

SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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HELD:

Thursday, March 9, 2017

LOCATION:

Council Chambers

Scranton City Hall

340 North Washington Avenue

Scranton, Pennsylvania

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

JOSEPH WECHSLER, PRESIDENT

PATRICK ROGAN, VICE-PRESIDENT

WAYNE EVANS

WILLIAM GAUGHAN

TIM PERRY

LORI REED, CITY CLERK

KATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

JOSEPH COLBASSANI, 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. Dispense with
14 the reading of the minutes.

15 MS. REED: THIRD ORDER. 3-A.

16 SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA FOR NON-UNIFORM
17 MUNICIPAL PENSION BOARD MEETING HELD MARCH
18 3, 2017.

19 MR. WECHSLER: Are there any
20 comments? If not, received and filed.

21 MS. REED: 3.B. MINUTES OF THE
22 REGULAR MEETING OF THE LACKAWANNA COUNTY
23 LAND BANK HELD FEBRUARY 10, 2017.

24 MR. WECHSLER: Are there any
25 comments? If not, received and filed. Do

1 any council members have announcements at
2 this time?

3 MR. PERRY: I have one quick
4 announcement. Colts, the County of
5 Lackawanna Transit system, is going to be
6 running free rides on parade day this year,
7 as they do every year. There will be some
8 detours set for Saturday due to the parade
9 route. Those could be found online, but
10 again, Colts will be running free bus rides
11 during the parade which is going to be, when
12 is the parade again? This Saturday?
13 Saturday at 11:00.

14 MR. ROGAN: I have one as well. On
15 Easter Sunday, Buona Pizza will be having a
16 free Easter lunch from 12 to 2 p.m. and all
17 are welcome to attend.

18 MR. WECHSLER: Just to follow-up on
19 Councilman Perry's remarks about the parade,
20 just to repeat it again the St. Patrick's
21 Day parade will be held this Saturday, March
22 11, at 11:45 a.m. The route begins at
23 Mulberry Street on Wyoming Avenue, taking a
24 left onto Lackawanna Avenue to Jefferson
25 Avenue then onto Spruce. The reviewing

1 stand is at the corner of North Washington
2 Avenue and Linden Street. Parking is
3 available at all city garages for \$5 for the
4 day. That includes the Marketplace at the
5 Steamtown garage. Colts will be offering
6 free bus transportation on all routes parade
7 day. Please expect traffic delays if you
8 need to travel through the downtown. I
9 would like to wish everyone a warm and happy
10 St. Patrick's Day, but it doesn't seem like
11 we are going to be very warm.

12 One other announcement. Council
13 will hold a work session tomorrow evening,
14 Friday, March 10, at 4 p.m. in the
15 Governor's room in city hall to discuss the
16 proceeds of the Sewer Authority sale. That
17 meeting is open to the public.

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

20 MR. WECHSLER: Joan Hodowanitz.

21 MS. HODOWANITZ: Joan Hodowanitz,
22 city resident and taxpayer. Just out of
23 curiosity, did any of you have a chance to
24 go to the book sale that the Friends of
25 Scranton Public Library ran last week raise

1 your hand? Gentlemen, for shame. Hang your
2 heads in shame. You know, the proceeds went
3 to the children's programs for the library
4 system and just so you understand, Jim
5 Lockwood, who just won a national award as a
6 reporter, he came twice, bought books and
7 CD's. Commissioner Patrick O'Malley came,
8 filled a bag of books, and last but not least,
9 Commissioner Laureen Cummings came and I
10 want you all to think about that and hang
11 your head in shame, but write this down, the
12 next book sale is June 6 through the 11 and
13 you should try to redeem yourselves.

14 Okay, 243 days until November 7, the
15 general election. 113 days to June 30, the
16 deadline for the 2016 audit. I was one of
17 the few citizens that attended the PEL
18 hearing on Tuesday, March 7, on Scranton
19 financial condition and I was really
20 embarrassed because I think there were --
21 well, there were three of you councilmen
22 were there. Wayne, you were there, Bill you
23 were there and, Joe, you were there, which I
24 thought was wonderful, but there were only
25 what four citizens? Marie, myself, Tom

1 Ungvarsky, and Dave Dobrzyn, I think, and I
2 just couldn't understand. It was 6:30 at
3 night so everybody was out of work. It was
4 after happy hour, so I couldn't understand
5 why there wasn't a better citizen turnout,
6 you know. A lot of citizens will, you know,
7 give you their two cents on what's wrong
8 with Scranton, but they won't take the time
9 to come and see what's going on there. They
10 had an opportunity to make comments, which
11 we cannot do tomorrow when you have your
12 work session, what's going to happen to the
13 proceeds from the Sewer Authority sale,
14 which is going to be what 4 p.m. tomorrow
15 afternoon in the Governor's room, and I
16 agree with Mr. Gaughan who mentioned in
17 caucus tonight that the acoustics in that
18 room is terrible so you will excuse me, I'm
19 a little old lady, I'm old enough for
20 Medicare, and I'm going to stand up and I'm
21 going to be sticking by head right in the
22 middle of the table because I'm going to
23 hear what people have to say and I don't
24 care who gets offended among your guests. I
25 think, you know, the one thing that this

1 administration falls short of is
2 transparency and full disclosure and if I
3 have to stand up and approach the table to
4 hear, I'm going to do it.

5 I saw articles in the Times-Tribune
6 this week, and an editorial, about the nine
7 municipalities in Lackawanna County that got
8 together to decide what they want to do
9 about storm water management and how they
10 may cooperate and work together to reduce
11 costs, and the one municipality I didn't see
12 mentioned was Scranton. Have you had
13 anything from the administration as to why
14 Scranton didn't try to get into that effort?
15 I thought that was a boat missed, that was
16 an opportunity missed. I understand that
17 the Arcadis study is in progress, but that
18 should not have precluded this
19 administration from sending somebody there
20 even just to sit as a bug on the wall. I
21 could not believe that you have Dickson City
22 and, what, Jessup and all of these other
23 places and no Scranton and what's the one
24 major shortfall on the sale of the Sewer
25 Authority? No one else has storm water

1 costs and, you know, to have passed up that
2 at that opportunity I think we shot
3 ourselves in the foot once again.

4 Speaking of shooting ourselves in
5 the foot, where is the RFP for the third
6 party administrator for the pension plans?
7 The one that was in the pipeline?

8 MR. EVANS: It's still --

9 MS. HODOWANITZ: In the pipeline?

10 MR. EVANS: Yeah, it's still in
11 that--

12 MS. HODOWANITZ: Is it like
13 Roto-Rooter.

14 MR. EVANS: It's in the pipeline.

15 MS. HODOWANITZ: It's in the pipe --
16 you know, the Army has a term BOHECA. Do
17 you know what BOHECA stands for? Bend over,
18 here it comes again. BOHECA. And speaking
19 of pensions, why haven't we seen anything
20 about ordinances from pension reform like,
21 you know, having people on disability,
22 having their disability reverified or what
23 are you going to do about somebody who gets
24 hired doing the same job elsewhere getting a
25 disability pension, whatever happened to

1 that?

2 MR. EVANS: That's going to be a lot
3 of heated discussion moving forward.

4 MS. HODOWANITZ: Well,
5 congratulations to Councilman Gaughan. I
6 love Granicus. The best thing you ever did.
7 Now, if you could just get IT to put the
8 January controller's report on the
9 controller's webpage I'll be happy. Thank
10 you.

11 MR. WECHSLER: Lenny Serebro.

12 MR. SEREBRO: Lenny Serebro,
13 Scranton resident. Did anybody review the
14 fire stick recording I gave last week?

15 MR. PERRY: I did not, no.

16 MR. SEREBRO: I handed it to her. I
17 was hoping you would look at a five-minute
18 video of the flooding in progress that we
19 deal with in Keyser Valley there. You know,
20 I truly considered coming here and getting
21 down on my knees and begging for somebody to
22 help us with the flooding problem. Now,
23 here I'm going to talk about the same thing
24 I did last week. In the February 25 storm
25 that we had, a 12-inch water drainage pipe

1 right in front of my property in the street
2 right at the curb ruptured and the water was
3 gushing up above four feet, was coming right
4 into my yard on my property, washed away the
5 topsoil, opened up about a six to eight inch
6 hole going directly into my cellar. I'm
7 repeating what I said last week that the
8 cellar flooded, I called DPW. They came
9 out, looked at it, confirmed a broken
10 drainage pipe and they put in a request to
11 the Fire Department to come and pump out my
12 cellar because at this time of the cellar
13 filling up the pump I have, because it's a
14 common problem for flooding in that area, it
15 stopped working. In the middle of that
16 storm, I had to run out to get another pump.

17 Now, the fire company never came,
18 nobody called, here it is two weeks later
19 and that broken pipe the ground washed away
20 so you can visually see the broken pipe,
21 nobody has come out. Next time it rains,
22 it's going to be the same scenario, my
23 cellar is going to get flooded. I had to
24 fill that hole with modified to seal the
25 hole but the water is going to find another

1 way into my basement, so there is that hole
2 right there. I would consider it a
3 dangerous situation, nobody has come out to
4 do anything about it. I had to get a steel
5 plate myself to put over the hole, I got a
6 safety cone to put in there.

7 I have been on the phone almost
8 every day calling DPW since that time what
9 they are going to do about it if they can
10 fix the problem. You know, nobody returns
11 my phone calls. I feel like I'm
12 blacklisted. Now, that nothing has ever --
13 is ever getting done about the 36-inch pipe
14 that's plugged solid or about two-thirds of
15 the way with debris, now I'm calling about
16 something else, I feel like they have a the
17 call identification that, oh, it's Lenny
18 Serebro again. I have -- I have left
19 messages with DPW various times during the
20 day. Like I said, every other day I called
21 the mayor's office, I left a message with
22 the director, a detailed message of this
23 problem. Now it's another problem. I'm not
24 even worried about the big drain pipe, but
25 oh, my God, next time it rains what do I

1 have to do to get some kind of -- somebody
2 to come out?

3 Now, I feel like I'm getting
4 blacklisted because I don't mean to talk bad
5 about DPW, but all I'm doing is stating my
6 issue. I know that you people know I don't
7 come here and be flipping out, you know, and
8 I talked to -- leave the messages with DPW,
9 you know, about the problem in a very civil
10 way of, you know, like I normally talk, but
11 nothing is getting done.

