

SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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HELD:

Thursday, March 3, 2016

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:

JOSEPH WECHSLER, PRESIDENT

PATRICK ROGAN, VICE-PRESIDENT

WAYNE EVANS

WILLIAM GAUGHAN

TIM PERRY

LORI REED, CITY CLERK

KATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

AMIL MINORA, SOLICITOR

1 (Pledge of Allegiance recited and moment of reflection
2 observed.)

3 MR. WECHSLER: Roll call, please.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

5 MR. PERRY: Here.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

7 MR. ROGAN: Here.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

9 MR. EVANS: Here.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Here.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

13 MR. WECHSLER: Here.

14 MR. EVANS: I would like to make a
15 motion to take from the table Resolution
16 No.4-2106.

17 MR. ROGAN: Second.

18 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

19 This resolution pertains to authorization of
20 a contract with Turnkey Taxes to provide the
21 city with audit discovery services for Act
22 511 taxes, including business privilege and
23 mercantile tax. This legislation will be
24 placed in Seventh Order for a final vote.
25 Anyone who wishes to speak on this

1 particular piece of legislation may do so
2 during Fourth order Citizens' Participation.
3 All those in favor signify by saying aye.

4 MR. PERRY: Aye.

5 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

6 MR. EVANS: Aye.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

8 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The
9 ayes have it and so moved.

10 Dispense with the reading of the
11 minutes.

12 MS. REED: THIRD ORDER. 3-A. NO
13 BUSINESS AT THIS TIME.

14 MR. WECHSLER: Do any council
15 members have announcements? I have one
16 announcement on the agenda item, there will
17 be a motion to table Item 7-A and 7-B until
18 next week. The reason or the fact we are
19 tabling is to consider the concerns and
20 comments from the IBEW.

21 MS. REED: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'
22 PARTICIPATION.

23 MR. WECHSLER: Steve Patrick. You
24 gentlemen all want to come up together?
25 Steve Patrick, Rich Galdieri and Tom Welby.

1 MR. PATRICK: My name is Steven
2 Patrick. I live at 1316 Steel Avenue in
3 Scranton, PA., and I a petition that I drew
4 up last Monday and I had it signed by our
5 neighbors and other people involved and I'd
6 like hand them up to Council and to Mr.
7 Minora so he could look at the pictures.

8 MR. WELBY: Pictures to Council.

9 MR. STEVENS: We, the citizens of
10 Scranton, PA., petition to the City to stop
11 Shay Demolition from parking his heavy
12 equipment and tractor trailers, triaxle dump
13 trucks and trailers on Pike Street. It is
14 unsightly and will decrease the property
15 value and tear up our street even more than
16 it is already is. We demand the city
17 council, planning and zoning commission vote
18 not to issue any permits. Shay Demolition
19 Company purchased this property on Pike
20 Street in Scranton some time last year. My
21 neighbors and I never saw it posted in the
22 newspaper. Was this property ever put on
23 the tax sale or was this a quiet sale? We
24 would like to know.

25 Shay Demolition purchased 179 acres

1 off the Morgan Highway in 2012, which is
2 commercial property, that he can use to park
3 all of his heavy equipment and trucks on.
4 This property is secluded and does not
5 effect anyone in any way, shape or form so
6 the question is why is he targeting our
7 street to make an unsightly parking lot for
8 his trucks and heavy equipment?

9 Shay Demolition is bringing heavy
10 equipment and tractor trailers over Pike
11 Street and turning around in front of our
12 homes. Pike Street is too narrow for two
13 vehicles to pass each other at the same time
14 without pulling off to the side of the road.
15 Shay's trucks and heavy equipment are
16 breaking up the asphalt and creating large
17 potholes. My neighbors and I have been
18 trying to get Pike Street paved for over 30
19 years. Every time we call DPW or the
20 mayor's office we are told "You are on the
21 list."

22 Humbly ask you to stop this travesty
23 from occurring. Please ask yourselves,
24 would you like this to happen on the street
25 that you live on?

1 One other matter to address is Pike
2 Street was posed approximately 12 years ago
3 "No commercial trucks except local
4 deliveries, fines imposed." Someone dropped
5 the ball because it was never imposed. I
6 spoke to Pat Rogan in October 2015 advised
7 me that it would be brought up before city
8 council three times, passed on to the city
9 solicitor and put on the mayor's desk for
10 signing. That was about six months ago.
11 Please take this urgent matter into account
12 and stand by your citizens/taxpayers. Thank
13 you.

14 MR. ROGAN: Regarding the sign, I
15 did look into that, worked with the
16 solicitor and the chief, and what happened
17 just for the public to know as well, under
18 the previous administration a sign was put
19 up without any legislation backing it up.
20 The city engineer did go out and did a
21 report, and I believe he did speak with you,
22 but the city engineer did feel that --

23 MR. STEVENS: He -- Yeah, I'm sorry,
24 excuse me. I did speak with him and the
25 only thing he said was it's about impossible

1 to do something like that. I said, well,
2 why do you have that law and who posted the
3 sign? It has to be legal if the signs were
4 posted? I mean, if I see a street sign that
5 says "Do Not Enter" I do not enter or, you
6 know, no trucks allowed or whatever, but
7 that was the only answer that I got from
8 him.

9 MR. ROGAN: Yeah. Why the sign was
10 put up to begin with, you know, obviously
11 there is a problem. I have been up there --

12 MR. STEVENS: Sure, you are familiar
13 with it.

14 MR. ROGAN: I'm very familiar with
15 it, it's obviously a problem, and why the
16 sign was put up the way it was, you know,
17 known of us here will ever know. You know,
18 the proper way is to go to city council, you
19 know, enact the legislation and then put of
20 the sign, but we do have to go by the
21 guidance of the engineer in those type of
22 issues.

23 MR. STEVENS: Well, it is a dead-end
24 street and there is no reason for heavy
25 equipment and trucks or tractors -- he

1 brought a triaxial over it, a 50-ton lowboy
2 with a 30 or 40,000 pound machine on it. I
3 mean, come on.

4 MR. ROGAN: And the streets are
5 already in bad enough shape.

6 MR. STEVENS: Yeah, and he comes up
7 in front of my house and turns -- pulls up
8 and backs up. I mean, come on, that's not
9 right. He bought that for tax purposes he
10 told me. He told me that Jack Sweeney,
11 maybe not Jack personally, but he was told
12 that that road and that property that he
13 bought for back taxes was all commercial and
14 that's not true. I have the map. There is
15 only maybe a quarter of it's that commercial
16 and the rest is all residential and he is
17 over there right now as I speak and he is
18 just cutting trees down, bulldozing trees,
19 one tree come down in front of my car the
20 other day as I was driving up the road, and
21 he grabbed it with the machine and pulled it
22 off. I mean, you know this is really
23 getting terrible. I mean, you guys should
24 all take a ride up there and look at this
25 what he is doing.

1 MR. GAUGHAN: I think if there is no
2 objection from any of the members we should
3 get an explanation of all of these events
4 from the zoning officer in writing.

5 MR. STEVENS: Thank you.

6 MR. WELBY: My name is Tom Welby, I
7 work for State Rep Marty Flynn. We have
8 been trying to assist the residents up there
9 as well as best we can but there is not a
10 whole lot that we can do through the state
11 office and I have been up there a few times
12 as well and talked with DEP about some
13 issues. There is an area that's kind of a
14 construction waste area as well as dump area
15 and some old tanks that are up there as
16 well. However, DEP advised us that it's not
17 a DEP issue until the city is up there and
18 decides that is, indeed, a waste issue, an
19 oil spill kind of issue, and then they will
20 become involved but until then it's not a
21 state issue.

22 The road itself, as most of us know,
23 is highly deteriorated, it's tough, and with
24 the city in the economic condition residents
25 know it, unfortunately, it's not the top

1 priority with the limited number of people
2 who live on the end of it. The city is not
3 in a type of condition that can go out and
4 just pave any road that is in bad condition,
5 but if the city would consider directing DEP
6 to go out when the weather warms to hot
7 patch the area.

8 MR. GAUGHAN: Mr. Welby, not to
9 interrupt you, but myself and these two
10 gentlemen, and actually we ran into the
11 business administrator before the meeting,
12 Dave Bulzoni, I believe Mr. Gallagher, and
13 the city engineer are going to be up on Pike
14 Street tomorrow around 10:30 to assess the
15 situation, obviously we know that -- we saw
16 the pictures, the road is in terrible
17 condition and it is a priority that this
18 road be paved as soon as possible.

19 MR. WELBY: That's great.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: Hopefully we'll have
21 more answers after tomorrow and we'll keep
22 all the residents up there up-to-date.

23 MR. WELBY: And on that sign, that
24 sign existed up there for 12 years. I
25 understand that the law is the law is the

1 law, but the existence of the sign there
2 with the acknowledgement of the city for 12
3 years I think that should hold some weight
4 there as well.

5 And the zoning map that exists shows
6 the entire area, that part of Keyser Valley
7 in North Scranton, and the commercial versus
8 residential cuts over about an eighth of a
9 mile into the road it changes from
10 commercial to residential.

11 MR. STEVENS: I'm sorry, one other
12 thing, I spoke to Jack Sweeney about the
13 situation and he said that Shay was over
14 there with his attorneys and everything was
15 a done deal. He says -- and also I asked
16 him, because I spoke to my attorney, Michael
17 Roth, he told me the city was supposed to
18 provide a line between commercial and
19 residential and I asked Jack Sweeney if he
20 would do that and he said, "The city is not
21 going to do that."

