literally right next door, Q like it's an adjacent parcel? 24 25 It's one lot between us. Α



1	Q	Okay.
2	A	There's one 50-foot lot between us.
3	Q	Okay.
4		Well, we can move on from that one
5	and move to DE	F 000398 which is Exhibit 64.
6	A	All right. Let me look.
7		398?
8	Q	Yes, sir.
9	A	Okay.
10		Okay. Found it.
11	Q	Okay. And just take a moment to
12	review it and	let me know when you have.
13	A	There must be another page here
14	because the one	e I've got doesn't say anything.
15		Hold on.
16	Q	This one apologies if I
17	misspoke. It's	s 398 and it's only one page.
18	A	Okay. Well, I've got it then.
19	It's it does	sn't have much on it.
20	Q	No, it doesn't.
21	A	Okay. What can I tell you about
22	this?	
23	Q	I'm just in Lauren's deposition
24	that we just ha	ad, she told us that this was an
25	email from her	to Mr. Wiggins. She just shared a



1 folder with him that had all of Parksley's ordinances in it. 2 3 Α Okay. And I was just curious, did you ask 4 5 her to send this over to Mr. Wiggins? 6 I'm sure I did, because, bear in 7 mind, that at this time we had just hired Mr. Wiggins. I had never met him. No one on the Council had ever met him. Lauren had never met 9 10 him. He was not familiar with the Town of 11 Parksley at all. So he wanted to bone up on our 12 ordinances anyway. And so we thought, well, this 13 is a good time; send him all of them and let him 14 look them all over, you know. 15 Yeah, that makes total sense. 16 That's all I have on that one, so we can keep moving through. 17 18 Α Okay. 19 The next one is DEF 000400 and that's Exhibit 65. 20 21 400... Α 22 Another email without much on it. Q 23 400... Α 24 Okay, I found it. What you got?



Beautiful.

Q

25

1	This is another email exchange
2	between Miss Lewis and Mr. Wiggins.
3	And do you see in the middle there
4	where it says, Andre, please proceed with revising
5	the food truck ordinance per the Council?
6	A Yes.
7	Q Okay.
8	Now, this was sent on October 20th,
9	which is the day after that first email that we
LO	discussed.
L1	And I'm just curious, like this
L2	email doesn't explain what the revisions per the
L3	Council would be to Mr. Wiggins.
L <b>4</b>	Do you know if the Council like
L5	discussed the food truck ordinance and revisions
L6	that they wanted to it?
L7	A So this was, just so I'm clear,
L8	this was the day after we passed the second the
L9	ordinance we didn't know we needed?
20	Q No, sir. This was 11 days later.
21	A Okay. So this but we had
22	already passed the ordinance that we didn't know
23	we needed; right?
24	Q This is you had already passed
25	the ordinance limited to food trucks, yes.



1	A Okay, okay.
2	Well, I imagine I imagine I just
3	wanted clarification on whether see, we I
4	don't think we still knew we didn't need this
5	ordinance at this point, and I imagine I just
6	wanted clarification on the one that we had passed
7	was legit. That's my guess.
8	Q Right. Because the Council had
9	passed that ordinance without checking with an
10	attorney; right?
11	A Correct.
12	Q Okay. And so were there after
13	the ordinance was passed, were there revisions
14	that the Town realized should have been made to
15	the ordinance or what are the revisions that are
16	being talked about?
17	A No, we just asked for his thoughts
18	on it, you know. Is this the way we should have
19	done this? Were we within our legal rights? Tell
20	us what you think.
21	Q Well, the email is instructing
22	Mr. Wiggins please tell me if you have a
23	different interpretation. But on my read it looks
24	like the email is instructing Mr. Wiggins to go
25	ahead with some revisions that the Council



1 suggested; is that right? My -- my memory of it was that I 2 Α just wanted to go on good legal ground. That was 3 my memory. And if it needed revising, do it, you 4 5 know? 6 Q Okay. 7 I mean, you're lawyers, you know? I mean, the law pivots on "a" and "an" and "the" 8 and "or," you know. So the law has all kinds of 9 minor details that make -- that don't matter in 10 11 the rest of the world --12 Yeah. O 13 -- you know? You're a lawyer. Α 14 It's true. Q 15 And --16 Α Yeah. And so do you remember -- well, I 17 Q 18 guess I'll ask. Like the other emails that we 19 talked about, this is Lauren Lewis sort of 20 speaking on your behalf, right, as the Mayor? 21 Α Correct. She does not do 22 anything -- if she has a question about whether to 23 send an email or make a phone call, she calls me or she lets me know, she says, What do you think? 24 25 Should I do it? I say yes or no or whatever.



1	Q Okay. And did you, just out of
2	curiosity, did you ever have any phone calls or
3	communications with Mr. Wiggins directly?
4	A Not that I remember. If I did I
5	may have, but not that I remember.
6	Q Okay. And that would have what
7	would that have looked like if it had happened?
8	Like a phone call probably?
9	A Probably, yeah, probably a phone
10	call, especially at that time because, like I say,
11	he was brand new here. We didn't know him, he
12	didn't know us, and I'm sure he was just trying to
13	make sure that he was doing if we had a
14	communication, I'm sure he was trying to make sure
15	he was he understood what we were asking him to
16	do, you know? That's my guess.
17	Q And if the Town Council had gotten
18	together and decided that they wanted to get
19	Mr. Wiggins' opinion on something, would they also
20	go through Miss Lewis to get those opinions?
21	A Well, the see, that's the other
22	thing.
23	Generally speaking, the Council
24	does not go through Miss Lewis for anything.
25	Generally speaking, we make a decision at a work



1 session or at a meeting. This thing keeps flying 2 up in front of your face. But we make a decision at a work 3 4 session or a meeting, and then we get a -- we get a consensus. And then I say, Lauren, okay, here's 5 the consensus. Go ahead and -- go ahead and move 6 7 forward. Okay. And if there were any tweaks 8 9 or changes that the Town Council and yourself 10 wanted Mr. Wiggins to make with an ordinance, the 11 Town Council might make that decision at a work 12 session or at a Town Council meeting and then you 13 would have Miss Lewis reach out to Mr. Wiggins to 14 make those changes; is that right? 15 Α Correct, um-hum. 16 Q Okay. Cool. We will move on from this one and 17 18 go now to, it's DEF 000404 and 405. This is 19 another one where it's probably going to be a 20 two-sided page, and it's Exhibit 66. 21 Α 404 --22 Yes, sir. Q 23 -- to 405. Α 24 404, I found that one. 25 Let me find 405.



1	I wonder if it's on the back?
2	No, it's not.
3	You said 405, not 450; right?
4	Q Yes, sir, 404 and 405.
5	A Well, my friend, I'm not seeing
6	405. I got 404, but I'm not seeing 405.
7	Q It might be another situation where
8	the 405 is on the back side of 404 and it's
9	also
LO	A Go ahead. It is. It is. Go
L1	ahead.
L2	Q Okay. So just take a minute and
L3	look through that. Let me know when you're ready
L <b>4</b>	to talk about it.
L5	A Okay. What do you want to know on
L6	this one?
L7	Q All right. So this is another
L8	email exchange between Miss Lewis and Mr. Wiggins.
L9	It's a week after the last email that we talked
20	about. This one is on October 27th. And you can
21	see this will be the case in a lot of the
22	documents that we talk about; the first email is
23	actually the most recent one. So we're probably
24	going to go through a lot of them in kind of like
25	reverse order.



1	So I'm going to start with that
2	bottom email from Miss Lewis to Mr. Wiggins.
3	12:25 p.m. on the 27th.
4	A Okay.
5	Q Do you see what I'm talking?
6	A Yeah. The Council has agreed to a
7	fine of \$250 a day.
8	That's the one you're talking
9	about?
10	Q Yes, sir.
11	A Assuming that is feasible, of
12	course, they ask that you add that to the
13	revisions you are currently doing to the
14	ordinance; if that amount isn't applicable, please
15	let us know and I will pass it along to the
16	Council. Either way, they would like you to write
17	it into the ordinance.
18	Okay?
19	Q Okay. So by this time, am I right
20	to say that the Town Council and you had thought
21	of some revisions that you wanted to that food
22	truck ordinance?
23	A Yes.
24	Q And you were asking Mr. Wiggins to
25	make them?