12 And, see, you don't even want to
13 look at that video that shows the terrible
14 flooding that's going on at the time, I just
15 feel like I'm blacklisted because instead of
16 keeping my mouth shut I just can't sit there
17 and take it all, and I spoke about the
18 garbage truck that comes through. Now it's
19 going on our -- not just mine, but two other
20 people's property putting deep ruts because
21 the road is washed out from the flooding,
22 and I don't mean to talk about bad about the
23 garbage truck driver, but he tries to avoid
24 those deep ruts and comes on our lawns and
25 it's really destroying the lawn. See, I

1 spoke about that last week, too. Nothing.

2 I mean, what did you guys do? Do
3 you do anything? This has been since last
4 summer I have been pleading my case. I have
5 had all of the neighbors here, we had a
6 caucus. See, nothing. Absolutely nothing
7 has been done. Thank you.

8 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr.
9 Serebro. We have been in contact with DPW,
10 we are trying to make it work. Personally,
11 we don't do that. That is the
12 responsibility of Director Gallagher and the
13 administration. All we can do is put
14 pressure on them, that's what we are doing.

15 MR. SEREBRO: The usual.

16 MR. WECHSLER: Les Spindler.

17 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening,
18 Council. Les Spindler, city resident and
19 homeowner and taxpayer. Councilman Perry, I
20 want to thank you for something else again
21 now, I'm always thanking you, we got that
22 left turn lane on Main Avenue to Oram
23 Street.

24 MR. PERRY: Oh, yeah.

25 MR. SPINDLER: Now, if we could get

1 it at the corner of North Main and Jackson
2 Street going north.

3 MR. PERRY: Baby steps. We are
4 getting there.

5 MR. SPINDLER: It used to there and
6 after they paved it it's not.

7 MR. ROGAN: We still that need that
8 Brunetti's to be fixed, too.

9 MR. SPINDLER: Yeah, that's another
10 one. People keep coming out of there the
11 wrong way. Two weeks ago I spoke to you
12 about Princeton University losing their
13 nonprofit status and the city should look
14 into that, did council look into that?

15 MR. ROGAN: I read the article.

16 MR. SPINDLER: Yeah, but?

17 MR. ROGAN: I read it and, again,
18 it's a legal opinion whether we can do
19 something like that or not in Pennsylvania.
20 I think it's definitely worth exploring.

21 MR. SPINDLER: That's what I said.
22 At least look into it, it doesn't hurt to
23 look into it that a precedent was set there.

24 MR. EVANS: Mr. Spindler, I wasn't
25 here two weeks ago, can you refresh -- could

1 you tell me what that was about?

2 MR. SPINDLER: The town of
3 Princeton, New Jersey, sued Princeton
4 University, to have their nonprofit status
5 taken away and they won.

6 MR. EVANS: Oh, wow. Okay.

7 MR. SPINDLER: That was brought to
8 my attention, I didn't see it, but
9 Councilman Rogan --

10 MR. ROGAN: There is an article, I
11 can send it to you.

12 MR. SPINDLER: I think it's
13 definitely something that should be looked
14 into because a lot of us have been
15 complaining about the nonprofits not giving
16 their fair share for years and years and
17 years. The university has taken away
18 taxpaying properties and it's got to stop.
19 They have to pay more than they are paying
20 because they are giving us nothing compared
21 to what they should be.

22 Okay, for quite awhile now
23 Greenridge residents are coming here
24 complaining about properties caving in and
25 flooding and this and that, and I feel bad

1 for the Youngs, but this didn't happen
2 overnight. As the speaker said last week,
3 this has been going on for 30 years and even
4 the Young's attorney says it's going on for
5 30 years, where were these people before
6 when Chris Doherty was in office? Why
7 weren't they complaining then? He was in
8 office 12 out of those 30 years and I was
9 here all of these years, not one person came
10 and complained. God forbid they come and
11 complain about Chris Doherty. They would
12 have been exiled out of Greenridge probably.
13 The Seitzingers are always here complaining.
14 Oh, I forgot, they worked for him so they
15 couldn't complain, but I don't have any pity
16 on them, they just started coming out of the
17 woodwork now, it's been going on for 30
18 years, they should have been here the 12
19 years Chris Doherty was in office. This
20 stuff didn't happen overnight.

21 Lastly, there was an article about
22 the double pensions last week in the paper
23 that these people aren't going to get it
24 anymore, that's another thing, these people
25 should go after Chris Doherty, not the city.

1 It was in the paper, he is the one that
2 offered the incentive for double pensions
3 and it was wrong, he never should have done
4 that. He didn't have the right to offer
5 double pensions, so these people should go
6 after ex-Mayor Doherty who personally killed
7 this city, but nobody listened to us that we
8 were coming here all those years saying that
9 he is going to do that. They called us the
10 Legion of Doom because we always talked
11 against King Chris, but everything we said
12 was true. Our taxes got raised, the fire
13 department won a big settlement, that's
14 killing the city, nobody wants to listen,
15 and that's all I have tonight. I hope
16 everyone has a happy St. Patrick's Day.
17 Thank you.

18 MR. WECHSLER: Bob Bolus.

19 MR. BOLUS: Good evening, Council.
20 Bob Bolus, Scranton. It's nice to see young
21 people showing up here and get an
22 understanding of what government is all
23 about, good and bad. You guys will get an
24 education here, believe me. It's your
25 future we are dealing with.

1 You know, I was in here a long time
2 ago, I came in, if you recall, Mr. Wechsler.
3 I was asked by Albert and Elaine Young to
4 address their issues and you told me I can't
5 speak for them. I had to shut up basically
6 and let them talk, which they were very
7 uncomfortable. It was about the water
8 problem in he Meadow Creek, Meadowbrook
9 Creek disaster, the issues they had then and
10 then you hear this gentleman here today
11 coming in here talking. Now, you people sit
12 here and say it's up to the administration,
13 did you ever think of holding the
14 administration hostage by not passing his
15 legislation and doing his bidding so that
16 these people get the service they desire?
17 That's what leadership is about. Not sit
18 here and push the football around, these
19 people here they are -- I'm speaking them,
20 they have never been taken care of, it's
21 been going on for 20 years and we did
22 nothing, but you guys can sit here and sign
23 off on millions and millions of dollars for
24 legal fees to lawyers for the Sewer
25 Authority, Conaboy for the parking garage, a

1 million and a half dollars, and you sign off
2 all of this stuff and they look like at you
3 don't know what the heck is going on.

4 What's going on with the parking
5 garage? You gave him 4 1/2 million, almost
6 \$7 million for parking spaces so the people
7 could park. Is it my understanding that
8 Basalyga is now charging \$10 a car for the
9 St. Patrick's Day parade for people to park
10 there? Do you have any idea of that? Is
11 that going to be permitted? Those are our
12 parking spaces we just paid millions of
13 dollars for, and I better not see a sign
14 telling anybody that's going to pay \$10 on
15 that mall to park there, then you people
16 should make sure that doesn't happen because
17 that's our money that should be refunded
18 back to us if he is abusing the gift you
19 people gave him, and I mean it's a gift. It
20 was just the most ludicrous deal I ever saw
21 in this city, and these are the issues I
22 came here for.

23 I came here for a lot of other
24 reasons, and what bothers me why when -- we
25 had this all about women yesterday, why

1 young women, women like this, don't run for
2 seats there. Janet Evans set some
3 precedent, why don't they run for mayor in
4 the City of Scranton or other Boroughs.
5 They have the leadership skills, probably
6 some of them have more damn common sense
7 than most of us and look at things that can
8 get things done. Just remember when you
9 were a kid it was, "See your mother, not
10 your father," who took over and did
11 something.

12 So I'm reaching out to all women,
13 start getting involved here. Don't sit
14 home, come here and get involved, you can do
15 a better job than a lot of people here. You
16 know, I don't want to see backdoor deals
17 here again in the backroom. This is what is
18 here. We got plenty of room here for people
19 to talk. Mr. Wechsler, you want to have
20 meetings privately and then you are going to
21 come out and you are going to tell us what
22 you think we should hear or what we know or
23 what you remember. I don't want to hear
24 from you. I don't want to hear from any
25 council member that sits in a back door

1 meeting. We want you right here. That's
2 where you belong. That's where the mayor
3 belongs. He sat on this council, he belongs
4 here, but he is not doing his job.

5 When you are done with the money put
6 \$3 1/2 million back in the golf course money
7 that was taken that was put there, and the
8 interest was the amusement parks and
9 recreation, we won't have empty swimming
10 pools, we won't have a park in disarray and
11 you will have a cushion of 3 1/2 million and
12 the interest being used. That's common
13 sense. That's what you owe the people.

14 I got involved here because the
15 zoning board, I had a meeting here over the
16 containers at my house. I had people saying
17 from East Mountain Neighborhood Association,
18 which you and I used to be involved in, if
19 you recall that, and I walked away from it
20 because I couldn't stand them then and now I
21 can't even stand them more, and they came in
22 here with Hinton saying my containers are a
23 threat or an issue. I'm 700 feet away.
24 They don't bother anybody, but we are
25 playing a stupid game again and we are going

1 to go to Court and spend money and we are
2 going to go on.

3 To see this here going on just
4 turned my stomach. I watched today at Linda
5 Kay's restaurant, the contractor was working
6 there, he takes a couple of minutes and he
7 is trying to do some work there and they
8 came out and said they couldn't do it
9 because it wasn't residential work. If you
10 had two apartments it's okay to do
11 residential, if you work on a third one you
12 are considered commercial. That's what's
13 going on here in the City of Scranton. It's
14 a travesty. Total mismanagement. Total
15 confusion. And that's one of the things
16 that bothered me, we are never going to get
17 out of distress. In three years you
18 squandered every bloody penny here because
19 you spend millions.

20 That's the reason that I seen what
21 Mr. Wechsler has done, hammer people out,
22 disrespect people --

23 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr. Bolus.

24 MR. BOLUS: And you can do it, but
25 I'm going to finish one more thing here, and

1 I don't want you every thanking me --

2 MR. WECHSLER: One minute is to
3 finish your thought, not to --

4 MR. BOLUS: No, Mr. Wechsler,
5 understand something it's reasons because of
6 you, people like Hinton that I elected to
7 run for mayor again in this City of
8 Scranton.

9 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr. Bolus.

