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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Thursday, March 6, 2014

LOCATION:

Council Chambers
Scranton City Hall
340 North Washington Avenue
Scranton, Pennsylvania

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

ROBERT MCGOFF, PRESIDENT

PATRICK ROGAN, VICE-PRESIDENT

JOHN LOSCOMBE

JOSEPH WECHSLER

WILLIAM GAUGHAN

LORI REED, CITY CLERK

KATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

AMIL MINORA, SOLICITOR

1 (Pledge of Allegiance recited and
 2 moment of reflection observed.)
 3 MR. MCGOFF: Roll call, please.
 4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.
 5 MR. WECHSLER: Here.
 6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.
 7 MR. ROGAN: Here.
 8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.
 9 Mr. Gaughan.
 10 MR. GAUGHAN: Here.
 11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.
 12 MR. MCGOFF: Here. I'd like to
 13 minutes to reflect that Councilman Loscombe
 14 was in the office earlier and that there was
 15 a family situation and that he may not be at
 16 tonight's meeting.
 17 Dispense with the reading of
 18 minutes, please.
 19 MS. REED: THIRD ORDER. 3-A.
 20 MINUTES OF THE SCRANTON LACKAWANNA HEALTH &
 21 WELFARE AUTHORITY'S REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF
 22 JANUARY 16, 2014.
 23 MR. MCGOFF: Are there any comments?
 24 If not, received and filed.
 25 MS. REED: 3-B. MINUTES OF THE

1 SCRANTON POLICE PENSION COMMISSION MEETING
 2 HELD JANUARY 22, 2014.
 3 MR. MCGOFF: Are there any comments?
 4 If not, received and filed.
 5 MS. REED: 3-C. MINUTES OF THE
 6 COMPOSITE PENSION BOARD MEETING HELD JANUARY
 7 22, 2014.
 8 MR. MCGOFF: Are there any comments?
 9 If not, received and filed.
 10 MS. REED: 3-D. MINUTES OF THE
 11 FIREFIGHTERS PENSION COMMISSION MEETING HELD
 12 JANUARY 22, 2014.
 13 MR. MCGOFF: Are there any comments?
 14 If not, received and filed.
 15 MS. REED: 3-E. TAX ASSESSOR'S
 16 REPORT FOR THE HEARING HELD FEBRUARY 12,
 17 2014.
 18 MR. MCGOFF: Are there any comments?
 19 If not, received and filed.
 20 Any clerk's notes?
 21 MS. REED: Nothing at this time,
 22 Mr. McGoff.
 23 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. Any council
 24 members have announcements at this time?
 25 MR. ROGAN: Yes, I have one. I just

1 have to bring it up, I apologize. During
 2 Lent, the Dante Literary Society at 1918
 3 Prospect Avenue will be having a clam
 4 chowder sale every Friday from 11 a.m. to
 5 7:00 p.m. It's \$7 for a quart of the
 6 manhattan clam chowder and that runs every
 7 Friday throughout lent. That's all. Thank
 8 you.
 9 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else? I would
 10 like to once again to remind people that
 11 there will be a public hearing on the grant
 12 proposal through DCED. That public hearing
 13 will be held on March 17 at 1:30 p.m. in
 14 council chambers. That is, again, the
 15 public hearing dealing with the grant
 16 proposal through DCED, and that is all.
 17 MS. REED: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'
 18 PARTICIPATION.
 19 MR. MCGOFF: Our first speaker is
 20 Joan Hodowanitz.
 21 MS. HODOWANITZ: Good evening. Joan
 22 Hodowanitz, taxpayer. Mr. Rogan, I want to
 23 thank you for have that caucus Senate Bill
 24 76, it's very informative. I wish we could
 25 have asked questions from the audience, but

1 I realize that there are time constraints
 2 and so I would e-mail to you probably a few
 3 questions that I do have.
 4 It's been a very newsworthy week and
 5 there are several articles in the
 6 Times-Tribune which I would like to ask some
 7 questions about. Mr. McGoff, I did e-mail
 8 these questions very late this afternoon, so
 9 you probably have not seen them but
 10 basically concerning the Steamtown Mall, I'd
 11 like to know how much money the City of
 12 Scranton loaned to the Steamtown Mall over
 13 the years? What is the likelihood the city
 14 will recoup any loaned money if the mall
 15 goes into foreclosure? And exactly how much
 16 Scranton taxpayer money is at risk?
 17 Also, with regard to the mall, has
 18 the mall paid property taxes since it opened
 19 or was it granted an exemption? If it paid
 20 property taxes, how much has it paid since
 21 it opened? If it was granted an exemption,
 22 how much tax revenue has the city lost over
 23 the years?
 24 And the second issue that I found
 25 very compelling was an article that

1 Mr. Henry Amaroso was going to brief city
2 council so I'd like to know if he has, in
3 fact, briefed city council on this
4 preliminary hearing findings and the city's
5 budget and structural deficit. If not, when
6 will he do so? Will this information be
7 shared with the public? How and when, for
8 example, will you schedule a public caucus
9 or will you post this information on the
10 cities website, if possible?

11 And because the city is in such dire
12 financial straights those two issues just
13 seem to overwhelm everything, including Vac
14 Serve, General Dynamics and all of the other
15 bad news that has been flowing out of the
16 city.

17 I realize that you haven't had a
18 chance really to see that e-mail, but if you
19 would like to comment some time tonight on
20 the general issue of the mall and the status
21 of Mr. Amaroso's preliminary feedback to
22 you, I would be most interested.

23 And again, Mr. Rogan, thanks for
24 doing such a good job.

25 MR. ROGAN: Thank you.

1 MR. MCGOFF: I will quickly respond
2 to the second part of your questions that
3 you had, council has not had anything
4 specific from Mr. Amaroso. When there is
5 something specific that is conveyed to us we
6 will certainly make it public at a meeting.

7 Mr. Quinn?

8 MR. QUINN: Thank you. Good
9 evening. Ozzie Quinn. Tonight I'm coming
10 here with a different hat, I was just
11 appointed the president of the Neighborhood
12 Hill Association and on Saturday I read in
13 the Scranton Times-Tribune about ten
14 properties being demolished and two of them
15 were in Nichol's section, and I'd like to
16 ask, I know the ship has left the dock, it's
17 gone over to OECD for a bid, but in the
18 future would you please have a structural
19 engineer look at any building you are going
20 to tear down and instead of just leaving
21 that a blighted lot.

