

SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

HELD:

Thursday, January 19, 2017

LOCATION:

Council Chambers

Scranton City Hall

340 North Washington Avenue

Scranton, Pennsylvania

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

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. There will be
14 a motion to move Items 5-C and 5-D to Sixth
15 and Seventh Order for final vote based on
16 the attached emergency certificates. There
17 will be a second opportunity to speak in
18 Seventh Order prior to the final passage of
19 these two pieces of legislation.

20 Before we get on with the formal
21 meeting, this past Monday Councilman Gaughan
22 and myself we attended the Martin Luther
23 King ceremonies that were conducted in
24 Scranton. Part of that was the revealing of
25 a banner that was designed by students from

1 the Career Technology Center. Kimberly
2 Meckwood, who was responsible for the MLK
3 portrait, and Ruby Palicar, who came up with
4 the design for the hands. Their teachers
5 are Rebecca Hadden and Patrick McLane. This
6 evening, Karin Foster, who is president of
7 the West Scranton Hyde Park Neighborhood
8 Watch, and also a member of the Greater
9 Scranton MLK Commission are here tonight
10 just so we can show the banner and give it
11 some publicity because it is a true tribute
12 to Dr. King and all his good works. So,
13 ladies, if you would just hold that banner
14 up so the public can see this, and I'd just
15 like to give the designers and the committee
16 a round of applause for their great work.
17 Thank you. And that will be displayed
18 throughout different ceremonies and next
19 year probably will be represented on the
20 committees' t-shirt. Thank you.

21 Dispense with the reading of the
22 minutes.

23 MS. REED: THIRD ORDER. 3-A.
24 MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
25 MEMBERS OF SCRANTON HOUSING AUTHORITY HELD

1 DECEMBER 5, 2016.

2 MR. WECHSLER: Are there any
3 comments? If not, received and filed.

4 MS. REED: 3-B. MINUTES OF THE
5 SCRANTON FIREFIGHTERS PENSION COMMISSION
6 MEETING HELD DECEMBER 14, 2016.

7 MR. WECHSLER: Are there any
8 comments? If not, received and filed.

9 MS. REED: 3-C. MINUTES OF THE
10 NON-UNIFORM MUNICIPAL PENSION BOARD MEETING
11 HELD DECEMBER 14, 2016.

12 MR. WECHSLER: Are there any
13 comments? If not, received and filed.

14 MS. REED: 3-D. MINUTES OF THE
15 SCRANTON POLICE PENSION COMMISSION MEETING
16 HELD DECEMBER 14, 2016.

17 MR. WECHSLER: Are there any
18 comments? If not, received and filed.

19 MS. REED: 3-E. MINUTES OF THE
20 COMPOSITE PENSION BOARD MEETING HELD
21 DECEMBER 14, 2016.

22 MR. WECHSLER: Are there any
23 comments? If not, received and filed.

24 MS. REED: 3-F. AGENDA FOR THE
25 NON-UNIFORM MUNICIPAL PENSION BOARD MEETING

1 HELD JANUARY 18, 2017.

2 MR. WECHSLER: Are there any
3 comments? If not, received and filed.

4 Do any council members have any
5 announcements at this time?

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, I have one. Just
7 wanted to announce again about the event
8 Splashing with Compassion. The friends of
9 Shannon McDonough, it's a Local 501-C
10 organization that supports young individuals
11 battling cancer in Northeastern Pennsylvania
12 and they will be holding their fourth annual
13 Polar Plunge on Saturday, January 28, from 9
14 a.m. until 3 p.m. at Montage Mountain in
15 Scranton, PA and all proceeds will benefit
16 young people in our area who are battling
17 cancer. Thank you.

18 MS. REED: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'
19 PARTICIPATION.

20 MR. WECHSLER: Joan Hodowanitz.

21 MS. HODOWANITZ: Joan Hodowanitz,
22 Scranton resident and taxpayer. If memory
23 serves, we passed the 2017 budget on
24 December 8 of last year; correct?

25 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

1 MS. HODOWANITZ: About six weeks ago
2 tonight, yet I noticed as of 5:15 tonight
3 it's not been posted to the City's website.
4 Now, I don't know why that is, whether
5 someone made the decision not to post it or
6 there is an issue in the IT Department, but
7 I do remember this from the budget, there
8 were three significant raises in the IT
9 Department, one IT manager got a \$5,000
10 raise, another one got a \$6,611 raise, and a
11 network systems analysis got a \$3,000 raise.
12 I hope I don't have to wait another week to
13 see that budget posted and I hope when they
14 post it it has all of the proper changes,
15 and that should be a priority because that's
16 a key document for the city and the citizens
17 should have access to it. I'll be looking
18 forward to.

19 MS. PERRY: Ms. Hodowanitz, I don't
20 want to interrupt you, but there were
21 corrections to it, so we just want to make
22 sure that it is correct when it is posted.

23 MS. HODOWANITZ: I don't believe
24 that was the reason it wasn't posted.

25 MR. PERRY: That's your belief, but

1 that's why it's not posted.

2 MS. HODOWANITZ: Because I don't
3 think city knew on January 5 that it had
4 made some errors in it's tax legislation.

5 MR. PERRY: Again, that's what you
6 think.

7 MS. HODOWANITZ: Well, that's my
8 opinion, and I'm looking to forward to
9 seeing city council's webpage by the end of
10 this month or early next month so I can see
11 the background information.

12 With regard to Item 5-B, the reality
13 transfer tax, when I first read that I said
14 this must be deja vu. We did this on
15 January 5; correct? We had an emergency
16 certificate and we amended it to go from 2.9
17 percent to 2.4 percent, and then I went in
18 and looked at the background paper and I
19 found a memo from Attorney Shrive dated
20 January 10 and received in the Office the
21 City Council/City Clerk on January 10, and
22 it explains why this legislation has to be
23 redone, and it says, "Once the rate of the
24 taxation was changed, the ordinance could no
25 longer be adopted at one meeting as a change

1 in the rate of taxation requires three
2 readings at separate meetings and special
3 advertising under Act 511. Upon passage of
4 this new ordinance, File of Council 74-2017,
5 as amended will be repealed as it is
6 erroneously adopted."

7 My only question is, why wasn't this
8 on last week's agenda since this memo was
9 dated January 10 and it was received on
10 January 10. Last week was January 12. This
11 could have been on last week's agenda.

12 MR. EVANS: It wasn't ready yet.

13 MR. WECHSLER: It wasn't ready yet.
14 It wasn't ready by Wednesday afternoon.

15 MS. HODOWANITZ: Well, this was
16 received on Tuesday.

17 MR. EVANS: Well, the letter was,
18 but I don't think the legislation --

19 MR. WECHSLER: The legislation
20 didn't come down in time for us to get it on
21 the agenda.

22 MS. HODOWANITZ: It says, "Attached
23 is an ordinance," so he sent the legislation
24 down and it's dated January 10.

25 MR. WECHSLER: We hadn't had an

1 opportunity to review so not everything that
2 comes down on Tuesday makes it to the agenda
3 on Wednesday.

4 MS. HODOWANITZ: Okay. All right.
5 I'd like to know during Fifth Order the
6 status of pension reforms as we eagerly
7 await the deposit of the SSA proceeds into
8 the pension plans. Also, has the city ever
9 received the money yet or is this something
10 that's going to happen at the end of the
11 year? Have we received any money from the
12 sewer sale?

13 MR. WECHSLER: It's in accounts,
14 yes.

15 MS. HODOWANITZ: It is where?

16 MR. WECHSLER: It's in separate
17 accounts.

18 MS. HODOWANITZ: Do we have a total?

19 MR. WECHSLER: We have some totals.

20 MS. HODOWANITZ: Do we have a grand
21 total? Can we get the grand total for next
22 week of what the city actually received so
23 far?

24 MR. WECHSLER: Yeah, Mr. Evans has
25 been working with that.

1 MR. GAUGHAN: I'd like to see a
2 break down of that, also.

3 MS. HODOWANITZ: Say again?

4 MR. WECHSLER: Yeah, we want to see
5 the break down, but there are -- we just
6 want to make sure they are the correct
7 numbers.

8 MS. HODOWANITZ: Okay. What's the
9 status of the RFP for the third party
10 administration of the pension funds? I
11 haven't seen anything and that was announced
12 by the mayor himself on March 18, 2016, ten
13 months ago.

14 MR. WECHSLER: It is my
15 understanding that it is getting closer to
16 being issued.

17 MS. HODOWANITZ: Before or after the
18 general election in 292 days? Okay, that
19 answers that question. Just --

20 MR. WECHSLER: It's something that
21 the administration is working on so I can't
22 tell you the answers.

23 MS. HODOWANITZ: It must be a
24 beauty, it must be a beauty if they have
25 been working on it for 10 months, and just

1 very quickly, I remind everybody that
2 tomorrow at 4 p.m. here in the Governor's
3 room next door will be the Scranton Sewer
4 Authority meeting, and I would recommend
5 anybody from the general public that can
6 come, come and let's start asking the Sewer
7 Authority all of those hard questions which
8 they have yet to answer about the reduced
9 proceeds that we are receiving. Thank you.

10 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

11 MR. WECHSLER: Gerard Hetman.

12 MR. HETMAN: Good evening, Council.
13 Gerard Hetman from the Lackawanna County
14 Commissioner's Office. To begin this
15 evening, we would like to thank everyone who
16 attended our inaugural public information
17 session on the Lackawanna County Land Bank
18 that was held on Tuesday, January 10, at the
19 Goodwill apartments at North Scranton Junior
20 High School. We invite anyone who wishes to
21 know more about the land bank to visit the
22 land bank home page on the Lackawanna County
23 website. Just visit www.lackawannacounty.org,
24 and click on the economic development
25 home page button and the right side of the

1 screen. We have a wealth of information
2 about the land bank there, all of the
3 legislation that establishes the land bank
4 and also an information sheet on each
5 property that's currently listed in the land
6 bank database, all of which are currently
7 located in the City of Scranton. We also
8 have a full video of that land bank
9 information session meeting available on the
10 county website, it's actually on the left
11 side of the home page when you scroll down
12 on www.lackawannacounty.org and, of course,
13 this is the beginning of the land bank
14 process. We are seeing now the program
15 really starting to take off and we look
16 forward to working with city council and the
17 city administration and all residents to
18 make it a success for Scranton, and
19 eventually all communities that wish to
20 participate in Lackawanna County, and I know
21 several council members, city staff and
22 residents that attended so we thank
23 everyone, particularly those who attended
24 our meeting for working with us to make the
25 land bank a success for everyone involved.