10 MR. BOLUS: Because if anything
11 needs to be cleaned up and the stench of
12 mismanagement that you people have signed
13 off on needs to be addressed and addressed
14 now and you need to be held accountable more
15 than anybody else.

16 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr. Bolus.

17 MR. BOLUS: Don't thank me because
18 you are going to regret this, don't ever
19 thank me for nothing because if it's the
20 last thing I do it will be to see you on
21 this seat again.

22 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr. Bolus.

23 MR. WECHSLER: Ron Ellman.

24 MR. ELLMAN: That's another hard act
25 to follow, but you gentlemen know that the

1 city gets one \$175 for every car towed in?
2 Didn't know it? Where is this money going?
3 You know how many cars are towed in daily?
4 Can you imagine how people that need
5 transportation, let's just say lower income
6 people, don't have the funds to pay \$175 to
7 the city to pay a tow bill no matter what
8 the reason is, and the storage if they were
9 in the jail or the hospital or whatever,
10 there are dozen of cars lost every week
11 because of these expenses.

12 You people have just figured out who
13 to suck the city dry every which way you
14 can, but here I have listened to a man said
15 he'd get on his hands and knees pleading for
16 help, you can give a half a million dollars
17 again to downtown, but you can can't fix our
18 curbs. You can't fix -- you just don't do
19 nothing like you should except worry about
20 that bunch of people downtown. That's all
21 we hear about. This isn't Bulzoni's money,
22 it's the city's for God's sake. He has no
23 business without this going before council
24 or someplace saying we are going to give a
25 half a million dollars more to downtown.

1 Well, before I explode, I'll let it go. I
2 didn't show up last week because I didn't
3 want to get in a -- confront that Charlotte
4 Lewis about making this is a sanctuary city.
5 I can't -- where do these people come from?

6 And you, Tim Perry, you advocated
7 this in the paper, who did you think comes
8 to a sanctuary city?

9 MR. PERRY: No, I didn't --

10 MR. ELLMAN: You think an architect
11 is going to come or a brain surgeon?
12 Criminals come, that's who needs sanctuary.
13 That's all we need around here.

14 MR. PERRY: Well, I didn't advocate
15 it.

16 MR. ELLMAN: I read the article in
17 the paper, you advocated it. You didn't see
18 nothing wrong in it.

19 MR. PERRY: No, I didn't --

20 MR. ELLMAN: Can you imagine this
21 city, we are already like Hazelton with
22 problems, making -- I don't know. I just
23 can't imagine somebody thinking like this at
24 this day and time. We hear every day about
25 things in Chicago, problems. Philadelphia,

1 San Francisco, their crime is rampant. I
2 remember that letter you wrote me how things
3 are going to change voting for you. Boy,
4 that was a mistake.

5 MR. PERRY: I'm sorry you feel that
6 way.

7 MR. ELLMAN: That's one of the
8 biggest mistakes I ever made. That's why I
9 threw that letter down right there. All of
10 those promises. Well, to change the subject
11 again, I was reading about the three bridges
12 that may be repaired, I probably won't live
13 long enough to see that, you know what they
14 need to do is fire that Mr. May from PennDOT
15 with his circles. I have been lost going to
16 the airport. I never seen nothing so
17 ridiculous and having to drive around and
18 figure out how to get there. They ought to
19 hire DeNaples. They probably get it done in
20 a couple of days and save tens of millions
21 of dollars. PennDOT, you know who works for
22 PennDOT? People that aren't good enough to
23 work for engineering companies. That's why
24 PennDOT is in such disarray continuously,
25 and I don't care who likes it and who

1 able to follow the events of Scranton,
2 specifically with respect to the sale of the
3 sewer plant, and it is somewhat disturbing
4 because seems that the biggest focus is on
5 the professional fees. Well, I can't tell
6 you whether those professional fees are
7 reasonable or not. I will tell you some of
8 the people, like the Uron Consulting Group,
9 was in the same line of business that I was
10 in, so I'm familiar with it. The lawyers,
11 those fees didn't shock me either, but what
12 did shock me was the \$12 million that nobody
13 knows what happened, and I say that because
14 all you have received so far is an
15 explanation. Those explanations I found to
16 be wholly inadequate.

17 Let me explain to you. There is \$12
18 million short of cash. There was a cash
19 amount established at the beginning of the
20 transaction and at the end there was about
21 \$12 million short. What are the things that
22 impact cash? Not a lot. Let's say loss
23 from operations, that's possible, but I
24 looked at the operations for the Sewer
25 Authority for the last three years and in

1 December 31st of 2015, and frankly, they had
2 profitable operations, so I know unless
3 something drastically changed in 2016 that
4 wasn't it. I looked at the capital
5 expenditures, including those under the
6 consent decree. The amounts looked
7 reasonable from year to year. One might
8 have been, but that blip was caused by
9 something unusual, but you borrowed the
10 money, they borrowed the money to do that.

11 So I am now at a lost. Where could
12 the money have gone? It doesn't appear it
13 was from operations, but it might have been,
14 but if it did something happened, something
15 that did to the happen in the previous three
16 years. It could be significant operating
17 expenses, maybe maintenance expenses, and
18 maybe those expenses were to improve the
19 sewer plant. Maybe there are capital
20 expenditures. Maybe they relate to the
21 plant itself. Maybe some repairs, some
22 modernization other than what was routinely
23 being done year after year.

24 Now, then comes the question, why
25 did they do it if those are the issues,

1 which you are not going to be able to find
2 out until you start digging. Now, I equated
3 if it turns out that a lot of money was
4 spent in that \$12 million for maintenance
5 that was not done in the past to improve the
6 plant or for capital expenditures I would
7 equate it to no different than council
8 entering into an agreement to sell your
9 house, but at some point in the future you
10 and the arm's length buyer established a
11 price, but in the interim between the day
12 you entered into your agreement and the
13 closing either you on a benevolent basis or
14 at the insistent of the buyer then you
15 renovate your kitchen and your bathroom
16 without an increase in the sale price. It
17 doesn't seem right. That's just not good
18 sound business.

19 Now, council has done a couple of
20 good things, and the first was getting
21 something in writing. You asked a couple of
22 questions, and I love people to do things in
23 writing. Paper has always been my friend.
24 I used to do a lot of litigation defense
25 work for law firms, none locally, across the

1 United States. I did work for the
2 Department of Justice in pursuing people
3 that defrauded the government, so paper has
4 always been my friend. You got it first.
5 Now, here is what I believe the key is. You
6 want to find out what happened? You need to
7 take a look at the records, all of them, not
8 just the financial records, but all the
9 records. I have heard a whole variety of
10 things. I have heard that, well, you sent
11 the letters, you got written requests, I
12 hear special council, and attorney/client
13 privilege. I will tell you in my
14 experience, particularly doing work for and
15 against the DOJ, one of the things that
16 worked really well for them was asking those
17 people who said they did nothing wrong in
18 the spirit of the transparency to ask them
19 to waive attorney/client privilege.

20 So what I would urge council to do
21 is send a demand to the mayor, who should
22 also send a mayor to the Sewer Authority
23 board and, frankly, is politically
24 controlled, asking to waive attorney/client
25 privilege. I believe you need to bring

1 something in from the outside. There is too
2 much collegiality among Lackawanna Bar. You
3 need to bring in an outside consultant and a
4 lawyer to find out what happened to the \$12
5 million and, frankly, I don't view it as my
6 \$12 million. I view that \$12 million as
7 money that could have been put into the
8 union pension plan.

9 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr. Foley,
10 unfortunately, your time is up. Thank you.
11 Anyone else?

12 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,
13 citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians,
14 well, you know I have been calling for an
15 investigation into this whole deal for quite
16 awhile not only with the Sewer Authority but
17 the Parking Authority, and in the Parking
18 Authority way worse than the sewer deal. We
19 lost millions of dollars with the parking.
20 Not only did we take out a loan for \$30
21 million, we are paying almost the same price
22 back to what we would have had if we bought
23 the place in the first play, which we should
24 have done. How you can say that a person
25 that doesn't put a penny in it when it's a

1 good ole' Joe you are going to give him a
2 lease. You don't charge him for the lease.
3 You give it to him. Give your good friend
4 and he is going to do things for you. How
5 dumb do you think we are? The guy that put
6 a penny into the deal you gave him a lease
7 for \$28 million because you like him, and
8 then he turns around and hires another
9 company to run it.

10 Now, you never said whether that
11 company that's under it is a profit or a
12 nonprofit. I will assume it's a profit
13 because if it's a nonprofit what good would
14 it be to you? Not only did we do that, then
15 we turned around and gave a garage for a
16 dollar, which was nothing wrong with your
17 ripped up ethics. Maybe the Globe parking
18 was a little run down, but the annex
19 certainly wasn't. It wasn't condemned, it
20 was bringing in I think they said around
21 \$300,000 a year, but you thought that was
22 worthless. You all thought it was
23 worthless. Then you turned around and gave
24 \$4.1 million to lease space in his garage
25 knowing that you are tearing down space in

1 your garage. Did that make sense? No.

2 I called for an investigation. I
3 wish there was more lawyers that would come
4 forward and demand an investigation. We
5 spent more money on these what you call
6 selling of assets and ridding of assets than
7 it would be if we kept the assets. It's
8 going to cost us more than if we kept the
9 assets, but I don't know how you didn't see
10 that.

11 You are looking at figures, I know
12 there have been \$4.1 million here and
13 another \$1.2 million here for lawyer's fees
14 and bond fees and these fees and that fees,
15 something made out real good. Did the
16 citizens of Scranton make out real good?
17 No. It's just too bad they don't realize
18 what was done and how it was done and for
19 whose benefit it was done, but not for the
20 citizens. Thank you.

21 MR. WECHSLER: Anyone else?

22 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.
23 You guys got kind of white when that guy was
24 talking about investigations. I think he
25 unhinged you a little bit. You know, I'd

1 like to say this that, you know, St. Patty's
2 Day is coming and I think the people really
3 need to think about that for a minute
4 because I think Scranton is lot like
5 Ireland, believe it or not, before they left
6 there they had the lace curtain Irish and
7 the Shanty Irish. Well, the Lace Curtain
8 Irish are running the city, and the rest of
9 the Irish, which is the rest of us, whether
10 you are Irish or not, well, you're the
11 Shanty Irish, and the Lace Curtain Irish
12 just keep abusing the Shanty Irish because
13 what are they, just stuff to be walked all
14 over.