22 The Hill Neighborhood Association,
23 the hill section, hasn't received any
24 moneys, with the exception of demolition
25 moneys, for at least ten years, ten years I

1 know of, okay? And I plan right now I'm in
2 the process of working with a sociology
3 professor who is going to develop and design
4 a socioeconomic survey and we are going to
5 doing a sample survey of the Hill
6 neighborhood. With the data that we
7 recover, we are hopefully going to look at
8 ways and means that we start to come in here
9 to the city council and the mayor's office
10 and try to get on board with some of the
11 Community Development Block Grant Program,
12 that is in regards to housing
13 rehabilitation, repairs, whatever, okay?

14 So much has been spent,
15 Mr. Doherty's house of cards is collapsing.
16 He spent all of that money downtown. You go
17 around and look at the neighborhoods, some
18 of the neighborhoods sections are still very
19 good, there is no doubt about it. Some of
20 the Hill Section there is beautiful homes,
21 but blight has touched most of the
22 neighborhoods. He hasn't spent the money
23 that should have been, he had -- once he
24 come on board he eliminated housing
25 rehabilitation. He eliminated, with the

1 exception of a few thousand dollars out
2 through new works, neighbor works, who when
3 I faxed them for an application they said,
4 yes, but it will take a year for your
5 application to come up.

6 Now, no comprehensive rehabilitation
7 in the neighborhoods, so that's what I hope
8 to do in the future, okay, is with this
9 survey I'm going to come in with the data
10 and show just what we need. The transition
11 in the Hill section has been quite large and
12 that's why we have to do the socioeconomic
13 study, and we are also going to do a
14 business retention study. We are going to
15 ask the businesses what problems are facing
16 them in regard to zoning, parking, whatever,
17 okay, and hope to retain the businesses.
18 Maybe we can look at ways and means that we
19 can sit down and start with the Hill section
20 as a facilitator with landlords that try to
21 get sell off some of these parcels of the
22 land that are unbuildable with one owner on
23 one side and the other on the other side and
24 try to do something in that manner to
25 eliminate the blight because they are not

1 paying taxes, at least they are cutting the
2 grass and shoving the snow and what not,
3 okay? You can't build on them, okay, but
4 some of them -- some of those lots are
5 buildable and it's been years.

6 I know one lot about 20 years. I
7 know it's been on the books for 20 years
8 vacant and it's a buildable lot. There has
9 been nobody out there trying to put programs
10 together outside of the box to do anything
11 and this is it what we are left with. We
12 are left with neighborhoods that we have to
13 try to revitalize. There is no doubt about
14 it, and we got to look at the city in a
15 positive way.

16 A lot has happened in the last few
17 days, Mayor Courtright has a lot on his
18 plate and I just hope that he is able to get
19 himself in a position where he is at least,
20 you know, serve his four years as a mayor
21 should be without trying to go back and try
22 to fix the problems of the past, okay, and
23 that's what he is doing I imagine. He
24 probably does that for most of his day
25 repairing what has happened in the past.

1 So I hope that you will start to
2 take a look at things, I am leaving now,
3 that you look at things and consider us in
4 the future for some kind of a community
5 development block grant, okay? Thank you.
6 Bye.

7 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr. Quinn.
8 Mr. ELLMAN?

9 MR. ELLMAN: Brother McGoff, over
10 all of those years it never occurred to me
11 you would be in that chair some day.

12 MR. MCGOFF: Again?

13 MR. ELLMAN: I'm certainly happy I
14 didn't through things at you and jump up and
15 down and call you names publically.

16 MR. MCGOFF: In the word of the
17 great philosopher, déjà vu all over again.

18 MR. ELLMAN: I can only wish you two
19 new guys luck because you will need it.

20 You know, a few weeks ago the paper
21 said there was a 60 percent increase in
22 foreclosure right here, not in Ohio and New
23 York, here. So what do we do, have a 57
24 percent increase in the house taxes. People
25 are leaving here in droves. Businesses.

1 Nobody wants anything to do with us and it's
2 because of the taxes. There is all of this
3 nonsense and excuses, it's the taxes.
4 Everything you do is taxed and why? Why are
5 we taxing the hell of the everything in this
6 city? It's one reason. The University,
7 ARC, Keystone Resources, Lackawanna College,
8 they have destroyed our tax base. That's
9 why the taxes are just outrageous and people
10 are leaving town. There is nothing -- no
11 other reason than I hear all kinds of the
12 nonsense from the paper, from the
13 administration. It's taxes and you can ask
14 people that are leaving. It's taxes for
15 crying out loud.

16 I don't know how much you are aware
17 of it, this week Keystone Resources knocked
18 off \$4 million in one -- right here, one
19 swoop. Four million dollars of property
20 here in the city and the county. They
21 already have over 60 houses. Who is going
22 to make that up? How are we going to make
23 up -- Mr. McGoff, how are we going to make
24 up \$4 million from them?

25 MR. MCGOFF: I do not know.

1 MR. ELLMAN: It has got to stop.
2 You people are fearful of attacking these
3 phony nonprofits and now there is no
4 stopping them. This is a good example.
5 Right here, Mr. Fleece, who is president of
6 Keystone Resources, he wrote a letter to his
7 employees, and I'll bring it up there if you
8 want to see it. Quickly he states that all
9 of us are away of the economic and financial
10 hardships, the difficulties and uncertainty
11 of the times, so he knows how bad it is
12 here, he says so. So what does he do about
13 it? This is in this letter he wrote.

14 First, he is paying 90 percent of
15 his employees' insurance for them and their
16 families. Next, he is giving significant
17 increases in salaries. And lastly, he ius
18 giving a cost of living expense to all of
19 his employees. This is for us, the
20 taxpayers. He is not paying taxes. If one
21 of his houses burnt down we are paying for
22 the fire truck to go over there. He could
23 care less what goes on in this city. He
24 sure got a good name, Fleece, because he is
25 fleecing the hell out of the people of this

1 city.
 2 Something has got to be done. You
 3 can't -- there is no way you are not going
 4 to have a tax increase next year. All of
 5 this counterproductive it's killing the
 6 city. The only thing you got to do is go
 7 over here to these nonprofits and put an end
 8 to this and I don't know how you doing it,
 9 you know? I'm not up there. I'd be up
 10 there if I was or I'd be in Mr. Minora's
 11 position if I had that much sense.