1 And there is two brief
2 announcements, these are the first
3 announcements from the respective department
4 here that administer these programs, first
5 of many programs that you will hear about
6 throughout the year. A Lackawanna County
7 indoor golf clinic takes place February 20
8 to March 17 at South Scranton Intermediate
9 School in the gymnasium. There are sessions
10 for youth golfers, ages 8 through 16, and
11 also adult golfers. These are beginner
12 lessons so anyone can come in with no
13 experience or very little golf experience
14 and learn from scratch the basics of the
15 game. The cost for registration is \$40 per
16 golfer, and the registration deadline is
17 February 17. To register or for more
18 information, contact our Parks and
19 Recreation Office at 570-963-6764.

20 And lastly, the Penn State Extension
21 4H program has their annual sewing club open
22 now for youth registration. It's open for
23 children ages 8 through 19, provides
24 mentorship, team building and peer-to-peer
25 learning and also community service

1 structured around sewing projects. Kids
2 that enjoy sewing projects for recreational.
3 To register call 570-563-1369, and I believe
4 they do this program on an annual rolling
5 basis where they do applicants at the start
6 of year. So, please, anyone who has a child
7 or a teenager or an adult interested feel
8 free to give the number a call.

9 Other programs will be announced
10 throughout the year as they come up. We
11 anticipate offering most, if not all, of the
12 same program activities that you have heard
13 us announce over the last several years so
14 I'll keep you posted as those develop. And
15 that's all I have for this evening. Thank
16 you.

17 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Lenny
18 Serebro.

19 MR. SEREBRO: Lenny Serebro,
20 Scranton resident. Good evening, Council.
21 When I was here two weeks ago I was told
22 about the new pumps that were installed and
23 I did some research. Yeah, there have been
24 new pumps installed, but I'm not sure what
25 they are going to do, if anything, in my

1 area. All I know is that the rain that we
2 got on January 17 and 18, the last two days,
3 not today, where it was constantly raining
4 the majority of the day, and on top of that
5 the snow melt coming down into the area.
6 You know, that 36-inch drainage pipe it's no
7 exaggeration, that was filled for the
8 majority of the two days over three-quarters
9 of the way, you know, and it's like a pond
10 that the water lays in there, so I'm not
11 sure what those pumps are going to do. Once
12 again, I'm asking the question about why
13 can't we flush that drain? I know that
14 we -- I was told that we don't have the --
15 DPW doesn't have the equipment, I'm
16 wondering now that the Sewer Authority is
17 sold, why can't we borrow that equipment?

18 MR. PERRY: Yeah, I mean, for sure
19 feel your pain. I know we have been talking
20 for awhile.

21 MR. SEREBRO: Right.

22 MR. PERRY: And I got some answers
23 about the pump house and with this 36-inch
24 drain pipe things are moving forward. We
25 actually, through correspondence all week,

1 fear that if we have -- and it's been a
2 moderate rain, that's what I have said all
3 along, that it doesn't have to be like a
4 flooding.

5 MR. PERRY: Right, I was thinking
6 about that, the two-day rain that we had. I
7 was thinking about that, you know, how is it
8 going to handle it for something, you know,
9 more significant.

10 MR. SEREBRO: And that's right. You
11 know, everybody gets water in their
12 basement, or mostly everybody, but, boy,
13 during the late summer when we have those
14 heavy rains, I'm telling you, it was gushing
15 through the walls in my basement. I never
16 seen it like that before, you know. I
17 wasn't worried about a little water. I got
18 a pump, you know, to get it out of there,
19 but, man, I'm telling you it's just coming
20 through the walls.

21 Now, I am not sure how the drainage,
22 the diagrams, the pipes, how they are
23 connected. I know one of the neighbors
24 turned in some diagrams when we had the
25 caucus on the flooding problem there, but

1 evidently it makes it's way to come down.
2 There is, I'm not sure of the size, maybe
3 18-inch, whatever it is, of one pipe coming
4 into that pond and the water is coming
5 through there, and then it goes into that
6 36-inch drainage pipe, how it comes down the
7 roads and is connected, that's the diagrams
8 that one of the neighbors gave. To me, I
9 don't know. I understand one of the
10 neighbors told me that the city is supposed
11 to be hiring an engineer or a consultant, I
12 know he found out he is going to be making
13 \$130,000 a year to come in and kind of look
14 this problem over, you know, to be a
15 consultant or whatever.

16 MR. WECHSLER: He is not coming to
17 look at that specific problem, he is a doing
18 a -- there is going to be a storm water
19 study for the entire city.

20 MR. SEREBRO: All right.

21 MR. WECHSLER: Not specific to that
22 problem.

23 MR. SEREBRO: All right. That was
24 what I was told about it. See, I would have
25 taken pictures of that drainage pipe like

1 yesterday when it was filled up, but I don't
2 know what good the pictures are going to do,
3 you know.

4 MR. GAUGHAN: Mr. Serebro, I'll be
5 at that meeting on Tuesday, also, and I can
6 just tell you from experience when there was
7 an issue over in Pinebrook Councilman
8 Wechsler and myself set up a similar meeting
9 and all of the neighbors came out and it was
10 almost like an education and the people from
11 the Sewer Authority and one of the engineers
12 explained everything, and that's really what
13 should happen and what hopefully will happen
14 on Tuesday. So hopefully all of the
15 neighbors come out this meeting at 9:00 on
16 Tuesday so we can take care of this issue
17 once and for all.

18 MR. SEREBRO: Is the public invited
19 to that meeting?

20 MR. GAUGHAN: Everybody in the
21 neighborhood I would assume.

22 MR. SEREBRO: It's 9:00 Tuesday and
23 where at?

24 MR. GAUGHAN: I think it's
25 Merrifield and Rigg Street.

1 MR. SEREBRO: Oh, in my neighborhood
2 there. Thanks a lot for your help.

3 MR. GAUGHAN: You're welcome.

4 MR. WECHSLER: Fay Franus.

5 MS. FRANUS: Fay Franus. I may have
6 to read some of this because there is a
7 couple of questions I can't remember. Does
8 the current garbage ordinance require the
9 administration and the business
10 administrator to set up a special interest
11 bearing account for all of the trash fees?

12 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, it does.

13 MS. FRANUS: When was that set up?

14 MR. GAUGHAN: I believe, I'm
15 actually not sure of the year.

16 MS. FRANUS: So if this goes back
17 years.

18 MR. GAUGHAN: Whenever it was
19 raised, I believe.

20 MS. FRANUS: 2014?

21 MR. GAUGHAN: I believe so, I'm not
22 positive.

23 MS. FRANUS: So there was a special
24 account set up then?

25 MR. GAUGHAN: I don't believe there

1 was a special account.

2 MS. FRANUS: That's what I just
3 asked.

4 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

5 MS. FRANUS: Yes what?

6 MR. GAUGHAN: I don't believe there
7 is a special account. That was actually a
8 question I was going to ask tonight.

9 MS. FRANUS: Wait, I said does the
10 current ordinance, does the current
11 ordinance?

12 MR. GAUGHAN: Oh, for that, yes?

13 MS. FRANUS: Yes, but so do you put
14 -- have you been putting all the garbage fee
15 money into that special bearing account?

16 MR. GAUGHAN: As far as I know, no.

17 MS. FRANUS: How could you explain
18 that? Shall I read the ordinance?

19 MR. GAUGHAN: Sure.

20 MS. FRANUS: "All fees shall be
21 deposited in a special city interest bearing
22 account to be established by the business
23 administrator. This account will be used to
24 reimburse the general city operating fund
25 for costs incurred directly for disposal of

1 refuse."

2 Also, the ordinance is specific the
3 refuse fees cannot be used by the city for
4 anything other than the cost associated with
5 trash removal. The city has violated this
6 ordinance collecting fees from residents
7 while costs incurred for the disposal of
8 refuse. So if you know there is an account
9 why would the money for the garbage fees not
10 go into the special account? They can't be
11 used for anything else but that? For the
12 expenses of the DPW trash collection? How
13 do you justify that? Nobody knows?

14 MR. GAUGHAN: You can't justify it,
15 but you know there is an account and yet --

16 MR. EVANS: No, I didn't know there
17 was an account until you mentioned it.

18 MS. FRANUS: Pardon me?

19 MR. EVANS: I was unaware there was
20 a special account.

21 MS. FRANUS: Bill said he knew, And
22 even if you didn't know you should know.

23 MR. EVANS: I was here in 2014.

24 MS. FRANUS: You don't have to be
25 here in 2014.

1 MS. FRANUS: You still should know
2 there this is an account for the garbage
3 fee, you are the Finance Chair. You should
4 know where all of this money is going.

5 MR. EVANS: When did you find out,
6 Fay, you just told us tonight?

7 MS. FRANUS: What's that?

8 MR. EVANS: When did you find out?

9 MS. FRANUS: Am I the finance chair,
10 Wayne?

11 MR. EVANS: That's not the point.
12 When did you bring the information to us?
13 When did you find out the information?

14 MS. FRANUS: I'm not a council
15 person.

16 MR. EVANS: If you have the
17 information, I will look at it.

18 MS. FRANUS: Don't turn it around,
19 Wayne.

20 MR. EVANS: I would have got an
21 answer for you immediately. How could I
22 answer if I didn't see if wether we had an
23 account? It was brought to my attention, I
24 can't answer it.

25 MS. FRANUS: Well, let's put it this

1 way, you are very inept. You should know
2 these things. You know I have been talking
3 about this garbage fee for three years.
4 It's not my job to know all of the laws,
5 it's your jobs to know the laws that you set
6 up with this council. Even if you didn't
7 set them up, you should know if the laws are
8 pertaining to the special accounts for
9 garbage fees considering I have been asking
10 about this for two years, two and a half
11 years, and I'm still getting no answers.