15 I mean, driving to council today was
16 almost ridiculous. I'm just sorry that I
17 didn't drive my Ford Ranger truck because it
18 would have did a much better job of getting
19 their considering the beating the suspension
20 took to get here, and we didn't have a hard
21 winter, but things that take place in this
22 city are beyond corrupt, they really are.

23 Two councilmen meeting, either with
24 the solicitor or whatever you want to call,
25 you know, the gentleman running the Sewer

1 Authority now, whatever title you want to
2 give him, holding meetings and talking to
3 other people. It only skirts the sunshine
4 laws. It's all things that the public
5 should know, but the people we elect they
6 have no concern for the people they
7 represent because they really don't
8 represent them, and it's gone on for a long
9 time and we sit here and we watch certain
10 council members smile about the silliness
11 that's taking place here and I don't find it
12 disrespectful, because some people are
13 ignorant and some people don't understand
14 what getting elected to a public office
15 should mean, because I believe a lot of
16 people who get elected think it's pay to
17 play time, and with a lot of decisions that
18 have been made in this city, I had a
19 conversation with Mr. Cross, the head of the
20 PEL, whatever title you want to give him, I
21 called him on a Sunday, and he must have had
22 an ID on his phone and he called me back,
23 and he told me the city could have filed for
24 bankruptcy and told me the year and
25 everything. He said that's over.

1 So the people that elected us --
2 were elected to represent us, could have
3 took the city that way but they didn't, and
4 all of the borrowing and all of the selling
5 of public assets and public parks. I mean,
6 what would the city do is the federal
7 government came in here and said, "You sold
8 the South Side Sports Complex and it was
9 illegal because it was built with Section 70
10 funds and we want the money."

11 And what would this council do if
12 what this gentleman standing here actually
13 was speaking about came true and the Feds
14 came in and wanted to start talking to you
15 gentlemen and the mayor and various other
16 formerly elected representatives of people
17 and the sale and the mismanagement of our
18 assets? What would you say to that because
19 I know you wouldn't be that ignorant to them
20 because somebody would sit you down in a
21 chair and tell you, "Shut up and listen and
22 we are going to talk to you and you going to
23 talk back to us and then we are going to
24 determine what we are going to do with you
25 and this is the crime we think you

1 committed, we may have take you to Court,
2 but how would you like to go to jail?"

3 And then I think you would all sing
4 a different tune because your suits would be
5 all different because it's obvious from what
6 I have seen coming here for almost at least
7 25 years I don't keep track of time, but
8 nothing good has come here. Nothing.
9 Absolutely nothing. There is nothing that
10 you can say that's taken place in this city
11 in the last 25 years that was good for the
12 residents, and I can judge that by my own
13 children who won't live in the city an by
14 all of the children I grew up who left and
15 never came back, and then the couple of us
16 that stayed here and thought we would make a
17 living, look it, I have no complaints. I
18 pay almost \$70 in tax just to live in this
19 city so by that tax you can see the kind of
20 money I earn. It's amazing and I could
21 double that but I won't because I live here
22 and I can understand the pathetic people we
23 elect to represent us because the people in
24 this city don't understand what good
25 representation is. It's all about who you

1 know, and don't worry, he is our friend, she
2 is our friend, and they are going to take
3 care of us, and you can imagine what you can
4 do with a suit on. Look at yourself in the
5 mirror some day, but also look at this city
6 and see what it looks like and smile about
7 it because, look it, the sewer deal was
8 terrible, the parking garage deal was
9 terrible, the sale of our assets was
10 terrible, the tax increases are terrible,
11 our roads are terrible. Think of something
12 nice though. Thank you.

13 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you.

14 MS. SCHUMACHER: Marie Schumacher.
15 Well, I want to thank Mr. Gaughan for
16 ferreting out Granicus. I come close to
17 saying it was worth the wait. It would have
18 been nice to have it a long time ago and
19 saved a lot of time and energy and quarters,
20 but it is good that it is finally here and
21 it's working and I hope it will continue to
22 work.

23 Now, first, I'd like to question why
24 tomorrow's working session is being held in
25 the governor's room instead of here in

1 council chambers? Not only are the
2 acoustics terrible in the governor's room,
3 but holding this important meeting in
4 council chambers would allow for the session
5 to be available on ECTV for those unable to
6 attend the meeting. This is your chambers.
7 I don't know why you are not meeting in here
8 and I will be shoulder to shoulder with Joan
9 leaning in to hear, it's that bad,
10 especially -- and I'm sure the fans will be
11 put on so that it further causes hearing
12 problems.

13 Okay, next, I would like to say I
14 was very happy to read in the paper this
15 morning that Judge Gibbons overruled the
16 City's preliminary objections to the lawsuit
17 filed by the Young and Kennedy families. I
18 trust this case will proceed expeditiously
19 and the properties will be returned to their
20 original condition as promised by the
21 Scranton Sewer Authority at the meeting held
22 at Lackawanna College on the issue of
23 property rights. It's the right thing to
24 do. I congratulate and thank Judge Gibbons
25 for what is he doing. I don't like the city

1 has to spend the money, but if the city
2 probably would have done this sometime, you
3 know, in the last 40 years that he has been
4 complaining it probably wouldn't cost as
5 much as it is going to cost now so I will be
6 not happy, but at least my tax money will be
7 going to something right.

8 And this poor gentleman, Mr.
9 Serebro, and I don't know what happened to
10 that poor little widow lady that was also
11 getting flooded every time he got flooded
12 and it just -- it's just plain not right,
13 neither is 307 right. I mean, taking down
14 horses doesn't fix anything. I would urge
15 you to go up and walk along that shoulder
16 where the drop off where the white line at
17 the end again is after two years of having
18 been filled in, is crumbled away and measure
19 just what it is. If you go off there with
20 your tires. It just plain isn't right and
21 it's going to be a big bill to fix and I
22 hope that we hear tomorrow how much is going
23 to be set aside, although I'm not really a
24 fan of escrow accounts because it's pick,
25 pick, pick and soon it's all gone just like,

1 you know, \$500,000 there. I think Mr. Rogan
2 had something last week \$108 thousand for a
3 project in West Scranton, you know --

4 MR. ROGAN: That was for the
5 flooding situation.

6 MS. SCHUMACHER: Yeah, I understand,
7 but there are other flooding situations, I
8 think they all need to be looked at and we
9 need to know what they are all and we need
10 to cover them. All of those fees that were
11 paid in that you are treating as a windfall,
12 weren't a windfall at all, guys, that was
13 our money and we are going to have to pay it
14 again because now we have to pay in the
15 PAWC.

16 The double pension meeting last
17 Friday, when, if ever, will we get to the
18 bottom of what really happened, what was
19 offered to those people? I mean --

20 MR. ROGAN: Our subpoenas are still
21 tied up in the Courts, so we are waiting to
22 get a determination on that regarding
23 getting the state police records.

24 MS. SCHUMACHER: When?

25 MR. ROGAN: Hopefully we get them.

1 MR. WECHSLER: I think that is just
2 how it happened, the testimony on what they
3 were offered I think that's all part of the
4 Court case. What they were offered and I'm
5 sure those people made that case during the
6 testimony.

7 MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, you know, I
8 have no way of knowing that but I would like
9 to know. I mean, I have heard everything
10 from it was for a couple of years until they
11 reached a certain date, but even, you know,
12 it was hard listening to some of those
13 people and I didn't get here at the very
14 beginning, but what also I found was less
15 than classy was the fact that the mayor sent
16 his proxy, it was the city solicitor, or the
17 HR person, I'm not sure, I guess it was the
18 HR person. Mr. Wechsler, you sent Lori, she
19 had to vote against those people who were
20 here, and Roseann Novembrino, our
21 controller, was not here, she had a proxy.
22 I think it would do you all good once in
23 awhile to come and sit in on those meetings,
24 and I have lots more but I will have to let
25 it go for another week. Thank you.

1 MR. WECHSLER: Anyone else?

2 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening, Council.
3 Dave Dobrzyn, resident. A few weeks back,
4 we had some people in talking on law
5 enforcement issues and last week, last
6 Wednesday night, Marty Flynn threw a seminar
7 over at the Hilton, they had free sodas and
8 stuff, that wasn't the reason I went, it's
9 PA with the advice of Governor, PA Board of
10 Pardons guide, and if you can get in touch
11 with Marty Flynn and get some of these
12 pamphlets you could familiarize yourself
13 with what it takes and how long an arrest
14 record can follow you around and dog you
15 into an early grave because it just goes on
16 and on.

17 What this book says is that if you
18 are arrested for any significant crime it
19 will follow you until you are 70 years old,
20 then if you are not -- haven't been arrested
21 for ten years you can get an instant pardon.
22 Otherwise, file the paperwork, run back and
23 forth to Harrisburg, go on year after year,
24 three years you might get a hearing and
25 maybe you don't because they only give a

1 couple of hundred away a year, so it's
2 something you want to consider.

3 Yesterday, I saw some rather stern
4 faces over our Auditor General comments on
5 legalizing whacky packy, but the point being
6 that we really want to consider what we are
7 condemning somebody to before we arrest them
8 and see if there is an alternative and also
9 consider the fact that if you do get a
10 concentration of people with arrest records
11 and so forth, and this was absolutely free
12 you went over the Hilton and it wasn't a
13 wining and dining, but it was a very
14 interesting conference and if you can get in
15 touch with Marty Flynn maybe we'll be lucky
16 if they left a book of these around or a box
17 of books, these little pamphlets.

18 And next summer, every summer for
19 the last seven years or eight years, I
20 attended the People's Law School. It's
21 thrown free by the Bar Association, it was
22 at the mall this year, last year, and it has
23 different things of interest and you can
24 also talk to people from the D.A.'s Office,
25 they have a crime night and elderly law

1 night, which I would think would be very
2 helpful to somebody in the council position,
3 so enough said on that for now.

4 Flooding, please, do what you can to
5 help these people, they are getting kind of
6 hyper pitched here and Mr. Serebro, who
7 would like his video back, he told me to
8 mention that quick.

9 And pension investments, now, I'm
10 not against using the money for the pension,
11 I want the money used for the pension. I
12 want right to be done by the employees of
13 this city and for retirees. We do need some
14 reforms, but my major concern is that it
15 will be handed out to Wall Street and the
16 sharks will just jump on that hunk of meat
17 and devour it in a matter of months or years
18 and we'll be even worse off than ever.