1	A Well, here was the deal. As I've
2	told you before, we're all weekend warriors.
3	We've all got jobs. We don't take any money for
4	this job. We do it as a volunteer situation.
5	And but everybody has got their
6	own opinion, just like just like in the rest of
7	the world. Everybody's got their own opinion.
8	And so we had I put together a
9	couple of people to do the ordinance that we
LO	thought we wanted.
11	So then we brought that back to
<b>L2</b>	the either the Council or the work session, and
13	then other people said, Oh, no, we need to do
14	this, that. Why don't we do this, why don't we do
15	that if it's if it's legal.
L6	So that's what this is all about.
L7	We had other people who wanted to somebody, I
18	don't remember who, wanted to add a \$250 a day
L9	violation if it was legal. We didn't know if it
20	was even legal because, like I say, we don't know
21	anything.
22	And so that that's what this was
23	all about.
24	Q Great.
25	And just so I'm clear, this would



1 have been the Council got together, decided that there should be a \$250 a day fine for violating 2 the food truck ordinance and then you had 3 Miss Lewis email Mr. Wiggins to revise the 4 ordinance to include that; is that right? 5 6 Α If it was legal. 7 Right, right. Q Okay. And so that decision to add 8 the \$250 a day violation fine would have been made 9 10 at like a City Council meeting; is that right? 11 I don't think it ever got made. Α Ι 12 think -- I think by the time this was -- this was 13 a suggestion. And I don't think -- and I don't 14 think it was ever added to anything because by the 15 time we had the next meeting -- we meet once a 16 month -- by the time we had the next meeting, our 17 attorney had said, Hey, you don't have to do any 18 of this stuff. 19 Okay. That makes sense. 0 20 And then -- so in response to that 21 suggestion, now we're talking about the top email 22 from Mr. Wiggins to Miss Lewis. 23 Um-hum. Α He, it seems, like attached an 24 Q 25 ordinance from another town so that Miss Lewis and



1	then, by extension, you and the Town Council could
2	see the preamble in that ordinance, talking about
3	like what interests the government had in making
4	the law.
5	Does that seem right?
6	A Here's my guess. And I don't
7	remember this specific thing, but here's my guess.
8	We had one guy on the Council who
9	wanted to make the most elaborate he wanted to
10	rewrite the Constitution for this for this food
11	truck ordinance. And it was like two pages long.
12	He went through he went to Ocean City,
13	Maryland, Virginia Beach, he went to Chincoteague
14	and he took pieces from all of their stuff, right,
15	and he made this super elaborate food truck
16	ordinance.
17	And so, anyway, and then some of
18	the other people on the Council said, That is
19	crazy. That's we don't need that. Let's keep
20	it simple, stupid, you know?
21	So we did just a very basic one.
22	And I if I don't know, I could be wrong, but
23	I remember sending them I think we sent them
24	both to the attorney to let him look at both of
25	them to see if either one of them were right or



1 either were legal or if we even needed them at all. 2 Okay. And so at this point --3 Q 4 yeah, which -- which City Council members wanted 5 the longer ordinance --I don't remember. 6 Α 7 -- do you know? Q That's been two years ago. I don't 8 Α 9 remember now. 10 Okay. And so by this point, this Q 11 email exchange happened, the ordinance was on the 12 books, and the Town was discussing --13 Whoa, whoa... Α 14 -- amendments that could be made. O 15 I don't think it ever got on the Α 16 books. Did it? Did it get on the books? 17 18 I don't think it was ever codified, 19 was it? 20 That's what happened at the 0 21 October 9th, 2023 --22 I think we voted on it, but I don't 23 think it was ever codified, but I could be wrong. I don't think it was ever written into the -- into 24 25 the -- into the zoning for the Town. I don't



1 think it was ever codified, because I think before 2 we had a chance to do that, if memory serves me well, we got the word that we didn't need it at 3 all, so I don't think it was ever codified. 4 Okay. Codified or not -- sorry. 5 Q 6 Finish your thought. 7 Is that the right word, "codified"? Α Yeah. 8 Q 9 Α Write it down. 10 We didn't write it down, put it 11 into law. We just talked about it, we voted to do 12 it, but I don't think we ever -- I don't think it 13 was ever put into law. 14 Okay. Codified or not, at this 15 point in October 27th when these emails are being 16 sent around, the Town is discussing amendments to 17 that ordinance with the Town attorney; right? 18 Α Okay. 19 And in this email from Mr. Wiggins 20 to Miss Lewis on the 27th, Mr. Wiggins, correct me 21 if I'm wrong on your read, but is suggesting 22 adding a preamble to the ordinance to show the 23 government's interest in passing the ordinance; is 24 that correct? 25 I don't remember that. Α I mean,



1	that's what it says here. I don't even know what
2	that means.
3	Sole purpose that you can see the
4	preamble. I'm attaching an ordinance from oh,
5	I see, okay.
6	So he found another ordinance, too,
7	that he liked apparently that to save us from
8	going through all the who-shot-John to make it our
9	own, I guess. That's what I'm reading from it.
LO	Q And then he goes on to say that,
L1	Parksley doesn't need anything quite as elaborate
L2	as that other ordinance.
L3	A Right.
L <b>4</b>	Q Would it be a good idea to set
L5	forth a governmental interest when prohibiting an
L6	otherwise legal activity like a food truck.
L7	And then he goes on to say, It may
L8	serve to thwart a legal challenge, i.e., from an
L9	upset vape shop owner or a food truck vendor.
20	Do you see that?
21	A Yeah, I see it.
22	Q And was a legal challenge to the
23	ordinance something that the Town was worried
24	about at the time?
25	A No not at all not at all We had



1	no idea that t	his was going to blow up into
2	something unti	l you guys decided to make it into a
3	worldwide epis	ode of murder mysteries.
4		I mean, you're the ones that blew
5	this up. We d	idn't do it. You put it out there
6	on half a doze	n different sites to I guess to
7	generate donat	ions for your law firm, is all I can
8	figure, becaus	e you are not going to get any money
9	out of these p	eople. So you had you had to be
10	doing it to li	ne your pockets to get donations for
11	your law firm.	Otherwise, why would you do it?
12		These people have no money.
13		Am I right? Am I right?
14	Q	I'm just trying to talk about
15	A	Am I right?
16	Q	Mr. Wiggins
17	A	Am I right?
18	Q	Sir, I would really like to keep
19	this focused o	n
20	A	Yeah, because you know I'm right.
21		Okay. Go ahead, go ahead.
22	Q	I'm just trying to figure out
23	A	Let's not talk about the bad stuff
24	you guys did.	Okay?
25		Let's not talk about causing



causing my whole entire office staff to have to 1 2 shut the phones down for two weeks, let's not talk about them having a nervous breakdown because you, 3 your law firm, decided to make an issue of a 4 nonissue and you put it on CNN and YouTube and God 5 6 only knows what else and every newspaper on the 7 East Coast. Go ahead. 8 9 Q Sir, I'm trying to keep this very 10 civil, and I'd appreciate it --11 I'm keeping it civil, too, but I'm Α 12 telling you the truth, and you know it's the 13 truth. 14 Go ahead. Tell me what you got. 15 Q I would just like to keep this very 16 focused on the conversations --17 (talking over) 18 Yeah, because you got --Α 19 THE COURT REPORTER: I'm sorry. 20 Okay. Gentlemen, I'm going to have 21 to go off the record because when you talk over 22 each other, I can't hear either one of you. 23 THE WITNESS: I'm sorry. 24 THE COURT REPORTER: So I just need 25 one --



1	MR. MOORE: I got it.
2	THE COURT REPORTER: Yup, I'm just
3	typing on this little machine, but I have to hear
4	the words.
5	THE WITNESS: I'm very sorry.
6	MR. MOORE: Apologies, Madam Court
7	Reporter.
8	BY MR. MOORE:
9	Q I just want to keep this very
10	focused.
11	A Yup.
12	Q And here on the 27th, Mr. Wiggins
13	sent Miss Lewis an email suggesting that a
14	preamble be added to the food truck ordinance.
15	And he goes on to say, It may serve
16	to thwart a legal challenge, for example from a
17	food truck vendor.
18	And all I'm curious about is from
19	the Town's perspective why this might be something
20	that Mr. Wiggins was worried about.
21	Is it something that the Town was
22	worried about?
23	A I don't remember.
24	MR. HARDING: Dylan, I'd like to
25	object to that question. He's not the Town



1 representative. 2 THE WITNESS: I can't tell you what Mr. Wiggins was worried about. 3 BY MR. MOORE: 4 5 Why -- why have discussions with 0 6 the media then something that upsets you in this 7 case? Because it upset my entire little 8 Α town here. 9 10 We couldn't even make a phone call 11 out of our office for nut-jobs calling from all 12 over the East Coast that you had -- that you had 13 promoted, making us look like bad guys. 14 And we're not bad guys. 15 We're not getting any money out of 16 this deal, you know? We're trying to do it because we love our town. 17 18 And when some outside force decides 19 to make you look like Jack the Ripper, it doesn't 20 go down very well. 21 Plus, it interrupted my entire 22 office staff for two solid weeks. I thought poor 23 Lauren was going to have a nervous breakdown because of you guys. 24 25 That's why it upset me.