12 Now to top it off there is a special
13 account only for the garbage fee money and
14 to be used for that and you have been
15 putting it in the general fund, right, and
16 taking that money for other stuff other than
17 garbage collection, which is unbelievable.
18 Illegal, because you are going against the
19 ordinance, which is illegal. So what is
20 that outcome? I mean, when city council and
21 the city administration and the business
22 administrator does something illegal where
23 is the repercussions of that? Nothing?
24 Because you just can? Because you do
25 whatever you want to do. Break the law.

1 It's okay if you do it, but if somebody else
2 does it they are held accountable. Not you
3 though, and your excuses, "Well, we didn't
4 know."

5 That's not my fault you didn't know.
6 That's on you, not on me. Maybe if I just
7 found out about it shame on me I guess for
8 not knowing this sooner. Shame on me.
9 Rather shame on you twice as much. Did we
10 receive -- did we receive money from
11 DeNaples for our recyclables? Silence.

12 MR. ROGAN: We receive grants.

13 MS. FRANUS: What do you mean
14 grants? I'm not talking about from the
15 state, I'm talking about from Louie
16 DeNaples, did we receive any money in the
17 City from our recyclables?

18 MR. ROGAN: Cash, I don't believe.
19 We do receive equipment.

20 MS. FRANUS: I'm not talking about
21 cash, I'm talking about checks, whatever.

22 MR. ROGAN: And that's what I mean,
23 we don't receive pay.

24 MS. FRANUS: You don't receive money
25 from Louis DeNaples.

1 MR. ROGAN: We don't receive money,
2 but we receive equipment.

3 MS. FRANUS: You receive equipment.
4 How often do you receive equipment?

5 MR. ROGAN: I believe it used to be
6 yearly, but it was changed a few years back
7 so that it could be --

8 MS. FRANUS: What kind of equipment?

9 MR. ROGAN: Packmasters.

10 MS. FRANUS: Okay. Well, can I ask
11 one more thing, two weeks ago when I was
12 here you mentioned about the fee for the
13 people not getting their recyclables, you
14 said the ceiling would be \$300, remember
15 that, Mr. Wechsler? Remember when I said
16 how much will it be and you say well, the
17 limit will be \$300.

18 MR. WECHSLER: Yeah.

19 MS. FRANUS: And it was in the
20 ordinance that night, but in the backup of
21 that ordinance there wasn't one thing
22 mentioned about a fee for not having
23 recyclables, even though that's what the
24 ordinance that you said you were passing
25 that night, but there wasn't any mention at

1 all about what is the cost if you don't have
2 -- if you don't do your recyclables. How
3 could it not be in the backup that was the
4 ordinance you passed it. I can't even
5 comprehend, what does that mean? So did
6 you -- is there a fee if you don't have
7 recyclables? I thought that's what you said
8 the ordinance was for?

9 MR. WECHSLER: I believe that that
10 was set up in the initial meeting. That
11 particular ordinance that established a
12 collection fee.

13 MS. FRANUS: That's this said in the
14 ordinance that you read that night.
15 Remember I said how could you pass an
16 ordinance if you don't know the fee and you
17 said, well, the limit would be \$300, but you
18 passed it that night, but there was nothing
19 in the backup that said if you don't have
20 your recyclables it's going to be such and
21 such. Nothing. So how did you pass an
22 ordinance that didn't discuss it in the
23 backup? So is there a fee or isn't there?

24 MR. WECHSLER: My understanding is
25 there is a penalty up to \$300 if you don't

1 recycle.

2 MS. FRANUS: Could you explain why
3 it wasn't in the ordinance?

4 MR. WECHSLER: Because I think it
5 was in the original legislation that was
6 passed last year.

7 MS. FRANUS: Last year.

8 MR. WECHSLER: Yep. There's a
9 standing ordinance for the collection of the
10 fee and then the fee is established on an
11 annual basis.

12 MS. FRANUS: So there was an
13 ordinance last year that was passed if you
14 didn't have your recyclables there actually
15 is a fee if you don't it?

16 MR. WECHSLER: Yeah.

17 MS. FRANUS: I didn't know that.

18 MR. WECHSLER: We had that whole
19 discussion about the fees last year.

20 MS. FRANUS: So if you don't have
21 recyclables you risk a fee, but there is no
22 set amount.

23 MR. WECHSLER: It just said up to.

24 MS. FRANUS: That would be in the
25 original ordinance from last year?

1 MR. WECHSLER: I believe so.

2 MS. FRANUS: Okay, thank you.

3 MR. WECHSLER: Anyone else?

4 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,
5 citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians, I
6 was a little disturbed about that little
7 article in the paper today how a no tax
8 increase became a tax increase for certain
9 people and I find it hard to believe with
10 two real estate agents on the board here
11 that that would go through without being
12 brought up earlier. We all know that
13 certain people own vast undeveloped land
14 inside of the city. This ordinance, or what
15 he tried to do, well, you did pass it, so
16 this ordinance was mainly for them, not for
17 the general public. If you have a lot of
18 undeveloped land inside the city, you got a
19 tax decrease. A person was small lot inside
20 of the city, as you know, a lot of the lots
21 inside of the city are small because what
22 the cost of the real estate was at the time
23 they were building they would have got a tax
24 increase. How could you let the business
25 administrator could something like that

1 without speaking up? I know you can't read
2 all of the legislation, no one can, maybe
3 not even a lawyers, but anyway, that should
4 never have been. It stinks of some kind of
5 a cover up. It really does. We haven't
6 gotten over the fact that you sold a
7 multi-million garage for a dollar. What
8 does that show? It shows either the council
9 is inept or they don't read what they are
10 passing. No where could you tell me that
11 garage that was generating \$300,000 a year
12 wasn't worth a damn thing. What are you
13 people doing? We are paying \$5,000 a month
14 for you people. Are we getting \$5,000 a
15 worth out of you people?

16 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Sbaraglia, it's
17 \$13,000 a year, not \$5,000 a month.

18 MR. SBARAGLIA: That's for all of
19 you.

20 MR. WECHSLER: Still.

21 MR. SBARAGLIA: You get twelve five,
22 do you not? \$12,500 a year. That is \$1,000
23 per month for each of you which is \$5,000.
24 We are paying \$5,000, a little \$5,000 plus
25 to have you sit there and pass legislation

1 that you don't quite comprehend, and that's
2 not right. You should try to comprehend
3 everything you can before you pass it, and
4 take them emergency certificates and give
5 them back to the mayor or whoever is giving
6 them to you, and say we would not pass
7 anything under an emergency certificate
8 without fully understanding everything that
9 it implies, but you don't do that. Your
10 orders came down and you always pay them. I
11 don't care what. The city has been going
12 downhill. The credibility of this
13 administration has a low ebb. No one
14 believes in what you say anymore, and that's
15 bad. If you can't believe your elected
16 officials who can you believe? Thank you.

17 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening.

18 Marie Schumacher. I don't know whether I
19 stand alone on this issue, but I'm getting
20 tired of the woopsies. So far this year the
21 Sewer authority asset sale proceeds and now
22 the property tax millage, and we are only
23 half way through the first month of 2017.

24 On the property tax millage,
25 something just doesn't pass the smell test.

1 One, the ordinance emergency certificate
2 attached, of course, did not specify the
3 millage which has been passed practice.
4 Anyone reviewing the agenda would have had
5 to go back to the budget which,
6 incidentally, was not available and is still
7 not available on the BA's website. It
8 merely stated, "For introduction, an
9 ordinance, amending File of Council No.
10 100-1976, entitled an ordinance, as amended
11 levying general and special taxes for the
12 fiscal year 1977 by setting the millage for
13 the Year 2017 and the same shall remain in
14 full force and effect and annually
15 thereafter. Emergency certificate
16 attached."

17 I mean, come on. It wasn't even in
18 there. Other ordinances dealing with
19 millage on this same agenda did provide the
20 details, so that makes it doubly strange.
21 Also, if the Single Tax Office informed the
22 BA why was this not on last week's agenda,
23 and thanks also to the Single Tax Office for
24 pointing this out. It's ashame it had to be
25 them.

1 What is the correct service millage,
2 debt service millage? Maybe in -- nobody
3 knows? Okay. Moving along to, and maybe in
4 Fifth Order, would someone please tell us
5 why the 2017 budget is not available and
6 also why the Controller's Office has not yet
7 received a copy of the 2015 audit so that
8 they can finish the 2015 report?

9 Moving along to 7-B, I believe this
10 resolution should be tabled until the actual
11 contract with Arcadis is available for
12 review complete with a better statement of
13 work and specific delivery dates. The storm
14 water issue has been pushed to the back
15 burner for far too long and we need to
16 establish a fair claim on the proceeds of
17 the sale of the Sewer Authority assets.
18 Let's review. On October 31, 2013, the
19 storm water management system review was
20 released with six recommendations. Can any
21 of you tell me how many of those
22 recommendations were implemented? Was this
23 document just put on a shelf to accumulate
24 dust? In conjunction with one of the many
25 revised recovery plans, on October 18, 2015,

1 council approved the Scranton Abington
2 Planning Association plan, comprehensive
3 plan, as the city's long overdue master
4 planning document. This plan covers storm
5 water comprehensively. For example, figure
6 2.6.5 maps the storm water problem areas by
7 type of problem. Was this document just put
8 on a shelf to accumulate dust? By this
9 time, we should have moved well beyond the
10 preliminary stage based on work already
11 bought and paid for.

12 And speaking of things that did not
13 spell to good to my nostrils is timing, as
14 Joan Hodowanitz and others have noted we
15 need to have this information well in
16 advance of this year's general election.
17 Did any of the other responders, I believe
18 there were two others, offer to produce a
19 result in more timely manner?

20 Among the issues that I have with
21 Arcadis proposal is this sentence: "We are
22 very sensitive of your desired outcome
23 regarding this project."