19 5-F, we have a thing there about
20 recycling and coordination, well, we haven't
21 had any progress report and I don't want to
22 be critical, I don't know what the people
23 are up to, but I would be willing to listen
24 to the progress report, and my point is that
25 I don't see lot of progress, I see large

1 cardboard boxes out in front and behind
2 houses along with garbage cans and stuff
3 like that, so I'd really like to see some
4 kind of progress or something gets started
5 and some kind of program because I'm sure a
6 good portion of that \$300 a year is just
7 going all off for wet card board and that's
8 not right. Thank you and have a good night.

9 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr.
10 Dobrzyn. Anyone else?

11 MS. REED: FIFTH ORDER. 5-A.
12 MOTIONS.

13 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Perry?

14 MR. PERRY: Thank you. Where to
15 start today. Let's start with the sanctuary
16 city that was brought up. I don't know how
17 else to go on the record by saying I'm
18 against being a sanctuary city. When I was
19 I interviewed weeks ago, weeks ago, by the
20 Scranton Times I just didn't know enough
21 about it one way or the other so I didn't
22 want to give a state yes answer or a no. I
23 mean, sometimes it's okay to say I don't
24 know and that's basically what I did, but
25 after my research I don't think you are

1 going to find anybody that is more consumed
2 with public safety than I am. It's my top
3 most widely -- the government's top most
4 function that they have to their
5 individuals, to their taxpayers, to the
6 people that visit the city, to people that
7 visit this country is safety. If you are
8 not safe when you are here, you are not
9 going to want to be here. And let me tell
10 you, if you think for one second that we are
11 going to give safe harbor to somebody
12 without, without the ability to extradite
13 them there is no way, you go somewhere else.
14 There is not type of city that I want so
15 that's my answer for a sanctuary city, and
16 not to mention there is federal funding that
17 we would lose which makes no sense at well,
18 so let me just get that out of the way on
19 the record.

20 Also, what else do we have? Oh,
21 Lenny, I feel for you. It's not enough.
22 It's not an answer you want to hear, but
23 what I tell you that every day I'm working
24 on something, making a phone call, sending
25 out letters, having Mrs. Reed contact

1 people, if I knew how to fix the problem
2 myself I would put gloves on and do it. I
3 don't. But it's not done by it's not for
4 lack of trying by myself and any time I ask
5 for help from any of my councilmen they are
6 more than happy to help me push, but we are
7 pushing as hard as we could. I do
8 apologize, it's not done yet, but I don't
9 want you to think indication that somehow,
10 someway that the people up here don't care
11 because I know we do, and it hurts. We
12 feel. When you feel pain we feel pain and I
13 just wish there was absolutely more we could
14 do for you, but that doesn't mean we are
15 going to stop.

16 I'll keep making my phone calls as
17 you do, you are hitting the same road as I
18 am which doesn't go far, and it's starting
19 to turn into multiple problems and I
20 understand stand that, too, but that doesn't
21 mean we just shut down and let it go away.
22 We'll keep calling, we'll keep writing
23 letters, we'll keep showing up, we will do
24 what we have to do until we get the problem
25 fixed. I can't promise you it's going to be

1 fixed by tomorrow, but I can promise you I'm
2 not going to stop until it's fixed. I wish
3 it was -- I could do it on a more timely
4 basis for you, I really do and I hope you
5 believe me.

6 What else do we have? Just item 5-C
7 tonight, which I want to do some research
8 on, it's for an application for a grant for
9 the Scranton Police Department
10 anti-terrorism, it's going to fall under the
11 umbrella of anti-terrorism. It's a \$45,000
12 grant which is going to be spread out three
13 years with a company that it comes up with a
14 software to help fight -- it's kind of a
15 like a tactical software program that the
16 military uses. I had the pleasure of
17 talking to Sergeant Carroll today about it,
18 he is the front runner on this grant, and
19 basically what it is, is we will use St.
20 Patrick's Day parade, this software could
21 grid the parade and account for every police
22 officer on that parade route, so the CO or
23 anybody who has basically a cell phone who
24 has this app they know where every police
25 officer is and they know who the closest one

1 to the issue, and if there is an issue and
2 it's going to make just manpowering a
3 certain situation that much easier Sergeant
4 Carroll explained to me, and it also works
5 with other municipalities around the state
6 program, whether it's Carbondale or Taylor,
7 Moosic or whoever has this -- even dispatch
8 could be aware of where the police officers
9 are.

10 If there were, God forbid, an active
11 shooter in a local school somewhere, not
12 everybody knows where the chemistry lab is.
13 Not everybody knows where all of these --
14 this software will drop the blueprints right
15 onto the map and that way the dispatcher and
16 the responding officer and officer in route
17 know exactly where everybody is, and that's
18 kind of the triangulation point for this and
19 he said there is -- he was kind of telling
20 me, I could talk about this for a half hour,
21 there is a lot of applications, but that was
22 kind of to sum up.

23 And the first year it's \$15,000,
24 which the city would front, then the next
25 three years would be \$45,000, which the

1 grant would pay for. Any time if we are not
2 happy with the software or where this is
3 going on we could opt out. We could
4 reallocate the remaining grant money to some
5 other anti-terrorist funds that we see fit.

6 What else do we have today? All
7 right, so one of the biggest issues right
8 now we have, which is tomorrow at 4 p.m. in
9 the governor's room is where we are going to
10 find out the ultimate review of the modeling
11 process that's been going on by the
12 administration on where they find is the
13 best resources for the funds for the Sewer
14 Authority. Now, I can't encourage enough
15 people to show up to that meeting.

16 Now, originally the meeting was
17 going to be a one offer or two offer with a
18 councilmen, which personally I was not
19 satisfied with. That was something that I
20 just -- I just did not want. I wanted it
21 presented from the administration to the
22 council all at once so we can ask questions.
23 I feel we work much better as a body than we
24 do individually. Something I might say
25 might spur Mr. Gaughan or Mr. Evans might

1 say something then Mr. Wechsler will say. I
2 believe we should be together.

3 Now, with that being said we are
4 going to be in the governor's room. Is it
5 going to be in chambers? It's not going to
6 be, but it is going to be a public meeting.
7 The newspaper will be there, Mr. Lockwood
8 will be there. I do expect and hope that as
9 many people as possible come tomorrow at
10 4:00. 4:00 on Friday is a tricky time, I
11 know I had to make a special request of my
12 boss to leave work earlier, but it's
13 important enough that I'm going to be there
14 and I hope as many people as possible can be
15 there. Again, is it the best time? It's
16 not, I'll admit that, but I am happy that
17 it's going to be in public. I am happy that
18 everybody that wants to go can go and I'm
19 happy that we are all going to be together
20 instead of this one off which I don't think
21 anybody was in favor of.

22 Finally, before I give up my time
23 here, I just want to say that Saturday is
24 the parade day. I want to make sure that
25 everybody is out, having a good time, dress

1 warm, stay out of trouble, but enjoy your
2 heritage. If you are not Irish, pretend you
3 are Irish and just have a good time. It's
4 one of the better days that we have in our
5 city so please enjoy yourselves and thank
6 you.

7 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you.

8 Mr. Rogan?

9 MR. ROGAN: Yes. A couple of
10 different items. First, I'd like to echo
11 what Mr. Perry mentioned about the parade.
12 As an Irish Catholic growing up in Scranton
13 I think everyone's favorite day was parade
14 day. I would just like to ask that everyone
15 celebrate responsibly. As Mr. Perry
16 mentioned earlier, Colts is offering free
17 bus rides and I believe some of the cab
18 companies do offer free rides on parade day
19 as well so please enjoy responsibly and
20 don't drink and drive.

21 Some good news, the West Scranton
22 Intermediate School once again won a
23 national C-SPAN student competition. This
24 year they were the first place finisher.
25 This year's theme was on gun violence and I

1 would like to congratulate them on their
2 first place finish and I would like to also
3 thank them that with that first-place finish
4 they were awarded a \$3,000 prize and they
5 donated half of that \$3,000 prize to
6 charity. So I would like to congratulate
7 the West Scranton Intermediate School and I
8 was able to attend ceremonies they had in
9 past years regarding the same program, the
10 same competition and the intermediate school
11 really has a track record of success in this
12 national competition and it really speaks to
13 the great work that our teachers and are
14 students at the intermediate school are
15 doing.

16 Earlier in the week, I attended a
17 format at the Jewish Community Center
18 regarding safety, particularly within the
19 Jewish community and nationally there have
20 been attacks and there have been threats
21 made against Jewish Community Centers
22 throughout the United States, I believe it
23 was close to Philadelphia there was
24 vandalism at a Jewish cemetery, and it was
25 good to see our law enforcement community

1 come together, city leaders, county leaders
2 to reassure the folks in our Jewish
3 community that the city has -- that the city
4 has protections in place and there are a
5 number of the items that the city is doing
6 and will be doing to keep them safe.

7 So it was a very good forum. The
8 mayor was in attendance as well as Chief
9 Graziano from the city, and the county,
10 Sheriff Mark McAndrew was there, and
11 representatives from the Federal Department
12 of Homeland Security and the state police,
13 so it was a very well-attended meeting and I
14 think everyone left there feeling a little
15 bit better about their safety.

16 Also, this week a number of us
17 attended a special meeting on the parking in
18 the Hill Section, and I know some of my
19 colleagues will comment on that a little bit
20 further. I will say it was a very
21 frustrating meeting I believe for all of us
22 that it's something that's been going on for
23 a long time and there is very few answers.
24 We are hoping that there could be some
25 progress, but like many of the things that

1 council does, and Mr. Perry kind of
2 mentioned this regarding the flooding in
3 West Scranton, Mr. Serebro's neighborhood,
4 the most frustrating part of being a council
5 member is we cannot physically go out and do
6 things sometimes. We can't physically go
7 out and hang the handicap sign or, you know,
8 fix the pothole, and believe me, a lot of
9 time it would be easier if we could. You
10 know, one of the biggest parts of our job is
11 citizens' request, and the vast majority of
12 citizens' requests that I receive you never
13 hear about. You get a message on Facebook,
14 get an e-mail, send it to our city clerk,
15 who does a great job relaying those to
16 department heads, sometimes call the
17 department head directly or an employee
18 directly, and I have to say the vast
19 majority of citizens' requests that I
20 receive are handled in a timely manner.