12 But these institutions have just
 13 killed the city. You know, we are dead in
 14 the water and nobody wants to realize it.
 15 The first two months of Mr. Courtright's
 16 administration has been very disappointing
 17 to me but, you know, you can't judge nothing
 18 on two months and he is a good man and I
 19 like him and I only wish him the best.

20 Would anyone want to see this letter
 21 he wrote?

22 MR. MCGOFF: Give it to Ms. Carrera.

23 MR. ELLMAN: Here. Somebody needs
 24 to see this. \$3.6 million in property in
 25 this city gone.

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

2 MR. ELLMAN: Thank you for allowing
 3 me to speak, Mr. McGoff.

4 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Spindler.

5 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening,
 6 Council. Les Spindler, city resident and
 7 homeowner and taxpayer. Mr. McGoff, I am
 8 glad you mentioned Sam Rosen. I knew Sam
 9 Rosen for many, many years. He was a great
 10 man. Many people might not know he was a
 11 Holocaust survivor, lost his whole family in
 12 the Holocaust, his parents and many
 13 siblings, and several years ago Sam
 14 befriended a member of our family and became
 15 like an extended member of our family. We
 16 have had a family reunion for over 50 years
 17 and for the last several years Sam has
 18 attended our reunion and he was like family
 19 to us towards the end and he is going to be
 20 sorely missed.

21 MR. MCGOFF: Yes, he will.

22 MR. SPINDLER: He went around and
 23 educated people about the Holocaust. He
 24 spoke at schools, he spoke at different
 25 organizations, and the nicest man you ever

1 wanted to meet and he will be missed. Rest
 2 in peace, Sam.

3 Mr. McGoff, last week there were
 4 people taking shots at you here for
 5 different reasons, about having caucus
 6 meetings in the clerk's office, and, oh,
 7 Mrs. Evans, she had transparency, she had
 8 meetings out here, well, that's not totally
 9 true. You had a meeting out here tonight.
 10 What you tried to explain to people was
 11 caucus of council you will have in the
 12 Clerk's Office, and Mrs. Evans had those
 13 same meetings. You might remember one, I
 14 remember one, I remember one specifically, I
 15 forget what the subject was, but there was
 16 so many people you couldn't fit everybody in
 17 the office, do you remember that? That
 18 should have been held out here, and these
 19 people coming with their Sunshine Act laws
 20 last week, they didn't do that when
 21 Mrs. Evans had the meeting in the Clerk's
 22 Office, so they are not being fair to you.

23 And another thing, criticizing the
 24 mayor for hiring the Abrahamsen Law Firm,
 25 well, they were the lowest bidder according

1 to the Times-Tribune. If they hired
 2 somebody with a higher bid they would be
 3 here complaining about that. You can't
 4 please these people.

5 MR. ROGAN: Mr. Spindler, I did
 6 request from the law department a list of
 7 all of the bids and breakdown and I'll be
 8 addressing all of these under motions as
 9 well.

10 MR. SPINDLER: Okay. One speaker
 11 said it was cronyism. No, it wasn't, it was
 12 the lowest bidder. Like I said, that same
 13 speaker would be here criticizing if they
 14 took a higher bidder. Like I said, you
 15 can't please these people.

16 Lastly, criticizing the mayor and
 17 the business administrator for getting
 18 raises. Well, they didn't give themselves
 19 raises, it was a previous council that gave
 20 them the raises. These people criticizing
 21 their own people. I just want to make that
 22 clear for everybody out there.

23 Moving on, glad to see the city is
 24 out patching a lot of the potholes and I
 25 know yesterday or the day before they were

1 in Tripp Park. I was glad to see that and I
2 know it's tough, but the weather is going to
3 start getting nicer now so hopefully they
4 will really make some headway.

5 Lastly, people are talking about the
6 mall that's being foreclosed upon and that
7 might not be bad news. The general manager
8 was on Channel 16 tonight and he said
9 foreclosure isn't going to be bad news, it's
10 going to be just like somebody refinancing
11 your house. They are going to refinance
12 their debt and it could end up being a good
13 thing for the mall. Hopefully they can get
14 a good tenant in where the Bon-Ton used to
15 be and maybe that will lead others stores to
16 come, but I for one I always supported the
17 mall, I'd even go in the shops, and maybe
18 these people that criticize there is nothing
19 in the mall, nothing here, maybe if you went
20 and shopped there would be more stores there
21 instead of fleeing the city to shop
22 somewhere else. I love Boscov's, I think
23 it's a great store, and I think people
24 should support the mall. I think they
25 wouldn't be in the shape they are now.

1 That's all I have tonight. Thank you for
2 your time.

3 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you,
4 Mr. Spindler.

5 Mr. Sbaraglia.

6 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,
7 citizen of Scranton, fellow Scrantonians. I
8 watched your little caucus on House Bill 76
9 and Senate Bill 76 and if you listen closely
10 to what was said you would find out it was
11 opened ended. He said as inflation goes up,
12 so goes your taxes. The schools are going
13 to get the same, but nobody says the schools
14 have to live within a budget. They are
15 going to get the same now or whatever the
16 increase will be and so forth and so on and
17 they can even tax again if they find a
18 project they so desire and go before the
19 board, but they didn't answer the question
20 on the renters.

21 What are the people who are renting
22 getting from House Bill 76 besides higher
23 taxes? That's all they are getting. You
24 know that and I know that. It may help the
25 city, your Scranton may get out of the

1 position they are in, because without this
2 Bill passing you are going to be raising
3 taxes, there is no question about that. The
4 first time you came here from the mayor, the
5 new Mayor Courtright, similar \$7 million out
6 of the -- built in with the budget, and I
7 can see that budget has gotten out of kilter
8 a lot more than \$7 million, so that leaves
9 you one choice, either try to get revenue
10 from passing the House Bill that hurts half
11 the people in the city and the state to get
12 you out of a jamb you are going to be in.

13 You are going to go to the election
14 with a huge tax increase in people's
15 memories, there always is. There is three
16 taxes you sat by, Mr. McGoff, and passed
17 while you were on your seven years. The
18 newspaper keeps track of you. Now, what's
19 happening with the rest of you? Well, the
20 majority of yous that have been here for
21 awhile passed the largest tax increase in
22 the city's history, and there is no solution
23 to your problems because you are not looking
24 at solutions. I don't know if you can, but
25 you can certainly go to the mayor and say,

1 "This is how it is."