22 So I don't know where he's getting--

23 MR. WECHSLER: It's not a done deal
24 until we present all of these facts to
25 Mr. Sweeney and he gets back to us with his

1 final determination so we can evaluate it so
2 nothing is a done deal yet.

3 MR. STEVENS: I'm sorry.

4 MR. WECHSLER: But nothing is a done
5 deal yet. This is a process where the
6 information was just been presented to us
7 and we will follow-up on it as we ask the
8 city engineer --

9 MR. STEVENS: That was just his
10 verbal comment, that's all. Thank you.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

12 MR. WECHSLER: Joan Hodowanitz.

13 MS. HODOWANITZ: Joan Hodowanitz,
14 Scranton. First thing I'd like to mention
15 is that the Friends of the Scranton Public
16 Library are conducting a used book sale from
17 now through Sunday. Soft cover books \$1,
18 hard offer \$2. They are in excellent
19 condition and on Sunday you can buy a bag of
20 books for \$5 so come our way.

21 With regard to the 2014 audit, it is
22 now 277 days late and counting. With regard
23 to the 2015 audit, the deadline is May 31,
24 which is a mere 86 days from today. One of
25 the nice things that you can find in the

1 audit, or useful things, not necessarily
2 nice, is usually a section called
3 commitments and contingencies. The first
4 part of that is always litigation pending
5 the city. In the 2013 audit, which is the
6 last one published, there is one, two, two
7 and a half pages of litigation and it gives
8 you as city legislators an oversight pending
9 legislation -- pending litigation and the
10 potential impact on city coffers. It would
11 be a nice thing to know not just for 2014
12 but 2015. I don't expect to see it in 86
13 days, but one can always dream.

14 One of the nice things that Rossi &
15 Company did when they did the independent
16 audit was they provided city council and the
17 public a weekly update on the status of the
18 audit. You don't see that from SB &
19 Company. I remember asking last year if you
20 could get SB & Company to repeat that
21 procedure, but apparently it's never
22 happened, and as I wander through city hall
23 asking about has anything heard about the
24 audit I usually get the standard canned
25 response of "We are working on it."

1 Considering the state of the city's
2 finances, I really think that we need more
3 transparency from the administration. As
4 you may recall, I understand that you are
5 going to reschedule the council meeting for
6 two weeks from now to March 16?

7 MR. WECHSLER: We are discussing it.

8 MS. HODOWANITZ: Possibly at 1:30?

9 MR. WECHSLER: No.

10 MS. HODOWANITZ: Not at 1:30?

11 MR. WECHSLER: No.

12 MS. HODOWANITZ: Good. In the
13 evening then?

14 MR. WECHSLER: Some of us work
15 during the day.

16 MS. HODOWANITZ: At any rate, March
17 16 in the morning is when all of the Pension
18 Boards meet, and one thing I'm going to
19 represent to the Composite Pension Board is
20 that they develop their own page on the
21 city's website and I would like to see the
22 minutes of all of their meetings and I would
23 like to see things like the Mellon
24 Investments report which will tell citizens
25 the status of their investments. Mr.

1 Wechsler, did you have an opportunity after
2 last week to go back and look at the asset
3 value page?

4 MR. WECHSLER: No, I did not. We
5 were working on the contractor's
6 legislation.

7 MS. HODOWANITZ: Okay, you may still
8 want to go there because somebody needs to
9 explain what happened to \$7 million in
10 Untied States cash equivalence, okay? There
11 may be a very good explanation, then again,
12 there may not, but documents like this need
13 to be on the City's web page.

14 Now, speaking of the city's web
15 page, if you open up to the home page you
16 are going to see a very, very colorful home
17 page, I printed it out, it's two pages long,
18 and it's got things like the 2015 state of
19 the city address by the mayor and his
20 remarks. St. Patrick's Day parade press
21 release and a memo on time. Mayor
22 Courtright's statement on the Sewer
23 Authority transaction. Mayor Courtright's
24 statement after the proposed Sewer Authority
25 transaction. The mayor's challenge and on

1 and on. Well, this is fine, and I have no
2 objection to it, what I don't see is a lot
3 of financial information that I think the
4 citizens need. For example, I think we do
5 need a pension -- Composite Pension Board
6 web page with their documents concerning the
7 state of the city's financial distress. The
8 December and January's Controller's reports
9 are on the website, and I thank IT for
10 having gotten that done. Speaking of
11 pensions and pension reform, the last
12 several weeks there hasn't been a whole lot
13 of reform legislation on council's agenda.
14 I hope we see a change in the near future.
15 Thank you.

16 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Lee
17 Morgan.

18 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council,
19 Lee Morgan. You know, tonight I'm just
20 going to basically be brief and say that,
21 you know, for residents to have information
22 about the financial condition of the city
23 it's much too late for that, okay? Anybody
24 who has any common sense knows that the
25 people in this city have elected people that

1 were incompetent and couldn't even run their
2 own savings accounts so, you know, to know
3 that your hose burned to the ground two days
4 after it happened, what's the difference
5 really? You know, and the meetings over the
6 Sewer Authority and all of other silliness
7 spinning around that, you know, if the Sewer
8 Authority sells the city is not going to
9 have any say in anything that goes through
10 those sewer lines so really, you know, all
11 of the horse and pony shows we have about
12 leadership in this city are just that, horse
13 and pony shows.

14 Now, I have pulled a lot more
15 finance reports, campaign finance reports,
16 and I was just wondering tonight, would any
17 councilman like to stand up and say today at
18 the end of the meeting and in your time what
19 campaigns you gave money to? Because when
20 we start talking about transparency in
21 government, I think it's important to know
22 who is in bed with who and who is working
23 for whom. I'm very troubled that a former
24 county commissioner is helping to shepherd
25 the deal with Pennsylvania American Water.

1 Now, the Scranton Time reported that, they
2 said that Mr. Wansacz is working as a
3 consultant to make that happen, and I'm just
4 wondering, Mr. Wechsler, do you know how to
5 dissolve a city authority or how it's done?

6 MR. WECHSLER: No, I do not.

7 MR. MORGAN: Well, maybe you should
8 find out since you are council president.

9 MR. WECHSLER: Well, I'm not an
10 attorney, Mr. Minora.

11 MR. MORGAN: You don't have to be an
12 attorney.

13 MR. WECHSLER: But I do follow the
14 city solicitor's recommendations.

15 MR. MORGAN: Well, that's really
16 nice, but I really believe that you should
17 understand how to dissolve an authority.

18 MR. WECHSLER I do understand it, but
19 I do refer to professional legal counsel.

20 MR. MORGAN: Well, I'm glad you know
21 how to ask questions every now and then, it
22 gives me a lot of hope on your ability in
23 the future, but I find it really troubling
24 that you don't know that answer to that
25 question and you're sitting council

1 president, but you know the other thing is I
2 have a lot more questions for you, Mr.
3 Wechsler, and I intend to ask, begin to
4 ask--

5 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Morgan, if you
6 could pronounce it correctly, it's Wechsler.

7 MR. MORGAN: Yeah, Wechsler.

8 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you.

9 MR. MORGAN: Okay. That wasn't
10 purposely done. I have a lot of questions
11 for you that I'm going to start bringing
12 into you every week and the Right-to-Know so
13 we can educate you and we can find out
14 exactly what you do know and what this
15 council knows, and I just find it extremely
16 troubling and if you pay attention to what's
17 happening in our country we are trying to
18 throw the politicians out of office, we
19 really are. Whether you like Donald Trump
20 or you like Bernie Sanders. The former
21 president of the United States, Bill
22 Clinton, is getting grilled on the campaign
23 trail, people are disgusted with him. The
24 Republican party is trying to push Mr. Trump
25 off the ballot because the American people

1 have had enough, and I think the character
2 of our elected officials speak volumes of
3 what's wrong with our country because when a
4 city is in distressed status over two
5 decades and hasn't solved one of the
6 problems, not one single problem that's
7 destroying the city itself, I think that's a
8 very troubling thing. And for people to run
9 for office and to say they have solutions
10 and have nothing and have no idea what's
11 going on is even more troubling and when you
12 have a -- when elect people to office who
13 can't answer your questions week after week,
14 and I feel sorry for the people who come
15 here week after week and ask about an audit
16 that doesn't exist and so many other things
17 that don't exist, so much real information
18 that the residents of this city should have
19 and should have had for I don't know, since
20 the beginning of the city to be quite blunt,
21 not just for decades but for an extremely
22 long period of time, and when you keep going
23 back to the same residents and asking them
24 for more money and watching the blight
25 explode through the neighborhoods, and now

1 you see with the state budget all of the non
2 profits that are backed up waiting for
3 millions and millions of dollars.

4 University of Scranton, Lackawanna College,
5 the list just grows and grows but the
6 average person in the neighborhood they
7 aren't getting anything, they are just
8 paying everything and, you know, it's really
9 time for councilmen or elected officials who
10 can't do their job to resign and move out of
11 the way before we lose the democracy that we
12 have in this country because nobody believes
13 in you and nobody believes in the elected
14 officials of America, and they really don't
15 and they are desperate for a solution. And
16 maybe, you know, it comes down to demeanor,
17 but I appreciate your time tonight. Thank
18 you.