21 On the other hand, there are some
22 that are extremely frustrating. I helped a
23 resident on Washburn Street get a handicap
24 sign that was waiting six months. That's
25 completely not acceptable. And, again, the

1 frustration on our part is the same as what
2 you are feeling that you know it needs to be
3 done, unfortunately, we can't go out and
4 fill potholes and we can't go out and hang
5 up handicapped signs or go out and dig a
6 trench to fix the storm water problem. I
7 wish we could. It would be much easier for
8 us, but we are helping, we are doing
9 everything we can, particularly with your
10 issues, Mr. Serebro, and just because we
11 didn't watch the -- personally didn't get a
12 chance to watch the video, I was in your
13 neighborhood just last week and I did see
14 you had a sign up your tree, I was checking
15 out the area.

16 MR. SEREBRO: It's taken down there.

17 MR. ROGAN: It was there a week ago,
18 but I was out there. You know, I was out
19 there and looking everything that was going
20 on and the lay of the land and, you know, we
21 need to get all these issues resolved, so
22 you are definitely not forgotten about, but
23 we understand your frustration and we feel
24 it as well with citizens' request a lot of
25 times when we are trying to get things done.

1 Finally, the last thing I want to
2 mention, last week, this week actually, I
3 had a social function and ran into the
4 mother of Officer John Wilding, and we had a
5 conversation about John and about the city
6 and I would just want to mention she did
7 give me this bracelet that I promised her I
8 would wear tonight and I did want to mention
9 that I know we are coming upon a year and a
10 half, two years since the tragic passing of
11 Officer Wilding, but I think we forget to
12 say this enough during the course of the
13 year when something tragic doesn't happen is
14 to thank our police officers for the work
15 that they are doing, and particularly those
16 that lost their life serving to protect the
17 citizens of Scranton. That is all for
18 tonight. Thank you.

19 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr. Rogan.
20 Mr. Evans?

21 MR. EVANS: Thank you. Last week
22 Marie asked a question about have there been
23 any new permits issued for the new tax
24 abatement program and the answer is sadly
25 no, but we are monitoring that. Clearly

1 there is disconnect between the ordinance
2 and the getting the information out to the
3 public, so I still believe we have a
4 valuable ordinance, a valuable marketing
5 tool, but if no one knows about it then
6 really wants the point. So to recap the
7 ordinance, any new construction in the city,
8 an addition, a new home, a new garage, a new
9 commercial building or an addition, a
10 converse from apartments to condominiums
11 would qualify for a three-year tax abatement
12 program for the program on the assessed
13 improvement value and corresponding tax.
14 The school district, the city and the county
15 are participating in the abatement so I'm
16 going to request the administration to see
17 if they can do something on the marketing
18 approach to some of these ideas that we put
19 forth out there in the public so we can get
20 some activity and growth in the city.

21 On the meeting tomorrow in the
22 governor's room, I certainly would have
23 preferred that to be -- we all would have
24 preferred that meeting to be in city council
25 chambers, but our invited guests have

1 indicated they prefer the governor's room so
2 the topic is just too important to cancel or
3 not have at all. As the Rolling Stone song
4 says, "You can't always get what you want,
5 but sometimes you just get what you need,"
6 so hopefully we are going to get what we
7 need tomorrow night.

8 On pension reforms, following up on
9 my comments last week, I would like to offer
10 a basic outline of some of the reforms I
11 would like to see relative to the pensions
12 and some of their comments about pension
13 reform itself. Clearly, the number one
14 thing that has to be done is the hiring and
15 the implementation of an independent third
16 party administrator who will have specific
17 duties relative to disability pensions.
18 This has to be in place prior to any
19 infusion of the funds into the pension plan.

20 I also think it's imperative to
21 reduce the current rate of return. It's
22 currently at a rate of 8 percent, which is
23 too high and certainly not sustainable.
24 When we don't reach that number, it has a
25 negative impact on the MM0. Conversely, if

1 we lower the rate of return to say 7.5
2 percent, and we exceed our expectations we
3 can actually lower the MM0 with the excess
4 proceeds beyond the rate of return. To take
5 it further, I would like to see any excess
6 proceed or some of the excess proceeds
7 received beyond the rate of return to
8 further buy down that rate until we reach an
9 even more realistic rate of return
10 assumption. This is something that the
11 Auditor General was adamant about in his
12 report about Scranton's pensions. One of
13 his recommendations was to call for, and I
14 quote, "The use of honest estimates of
15 investment returns."

16 But for the city to get even a .25
17 percent reduction it would take almost \$4.5
18 million to buy that reduction, but I think
19 it's money well spent because the effects of
20 this will be positive for decades. We can't
21 continue to have a short-term view on
22 everything that we do. We need to look at
23 our decision with a view towards long-term
24 impact as for our city and our taxpayers.

25 Another reform that I would like to

1 see would be a clarification of the quota
2 funding only after the plan reaches the 50
3 percent level. The current the plan is not
4 absolutely clear and does not even
5 percentage level. While this may require
6 legislation or may require and MOU with the
7 unions, this is something that the Courts
8 have viewed in our favor in the past and I
9 think it's something that we all agree can
10 happen relatively easily.

11 The current rules that govern the
12 pension boards are, quite frankly, all over
13 the place and disjointed at best. I feel a
14 comprehensive ordinance that codifies all of
15 the rules of the pension fund should be
16 developed and passed as a single new
17 ordinance. This is something that we can
18 discuss with Attorney Durkin when he comes
19 to visit us at our caucus next week.

20 I would also like to see some
21 changes in the makeup of the pension boards.
22 My goal, at the very least, would be to add
23 another board member to each pension board
24 who would be a citizen representative,
25 someone who is clearly independent of the

1 board and the pensions and who has a
2 background in finances and/or accounting.

3 In addition, or as an another
4 alternative, I was suggest creating an
5 independent board of an investment experts
6 that can be used as a resource for the
7 existing pension boards. Once reforms are
8 made, I would further recommend that the
9 funds from the proceed of the SSA sale that
10 are dedicated to the pensions be placed in a
11 trust and managed outside of the current
12 pension board structure. There may be
13 additional reforms to be discussed as well
14 with some of my colleagues and hopefully
15 some from the administration. If not, even
16 offer additional proposal as time moves on
17 or as the coming weeks approach, but we also
18 have to keep in mind that because there has
19 not been fiscal reform done at the state
20 level, some of what I discussed may occur in
21 oversight by state statute and may not even
22 be allowed so we are going to find out. We
23 are going to ask Attorney Durkin and we will
24 ask Attorney Minora when he returns to see
25 if we can reconcile those reforms with some

1 of the state laws that govern the pensions.

2 To that point, clearly there has
3 been a lack of vision or commitment on the
4 state level in dealing with municipal
5 pension reform. For example, in California,
6 specifically San Diego, state statutes allow
7 for a complete restructuring of San Diego's
8 pension board so that the majority of
9 pension board members are, in fact,
10 independent members with financial and
11 investment expertise as opposed to union and
12 city representatives who have an inherent
13 conflict of interest when determining the
14 pension benefits.

15 In Rhode Island, state law dictates
16 that COLA adjustments were suspended for
17 pensions if they were funded less than 80
18 percent. Our state law doesn't define a
19 number.

20 In Michigan, as far back as 1997,
21 all new hires with the state were
22 automatically enrolled in a defined
23 contribution or 401-K style plan in which
24 the state contributes 4 percent to each
25 employee's salary. That was nearly 20 years

1 ago. When I came before and said 401-K for
2 new hires at the state and local level they
3 seemed like it sent shivers down the spines
4 and the backs of every bureaucrat I talked
5 to. We are shortchanging new hires and
6 future employees but not offering this
7 option, as well as our taxpayers.

8 As an example of how employees may
9 feel about the difference between a defined
10 benefit plan and a defined contribution
11 plan, again, a 401-K-type plan, when you
12 have a choice you only need to look at the
13 State of New York. Nearly 100 years ago,
14 the State University of New York had adopted
15 a pension system that allows workers to
16 choose a traditional defined benefit plan or
17 to choose a defined contribution plan or a
18 401-K. In 2010, 71 percent of all university
19 employees were in the 401-K plan.

20 At the end of the day, we need to
21 move forward to our pension management
22 system that should be apolitical,
23 transparent, and performance driven. While
24 this may be a work in progress, I would
25 remind all current pension board members

1 that they have a fiduciary duty to preserve
2 the plan's long-term sustainability and to
3 make decisions about pension reform that
4 reflect that duty now and in the future.

5 We are all in this together and we
6 all want a healthy, sustainable pension plan
7 for all current and future retirees, while
8 balancing our obligations to our taxpayers
9 as a primary consideration. It would be
10 irresponsible of us as elected officials to
11 infuse the pensions with cash without
12 reasonable and long lasting reforms. That's
13 all I have on that tonight. Thank you.

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

16 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, thank you, quite
17 a few items tonight. First of all, I'd like
18 to thank the students from Scranton Prep for
19 coming to our meeting, especially Logan
20 Munley. Who is Logan? Is Logan here
21 tonight? No? I think he is. A very
22 popular guy, I knew he was coming so I want
23 to thank Logan and all of students from
24 Scranton Prep for being here tonight.

25 The second thing, I want to thank

1 our staff, especially our city clerk Lori
2 Reed, Cathy Carrera, Jamie Marciano, for all
3 of their help in finally getting our
4 Granicus project up and running. As Mrs.
5 Schumacher and Ms. Hodowanitz pointed out,
6 it's a totally different system and it took
7 a lot of work to get it up and running, as
8 you well know. So Mrs. Reed really ran with
9 the project and if it wasn't for her hard
10 work none of this would have happened, so I
11 want to thank her especially for all of the
12 work that she put into it.

13 I also want to thank the IT
14 Department, Frank Swietnicki and Larry
15 Abaldi for all of their help and their hard
16 work in getting this project up and running.

17 I also want to thank the business
18 administrator, Dave Bulzoni. About two
19 years ago when I came to him with this
20 project we knew it was going to be a lot of
21 work to get it off of the ground, he stuck
22 with it and I really appreciate that.