24 Failure to just state the desired
25 outcome, I have observed over decades of

1 dealing with contracts of this nature,
2 translates into something, at least to me,
3 such we have, "Our conclusion, now we will
4 go out and justify that conclusion."

5 And, frankly, we deserve better.

6 Thank you.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

8 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening, Council.
9 Dave Dobrzyn, resident, taxpayer. First of
10 all, last week there was a discussion on
11 arts and comments made by a commissioner and
12 they had an interesting commentary today in
13 the Times, and despite the fact that I have
14 no particular affection for the person, kind
15 of pointed out a few disturbing things about
16 the way money gets spent and, furthermore,
17 I'm all for funding libraries and so forth,
18 it's a must as far as I'm concerned.

19 But getting back to the arts, me
20 missed First Night this year and that's on
21 Scranton. We have had the Parking Authority
22 sold off, garages sold, we have had the
23 sewer plant sold. Nobody can come up with
24 any little things so you know what did? I
25 stayed home and watched -- not the Outer

1 Limits, the Twilight Zone all weekend,
2 because when I travel through another town
3 or something, and there are police officers
4 that I don't know or whatever the next thing
5 you know I could just be sitting around in a
6 police station at five in the morning. I
7 turn down parties and stuff out in the
8 country on heavy drinking weekends and I
9 don't even drink, but I just don't feel like
10 the aggravation so, please, next year let's
11 get it back together and have a little sense
12 of community. I mean, it seems like
13 everything for some people and nothing for
14 the masses.

15 On 5-B, we are missing an
16 opportunity here, I have an undevelopable
17 lot how about a flat rate some day? You
18 know, it just keeps going up and up and up
19 and up. If I sell it, I doubt whether I
20 could sell it, and if I leave it go back to
21 taxes it's liable to be sold for a pittance
22 and some guy will decide to park a diesel
23 truck on it and idle it until who knows when
24 or whatever, and I thought popped into my
25 head 7-B, again, or -- yes, 7-B and 5-B,

1 storm water. Now, here I have a lot 40 by
2 170 adjacent to my house, I have no plans on
3 putting any structures on it. If I sold it,
4 stand alone you could not put a structure on
5 it. It's costing me \$661 a year if I pay on
6 time and then on top of this am I going to
7 get stuck with another 60 or 100 dollars a
8 year for storm water on top of it, you know?
9 It's just keeps going on and on gets better
10 and better so, you know the way things were
11 done in the past you guys weren't here,
12 okay, but let's start putting our thinking
13 caps on and, you know, I'd love to be able
14 to pay \$200 a year for that lot and just
15 leave it the way it is and it will generate
16 some oxygen out of the air or some carbon
17 dioxide and oxygen.

18 And tax exempts, once again, I had
19 newspaper, I just forgot it down there, but
20 there is an extreme right wing group,
21 political group, somewhat racists possibly,
22 getting tax exempt and then go in 2015 I see
23 three presidential candidates up on stage at
24 a religious freedom conference and the
25 minister up there was screaming in an shrill

1 voice to outlaw gay people, round them up by
2 the government and execute them. Why?
3 Because somebody like that needs a tax
4 exempt. I don't think they need a tax
5 exempt on my dime and we have 35 percent tax
6 exempts. It's already to a point where we
7 are starting to crumble under the weight on
8 the shoulders. It's too much and it's got
9 to change. There should be a limit like 10
10 percent and if the state wants to step in
11 and replace the money then they could have
12 all the bigots they want. Thank you and
13 have a good night.

14 MR. WECHSLER: Anyone else?

15 MR. PICKERLY: Damian Pickerly.

16 MR. WECHSLER: State your address,
17 please.

18 MR. PICKERLY: 1649 Wyoming Avenue
19 in Scranton, Pennsylvania.

20 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you.

21 MR. PICKERLY: Council thank you for
22 the opportunity to speak. I'm not going to
23 take up any of your time really, just two
24 questions for you, the first is would you
25 say that the City's financials currently are

1 in good order? No answer?

2 Secondly, can you tell the taxpayers
3 what the City's total debt is as of right
4 now? That's including pension liabilities,
5 old debt, share accounting debt, share of
6 school debt and interest on debt?

7 MR. EVANS: Well, you are asking us
8 for county and school which we don't have
9 that information.

10 MR. PICKERLY: I'm asking for total,
11 what the city's total debt is. That's the
12 number I think the taxpayers deserves to
13 know.

14 MR. GAUGHAN: I can't remember
15 exactly what it, I did have that figure
16 maybe two or three weeks ago. I don't have
17 that right now so I couldn't --

18 MR. PICKERLY: You knew two or three
19 weeks ago, but you don't -- can't remember
20 that?

21 MR. GAUGHAN: I said I had the
22 information on the all of that two or three
23 weeks ago, I don't have it front of me right
24 now.

25 MR. PICKERLY: That's all I have.

1 Thank you.

2 MR. WECHSLER: Anyone else?

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

4 MOTIONS.

5 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Perry?

6 MR. PERRY: Yeah, I have just a
7 couple of quick things this evening. I know
8 the tax millage amendment legislation that's
9 going to be, you know, a hot topic and I
10 want to thank Mr. Bulzoni for coming into
11 caucus and giving us a good explanation of
12 what happened because I also had some
13 questions with it. As you know, we passed a
14 note, property tax increase a couple of
15 weeks ago and I wanted to make sure that we
16 are voting for that.

17 And I'm sure my colleagues will go
18 into this in great detail as well, but just
19 to sum up the caucus that we had with
20 Mr. Bulzoni and the conversation we had,
21 Scranton is the only municipality in
22 Lackawanna County that has two sets of
23 millage, one for their land and one for
24 their improvements. When we did a millage
25 increase and decrease it doesn't add up

1 based on the land value and the improvement
2 value, so if you owned lots of land you were
3 going to get a slight decrease. If you owed
4 improvement, you are going to get a slight
5 increase in your taxes, which isn't what we
6 passed and it isn't what we wanted, so the
7 alternative was and is what eventually what
8 we are going to go forward with is a
9 percentage increase into the millage, which
10 is more level approach to it, which will
11 stop that land improvement from getting a
12 tax break and property, if you are a
13 property that is improvement heavy in your
14 millage your taxes are going to go up. So
15 this adjustment is just to level that off to
16 make sure that we don't have any property
17 tax increase across the board like we said
18 we were going to have, and there is a couple
19 of ways going forward that this can be
20 helped.

21 The first one is to get us out of
22 that two millage system. The two millage
23 system can only be -- we can only get out of
24 that if there is a Lackawanna County
25 assessment. With a Lackawanna County

1 assessment that will evenly, obviously,
2 assess all of the properties where we can go
3 back to a one millage system where we can
4 make it much, much easier for us to
5 anticipate and adjust as needed the millage
6 rates for the property owners in the city.

7 And, again, I'm sure my colleagues
8 are going to into that in great detail, but
9 that was my take from the caucus.

10 Secondly, and this issue we touched
11 on, that 36-inch drainage pipe that we have
12 been working on for awhile that I have taken
13 a lead on the last two weeks for the Keyser
14 value residents, we are going to have a
15 meeting this week, we are going to have
16 plenty of fish, we are going to have America
17 American Water Company, DPW, the city
18 engineer, myself will be there, Councilman
19 Gaughan said he'll be here and there will be
20 lots of other -- I don't know if Mr.
21 Wechsler or Mr. Evans will be able to break
22 away from work, but I know it's very much in
23 the forefront for us to get this situation
24 fixed.

25 There was a second safety issue that

1 was brought to our attention last week on
2 Dorothy Street in West Side by the park.
3 The DPW did a temporary fix on that, on the
4 hole by a storm drain and they are going to
5 be revisiting that later this week early
6 into next week to get a more permanent fix
7 to that problem.

8 Also, 5-I deals with a situation we
9 talked about last week which is a turn
10 signal on Jackson Street so we are going to
11 get the ball moving on that and try to get
12 that situation fixed.

13 And, finally, it's with a very
14 heavy, heavy heart and my deepest
15 condolences to the Helb family. They lost a
16 proud member of their family this week,
17 Thomas Helb and I'm sure he will be missed
18 greatly and I wish nothing but the best for
19 their family and hopefully the love of their
20 friends, family and their faith in God can
21 hold them together in this awful time.
22 That's all I have. Thank you.

23 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr. Perry.
24 Mr. Rogan?

25 MR. ROGAN: Yes, two brief items and

1 I'll talk a little bit more about the tax
2 legislation as well. First, I'd like to
3 thank the DPW for helping out with the
4 number of the citizens' complaints in the
5 McNicholas Plaza area of the South Scranton.
6 They were very quick to reply and the
7 residents were very happy to have those
8 taken care of. Recycling was brought up
9 tonight and I did want to announce, and I
10 want to try and make a habit of it more
11 often, regarding recycling. Recycling bins
12 are available at the Scranton DPW and I did
13 check with the DPW employees earlier in the
14 week, they do have the red and the blue bins
15 in so somebody who was out there if you do
16 need recycling bins you can pick them up at
17 101 West Popular Avenue, which is the DPW
18 headquarters, or if you can't get down
19 there, if you want to get in touch with me
20 I'll make arrangements so you can obtain
21 both the red and the blue recycling bin. I
22 know we have spoke at length about it, but
23 every pound or ton of garbage that is
24 recycled saves us money at the dump, it
25 saves the environment and it does come back

1 to us in state grants so it is very
2 important that everyone in the city does
3 recycle.

4 Moving onto the taxing legislation,
5 it seems to be the hot issue for the night,
6 I'd also like to thank Mr. Bulzoni for
7 coming in and explaining how this error was
8 made, and despite some of the comments that
9 were made by my speakers I do want to note
10 the first item that's mentioned in the
11 memorandum from Mr. Bulzoni is that the
12 budget states right in the highlights that
13 the tentative budget was to maintain the
14 total millage at 2016 levels.