2 You are going to hire a somebody to
3 help with administration with the labor
4 contraction. You know and I know those
5 three years before they come up, so you have
6 to iron out problems, and I don't know how
7 you are going to do it. Wages is one thing,
8 pensions is one thing, but all that other
9 stuff you are getting isn't necessary. I
10 only got five paid holidays when I worked.
11 They should be the same. The city employees
12 should be acting just like they would in a
13 business. You got to run the city like a
14 business. When you get an a promotion you
15 get a raise in pay. You don't get a raise
16 in pay just because you lived long enough in
17 the job. That's not the way to do things.
18 That's why the city is in trouble.

19 And the previous mayor should have
20 never passed that bill saying you can have
21 medical as long as you live. We already
22 knew what was going to happen with the
23 medical, why do you think our good
24 legislators and the Congress and the United
25 States said you could no longer write off

1 the medical bills unless they are a
2 astronomical part of your income? They knew
3 what was going to happen. Nothing happens
4 by accident. This city isn't here by
5 accident. This is a done by people not
6 doing what they are supposed to do to
7 prevent it.

8 If you just sit there and say you
9 want to agree with the mayor, that's not the
10 way to act. You are there to protect the
11 people of Scranton. If you agree with the
12 mayor, you agree with the mayor, but you are
13 not there to say everybody is buddy, buddy.
14 That is not what you were elected for. You
15 were elected to represent all of the people
16 of Scranton, not just the people who voted
17 the mayor in or friends of the mayor.

18 You have been going on the wrong
19 track four years I warned you. Now, you
20 didn't take my advice, you don't have to,
21 but for somebody that all went to college I
22 don't know why you couldn't see what was
23 happening if a stupid person like me could.
24 There was no way you could have done what
25 you did without knowing what was going to

1 happen.

2 Now here we stand with no solution.
3 The Chamber come up with a solution, just
4 get away with the tax and the business
5 privilege and mercantile tax, put it in
6 another tax. You got to have downward
7 months before you do anything. You just
8 don't go for a pie in the sky. If they say
9 get rid of mercantile and business privilege
10 and put in like payroll tax will double your
11 payment to the city then go for it, but it's
12 not going to do that. Thank you.

13 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you,
14 Mr. Sbaraglia. Anyone else who cares to
15 address council? Mr. Dobrzyn?

16 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening. Dave
17 Dobrzyn, resident, taxes paid, I think, at
18 least on my first property. I have some
19 cutouts here. I am going to relate that to
20 the Sewer Authority. I was happy with the
21 comments I read of one council member, but
22 it's merely to point out what these people
23 do when they get privatized and deregulated
24 and what it says is PUC for the television,
25 PUC slopes at licenses to gouge, and on the

1 the side article there are letters from
2 people who have had their electric rates
3 raised as high as 300 percent under the
4 guise of Tom Ridge duct tape forever when he
5 was security advisor to the president he
6 advised people to duct tape themselves in
7 their houses in case those terrible
8 terrorists came around and, you know, the
9 whole thing was a scam, I knew that. It's
10 from back in '98 or '99 and obviously these
11 people probably have the right to sue the
12 state, but what this does is dries up the
13 money out of people's pockets that say last
14 week I pointed out that my sewer rate would
15 double under a privatized sewer system, I
16 could pay that money in taxes or I could pay
17 it to a sewer rate, but I can't pay it to
18 both because I won't have that money if I'm
19 paying it to one or the other. So it's just
20 some food for thought.

21 And also, I have to get it in
22 writing, I understand that, but we have
23 power lines that run straight through Nay
24 Aug. It wasn't an issue years ago because
25 it was illegal to go over to that side. You

1 had to trespass on railroad property, we
2 built the bridge, some people call it a
3 bridge to no where, I have been up and
4 discovered like old parts of the Laurel line
5 and everything else up there, but if you
6 like to take a walk, but it would be nice if
7 we seen some money coming in from that power
8 line being on our property.

9 And, okay, I had a thought this week
10 on the trash fee, if we could change it to a
11 DPW fee and possibly have two tiers people
12 that have their trash hauled out and people
13 that go with the private, like, a large
14 landlord or something, but they should be
15 paying something towards the maintenance of
16 the roads, snow removal and so forth and
17 that's obviously why Mayor Doherty set this
18 fee so high was that if he didn't then
19 people like in the upper scale houses like
20 Fawnwood would have to start raising there
21 taxes exponentially as compared to the
22 people below, so he would have a little
23 money coming in here and you would have to
24 charge a lot of money there. You would have
25 to raise them so many more percent and in

1 reality you would -- a lot of the people are
 2 paying the fees. I mean, people don't think
 3 when they insist that a policeman be walking
 4 around in front of their house all night
 5 that it's going to cost money, you know?
 6 And it's great to see them that way, but
 7 then if he has to run five blocks to his car
 8 to answer a domestic dispute it might be too
 9 late. You know, so it's just something to
 10 think about. Trash fee, the DPW fee.

11 And on the this Act 76, it's an
 12 issue that a lot of the prepared foods and
 13 so forth will go up to 7 percent. They are
 14 not currently taxed now. Like I seen
 15 homeless people buying at the Dollar Store,
 16 like the Dollar Store I go see what's cheap
 17 at the Dollar Store. I get Progresso soup
 18 for a buck. It's \$2.45 at the grocery mart
 19 so, you know, I'll grab a half a dozen cans
 20 and save some money, but now if you are
 21 buying a prepared food you will be paying 7
 22 percent on that food, excepting for
 23 restaurants which probably pays sale's tax
 24 anyway.

25 Now, when I was in the mechanic

1 trade every week I generated a \$120 in sales
 2 taxes minimum. Think about it. You know.

3 MR. ROGAN: Thank you.

4 MR. DOBRZYN: That's excluding parts
 5 and the lot of parts were thousands of
 6 dollars a week, too. So certain people are
 7 getting hit way harder than others on that.
 8 Thank you and have a good night.

9 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. Is there
 10 anyone else who would like to address
 11 council?

12 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening.
 13 Marie Schumacher, taxpayer. I guess I'll
 14 start with the agenda items, particularly
 15 7-A, would you please tell me how much money
 16 is in the budget in what line item for this
 17 activity? And also, if there is a ceiling
 18 at which -- an annual ceiling on what may be
 19 spent so that we don't exceed the budget
 20 without coming back to council?