19 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr.
20 Morgan.

21 MR. MORGAN: Michelle Dempsey.

22 MS. DEMPSEY: Good evening. It is
23 my understanding that last week the issue of
24 permitted sewer lines for leachate from
25 Keystone Sanity Landfill was brought up at

1 council and I'm just wondering if there is
2 updates on that situation?

3 MR. WECHSLER: We had taken the
4 information that you provided us and we
5 forwarded it to our solicitor and he has
6 been in contact with the Scranton Sewer
7 Authority and he is awaiting responses from
8 them.

9 MS. DEMPSEY: So there is no
10 responses yet?

11 MR. MINORA: I just received some
12 documents in my box today. I haven't had a
13 chance to look at them and they are about
14 the size of a New York telephone directory
15 so I haven't had a chance to look at them.

16 MS. DEMPSEY: Great. Can I state a
17 very brief synopsis of my understanding?

18 MR. WECHSLER: Sure.

19 MS. DEMPSEY: Very simply put, my
20 understanding is that there was a valid
21 contract, a valid waste water permit that
22 ran between 2012 and 2017 between Keystone
23 Sanitary Landfill and the Sewer Authority that
24 only allowed use of what is known as the
25 dedicated line and that is called a

1 dedicated line because it is dedicated
2 solely to taking leachate from Keystone
3 Sanitary Landfill to the Sewer Authority and
4 that that contract was changed in the middle
5 of the contract just this past December to
6 actually allow the use also of the
7 Greenridge line, which is a line that runs
8 obviously through the Greenridge area of
9 Scranton, and that this is an apparent
10 violation -- in apparent violation of a 1990
11 contract with the community and with the
12 city council of Scranton which said that the
13 use of the Greenridge line was not permitted
14 because it was a combined sewer overflow
15 line which means that leachate could back up
16 into resident's homes or overflow into the
17 river in an extreme event.

18 So that's a very simple
19 understanding of it to me, that the contract
20 was very clear only one line was permitted.

21 MR. MINORA: Can I --

22 MS. DEMPSEY: Yeah.

23 MR. MINORA: I did see some things
24 and I did speak with the executive director,
25 and I think most of what you said is

1 correct, it's not something that city
2 council did though. In 1990, there was a
3 Court order from Judge Harhut after hearing
4 granting Keystone Landfill a permit. There
5 was an amendment to that --

6 MR. DEMPSEY: Correct.

7 MR. MINORA: -- later on, but that
8 was between -- as a contract between the
9 Sewer Authority and Keystone Landfill. As I
10 understood it, and I just looked at Judge
11 Harhut's opinion while we were waiting for
12 council to begin and the city didn't really
13 have standing in that contract. The sewer
14 Authority is a municipal authority in and of
15 itself, but other than that I think you are
16 correct.

17 MS. DEMPSEY: Yes.

18 MR. MINORA: And there are two
19 lines, Greenridge line and -- well, I'm
20 going to call it the Greenridge Street line,
21 but I maybe wrong.

22 MS. DEMPSEY: That's fine.

23 MR. MINORA: And that was permitted
24 in 2012 to 2017.

25 MS. DEMPSEY: That's right.

1 MR. MINORA: And for a reasons
2 unbeknownst to me you are correct in
3 December the Greenridge line was added to
4 the permit.

5 MS. DEMPSEY: That's right.

6 MR. MINORA: And apparently there
7 was a discharge in September. But, and I'm
8 sorry if I'm taking a conversation over on
9 this, but I have questions, if you don't
10 find. What I didn't understand, and perhaps
11 you do, is the enforcement by or permits DEP
12 or the Sewer Authority?

13 MS. DEMPSEY: I believe the
14 enforcement body should be DEP, but --

15 MR. MINORA: So if there was a --
16 and I think that's correct and I think
17 that's some of what I read in here, but
18 obviously you are more well-versed, and if I
19 could just get some of my questions answered
20 --

21 MR. DEMPSEY: Sure.

22 MR. MINORA: -- then I may be able to
23 give council some better advice.

24 MS. DEMPSEY: I do think there is
25 some oversight of the Greenridge line by the

1 EPA as well but it can discharge into the
2 Lackawanna River and, therefore, it's -

3 MR. MINORA: So if am I correct that
4 there is a violation then DEP or EPA would
5 issue a citation of some sort.

6 MS. DEMPSEY: That would be my
7 understanding as well, but, you know, I
8 think so, that they would be the authority.
9 Certainly the EPA for the line that goes
10 into the river.

11 MR. MINORA: And I apologize if I
12 have got a lot of questions --

13 MS. DEMPSEY: I hope I can answer
14 them all.

15 MR. MINORA: Do you know whether or
16 not DEP or EPA has issued a citation to
17 Keystone Landfill?

18 MS. DEMPSEY: I'm not aware of any
19 citations that have been issued. There is a
20 lot of questions around, you know -- there
21 has sort of been an escalation about use of
22 that line and what I mean by that is there
23 was questions raised by Friends of
24 Lackawanna at the DEP public meeting about
25 the use of that line and at first we were

1 told by KSL that they never used the line
2 and then we were told that sometime they use
3 the line and then now it seems we can use
4 the line whenever we want, so there is real
5 inconsistencies in understanding and we
6 still don't know, you know, how to know when
7 somebody is using the line; right?

8 MR. MINORA: I was told the same
9 thing, which leaves in my mind a great deal
10 of question, but we have very little in the
11 way of enforcement as a council.

12 MS. DEMPSEY: Right.

13 MR. MINORA: I don't know if we can
14 do anything as far as that concerned other
15 than air things publically.

16 MR. GAUGHAN: I was just going to
17 say that may be true, however, as an elected
18 official I am concerned about this whole
19 thing.

20 MS. DEMPSEY: Yes.

21 MR. GAUGHAN: So it doesn't matter
22 if it's DEP, EPA, I want answers. What is
23 going on here?

24 MS. DEMPSEY: Yes.

25 MR. GAUGHAN: Would it violate it,

1 would it not violate it, that's what we need
2 to get to the bottom of, so no matter who is
3 responsible I still think that the residents
4 of this city are effected by it and we need
5 to know exactly what happened.

6 MS. DEMPSEY: They're certainly
7 effected, and just on its face it doesn't
8 make any sense that there would be a
9 settlement agreement that lead to the
10 construction of a line dedicated solely to
11 the leachate at the Drinker Street line, if
12 you want to call it that --

13 MR. EVANS: If I could comment,
14 Michelle, for a second. That's my main
15 question is that if there was a settlement
16 agreement between the City of Scranton and
17 KSL --

18 MR. MINORA: The Sewer Authority,
19 not the City of Scranton.

20 MR. EVANS: The City of Scranton was
21 not -- from what I read the City of Scranton
22 was on that settle agreement and it was
23 approved by city council in the statement so
24 that's where I'm totally confused.

25 MR. MINORA: I'm sorry, we are

1 talking about two different things.

2 MR. EVANS: Yeah, and if that's the
3 case then what superceded that because in
4 that settlement agreement it did not talk
5 about the second line.

6 MS. DEMPSEY: That's right, and even
7 Judge Harhut agreement did refer to the
8 amendment it referred to this settlement
9 agreement that would, you know, that would
10 promote the use of a permanent line, so the
11 dedicated line, the agreement was the 1997
12 settle agreement where the option chosen was
13 to construct, under what I imagine had to be
14 a lot of money, to construct a dedicated
15 line for Keystone to take it's leachate from
16 Keystone into the Sewer Authority and not
17 use the Greenridge line, so I'm just very
18 confused why suddenly there is a permission.
19 If it was changed midstream without the
20 public knowing, I think the residents of
21 Greenridge would be very interested to know
22 that that line can now be used, it looks
23 like it could be used cart blanch, and
24 that's a very different scenario than what
25 the permit reflected prior to that change

1 which is only the dedicated line which was
2 very clear about that.

3 And I just want to say, also, it's
4 been said that sometimes they can use it in
5 a mechanical failure or if the pumps break,
6 but I want to note that there is at least
7 a -- there is a 11 million gallon leachate
8 lagoon on site that can handle leachate for
9 days if the pump breaks, so there is really
10 no need to have to send it down an alternate
11 line for any reason. It can also be taken
12 by truck to the Sewer Authority so I don't
13 see any reason whatsoever that they would
14 ever have to use the Greenridge line, and
15 that out of the settlement agreement they
16 were supposed to use a dedicated line and
17 nothing is making sense. Even the change to
18 the permit that was made, which I believe
19 was referred to in a newspaper as a
20 typographical error that they forgot, that
21 the error was a typographical error was the
22 omission, an entire line and paragraph, but
23 even within that paragraph there was
24 typographical error, so it was typographical
25 error within the typographical error because

1 it refers to the landfill leachate
2 acceptance agreement dated 1-9-2087, that
3 agreement was 10-29-87. So nothing really
4 computes here and I hope that you will
5 continue to look into this on behalf of the
6 citizens of Scranton. They should be very
7 concerned that leachate can now flow beneath
8 their homes in what appears to be a
9 violation of the 1990 contract with them not
10 to.

11 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you for
12 bringing all of this information to us.
13 City council has started the process in
14 evaluating this and we will participate up
15 to the n'th degree because we don't want
16 that problem in our city either.