1 And when did that media attention Q 2 and firestorm start? After you guys posted all this 3 stuff on YouTube and all over the internet. After 4 5 your law firm did that. What about back on October 19th 6 0 7 with the TV crew from WOBC that you emailed Lauren about, I mean --8 9 Α I don't --10 -- did that have any effect on the Q 11 Town? 12 I don't remember. I'm sure it did, Α 13 but not like what you guys did. It may have. 14 I never got any phone calls about 15 it or anything, so apparently nobody took it 16 seriously around here. Okay. We can keep moving. 17 Q 18 Let's go to DEF 000422, and that's 19 It's 422 through 427. a longer one. 20 Okay, I got it. Α 21 All right. Again, just take a 22 moment to review it and let me know when you have. 23 All right. What do you want to Α know? 24 25 So could you tell me just a little Q



1 bit about what this email exchange is about? This is -- email exchange is from 2 Α 3 Lauren, our Town Clerk, to -- let me see, who is it from -- it's from -- yes, it's from Lauren to 4 the Mayor and the Council members, and it says 5 6 that she spoke with me Friday and she said she did not realize when she gave them a business license that it was going to be a permanent food truck. 8 9 She was thinking it was more like a restaurant. 10 It says that right here. 11 However, in my mind, it's like a 12 restaurant, which is allowed. So I didn't think 13 twice about it. So that's why she gave them a 14 business license to begin with. 15 Right. Q 16 And just so we're on the same page, 17 I think this is from Miss Lewis to Mr. Wiggins; is 18 that right? 19 Yes, it is. Yes, yes, yes, um-hum. Α 20 Okay. And it's talking about that 0 letter that the Town received from Pastor Calherbe 21 22 Monel. 23 Are you familiar with that? Is it on this sheet? 24 Α I believe it should be. Page 3 is 25 Q



1 the letter itself. 2 Α Is he the guy that came and talked 3 to me? 4 I believe so, yeah. Q 5 Yeah, him and some guy from Α Virginia Beach. I think he was from Virginia 6 7 Beach, too. More outsiders sticking their nose 8 in our business. 9 10 Anyway, what about it? 11 Oh, yeah, I see it. 12 Okay. He was from the Christians 13 United for Haiti group. 14 Right. O 15 So this is the letter from the 16 Pastor who you ended up speaking to; right? 17 Um-hum. Α 18 Okay. And Miss Lewis received the 19 letter from him and forwarded it to Mr. Wiggins. 20 Does that seem right? 21 I -- I guess she did. I don't see Α 22 it on here, but she probably did. 23 Let me see. 24 Yes, she did. Okay. 25 Q Okay. And then there -- okay.



1 We'll go line by line here, I guess. 2 At the beginning of that email, it's on the first page, DEF 000422, Miss Lewis 3 tells Mr. Wiggins, We have a work session this 4 evening where I suppose we will discuss it, "it" 5 being that letter. 6 7 Do you remember a work session where this letter was discussed? 8 I don't. 9 Α 10 Do you go to the Town Council's Q 11 work sessions? 12 I do. Α 13 Do you know if you missed any 0 14 between --15 Α I never missed one. 16 But I don't remember this specifically being discussed. I remember talking 17 18 to the preacher. I talked to him for a couple 19 hours. But I don't remember this actually being 20 discussed. 21 Okay. And then at the beginning of Q 22 the next paragraph, Miss Lewis says, I spoke with 23 Frank Friday after you and I talked and let him know about the zoning ordinance prohibiting the 24 25 food truck ever having been there to begin with.



1	A Okay.
2	Q Do you remember talking to
3	Miss Lewis on the phone about this or in person?
4	A I do not.
5	Q What I'm trying to pin down is
6	exactly when you realized that the Town zoning
7	ordinances already forbade food trucks and I'm
8	trying to figure out if that call with
9	Miss Lewis was then was when that happened.
10	A I can't tell you that because it's
11	been two years ago. I don't remember.
12	I don't remember the exact date
13	when I when I found out that it was that it
14	was already illegal. I don't remember the exact
15	date.
16	Q Okay. Do you remember talking to
17	her about it at all?
18	A I think she I think she sent
19	maybe a I don't know if she sent us an email or
20	if she brought it up at a work session or how she
21	brought it up, but at some point she told us that
22	the lawyer had said there was no need for a food
23	truck ordinance because they were already
24	prohibited in our original zoning, but I don't
25	remember when that was.



1 Q Okay. And once the Town attorney told you that, what was your response? 2 As far as I was concerned, it was 3 4 over with. There was no -- there was no response. 5 It was illegal for them to be there to begin with, and that was all of it. 6 7 And is that why the ordinance specifically directed at food trucks ended up 8 9 being repealed? 10 Yes. We didn't need it. We didn't Α 11 need it. 12 THE WITNESS: Hold on. I got 13 something on my phone. Hold on. 14 MR. MOORE: Yeah, take a moment. 15 (Discussion off the record) 16 THE WITNESS: Now, let me just say this. Let me say this --17 18 THE COURT REPORTER: Are we back on 19 the record? 20 THE WITNESS: I'm back on the 21 record, yes, ma'am. 22 The cell phone is the bane of 23 modern man. The -- but, now, just so 24 Okay. you'll be clear on this because I know, like I 25



1 said, you're trying to hook something. But they were always told that they could operate with a 2 special use permit from the get-go. From day 3 number -- from -- maybe not day number one, but 4 early -- early in all this hubbub they were told 5 6 they could operate with a special use permit. 7 they didn't want to do that, and they have never done it to this day. 8 BY MR. MOORE: 9 10 For how many days could they Q 11 operate with the special use permit? 12 You could -- you can make it one Α 13 day, you can make it indefinitely. 14 And is that just up to the 15 discretion of the Town? 16 Α Yes. It's the discretion of the Council. 17 18 But they never even came and talked 19 to us about it. They never asked, What have I got 20 to do to get a special use permit? They just 21 decided to go this route. 22 And would you have been in favor of 23 giving them a special use permit? 24 As long as they didn't tie into our Α



sewage, I wouldn't care.

1	We're here to have businesses.
2	We're not here to run anybody out. We're here to
3	make our town prosper, you know. I want
4	businesses.
5	You know, what Mayor wouldn't want
6	businesses in his town, you know?
7	But I don't care who you are, where
8	you're from or what your daddy's name is, you've
9	got to follow the rules. And that's where they
10	went wrong.
11	Q Okay. We can it's in the same
12	exhibit, but, if you could, turn to DEF 000426.
13	A 426 let me find this 426 here.
14	Okay, I got it.
15	Q Okay. Here, this is a this is
16	Mr. Wiggins' response to Miss Lewis after she sent
17	him the letter from the Pastor.
18	And just to paraphrase the email, I
19	think he's saying he doesn't presume to have any
20	advice with respect to that letter in general.
21	And then he says, If anyone has any
22	specific question, I'll do my best to assist.
23	Do you see that?
24	A Yes, I do.
25	Q Did you ever reach out to



1 Mr. Wiggins with any specific questions about the letter from the Pastor? 2 No, not that I remember. If I --3 if I asked -- if I asked him advice on anything, 4 it was whether to -- whether I should even meet 5 with the Pastor. 6 7 If I asked him anything, which I'm not saying I did or I didn't because I don't 8 9 remember, but I decided to meet with him and see 10 what he had to say. 11 We sat right here in this office 12 and talked for two hours, he and somebody else he 13 had with him. They were all from Virginia Beach 14 or somewhere. 15 Okay. And you don't know --Q 16 Α And we had a very congenial 17 meeting. 18 Okay. And you don't remember one 19 way or the other if you asked Mr. Wiggins anything specific about that interaction? 20 21 I don't remember. I don't Α 22 remember. 23 Okay. We can keep moving. Q The next document I'll ask you to 24



look at is DEF 000432, and this one is entered as

1	Exhibit 69.
2	A 432. All right. Hang tight.
3	Got it.
4	Q All right. And if you could
5	this one also spills off onto the next page. It's
6	probably just the flip side of the page you're
7	looking at. But if you could just review that and
8	let me know when you have.
9	A Okay. I see the
LO	All right. What can I tell you?
L1	Q All right. So this is another
L <b>2</b>	email exchange between Miss Lewis and Mr. Wiggins.
L3	And, again, we're going to start
L <b>4</b>	with the first email which is the one that begins
L5	on the bottom of 432 from Miss Lewis to
L6	Mr. Wiggins at 9:26 a.m. on October 31st.
L7	Do you see what I'm talking about?
L8	A Yup.
L9	Q Okay. So in the first line there
20	Miss Lewis says, So they still would like you to
21	revise the food truck ordinance to be legally
22	sound.
23	And I was wondering if you could
24	just tell me a little bit more about what she's
25	saying there.