21 MR. ROGAN: This would be the line
 22 item, I don't have it in front me, but the
 23 line item for professional services under
 24 the Law Department.

25 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay, but how much

1 of that -- they have other people that they
 2 hire, so how much is assigned to this
 3 particular task?

4 MR. ROGAN: Per the budget --

5 MS. SCHUMACHER: I believe it was
 6 150.

7 MR. ROGAN: Per the budget it's just
 8 written in as professional services and at
 9 that point it's up to the administration to
 10 go by need for, you know, what's needed in
 11 those services.

12 MS. SCHUMACHER: But they have
 13 already made commitments on some of these,
 14 that's what I'm saying. They start off with
 15 say it's 150, which I believe it is, then if
 16 you have real big contracts how much does
 17 that leave? And then it seems it me there
 18 should be a ceiling by year before you
 19 approve this such that it doesn't have a
 20 humongous overrun such as we did with a
 21 former attorney that was hired by our Law
 22 Department, so I would certainly think that
 23 that's not in there and you should wait
 24 another week or more until you get it.

25 Next, 5-E, I had requested that we

1 get maybe the Clerk's Office, and I think
 2 you agreed, Mr. McGoff, that all of the
 3 changes that were made in the assessment
 4 that the Clerk's Office could prepare a
 5 report after each of these telling us how
 6 much our assessment baseline has changed?
 7 Will that be available next week?

8 MR. MCGOFF: I don't know what you
 9 are asking me?

10 MS. SCHUMACHER: The Tax Assessor's
 11 report for the hearing that was held
 12 February 12.

13 MR. ROGAN: I do know we received
 14 those.

15 MR. WECHSLER: We have the results.

16 MS. SCHUMACHER: Pardon?

17 MR. WECHSLER: We have the results,
 18 I'm not sure if it's --

19 MS. SCHUMACHER: But I'm asking --
 20 it's the results for the entire county
 21 though and what I asked, and Mr. McGoff said
 22 he thought was doable several weeks ago, was
 23 to pull off the Scranton properties and tell
 24 us how much the assessments have gone either
 25 up or down. Mostly down, I would presume,

1 but I think that I would certainly like to
2 know, and I may be the only one.

3 And then Boscov's, Mr. Rogan, you
4 said that was not public information, but --

5 MR. ROGAN: I did talk to --

6 MS. SCHUMACHER: -- I wonder whether
7 you were just trying to put off pending bad
8 news and not wanting to share it with the
9 taxpayers or I still submit that was public
10 information. That should have been
11 available to the public. That was a payment
12 that was due last July, and it was wrong of
13 you to block that information as our OECD
14 rep and I hope that won't happen again and I
15 hope you will soon have the rest of the
16 loans that are not being paid and what the
17 actions have been taken and what the status
18 of those are.

19 In the caucus tonight, one of the
20 reasons it was presumed that possibly
21 expiration of KOZ might have something to do
22 with -- but the KOZ expired in 2010 unless
23 they were extended, is that not correct?

24 MR. MCGOFF: I'm sure what the date
25 was.

1 MS. SCHUMACHER: I believe KOZs were
2 2010. Now, the public hearing that DCED is
3 holding in this chamber on the 17th, I know
4 the public will be allowed to address that,
5 but will there be people here to answer
6 questions that we may have as well?

7 MR. MCGOFF: Will there be people
8 here?

9 MS. SCHUMACHER: Yeah.

10 MR. MCGOFF: I'm assuming.

11 MS. SCHUMACHER: Thank you. Next
12 page, I noticed in the paper, too, there was
13 an RFP for insurance?

14 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

15 MS. SCHUMACHER: And that begs
16 several questions that are related to that,
17 do you have the list of the properties that
18 are covered?

19 MR. MCGOFF: I do not have a list.

20 MS. SCHUMACHER: Does the office
21 have that list?

22 MR. MCGOFF: I'm assuming that the
23 Business Administrator would have that list.

24 MS. SCHUMACHER: Oh, well in the
25 past, if might finish on this point, I have

1 a whole lot more, but I guess that's why
2 next week comes. For instance, is the Ice
3 Box on that list? Their contract says that
4 they are supposed to pay their -- pay the
5 insurance on that property, is that included
6 in the list or not?

7 MR. MCGOFF: I said I don't have the
8 list so I don't know.

9 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. Thank you.

10 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Ungvarsky.

11 MR. UNGVARSKY: It's too bad about
12 Boscov's. Good evening, city council. I'm
13 Tom Ungvarsky. This year the property
14 owners in the city received a \$320 rebate.
15 It doesn't show up on your tax bill, but if
16 it wasn't for the \$320 rebate your taxes
17 would have been \$320 higher than what is
18 shown on your tax bill. Does anybody know
19 how we are going to get that money from the
20 Gaming Commission? Is it a lump sum, is it
21 going to be by who pays when that we are
22 going to get that funding? No one knows?

23 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Ungvarsky, I'm not
24 sure what you are asking here, what money
25 you are asking about it?

1 MR. ROGAN: Is this regarding the
2 Homestead Exemption?

3 MR. UNGVARSKY: Yes.

4 MR. MCGOFF: Oh, okay.

5 MR. UNGVARSKY: You are getting a
6 reduction of \$320 on your property tax this
7 year from the Gaming Commission. It doesn't
8 show up on your tax bill, I don't know why
9 they didn't show it on the tax bill, but if
10 it wasn't for that rebate your tax bill
11 would have been \$320 higher.

12 MR. ROGAN: I can address it a
13 little bit because I just actually went to
14 the process of applying for the Homestead
15 Exemption.

16 MR. UNGVARSKY: I can't hear you.

17 MR. ROGAN: Anyone in the State of
18 the Pennsylvania can get a small exemption
19 on property taxes on their primary
20 residence.

21 MR. UNGVARSKY: This is automatic.
22 This is automatic.

23 MR. ROGAN: No, it needs to be
24 applied for, it's not automatic.

25 MR. UNGVARSKY: No. No. That is a

1 different rebate that you are going to get
 2 in the sixth month of this year. This is
 3 \$320 taken off of your taxes, your property
 4 tax. Now, I don't know how we are going to
 5 collect it, whether we're going to get it
 6 all at one time or as people pay their
 7 property tax, but this year it's expected
 8 that about 20 percent of the people won't
 9 pay their taxes. However, that money is
 10 already allocated, okay, and we should get
 11 that money whether the people pay their
 12 taxes or they don't pay their taxes. I
 13 think it's something this council should
 14 look in on.