23 And I also want to thank my
24 colleagues for being a part of this. Just
25 to remind everybody, you know, what this

1 project is, it's called Granicus and
2 Granicus is a website platform, so
3 everything that we have in front of us, in
4 this packet, you used to come down to city
5 hall, like Mrs. Schumacher and Ms.
6 Hodowanitz, anybody who wanted a copy of a
7 piece of legislation and you had to pay 25
8 cents a page for a copy. Now, this is just
9 one example of what the packet looks like.
10 We have had packets with hundreds of more
11 pages, a lot of paper. Now, all of this is
12 on our website so you can go on
13 Scrantonpa.gov and you can see everything
14 that we see. So we have made our office way
15 more transparent, way more efficient, we are
16 going to save roughly \$30,000 a year with
17 this program. From an environmental
18 perspective, we are going to save anywhere
19 from three to five trees a year, and it's
20 going to make us, as I said, much more
21 transparent and much more efficient, so I
22 want to thank everybody once again for being
23 a part of that project and I'm so glad that
24 it's finally up and run.

25 As to Mr. Serebro's issue in Keyser

1 Valley, I share everybody's frustrations
2 with this issue. I would ask that we send a
3 letter to the city engineer, to our DPW
4 director, and find out what has been done,
5 what they are planning on doing, and what a
6 timeline looks like and I would like that in
7 writing so that we can find out exactly what
8 the plan is because I hate to see people get
9 jerked around continually.

10 Another couple of citizen requests,
11 the 2200 block of Winfield Avenue in South
12 Scranton there is a lot of issues with
13 abandoned vehicles and a vehicles in people
14 yards so we had to send something to the
15 Licensing and Inspections Department and the
16 Police Department.

17 I'd also like to ask my colleagues
18 if he would agree to send a letter to the
19 administration asking that they consider
20 paving the 500 block of Campbell Street up
21 to the 600 block of South Webster Avenue. A
22 resident sent me photographs today. They
23 have no curbs, no storm drains, and major
24 issues with that street literally falling
25 apart. The potholes are extremely large and

1 something has to be done up in that area of
2 South Side.

3 Also, a letter was sent, Mrs.
4 Robinson was here last week, about
5 conditions found at the 800 block of Hampton
6 Street. The empty lot is overgrown with
7 high grass and there is a major snake
8 problem. I was trying to help her in the
9 summer but obviously that didn't work out,
10 so we did send a letter again to the
11 Licensing and Inspections Department Monday,
12 March 6, so hopefully that gets taken care
13 of.

14 A woman who has been, and I can't
15 remember her name, but she has been coming
16 to the meetings once in awhile, she's from
17 the Hill Section, she was kind enough to
18 compile a list of street signs in the Hill
19 Section which are faded and/or missing so
20 I'm going to forward that along to the DPW,
21 it was quite an extensive list, I know she
22 is not finished with it yet, but we need
23 somebody from the city who is going to take
24 on that task and we need -- I think we need
25 a comprehensive program to go neighborhood

1 to neighborhood because from what I have
2 seen this is a major public safety issue,
3 especially in the Hill Section. I get
4 complaints about it every week. South Side,
5 West Side, there are street signs that are
6 faded and missing. Stop signs the same way.
7 So I really think we should develop some
8 sort of program within the DPW to deal with
9 this issue at least so we have some sort of
10 inventory.

11 Regarding the special meeting that
12 we attended in the Hill Neighborhood
13 meeting, there is obviously major, major
14 issues on Prescott Avenue regarding the
15 Hindu Church, parking issues, more so loud
16 music coming from the church, trash among a
17 number of different things, and I believe
18 that something has to give up there because
19 people are obviously not happy who have
20 lived there their entire lives so I would
21 ask that we send a letter to the
22 administration asking that they enforce the
23 laws, that they send the fire inspector up
24 to the church to make sure there are no fire
25 hazards up there. There are several

1 residents that complain that they may be
2 violating the fire code so I would like that
3 to be looked into.

4 Also, there were several concerns
5 about a bell tower on top of the church with
6 pigeon feces that is apparently in the
7 process of being taken down. I would like a
8 copy of all permits that have been pulled
9 for that project and I would like to see if
10 any environmental remediation has been done
11 on that bell tower. Again, another pretty
12 serious topic that residents were concerned
13 about.

14 We have repeatedly here on council
15 talked about the condemnation ordinance and
16 the fact that we need to review it and we
17 need to change it, and we did get a very
18 interesting proposal from the director of
19 the Lackawanna County Tax Claim Bureau, and
20 I'd just like to read some of what he said
21 and then I would like our solicitor took a
22 look at this so we can possibly form
23 legislation. He goes onto say in this
24 e-mail to council that, "We have had success
25 selling property in the City of Scranton,

1 however, I am getting less activity on
2 condemned city dwellings because of what I
3 believe is a legislative glitch in city
4 condemned property ordinance. Let me say, I
5 believe your ordinance is fine to hold
6 landlords who have let their properties
7 being blighted in non-compliance with the
8 city codes accountable for their actions by
9 a posted bond prior to securing a building
10 permit. Where I take exception to this is
11 when a new owner from the county judicial
12 sale is held to the same standard. These
13 owners were not the ones that put in the
14 property in condemnation. These people are
15 the ones trying to get it out of
16 condemnation, repair it to code, sold or
17 leased and back on the tax roll and blight
18 eliminated.

19 Therefore, I am requesting that city
20 council consider amending the current
21 legislation to simply add a section that
22 speaks to the new owner being given a
23 six-month grace period before they would
24 have to post a bond. The new owner would be
25 issued a building permit and would have six

1 months to substantially finish renovations.
2 If that happens, then no bond would be
3 necessary. If not, the city would reserve
4 the right to impose the bond after the
5 six-month grace period. As you are aware,
6 most bonds must be collateralized usually
7 dollar for dollar."

8 So I think that we should take a
9 look, a serious look at this and I would
10 like to ask, Attorney Minora is not here
11 tonight, but next week if we could ask him
12 to take a look at this and get together with
13 the city administration and work on
14 reforming that ordinance.

15 I'd also like to ask in Fifth Order
16 tonight we have piece of legislation where
17 we are going to renew a contract with Joyce
18 Hatala, who is our recycling coordinator.
19 We discussed this in caucus. I would like
20 ask before we take a final vote on that to
21 ask Mrs. Hatala and Mr. Lynch, who is the
22 recycling coordinator, to come into a
23 caucus, a public caucus, and update us on
24 the recycling program, what progress has
25 been made before we take a vote on retention

1 for another 18 months.

2 As for the Young issue, the hole on
3 Wyoming Avenue, I wasn't here last week to
4 speak about this and I would just like to
5 touch on it briefly, I was very disturbed by
6 the article in the paper regarding this
7 issue that has consumed the Young's
8 backyard. In my opinion, the mayor, again,
9 has failed the Youngs and residents of this
10 city by his blatant, careless attitude on
11 this issue and two of the quotes that I
12 almost fell off my chair, "We're not sure if
13 this is the City's problem" and "it would be
14 a vast strain on City's resources."

15 Yet, when I look at the some of the
16 things the city are doing and we seem to
17 have no problem paying attorney's fees,
18 taking care of the mayor's friend, political
19 contributors, we could have taken care of
20 this problem a year ago so it's pretty sad
21 now that it's wrapped up in the Court's so I
22 continue to be disappointed on that.

23 I did receive a response from the
24 executive director of the Sewer Authority,
25 Attorney Shrive, he did let me know that he

1 is compiling the documents that I have
2 requested. I requested a copy of all
3 invoices for legal work that was done. I
4 also have an additional request, I'd like to
5 know what services were rendered for a bill
6 from the law firm that is related to Henry
7 Amoroso, who is the city's financial
8 advisor, dated January 23, 2013, in amount
9 of \$39,000. I would like to see a copy of
10 this invoice as soon as possible.

11 And I want to reiterate, as one
12 speaker came up, how outrageous I think this
13 whole thing is again. It seems to me like
14 this sale has been a piggybank for the
15 attorneys and Mayor Courtright's political
16 contributors and his friends. Where are the
17 invoices, where are the hourly rates, where
18 are the fee agreements? The public has the
19 right to see this information.

20 Also, in looking over the Parking
21 Authority lawyer's fees, Ned Abrahamsen of
22 Abrahamsen, Conaboy and Abrahamsen received
23 \$200,000 like he did for the sewer deal, I'd
24 like to he invoice on that. So what was the
25 hourly rate, what work was done for that

1 fee? It seems pretty high to me.

2 And, lastly, we were informed by
3 Councilman Wechsler that there will be a
4 meeting tomorrow between city council and
5 the administration Friday March 10 at 4 p.m.
6 to discuss the allocation of the sewer sale
7 proceeds. This meeting will take place in
8 the room next door, the governor's room,
9 rather than in council chambers. I
10 requested that this meeting take place at
11 that table in council chambers with the
12 television cameras on, but apparently Mayor
13 Courtright and the administration refused.

14 I also find it coincidental that
15 this meeting, which is very important, is
16 taking place on a Friday at 4 p.m. I am
17 asking my colleagues to demand that this
18 meeting be held in council chambers and be
19 televised for the record the public. I just
20 heard my colleagues say that they would
21 prefer that it be held here. Well, it
22 should be here. Why are we having it in the
23 governor's room? Why are we having it where
24 it is hard for the public to hear what was
25 going on, it's hard for councilmen to hear

1 what's going on because the heat that goes
2 on in that room, we were at a meeting
3 there two months ago, it's very difficult to
4 hear, so why would they refuse to have it in
5 council chambers? I just find this whole
6 thing outrageous. You know, this isn't an
7 issue about a street sweeper or a pothole,
8 this issue is about spending ten of millions
9 of taxpayer and ratepayer money. It's
10 extremely significant, so significant that
11 it should not be held in the governor's room
12 where there are no cameras and where it's
13 extremely difficult for anybody to hear what
14 is going on and to hear the conversations
15 that are taking place. I don't understand
16 why Mayor Courtright and his administration
17 is afraid to meet with us in council
18 chambers. I truly do not understand it. He
19 was a councilman for six years. In fact, I
20 think he sat here or in this seat. Does he
21 not understand that the public would like to
22 be included on one of the most important
23 issues the city faces and not everybody can
24 make it down to the governor's room on a
25 Friday at 4 p.m. So, again, I am

1 disappointed and disturbed that the mayor of
2 this city continues to play hide and seek
3 with city council and the public on this
4 issue and a number of other issues and the
5 lack of accountability and leadership is
6 frightening. Thank you.