17 MS. DEMPSEY: And I think the
18 residents would agree with you and thank you
19 very much.

20 MR. WECHSLER: Ron Ellman?

21 MR. ELLMAN: May I speak later,
22 please?

23 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Ellman, you on
24 the sheet right now. Mr. Ellman, your turn
25 is right now, you signed the sheet.

1 MR. ELLMAN: That's all right.

2 MR. WECHSLER: Is there anyone else
3 who would like to address council?

4 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,
5 citizen of Scranton, fellow Scrantonian. I
6 know we have an agenda item here under 5-E,
7 it has to do with the street lighting. As
8 you know, well, maybe you don't know, PPL
9 used to handle all our streetlights, they
10 repaired them, they did whatever they had
11 to. Our dear Mayor Doherty decided he
12 wanted to buy them under some kind of a
13 thing saying we might get a cheaper deal. I
14 have never seen a deal that costs the city
15 more than this the street lights. It just
16 goes on and on and on and obviously the cash
17 could cow for the politician, not for the
18 citizens. We paid them "X" amount of
19 dollars and that was it. This one you want
20 somebody comes up you know changing all the
21 street lights everywhere to LED, we know
22 that. Before that it was sodium vapor,
23 which we were going to do, too.

24 Now, we are down to the point where
25 we are going to hire this contractor to say

1 maybe we should put LED lights in. Then we
2 are advertising bids for another contract to
3 go out and maintain them and it's never
4 ending. We are costing us more now than it
5 ever would if we had left PPL and those
6 lights, but this is the way things go in the
7 city and then you wonder why people say the
8 city isn't being looted of it's assets. You
9 are giving a contractor every darn thing,
10 but then the people are wondering why. Why
11 is so many contracts being let out for these
12 odd deals? And I figured it out, PPL didn't
13 donate, at least as a company, to the
14 politicians, maybe individuals within PPL
15 did, but not basic, all of these streets
16 lighting deals is a cash cow and that's the
17 sad part about it.

18 You have turned your back on fiscal
19 responsibility. You no longer have any
20 fiscal responsibility. Well, how do you
21 could have, you don't even know what an
22 audit looks like because you are not
23 interested in enforcing anything to do with
24 dealing with the basic needs of the city.
25 People don't realize there is a thousand

1 city employees either active or inactive on
2 the city payroll, but that's only a drop in
3 the bucket, you also have all of these
4 authorities that are there. I told you a
5 long time ago your government is your enemy
6 and you see it before you now. Your weapon
7 is your vote. If you keep voting your name
8 and your party this is what you are going to
9 get. You are going to get poverty. \$22,000
10 the average wage within the city, which to
11 me is poverty. Do you care anything about
12 it? Heck no. We can hammer these people as
13 much as we can until they actually revoke,
14 and it may come to that. There still may be
15 a revolt, but the first revolt would be in
16 taxes. They might pay their taxes in an
17 escrow account. If they did the city would
18 collapse almost immediately.

19 And that's the way it's going to go.
20 People are fed up. These contracts you keep
21 giving points the direction of where we are
22 going, to the poor house. You know that,
23 and I know that. In the end, we are going
24 to get somebody coming in to run the city,
25 whether it's going to be any different than

1 now, it can't be any worse, that's for
2 certain. No matter what they do it can't be
3 any worse than what you are doing, but at
4 least it will be the state that's doing it
5 and not the people we elected. It's just
6 too bad we have come to that position.

7 Thank you.

8 MR. WECHSLER: Anyone else?

9 MR. ANCHERANI: Good evening,
10 Council. My name is Tom Ancherani. I am
11 the infamous neighbor with the truck and the
12 garbage next door, and I suppose you know
13 what I'm talking about. Each week one of my
14 neighbors comes down and bashes me and
15 bashes the company I work for. It is my
16 work truck. It needs to be plugged in 25
17 degrees or less. Many times I haven't
18 plugged the truck, I have left it go. We
19 had this to the magistrate, my neighbor has
20 been told that I'm not violating any laws
21 just to suck it up, but he always does it.
22 This has been going on almost 12 1/2 years.

23 It started, we made arrangements
24 with the garage across the street from us to
25 pay the bill for me to plug in the truck

1 plus give him some product off my truck as
2 payment. That went on for 2 1/2 years, we
3 finally changed over to gas engine trucks so
4 it's been good for 10 1/2 years with my
5 neighbor, not really good, he has done other
6 things besides that, but for the last four
7 years I have been driving a diesel truck
8 again. The truck has been in and out of the
9 driveway for those four years. All of a
10 sudden last six or eight months my neighbor
11 decides there is a problem again. He calls
12 the Scranton Police Department. The
13 Scranton Police Department tells him that we
14 are not violating anything, there is nothing
15 they can do about it. He calls Jack
16 Sweeney, Jack Sweeney comes out, talks to me
17 and asks me if there is anything that we can
18 do and I said at this point no, there is
19 not. I believe I'm doing what I'm supposed
20 to do. I got the ordinances.

21 Last time a police officers came to
22 the house from my neighbor's complaints, we
23 give him the ordinance, he took it over to
24 the neighbor, the neighbor says he doesn't
25 need it he has it. Well, if you have it why

1 are you complaining? I mean, I hate to come
2 up here and bring it up to you people again,
3 but he needs to stop. There is nothing
4 illegal about it and I am really getting fed
5 up with it myself. I just wish he would
6 learn to keep his mouth shut. Thank you.

7 MR. ROGAN: Thank you.

8 MS. ANCHERANI: Good evening,
9 council. Donna Ancherani, Mr. Ancherani's
10 wife, resident of 2603 North Main Avenue.
11 As everyone is aware, Mr. Ellman talks
12 constantly about quality of life issues,
13 blight and residents not keeping up their
14 properties when in fact he is the biggest
15 abuser of these ordinances.

16 I have pictures here for council to
17 review, these are pictures of Mr. Ellman's
18 property. I believe he is in violation of
19 Code 360-5, Section number A, or Section A
20 number 22, shrubs and bushes. His bushes
21 are, as you can see in these pictures, may I
22 give them to you to give to them?

23 MR. WECHSLER: Excuse me, Mrs.
24 Ancherani, I'd like to ask Solicitor Minora,
25 what I don't want this to turn into is a --

1 MS. ANCHERANI: Oh, I understand.

2 MR. WECHSLER: I'm trying to avoid
3 that so if you could make sure --

4 MS. ANCHERANI: Well, I believe we
5 have been chastised for months down here
6 constantly.

7 MR. WECHSLER: I understand that.

8 MS. ANCHERANI: And I will have my
9 time to speak and I will speak right now.

10 MR. WECHSLER: I just want to make
11 sure that --

12 MS. ANCHERANI: You guys handle the
13 quality of life ordinances.

14 MR. WECHSLER: I want to ask
15 solicitor --

16 MS. ANCHERANI: Sure, go right
17 ahead.

18 MR. WECHSLER: These comments are
19 fine to make?

20 MR. MINORA: Yeah, I don't see
21 problem with them as long as we understand
22 it's your opinion.

23 MS. ANCHERANI: Absolutely.

24 MR. MINORA: That's fine.

25 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you.

1 MS. ANCHERANI: But I do have proof
2 here of his property and how he is in
3 violation. If I could give these to you to
4 give to them, please, to look at that. It
5 states in there about the bushes and shrubs
6 only supposed to be a certain height and
7 maintained and kept in order and as you can
8 see by those pictures they up past his front
9 porch roof. He is also in violation of NO.
10 26, the accessory structure, he has a
11 garage, not an attached garage, but a garage
12 on his property. It state in that ordinance
13 as well that it should be maintained and
14 structurally sound and in good repair. The
15 majority of -- I'm not sure if those
16 pictures have it, but I do have pictures on
17 my phone of the garage. I have called
18 several times to have an inspector come out
19 and look at this. He has come out, I'm not
20 sure -- obviously, he has not done anything
21 about the garage is still in disrepair. He
22 actually fell through the roof a couple of
23 years back and instead of having it repaired
24 just covered it with shingles so I have
25 that. Constant garbage in his yard all

1 over, as you can see from those pictures.
2 He was told to clean that up. He just
3 continues to be Sanford and Son. Goes on
4 hunts, brings it back and dumps it in his
5 yard. Yet, we are constantly being -- the
6 cops are constantly being called on us and,
7 yes, this is my quality of life, what I have
8 to look at my window to look at disgusting
9 garbage. Vermin coming into my yard that I
10 am beautifying and he is diminishing. I'm
11 spending my money to make my property look
12 better, yet, he continues to bring garbage
13 into his yard.

14 So I would like everyone to know
15 exactly what he is all about, and it's all
16 public knowledge so they can also look on a
17 county website under his name
18 LackawannaCounty.org and the magisterial
19 website and see what he is all about. He
20 has been charged as well this past summer
21 with illegally dump along the Lackawanna
22 river after the citywide effort to clean it
23 up. So before, you know, everybody comes
24 down and here says what they want to say
25 review these people, double check on them,

1 look what they are all about first. He is
2 all over it. Thank you.

3 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Anyone
4 else?

5 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening.
6 Marie Schumacher. Since you have stated
7 you're bringing the turnkey contract back up
8 I was planning to ask when you are going to
9 bring it back up and I hope, I'll listen to
10 what the comments are, but since it's going
11 to cost us \$12,000 and 20 percent of any new
12 revenue I don't -- I would like proof that
13 that would be cost effective since the Tax
14 Collector has pretty much shown that we are
15 collecting the business privilege and
16 mercantile tax to the amount of over \$2
17 million so I'm very anxious to hear the
18 comments on that.