1	A I don't know. "To be legally
2	sound," to make sure we weren't stepping on our
3	tail, you know?
4	Q And the "they" in that sentence
5	A I'm assuming it's for the penalty
6	clause. That's what it says in the next line.
7	Adding the penalty clause, I'm assuming it's about
8	the penalty clause. We didn't know if that was
9	legal or not.
10	Q Were there any other concerns that
11	you or the Town Council had about the food truck
12	ordinance at that time?
13	A I don't remember.
14	Apparently apparently we were
15	concerned whether or not that the \$250 fine was
16	legal.
17	Apparently that was from what
18	I'm reading, that's what we were worried about.
19	Q Yeah, I see the language talking
20	about the \$250 a day fine.
21	I'm just curious if there were
22	other issues with the food truck ordinance that
23	the Town was worried about at the time.
24	A Not that I remember.
25	Like I say, initially we didn't



1	think this was a big deal. We didn't think this
2	was a big deal.
3	We had no idea you guys were going
4	to blow it up into an atom bomb.
5	We didn't know this was a big deal.
6	We just thought we were taking care of business,
7	like we always try to do, and try to make it as
8	work for everybody, but it didn't work out that
9	way.
LO	That's what I'm taking from it.
L1	Q Okay. So from your perspective,
L2	there were no other, like, issues with the
L3	ordinance that could have made it not legally
L <b>4</b>	sound at the time?
L5	A Not not that I remember, no.
L6	Like I told you, we scrambled
L7	something together and sent it down to get it
L8	approved by the lawyer, you know? That's what we
L9	were worried about, because we were trying to do
20	the best we could, but we're not lawyers, you
21	know?
22	Q Well, didn't you pass it first and
23	then ask for the lawyer's input?
24	A I don't remember.
25	Did we?



1	You you know, why are you asking
2	me? I don't remember.
3	Q Well, because this is all about
4	what you know, sir, and that's what we're trying
5	to get at.
6	A I don't remember. Probably so, but
7	I don't remember.
8	Q Is that normal for the Town to pass
9	an ordinance and then ask for the attorney to
LO	review it?
L1	A Yes, it is.
L2	Q Okay.
L3	A Sometimes if we have if we have
L <b>4</b>	enough if we have ample time.
L5	The problem we had here was, and
L6	I'm going to say it again, our lawyer we had for
L7	years and years had retired.
L8	Ordinarily, we may have probably
L9	sent it down to Tommy and said, Tommy, look this
20	over and we'll pass it on the next we'll pass
21	it on the next meeting or you tell us what to do.
22	And but I don't know if I
23	don't know if this thing had blown up in our face
24	by then or not. I don't remember the date. But
25	we just wanted to make sure we were on good, solid



1	legal ground.	
2	Q And	
3	A And we were the whole time but	
4	didn't know it.	
5	Q And what was the urgency in this	
6	ordinance particularly? I mean, why not just wait	
7	until the new attorney could review it before	
8	passing it?	
9	A Okay. I'm sure you don't want to	
10	talk about this, but it was because they had	
11	defiled our sewage system.	
12	Remember?	
13	Remember?	
14	They were pumping they were	
15	pumping grease into our sewage system and costing	
16	us thousands and thousands of	
<b>L</b> 7	dollars.	
18	Remember that? That was the	
19	urgency.	
20	Q And then the media attention on top	
21	of that just made things worse, I'm guessing?	
22	A It made that didn't make it any	
23	better, I can tell you that.	
24	Q I'm sorry?	
25	A That didn't make it any better.	



1	I'm sure you all were trying to
2	cause us to buckle by doing that. But that didn't
3	work, did it?
4	Q I'm sorry, could you say a little
5	bit more about that?
6	A No.
7	Q I'm still a little bit confused.
8	A I
9	Q I would appreciate it if you could
LO	help me understand this.
L1	If the urgency was based on our
L2	clients dumping grease into the sewer, so that's
L3	why the ordinance had to be passed as soon as
L <b>4</b>	possible; right?
L5	A I don't remember.
L6	Q I'm just going over what you had
L7	just told me; right?
L8	A And I'm just telling you I don't
L9	remember.
20	Q Well, what I'm trying to figure out
21	is, when the ordinance was first passed and the
22	Town's position that you stated to the WOBC
23	reporters and the story that came out on the 19th
24	was that the Town wouldn't enforce the new
25	ordinance against the plaintiffs in this case



1 until their business license expired, that makes it seem like it wasn't quite as urgent. 2 So I'm trying to figure out what 3 4 the thought -- like what the Town's thought was on 5 that. I don't remember. 6 Α 7 MR. HARDING: Dylan, I would like to reiterate the Mayor is not here as the Town 8 9 representative. 10 MR. MOORE: Sure, but he enforces 11 the laws. 12 MR. HARDING: You are asking what 13 the Town thought. That's just -- just for 14 clarification, sir. 15 MR. MOORE: Okay. 16 BY MR. MOORE: I guess what I'm getting at is if 17 0 18 the Town passed this law without first checking 19 with the lawyer because the law needed to be 20 passed to stop any harm that could come to the 21 sewer, why did you state to the media that the --22 that you were not planning to enforce the law 23 until the business license expired? 24 Look, I may have said that, and Α



apparently I did. But I have no say. I don't

1 even get a vote, pal. I'm the Mayor. The only 2 time I get a vote on anything is when there's a It has to go before the Council, and what I 3 said or didn't say has no value whatsoever because 4 5 I have no power. 6 I may have said that. I may have 7 thought that was the right thing to do, in my mind, and then the Council comes in and says, Oh, 8 9 no, no. Oh, no, boy, we're not going to do that. 10 But you're in charge of the people Q 11 who enforce the laws in Parksley; right? 12 The Council has to vote on Α 13 everything. 14 Now, I can take care of day-to-day 15 stuff like, Do you want to take the trash out 16 today? Do you want to sweep Front Street? Things 17 of that nature. 18 But I have no power myself, and 19 most small town mayors don't, as I'm sure you 20 know, being a legal beagle. But as most small 21 town mayors have no power. It all goes before the 22 Council. 23 So I may have said that and I probably did and maybe that's the way I felt at 24 the time. 25



1	But when you find out that when
2	you find out that there's more going on than you
3	thought, I I thought we were going to have a
4	friendly conversation and get them in here and try
5	to work it all out and say, Okay. Well, just
6	don't put grease in our sewer system anymore and
7	cost us \$5,000 and try to work with them.
8	But they didn't want to do that.
9	They didn't want to do that.
LO	And we did send them a letter. I'm
L1	going to say this again. We did send them a
L2	letter, I'm pretty sure, I know we did, saying
L3	that they could have they could reopen with a
L <b>4</b>	special use permit. But they didn't pursue that.
L5	They didn't pursue that. They wanted to do this
L6	dog and pony show.
L7	Q I guess I'm trying to get at the
L8	difference between a law being passed and a law
L9	being enforced.
20	So if somebody was speeding in the
21	Town of Parksley, the Town Council wouldn't have
22	to vote on whether or not that person got a
23	speeding ticket; right?
24	A No. That's a whole separate thing.
25	That's that's that's a police matter.