15 Everyone on city council, the mayor
16 and the administration, that was always the
17 intent, and as I explained you will see why
18 it is a little more confusing than just
19 simply setting a percentage. As Mr. Perry
20 mentioned, the City of Scranton assesses two
21 separate millage rates, one on the land and
22 one on the improvements on the land. Moving
23 even deeper into that, within those two
24 there are two additional parts that are
25 broken out in previous budgets. There is

1 millage that was used for debt service, and
2 millage used for general operating, so in
3 reality you actually have four separate tax
4 millages the way it was broken out in
5 previous budgets, and just to give an
6 example of how precise these numbers can be,
7 and is this is coming right out of the
8 legislation, this will set the real estate
9 millage, and I'll read it off, it's .232521
10 on a land, and .050564 mills on buildings.
11 So you can see how far the decimal goes down
12 in these type of scenarios and how even one
13 one-thousandth of a percent will effect tax
14 bills. I know it was certainly the intent
15 of everyone to have your tax bill for the
16 city looking exactly the same as it did the
17 year previous, and the first question I
18 asked Mr. Bulzoni in the caucus, and I know
19 this is what everyone watching cares about
20 the most, is when they get their tax bill
21 and how will it look?

22 By passing this corrected
23 legislation tonight, your city tax bill will
24 look exactly the same as it looked last
25 year, which was always the intent of the

1 myself and all of this council to have it
2 mirrored identical. Because of the way it
3 structured really with four different, even
4 though you only receive one tax bill, in the
5 City's budget it is four items and that's
6 why there was a little bit of confusion, you
7 know, when you are dealing with decimal
8 points far down the line and it can get much
9 more confusing.

10 One other point I do want to mention
11 that was in Mr. Bulzoni's memo, and this was
12 the conclusion, he said, "To concluded, the
13 City of Scranton will likely not undertake
14 this exercise if assessed values were
15 reasonably current. Current values would
16 enable an evaluation to collapse the two
17 millage concept into a single millage
18 component used by most municipalities in
19 Pennsylvania. Changing the present taxing
20 method without a reassessment of property
21 values is a virtual possibility."

22 And this is a something that I have
23 been talking about for a very long time and
24 I know Councilman Evans is going to speak
25 about this a little bit more is the need for

1 a reassessment. There were many reasons why
2 a reassessment is needed in Lackawanna
3 County. The first being tax fairness.
4 There are people with a smaller houses
5 paying more taxes than people who live in
6 bigger houses, and that's not fair. It's
7 also not fair that the current system of
8 appeals benefits those who can afford an
9 attorney or know the ins and outs of the
10 system. Meanwhile, the average working
11 person or senior citizen just pay the bill
12 they receive because they can't afford to
13 hire an attorney to challenge the tax appeal
14 -- the tax assessment.

15 Finally, the one other item that
16 Mr. Bulzoni talked about at length in caucus
17 was that because of the tax appeal process
18 and the lack of new building growth in the
19 city, the total assessment in the City of
20 Scranton actually goes down every year. As
21 I mentioned, those who can afford to appeal
22 it they are appealing it. They are getting
23 their taxes reduced, so you wind up with a
24 situation where the average person is paying
25 more and those who are able to pay for

1 attorneys are paying less, and that's simply
2 not right.

3 This legislation tonight in the
4 short term will correct the error that was
5 made in your tax bill and it will remain the
6 same from 2016 into 2017, and the good news
7 of the no tax increase from Lackawanna
8 County, as well as the Scranton School
9 District, your overall bill will remain
10 exactly the same.

11 And, finally, I would be remiss if
12 I didn't thank our tax office or tax
13 collection, Bill Fox, for noticing this
14 error. It's certainly much easier to
15 correct this now than it would be after tax
16 bills were sent out, and many people would
17 be very upset to see that it wasn't exactly
18 what we said and I'm sure those whose taxes
19 were less wouldn't be the ones calling us
20 but, again, that will correct that millage
21 error which, again, really comes down to,
22 you know, a millionth of a percentage within
23 these decimal points but it has to be
24 exactly right because of how complex our tax
25 system is. This will get it squared away,

1 and that is all, thank you.

2 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr. Rogan.
3 Mr. Evans?

4 MR. EVANS: Thank you. A brief
5 comments on the sewer sale, at this point in
6 time I think we have three primary goals,
7 one is to get the answers as for the reasons
8 for the \$1 million gap in cash anticipated
9 from the sale as well as other questions
10 identified by city council in the last
11 week's letter to the SSA and consultants to
12 determine the most effective and cost
13 effective use of all of the proceeds for the
14 city and all of the taxpayers.

15 And number three, to make sure storm
16 water management is done in an efficient and
17 cost effective manner pending the study's
18 completion. With that said, I would like to
19 thank Tommy Mohn for his in-depth report
20 last week on the storm water study. It
21 brings us to where we are and where our
22 future focus should be. Storm water
23 management is not only an obligation for the
24 City of Scranton and many other
25 municipalities, but I think it's an

1 opportunity as well.

2 On the millage rate change, I'm
3 going to have to reject the latest
4 conspiracy theory. It certainly isn't even
5 close to being accurate. The good news is
6 it was caught before the tax bills went out.
7 Thirdly, as it points out, the difficulty
8 and the inherent unfairness of the
9 two-tiered tax in Scranton currently
10 employed by the city, which because of the
11 addition of the debt service actually was a
12 four-tier millage system, so the only true
13 way to get a much fairer system and one-tier
14 taxing strategy is through a reassessment.
15 While some people talk and talk about tax
16 fairness, a countywide reassessment is the
17 only true way to get there.

18 A little history on the two-tier
19 strategy that we use in Scranton, of course
20 it's a separate millage rate for land and
21 separate millage rate for improvement to
22 buildings on land. The millage rate on land
23 is higher. This is a decision made decades
24 ago in a failed attempt to increase
25 development on empty lots, so what we have

1 is a determination of land values from the
2 1970's where the last reassessment
3 determined that a 40 by 150 lot should be
4 assessed more on East Mountain or Greenridge
5 or the upper hill or West Mountain or
6 Greenridge than in other areas of the city.
7 The intent was to value property more
8 because market value should have been done
9 through the improvement side of the
10 assessment, not the land side, because the
11 last time I looked, as I mentioned in
12 caucus, dirt is still dirt all over the
13 city.

14 So there are so many inconsistencies
15 in the assessed value in the city that
16 borders on insanity. I'm calling on the
17 county commissioners again for the umpteenth
18 time to finally commit to a countywide
19 reassessment. This latest issue is another
20 unattended consequence of their failure to
21 act.

22 Also, some brief comment, Mrs.
23 Schumacher mentioned SAPA so I did talk to
24 Don King today on an unrelated matter, but
25 we talked about SAPA a little bit because I

1 haven't heard much about it recently, and it
2 appears that they're having some trouble
3 getting some state grants, and that's
4 ashamed, so I'm going to see if we can
5 further that conversation and find out if
6 there is anything we can do as a body to
7 help move that along, but when we are
8 talking another idea came to me, too, is
9 that we are always try to formulate some
10 ideas on what to do with the proceeds of the
11 sewer money, and I'd like to plug in another
12 idea as far as an economic driver is
13 concerned, and that would a study and
14 creation of a new zoning ordinance. The
15 current ordinance was drafted and passed in
16 1993. It's so old that one of the original
17 authors of the document is yours truly as a
18 member of the city planning commission at
19 that time.

20 MR. WECHSLER: That is old.

21 MR. EVANS: That is old. That's a
22 long time. I think I had black hair at the
23 time, and a black mustache, but an updated
24 ordinance will clarify because many of these
25 issues that the city faces were not even on

1 the radar in 1993. An updated ordinance
2 will also present initiatives for new
3 development as well as the current view of
4 what is necessary today to protect our
5 neighborhoods. A progressive city does not
6 have a 24-year-old zoning code. Most of the
7 estimates put the cost of the study and
8 integration of a new ordinance somewhere
9 between 25,000 and 50,000, and I think
10 that's something that we can do and it's
11 something that we should try to shepherd in
12 2017.

13 So that's all I have for now and
14 I'll talk a little bit more on this with the
15 agenda five items.

16 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr. Evans.
17 You are not old, you're just experienced.

18 MR. EVANS: That's right.

19 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Gaughan.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, thank you, just a
21 few items. First, if we could send
22 correspondence to the administration and ask
23 them to put the budget on the website. I'm
24 not sure why it's not on yet, but it is
25 unacceptable that it's not on the website

1 for the public to see, so if we could please
2 send something to the IT Department.

3 I was at a very interesting meeting
4 today, as I announced last week, with the
5 representative from Smart City Media and the
6 business administrator, and as I mentioned
7 last week I think this is going to be an
8 unbelievable opportunity for the City of
9 Scranton on a number of different fronts.
10 Smart City Media is growing all over the
11 country and basically in a nutshell it is
12 connecting government with its citizens and
13 in a very creative and technological way.
14 Recently, Kansas City was involved in a
15 major project using this type of technology.
16 Other cities, Washington, D.C, New York
17 City, and some other similarly-sized cities
18 to Scranton are now getting involved, and
19 what it would be would be kiosks located in
20 the downtown and around the city in a
21 strategic location so that people can
22 discover events, programs, emergency alerts,
23 so there is a public safety aspect, and one
24 of the things that I liked as we were
25 discussing these things in the meeting was

1 it could be a significant revenue generator
2 for the city. We were looking at a
3 five-year total of near \$1 million revenue
4 coming into the city from this program, so
5 from a public safety standpoint, economic
6 development, small business, I think this is
7 it something that is going to very helpful
8 for the city, so I look forward to
9 continuing these conversations with the
10 administration.

11 We have not received any answers, to
12 my knowledge, to the questions that we had
13 posed related to the sale of the Scranton
14 Sewer Authority last week. We did ask for
15 the answers to be provided by January 18, so
16 I'm not sure what the hold up is, but as I
17 go around the city people are very curious
18 about what went on in this deal, so I do
19 think that if we don't get these answers by
20 next week we should seriously consider using
21 our subpoena powers, if necessary, because
22 these are serious questions and we need
23 answers to them, and I hope that the mayor
24 and the Scranton Sewer Authority does not
25 think that this issue is just going to go

1 away and we are going to forget about it
2 because we are not.