15 Also, we have been in receivership
 16 for about a year and a half now on the
 17 parking garages. That means we are paying
 18 the receiver plus we also paying a manager
 19 \$100 an hour. He appeared here a year ago
 20 and he said he had no plan on how to get
 21 more revenue into the parking garages.
 22 Pretty soon they will have to come up with a
 23 payment and the city will be responsible for
 24 the shortfall. I think it's time that the
 25 council sat down with the mayor and got this

1 parking garages straightened out so that
 2 when we don't have to be paying a part-time
 3 manager \$100 an hour and perhaps get
 4 somebody who would be there full-time for a
 5 lot less. It's time that we sat down and
 6 got this garage business straightened out.
 7 Thank you.

8 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you,
 9 Mr. Ungvarsky.

10 MR. UNGVARSKY: You're welcome.

11 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else cares to
 12 address council?

13 MS. REED: FIFTH ORDER. 5-A.
 14 MOTIONS.

15 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Wechsler?

16 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you,
 17 Mr. McGoff. I would also like to express my
 18 condolences to the three families that lost
 19 members this week. They were all great
 20 citizens of the City of Scranton. I think
 21 tonight when we came here we knew that we
 22 are going to face some discouraging news
 23 about the mall and about job losses, and in
 24 the City of Scranton it's never one thing or
 25 another though, and just as enough people

1 talk about the discouraging news, there are
 2 on the bright side two new businesses open
 3 in the City of Scranton this week. Private
 4 money, no government money invested. One is
 5 in the former Whistle's. That is going to
 6 be Ale Mary, and also we saw where Farley's
 7 was that someone invested private money in
 8 the city grocery and deli. It's kind of a
 9 weird thing that we have bad news on one
 10 side of town and good news on the other side
 11 of town.

12 As I look at this, I think the
 13 city's role is to keep focused on the
 14 problems of the city finances. The best way
 15 to help Scranton now is to right the ship
 16 here in our own house. I think if we can do
 17 that and outsiders can see that the city has
 18 come up with a financial plan to right our
 19 problems. I agree with Mr. Ungvarsky, we
 20 have to do something with the parking
 21 garages, we have to get our pensions in line
 22 and we also have to help the taxpayers out,
 23 and I think that's what our role will be as
 24 the city leaders to right the financial
 25 ship. Thank you, Mr. McGoff

1 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Rogan?

2 MR. ROGAN: Yes, thank you. I would
 3 also like to extend my condolences to those
 4 who we lost through the last week, and I
 5 also some more sadness. I did receive a
 6 message from Councilman Loscombe coming into
 7 the meeting that his sister Cathy passed
 8 away, so we would extend those condolences
 9 to Councilman Loscombe and his family as
 10 well.

11 A few comments tonight, I want to
 12 start off on Boscov's, I know that's been
 13 much of the talk recently, and Boscov's
 14 there are many issues at play here, and
 15 hopefully, I think everyone on council is
 16 hopefully that the mall will come out of
 17 this situation in a better light. With that
 18 being said, I know many people have asked me
 19 if the city was going to take action or if
 20 anything would be done on the city's end. I
 21 would just like to state for the record I
 22 wouldn't support any bailout of the mall
 23 using taxpayer dollars. I don't believe
 24 that's the role of government. I know in
 25 the past that has happened with other

1 businesses and the mall and I don't think
2 that that should occur, but hopefully as the
3 process moves forward the mall can get their
4 finances in order and become what it once
5 was, whether it be in a retail capacity or
6 in another capacity.

7 Last week Mr. Quinn brought up an
8 issue and I was going to talk about it last
9 week but I wanted to think about it a little
10 more, and he brought up the fact that Paul
11 McGloin would have been a good appointment
12 for the Parking Authority but because of the
13 back taxes he withdrew his nomination, and I
14 firmly agree with what Mr. Quinn said. I do
15 believe that Mr. McGloin would have been an
16 excellent addition to the board, but it
17 would send a bad message to have anyone on a
18 board or an authority that owes back taxes
19 and upon thinking about it more I think that
20 should be a standard that should be applied
21 to any future appointees to a board or a
22 commission as well as solicitors of those
23 boards and commissions.

24 And then that further got me
25 thinking whether SRA attorney Carl Greco

1 still has a tax lien against him. I know it
2 was reported in the papers that it was over
3 a million dollars, so I think that's
4 something that needs to be looked into and I
5 do think that the policy of not appointing
6 anyone to a board or an authority that owes
7 back taxes should be appointed by the
8 administration and by city council.

9 Next, regarding some OECD matters,
10 this Monday we had our first meeting of the
11 Citizens Advisory Council. This panel I sit
12 on it from city council and there also there
13 are members of the community on the board
14 and the goal of the Citizens Advisory
15 Council is to get from the public on how
16 they would like federal dollars to come into
17 be spent. We are in the first processes,
18 our first meeting, as I mentioned here, we
19 are in the early processes of looking into
20 this, developing a survey that will be
21 placed in the newspaper and hopefully on the
22 city's website as well that residents could
23 fill out and send in stating how they would
24 like to see their money spent. Whether they
25 would like more money spent in paving or

1 blight removal or whether they would like to
2 see more going to programs, the Boys and
3 Girls Club or Dress for Success. So I'm
4 looking forward to working together with a
5 group and hearing from the public on that.

6 As things progress, we will be
7 having neighborhood meetings as a board. We
8 will be going to different meetings and Tom
9 Preambo, the deputy director of OECD, he is
10 the chairperson of the group so he will be
11 doing a giving the presentations at
12 neighborhood groups and if there is any
13 groups out there when it gets to the point
14 where we will be doing presentations that
15 would like to have us, please let us know.

16 Next, regarding Senate Bill 76, I
17 would like to thank my colleagues and our
18 guests again for coming in, it was a very
19 informative session, and anyone that would
20 like more information or has any questions
21 feel free to contact me, I would be happy to
22 get you in touch with any of the three
23 panelists who were here today. They are all
24 very easy to get in touch with and very
25 insightful.

1 And finally, I know there was
2 questions regarding the labor contract, so I
3 did contact City Solicitor Jason Shrive for
4 some more information and we talked at
5 length about it, and he did provide me with
6 a list of the bidders and the costs.