1	Q Right.
2	And you as the Mayor of Parksley
3	are in charge of the police officers and the
4	enforcement of laws, right?
5	A I have never stepped in to what the
6	police do because somebody will say, Oh, well, you
7	gave my Aunt Suzie a ticket but you didn't give
8	your Aunt Suzie a ticket.
9	I never get involved with the
10	police. I try to run it right down the middle,
11	you know?
12	And if there's a law that needs to
13	be passed or something that's coming up, I run
14	everything past the Council because I can't do it
15	myself, unless it's something specific to
16	day-to-day.
17	Q But when it comes to enforcing the
18	laws on the books in Parksley, the buck stops with
19	you; right?
20	A I that may be the law, but we
21	don't do it. We try I shouldn't say we don't
22	do it. We do it if we have to, but we try to work
23	with people.
24	It's a small town. Everybody knows
25	everybody. It's a small town. We all love each



1 other and try to support each other and -- and so, 2 you know, you try to work with people. You try to say, Hey, you know, I know you didn't mean to do 3 this, but here's what you did, you know, so please 4 stop doing it. And we'll try to work with you to 5 make it better next time. 6 7 Right. Q We're not Draconian guys out here 8 Α 9 with a ticket book saying, Hey. 10 In the entire time I have been 11 Mayor, which is coming up, what, four years I 12 guess now, I have never stepped in or enforced any 13 law in the Town of Parksley. 14 I have a police officer, for one 15 thing. I have a personnel committee for another 16 thing. That's how we break it out. 17 But you could decide which laws you Q 18 wanted the police officers of Parksley to really 19 be on the lookout for violations of; right? 20 Α I leave that to the police, No. 21 unless -- unless -- I will give you an example. 22 If somebody said, Somebody broke 23 into my garage last night, I would probably call



the police officer and say, Hey, somebody broke

into Miss Suzie's garage. Keep an eye out for it.

24

1 But that's as far as it goes. 2 This is not Chicago, you know? A Mayor has no authority here really. 3 So then why did you tell the 4 reporters that you weren't planning to enforce the 5 food truck law? 6 7 That may have -- I don't think you're listening. That may have been my thought 8 9 process at the time. That may have been what I 10 was hoping would happen. But I can't say that and 11 make it stick, you know what I'm saying? That may 12 be -- that may be -- that may have been my thought 13 process at that moment, you know? 14 So you're saying you just don't 15 have the authority to determine how the laws are 16 enforced in the Town? Not really, no. Not really. 17 Α Look it up. You'll find out it's 18 19 true. 20 Okay. Q 21 Well, let's go back to this 22 document, and we're on the flip side now on DEF 23 000433. 24 Α Okay. 25 And so at the very top there, once



Q

1 again, this is Miss Lewis' October 31st email to 2 Mr. Wiggins. She says, They -- which I'm assuming is the Town Council and you -- also like for you 3 to draft a letter to the owners of the food truck 4 regarding being out of compliance with the zoning 5 ordinance and having to move. 6 7 Α Um-hum. Do you see that? 8 Q 9 Α Yeah. When was this decision to send them 10 Q 11 a letter based on the zoning ordinance made? that at the Town Council meeting? 12 13 I don't remember. My guess is it Α 14 was after we heard from Mr. Wiggins. 15 And was that your decision? Q 16 Α I'm sorry? Was that your decision? 17 Q 18 This was a Council decision. Α No. 19 And do you remember any discussions 0 about this decision? 20 21 Α I do not. Okay. And then do you see in the 22 O 23 next line where Miss Lewis says, I'm not willing to write this letter? 24 25 Yes, I do. Α



1	Q Do you know why she might say that?
2	A Well, because of the giant
3	onslaught that you all caused to torment her and
4	try to drive her crazy, she probably didn't want
5	her name involved in it.
6	Plus, her uncle is a sitting judge
7	and her cousin is a senator.
8	So would you want your name
9	involved in something this Mickey-Mouse that
10	somebody was trying to blow all out of proportion?
11	I don't blame her.
12	Q Well, we can come to this a bit
13	later, I think that we will, but the letter that
14	my firm sent to the Town of Parksley was on
15	November 2nd and this email is from October 31st.
16	So she is saying that she didn't
17	want to be the one to write the letter.
18	A No.
19	Oh, she might have meant she wanted
20	the attorney to write it.
21	Isn't that what this says?
22	I can't guess what she was talking
23	about, you know? I can't speak for her.
24	She was probably saying that she
25	wanted wanted it to come on attorney stationery



1 with his name on it, is my guess. 2 Q Okay. And then if you flip back to 432, there will be Mr. Wiggins' response to 3 Miss Lewis. 4 5 Α All right. Hang tight. 6 Okay. I will begin drafting a 7 letter based on zoning, is that what you're talking about? 8 9 Q Yup, it begins with that. 10 Α I will work to fix the new 11 ordinance. 12 Okay. What do you want to know? 13 So where he says "the new Q 14 ordinance," that's the food truck ordinance; 15 right? 16 Α I don't think so. I don't think this is what we're talking about. 17 18 We were working on a -- we have got 19 a huge lot where our old school used to be in the 20 middle of town. And they knocked the old school 21 down a few years ago. And at the time there was a 22 gentleman who was trying -- who had bought the lot 23 and was -- we were going back and forth about he wanted to subdivide it to make smaller lots. And 24



we were discussing how small we needed the lots,

what we wanted on there. That's what I'm guessing 1 this subdivision to be. 2 I'm not talking about the 3 subdivision part. That's a little bit later in 4 5 the email. 6 I'm talking about that section that 7 says, Therefore, I will work to fix the new ordinance, which I took to be him responding to 8 9 Miss Lewis talking about revising the food truck 10 ordinance to be legally sound. 11 Does that seem right? 12 I don't know. I don't know. Α This 13 is October 31st of 2023... 14 I -- I can't guess what he was 15 talking about. 16 Q Okay. 17 Α I don't know. 18 Miss Lewis had sent him an email, 19 you can see it at the bottom of this page, stating 20 that, They would still like you to revise the food 21 truck ordinance to be legally sound. 22 Α Right. 23 And Mr. Wiggins responds, Q Thereafter, I will work to fix the new ordinance, 24 25 which at that point the food truck ordinance had



been on the books for less than a month. 1 2 Α Okay. And so you can't tell whether he's 3 talking about the food truck ordinance or 4 5 something else there? I cannot. I cannot. 6 Α 7 I know we went back and forth about this subdivision. That took a lot of time and 8 effort going back and forth about that. And so 9 I'm thinking it was the subdivision. 10 11 But isn't that what he talked about 0 12 next? 13 I mean, it seems like he's talking 14 about three separate things here. 15 Α I can't speak for him. I can't 16 speak --I'm not asking you to get into his 17 Q 18 head. I'm just trying to see how you read this 19 letter. 20 Α That I do not know. I can't answer 21 that. 22 Q Okay. So you don't think that 23 there's -- you don't think that Mr. Wiggins was 24 talking about fixing the food truck ordinance?



I don't think so.

25

Α

1	Q Okay. We can move on to the next
2	one, DEF 000317. This one's a bit longer, it
3	stretches to 326, and it's Exhibit 70.
4	A 317 to 326?
5	Q Yes, sir.
6	A Okay. I got it.
7	Q Actually, let's sorry to make
8	you switch back and forth.
9	Let's just go back to 432 one more
LO	time, that one we were just talking about.
L1	A All right. Okay.
L2	Q And so let's just look at this
L3	conversation in context, all right?
L <b>4</b>	First, if you could, just read
L5	through the whole email that Miss Lewis sends
L6	Mr. Wiggins. That's the one that starts at the
L7	bottom of 432 and spills over into 433.
L8	A You want to start at the bottom?
L9	Q Just first please read the email
20	from Miss Lewis to Mr. Wiggins. That's the one
21	that starts at the bottom of 432.
22	A Okay.
23	Hey - okay, so they still would
24	like you to revise the food truck ordinance to be
25	legally sound. Adding a penalty clause with a



1 fine \$250 a day of occurrence, if that's 2 acceptable and legal. And it goes over to the next page. 3 They would also like for you to 4 5 draft a letter to the owners of the food truck 6 regarding being out of compliance with the zoning 7 ordinance and having to move. I am -- okay. 8 9 I am not going to write this letter 10 as I prefer my name be on nothing that they have 11 in their hands, the owners of the food truck. 12 If you need more info for the 13 letter, please just let me know, I'm happy to help 14 however I can. 15 The owners --16 Q Okay. That's enough for that. And then if you could flip back to 17 18 Mr. Wiggins' response to that email which is at 19 the top of 432 --20 Α Um-hum. 21 -- and just read the first two 22 sentences of that, if you would. 23 I will begin drifting a letter Α based on zoning. I will work to fix the new 24 ordinance. 25