3 On that issue, numerous residents
4 have contacted me that they had seen
5 Scranton Sewer Authority trucks around the
6 city doing work sometimes with Pennsylvania
7 American Water, so I'd like to know who is
8 insuring these trucks and if it is
9 Pennsylvania American Water why is the
10 Scranton Sewer Authority logo still on the
11 trucks? So wondering if this is a potential
12 liability issue.

13 Also, we received an e-mail from our
14 business administrator about some downtown
15 business recycling initiatives, so we are
16 very glad to see that. We have historically
17 had a problem with downtown business
18 recycling so there are a number of different
19 items here that they are going to move on
20 in the next few months, so glad to see that.

21 Just a couple of citizen's requests.
22 We did ask that the Police Department
23 enforce parking in the area of Price Street
24 and Van Buren Avenue. Cars were parking too
25 close to the intersection and it's creating

1 visibility issues, so they were dispatched
2 out there. I did attend a Weston Field
3 neighborhood meeting this week, a couple of
4 items that we are going to send to the
5 appropriate departments. Graffiti that's on
6 the Weston fieldhouse that needs to be taken
7 care of. There are numerous lights out on
8 the DPW building, and 1300 block of Short
9 Avenue residents are reporting abandoned
10 cars.

11 Mrs. Franus brought up a good point
12 tonight, and question that I was preparing
13 to ask is why aren't we putting the revenue
14 that we received from the garbage fee into
15 an interest bearing account, and are we
16 planning on doing that. She was correct
17 when she said that the ordinance does call
18 for that, Article 2, Section C, all fees
19 shall be deposited in a special interest
20 bearing account to be established by the
21 business administrator. This account will
22 be used to reimburse the general city
23 operating fund for costs incurred directly
24 for the disposal of the refuse.

25 So if my colleagues agree, I would

1 like to send correspondence to our business
2 administrator and the administration asking
3 why this isn't being done and if we are
4 planning on doing that. And that's is all I
5 have this week. Thank you.

6 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you,
7 Mr. Gaughan. In regards to the questions
8 concerning the Sewer Authority, our caucus
9 ran a little over this evening so I did not
10 get to share this information with my
11 colleagues, we have been in contact with
12 Attorney Conaboy who is working on the
13 answers to the questions that we submitted
14 last week. Since he does represent the
15 Scranton Sewer Authority board, he does have
16 to meet with the board first to get
17 finalization on some of the questions that
18 were asked, so I believe as we heard tonight
19 that the meeting is Friday, so we are hoping
20 to hear from Mr. Conaboy next week after the
21 Sewer Authority meeting.

22 In regards to the correction for our
23 property taxes, the strange thing is to say
24 no good deed goes unpunished. Our goal was
25 to not have a tax increase this year, and I

1 think in prior years the tax increases that
2 came may have had the same situation in it,
3 but nobody really paid attention to it
4 because your tax bill went up every year for
5 the past couple of years. In my business, I
6 have been in manufacturing so we constantly
7 review what we do and how we do it. We
8 review our performance, we review how we got
9 the certifications. I look at this as
10 something that was reviewed by another
11 outside group. The Tax Collector's Office
12 worked these numbers and they contacted the
13 business administration who contacted the
14 mayor and myself immediately. I believe I
15 found out about this last Wednesday, I
16 believe, and we began the idea of how we
17 were going to -- how we are going to adjust
18 this. Unfortunately, Wednesday was too late
19 for any of this information to come to our
20 agenda. Plus, as Councilman Rogan went
21 over, the review of these numbers to get it
22 to a point where there was no tax increase
23 was a monumental effort to get it to balance
24 out.

25 To me, the bottom line is there was

1 a problem, it was corrected. To me, that's
2 all you can ask for in terms of being
3 responsible for something. The bottom line
4 is our tax bills will be the same, and as
5 the years goes on and we are looking at our
6 tax increases need either being flat or
7 minimal, this is something that we are going
8 to have to do every year to make sure that
9 the increases or decreases are fair to
10 everybody and that the taxing bills remain
11 where we would like them to be, so like I
12 said, fortunately this is something that we
13 were able to correct before the tax bills
14 went out, and in the long run it will be the
15 way that we intend it to be.

16 Just some information about that was
17 provided to us by Solicitor Durkin from the
18 Uniform Pension Board, so far in terms of
19 the double pension there is no ruling yet.
20 The best estimate would be that it should
21 come within the next couple of weeks.
22 Currently it's in the hands of the two
23 hearing officers. There were 22 cases
24 covering two different years, two years of
25 testimony and six attorneys were present at

1 these hearings, which is causing in terms of
2 the delay, so we are still waiting to hear
3 about the double pension reviews.

4 Today, if you came to city hall
5 today every meeting room was full with
6 people. Mr. Gaughan was at a meeting. I
7 also attended a meeting today on something
8 as Mr. Evans talked about how our zoning
9 ordinance is going to have to be he updated.
10 Myself and Jessica Boyles attended a meeting
11 today with people who are bidding on a
12 chance to have a medical marijuana
13 dispensary in the city. The state has
14 established a few of these potential
15 licenses, and I believe that in Scranton we
16 want the progressive city that we want it to
17 be, we do want to make sure that Scranton is
18 on the cutting edge of this new technology.
19 Unfortunately, the actual facilities for
20 growing and the productions of any would be
21 topical lotions. We don't have the
22 opportunity to do that with the city. I
23 think the closest right now is in Covington
24 Township, but we do want to have the city
25 participate in this, but right now, as

1 Mr. Evans cited, our zoning law is silent in
2 terms of these type of places, so there is
3 some progress being made in the city on
4 different opportunities.

5 Unfortunately, I will not be able to
6 attend the meeting on Merrifield Avenue on
7 Tuesday. My work schedule prohibits me from
8 attending, but I know that council will be
9 well represented there, and as Mr. Gaughan
10 stated, we did have success in the past at
11 these types of meetings so hopefully we will
12 be able to come to some final resolution to
13 get this problem corrected.

14 I also attended the Bulls Head
15 meeting on Tuesday night, and as always the
16 residents down there are constantly
17 concerned about the state of the flood
18 project in their area. They continue to
19 have problems with quads that are riding on
20 the levy to take the top of the dirt off the
21 levy, the quads represent a serious problem
22 to the city in terms of destruction and
23 really the police are discouraged from
24 chasing them so there is no safety issue
25 there, but anything that can be done to

1 control the quads on the levy would be
2 greatly appreciated.

3 I had a couple of different
4 situations with utility pave cut problems in
5 the city, one was up on Wintermantle Avenue
6 and that was the problem with that, it
7 wasn't completed yet. They were back up
8 there today digging again so that will have
9 to be looked at. I did speak to the pave
10 cut inspector down on Birch Street there is
11 a series or problems, a hole that opened up,
12 and on my way home from work today I found
13 one on Stafford Avenue so there is
14 another -- these are pave cuts and utility
15 cuts that have not been properly repaired
16 and we will follow-up with those again
17 tomorrow. I have all of these little
18 papers, but, that's it.

19 MS. REED: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION -
20 AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL
21 NO. 6, 1976 ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE (AS
22 AMENDED) IMPOSING A TAX FOR GENERAL REVENUE
23 PURPOSES ON THE TRANSFER OF REAL PROPERTY
24 SITUATE WITHIN THE CITY OF SCRANTON;
25 PRESCRIBING AND REGULATING THE METHOD OF

1 EVIDENCING THE PAYMENT OF SUCH TAX;
2 CONFERRING POWERS AND IMPOSING DUTIES UPON
3 CERTAIN PERSONS, AND PROVIDING PENALTIES",
4 BY IMPOSING THE RATE OF THE REALTY TRANSFER
5 TAX AT TWO AND FOUR TENTHS PERCENT (2.4%)
6 FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2017 AND THE SAME SHALL
7 REMAIN IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT ANNUALLY
8 THEREAFTER.

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

12 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

13 MR. EVANS: Second.

14 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

15 MR. EVANS: On the question,
16 Attorney Minora, before we vote, if you can,
17 is there any reason whatsoever to believe
18 that there would be a conflict of interest
19 for anyone on city council relative to this
20 legislation?

21 MR. MINORA: No. Conflict of
22 interest has to have a direct impact, a
23 direct profit to an individual voting. This
24 would go to the buyer and seller of real
25 estate and has no direct impact even on the

1 realty, let alone an individual.

2 MR. EVANS: Thank you. I just want
3 to get that out of the way. While I'm
4 disappointed that we have to bring this
5 back, most of us this satisfies state
6 statutes, I guess it's been so long that the
7 tax actually has been reduced that it caught
8 everybody a little off guard. On a positive
9 note, I'm happy to be able to vote three
10 more times for this type of legislation, so
11 that's good.

12 MR. WECHSLER: Yes, on the question,
13 once again, this is housekeeping that has to
14 be done goal was to get this tax lowered to
15 get the news out there and bring some
16 encouragement to sellers and buyers within
17 the city, so we'll go through the exercise
18 of doing this as required by state law, but
19 the goal was to get this tax lowered.

20 MR. ROGAN: Just to add off what
21 Councilman Evans said, I certainly agree
22 that I wish we were voting on tax decreases
23 every day, but this is hopefully the first
24 of many tax decreases to come. I firmly
25 believe that the wage tax and the real

1 estate tax can be looked at for very minimal
2 decreases in the future years, but decreases
3 nonetheless.

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

6 MR. PERRY: Aye.

7 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

8 MR. EVANS: Aye.

9 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

12 MS. REED: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION -
13 AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL
14 NO. 78, 2017, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING FILE OF
15 THE COUNCIL NO. 100, 1976, ENTITLED "AN
16 ORDINANCE (AS AMENDED) LEVYING GENERAL AND
17 SPECIAL TAXES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 1977", BY
18 SETTING THE MILLAGE FOR THE YEAR 2017 AND
19 THE SAME SHALL REMAIN IN FULL FORCE AND
20 EFFECT ANNUALLY THEREAFTER" BY AMENDING
21 SECTION 1 REVERTING BACK TO THE MILLAGE
22 RATES FROM 2016 WHICH ARE .232521 MILLS LEVY
23 ON LAND AND .050564 MILLS LEVY ON ALL
24 BUILDINGS AND BY ELIMINATING THE DEDICATED
25 MILLAGE FOR DEBT SERVICE CONTAINED IN

1 SECTION 2 AND REPLACING THE DEDICATED
2 MILLAGE FOR DEBT SERVICE WITH A DEDICATED
3 DEBT PERCENTAGE OF 32% OF REAL ESTATE TAX
4 REVENUES COLLECTED ON A CURRENT YEAR BASIS.
5 (EMERGENCY CERTIFICATE ATTACHED).