7 Abrahamsen, Conaboy and Abrahamsen,
8 which is the firm that was selected, charges
9 \$150 per hour and does not charge for
10 paralegals.

11 The other six firms all charge
12 significantly more, and I will go through
13 that list right now. Ethan Dennis, Esquire,
14 charges \$215 per hour. In addition to that
15 they charge \$110 an hour for paralegals.

16 Firm number three, Ballard Spar,
17 \$375 an hour for a managing partner, \$325
18 for a partner, \$275 an hour for an associate
19 attorney.

20 Elliott Greenleaf, attorney partner
21 \$195 per hour, attorney associate \$180 an
22 hour. In addition, \$75 an hour for the
23 paralegals.

24 McNeese, Wallace and I can't read my
25 writing on the third one, they charge \$237,

1 \$332, \$285, \$336. All the way down to 180
2 depending on which attorney at their firm is
3 doing the work. Each attorney has a
4 different rate at that firm.

5 Reed Smith ranges from \$325 an hour
6 down to \$260 for attorneys and \$100 an hour
7 additional for paralegal work.

8 And the final firm, Rosen, Jenkins
9 and Greenwald, they charge \$250 for the
10 partners, and \$175 for an associate
11 attorney.

12 After reviewing this and talking to
13 Attorney Shrive, there no question that the
14 firm selected was by far the lowest bidder
15 of the bunch and they have done this job in
16 the past I believe under Mayor Connors. And
17 I also asked if the city always had a labor
18 counsel and this isn't anything new. It's
19 something that the city has had for decades.
20 So I hope that answers some of the questions
21 that, I know it answered a lot of the
22 questions that I had regarding this vote and
23 I hope it answered yours as well. And that
24 is all. Thank you.

25 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

1 Mr. Gaughan?

2 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes. Thank you.
3 First, I would like just to pass on my
4 condolences to the Cardamone family and all
5 of the families that we mentioned tonight.
6 I knew Mr. Cardamone personally, he was a
7 great guy, and I wish his family the best
8 and they are in my prayers.

9 Also, to Councilman Loscombe and his
10 sister, to hear about this is terrible and I
11 wish their family the best and they are in
12 my prayers.

13 Secondly, I just really have one
14 major topic to touch on tonight, and that is
15 the growing, what I think anyways, is the
16 growing economic developing crisis that we
17 are having downtown. As everyone has read
18 in the paper within the last week, two
19 signature buildings, the Globe Store and
20 Woolworth's are now vacant and there are
21 rumors that additional businesses are
22 thinking about leaving the city.

23 Diversified and Vac Serve are moving
24 up to Montage Mountain and along with them
25 are going 300 jobs from downtown Scranton,

1 along with that is going to tax revenue,
2 parking revenue, and the economic impact
3 that those 300 people have on the downtown
4 whether they eat, shop and park. So to me,
5 this is a crisis.

6 Compounding these problems, and the
7 additional stress that's being placed on the
8 city, the state is closing the civil service
9 testing center, the layoff of 65 employees
10 by General Dynamics and, of course, what's
11 been discussed tonight the impending
12 foreclosure of the Steamtown Mall.

13 This begs the question, and let me
14 preface this by saying that one of the, I
15 think Diversified, is moving into a building
16 on Montage Mountain that the Chamber owns,
17 so this begs the question who is fighting
18 for the City of Scranton, that is my
19 question, and I asked that question because
20 while it's certainly possible that there is
21 nothing that the city could have done to
22 keep those businesses here, I don't know
23 what the city did to try to keep them here,
24 and that is my question. The public only
25 knows as much as our elected and community

1 leaders tell us and that's that they
2 couldn't do anything and that's -- if that's
3 the answer I understand, but no one has
4 explained or communicated what, if anything,
5 was done and what attempts were made to keep
6 these businesses here and I find that very
7 concerning.

8 So again, I ask the question, who is
9 fighting for the City of Scranton? Its
10 responsibility and its leadership. No one
11 wants to take responsibility, not
12 necessarily responsibility for the
13 vacancies, but responsibility for
14 leadership, for vision or even a
15 responsibility to publically come out and
16 say, "Look, I know that this news might make
17 people nervous and concerned, but here is
18 what I plan to do, here is how I'm fighting
19 for Scranton and the downtown."

20 But we haven't heard that yet and
21 that concerns me and that should come from
22 the administration.

23 So what I'd like to do is request
24 information, send a letter to the mayor's
25 office, three questions, three basic

1 questions: Number one, what is the mayor's
2 plan? What is the mayor and
3 administration's plan for attracting
4 business into the former Globe Store and
5 Woolworth's building? Two important
6 buildings downtown.

7 Number two, what, if any, attempts
8 or counteroffers of any sort were made by
9 the mayor and administration to keep
10 Diversified and Vac Serve in the downtown?

11 And number three, what is the mayor
12 and administration doing to ensure that no
13 additional businesses leave the downtown?

14 And I will stress that I have heard
15 rumors that other businesses are considering
16 leaving, so my question is what is the plan?
17 Do we have a plan? There may very well be
18 one, but I haven't heard anything. The
19 mayor said in the paper that keep the faith.
20 I would be able to keep the faith, and I'm
21 sure other citizens would, too, if we knew
22 there was some sort of vision for the
23 downtown, and maybe there is, but I haven't
24 heard it, and that is I why asked these
25 questions. So I would ask Mrs. Reed could

1 send that letter to the mayor's office. I
2 appreciate that.

3 And as I said, I have reached out to
4 Mayor Courtright, Senator Blake, the
5 president of the chamber, Bob Durkin, and
6 the answers I have gotten are there was
7 nothing we could do. And as I said, that
8 very well may be true, but what did we do?
9 What did we try to do? Who is fighting for
10 the city?

11 As I said, Diversified is moving to
12 a building that's owned by the Chamber of
13 Commerce. So it begs the question, who is
14 fighting for the City of Scranton? And that
15 is all I have.

16 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr. Gaughan.
17 Also, to address some of the same issues, I
18 know it was in the paper that Mr. Amaro, the
19 consultant hired through the Chamber of
20 Commerce, was preparing some preliminary
21 ideas and so on. I think people are
22 waiting, I think you are correct, people are
23 waiting for a plan. People want to know
24 what's going to take place. One of the
25 speakers tonight asked the question, you

1 know, what is it that the city is going to
2 do or what is Mr. Amaro going to propose?

