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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL SINE DIE MEETING

RECEIVED

JAN 14 2016

HELD: OFFICE OF CITY
COUNCIL/CITY CLERK

Monday, January 4, 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:

ROBERT MCGOFF, PRESIDENT

PATRICK ROGAN, VICE-PRESIDENT

WAYNE EVANS

JOSEPH WECHSLER

WILLIAM GAUGHAN

LORI REED, CITY CLERK

KATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

JAMIE MARCIANO, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

AMIL MINORA, SOLICITOR

1 MR. ROGAN: Call this meeting to
2 order. Please rise for the Pledge of
3 Allegiance.

4 (Pledge of Allegiance recited and
5 moment of reflection observed.)

6 MR. ROGAN: Roll call, please.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

8 MR. WECHSLER: Here.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

10 MR. ROGAN: Here.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

12 MR. EVANS: Here.

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

14 MR. GAUGHAN: Here.

15 MR. EVANS: I'd like to make a
16 motion to nominate a person to fill the
17 unexpired term of Council President Robert
18 McGoff, Jr., for the remainder of his term
19 of office which will expire at 12 noon,
20 January 4, 2016.

21 MR. ROGAN: A motion has been made
22 to nominate a person to fill the unexpired
23 term of Council President Robert E. McGoff,
24 Jr., for the remainder of his term of office
25 which expires at 12 noon on January 4, 2016.

1 Is there a second?

2 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

3 MR. ROGAN: On the question? All
4 those in favor signify by saying aye.

5 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

6 MR. EVANS: Aye.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

10 MR. EVANS: I make a motion to
11 appoint Ryan McGoff to fill the unexpired
12 term of his grandfather, Robert E. McGoff,
13 Jr., which will expire at 12 noon today,
14 January 4, 2016.

15 MR. ROGAN: Is there a second?

16 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

17 MR. ROGAN: On the question? Roll
18 call, please.

19 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

20 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

21 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

22 MR. EVANS: Yes.

23 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

25 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

1 MR. ROGAN: Yes. I hereby declare
2 Mr. McGoff, Ryan, to take the seat of his
3 grandfather Robert McGoff.

4 (Ryan McGoff take a seat on the
5 dais.)

6 MR. ROGAN: Dispense with the
7 reading of the minutes.

8 MS. REED: THIRD ORDER. 3-A. NO
9 BUSINESS AT THIS TIME.

10 FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'
11 PARTICIPATION.

12 MR. ROGAN: There is nobody on the
13 sign-in sheet signed in, is there anyone who
14 would like to address counsel at this time?

15 MS. REED: FIFTH ORDER. 5-A.
16 MOTIONS.

17 MR. ROGAN: Mr. Wechsler, do you
18 have any motions or comments?

19 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr. Rogan.
20 Normally it's very easy to go first in this
21 job, but today not so much. I'd like to
22 dedicate this last meeting to our leader,
23 Bob McGoff. Bob took myself and Bill
24 Gaughan under his wing when we were sworn in
25 two years ago. He taught us how to be good

1 council people, how to respect each other,
2 respect the citizenship, and respect other
3 people involved in government. I will never
4 forget Bob McGoff. Each day I will strive
5 to keep up his tradition and his worth
6 ethic. Our city is a better place for
7 having had Bob McGoff lead us through this
8 years. I welcome his grandson Ryan, it's an
9 honor to sit with him as well and going
10 forward, like I said, Bob McGoff will always
11 be a part of my political experience.
12 That's all I have at this time.

13 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. Mr. Evans,
14 do you have any motions or comments?

15 MR. EVANS: Yes, I do. Thank you.
16 First of all, thank you Rita and friends and
17 family for being here today and you, Ryan,
18 for accepting our appointment today. I
19 think your husband and your friend and your
20 grandfather would be very, very proud. I
21 hope also he would have been all of us that
22 are there today for our wish to bring his
23 distinguished council career full circle in
24 a respectful and distinguished manner.

25 After Bob passed, as I tend to do on

1 occasion, I started putting my thoughts and
2 words on paper. Most times those thoughts
3 never see the light of day, but in my own
4 way they are sort of a therapy for me. So,
5 if I may, I'd like to share some of those
6 thoughts that I wrote up about the McGoff
7 family and Bob. They relate to a movie that
8 I saw many years ago and how that movie
9 might parallel not only my relationship with
10 Bob, but also Bob's relationship with so
11 many others, including all of us seated here
12 today.