7 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr.
8 Gaughan. Just to comment, the issue in
9 regards to the bonds, the condemnation
10 bonds, I started that process two weeks ago.
11 We submitted a letter to the city solicitor
12 to start looking into it so I agree with
13 your idea and I think we should support that
14 because I think that is a major detriment to
15 the condemnations of the city.

16 In regards to the meeting tomorrow
17 evening, we did request that the meeting be
18 held in city council chambers and televised.
19 Unfortunately, we don't have the ability to
20 demand the mayor to do anything. We can
21 suggest, we can ask, we can cajole, we can
22 do whatever possible way we can do it I did
23 try, but last week consulting with my
24 colleagues, Mr. Gaughan was absent last
25 week, we did discuss the meeting and, once

1 again, in my regards it's the same thing we
2 talked about before, we have to get the
3 information, this is when all of the players
4 are available, this is just a work session,
5 this just an initial description by the
6 administration of what they are going to
7 propose, it's not set in stone yet, and I
8 would really like to focus -- I'd really
9 like to focus on the details of the plan
10 instead of the how the plan is being
11 presented. The meeting is open to the
12 public. I believe it will covered by the
13 Times. I'm assuming that perhaps other
14 local media will be here at well. I wanted
15 to have this meeting prior to Attorney
16 Durkin coming to our session next week and
17 this is just the most, even though it is a
18 Friday afternoon, it was the most readily
19 available for all of the players to be
20 there, so I just want to get this
21 information out as soon as possible and this
22 is the opportunity that presented it best.

23 This evening, it's always surprising
24 that sometimes that I disagree with our
25 speakers, the one thing that I did disagree

1 with tonight was about the comments about
2 PennDOT. I have worked with PennDOT on
3 several different projects, large projects,
4 and I found the engineers to be very
5 professional. I have found the engineers to
6 be very courteous to residents who have been
7 effected by different projects within the
8 neighborhoods, and I totally disagree with
9 the fact that PennDOT are engineers that
10 can't find work anywhere else. I would like
11 to compliment the PennDOT engineers.

12 Ms. Schumacher, you know how hard
13 they have worked on the East Mountain Road
14 project. They are working very hard on the
15 Harrison Avenue bridge project. They have
16 managed to get the Rockwell Avenue bridge
17 project near completion with all the
18 problems with that and I do not think they
19 deserve that criticism.

20 Last evening, I attended 85th
21 anniversary of the UGL Company. I would
22 like to congratulate them on their success
23 over 85 years. They have been managed to
24 stay in the Scranton area and provide family
25 sustaining jobs to their employees. They

1 have a great local flavor to their
2 management company and I would like to
3 congratulate them on their success.

4 Just touching base following up on
5 the meeting that we had on Prescott Avenue,
6 this is a very delicate situation. There is
7 conflict between a church and residents.
8 The church is growing perhaps faster than it
9 can control. We do have to find a way to
10 protect the interests of the property owners
11 and we do have to find a way to not tread on
12 religion in the area. A very difficult
13 situation.

14 I'd like to thank the councilmen
15 that were there last night just to get some
16 information and try to get started so we are
17 going to -- as Councilman Gaughan said, we
18 are going to contact the city officials to
19 see what can be done in terms of license and
20 inspection. Chief Graziano was there, I
21 think Chief DeSarno was supposed to be
22 there, but got called to something else,
23 just so we can make sure that the building
24 is up to code and that it's serving the
25 purpose that it's designed for without

1 impacting the neighbors. We are going to
2 talk to -- there is some leadership at the
3 church in addition to -- in addition to the
4 pastor there. There is a committee, and
5 that person isn't local so we are going to
6 contact that person to see what we can do to
7 come to some sense of cooperation in the
8 neighborhood there and that's the main goal
9 and hopefully we can get something worked
10 out. That's all I have.

11 MR. ROGAN: I apologize, I have one
12 thing to -- and I know I would get yelled at
13 if I forget it, I would like to give a big
14 shout out to Chris Kayes and Tom Pattison
15 from the South Side Neighborhood Watch.
16 There was a number of buildings that were
17 covered with graffiti over the course of the
18 week and they acted quickly and were out and
19 covered it up and I was actually on the
20 phone with Tom while he was covering up that
21 graffiti so I just wanted to give him a
22 thank you and I apologize for forgetting to
23 mention it under my motions. Thank you.

24 MS. REED: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION -
25 AN ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND

1 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE
2 A DEED OF EASEMENT AND RIGHT OF WAY GRANTING
3 TO THE PENNSYLVANIA-AMERICAN WATER 1 COMPANY
4 THE EASEMENT, RIGHT OF WAY AND RIGHTS AS ARE
5 SET FORTH BELOW WITH RESPECT TO THE
6 PROPERTY, WHICH DEED OF EASEMENT AND RIGHT
7 OF WAY SHALL BE IN THE FORM AS ATTACHED
8 HERETO AS EXHIBIT "1".

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? All
15 those in favor of introduction signify by
16 saying aye.

17 MR. PERRY: Aye.

18 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

19 MR. EVANS: Aye.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

21 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The
22 ayes have it and so moved.

23 MS. REED: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION -
24 A RESOLUTION - RATIFYING AND APPROVING THE
25 SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION BY THE

1 CITY OF SCRANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR
2 FUNDING THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND
3 SECURITY PROGRAM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$45,000.00
4 AND, IF SUCCESSFUL, ACCEPT AND DISBURSE THE
5 GRANT FUNDS TO ENABLE THE SCRANTON POLICE
6 DEPARTMENT TO PREPARE FOR AND RESPOND TO
7 COMPLEX COORDINATED TERRORIST ATTACKS.

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

11 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

12 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

16 MR. PERRY: Aye.

17 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

18 MR. EVANS: Aye.

19 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

20 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The
21 ayes have it and so moved.

22 MS. REED: 5-D. FOR INTRODUCTION - A
23 RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
24 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS FOR THE CITY OF
25 SCRANTON TO ENTER INTO A LOAN TO GRANT

1 AGREEMENT AND MAKE A LOAN/GRANT FROM THE
2 CITY OF SCRANTON BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY
3 LOAN/GRANT PROGRAM FOR PROJECT NO.150.40 IN
4 AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$40,000.00 TO
5 ANOTHER TIME RESTAURANT, LLC, (DBA, AV
6 RESTAURANT) TO ASSIST AN
7 ELIGIBLE PROJECT.

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

11 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

12 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

16 MR. PERRY: Aye.

17 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

18 MR. EVANS: Aye.

19 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

22 MS. REED: 5-E. FOR INTRODUCTION -
23 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
24 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO APPLY
25 FOR AND EXECUTE A GRANT FOR THE

1 REDEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE CAPITAL PROGRAM
2 (RACP) THROUGH THE COMMONWEALTH OF
3 PENNSYLVANIA'S OFFICE OF THE BUDGET IN THE
4 AMOUNT OF THREE MILLION (\$3,000,000.00)
5 DOLLARS; ACCEPTING AND DISBURSING THE GRANT
6 IF THE APPLICATION IS SUCCESSFUL; AND
7 COORDINATE THE USE OF THE GRANT FUNDS WITH
8 LACKAWANNA COLLEGE LOCATED AT 501 VINE
9 STREET, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA 18509, FOR
10 THE PROJECT TO BE NAMED "COMMONS AT 409"
11 LOCATED AT 409 ADAMS AVENUE, SCRANTON,
12 PENNSYLVANIA 18510.

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

16 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

17 MR. EVANS: Second.

18 MR. WECHSLER: On the question? On
19 the question, just for public information my
20 wife is an employee of Lackawanna College.
21 At this time, I don't think it's a conflict
22 for me to vote on this, just for public
23 information. All those in favor of
24 introduction signify by saying aye.

25 MR. PERRY: Aye.

1 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

2 MR. EVANS: Aye.

3 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

6 MS. REED: 5-F. FOR INTRODUCTION – A
7 RESOLUTION – AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
8 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND
9 ENTER INTO A RENEWAL OF THE CONTRACT WITH
10 JOYCE HATALA ASSOCIATES TO ASSIST 2 THE CITY
11 OF SCRANTON WITH ITS RECYCLING PROGRAM FOR
12 AN ADDITIONAL EIGHTEEN (18) MONTH PERIOD
13 WITH THE OPTION OF AN EIGHTEEN (18) MONTH
14 EXTENSION.

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?

21 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, just again on the
22 question, we going to introduce this and
23 then next week since we have Mr. Durkin
24 coming in for a caucus we will table this
25 next week and request then that the week

1 after Mrs. Hatala and Mr. Lynch come in for
2 a public caucus to get us an update on the
3 progress made with the recycling issues.
4 Thank you.

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

7 MR. PERRY: Aye.

8 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

9 MR. EVANS: Aye.

10 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

13 MS. REED: SIXTH ORDER. 6-A. NO
14 BUSINESS AT THIS TIME.

15 SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR
16 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC
17 SAFETY – FOR ADOPTION – FILE OF THE COUNCIL
18 NO. 91, 2017 – AN ORDINANCE – AUTHORIZING
19 THE INSTALLATION OF TWO (2) “TWO HOUR
20 PARKING ONLY” RESTRICTIONS MONDAY THROUGH
21 FRIDAY ON THE 500 BLOCK OF CLAY AVENUE
22 DIRECTLY IN FRONT OF THE BETH SHALOM
23 CONGREGATION.

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

1 Committee on Public Safety?

2 MR. PERRY: As Chairperson for the
3 Committee on Public Safety, I recommend
4 final passage of Item 7-A.

5 MR. ROGAN: Second.

6 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

7 MR. ROGAN: Yes, on the question, I
8 spoke to some of the members of the
9 congregation and they are very pleased and
10 they wanted to give a thank you to the
11 council and to the mayor for help with this
12 issue.

13 MR. WECHSLER: Roll call, please?

14 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

15 MR. PERRY: Yes.

16 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

17 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

18 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

19 MR. EVANS: Yes.

20 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

21 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

23 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby
24 declare Item 7-A legally and lawfully
25 adopted.

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If there is no further business,
I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

MR. ROGAN: Motion to adjourn.

MR. WECHSLER: Meeting adjourned.

C E R T I F I C A T E

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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