3 Hopefully, within the next couple of
4 weeks we hear what that plan is. I will do
5 everything I can to encourage the public
6 dissemination of that plan, be it at a
7 caucus or a council meeting. I think that
8 we all have a right to -- not a right to
9 know, but we are all waiting to know what it
10 is that the city is going to do and what it
11 is that we can be working towards. As time
12 moves on we get more -- the problems with
13 exacerbated the longer this goes. We need
14 to start doing something now and the sooner
15 that that plan is made public the sooner
16 that we can begin to move towards some
17 resolution to some of the problems that we
18 have.

19 As far as the mall is concerned, I
20 think it should be noted a lot of the people
21 assume that Mr. Boscov's owns the mall.
22 That is not necessarily true, that it is not
23 Mr. Boscov that is looking to foreclose on
24 the mall, it is a whoever owns the mortgage
25 that is looking to do this and everything

1 that -- and I was at a meeting with
2 Mr. Boscov and everything that he said in
3 the newspaper would be an indication that he
4 seriously wants to save the mall and to save
5 his interest in the mall certainly.

6 Hopefully that through this process
7 that really is out of our control, the
8 foreclosure of the mall is out of our
9 control, but hopefully as this moves forward
10 there is some resolution to that problem and
11 that maybe we can, if Mr. Boscov is true to
12 his word maybe we can be cautiously
13 optimistic that when it's done that the mall
14 will be -- will still be there and perhaps
15 even on better footing than it is currently.

16 And then just one last thing that
17 was mentioned, and I know Mr. Quinn has
18 spoken for years about the rehabilitation of
19 properties. Last year when we received --
20 we attempted to put additional funding into
21 the rehabilitation programs through the UDAG
22 or through the CDBG funding and HOME funding
23 and that, one of the problems that we ran
24 into that I was on unaware of is that when
25 you go to rehab a home you can't do it

1 piecemeal. He can't say that we are, you
 2 know, okay, we are going to spend "X" number
 3 of dollars and fix the roof. Once someone
 4 goes into rehab it, the entire structure
 5 must be brought up to current code and that
 6 makes it very difficult for a lot of these
 7 -- it becomes very expensive and very
 8 difficult to rehabilitate some of the
 9 structures that are there, that they have
 10 fallen into such disrepair that bringing
 11 them back to code is -- really becomes some
 12 what unreasonable as to cost.

13 I agree with Mr. Quinn, and I agree
 14 with him that, you know, the rehabilitation
 15 of properties in the city is important and
 16 especially as people -- as funds, people's
 17 incomes, discretionary income becomes less
 18 and less and people are unable to maintain
 19 their homes. We really do need to find some
 20 way of funding for the homeowner, so that
 21 they can maintain their homes, reasonably
 22 maintain their homes, so that they don't
 23 fall into disrepair, so that they don't
 24 become condemned properties and vacant lots,
 25 and hopefully in the future we can find some

1 creative ways to do that. I think it is a
 2 necessary part of redeveloping our
 3 neighborhoods, which is something I think
 4 that he were all concerned with. And that
 5 is all I have for this evening.

6 MS. REED: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION - A
 7 RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
 8 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND
 9 ENTER INTO A COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN
 10 THE CITY OF SCRANTON ("MUNICIPALITY") AND
 11 THE UNITED NEIGHBORHOOD CENTERS OF
 12 NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA ("ORGANIZATION")
 13 IN ORDER TO FILE AN APPLICATION FOR
 14 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE WITH THE COMMONWEALTH
 15 OF PENNSYLVANIA, DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND
 16 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ("DCED") FOR KEYSTONE
 17 FAÇADE GRANT FUNDING FOR SOUTH SCRANTON
 18 ELM STREET PROJECT, FISCAL YEAR 2013-2014.

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

22 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

23 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

24 MR. MCGOFF: On the question?

25 MR. ROGAN: Yes, on the question, I

1 would just like to update everyone on this
 2 issue. I was part of an e-mail chain with a
 3 number of city officials today on this, and
 4 the city is strictly acting as a passthrough
 5 between DCED and United Neighborhood Centers
 6 on this. This isn't a city project, but we
 7 are the intermediary between the city and
 8 the recipient.

9 MR. MCGOFF: And to add to that,
 10 too, there is no matching funds that are
 11 needed from the city we are just, as
 12 Mr. Rogan said, we are just a conduit for
 13 the grant.

14 All those in favor signify by saying
 15 aye.

16 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

17 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

18 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

19 MS. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The
 20 ayes have it and so moved.

21 MS. REED: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION -
 22 A RESOLUTION - APPOINTMENT OF WILLIAM LAZOR,
 23 677 MARY STREET, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA,
 24 18508, AS A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF THE
 25 SCRANTON LACKAWANNA HEALTH & WELFARE

1 AUTHORITY. MR. LAZOR WILL FILL THE
 2 UNEXPIRED TERM OF WALTER RANAKOSKI, WHO
 3 PASSED AWAY JULY 30, 2013. MR. LAZOR'S TERM
 4 WILL EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 31, 2015.

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

8 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

9 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

10 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? All
 11 those in favor of introduction signify by
 12 saying aye.

13 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

14 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

15 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

18 MS. REED: SIXTH ORDER. 6-A. NO
 19 BUSINESS AT THIS TIME.

20 SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR
 21 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES -FOR
 22 ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 30, 2014 -
 23 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE
 24 OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO ENTER
 25 INTO A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH

1 THE LAW FIRM OF ABRAHAMSEN CONABOY &
2 ABRAHAMSEN, P.C. FOR LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
3 LEGAL SERVICES FOR A TERM OF FOUR (4) YEARS.

4 MR. MCGOFF: As Chair for the
5 Committee on Rules, I recommend final
6 passage of Item 7-A.

7 MR. ROGAN: Second.

8 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? Roll
9 call, please?

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

11 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

13 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

14 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

15 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

16 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

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

19 Prior to adjournment, I should have
20 mentioned this before, due to the untimely
21 death of Mr. Cardamone, who was the City of
22 Scranton Zoning officer, the interim or the
23 acting zoning officer for the city will be
24 Mr. King, Mr. Don King, who is also the city
25 planner.

1 If there is no further business,
2 motion to adjourn?

3 MR. ROGAN: Motion to adjourn.

4 MR. MCGOFF: Meeting adjourned.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

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CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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