19 I have a request regarding the
20 contract that was approved on the 28th of
21 the January with Muni services, when I asked
22 what specifically was going to be done,
23 Mr. Wechsler, you replied that it was
24 budget. And then I was perusing some of the
25 language that went through and I believe it

1 was Mr. Gaughan, but I could be wrong, read
2 a note that was in your packages from the
3 business administrator which said in the
4 back up legislation that the data to be
5 presented includes current year and prior
6 year's expenses, revenues and budgeted
7 expenditures and revenues via an easy to use
8 intuitive, flexible, graphically oriented
9 system.

10 Now, I have no problem with history,
11 especially if it's when a change occurs in
12 an account that that was noted, but what I
13 really -- what we really need for
14 transparency, what's going on, are monthly
15 actuals and I would like to request that
16 somebody in Fifth Order tonight request
17 of -- make a request of the administration
18 that they include in that effort the actuals
19 on a monthly basis for each and every line
20 item in the budget. That would certainly
21 reduce the number of Right-to-Know that I
22 file and I think would answer some of
23 Mr. Gaughan's question that he has been
24 asking of the administration without any
25 responses.

1 Now, I promised I would give you
2 time to -- I gave you a package of important
3 material regarding the storm water
4 management, I'm presuming that you each got
5 a copy from the master I provided last week.
6 Mr. Wechsler has already said he wouldn't
7 comment, but I would like just brief answers
8 to these questions: Do you agree that storm
9 water management will present a significant
10 expense for the city and do you agree to the
11 required funding required should be
12 quantified sooner rather than later as it
13 will probably be a new storm water fee for
14 property owners?

15 So I would like to go down the list,
16 down the line here, and get answers to those
17 two questions on whether you think it's a
18 big issue and whether or not it's quantified
19 soon.

20 MR. EVANS: I'll comment in motions
21 on that if you don't mind.

22 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. Mr. Gaughan?

23 MR. GAUGHAN: Well, I'll be honest
24 with you, I didn't get a chance to review
25 the document that you gave fully. We have

1 legislation on the agenda tonight, one
2 document is 165 pages long so I was busy
3 reviewing that, but I do think it is going
4 to be a major issue and it's something that
5 we are going to have to face and, of course,
6 the potential sale of the Sewer Authority
7 ties in with that so I do think that it is
8 going to be a major issue.

9 MR. ROGAN: There is no question
10 that storm water management is a big of the
11 sewer system. We have a combined system now
12 that doesn't work. Discharges, you know,
13 when we get heavy rain --

14 MS. SCHUMACHER: I'm not concerned
15 with the combine, I'm concerned with the
16 MS-IV for which we, the city, hold the
17 permit.

18 MR. ROGAN: Well, I'm saying it's a
19 big issue and it needs to be addressed along
20 with the sale. It needs to be looked at as
21 a whole not as two separate entities.

22 MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, that is not
23 part of the agreement, which is my issue, is
24 that there is -- they own the
25 infrastructure. The Sewer Authority owns

1 the infrastructure but we have the permit.
2 If you would look through that material
3 you'll see a lot of extent to which we do
4 now and I think the recommendation then back
5 in 2013 was that we transfer the permit to
6 the Sewer Authority, and I thought that was
7 probably a good suggestion, but I don't even
8 know, and maybe Mr. Minora you can ask him
9 whether he knows, if the MS-IV permit can be
10 transferred to a public corporation.

11 MR. ROGAN: Well, it seems there
12 would be two options, would be to have it
13 all under one umbrella whether it be sold,
14 as you had mentioned before.

15 MS. SCHUMACHER: As I say, I don't
16 know since it's a municipal filing I don't
17 know if -- I know we can do it to a -- we
18 could transfer it to an authority, but I
19 don't know if we can transfer it to a
20 private corporation. That's one question
21 and I don't know do you want to ask him or
22 not if he knows?

23 MR. WECHSLER: I think you just
24 answered your own question, there is so many
25 questions and it's still under evaluation.

1 Everyone thinks that the storm water
2 management is a critical item. How it's
3 going to be handled hasn't been determined
4 yet.

5 MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, okay, but the
6 big issue is, if I may finish this and then
7 get Mr. Perry's, is that the currently the
8 money that we are talking about getting that
9 we want to pour into something, the pension
10 fund and other things, is not -- is a gross
11 amount for that portion only. If they
12 assume, they being American Water, should
13 assume that the MS-IV permit with it comes a
14 lot of costs that currently are not, you
15 know, are not covered and that's going to
16 increase now that they have the combined
17 sewer stuff going pretty much nationwide
18 that you can expect more concentration on
19 the storm water and the agricultural so the
20 point is there is a bucket of money out
21 there that is probably going to have to be
22 covered by a storm water fee and I think we
23 have a right to know what that is before --

24 MR. WECHSLER: And I would like to
25 know it, also, but it has not been

1 established yet. The Supreme Court just
2 decided this week that the guidelines apply,
3 that the run off from the farms has to be
4 controlled. There is all kinds of things in
5 play here and I think we would do an
6 injustice to give you an answer just to give
7 you an answer. We don't have all of the
8 information.

9 MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, get what it
10 costs. Since we already hold a permit we
11 are obligated and liable for what we are not
12 doing on that as of right now and I would
13 think that we would have -- know what's
14 that's costing us now and we know what's
15 coming that we must have a dollar amount and
16 I would like to know that dollar amount.
17 And now, Mr. Perry, do you have any --

18 MR. PERRY: Yeah, unfortunately, you
19 know, I did dedicate most of my time to, you
20 know, legislation that was on the agenda for
21 this week, but I agree with everybody in the
22 city this is coming to a head very soon.
23 It's something that we are going to need to
24 deal with but I think, as Mr. Wechsler said,
25 there is just so many moving pieces in this

1 and for us to try to put our finger o n
2 something and get an answer on one thing the
3 next decision minus that out and we would
4 have to rethink what we originally thought
5 on that one piece, but there is lot of the
6 moving pieces missing and as the shoe starts
7 to fall then we will be able to make actual
8 intelligent decisions on what we actually
9 are dealing with.

10 MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, as a taxpayer
11 I really think you need to get involved and
12 get some of these questions that you have
13 into them and share them with us. Thank
14 you.

15 MR. PERRY: I agree. Thank you.

16 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Ellman, you
17 missed -- Mr. Ellman, you turned down your
18 chance to speak so you can speak next week.
19 Mr. Ellman, you turned down your chance to
20 speak. You were called and you turned it
21 down.

22 MR. ELLMAN: I want to make a
23 statement about these malicious allegations
24 that they have --

25 MR. WECHSLER: You had a chance to

1 speak and you turned it down.

2 MR. ELLMAN: I didn't hear you.

3 MR. WECHSLER: You turned your
4 opportunity down when I called your name.

5 MS. REED: FIFTH ORDER. 5-A.

6 MOTIONS.

7 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Perry, do you
8 have any motions tonight?

9 MR. PERRY: Yeah, I just have one
10 thing, one comment. One of my very first
11 political memories was Mayor McNulty's
12 mayoral race back in the 80's. Yeah, I was
13 young, but I remember that election being
14 exciting, it was full of energy, and that
15 was because Mayor McNulty was exciting and
16 full of energy. He knew how to hold a room,
17 he knew how to listen, which I think is lost
18 on lot of people in power whether they are
19 politicians, CEO's, COO's, you know,
20 neighborhood leaders, it's just the power of
21 this thing and he was very good at it as
22 well as telling jokes and making you feel
23 good about yourself.

24 He really gave Scranton everything
25 he had and, you know, there is something to

1 be said about someone when you speak of them
2 that puts a smile on your face and that's
3 what Mayor McNulty does when I remember him,
4 he puts a smile on my face and our community
5 lost a very special soul this week and, you
6 know, there is nothing that I really could
7 say to comfort the McNulty family other than
8 I'm sorry for their loss. I know firsthand
9 I lost my father a couple of months ago and,
10 you know, not a day goes by, I carry with
11 him me all the time in my pocket and it's
12 difficult, but it's the memories and it's
13 what you take from that is what makes it
14 special and, you know, he will sorely be
15 missed and God bless him and God bless his
16 family. That's all.

17 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr. Perry.
18 Mr. Rogan.

19 MR. ROGAN: Very well said,
20 Mr. Perry. I didn't know Mayor McNulty
21 maybe as well as some of my colleagues from
22 his neighborhood, but I did have the
23 privilege of working together on one
24 campaign with him, it wasn't even a
25 candidate campaign it was a government

1 change campaign and just in the small amount
2 of time we spent together I learned a lot
3 and he was a guy that when he spoke everyone
4 listened. You know, everyone listened to
5 what he said because he had so much
6 knowledge about politics in Lackawanna
7 County and about the different things that
8 were going on so he will certainly be sorely
9 missed and our prayers are with his family.

10 Regarding a couple of city issues,
11 first, I have to say I'm very disappointed
12 in the Scranton Times, last week I outlined
13 nearly \$300,000 -- hundreds of thousands of
14 dollars in savings the city realized by
15 delaying our paving and when it was delayed
16 it was a front page article, "City to Delay
17 Paving Program" and it was a fair article,
18 it outlined why it was being delayed, but
19 now months later when it was put out to bid,
20 hundreds of thousands of dollars were saved
21 for the taxpayers not a word in the
22 newspaper. Very unfair reporting and I hope
23 that the editors of the Times are listening
24 and will put in an article stating that what
25 we decided to do worked and it did save the

1 taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars.