1	Q So what are the two things that you
2	think Mr. Wiggins is talking about in those two
3	sentences?
4	A We were talking about redoing our
5	zoning to accommodate the new subdivision. We
6	would have to redo our zoning to accommodate the
7	new subdivision because our subdivision
8	requirements didn't include that.
9	Q But that's not all that Mr. Wiggins
LO	and Miss Lewis were talking about here, is it?
L1	A As far as I'm concerned, it is.
L2	Q Well, once again, you can just go
L3	back and read the first line of Miss Lewis' email.
L <b>4</b>	A I just read it. I told you. As
L5	far as I'm concerned, it's about zoning for a
L6	subdivision.
L7	Q This entire email exchange?
L8	A Yeah, as far as I'm concerned.
L9	Q Okay. We can move on now.
20	And so now we'll go to DEF 000317.
21	A Okay.
22	Q And like before, just go through
23	this, if you would, and let me know when you've
24	familiarized yourself with it.
25	A Okay. I've seen it. I have looked



1 at the first page. 2 Do you want me to look at the whole thing? 3 Leaf through it. You don't have to 4 review everything in detail if you don't want to, 5 6 but just review it, if you would. 7 Α Okay. All right. 8 9 Q Okay. So correct me if I'm wrong, 10 but this seems like the email exchange between 11 Miss Lewis and Mr. Wiggins about the food truck --12 the letter that was sent to the owners of the food 13 truck telling them that the zoning code prohibited 14 their business; is that right? 15 It seems, Andre, please proceed 16 with revising the food truck ordinance per the Council. 17 18 So I'm assuming at this -- I'm 19 assuming at this point -- yeah, I'm assuming at 20 this point we did not know that we didn't need a 21 food truck ordinance and we were still taking 22 about it. That's what I'm assuming. 23 Okay. So I think what's happening Q here is that the email thread just got kind of 24 25 mixed up.



1	So if you actually look on the	
2	third page, what this email chain is about, it's	
3	that letter telling the plaintiffs in this case	
4	that the zoning code bans their food truck.	
5	Do you see what I'm talking about?	)
6	A I don't see that specific thing,	
7	but but you're right, it is banned.	
8	Q I think if you go to the front and	l
9	just flip back one	
10	A Oh, it's on the back?	
11	Q you will see the letter.	
12	A Oh, okay. I see it, um-hum.	
13	Q And so this email exchange is w	7e
14	just talked with through this with Miss Lewis.	
15	This was Mr. Wiggins sent	
16	Miss Lewis his draft of the letter telling the	
17	plaintiffs in this case that the zoning code	
18	barred their permanent food truck, and Miss ar	ıd
19	he emailed Miss Lewis saying, Please review and	
20	respond, to review that letter before it was sent	:•
21	A Okay.	
22	Q And so you can see up at the top of	f
23	317, that first email, where Mr. Wiggins is	
24	saying, Please review and respond.	
25	A Yeah.	



1	Q That was sent on November 1st at
2	2:34; is that right?
3	A That's what it says.
4	Q Okay. And then this one the
5	reply to that is cut off between these two pages,
6	but you can see it begins at the very bottom of
7	317. At 2:58 p.m. on that same day, November 1st
8	of '23, Miss Lewis responds and says, That looks
9	great, Andre. Thank you. I've attached the
LO	commercial district excerpt from the zoning book
L1	if you want to include it with the letter.
L2	Do you see what I'm talking about?
L3	A Yeah, um-hum.
L <b>4</b>	Q Okay. So and we just talked
L5	through this with Miss Lewis, but Mr. Wiggins sent
L6	her the draft of the letter at 2:34 on
L7	November 1st and at 2:58 she replied saying that
L8	the letter looked great and that she was attaching
L9	parts of the zoning code if he wanted to include
20	that with the letter.
21	A Right, okay.
22	Q Do you remember reviewing
23	Mr. Wiggins' draft of this letter on November 1st?
24	MR. HARDING: Dylan, I'm going to
25	object here to the extent that this was actually



1 covered I think pretty much in-depth at the first deposition a couple months ago with Mayor Russell. 2 So to the extent this is treading 3 over when he reviewed the letter and his 4 5 interaction with Lauren Lewis which was covered in 6 the first deposition, I'm going to object. 7 You can go ahead, Mayor Russell. THE WITNESS: 8 Okay. 9 So you want me to answer this or 10 not? 11 MR. HARDING: Sorry. You can go 12 ahead, Mr. Mayor. 13 THE WITNESS: Okay. 14 I don't specifically remember 15 looking at it, but I'm sure I did. 16 BY MR. MOORE: 17 0 Okay. And do you remember whether 18 Miss Lewis forwarded this email to you from 19 Mr. Wiggins or if she walked to your shop and 20 talked through the letter with you or do you 21 remember how you reviewed this? 22 No, I don't. I don't remember. Ιt 23 was two years ago. I don't remember. 24 Miss Lewis works at the Town Q government building in Parksley; right? 25



1	A	Correct.
2	Q	And you normally are not there
3	during a workd	lay; right?
4	A	I'm never here during the workday.
5	Very rarely.	
6	Q	Okay. So normally when Miss Lewis
7	has something	that she needs you to review during
8	a workday, how	does she do that?
9	A	Ordinarily she'll email it to me.
10	Q	Okay. Is there any reason that she
11	wouldn't have	emailed it to you here?
12	A	Not that I can imagine.
13	Q	Okay. And do you remember
14	reviewing this	letter at some point before it was
15	sent?	
16	A	I don't remember.
17		MR. HARDING: Again, objection.
18	This has been	covered in the prior deposition.
19	Mr Mayor F	ussell was specifically asked about
20	this, pretty m	auch that exact same question.
21		So to the extent this has been
22	asked and answ	ered, we're going to renew our
23	objection.	
24		Go ahead, Mr. Mayor.
25		THE WITNESS: Okay. I guess I have



1 nothing else to say on that. BY MR. MOORE: 2 Well, no. What I'd like to do is 3 0 try and figure out the timing here. 4 5 Α I don't -- I don't know the timing. 6 It's been two years ago. 7 Do you know what you were doing two years ago at 12:55 on Tuesday? 8 Is it normal -- is it normal for 9 Q 10 you to review things within a half an hour if 11 Miss Lewis sends them to you? 12 No, it is not. Sometimes things Α 13 don't get reviewed for days because I'm busy, I'm 14 working. I have my own business. 15 Okay. So it would be unusual for Q 16 you to review something in less than an hour? Yes, it would be. 17 Α 18 Q Okay. 19 Sometimes it's longer than that, Α 20 Everyone on the Council has a job or a you know? 21 And like I say, we're doing this on a business. 22 volunteer basis and we do it to the best we can 23 when we can. 24 And would you only review something Q



25

while you're at work?

1	A No. I look at my emails first
2	thing in the morning and I don't look at them
3	anymore until the next day generally.
4	Q Okay.
5	A Sometimes it's two or three days,
6	depending on what's going on.
7	Q Does Miss Lewis ever show up to
8	your shop to have you review things?
9	A No. Once in a blue moon she'll
10	come by and get me to sign a check that needs
11	paying that day or something like that, but,
12	generally, no.
13	Q Okay. We can move on to the next
14	one which begins at DEF 000446. It stretches to
15	450. It's Exhibit 71.
16	A What was the number again?
17	Q 446, sir.
18	A Okay. I see 446.
19	All right. Go ahead.
20	Q Okay. Once again, if you could
21	leaf through it at your own pace and review it and
22	let me know when you're ready to talk about it.
23	A Oh, yeah. This is from the
24	Institute for Justice.
25	Ever heard of them?



1	Q	Once or twice.
2	A	Yeah.
3		All right. What do you want to
4	know?	
5	Q	Well, again, we just talked through
6	this with Miss	Lewis, but this is her forwarding
7	the email or t	he letter from the Institute for
8	Justice to Mr.	Wiggins.
9	A	Okay.
10	Q	And I was wondering first, did you
11	ask her to for	ward that letter to Mr. Wiggins?
12	A	Yeah, I'm sure I did.
13	Q	Okay. But you don't recall doing
14	it?	
15	A	I don't recall, but she wouldn't
16	have done it w	ithout asking me.
17	Q	Okay. And if you could just flip
18	to the DEF	000450. It's one of the ones in
19	that packet.	
20	A	I see it. Okay.
21	Q	Okay.
22	A	Okay. What do you want to know?
23	Q	Okay. So after reviewing this
24	is I'm look	ing at the second email in this
25	chain. It's f	rom Mr. Wiggins to Miss Lewis at



1 8:45 a.m. on November 2nd. 2 Α Yeah. And he says, I'm not surprised by 3 0 4 the argument. 5 Do you see what I'm talking about? Yeah. 6 Α 7 And then in response, it's the Q email right above, Miss Lewis says, I'm not 8 surprised by it either. And then they talk about 9 10 potentially having a call. 11 Do you see what I'm talking about? 12 Α Um-hum. 13 Did you ever talk to Mr. Wiggins 14 about this letter? 15 Α Not that I remember, no. 16 Did you ever talk to Miss Lewis Q about her conversation with Mr. Wiggins about this 17 18 letter? 19 I may have, but I don't remember. Α 20 Okay. So you don't remember having 0 21 any conversations with her based on what 22 Mr. Wiggins had said about the letter -- excuse 23 me, about the letter? I don't recall. Not that I 24 Α 25 remember, no.