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

9 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

10 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

14 MR. PERRY: Aye.

15 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

16 MR. EVANS: Aye.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

18 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The
19 ayes have it and so moved.

20 MS. REED: 5-D. FOR INTRODUCTION -
21 AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL
22 NO. 65, 2016 AN ORDINANCE "ENTITLED GENERAL
23 CITY OPERATING BUDGET 2017" BY REVERTING
24 BACK TO THE REAL ESTATE TAX MILLAGE FROM
25 2016 OF .232521 MILLS LEVY ON LAND AND

1 .050564 MILLS LEVY ON ALL BUILDINGS AND BY
2 ELIMINATING THE DEDICATED MILLAGE FOR DEBT
3 SERVICE AND REPLACING THE DEDICATED MILLAGE
4 FOR DEBT SERVICE WITH A DEDICATED DEBT
5 SERVICE PERCENTAGE OF 32% OF REAL ESTATE TAX
6 REVENUE COLLECTED ON A CURRENT YEAR BASIS
7 AND BY INCREASING THE PROJECTED EARNED
8 INCOME TAX REVENUE FROM \$25,898,760.41 TO
9 \$26,614,677.49 AND BY AMENDING ANY AND ALL
10 SECTIONS OF THE 2017 BUDGET TO REFLECT THE
11 AFOREMENTIONED CHANGES. (EMERGENCY
12 CERTIFICATE ATTACHED).

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

16 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

17 MR. EVANS: Second.

18 MR. WECHSLER: On the question? All
19 those in favor of introduction signify by
20 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-E. FOR INTRODUCTION -
3 A RESOLUTION - ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATION
4 OF THE HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURE REVIEW BOARD
5 ("HARB") AND APPROVING THE CERTIFICATE OF
6 APPROPRIATENESS FOR DANIEL KOSLOSKI, 526 S.
7 IRVING AVE., SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, FOR
8 INSTALLATION OF GOLD COLORED VINYL STICKERS
9 THAT READ CANDY, LUNCH, COFFEE, SNACKS, AND
10 ABBY'S TO GO IN THE STYLE OF EXISTING
11 LETTERING ON THE BUILDING AND SURROUNDING
12 BUILDINGS AT 150 ADAMS AVE., SCRANTON,
13 PENNSYLVANIA.

14 MR. WECHSLER: At this time, I'll
15 entertain a motion that Item 5-E be
16 introduced into its proper committee.

17 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

18 MR. EVANS: Second.

19 MR. WECHSLER: On the question? All
20 those in favor of introduction signify by
21 saying aye.

22 MR. PERRY: Aye.

23 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

24 MR. EVANS: Aye.

25 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

3 MS. REED: 5-F. FOR INTRODUCTION - A
4 RESOLUTION - ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATION OF
5 THE HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURE REVIEW BOARD
6 ("HARB") AND APPROVING THE CERTIFICATE OF
7 APPROPRIATENESS FOR THOMAS JAWORSKI, 913 S.
8 MAIN AVE., SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, FOR
9 INSTALLATION OF GOLD COLORED VINYL STICKERS
10 THAT READ WRIGHT, REIHNER, MULCAHEY,
11 GROMELSKI, & TUNIS IN THE STYLE OF EXISTING
12 LETTERING ON THE BUILDING AND SURROUNDING
13 BUILDINGS AT 148 ADAMS AVE., SCRANTON,
14 PENNSYLVANIA.

15 MR. WECHSLER: At this time, I'll
16 entertain a motion that Item 5-F be
17 introduced into its proper committee.

18 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

19 MR. EVANS: Second.

20 MR. WECHSLER: On the question? All
21 those in favor of introduction signify by
22 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: 5-G. FOR INTRODUCTION -
5 A RESOLUTION - ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATION
6 OF THE HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURE REVIEW BOARD
7 - ("HARB") AND APPROVING THE CERTIFICATE OF
8 APPROPRIATENESS FOR WIDMER SIGN COMPANY,
9 INC., 2209 AMELIA AVE., SCRANTON,
10 PENNSYLVANIA, FOR INSTALLATION OF 6' WIDE BY
11 4' HIGH AWNING CONSTRUCTED OF MATTE BLACK
12 ALUMINUM WHICH WILL BE LIT WITH SOFT LED
13 LIGHTING WITH A 24" PROJECTION WITH LOWER
14 SECTION OF AWNING TO HAVE POLYCARBONATE
15 PANELS TO ILLUMINATE GRAPHICS/LOGOS WITH
16 ADDITIONAL APPROVAL TO NOT HAVE TO GO BEFORE
17 HARB TO REPLACE SIGNAGE PANEL THAT WILL
18 DISPLAY THE NAME OF THE TENANTS/BUSINESS;
19 APPLICATION MUST BE RESUBMITTED ONLY IF LED
20 LIGHTING AND/OR CHANGES TO AWNING ARE MADE
21 AT 406 SPRUCE ST., SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA.

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

25 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

1 MR. EVANS: Second.

2 MR. WECHSLER: On the question? All
3 those in favor of introduction signify by
4 saying aye.

5 MR. PERRY: Aye.

6 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

7 MR. EVANS: Aye.

8 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

9 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The
10 eyes have it and so moved.

11 MS. REED: 5-H. FOR INTRODUCTION -
12 A RESOLUTION - REAPPOINTMENT OF JOSEPH A.
13 RICCARDO, JR., 944 MONROE AVENUE, APARTMENT
14 #1, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18509 AS A
15 MEMBER OF THE SHADE TREE COMMISSION,
16 EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 7, 2016. MR. RICCARDO IS
17 BEING REAPPOINTED TO A TWO (2) YEAR TERM
18 WHICH WILL EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 7, 2018.

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

22 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

23 MR. EVANS: Second.

24 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

25 MR. ROGAN: Yes, I'd just like to

1 mention I know Mr. Riccardo pretty well and
2 he does a great job and he's very active on
3 a number of boards and a number of civic
4 organizations within the city so I'd just
5 like to wish him the best.

6 MR. EVANS: I would agree. Joe is a
7 very good, good man.

8 MR. WECHSLER: All those in favor of
9 introduction 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: 5-I. FOR INTRODUCTION - A
17 RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF THE
18 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS OF THE CITY OF
19 SCRANTON TO SIGN AND SUBMIT THE PENNSYLVANIA
20 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION ("PENNDOT")
21 APPLICATION FOR TRAFFIC SIGNAL APPROVAL FOR
22 TRAFFIC SIGNAL PERMIT NO. 1500 FOR THE
23 MODIFICATION OF THE EXISTING TRAFFIC SIGNAL
24 AT NORTH/SOUTH MAIN AVENUE AND JACKSON
25 STREET.

1 MR. WECHSLER: At this time, I'll
2 entertain a motion that Item 5-I be
3 introduced into its proper committee.

4 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

5 MR. EVANS: Second.

6 MR. WECHSLER: On the question? All
7 those in favor of introduction signify by
8 saying aye.

9 MR. PERRY: Aye.

10 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

11 MR. EVANS: Aye.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

15 MR. EVANS: I make a motion to
16 suspend the Rules to move Items 5-C and 5-D
17 to Sixth and Seventh Order to be considered
18 for final passage based on the attached
19 emergency certificate.

20 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

23 MR. PERRY: Aye.

24 MR. EVANS: Aye.

25 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

1 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

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

4 MS. REED: SIXTH ORDER. 6-A.
5 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.
6 81, 2017 - AN ORDINANCE - APPROVING THE
7 TRANSFER OF A RESTAURANT LIQUOR LICENSE
8 CURRENTLY OWNED BY ANOTHER TIME RESTAURANT,
9 LLC T/A AV RESTAURANT, MOOSIC BOROUGH,
10 LICENSE NO. R-10827 TO ANOTHER TIME
11 RESTAURANT, LLC T/A AV RESTAURANT FOR USE AT
12 320 PENN AVENUE, SCRANTON, LACKAWANNA
13 COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA AS REQUIRED BY THE
14 PENNSYLVANIA LIQUOR CONTROL BOARD.

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

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

19 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

22 MR. PERRY: Aye.

23 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

24 MR. EVANS: Aye.

25 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

3 MS. REED: 6-B - FORMERLY 5-C -
4 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF COUNCIL NO.
5 83-2017 - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING FILE OF
6 COUNCIL NO. 78, 2017, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING
7 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 100, 1976, ENTITLED
8 "AN ORDINANCE (AS AMENDED) LEVYING GENERAL
9 AND SPECIAL TAXES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 1977",
10 BY SETTING THE MILLAGE FOR THE YEAR 2017 AND
11 THE SAME SHALL REMAIN IN FULL FORCE AND
12 EFFECT ANNUALLY THEREAFTER" BY AMENDING
13 SECTION 1 REVERTING BACK TO THE MILLAGE
14 RATES FROM 2016 WHICH ARE .232521 MILLS LEVY
15 ON LAND AND .050564 MILLS LEVY ON ALL
16 BUILDINGS AND BY ELIMINATING THE DEDICATED
17 MILLAGE FOR DEBT SERVICE CONTAINED IN
18 SECTION 2 AND REPLACING THE DEDICATED
19 MILLAGE FOR DEBT SERVICE WITH A DEDICATED
20 DEBT PERCENTAGE OF 32% OF REAL ESTATE TAX
21 REVENUES COLLECTED ON A CURRENT YEAR BASIS.
22 (EMERGENCY CERTIFICATE ATTACHED).

23 MR. WECHSLER: You've heard reading
24 by title of Item 6-B, what is your pleasure?

25 MR. ROGAN: Mr. Chairman, I move

1 that Item 6-B pass reading by title.