2 And, finally, tonight there was --
3 obviously we don't want a prolonged
4 neighborhood dispute at our council
5 meetings. I think you guys understand that,
6 I know you have taken a lot of heat for a
7 long time, and last week's meeting when it
8 was being brought up I asked, I said, "Is
9 this how he earns his living?"

10 Would I'd like to have that diesel
11 truck next to me every morning? Of course,
12 I wouldn't, but if my neighbor made a living
13 that way you can't deny somebody a right to
14 work and provide for their family.

15 MS. ANCHERANI: Thank you.

16 MR. ROGAN: That being said, and I'm
17 sure colleagues agree, we don't want a
18 protected neighborhood dispute at the
19 council meeting. You know, if it's gone to
20 the magistrate and, you know, the police
21 have said there is nothing going on that's
22 wrong that's the proper channels, you know,
23 as far as I'm concerned that's the end of
24 it. You certainly have a right to make a
25 living whether it's by driving a truck or

1 being a politician like we are -- public
2 servants, but we don't want a prolonged
3 protracted battle here, but I know from
4 myself I was getting frustrated about that
5 constantly being brought up as well and I
6 know if, you know, I made a living and
7 somebody was constantly bashing me for how I
8 did it I would be upset to, so that is all.
9 Thank you.

10 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you.

11 Mr. Evans?

12 MR. EVANS: Thank you. I want to
13 talk about the garbage fee, but I'm going to
14 refer to Council President Wechsler and then
15 hopefully he'll throw it back to me after
16 you speak about that, we both want to talk
17 about the same thing.

18 On the storm water management, I
19 appreciate Marie providing us with a
20 dictation on the storm water last week in
21 the 2013 plan and study, but I will continue
22 to gather as much information on this deal
23 to sell the Sewer Authority as I can to stay
24 as well informed as I can on this matter,
25 but at this point rendering an opinion on

1 which direction the city should take is
2 really premature. However, I would urge the
3 administration to begin taking an active
4 in-depth look at this issue now. We have to
5 receive -- we have received no direction at
6 this point from the administration and we
7 have to get that prior to any resolution of
8 the sewer deal.

9 On our good friend Jim McNulty, my
10 deepest condolences to Evie and the entire
11 McNulty family. We lost a giant yesterday
12 and we also lost a legend when we lost James
13 Barrett McNulty. Our former mayor was
14 forever the showman, but a showman that got
15 things done, great things that changed the
16 landscape of Scranton forever. I have known
17 Jim for over 35 years and my fondest
18 memories were not the big moments but the
19 small ones, the few times when we sat along
20 and had lengthy conversations about our
21 shared love for politics, government and the
22 City of Scranton. He was in so many ways a
23 genius and when it came to those topics he
24 was always generous and willing to share a
25 wisdom that a few could rival.

1 But my biggest takeaway from the
2 life of Jim McNulty may be this,
3 Scrantonians have always been a bit
4 self-defeating. At times, more pessimists
5 than optimists, but during Jim's tenure as
6 mayor he taught us a simple change in our
7 viewpoint could change everything. We
8 needed to stop looking down at the ground.
9 He taught us to look up to the sky. A
10 lesson we have long since forgotten, so if
11 we want to honor Jim's memory let us look to
12 the sky, think big and do everything we can
13 to make Scranton great again. That's all I
14 have for now. Thank you.

15 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr. Evans.
16 Mr. Gaughan?

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, thank you. I'd
18 also like to send my condolences out to the
19 family of former mayor James McNulty who
20 passed away this week. I grew up down the
21 street from the mayor and was actually once
22 his paper boy. I have some great memories
23 of him and his family and my condolences go
24 out to his wife Evie. His love for the
25 city, his public service, and his spirit

1 left an indelible mark on Scranton and our
2 region and he will never be forgotten.

3 I also want to take a second and
4 send my condolences out to the family of the
5 Dunmore Councilmen Sal Verrastro who passed
6 away this week. That will be a great loss
7 for that community.

8 I had a resident contact me about a
9 pothole in the 600 block of Donnelly Court
10 in South Scranton and we sent that to the
11 DPW.

12 Hopefully by next week I would ask
13 once our solicitor reviews all of the
14 documents concerning the possible violation
15 with the landfill and the 1990 settlement
16 agreement that we get an answer. I continue
17 to be baffled by this whole thing and I am
18 extremely concerned and I would like answers
19 on this. You know, the residents not only
20 of Greenridge, but the City of Scranton
21 deserve to know exactly what went on and
22 what is going on with the leachate so
23 hopefully by next week we will have an
24 update on that.

25 Mrs. Reed, have we received any

1 responses to the questions that this council
2 posed last week?

3 MS. REED: No.

4 MR. GAUGHAN: No, we have not. I'm
5 not going to harp on this every week, but I
6 continue to be baffled by Mayor Courtright's
7 refusal to answer any questions that this
8 council has and that I have on not only
9 legislation, but on important matters that
10 pertain to the city and I don't understand
11 it so hopefully the message will get down to
12 the mayor's office that when we have
13 questions there are serious, they are
14 legitimate, and he should start answering
15 them so hopefully we can clear that up
16 because I'm also baffled by that. And that
17 is all I have this week. Thank you.

18 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr.
19 Gaughan. Fortunately for myself, I'm old
20 enough to remember Jim McNulty at his best.
21 Some of the first campaigns that I ever
22 worked on are with Mr. McNulty, but the
23 thing with Jim McNulty was he knew how to
24 work and he knew how to have fun and in this
25 business, as you can tell, Thursday nights

1 there is not a lot of fun here, but we do
2 have to have fun as we do our jobs and Jimmy
3 knew how to do it. I don't know if anybody
4 remembers the whistle stop campaign and the
5 party in the abandoned Radisson parking lot,
6 it was a great time. I don't know if
7 anybody remembers the champagne jams over at
8 the West Side Hotel. For Mr. McNulty's
9 career he must have had a star crossed with
10 Sylvester Stallone because every time a new
11 Rocky movie came out Jim would be running
12 for an office, first mayor and then county
13 commissioner.

14 I had the pleasure of being involved
15 with Mr. McNulty's sticker campaign, if
16 anybody remembers the sticker campaign, and
17 for an impressionable youth who thought we
18 were going to upset the machine, the sticker
19 campaign was quite an experience and it
20 actually taught me how to lose and how to
21 hold your high and come back and fight
22 another day because in my opinion Jim
23 McNulty won that election, the sticker
24 campaign election, and that would have been
25 national news fro Jim to win a write-in

1 campaign, but he never got -- like I said,
2 he never got his head down, he continued to
3 work hard and eventually became the mayor of
4 the City of Scranton and his legacy can be
5 seen throughout the city.

6 We are going to miss Jim, but we
7 still have Evie, which is going to be very
8 good, also, so I do offer my sympathies to
9 the McNulty family.

10 As Mr. Evans mentioned, since the
11 beginning of the year city council has been
12 trying to gather information on the garbage
13 fee and how it's levied and how it's costed
14 out. We have been in contact with Dave
15 Bulzoni and also had had contact with people
16 from PEL. We are evaluating the garbage fee
17 so possibly we can make changes to it next
18 year. But in response to our questions
19 about the garbage fee this is the response
20 that PEL offered to us. "With the 2014
21 budget, the city raised the residential
22 garbage fee from \$178 annually to \$300. The
23 previous rate increase was in 2000 from \$110
24 to \$178. From 2007 to 2013, the refuse fee
25 did not cover the cost of providing the

1 service. The total shortfall for those
2 years was more than \$3 million. As such,
3 other revenue sources from the general fund,
4 i.e., real estate taxes and earned income
5 tax were used to cover the total refuse
6 costs. To avoid using taxes on other money
7 to cover the costs the city would have had
8 to raise the garbage fee 225 to 250 with
9 annual increases to cover the increasing
10 expenditures. Also, those increases would
11 have only covered the operating expense and
12 would not have covered past deficits or
13 provided any money for capital improvement
14 such as garbage trucks.

15 The tipping fee or landfill costs is
16 only one component of this service.
17 Employee salaries and wages, health care and
18 other employee costs as well as fuel,
19 maintenance, repair and replacement costs of
20 the fleet must also be considered. Over the
21 next year as part of the revised recovery
22 plan, the city will be evaluating the cost
23 to provide this service as well as other
24 city services including storm water
25 maintenance, paving, street cleaning and

1 snow removal."

2 The reason why I took the time to
3 read that tonight was the fact that we have
4 had a lot of questions about the garbage
5 fee. We have had a lot of discussions
6 amongst ourselves about the garbage fee.
7 City council is taking the lead on this
8 issue to try to come up and evaluate the
9 plan as the best way to levy this garbage
10 fee and we will be working together with the
11 administration and also with PEL to
12 establish a proper and appropriate fee for
13 garbage. Mr. Evans?

14 MR. EVANS: Thank you. Just to
15 reinforce that, the debate of this if it's a
16 tax or fee have been going on for years and
17 decades as well as the lingering question is
18 are we paying too much to collect trash via
19 the \$300 annual fee. It's time to put this
20 debate once and for all and that's why I'm
21 in support of and calling for, as
22 Mr. Wechsler said, a comprehensive study
23 that will finally to put to rest the
24 recurring questions from our citizens as
25 part of a revised recovery plan.