1	I may have, but two years ago
2	Q Okay. And by the time this letter
3	was received, do you know if the letter from
4	Mr. Wiggins to the plaintiffs in this case about
5	the zoning law had been sent?
6	A I do not know.
7	Q Okay. Just a moment.
8	Okay. We can move on to
9	DEF 000456. This is just one page, and it's
10	Exhibit 72.
11	A 456?
12	Q Yes, sir.
13	A Let me find it.
14	Oh, there we go. All right.
15	(Reading to self)
16	All right. What is it you want to
17	know?
18	Q So this is an email exchange from
19	November 2nd to November 3rd between Miss Lewis,
20	you, and the Town Council. Does that seem right?
21	A It looks right, um-hum.
22	Q And in that first email that
23	Miss Lewis sends, the one the last one on the
24	page from 3:26 p.m. on November 2nd, Miss Lewis
25	says, I just spoke with Andre after he got back



1	from court regarding the letter we received this
2	morning.
3	That was the letter that we just
4	talked about from the Institute for Justice.
5	And Miss Lewis goes on to say, I'd
6	like him Mr. Wiggins to come to the
7	November 13th meeting to speak with you all at
8	executive session to explain all of this to you
9	because it seems like Mr. Wiggins had raised some
LO	problems with the food truck ordinance.
L1	Does that seem right?
L2	A Probably. I I remember talking
L3	about getting him there to go over it all with us,
L <b>4</b>	but we never did that.
L5	Q Okay. That's what I was going to
L6	ask you about.
L7	So that never happened?
L8	A That never happened. It all we
L9	realized that it was all it was all it was
20	all needless to begin with before we ever had the
21	next meeting.
22	Q Okay. And did you ever talk with
23	Mr. Wiggins directly about this?
24	A No.
) E	O Do wer leave if any of the other



1 Town Council members did? 2 Α I can tell you they didn't because, as I said, when I set up something with a lawyer, 3 4 I don't want them to be getting five different phone calls from five different people and five 5 6 different ideas. They go through me. I speak for 7 the Town. 8 Q Okay. 9 Okay. And one more document to 10 look through for right now is DEF 000460 and 461. 11 It's going to be another one where it's on the 12 front and back of a page, and it's Exhibit 73. 13 Α 460 to 461... 14 460. Yeah, okay. Let me see what 15 this says. 16 All right... 17 THE COURT REPORTER: You're reading 18 to yourself, right? 19 THE WITNESS: Yes, not very 20 successfully, but yes. 21 What do you want to know on this 22 one, pal? 23 BY MR. MOORE: 24 When you were reviewing it, I saw Q 25 you tilt your head back. I was just wondering



1	why.
2	A Because of the wording here that
3	something was done out of spite.
4	That's a joke.
5	Q Could you say a little bit more
6	about that?
7	A Yeah. It's a joke.
8	I told you before. We want
9	businesses in town. We're not trying to put
10	anybody out of business. But you got to play by
11	the rules. That's all.
12	Q Do you know why Mr that was in
13	an email from Mr. Wiggins to Miss Lewis.
14	Do you have any idea why he might
15	say that the Town Council should be prepared for
16	that?
17	A I don't know what this is
18	November 3rd. I don't know if all hell had blown
19	up by then or not. I don't remember.
20	Had you all posted all your crap by
21	then?
22	Q So we had sent you the letter on
23	A No, no, no, that's not what I asked
24	you.
25	Had you put all this crap on the



Т	internet by then?
2	Q We had sent a letter.
3	A Um-hum. And I'm sure you put it
4	out just as soon as you sent that letter, you
5	put it out on the internet and tried to make us
6	all look like bad guys.
7	Q And that's what made you concerned
8	that people might think it was out of spite?
9	A I don't know. I don't know.
10	When when a small town gets
11	blown up all out of proportion over something
12	that's relatively minor because some guy in
13	Washington, D.C. is trying to get donations for
14	the Institute for Justice, you don't know what's
15	going to happen, you know? You don't know what's
16	going to happen.
17	And I don't remember saying
18	anything about spite.
19	This is in here somewhere.
20	Yeah, okay.
21	I don't even know who said that.
22	Was that Wiggins who said that?
23	Oh, I can tell you no, never
24	mind. I'm assuming that. I don't know.
25	Q No, please tell me what you were



1 thinking. I wasn't thinking anything, which 2 Α is my natural state. 3 Okay. So it was Mr. Wiggins. 4 He 5 sends this email to Miss Lewis, and it was in 6 response to Miss Lewis telling him that the Town Council was going to repeal the food truck ordinance. 8 9 Α Okay. 10 Is that right? Q 11 I -- I guess so. I don't see it on Α 12 here anywhere, but I guess so. 13 Well, we can walk through it. Q The first email in this chain is on 14 15 DEF 461, right in the middle. 16 Α Okay. So if you could just review that. 17 Q 18 Who will be prepared, what's he Α 19 talking about? Okay, I trust that they will be 20 prepared for the assertion. 21 Who will be prepared? Is that you 22 guys or -- or the food truck people? 23 Well, let's walk through the email Let's start on 461. And this is the first chain. 24 one in this chain. It's from Miss Lewis to 25



1 Mr. Wiggins. So if you could read that, it 2 probably gives a little context for what comes 3 4 after. 5 I emailed the Council. The Mayor Α 6 just called that they are going to repeal the ordinance and be done with it. I explained to them at the work session this past Monday that it 9 was the best option because we have a zoning 10 ordinance in place we didn't know about, but no 11 one took that seriously apparently. The good news 12 is, we don't have to make a trip to Parksley -- we 13 don't have to make a trip to Parksley --14 hopefully, sooner or later, this will all be over. 15 I appreciate your time and calling and explaining 16 all of it to me and offering to come. Will be in 17 touch. Take care. 18 Oh, he -- they were talking about 19 having Mr. Wiggins come to Parksley. 20 Yeah, okay. 21 Q Right. 22 Α So what is it you want to know? 23 Well, first on that first email, Q this is from Miss Lewis to Mr. Wiggins on 24 November 2nd at 3:52. 25



1	A Yeah.
2	Q She mentions that the Mayor had
3	just called her, and I was curious if you
4	remembered that conversation.
5	A I do not.
6	Q So it seems like the call could
7	have been about repealing the food truck
8	ordinance.
9	You don't remember talking to
10	Miss Lewis about that.
11	A I do not.
12	Q Okay.
13	Well, then if you flip back to the
14	other side of the page, and Mr. Wiggins responds,
15	Okay, I trust they will be prepared for the
16	assertion that the zoning violation is being
17	brought up out of spite, et cetera, et cetera?
18	A So he's saying that the he's
19	saying that you guys are going to say it's out of
20	spite, that the Institute for Justice is going to
21	say it's out of spite or the food truck people?
22	What's he saying?
23	Q Well, you tell me.
24	A I don't know.
25	MR. HARDING: Objection. The



1 question calls -- object to form. Calls for 2 speculation. BY MR. MOORE: 3 But this is Lauren Lewis emailing 4 5 the Town attorney; right? Yeah. 6 Α 7 And she's doing that because you've asked her to email the Town attorney about this 8 situation; right? 9 10 Α Let's see what it says here. 11 Probably. 12 Well, you've told me that Q 13 Miss Lewis doesn't just email the Town attorney 14 without you asking her to; right? 15 Α That's correct. 16 Q Okay. So were you just not aware of these emails? 17 18 Sir, I don't remember. I don't 19 remember. 20 Do you remember what you had for 21 breakfast two years ago? I don't remember. 22 Q Right. 23 But that's kind of the purpose of 24 walking through the emails, so that we can talk 25 about what happened on this day.