2 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

5 MR. PERRY: Aye.

6 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

7 MR. EVANS: Aye.

8 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

11 MS. REED: 6-C - FORMERLY 5-D -
12 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.
13 84-2017 - AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF
14 THE COUNCIL NO. 65, 2016 AN ORDINANCE
15 "ENTITLED GENERAL CITY OPERATING BUDGET
16 2017" BY REVERTING BACK TO THE REAL ESTATE
17 TAX MILLAGE FROM 2016 OF .232521 MILLS LEVY
18 ON LAND AND .050564 MILLS LEVY ON ALL
19 BUILDINGS AND BY ELIMINATING THE DEDICATED
20 MILLAGE FOR DEBT SERVICE AND REPLACING THE
21 DEDICATED MILLAGE FOR DEBT SERVICE WITH A
22 DEDICATED DEBT SERVICE PERCENTAGE OF 32% OF
23 REAL ESTATE TAX REVENUE COLLECTED ON A
24 CURRENT YEAR BASIS AND BY INCREASING THE
25 PROJECTED EARNED INCOME TAX REVENUE FROM

1 \$25,898,760.41 TO \$26,614,677.49 AND BY
2 AMENDING ANY AND ALL SECTIONS OF THE 2017
3 BUDGET TO REFLECT THE AFOREMENTIONED
4 CHANGES. (EMERGENCY CERTIFICATE ATTACHED).

5 MR. WECHSLER: You've heard reading
6 by title of Item 6-C, what is your pleasure?

7 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-C
8 pass reading by title.

9 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

12 MR. PERRY: Aye.

13 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

14 MR. EVANS: Aye.

15 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

16 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The
17 eyes have it and so moved. If anyone would
18 like to address council on this emergency
19 legislation you may do so at this time.

20 MS. REED: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR
21 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE -
22 FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 80,
23 2017 - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 126,
24 2015, AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED "GENERAL CITY
25 OPERATING BUDGET 2016" BY TRANSFERRING

1 \$21,000.00 FROM ACCOUNT NO.
2 01.040.00040.4201 (DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS
3 ADMINISTRATION - BUREAU OF ADMINISTRATION
4 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES) TO ACCOUNT NO.
5 01.020.00000.4201 (OFFICE OF THE CITY
6 CLERK/CITY COUNCIL- PROFESSIONAL SERVICES)
7 TO PROVIDE SUFFICIENT FUNDING FOR THE
8 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES ACCOUNT THROUGH THE
9 2016 BUDGET PERIOD.

10 MR. WECHSLER: What is the
11 recommendation of the Chairperson for the
12 Committee on Finance?

13 MR. EVANS: As Chairperson for the
14 Committee on Finance, I recommend final
15 passage of Item 7-A.

16 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

19 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

20 MR. PERRY: Yes.

21 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

22 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

23 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

24 MR. EVANS: Yes.

25 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

1 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

2 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

3 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby
4 declare Item 7-A legally and lawfully
5 adopted.

6 MS. REED: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION
7 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION-
8 RESOLUTION NO. 100, 2017 - AUTHORIZING THE
9 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS
10 TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH
11 ARCADIS U.S., INC. TO PERFORM CITY OF
12 SCRANTON PRELIMINARY STORM WATER ANALYSIS.

13 MR. WECHSLER: As Chairperson for
14 the Committee on Rules, I recommend final
15 passage of Item 7-B.

16 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

19 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

20 MR. PERRY: Yes.

21 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

22 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

23 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

24 MR. EVANS: Yes.

25 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

1 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

2 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

3 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby
4 declare Item 7-B legally and lawfully
5 adopted.

6 MS. REED: 7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION BY
7 THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION-
8 RESOLUTION NO. 101, 2017 - RE-APPOINTMENT OF
9 KEVIN WHELAN, 1111 DELAWARE STREET,
10 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18509 AS A MEMBER OF
11 THE BOARD OF THE SCRANTON SEWER AUTHORITY
12 FOR AN ADDITIONAL FIVE (5) YEAR TERM
13 EFFECTIVE JANUARY 4, 2017. MR. WHELAN'S
14 PRIOR TERM EXPIRED ON DECEMBER 31, 2016 AND
15 HIS NEW TERM WILL EXPIRE ON JANUARY 4, 2022.

16 MR. WECHSLER: As Chairperson for
17 the Committee on Rules, I recommend final
18 passage of Item 7-C.

19 MR. ROGAN: Second.

20 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?
21 Roll call, please?

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

23 MR. PERRY: Yes.

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

25 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

2 MR. EVANS: Yes.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

4 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

6 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby
7 declare Item 7-C legally and lawfully
8 adopted.

9 MS. REED: 7-D. FOR CONSIDERATION BY
10 THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION -
11 RESOLUTION NO. 102, 2017 - RE-APPOINTMENT OF
12 PATRICK J. HUGHES, 15 FAWNWOOD DRIVE,
13 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18504 AS A MEMBER OF
14 THE BOARD OF THE SCRANTON SEWER AUTHORITY
15 FOR AN ADDITIONAL FIVE (5) YEAR TERM
16 EFFECTIVE JANUARY 4, 2017. MR. HUGHES'
17 PRIOR TERM EXPIRED DECEMBER 31, 2016 AND HIS
18 NEW TERM WILL EXPIRE ON JANUARY 4, 2022.

19 MR. WECHSLER: As Chairperson for
20 the Committee on Rules, I recommend final
21 passage of Item 7-D.

22 MR. ROGAN: Second.

23 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?
24 Roll call, please?

25 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

1 MR. PERRY: Yes.

2 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

3 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

5 MR. EVANS: Yes.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

9 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby
10 declare Item 7-D legally and lawfully
11 adopted.

12 MS. REED: 7-E - FORMERLY 6-B - FOR
13 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE -
14 FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 83-2017 -
15 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING FILE OF COUNCIL NO.
16 78, 2017, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING FILE OF THE
17 COUNCIL NO. 100, 1976, ENTITLED "AN
18 ORDINANCE (AS AMENDED) LEVYING GENERAL AND
19 SPECIAL TAXES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 1977", BY
20 SETTING THE MILLAGE FOR THE YEAR 2017 AND
21 THE SAME SHALL REMAIN IN FULL FORCE AND
22 EFFECT ANNUALLY THEREAFTER" BY AMENDING
23 SECTION 1 REVERTING BACK TO THE MILLAGE
24 RATES FROM 2016 WHICH ARE .232521 MILLS LEVY
25 ON LAND AND .050564 MILLS LEVY ON ALL

1 BUILDINGS AND BY ELIMINATING THE DEDICATED
2 MILLAGE FOR DEBT SERVICE CONTAINED IN
3 SECTION 2 AND REPLACING THE DEDICATED
4 MILLAGE FOR DEBT SERVICE WITH A DEDICATED
5 DEBT PERCENTAGE OF 32% OF REAL ESTATE TAX
6 REVENUES COLLECTED ON A CURRENT YEAR BASIS.
7 (EMERGENCY CERTIFICATE ATTACHED).

8 MR. WECHSLER: What is the
9 recommendation of the Chairperson for the
10 Committee on Finance?

11 MR. EVANS: As Chairperson for the
12 Committee on Finance, I recommend final
13 passage of Item 7-E.

14 MR. ROGAN: Second.

15 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?
16 Roll call, please?

17 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

18 MR. PERRY: Yes.

19 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

20 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

21 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

22 MR. EVANS: Yes.

23 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

25 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

1 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby
2 declare Item 7-E legally and lawfully
3 adopted.

4 MS. REED: 7-F - FORMERLY 6-C - FOR
5 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE -
6 FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.
7 84-2017 - AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF
8 THE COUNCIL NO. 65, 2016 AN ORDINANCE
9 "ENTITLED GENERAL CITY OPERATING BUDGET
10 2017" BY REVERTING BACK TO THE REAL ESTATE
11 TAX MILLAGE FROM 2016 OF .232521 MILLS LEVY
12 ON LAND AND .050564 MILLS LEVY ON ALL
13 BUILDINGS AND BY ELIMINATING THE DEDICATED
14 MILLAGE FOR DEBT SERVICE AND REPLACING THE
15 DEDICATED MILLAGE FOR DEBT SERVICE WITH A
16 DEDICATED DEBT SERVICE PERCENTAGE OF 32% OF
17 REAL ESTATE TAX REVENUE COLLECTED ON A
18 CURRENT YEAR BASIS AND BY INCREASING THE
19 PROJECTED EARNED INCOME TAX REVENUE FROM
20 \$25,898,760.41 TO \$26,614,677.49 AND BY
21 AMENDING ANY AND ALL SECTIONS OF THE 2017
22 BUDGET TO REFLECT THE AFOREMENTIONED
23 CHANGES. (EMERGENCY CERTIFICATE ATTACHED).

24 MR. WECHSLER: What is the
25 recommendation of the Chairperson for the

1 Committee on Finance?

2 MR. EVANS: As Chairperson for the
3 Committee on Finance, I recommend final
4 passage of Item 7-F.

5 MR. ROGAN: Second.

6 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?
7 Roll call, please?

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

9 MR. PERRY: Yes.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

11 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

13 MR. EVANS: Yes.

14 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

15 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

16 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

17 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby
18 declare Item 7-F legally and lawfully
19 adopted.

20 MR. ROGAN: Prior to adjournment,
21 there was one item I forgot to mention under
22 motions, we did send a letter to the
23 Scranton School Board president requesting
24 that the former Lincoln Jackson Elementary
25 property is put back out to bid. This was,

1 a Scranton Times wrote a good article about
2 this and took the neighborhood perspective
3 so we did send a formal letter requesting
4 that it is put back out to bid and I did
5 talk to the solicitor at the school board as
6 well as one of the developers that was
7 interested and it does look as though this
8 property will go back out to bid and
9 hopefully it will be back on the tax rolls.

10 MR. WECHSLER: If there is no
11 further business, I'll entertain a motion to
12 adjourn.

13 MR. ROGAN: Motion to adjourn.

14 MR. WECHSLER: Meeting adjourned.
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

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