1 I would anticipate the study will
2 yield the answers that we all want, what is
3 the true cost of trash collection and once
4 that is determined what is the best and most
5 cost effective way to not only collect that
6 trash but to charge for its collection and
7 in doing so will have the knowledge
8 necessary to reduce our tipping fees while
9 increasing our recyclables which in turn
10 must reduce the costs to the consumer, who
11 also happen to be our taxpayers.

12 I see no fairness in the current
13 system that allows heavy users to pay the
14 same as our seniors and single persons
15 households. I see no fairness in the
16 current system that does not reward our
17 residents to be vigilant in recycling and
18 other initiatives to reduce waste while many
19 of our citizens make no effort at all to
20 recycle or to reduce that consumption.

21 In 2017 we will see the elimination
22 of approximately \$300,000 in extensions
23 through the retirement of a forbearance
24 loan. Additionally, a dramatically
25 different rental registration ordinance

1 focused properly on increasing registration
2 should dramatically increase revenue by
3 tacking hundreds, if not thousands of new
4 fees so it imperative that the study be
5 complete prior to discussions on the 2017
6 budget.

7 I hope all of this sets the stage
8 for a reduced and possibly restructured
9 garbage fee for 2017 based on a true
10 accounting of the costs. That's all I have.
11 Thank you.

12 MR. ROGAN: I wasn't planning on
13 talking about.

14 MR. WECHSLER: (Unintelligible) --
15 talk about it.

16 MR. ROGAN: I wasn't planning on
17 talking about it, but I've been talking on
18 the garbage fee and how our garbage is
19 collected since the day I think I sat in
20 this seat and I certainly agree with what
21 Councilman Wechsler and Councilman Evans are
22 saying that we need to find out the true
23 costs and the thing that bothered me about
24 the garbage fee for the longest time is the
25 widow or widower who pays the same fee as

1 the family of six or the family of 12. It's
2 not right. It's the only thing that the
3 taxpayer has that isn't based somewhat on
4 consumption. Your sewer bill you have a
5 fixed rate combined with your usage. Your
6 property taxes are based on the value of
7 your house. The bigger house, higher taxes.
8 Your wage tax the more you earn the more you
9 pay, but your garbage fee whether you put
10 out 50 bags or put out one bag you pay the
11 same amount so I certainly welcome that
12 study, and I would also hope that at some
13 point in time we could look into an
14 efficiency study of the DPW and how the
15 routes are structured and how they can be
16 changed to best collect the trash and as
17 well with that there is no secret I do
18 support privatization of our refuse, but
19 this analysis I think would give more
20 insight to compare a private hauler versus
21 keeping it in-house and once we get all of
22 that information that's a decision that
23 should be made when the DPW contract is
24 available. Thank you.

25 MR. WECHSLER: I just have two more

1 comments and then I'm done for the evening.
2 Just to address the concerns presented again
3 tonight about the leachate line, I just want
4 to reiterate that city council right now is
5 the only one pursuing this issue. City
6 council is working hard at it to get the
7 answers, but as Solicitor Minora said, we
8 can only take it as far as we can. If it's
9 in our power to do something about it we
10 will, but if it's not in our power we will
11 make sure it gets to someplace to the proper
12 authorities that do have power, but city
13 council is pursuing this issue since it came
14 to our attention.

15 The second thing I just want to
16 mention is what Mr. Rogan stated. City
17 council has really no control over the
18 comments that are made at the podium. It is
19 America and you do have freedom of speech,
20 but I would ask for residents to please keep
21 their neighborhood disputes after their
22 initial airing here at home. Tonight I'm
23 happy that the Ancheranis came down tonight.
24 They have been painted with a broad brush or
25 a bad brush for a few months here on city

1 council, but in my role as a council
2 president and even Mr. McGoff's role as
3 council president we cannot prevent some of
4 the comments being said and the podium, but
5 I would ask that just out of common courtesy
6 and out of the fact from the best that we
7 can gather this issue has been settled, I
8 would ask that both parties tonight, and
9 Mr. Ellman had his peace to say all those
10 months, he did turn his opportunity down to
11 speak tonight, he was on the list, the
12 Ancheranis had their chance to speak and
13 hopefully that will be the end of that.
14 Thank you.

15 MS. REED: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION - A
16 RESOLUTION -APPOINTMENT OF JOSEPH SAMUEL
17 COLBASSANI, ESQUIRE, 1211 DIVISION STREET,
18 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18504, AS A MEMBER
19 OF THE MUNICIPAL INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT
20 AUTHORITY (MIDAS), EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 24,
21 2016. ATTORNEY COLBASSANI IS BEING
22 APPOINTED TO A FIVE (5) YEAR TERM THAT WILL
23 EXPIRE ON FEBRUARY 24, 2021.

24 MR. WECHSLER: At this time, I'll
25 entertain a motion that Item 5-B be

1 introduced into its proper committee.

2 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

3 MR. EVANS: Second.

4 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

5 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.

6 I sent a letter earlier this week asking
7 what the issues were that have come up that
8 compelled Mayor Courtright to reconstitute
9 this board because that's what it says in
10 the caption of the legislation, so we
11 haven't received a response. I don't think
12 it's too much to ask that we receive a
13 response in writing by next week, otherwise,
14 I will ask that we table this appointment
15 until we receive a response and we know
16 exactly what the issues are that have come
17 up that have compelled the mayor to
18 reconstitute this board.

19 MR. WECHSLER: All those in favor of
20 introduction signify by saying aye.

21 MR. PERRY: Aye.

22 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

23 MR. EVANS: Aye.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

25 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The

1 ayes have it and so moved.

2 MS. REED: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION - A
3 RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
4 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND
5 ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH PENNSY SUPPLY,
6 INC. FOR CITY OF SCRANTON 2016 PAVING
7 PROJECT.

8 MR. WECHSLER: At this time, I'll
9 entertain a motion that Item 5-C be
10 introduced into its proper committee.

11 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

12 MR. EVANS: Second.

13 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

14 MR. ROGAN: Yes, I just want to
15 correct something I mentioned earlier, when
16 I criticized the Scranton Times there was a
17 very small blurb in the "Around the Town"
18 section regarding the large savings by
19 delaying this paving project so it was
20 reported, but as it always goes when it's a
21 negative story it's headline on Page A-1,
22 when it's a retraction or something positive
23 it's buried on the last page of Section 8.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.
25 The tentative start date for this project is

1 April 1, obviously depending on the weather,
2 and this is, as has been mentioned, a sorely
3 needed project to help restore some of our
4 crumbling infrastructure. Thank you.

5 MR. WECHSLER: All those in favor of
6 introduction signify by saying aye.

7 MR. PERRY: Aye.

8 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

9 MR. EVANS: Aye.

10 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

11 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The
12 ayes have it and so moved.

13 MS. REED: 5-D. FOR INTRODUCTION - A
14 RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
15 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND
16 ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE EFFICIENCY
17 NETWORK, INC. (TEN) AS ENERGY SERVICES
18 COMPANY (ESCO) FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON
19 STREET LIGHTING IMPROVEMENT PROJECT.

20 MR. WECHSLER: At this time, I'll
21 entertain a motion that Item 5-D be
22 introduced into its proper committee.

23 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

24 MR. EVANS: Second.

25 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

1 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.
2 Mr. Bulzoni came to our caucus tonight to
3 speak on this legislation a little bit and I
4 did have a conversation with him yesterday
5 and requested that this company come in and
6 speak with us during the public caucus. I
7 believe strongly that this project will have
8 a major impact on reducing the cost of
9 electricity in the city, a major impact on
10 public safety and residential and economic
11 development. The annual gross cost savings
12 are estimated at around \$400,000 and since
13 this project will be undertaken with an
14 energy savings company the savings will be
15 guaranteed by that company. This project
16 also will avoid direct costs impact on the
17 general fund through some creative financing
18 mechanisms. The city is working towards an
19 economical and cost effective approach to
20 revitalizing the city's lighting systems,
21 creating a safer environment in our
22 neighborhoods and in our downtown.

23 Following all of these
24 recommendations, it will provide an increase
25 in lighting levels on city streets that will

1 improve visibility for drivers and
2 pedestrians, provide a clean, safer, and
3 more inviting landscape for Scranton's
4 residents and visitors and I believe that
5 with this legislation and the completion of
6 this project that we can truly make Scranton
7 the electric city. Thank you.

8 MR. ROGAN: I have a number of
9 questions about this project and in
10 particular about the contractor that was
11 chosen and I'm also looking forward to
12 having them come to answer our questions.

13 MR. WECHSLER: Yes, just one brief
14 comment, one of the largest and biggest
15 complaints that we get about downtown and
16 even in the neighborhoods is the lack of
17 safe lighting and it is anticipated that
18 this contract, if successful, that will
19 rectify that problem and help lead to more
20 economic development and safety in our
21 neighborhoods so hopefully we can work our
22 way through this.

23 All those in favor of introduction
24 signify by saying aye.

25 MR. PERRY: Aye.

1 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

2 MR. EVANS: Aye.

3 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

4 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The
5 ayes have it and so moved.