1	A I'm telling you, I don't remember.
2	Q Sure, okay.
3	But just read through the emails
4	for me. And then using the context of the emails,
5	maybe we can talk about who is being talked about
6	and what's being talked about.
7	A It's talking about the zoning
8	violation, Prepared for the assertion that the
9	zoning violation is being brought up out of spite.
10	Now, whether he's talking about the
11	Institute of Justice is going to say that or the
12	food truck people are going to say that, I'm not
13	clear on that.
14	Q Well, let's see what the first
15	email was about, who it was talking about.
16	That first email is talking about
17	you, the Mayor, and the Town Council. And Lauren
18	Lewis is informing Mr. Wiggins about your and the
19	Town Council's decision to appeal; right?
20	(talking over)
21	A yeah, going forward
22	Q Right? Right.
23	And then in the next email
24	Mr. Wiggins says, I trust they will be prepared
25	for the assertion that the zoning violation is



1 being brought up out of spite. 2 Α Okay. I think I got it now. Let me tell you what I think. 3 Ι 4 think that the -- when Mr. Wiggins realized that we didn't need a ordinance, that it was already on 5 6 the books that they couldn't be there, that -that someone, either you guys or the -- or the food truck people, were going to think, Well, they 8 9 did away with the first ordinance but now they 10 come up with this other one, so they are just 11 being mean. 12 But that's not it. We didn't know 13 we had an ordinance in place to begin with. 14 When did Mr. Wiggins realize that 0 15 the ordinance --16 Α I don't know. -- blocked the food truck? 17 Q 18 We asked him when he was already Α 19 reviewing our zoning, period, everything. And --20 but when this came up, I guess he went right to 21 the zoning part of it and realized that it wasn't 22 legal to have a food truck. 23 And why was he reviewing the zoning Q to begin? 24 25 Well, because our zoning has not Α



1 been reviewed in 20 years because we couldn't afford to have a fancy lawyer from D.C. do it. 2 3 And so did anyone -- sorry. Finish 0 4 your thought. Because we're a small town. 5 Α We 6 have a small budget. 7 And did anyone ask Mr. Wiggins to look into the zoning ordinances for this 8 situation? 9 10 Α I don't think so, not that I 11 remember. But he was already reviewing the zoning 12 ordinances, so I'm sure, if he's any kind of a 13 lawyer at all, when all this hubbub blew up, he 14 said, Oh, let me go look and see what it says in 15 the zoning. 16 Wouldn't you do that if you were in 17 charge? 18 Well, let's just try to go back to Q 19 figuring out who the "they" is in this 20 November 3rd response from Mr. Wiggins to 21 Miss Lewis. 22 Α I think the "they" is you guys. 23 What makes you think that? Q 24 Because you're a bunch of --Α 25 because you were trying to stir up a bunch of



1	crap. And that would be an ideal thing for you to
2	put on your website, that there's a bunch of bad
3	people in the Town of Parksley and and because
4	they're spiteful, horrible people, are going after
5	this poor poor food truck family, which is
6	essentially what you said, for all practical
7	purposes. The Institute for Justice said that all
8	over the internet, and none of it was true and you
9	know none of it's true.
10	Q But what from Mr. Wiggins' and
11	Miss Lewis' exchange here makes you think that he
12	was talking about us?
13	A Because who else has got who
14	else has got a dog in the fight? Who else makes
15	money off this? You guys. You make money off
16	this.
17	The food truck people aren't going
18	to make money off this. The Town of Parksley is
19	not going to make money off this. You guys are
20	going to make money off this.
21	THE COURT REPORTER: Counsel, is
22	this we've been going since 2:30.
23	Is now a good time for a break?
24	THE WITNESS: How much more do you
25	have?



1 MR. MOORE: I am almost finished 2 with this line of questioning, if that's okay. I'd like to at least run this down before we 3 4 break. 5 THE COURT REPORTER: Okay. 6 MR. MOORE: It will be fast. Ι 7 apologize. THE WITNESS: If it's all right 8 with the young lady, it's all right with me. 9 10 She's the one doing all the work here. 11 BY MR. MOORE: 12 So, Mr. Russell, what I'm trying to Q 13 figure out is what from these emails makes you 14 think that that's what the "they" is in 15 Mr. Wiggins' November 3rd response? Ever heard the saying "follow the 16 Α 17 money"? 18 Nobody's got a dog in this fight. 19 Nobody is going to make a dime off this. In fact, it's costing the Town of Parksley money. 20 cost us reputation. Nobody has got a chance of 21 22 making any money except the Institute for Justice, 23 you guys. And you are using this to drum up donations from people all over the East Coast or 24 probably the country. Nobody else -- nobody else 25



1	is going to make any money off this but you guys.
2	Q Can you point to the language in
3	these emails that makes you draw that conclusion
4	that that's what Mr. Wiggins was talking about?
5	A Because no one else has has got
6	any reason to think to promote a spiteful
7	situation but you guys.
8	We weren't being spiteful. We were
9	just trying to do our job. We were just trying to
10	make everybody come into compliance, you know?
11	And the food truck people weren't
12	going to make any money off this. The only people
13	who make any money off trying to stir up hate and
14	discontent and dissatisfaction is you guys, the
15	Institute for Justice.
16	Q I understand that that's your
17	conclusion.
18	I'm trying to figure out what would
19	make Mr. Wiggins what in these emails makes you
20	think that that's what Mr. Wiggins was talking
21	about when he's saying, I trust they will be
22	prepared for the assertion that the zoning
23	violation is being brought up out of spite?
24	What from these emails make you
25	think it's out of spite



1	(talking over)
2	A because that's
3	THE COURT REPORTER: I can't I
4	can't hear when you're talking over each other.
5	THE WITNESS: I'm very sorry. I
6	apologize.
7	Are you through talking? I will
8	talk if you are.
9	MR. MOORE: I am, yeah.
10	THE WITNESS: Because that's what
11	you guys promoted, that's what you generated.
12	You took this little simple thing
13	and blew it up into a gigantic story that was all
14	over the internet, all over the newspapers, and
15	you guys did it. You sent it out. You CC'd it to
16	everybody. You are the ones that promoted this.
17	If you hadn't got involved in this,
18	we we would have worked out something with
19	these poor people and they would be selling
20	hotdogs right now.
21	But you guys were the ones who
22	promoted all this hate and discontent and
23	dissatisfaction. The Institute for Justice did
24	that.
25	



1	BY MR. MOORE:					
2	Q Okay. So just so we're clear, on					
3	that November 3rd email from Mr. Wiggins to					
4	Miss Lewis, you believe that the "they" that he's					
5	talking about is the Institute for Justice and not					
6	you and the Town council of Parksley?					
7	A Yes.					
8	Q Okay.					
9	A Because that would give you					
10	something else to promote to make money.					
11	Q Okay.					
12	MR. MOORE: I think now is a good					
13	time for a break. We can do five minutes.					
14	THE WITNESS: All right.					
15	(Off the record at 4:11 p.m.)					
16	(Deposition resumed at 4:17 p.m.)					
17	MR. MOORE: I have no further					
18	questions.					
19	THE WITNESS: All right.					
20	What have you got?					
21	MR. HARDING: Defense counsel has					
22	no questions.					
23	MR. MOORE: Okay. Then we're good.					
24	MR. HARDING: Mr. Mayor, you have					
25	the right to review your transcript. The court					



1	reporter is very good at her job. You do have the					
2	right to review your transcript, however, and make					
3	minor changes. Nothing substantive.					
4	However, we usually recommend that					
5	you waive that right. And if you're going to					
6	waive that right, you have to affirmatively state					
7	so now on the record.					
8	THE WITNESS: Well, since I always					
9	listen to my lawyer, I waive that right.					
10	(Whereupon, the deposition was					
11	concluded at 4:20 p.m.)					
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## COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA AT LARGE, to wit:

I, Kerry E. Zahn, RMR-CRR, Notary Public for the Commonwealth of Virginia at Large, of qualification in the Circuit Court of the City of Norfolk, Virginia, and whose commission expires March 31, 2025, do hereby certify that the within named deponent, MAYOR FRANK A. RUSSELL, appeared before me remotely from Parksley, Virginia, as hereinbefore set forth, and after being first duly sworn by me, was thereupon examined upon his oath by counsel for the parties; that his examination was recorded in Stenotype by me and reduced to computer printout under my direction; and that the foregoing constitutes a true, accurate and complete transcript of such proceeding.

I further certify that I am not related to nor otherwise associated with any counsel or party to this proceeding, nor otherwise interested in the event thereof.

Given under my hand and notarial seal this 16th day of January, 2025, at Norfolk, Virginia.

24 Kerry E. Zahn, RMR-CRR
Notary Registration No. 209810





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