13 I first saw the movie back in 1989,
14 the "Dead Poet's Society" starring Robin
15 Williams. The setting was a private school
16 somewhere in the northeast. Williams plays
17 an English teacher who inspires his students
18 through his teaching of poetry. His
19 character, John Keating, encourages his
20 students to make their lives extraordinary
21 through the use of a Latin expression carpe
22 diem or seize the day. Bob McGoff, as we
23 know, was the embodiment of the words seize
24 the day which we personally witness first
25 hand every Thursday evening.

1 As we fast forward through the
2 movie, the students get into serious trouble
3 for resurrecting the Dead Poetry Society and
4 against the wishes of the administration of
5 the school and John Keating is ultimately
6 made the scapegoat and is fired from his
7 teaching position. In the final scene as
8 Mr. Keating is leaving his classroom for the
9 last time, his students in the ultimate act
10 of respect, love, and honor stand on their
11 desk and one by one repeat a line from a
12 Walt Whitman poem as their final tribute to
13 their former teacher, "Oh, Captain, my
14 Captain."

15 Maybe those four simple words are a
16 lasting tribute to a man we all respected
17 and we honor today, Bob McGoff. Oh,
18 Captain, my Captain.

19 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. Councilman
20 Gaughan, any motions or comments?

21 GAUGHAN: Thank you. In our last
22 meeting before we reorganize and take on the
23 challenges of the next two years we
24 recognize with great admiration the legacy
25 that Bob McGoff leaves here on Scranton City

1 Council. For the past two years, I saw a
2 man fight a courageous battle against a
3 difficult and insidious disease without
4 flinching once or complaining. He served
5 his city honorably with a grace and dignity
6 that often left my colleagues and I in awe.
7 He was a true definition of a public servant
8 always taking every issue and examining both
9 sides and then giving his thoughtful and
10 concise opinion. His Irish wit kept us all
11 at ease in some difficult times over the
12 last two years. It's an honor to have Bob's
13 grandson Ryan here today to pay tribute to
14 Bob's service to the City of Scranton. He
15 will be missed by all of us. Thank you.

16 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. Normally the
17 chair is the last one to speak, but I will
18 extend that privilege to our newest member,
19 I don't want to steal any of your thunder.
20 I would just like to echo what my colleagues
21 mentioned about Bob McGoff. Those of you
22 who know in 2007 me and Mr. McGoff had I
23 should say the privilege to run against each
24 other in election. The privilege was his,
25 he was victorious, I lost the election, but

1 I learned a lot through that process and
2 when we first -- when I first took my seat
3 Councilman McGoff sat to the right of me and
4 many times we were at odds, we were on
5 opposite side of issues and through the
6 years we learned that -- through Bob that
7 disagreeing out here doesn't mean
8 disagreeing in the real world outside and we
9 became good friends and he taught me so much
10 not only about politics but just about
11 people working with people, but you disagree
12 and be friends and that to me is something
13 that I will take with me for the rest of my
14 live and his service to the city, there has
15 not been a better council president than Bob
16 McGoff. He has done more in his two years
17 as council president than council presidents
18 in the past have in four or eight, maybe
19 even 12 years. The city certainly misses
20 him, we all miss him, but he sticks with us
21 every day. Thank you.

22 Mr. McGoff, any questions or
23 comments?

24 MR. MCGOFF: First off, I'd like to
25 take the time to thank the City of Scranton

1 for this opportunity to replace my
2 grandfather on city council, a seat that I
3 never thought I would be in after watching
4 him be here all of these years. I'd also
5 like to thank Mr. Wechsler, Mr. Rogan,
6 Mr. Gaughan and Mr. Evans for those kind
7 words that they just gave and also the
8 opportunity they have given me. Thank you
9 for thinking about me in this tough time.

10 I just want to say my grandfather
11 loved this city and he did what he thought
12 was right all the time. So, finally, I
13 would like to thank the people of Scranton
14 for giving him support for the last eight
15 years. Thank you.

16 MS. REED: 5-B. NO BUSINESS AT THIS
17 TIME.

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

20 SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. NO BUSINESS AT
21 THIS TIME.

22 MR. ROGAN: If there is no further
23 business, I'll entertain a motion to
24 adjourn.

25 MR. WECHSLER: Motion to adjourn.

MR. ROGAN: This meeting is
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
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