6 MR. EVANS: I make a motion to table
7 Item 5-D.

8 MR. ROGAN: Second.

9 MR. WECHSLER: There is a motion on
10 the floor and a second to table 5-D, on the
11 question?

12 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question,
13 and that has to do with both pieces, I'll be
14 voting to table this legislation tonight to
15 allow my colleagues to take into
16 consideration some of the comments from the
17 IBEW that were here last week. However,
18 next week I will be voting against this
19 legislation when it comes back up.

20 MR. ROGAN: On the question, which
21 legislation are we tabling?

22 MR. WECHSLER: We're tabling the
23 lights.

24 MR. ROGAN: The lights.

25 MS. REED: 5-B.

1 MR. GAUGHAN: Oh, that's right. I'm
2 sorry, jumped the gun.

3 MR. WECHSLER: This is to table the
4 anticipated contract for the lights so we
5 can have the company come in in public
6 caucus.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: Oh, sure. Thanks.

8 MR. WECHSLER: All those in favor
9 signify by saying aye.

10 MR. PERRY: Aye.

11 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

12 MR. EVANS: Aye.

13 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

14 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The
15 ayes have it and so moved.

16 MS. REED: SIXTH ORDER. 6-A.
17 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.
18 12, 2016 - AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF
19 THE COUNCIL NO. 108, 2015, AN ORDINANCE (AS
20 AMENDED) ENTITLED "AMENDING FILE OF THE
21 COUNCIL NO. 14, 2010, ENTITLED AN ORDINANCE
22 "AMENDING THE ADMINISTRATIVE CODE OF THE
23 CITY OF SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, SECTION 6-14
24 CONTRACTS, SUBSECTION (A) TO REDUCE THE
25 AMOUNT ABOVE WHICH COMPETITIVE BIDDING IS

1 REQUIRED FROM \$20,000.00 TO \$10,000.00 AND
2 TO REDUCE THE AMOUNT ABOVE WHICH QUOTES MUST
3 BE OBTAINED FROM \$5,000.00 TO \$4,000.00" TO
4 INCREASE THE AMOUNT ABOVE WHICH COMPETITIVE
5 BIDDING IS REQUIRED FROM \$10,000.00 TO
6 \$19,400.00 AND TO INCREASE THE AMOUNT FROM
7 WHICH QUOTES MUST BE OBTAINED FROM \$4,000.00
8 TO \$10,500.00 TO BE IN LINE WITH
9 COMMONWEALTH STANDARDS AND OTHER SIMILARLY
10 SITUATED MUNICIPALITIES WITH REGARD TO
11 BIDDING THRESHOLD" TO CORRECT A
12 TYPOGRAPHICAL ERROR IN THE NOW THEREFORE
13 CLAUSE BY CHANGING THE AMOUNT FROM WHICH
14 QUOTES MUST BE OBTAINED FROM \$4,000.00 TO
15 \$10,500.00 TO \$10,500.00 TO \$19,399.99.

16 MR. WECHSLER: You've heard reading
17 by title of Item 6-A, what is your pleasure.

18 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-A
19 pass reading by title.

20 MR. EVANS: Second.

21 MR. WECHSLER: On the question? All
22 those in favor signify by saying aye.

23 MR. PERRY: Aye.

24 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

25 MR. EVANS: Aye.

1 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

2 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The
3 ayes have it and so moved.

4 MS. REED: SEVENTH ORDER.

5 MR. EVANS: I make a motion to table
6 Item 7-A and 7-B.

7 MR. ROGAN: Second.

8 MR. WECHSLER: There is a motion on
9 the floor and a second to table No. 7-A and
10 7-B, on the question?

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, now on the
12 question. Thank you. I'll be voting to
13 table these two items tonight to allow
14 everyone to take into consideration the
15 comments from the IBEW last week and the
16 comments from Director Hinton. However,
17 next week I will be voting if it's brought
18 up and I will be voting no against both
19 pieces. I don't believe that we can
20 sacrifice the safety of our residents in
21 order for convenience or making things
22 easier. I believe that we should have
23 qualified licensed electrician performing
24 work in the City of Scranton. We should not
25 lower our standards for something that has

1 this grave of an impact on the safety of our
2 citizens. Thank you.

3 MR. WECHSLER: Just to mention,
4 representatives from the IBEW were here
5 tonight again to comment, but I will agree
6 to table it. All those in favor signify by
7 saying aye.

8 MR. PERRY: Aye.

9 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

10 MR. EVANS: Aye.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

12 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The
13 ayes have it and so moved.

14 MS. REED: 7-C - PREVIOUSLY TABLED -
15 FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES
16 - FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 4-2016 -
17 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE
18 CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A
19 CONTRACT WITH TURNKEY TAXES, INCORPORATED,
20 TO PROVIDE THE CITY OF SCRANTON AUDIT
21 DISCOVERY SERVICES FOR ACT 511 TAXES
22 INCLUDING BUSINESS PRIVILEGE AND MERCANTILE
23 TAXES FOR A THREE-YEAR PERIOD WITH A
24 ONE-YEAR EXTENSION PROVISION.)

25 MR. EVANS: I make a motion to amend

1 Item 7-C as follows: In the caption remove
2 "For a three-year period with a one-year
3 extension provision" and insert "For a
4 one-year period with the option of three
5 additional one-year extension provisions.
6 "In the, "Now, therefore," clause, remove
7 "For a period of three years with a one-year
8 extension provision" and insert "For a
9 one-year period with the option of three
10 additional one-year extension provisions."

11 MR. ROGAN: Second.

12 MR. WECHSLER: There's a motion on
13 the floor and a second, on the question?
14 All those in favor signify by saying aye.

15 MR. PERRY: Aye.

16 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

17 MR. EVANS: Aye.

18 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

19 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The
20 eyes have it and so moved.

21 As Chairperson for the Committee on
22 Rules, I recommend final passage of Item
23 7-C, as amended.

24 MS. REED: You need a second.

25 MR. EVANS: Second.

1 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

2 MR. EVANS: On the question, I have
3 given this legislation a lot of thought over
4 the last few years, I have come to the
5 conclusion that I simply can't support it.
6 First of all, the Single Tax Office has a
7 budget of nearly \$1.4 million, almost half
8 of that comes from the City of Scranton,
9 more than enough to expect that office to
10 competently do their job without outside
11 assistance.

12 But, secondly, while I have a
13 proponent of moving the mercantile and
14 business tax to a payroll tax because it was
15 inherently more fair the complexity of the
16 changeover may not allow this to happen any
17 time soon, so any attempt to increase the
18 fee would make it that much more difficult
19 to accomplish my ultimate goal which is
20 finally to get rid of the tax.

21 We have the unique opportunity if
22 the proceeds of the sale of the SSA are
23 properly handled to eliminate this nuisance
24 tax and send a message back to the business
25 community we are finally serious about

1 attracting and maintaining businesses in
2 Scranton and growing our economy. That's
3 all I have.

4 MR. ROGAN: I would just like to say
5 I agree with what Councilmen Evans said, and
6 I would also like to add, that the cost of
7 \$12,000 per year plus 20 percent of any
8 increased revenue, it doesn't seem like we
9 are getting a bang for our buck when, as was
10 mentioned, the Single Tax Office already
11 receives \$700,000 from the city to operate.
12 If the Single Tax Office can't properly
13 collect these taxes, these taxes should be
14 collected by an outside agency and
15 coordinating cuts should be made within the
16 Tax Office. If the Tax office is able to
17 get their act together and collect it, this
18 type of service wouldn't be needed. So to
19 me it's either one or the other not both.
20 This to me seems like a waste of money
21 without a coordinating cut in the tax
22 office.

23 MR. WECHSLER: Yes, I would just
24 like to add that after this legislation was
25 introduced Tax Collector Fox provided us

1 some different information and gave the
2 indication that they are doing a good job
3 collecting most of these taxes, and as Mr.
4 Evans said our goal actually is to
5 eliminate, as I call them the most despised
6 tax that the city levies.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.
8 I, too, believe that the employees should be
9 taxed with assisting and identifying
10 businesses which are eligible but not
11 presently paying the tax, which is what this
12 company would come in and do so I'll be
13 voting no for this legislation, also.

14 MR. WECHSLER: Anyone else?

15 MR. PERRY: Yeah, on the question.
16 One of the things that I feel that the city
17 sorely needs to do is become more business
18 friendly and we're in the part of the state
19 that has a mercantile tax, a business
20 privilege tax and the surrounding
21 communities don't have that. That sends a
22 message out to anybody who wants to invest
23 their business in the City of Scranton that
24 we are going to find somewhere else to go
25 and if we can grow our businesses in the

1 city and inherit new businesses in the city
2 that's going to spur more property value,
3 that's property value is going up and we're
4 going to sell more homes and that's where we
5 are going to increase our tax revenue base.
6 So like my fellow councilmen, I won't be
7 voting yes for this tonight.

8 MR. WECHSLER: Roll call, please?

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

10 MR. PERRY: No.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

12 MR. ROGAN: No.

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

14 MR. EVANS: No.

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

16 MR. GAUGHAN: No.

17 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

18 MR. WECHSLER: No. I hereby declare
19 Item 7-C is not legally and lawfully
20 adopted. If there is no further business at
21 this time, I'll entertain a motion to
22 adjourn.

23 MR. ROGAN: Motion to adjourn.

24 MR. WECHSLER: Meeting adjourned.
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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER