

SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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

HELD:

Thursday, March 23, 2017

LOCATION:

Council Chambers

Scranton City Hall

340 North Washington Avenue

Scranton, Pennsylvania

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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

CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

JOSEPH WECHSLER, PRESIDENT

PATRICK ROGAN, VICE-PRESIDENT

WAYNE EVANS

WILLIAM GAUGHAN

TIM PERRY

LORI REED, CITY CLERK

KATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

JOSEPH COLBASSANI, ESQUIRE, SOLICITOR

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

3 MR. WECHSLER: Roll call, please.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

5 MR. PERRY: Here.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

7 MR. ROGAN: Here.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

9 MR. EVANS: Here.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Here.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

13 MR. WECHSLER: Here.

14 MR. GAUGHAN: I'd like to make a  
15 motion to take from the table Resolution No.  
16 127-2017.

17 MR. ROGAN: Second.

18 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

19 This resolution pertains to the contractor  
20 Joyce Hatala, Associates, to assist the city  
21 with its recycling program for an additional  
22 18-month period. This legislation will be  
23 placed into Seventh Order for a final vote.  
24 Anyone who wishes to speak on this  
25 particular piece of legislation may do so

1 during Fourth Order, citizens'  
2 participation. All those in favor of  
3 introduction signify by saying aye.

4 MR. PERRY: Aye.

5 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

6 MR. EVANS: Aye.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

10 Dispense with the reading of the  
11 minutes.

12 MS. REED: 3-A. AGENDA FOR THE CITY  
13 PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING HELD MARCH 22,  
14 2017.

15 MR. WECHSLER: Are there any  
16 comments? If not, received and filed.

17 MS. REED: 3-B. CONTROLLER'S REPORT  
18 FOR MONTH ENDING FEBRUARY 28, 2017.

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

21 Do any council members have  
22 announcements at this time?

23 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, I have one. A  
24 benefit will be held this Saturday, March  
25 25, for Billy Evans, a North Scranton man

1           who is battling health issues at this time.  
2           You can support Bill Evans by attending the  
3           bash this Saturday, at the Ice Box on West  
4           Olive Street in Providence Road from 6 to 9  
5           p.m. The donation is \$15. There will be  
6           food, refreshments and basket raffles.  
7           Thank you.

8                       MR. WECHSLER: On April 2 an annual  
9           "Buy Local Spring Fling" will be held and it  
10          will be held at the Cultural Center from 11  
11          a.m. to 4 p.m. We will announce that again  
12          next week, also.

13                      MS. REED: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'  
14          PARTICIPATION.

15                      MR. WECHSLER: Joan Hodowanitz.

16                      MS. HODOWANITZ: Joan Hodowanitz,  
17          city resident and taxpayer. 99 days to June  
18          30, the 2016 audit. 221 days to November 8,  
19          the general election, I hope everybody goes  
20          out and votes.

21                      I'm sure you also saw in the paper  
22          this week that the once and future president  
23          of the University of Scranton Father Pilarz,  
24          he is coming back. I think this is an  
25          opportunity for city officials to start a

1 new beginning with the University of the  
2 Scranton. See how much you can partner with  
3 them and work together for the benefit of  
4 the city and not have the adversarial  
5 relationship that's existed in the past.  
6 This would be a good time to do it.

7 The University does partner with lot  
8 of other institutions such as the Children's  
9 Library, the Scranton Public Library. You  
10 remember that institution of the Friends of  
11 the Scranton Public Library support with the  
12 book sale which five, not to be named,  
13 Scranton City Councilmen failed to support,  
14 but you have another opportunity on June 6  
15 and June 11. Well, the University of  
16 Scranton supports the Children's Library.  
17 April 1, they have for children in grades  
18 "K" through Six mystery science. Which is  
19 going to be run by the neurological society  
20 and health professions. I don't understand  
21 this but kids will create Bubleck, squishy  
22 serpents, mystery markers and engage in mind  
23 games and optical illusions.

24 Then the University's chemistry club  
25 on April 23 for children in grades two

1 through six will have chemistry for kids,  
2 learn how to be a scientist and they will  
3 introduce them to basic concepts of the  
4 chemistry in a fun, nonthreatening way and  
5 they will learn how to make handmade ice  
6 cream.

7 So I just hope that the city takes  
8 Father Pilarz's return to the University as  
9 an opportunity to partner with them. Yes,  
10 you can get money in lieu of taxes, but you  
11 should also tap into their expertise.

12 What's the status of the RFP for the  
13 third party administrator? It's been  
14 promised over a year ago?

15 MR. WECHSLER: Still waiting.

16 MS. HODOWANITZ: Oh, it's going to  
17 be a magnum opus. What about pension  
18 reforms?

19 MR. WECHSLER: Next week we will  
20 have a caucus on pension reform.

21 MS. HODOWANITZ: Will you have it  
22 out here for the public?

23 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

24 MS. HODOWANITZ: Thank you. That's  
25 very good, so that will be 6:00 next week

1 here televised. Attorney Durkin will  
2 explain pension reforms?

3 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. In addition to  
4 others, yes.

5 MS. HODOWANITZ: Great. Is there  
6 going to be another meeting on the  
7 distribution of the sewer sale proceeds, a  
8 follow-up meeting?

9 MR. WECHSLER: It was discussed at  
10 the last meeting, but right now after that  
11 meeting it's kind of gone silent again so  
12 I'm assuming that there will be.

13 MS. HODOWANITZ: Have you had any  
14 opportunity to discuss Item 6-A, the  
15 \$710,000 windfall from not having to pay for  
16 debt service, the one that is seems to be  
17 dedicated to paving only? Have you had a  
18 chance to discuss that and consider other  
19 priorities that the city might have?

20 MR. WECHSLER: I did discuss it with  
21 Mr. Bulzoni and we'll get to it when we make  
22 comments.

23 MS. HODOWANITZ: Say again?

24 MR. WECHSLER: We'll get to it when  
25 we do comments. I did discuss it with



1 Business Administrator Bulzoni.

2 MS. HODOWANITZ: I saw that the  
3 county had a meeting last night with many  
4 municipalities to discuss perhaps getting a  
5 funding through the state for the cost of  
6 the snowstorm. If that doesn't come to  
7 pass, you may want to consider that as a  
8 priority. There are many priorities like  
9 storm water management costs which won't  
10 come to light until the end of the year, if  
11 then, and that's about it. Thank you.

12 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Les  
13 Spindler.

14 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening,  
15 Council. Les Spindler, city resident,  
16 homeowner and taxpayer. Since you are  
17 talking about recycling tonight, I have been  
18 asking this question for a long time, years  
19 ago there was a recycle truck specifically  
20 to pick up recyclables and not garbage, does  
21 anyone know whatever happened to that truck?

22 MR. EVANS: One of the problems was  
23 it wouldn't fit through the alleys. That  
24 was an issue, but I haven't seen the truck  
25 in years myself. I have no idea.

1 MR. SPINDLER: It used to have sides  
2 that slid up and down and you'd throw the  
3 recyclables in.

4 MR. EVANS: Yeah, it was a great  
5 idea.

6 MR. SPINDLER: Could somebody  
7 possibly look into what happened to that?

8 MR. WECHSLER: I think actually they  
9 ended up buying Packmasters that they could  
10 use for both?

11 MR. SPINDLER: I think maybe it went  
12 by way of the famous pothole patching  
13 machine.

14 Secondly, has anyone looked into  
15 what I brought up four weeks ago and two  
16 weeks ago about nonprofit status of  
17 Princeton University possibly looking into  
18 our nonprofits?

19 MR. ROGAN: I read over all of that  
20 information, we have to discuss it with our  
21 solicitor whether we could do it here in  
22 Pennsylvania. I know that was in another  
23 state, but it's something worth looking  
24 into.

25 MR. SPINDLER: Right, that's what I

1 mean. It should be looked into.

2 MR. ROGAN: The legal part is the  
3 part that's is unclear for me.

4 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Spindler, excuse  
5 me for one minute, will you please? The  
6 noise from the audience is quite distracting  
7 to us, it comes right up to the front and I  
8 really can't hear Mr. Spindler. You are  
9 doing him a disservice by chattering when he  
10 is speaking. No one would want that done  
11 while they are speaking, so if you could  
12 keep it to a minimum or if you have to talk  
13 please go out in the hall. Go ahead, Mr  
14 Spindler.

15 MR. SPINDLER: Thank you. I know  
16 that was happening during the caucus, also,  
17 I thought it was very ignorant.

18 MR. EVANS: Mr. Spindler, there is  
19 something in the recovery plan that talks  
20 about where we can go and actually request  
21 each nonprofit and/or each individual parcel  
22 and ask them why that parcel should be  
23 nontaxable, so we have to the ability to do  
24 that. That's not exactly what I'm saying.

25 MR. SPINDLER: That's something

1 different than what I'm talking about it.

2 MR. EVANS: Yeah, you are talking  
3 about the whole thing.

4 MR. SPINDLER: Princeton  
5 University's nonprofit status was taken  
6 away. I think that should definitely be  
7 looked into and, I mean, three of you are up  
8 for reelection this year, I think that would  
9 be something you should look into and try to  
10 help out the taxpayers. Taxpayers are such  
11 a burden on your shoulders now, you people  
12 should look into something and try to help  
13 us out. I hope you take that seriously.  
14 That's all I have tonight. Thank you.

15 MR. WECHSLER: Lenny Srebro.

16 MR. SREBRO: Lenny Srebro, Scranton  
17 resident, homeowner, too, and a taxpayer.  
18 Mr. Gaughan, I appreciate you trying to make  
19 that memory stick work. Like I said at on  
20 the last meetings, my granddaughter calls my  
21 phone a fossil and all it does it take  
22 pictures and text and phone calls, so I  
23 don't know what my brother did when he was  
24 filming it with his cell phone, evidently he  
25 has a smart phone, but I'll have to talk to

1 him to find out how we can make that work  
2 with that memory stick.

3 Okay, I want to clear something up,  
4 a couple of meetings ago when we had that  
5 storm on February 25 that they had the  
6 tornado in Pittston I did come to the  
7 meeting directly after that storm and, you  
8 know, I brought it to everybody's attention  
9 about my property on the road, a drainage  
10 pipe had burst and was bringing all of the  
11 water and the runoff onto my property and  
12 flooded my cellar, that's where I said, then  
13 my pumps stopped working and I had to go  
14 purchase another pump, but, geez, nothing  
15 has been done yet, you know, about that  
16 burst pipe?

17 Now, I do want to say that I went  
18 down to DPW personally yesterday to try to  
19 ask some, you know, done. I'm saying I'm  
20 afraid of the next storm, I'm going to get  
21 it again. Nothing seems to be getting done.  
22 Now, I did go to DPW and they did send  
23 somebody out yesterday to look at it and,  
24 you, know, they looked at it and said,  
25 "Well, yeah, definitely we got to do

1 something about it and maybe next week," and  
2 but, you know, I'm hoping that somebody on  
3 the council will keep after it, you know,  
4 because that's what usually happens is I  
5 hear something positive, but then I wait and  
6 nothing gets done. So I'm hoping that,  
7 geez, even that big drainage pipe is on the  
8 back burner for now, but this really needs  
9 to get attention, you know, if somebody  
10 could follow-up on it.

11 MR. WECHSLER: Did they identify  
12 themselves who was there? If you have the  
13 name you can give it to Kathy. Who came  
14 out? Did they give you the name?

15 MR. SREBRO: Oh, I don't know, I  
16 didn't ask names. I know that I spoke to  
17 Sam at DPW and he did send some guys out,  
18 you know. Thanks to Sam that somebody  
19 really did come right away, you know, the  
20 very next morning. As a matter of fact,  
21 that was this morning that they came out,  
22 and I want to clear something up that, see,  
23 I was told that nothing is being done about  
24 that 36-inch drainage pipe that's plugged  
25 because the power people are under the

1 impression that I'm suing the city. I don't  
2 know how that came to be. I know that we  
3 had the caucus here and not myself, but one  
4 other gentleman that here asked not -- said  
5 that he is going to -- there is going to be  
6 a class action suit, but he asked about is  
7 that what needs to be done.

8 Now, Mr. Wechsler, you're the one  
9 who said, as I recall, that that may be the  
10 only way to get it repaired or flushed.  
11 Now, I brought it up at the meeting after  
12 that, but once again I asked is that what  
13 needs -- nobody wants to do that class  
14 action suit, but, you know, I brought it up  
15 saying that but not saying that I'm going to  
16 sue the city. I don't have the money to do  
17 that, that would take so much time and that  
18 will just never happen. Other neighbors  
19 that brought it up, they don't want to get  
20 involved, that's never go to happen, so I  
21 just want to make it clear that maybe if  
22 that's why nothing is getting done is  
23 because, you know, people in power think  
24 that we are going to sue the city. I just  
25 wanted to clear that up. That's all I have.

1 MR. WECHSLER: All I can say for  
2 sure all of us continue to check on this  
3 issue, and I know Mr. Perry had, Mr. Gaughan  
4 had, we are all trying to get something done  
5 and I can rest assured from my council's  
6 standpoint no one is concerned about a  
7 potential lawsuit. Our job is to try and  
8 get this fixed for you and we have been  
9 trying to do that.

10 MR. SREBRO: That's right. That's  
11 why I'm come here, I'm thinking that, you  
12 know, to go to you guys that you can help  
13 out getting some done, you know, but see  
14 that's where this ruptured drainage pipe  
15 nothing was getting done until I went to DPW  
16 myself.

17 MR. WECHSLER: That's why we need to  
18 know, you know, somebody was sent out so now  
19 we need to know who was sent out and that's  
20 on our end. We need to know what they  
21 determined. We don't know what they  
22 determine. We haven't gotten a report back.  
23 If it was this morning, maybe we will get it  
24 tomorrow, I don't know, but now we have  
25 something for Mr. Reed to check on tomorrow



1 if somebody was out there already.

2 MR. GAUGHAN: Mr. Srebro, I asked a  
3 few weeks ago for a letter to be sent and  
4 one was sent to the administration  
5 identifying the problem which, I mean, we  
6 know what it is, but I'd like it in writing  
7 what the administration plans to do about  
8 it, if there are any estimates on how much  
9 it costs and timeline when it can be  
10 completed. I think that's all you are  
11 asking for; correct?

12 MR. SREBRO: Yes. Just for the  
13 record, I mean, it came from maybe not an  
14 expert source, but somebody who is  
15 knowledgeable brought it up that that would  
16 probably cost the city about \$3,000 to  
17 contract somebody to come and flush that  
18 because the city doesn't -- DPW doesn't have  
19 the right equipment to do that. I don't  
20 know, but that's what I was told, but it  
21 might be something to toss around, just  
22 \$3,000 for somebody else to be responsible  
23 to flush that out, you know, I don't know,  
24 it doesn't seem like such a bad idea.

25 MR. WECHSLER: Well, we will

1 follow-up and see what came out of the  
2 visit.

3 MR. SREBRO: Thank you.

4 MR. WECHSLER: Marie Schumacher.

5 MS. SCHUMACHER: Marie Schumacher,  
6 while I wasn't here last week I would just  
7 like to know that as a taxpayer I am -- I  
8 was offended that you voted unanimously for  
9 all of that money to go to Lackawanna  
10 College. They have taken how many buildings  
11 off the tax rolls that we have to makeup for  
12 as residential owners and they give no -- as  
13 far as I know, they give nothing -- nothing  
14 to the city; am I correct?

15 MR. WECHSLER: No, they participate  
16 in the Henry Amoroso contract, Lackawanna  
17 college.

18 MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, that was  
19 their choice.

20 MR. WECHSLER: Well, you said  
21 nothing.

22 MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, yeah. Yeah.

23 MR. WECHSLER: So they do do  
24 something.

25 MS. SCHUMACHER: They give us -- how

1 much do they contribute?

2 MR. WECHSLER: You just said  
3 nothing, I'm just telling you --

4 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. Okay. I'll  
5 get that for next week. I still don't think  
6 that was sufficient. 5-B, unfortunately,  
7 there is a lot of two reading items on  
8 tonight but, first of all, why in the world  
9 for something like this, can anybody give me  
10 a reason why there was only one responder?  
11 You know, and I started -- as I went through  
12 the backup, I got to the next one to 5-C  
13 where we had maybe it was "D" -- I don't  
14 know. Anyway, one of them that it was given  
15 to the person who has it now, there were  
16 three responders given to the person who has  
17 it now, even though somebody had offered  
18 half the price. So, I mean, if that's going  
19 to continue why would anybody bother to bid  
20 if you are going to always give things to  
21 the -- but I have other questions on that,  
22 and also I would like to know what -- I  
23 mean, that's a \$702,000, as I recall a year,  
24 and one of the reasons given was that there  
25 were approximately \$148,000 savings because

1           they have a -- because we were going with  
2           the three-year contract. Now, \$39,000 I  
3           would -- or for one year averaged over the  
4           year, the three years, I would think that  
5           that could easily be made up by another  
6           contractor if our competitive building was  
7           really more than just a exercise.

8                     Also, why -- if you looked at the  
9           list, which I'm sure you did of what's  
10          covered, why are there only two broom  
11          trucks? Didn't we not receive any from the  
12          Scranton Sewer Authority? Does anybody have  
13          that list? I think that was on your list of  
14          things you needed. Did you get the list of  
15          the equipment that was transferred from  
16          Scranton Sewer Authority from the PAWC at  
17          closure? Does anybody have it? No?

18                    MR. EVANS: Not with us, but I do  
19          remember seeing the list so we'll get that  
20          for you next week.

21                    MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay, thank you,  
22          because I thought we would have more  
23          especially with the fact that we are going  
24          to have to be doing storm water. If we want  
25          all of that stuff that's going on the road

1 going down the drains there is no better way  
2 to clog them up than that stuff.

3 There were no leaf trucks on the  
4 list or the vacuum trucks, whatever they are  
5 called, what happened to them? Why are they  
6 not being insured?

7 And, on the other hand, why are we  
8 still paying for the Albright Library? The  
9 deed was transferred to the Library  
10 Authority and I believe if you would check  
11 with them they are paying the taxes for  
12 insuring that building, so why would we pay  
13 twice? Also, why are the closed swimming  
14 complexes, the buildings on them being  
15 insured? I mean, Novembrino is locked up as  
16 I recall and Capouse and probably others,  
17 yet, we are spending money to insure them.

18 MR. ROGAN: You still need to insure  
19 them if somebody goes on there gets injured.

20 MS. SCHUMACHER: At the same rate as  
21 an active place?

22 MR. EVANS: Sometimes it's worse  
23 when it's vacant, the liability costs.

24 MS. SCHUMACHER: Serenity, why was  
25 that not on the list?

1 MR. EVANS: We don't own that.

2 MS. SCHUMACHER: Pardon?

3 MR. EVANS: We don't own it.

4 MS. SCHUMACHER: I thought you  
5 bought it. I thought you voted to buy it?

6 MR. EVANS: No, we authorized to  
7 continue a short term lease until that time  
8 happens to allow them to be in there, but  
9 no, we don't own it.

10 MS. SCHUMACHER: What do you define  
11 short term as?

12 MR. EVANS: Until we buy it.

13 MS. SCHUMACHER: When do you have it  
14 budgeted for procurement?

15 MR. EVANS: It's still being  
16 negotiated with the federal government.

17 MR. ROGAN: The BRAC Commission is  
18 the one we are working with.

19 MS. SCHUMACHER: I understand. The  
20 Ice Box, why is that not on the list, that's  
21 a leased property; correct? Why are we -- I  
22 mean, that's all I get. Okay, I'll be back  
23 next week and I guess I have to be more  
24 concise.

25 MR. WECHSLER: Fay Franus.

1 MS. FRANUS: Fay Franus, Scranton.  
2 Do you know the answer to that question that  
3 Marie asked about the Ice Box? She asks so  
4 many questions and silence. Nobody seems to  
5 know anything. Do you know the answer to  
6 that question? I never saw anything like  
7 that.

8 MR. GAUGHAN: I don't know the  
9 answer.

10 MR. FRANUS: Pardon me?

11 MR. GAUGHAN: I don't know the  
12 answer to that question.

13 MS. FRANUS: Nobody does.

14 MR. GAUGHAN: No, but we can  
15 certainly find out.

16 MS. FRANUS: Okay. Okay, now, Mr.  
17 Wechsler, you said you wanted to mention  
18 about the \$700,000 in Sewer Authority debt  
19 designated to go to the paving of the  
20 streets.

21 MR. WECHSLER: No, it's money that  
22 came in that we don't have to make a payment  
23 on so it's not from the Sewer Authority it's  
24 from the budget.

25 MS. FRANUS: No, but it's the money

1           that Mr. Gaughan mentioned last week that  
2           should be used for street paving. You said  
3           you would mention that, talk about that in  
4           motions.

5                     MR. WECHSLER: Correct.

6                     MS. FRANUS: Do you know what money  
7           is going to be used for now because I don't  
8           want to wait until next week to answer your  
9           questions in motions.

10                    MR. WECHSLER: The legislation  
11           tonight is to keep the money in paving.

12                    MS. FRANUS: Keep it where?

13                    MR. WECHSLER: In paving.

14                    MS. FRANUS: Why would you do that,  
15           because it's election year? You now how  
16           many priorities are --

17                    MR. WECHSLER: There are miles and  
18           miles of streets in the city that have been  
19           paved.

20                    MS. FRANUS: I don't care. There is  
21           money in the budget already for street  
22           paving. This is an election year. There  
23           are so many things that are more important  
24           than paving the street, like the storm water  
25           fee that Mr. Courtright doesn't want other



1 people to know what the storm water fee is  
2 going to be until after the election. Now,  
3 the meeting that you had in the back room,  
4 the work session, that should have been out  
5 here. I think it's a disgrace. There was  
6 no court reporter, no way of having any  
7 minutes and, Mr. Gaughan, you mentioned last  
8 week that you still didn't hear from the  
9 city or whoever about how much the invoices  
10 for all of the lawyers that were paid for  
11 this deal, why didn't any of you ask that  
12 question when you had Mayor Courtright and  
13 Jason Shrive back there at that meeting?  
14 You had them right in front of you, why  
15 wouldn't you ask them then?

16 MR. GAUGHAN: Well, Jason Shrive  
17 wasn't there.

18 MS. FRANUS: He wasn't, okay, then  
19 Bill Courtright should know.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: Right, but the meeting  
21 was about the proceeds from the Authority  
22 and I did get a letter from Attorney Shrive  
23 saying that he was compiling all of that  
24 information.

25 MS. FRANUS: Okay.

1 MR. GAUGHAN: So I did get a  
2 response from him so I don't feel it was  
3 appropriate to ask because I had already  
4 received that response.

5 MS. FRANUS: Okay, but last time you  
6 said you hadn't heard from him yet.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: Well, I haven't gotten  
8 the invoices yet, but he did say -- I should  
9 clarify, he did say that he was compiling  
10 the information.

11 MS. FRANUS: Now, that pension board  
12 that Joan spoke about, that third party  
13 administrator, national one, that settled --  
14 to get these pension board straightened out  
15 with all of the pensions in the city, why  
16 does it take a year to have an RFP written,  
17 then it's going to take months once it's in  
18 the paper for people to reply to? Is this  
19 being done deliberately because they don't  
20 want to -- it's an election year again, they  
21 don't want to rub the unions the wrong way.  
22 Why would it take a year for an RFP?

23 MR. WECHSLER: The unions already  
24 agreed to have a third party administrator  
25 so there is not rubbing the unions the wrong

1 way.

2 MS. FRANUS: Yeah, but they are not  
3 doing it right now. It's already a year,  
4 what's taking --

5 MR. WECHSLER: They agreed to it a  
6 year ago.

7 MS. FRANUS: Pardon me?

8 MR. WECHSLER: They agreed to it a  
9 year ago.

10 MS. FRANUS: I know.

11 MR. WECHSLER: It's not that they  
12 are waiting for any approval, it's just a  
13 matter of the putting the RFP together.

14 MS. FRANUS: I know that, so how  
15 come it's taken a year to get an RFP?

16 MR. WECHSLER: You would have to ask  
17 the administration that. They put all that  
18 together.

19 MS. FRANUS: Well, I'm asking you to  
20 ask them.

21 MR. WECHSLER: Well, we have been  
22 asking them. We been asking them and asking  
23 them.

24 MS. FRANUS: Well, would you ask  
25 them again because it's election year and I

1 think -- this is what I think --

2 MR. WECHSLER: I don't think it has  
3 anything to do with an election.

4 MS. FRANUS: Well, you can say what  
5 you want. You also said there was no taxes  
6 this year, all this excuses, but there is no  
7 taxes this year because the mayor is running  
8 for election. I mean, you can shake your  
9 head all of you want, Mr. Wechsler.

10 MR. EVANS: Fay, can I go back to  
11 that one issue about the pension reforms and  
12 the third party administrator? I'm on the  
13 record, I think most of us are on the  
14 record, that no money is going into the  
15 pensions until a third party administrator  
16 is hired. Period. That's not going to  
17 happen.

18 MS. FRANUS: Okay.

19 MR. EVANS: So, you know, there is a  
20 delay and I don't know what the delay is and  
21 why it's taking that long, there is no  
22 excuse for that.

23 MS. FRANUS: No, there isn't.

24 MR. EVANS: But our position is that  
25 no money goes into the pensions --

1 MS. FRANUS: Until this is  
2 straightened out.

3 MR. EVANS: Absolutely.

4 MS. FRANUS: Thank you.

5 MR. EVANS: You're welcome.

6 MS. FRANUS: Now, another thing,  
7 these people that got the double pensions,  
8 wow, most of these people are retired so  
9 there are over 65 and they get social  
10 security, so they are all pleading, oh,  
11 please don't take this money way from them.  
12 Some of them are getting half of it what  
13 they should normally be getting it's \$700  
14 and \$600. How many people in the city,  
15 senior citizens, even get pensions? I don't  
16 know, maybe some do, some don't, but \$700  
17 and \$600 is pretty good. A friend of mine  
18 in Clarks Summit, she is 84, she only gets  
19 400 and something. They get social  
20 security. They make it sound like they live  
21 from paycheck to paycheck with the pension  
22 money but they are also getting social  
23 security. They are living pretty good.  
24 They should be getting every penny that they  
25 got illegally paid back, so I hope if they

1 do appeal that this city goes after them to  
2 get all of that back money back. It must be  
3 nice to get a double pension plus social  
4 security. Jimmy Connors, the ex-mayor, is  
5 one of them. Tell me he is a struggling  
6 from paycheck to paycheck. Thank you.

7 MR. WECHSLER: John Foley.

8 MR. FOLEY: Gentlemen.

9 MR. WECHSLER: John.

10 MR. FOLEY: Good to see you again.

11 I missed last week because of the snowstorm,  
12 however, first I'd like to thank whoever  
13 drops documents at my house. I don't know  
14 who they are, but they are extremely  
15 informative. I received a copy of a letter  
16 Mr. Wechsler dated February 15 from the  
17 Sewer Authority in response to questions  
18 that were asked. I read the letter with  
19 some interest and maybe I can go through and  
20 I'll give you my observations.

21 The letter indicated that this is a  
22 very complicated deal, the sale of the Sewer  
23 Authority. I don't think so. Frankly, I  
24 thought it was very simplistic deal. My  
25 experience has been financial people outline

1 the financial terms of the deal and they  
2 give it to the lawyers to draft documents,  
3 but the financial people do it. It's  
4 reality check. I spoke to a friend of mine  
5 who is a CFO for a venture capital group out  
6 of Texas and he said, yup, that's the way  
7 most major deals go. Finances guys do it,  
8 give it to lawyers and they pull the  
9 documents together.

10 I looked at one of the paragraphs  
11 that they could not give you everything,  
12 Mr. Wechsler, because of attorney/client  
13 privilege unless it was waived. The last  
14 time I was here I suggested that council  
15 insist upon the Authority, and the mayor  
16 should do it, also, to waive attorney/client  
17 privilege.

18 I looked at the financial  
19 information and it seems to be a reveling  
20 expense reports of the Authority for several  
21 months. The document I believe supports my  
22 opinion as to what happened, although, I  
23 won't know for awhile yet. Included in  
24 there, the letter, there was a mention that  
25 they give you a schedule. I sent out today

1 a letter to Attorney Shrive as the executive  
2 director of the Sewer Authority asking for  
3 access to the final asset purchase  
4 agreement. I do not want to copy, I want to  
5 inspect the document. If I do not hear from  
6 him within the 30 days after he has received  
7 it, then I'm going to the Pennsylvania Open  
8 Records Office. I am pretty sure they will  
9 get it for me. I'm tired of sending  
10 Right-to-Know requests, now I'm just going  
11 to ask to inspect documents.

12 I fully believe that there needs to  
13 be a forensic audit of the Sewer Authority.  
14 To my knowledge, a forensic audit has not  
15 been performed of the sewer Authority in  
16 about 15 years, and I can say that with some  
17 certainty because the last one that did it  
18 was me, my firm. I have some familiarity  
19 with the Sewer Authority and the operations  
20 so I believe that I could relatively get  
21 through it quickly as long as I get a  
22 complete and unfettered access to all of the  
23 records and the attorneys.

24 Now, if you don't want me, I can  
25 recommend a number of good firms. If you



1 don't want to spend the money, I will do it  
2 myself for free under which one condition,  
3 any money recovered has to go into the union  
4 pension plan. That would be my focusing on  
5 the \$12 million. Anything I can get, would  
6 have to go into the pension plan.

7 I have heard a number of people  
8 complain about the legal fees, I try not to  
9 make judgment unless I have documents, but  
10 I'll offer this, I believe Tom Cummings'  
11 fees are reasonable. No matter what the  
12 issues are for local counsel they are the  
13 same for Dunmore as they are for Scranton.  
14 If Tom's are reasonable, then you need to  
15 look at all of the rest of the fees in  
16 comparison to Tom Cummings', but I'll get to  
17 that eventually.

18 Now, the last thing, and I think  
19 it's extremely important, because I heard  
20 everyone trash the newspaper -- or not trash  
21 the newspaper, trash the unions. Newspaper,  
22 people in this audience, my neighbors. I  
23 wish people would stop trashing the union.  
24 The problem is not the union in the City of  
25 Scranton. There isn't a person in this room



1           today and I appreciate them. I come here  
2           from New York City, I have been here for a  
3           year and a half. Since I have been here, I  
4           have been beating the trail, as they say,  
5           regarding Scranton's financials. Do any of  
6           you know what the unfunded liability of the  
7           pension is? \$195 million, which is  
8           fascinating because the gentleman who wants  
9           to bring \$12 million to the pension fund  
10          constitutes basically a drop in the bucket,  
11          but it's not important right now. What's  
12          important is I want to tell you a little  
13          story when I first came here. I actually  
14          went to city council, I met Bill Gaughan,  
15          Joe Wechsler, even Pat Rogan and I discussed  
16          moving forward using innovation and  
17          technology to lower costs, make this  
18          government run sufficiently. I was told  
19          that the city was trying to steal the future  
20          of the future generations.

21                   I was also told a fascinating story  
22                   in a coffee shop. I was told the city was  
23                   cold by political society, that it was based  
24                   on ethnicity, that the positions you had in  
25                   the parade meant more than just coincidence

1 and, of course, when I heard this I was  
2 shocked. I was like, wow, you know, this is  
3 supposed to be America. It sounds more like  
4 an eastern block regime in one of the  
5 Congolese third world counties where a  
6 warlord resides over the people.

7 What's even more shocking is that  
8 this is something that is a secret. Since I  
9 have been here I have spoken to many people,  
10 read over 300 articles featured in  
11 Bloomberg, Bond Buyer, other publications,  
12 everyone knows. Everyone knows. There is  
13 no doubt that all of you standing here who  
14 have been in this city longer than I have  
15 known. So now it goes without saying, if  
16 this is the case why isn't this place being  
17 investigated? Why aren't any of you openly  
18 declaring the truth and saying that yes,  
19 this place is a cesspool, this place has  
20 connections and status quos and the old boys  
21 network that's more interested in helping  
22 each other or quid pro quo than actually  
23 doing what's right by the people of  
24 Scranton, that the people can last and those  
25 who are connected with the government come

1 first?

2 I mean, you are public officials and  
3 as public officials you have certain  
4 responsibilities to the people, or do you?  
5 Now, I am running for office, I'm running as  
6 a mayor and as independent and my platform  
7 is really simple, I said it from the  
8 beginning when I first came here, I looked  
9 at the financials and told Wechsler, hey,  
10 there's a \$30 million line item here that's  
11 listed as a miscellaneous item. That's poor  
12 accounting. If you want to go to the  
13 accounting, the city has \$383 million in  
14 total liabilities, I just listed \$195  
15 million in unfunded pension liabilities.  
16 \$145 million come from interest, has to be  
17 amortized in the schedule.

18 If you want to talk about last year,  
19 \$32.8 million were floated in the bond. \$39  
20 million floated in another bond. You also  
21 have shared commingling debt with the county  
22 and school board, so another \$300 million.  
23 Do you have any idea when you take all of  
24 these numbers and put them together how much  
25 debt the city has? Could you venture, any

1 of you? And the real question that I have  
2 for you, if you going to be honest men who  
3 have any morals on what you believe, can you  
4 honestly say that you have any faith that  
5 you are really going to pay this back? That  
6 the people with their blood, sweat and  
7 tears, the equity in their homes aren't  
8 paying for this. Where old ladies, the 38  
9 percent of people in this population are on  
10 a fixed income and they have to make a  
11 determination do I pay for medication or do  
12 I pay for property taxes?

13 Now, what I'm saying here to say to  
14 you, and if there are political signs of  
15 control you should name them. If there is a  
16 corruption and fraud, you have a  
17 responsibility to disclose it. And to the  
18 press, so called, I'm not sure what's going  
19 on here because we should be holding our  
20 public officials accountable.

21 Now, I have done my part and I just  
22 came here, now the facts that you have been  
23 here far longer than I have, what are you  
24 doing? If this is happening in this country  
25 that I love. My parents, they came from

1           Haiti, poorest country in the western  
2           hemisphere, coming for opportunity, and I  
3           believe in this country. The constitution  
4           to me is sacred, and the notion that is in  
5           this country would have a government that's  
6           more reflective of the country that I left,  
7           it's a shame, and if you have any  
8           conscience, if you have any moral scruples  
9           you will do the right thing. Thank you.

10           MR. WECHSLER: Ron Ellman.

11           MR. ELLMAN: Hello, Council. I'm  
12           not on the warpath so you don't have to  
13           worry about me tonight. First, as I know  
14           adversary to the city I want to compliment  
15           Mayor Bill on a extraordinary job cleaning  
16           up for our parade. I was down there later,  
17           they did a beautiful job in one day and I'd  
18           also like to say I think he did the best job  
19           he could cleaning up this immense storm. He  
20           hired people and committed himself to a  
21           large sum of money, and I don't think -- I  
22           don't think he was given a good chance, you  
23           know. I think he did a go ahead job  
24           personally, but that's that.

25           But it's apparent that Mayor Bill,

1           this council, and supporters are definitely  
2           blind to the fact that we are not in good  
3           shape. Some of you people have these  
4           rose-colored glasses on because somebody can  
5           stand here for an hour or two and talk about  
6           all of the adversities going on and the  
7           taxes and the school owing money and so  
8           forth, we are in terrible shape, and then in  
9           the middle of it you people are talking  
10          about downtown getting \$3,540,000 in a week.  
11          One week all of this comes up. This is --  
12          what gives Bulzoni the authority? You are  
13          not talking about \$10 donation to the Red  
14          Cross, you are talking about a half a  
15          million dollars, he commits it to downtown.  
16          What authority he got to do this? The  
17          governor ought to come in here and the FBI  
18          and investigate what goes on because that  
19          can't be kosher. I know you are not going  
20          like this, to me downtown is a dinosaur, the  
21          mall is a dinosaur. We no longer need to  
22          subsidize them any longer. This has been  
23          going on for years. I find it downtown an  
24          archaic wasteland, just bars and  
25          restaurants. Businesses come and go. I



1           have taken Rosey downtown to something and  
2           it's gone. You know, it's not successful.  
3           It's a burden. It's a burden on taxpayers  
4           that are already burdened, and to give  
5           \$500,000 of tax money again, what the mayor  
6           needs \$500,000 to give people that worked  
7           for the city. We owe people that worked,  
8           that helped clean up our city. You are  
9           talking about a bunch of people downtown  
10          that they are like professional parasites.  
11          Besides that, he promised in writing, it's  
12          in the paper, tax incentives, grants, loans.  
13          All of these loans that are uncollectible or  
14          forgiven. That's enough downtown. You  
15          haven't spoken about one lousy penny in \$3  
16          million for the city for parks, fixing  
17          firehouses, everything. Nothing for the  
18          city. I think it's gone far enough.

19                   And the thing of giving \$3 million  
20                   and getting a grant for Lackawanna College  
21                   it's insanity. These are the people year  
22                   after year that have raped the taxpayers dry  
23                   taking our -- I guess our prize properties  
24                   off the roll downtown. Three years that  
25                   property is sitting deteriorating, now they

1 want us to get a grant to fix their  
2 property. They haven't paid taxes on it.  
3 Whoever heard such a thing. This is  
4 insanity. You can't do this to the people  
5 of this city and keep doing it to us. What  
6 if there is somebody comes along and  
7 Mr. Trump says, "I got a grant, what did you  
8 do with the last money?"

9 You blowed it. What's you did with  
10 it. Just like giving \$40,000 to get another  
11 bar downtown. That's all we need. People  
12 can't have \$40,000 to move a business, let  
13 them stay where they are. Thank you.

14 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you,  
15 Mr. Ellman. Dave Dobrzyn.

16 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening. Dave  
17 Dobrzyn, resident, taxpayer. About two  
18 weeks ago or so, the issue from the Scranton  
19 Times about a police official working for  
20 another county and I'd like to point out  
21 another advantage of, and it would have to  
22 be a national thing, but social security,  
23 does anybody know what a ticket to work is?  
24 Okay, well, if you're declared disabled and  
25 qualify for social security disability you

1 get a letter in the mail and you can work  
2 and they try to get you to return to work  
3 and they give you various advantages to work  
4 and let you keep some of the money or all of  
5 it, and kind of help you along there, so if  
6 our pensions were rolled over into the  
7 social security system and taken over and  
8 there is a lot of forces in Washington that  
9 really don't want to do this, but then these  
10 people would qualify to attempt to return to  
11 work and at a pace that they could actually  
12 withstand.

13 And, furthermore, a very large  
14 concern of mine with the pensions is the  
15 Wall Street losses. We have a loss of \$26  
16 million over Wall Street debacle, a few  
17 years back and it's fair to say that if that  
18 money hadn't been loss and invested insanity  
19 it would probably be well over \$50 million  
20 so our problem aren't all public employees  
21 or what have you, some of them aren't Wall  
22 Street losses and hopefully we will never  
23 see another situation like that again  
24 because we are really in trouble if we do.

25 Pat brought up mall losses of \$27

1 million and there is quite a few others  
2 about the city that are big losses so we  
3 have to start to consider where this money  
4 is going and how logical it is to spend it.  
5 I don't want to express myself in an shrill  
6 tone, and I'd also like to point that people  
7 that don't like to pay mercantile taxes and  
8 business privilege taxes and naturally they  
9 are paying for a lot of other things, too,  
10 because I think the county could be chipping  
11 in with all of the property they own around  
12 town with snow removal and stuff, but they  
13 do have dibs on a lot of public works in  
14 storm storms and so forth that we don't  
15 have. I had to miss last week because  
16 wouldn't you know my snowblower didn't start  
17 and then my wife started complaining because  
18 it was messy and I was trying to fix it and  
19 so I just leave it until she is in work.

20 The educational grants. Now, a few  
21 weeks ago I read an article, I don't  
22 remember it very well, but there were  
23 courses that weren't being filled on  
24 culinary courses, and another concern of  
25 mine has been that other colleges have moved

1           into town and they seem to be offering the  
2           same things that the next guy, like, two  
3           colleges, community colleges offering  
4           criminal justice or something like that, I  
5           think it's important that if we do give  
6           these grants and so forth that we make sure  
7           that the courses are relevant and they are  
8           not just for the sake of opening up another  
9           course or expending a course that may or may  
10          not be attended.

11                         And as far as the contribution for  
12          Mr. Amoroso, I have always felt that  
13          Mr. Amoroso and most think tanks are  
14          somewhat mercenary and at times they could  
15          be hired to more or less like whitewash any  
16          circumstance that other institutions  
17          actually create.

18                         And I'll just make it quick, in  
19          Chicago there was an article in the Times on  
20          gun violence, it seems that the railroads  
21          aren't monitoring their rail yards and most  
22          of the guns and the violence are stolen from  
23          the railroad which has no security.

24                         MR. WECHSLER: Thank you,  
25          Mr. Dobrzyn.

1 MR. DOBRZYN: Thank you a lot  
2 railroads. Have a good night.

3 MR. WECHSLER: Anyone else?

4 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,  
5 citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians,  
6 when this came up before about recycling I  
7 said the red containers you put the paper  
8 in. The blue container you put the glass,  
9 plastic, metal into that, and that was the  
10 recycling, but for some reason or other you  
11 want to make it more complex or you have  
12 other reasons for wanting to give out a  
13 contract. I didn't hear anything saying  
14 other than that there was a slight increase  
15 in the recycling, but whether it was worth  
16 the cost that it cost to get that slight  
17 increase I have no idea. It all has to do  
18 with tonnage and it does require to look at  
19 it in a lot more depth than you did.

20 Another thing is lot of the -- well,  
21 most of the cardboard being generated is  
22 being generated a lot of food stores and so  
23 forth, factories that take merchandise in  
24 and out of stores, of course, most of them  
25 are in Dickson City, but that's beside the

1 point, we want to them to go up there  
2 because they would dirty our city down here,  
3 but that is the things that we have done.  
4 And this recycling contract, all of a sudden  
5 they want to force it on us, really that's  
6 something or other. There is no hurry to  
7 pass this contract, none at all, but you are  
8 going to do it anyway and when people force  
9 something on residents there is usually a  
10 reason.

11 Nothing in this city happens by  
12 accident. If your taxes are high, it's  
13 because the politician want to make them  
14 high. There is no accident in our city. We  
15 have a light down there on Main Avenue and  
16 Parker Street, I always said the lighting  
17 color wasn't quite right. The red wasn't  
18 red enough or the yellow wasn't yellow  
19 enough or the green wasn't green enough, but  
20 I see you did something about that. You  
21 gave out an FOP to replace that light to  
22 make sure the green is green, the red is red  
23 and the orange is orange regardless of the  
24 cost, it's going to cost over \$20,000  
25 because it had to go FOP.

1                   These are the things that are being  
2                   done within the city and you wonder why they  
3                   need money for paving because a lot of the  
4                   money went to the street lighting, and if  
5                   you take them money from one place and put  
6                   it in other place you have to come up with  
7                   the money back in the first place so that's  
8                   where some of that money is coming from and  
9                   why it has to be.

10                   If you want your streets paved, you  
11                   are going to have to get it from that money.  
12                   It's not really that money, that money could  
13                   have been used for paving off more debt,  
14                   anything, but for some reason or other they  
15                   decided maybe we should use it for the  
16                   roads. Do I argue with that? No.  
17                   Everybody wants to ride on nice, new roads,  
18                   of course, you have to usually in Scranton  
19                   you have to go somewhere else. Our roads  
20                   are bumpy and they fall apart quite readily.  
21                   Why, I don't know.

22                   But things in this city when you  
23                   look at anything that happened in this city  
24                   it's not on accident. We didn't have to  
25                   give \$4.1 million to the mall owner but that



1 was an accident. We didn't want to do that.  
2 We wanted to cut down on competition. Could  
3 you imagine anybody saying we want to reduce  
4 competition in the United States when it's  
5 made, built on competition, but not with  
6 Scranton. Scranton has the reverse  
7 psychology when it comes to anything. What  
8 is good for the party is not necessarily  
9 good for the people.

10 You have an opportunity now to do  
11 something about that. Thank God there is an  
12 election coming up. If you want good, open,  
13 honest and efficient government now is your  
14 time to do it. As you know, they wanted no  
15 record of where the money was going from the  
16 Sewer Authority, that's why they didn't hold  
17 it here because it would have had a record  
18 on tape and that was bad for the party. The  
19 less you know, the better off you are.  
20 That's the trouble with Scranton.

21 Scranton, like I said, the smartest  
22 people in Scranton would be an idiot because  
23 he doesn't know anything and that's the best  
24 way to be in Scranton. Maybe the kid was  
25 right, more pot.

1 MR. WECHSLER: Anyone else?

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

3 MOTIONS.

4 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Perry?

5 MR. PERRY: Yes, thank you. First,  
6 I want to thank the scouts for coming out  
7 tonight and leading us in the Pledge of  
8 Allegiance, thank you very much. I also  
9 want to thank Tom Lynch, Joyce Hatala, and  
10 Dave Bulzoni for coming out to a public  
11 caucus today for he recycling program.

12 I did have a couple of comments on  
13 our recycling program that I want to make as  
14 I was going through the notes. I broke it  
15 down in two areas, there is commercial  
16 recycling and then there is residential.  
17 The two biggest issues I see right now  
18 deterring us from really maximizing our  
19 tonnage in the business sector, business is  
20 both big and small. They need to report the  
21 recycling tonnage to Tom Lynch at the  
22 Recycling Center.

23 Businesses recycling tonnage, it's  
24 tracked by calling. It's nothing that you  
25 need to do or feel overwhelmed with. As a

1 business owner and a business manager, all  
2 you need to do is call your hauler up at the  
3 end of the year and request your tonnage.  
4 They will fax you something over, mail you  
5 something and then you use that tonnage to  
6 fill out the paperwork that's supplied by  
7 the recycling center. You sign it, you mail  
8 it and what we do is the recycling center  
9 adds that tonnage to what it already tracked  
10 from residential and that just gets us more  
11 grant money from the state and it's very  
12 difficult job at the recycling center  
13 getting this information, I know firsthand  
14 of that and so, again, businesses big and  
15 small you guys do a ton of recycling by  
16 calling and just give them a call, let them  
17 give you that information to get it back.

18 On the residential sector,  
19 Mrs. Reed, if you could draft a letter to  
20 the IT Department. What I would like is,  
21 again, this just a basic first step, is the  
22 recycling schedule posted in a very  
23 prominent spot on the city's webpage for any  
24 who can go to see and read. I know  
25 ultimately I think it's this council's

1 opinion that there has to be something,  
2 either a mailer or something more in their  
3 face and something that they can consult at  
4 their house, but in the mean time I think we  
5 can get our IT Department behind something  
6 either on the front page of our website or  
7 not buried somewhere where they have to go  
8 through three links to find it. This needs  
9 to be something readily available. I think  
10 someone made the joke that, you know, we  
11 kind of know when to put out the blue or the  
12 red by the neighbor across the street.  
13 That's not the way to do business, so if we  
14 could have that done that would be  
15 fantastic.

16 As far as 6-A and the paving  
17 legislation that's coming up, I have  
18 reservations regarding the \$700,000 because  
19 of that storm and there was some good issues  
20 brought up with are we going to be able to  
21 pay for the storm management, and after  
22 talking with Dave Bulzoni I believe  
23 Councilman Wechsler maybe alluded to this  
24 before, the city is going to be able to pay  
25 for that. So with that being said, I have

1 no problem with the paving money in that  
2 legislation, and the reason why I'm adamant  
3 about that is because whenever we get  
4 federal grant money for paving that has to  
5 be done in low and moderate income  
6 neighborhoods, which in the City of Scranton  
7 we haven't had a ton of money to pave, you  
8 know, in decades past, so that's kind of the  
9 same sections of the city got paved. Well,  
10 there is other places this absolutely need  
11 the paving. This is going to give us our  
12 pick and chose of places that are really in  
13 need that don't fit the federal grant  
14 guideline, so I have no problem with that.

15 And, lastly, I'm very glad to see  
16 our hoff-like planet slowly melting away and  
17 getting back to some normalcy. I can get in  
18 and out of my driveway. Again, I appreciate  
19 all of the hard work that was done by not  
20 just the DPW but by the citizens getting out  
21 there and taking care of things. As they  
22 snowbanks melt and as things get back to  
23 normal, let get out there and let's maintain  
24 our properties, there is going to be stuff  
25 all over the place, but that's all I have

1                   today. Thank you.

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

4                   MR. ROGAN: Yes, just a couple of  
5                   brief comments. Regarding the caucus and  
6                   regarding the recycling program, I agree it  
7                   was very informative. It's no secret the  
8                   City of Scranton has a long way to go as far  
9                   as recycling is concerned. We are well  
10                  behind the times compared to other cities.  
11                  I'm glad to see that the focus is being put  
12                  on recycling, but it's certainly not enough,  
13                  and I know this has been mentioned at this  
14                  meeting many times, just up the road in  
15                  Dunmore they have a very creative plan that  
16                  sends out schedules to their residents free  
17                  of charge by using sponsorships. Councilman  
18                  Evans mentioned the sponsorship idea for the  
19                  bags. I think that's a great idea. It  
20                  works in Dunmore, there is no reason why it  
21                  can't work in Scranton. I know there are  
22                  businesses out there that would love to have  
23                  their business logo on every refrigerator in  
24                  Scranton along with the City of Scranton's  
25                  garbage and recycling schedule.

1                   Especially with the storm that just  
2 hit, I know all of us have had a number of  
3 questions about what the recycling schedule  
4 would be, what the garbage schedule would be  
5 and, again, for a storm it's a little bit  
6 different. When they have a set schedule  
7 that people know it is much more informative  
8 than just looking out and looking to see  
9 what your neighbors have put out, and if  
10 your neighbor puts out the wrong -- if one  
11 neighbor puts out the wrong recycling, you  
12 could have a number of neighbors doing the  
13 same thing.

14                   I am encouraged by the progress of  
15 the business recycling. Obviously, it's in  
16 the business' best interest to recycle as  
17 well, but I do feel that that is a drop in  
18 the bucket compared to the commercial -- or  
19 compared to the residential. Looking  
20 through the neighborhoods, and we all walk  
21 through the neighborhoods and drive through,  
22 you see how many people aren't recycling. A  
23 big part of it is education, but also a big  
24 part of it is it doesn't cost the resident out  
25 of their pocket anymore to recycle than not

1           recycle. Now, in the grand scheme of things  
2           it does because the city is paying more for  
3           garbage than we are for recycling, but with  
4           our current system of a flat rate, which I  
5           believe is completely unfair to senior  
6           citizens and to people who live alone and  
7           smaller families, we have to change  
8           something. We have to make reforms to make  
9           that system more fair, but we need to get a  
10          recycling rate up to the 80/90 percent.  
11          There is no reason not to recycle.

12                        Regarding the storm, I would like to  
13           thank, again, neighborhood leaders,  
14           especially South Scranton, the Hill Section.  
15           I had a number of calls and correspondence  
16           from neighborhood leaders in those  
17           neighborhoods that were having issues for  
18           trying to help residents with getting  
19           alleys, especially the courts, you know, the  
20           second and third day with getting courts  
21           paved -- plowed, I'll get to paving in a  
22           second, but I would like to thank all of the  
23           neighborhood leaders who have contacted, I  
24           know we have all been contacted a number of  
25           neighborhood leaders who are really out



1           there fighting for their neighborhoods, so I  
2           would like to thank all of them for their  
3           hard work during the storm. I know the DPW  
4           and different people who were out there get  
5           a lot of credit and I'd just like to give a  
6           shout out to neighborhood leaders, and they  
7           know who they are, who were out there  
8           working and working hard.

9                         And, finally, I know Councilman  
10           Wechsler will talk about this a little more,  
11           the agenda item tonight for paving. Since  
12           Business Administrator Bulzoni believes we  
13           are equipped to pay for the cost of the snow  
14           removal, I see no reason why we should skim  
15           back on paving. This \$700,000 for paving is  
16           desperately needed. We need much more. And  
17           as my colleagues mentioned tonight and the  
18           previous weeks, this money can be used  
19           anywhere in the city.

20                        One of the most frustrating things  
21           for me is that we do have a large allotment  
22           of funding for paving in low to moderate  
23           income neighborhoods and they certainly need  
24           paving, but the neighborhoods that don't  
25           fall in that low to moderate income range we

1           can't use those federal dollars there, so  
2           you have a situation where some of the  
3           people who lived in neighborhoods pay the  
4           highest taxes have some of the worst roads,  
5           and that's a complaint that's relayed to me  
6           quite often is that our taxes -- especially  
7           in East Mountain, West Mountain, parts of the  
8           Hill and Greenridge, they say, "Well, our  
9           taxes are some of the highest in the city,  
10          why do we have the worst roads?"

11                        So I think this will go a long way  
12           to getting in some of those roads that we  
13           can't use our federal dollars on, but we  
14           need to continue to pave as much as we can.  
15           So I certainly support that legislation as  
16           well, and that is all for tonight. Thank  
17           you.

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

20                        MR. EVANS: Circling back a little  
21           bit to the snow storm. I did call for a  
22           snow warning on that last week, I don't  
23           think that's a good idea to do. I will say  
24           though that, you know, could it have been  
25           done better? Probably, but there were a lot

1 of good things that came out of the snow  
2 removal, I thought. There was a conscious  
3 effort to get to the downtown cleaned up  
4 properly. Something I saw that was  
5 important was actually cleaning the  
6 sidewalks on the bridges going into town and  
7 all through the city. Too many times we  
8 forget about our pedestrians, and so that  
9 was a very thoughtful thing to get done in  
10 the middle of the snowstorm.

11 I also want to circle back to a  
12 conversation we had about the condemnation  
13 policy. While I appreciate Mr. Koldjeski's  
14 comments and suggestions from last week as  
15 they relate to the City's condemnation  
16 policy, I certainly agree with the  
17 suggestions, however, I continue to view the  
18 current policy and it's changes to it in a  
19 far broader context and I would like to take  
20 a more comprehensive approach to needed  
21 changes.

22 I don't feel it would be  
23 constructive to try to piecemeal changes to  
24 the existing policy without a further review  
25 of the current legislation and how it is

1           being interpreted and implemented by the  
2           Licensing and Inspections Department. With  
3           that said, I would more than welcome  
4           language in the new policy that would mirror  
5           Mr. Koldjeski's suggestion to offer a  
6           six-month grace period on a bond requirement  
7           as part of a more comprehensive approach.

8                       When used appropriately,  
9           condemnation can be an effective tool in  
10          fighting blight and lowering neighborhood  
11          density, but it must done as part of an  
12          overall strategy which should include the  
13          land bank and the Tax Claim Bureau and the  
14          Tax Claim sales. However, as I stated  
15          before many times, when the city condemns a  
16          property because of the current policy it  
17          more often than not condemns that property  
18          to a death sentence, with little or no  
19          chance for that property to be restored or  
20          rehabbed.

21                      The simple act of a condemnation  
22          used to devalue the condemned property by as  
23          much as 30 to 50percent as well as the  
24          property values of adjoining properties, so  
25          clearly the current policy has unintended

1 consequences that can be very severe.

2 So with that said and some momentum  
3 on this issue if it's all right with my  
4 colleagues I would like to begin both  
5 discussions with LIPS and other members of  
6 the administration if necessary and other  
7 stakeholders. I would also appreciate if  
8 any other member of council would like to  
9 join me in partaking in those meetings, I  
10 think the time is right, the conversation is  
11 being had, and it's a good time to move  
12 forward on this.

13 MR. ROGAN: I would certainly be  
14 interested, Mr. Evans.

15 MR. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Rogan,  
16 that would be great, and if there is anybody  
17 else we will start having some meetings in  
18 the next few weeks and get Licensing and  
19 Inspection involved and Director Hinton and  
20 see if we can get this policy where it needs  
21 to be for all concerned because we are  
22 losing opportunities in investment and we  
23 need to get these buildings back on the tax  
24 rolls. It is -- the policy is too onerous  
25 for people to come in and try to rehab them

1           so I saw examples, I worked with the  
2           neighbor housing organization for years and  
3           they bought ten houses and totally fixed  
4           them up for first time home buyers and the  
5           city, even though the money was coming from  
6           the city, required them to pay a bond. I  
7           mean, that was actually ludicrous. So we  
8           need to look at this from top to bottom and  
9           get to the point where we can actually get  
10          some investment and get these property on  
11          our tax rolls and get them rehabbed and  
12          hopefully sold to a first time homebuyers or  
13          somebody appropriate. That's all I have for  
14          now. Thank you.

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

17                   MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, thank you. First  
18                   of all, I want to thank the Boy Scouts for  
19                   coming to our council meeting tonight, brave  
20                   young men. It looks like everybody is still  
21                   awake and interested up there so thank you  
22                   very much for coming.

23                   I just want to provide a brief  
24                   update on the street lighting project. It  
25                   is nearly 90 percent complete throughout the

1 city. There have been 5,359 lights that  
2 have been retrofitted. We have hit a little  
3 bit over the 6,000 mark so we are making our  
4 way there and progressing very nicely.

5 The second thing, I didn't get to  
6 bring this up in the caucus because we  
7 didn't have in our clerks office, but I was  
8 contacted by somebody from Sons of the Union  
9 Veterans. They run the Civil War Museum in  
10 the basement of city hall and they would  
11 like to attend one of our caucuses to  
12 present council with all of the activities  
13 that they do for the community and some of  
14 the interesting things that they do in the  
15 programs that they with the museum.

16 Also, one of the other things that  
17 came up in my conversation was that the  
18 lease for the museum in the basement is  
19 apparently going to be up relatively soon  
20 and they have been having a difficult time  
21 getting in touch with anyone from the  
22 administration to see where they stand on  
23 that, so if my colleagues wouldn't have any  
24 objections to it, I would like to try to  
25 schedule a time to have those gentlemen in

1 to make that presentation.

2 The second thing, I'd just like to  
3 remind people to visit our website, the  
4 city's website [www.Scrantonpa.gov](http://www.Scrantonpa.gov) and go to  
5 the city council webpage portion. I'd just  
6 like to remind everyone again that you can  
7 view all of the backup legislation that we  
8 have in front of us here and everything that  
9 we present to the public on our agenda. We  
10 have been getting some really good reviews  
11 on it. I think it's, again, it's great from  
12 a transparency perspective and I'd just like  
13 to make sure that people understand that  
14 instead of coming down to city hall and  
15 requesting a piece of legislation, you can  
16 actually look at everything that we see up  
17 here on counsel right on our website. So  
18 that's a new thing and it was a great  
19 initiative.

20 Second thing, about two or three  
21 weeks ago we had a meeting with the  
22 neighbors from the Hill Section about the  
23 Hindu church on Prescott Avenue. One of the  
24 things that came up was whether or not the  
25 contractors who were going to take down the



1 bell tower on top of that church had done an  
2 environmental mediation study, and I did get  
3 information from Director Hinton of  
4 Licensing and Inspections that an  
5 environmental inspection was done, it was  
6 conducted by Lewis Riddle, who is a licensed  
7 and certified asbestos building inspector on  
8 January 29 of this year. The document is  
9 quite lengthy, so if anybody from the Hill  
10 Section is interested that was at that  
11 meeting in taking a look you can e-mail me  
12 at w.Gaughan@Scrantonpa.gov. That's my  
13 email, and we can send that along to you.

14 Mr. Srebro was here earlier in the  
15 meeting, again, I just want to reiterate  
16 that I have not received any correspondence  
17 yet from the city on the flooding issues  
18 over in Keyser Valley. I'm hoping to  
19 receive something by next week. I would  
20 like it in writing just to get an idea of  
21 what the timeline looks like, what the  
22 estimate is and what the plan of attack is  
23 to take care of that problem because there  
24 is a lot of people that are suffering over  
25 in Keyser Valley from that.

1                   Last night I attended the South Side  
2 neighborhood meeting, a couple of issues  
3 came out of that so we are going to forward  
4 that to the Licensing and Inspections  
5 Department.

6                   Also, I am concerned over some of  
7 the conversation that went on at a recent  
8 meeting between the city and Arcadis, who is  
9 doing the study storm water management. I  
10 just want to read a couple of points here  
11 from the notes from that meeting. First of  
12 all, just a little background.  
13 Historically, the Sanitary Authority, which  
14 would be the Scranton Sewer Authority, had  
15 performed work on the storm sewer system in  
16 Scranton and Dunmore. Pennsylvania American  
17 Water will not be doing this. The city  
18 currently has low capacity to do any storm  
19 water system maintenance work, so we knew  
20 that. One of the concerning things that  
21 came out of this meeting, and I could not  
22 attend this because it was during the day,  
23 but we get the notes from it, "Pennsylvania  
24 American Water may be including a storm  
25 water fee on the waste water bills to

1 reflect some of the cost associated with  
2 conveying and treating storm water in the  
3 combined system. There is a concern that  
4 residents could potentially receive two  
5 different bills for storm water.

6 Coordination with Pennsylvania American  
7 Water will be needed."

8 I'd like further clarification on  
9 this. You know, for someone in the city to  
10 receive not only one storm water bill, which  
11 is bad enough, and that is coming down the  
12 pike, but to receive another one from  
13 Pennsylvania American Water is ridiculous.  
14 So I would like correspondence to be sent  
15 out to Pennsylvania American Water to see  
16 what their plans are on that.

17 On the Scranton Sewer Authority and  
18 the legal fees that I have been asking  
19 about, I have a couple of additional  
20 questions that I would like to pose, I would  
21 like to find out from Director Shrive if the  
22 city should have bid out the position of  
23 special counsel. I'd like to know how those  
24 firms were chosen and I would like to know  
25 or get a timeline on when Director Shrive

1 will provide the invoices for the legal work  
2 done for the sale of Scranton Sewer  
3 Authority. He did say he was compiling  
4 them, I don't know how long that takes so,  
5 again, I would like to something sent to  
6 Mr. Shrive asking what the timeline was and  
7 when I can receive that information. And  
8 that is all I have this week. Thank you.

9 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you,  
10 Mr. Gaughan. Just a few comments. In  
11 regard to the snow removal, we have all  
12 offered congratulations to the DPW and the  
13 police and fire department and the  
14 neighborhood associations. I would like to  
15 offer my congratulations to actually the  
16 residents of the city. For the most part,  
17 the residents of the city did show extreme  
18 patience. We asked them to do that.  
19 Eventually some people's patience ran out,  
20 understandably so, but what I discovered is  
21 through the course of the storm, as  
22 Mr. Rogan alluded to, there are many courts,  
23 alleys, roads, paths, whatever, in our city  
24 that -- in an old city like ours that maybe  
25 there is only one home on or maybe



1 do need some front end loaders. We need  
2 some more access to backhoes to clean out  
3 the alleys, so I do appreciate everyone's  
4 patience. I do appreciate that some people  
5 were inconvenienced, and as Councilman Evans  
6 said, once we get to the conclusion of this  
7 calculation of our costs we do have to take  
8 a look and see how we can do a better job.

9 Last night I did attend, the county  
10 commissioners held a meeting about  
11 controlling or submitting costs to FEMA for  
12 reimbursement for this storm. At the  
13 meeting besides myself was Mayor Courtright,  
14 Director Gallagher, Solicitor Boyles, Chief  
15 DeSarno was there and I think Al Lucas was  
16 also there. It's kind of a complicated  
17 formula for the city to do, that will take a  
18 lot of creative accounting to get the actual  
19 cost. The way this works is we will be  
20 reimbursed for the most -- for the cost  
21 occurred over the most 48-hour period of the  
22 storm.

23 Now, we know the storm started on  
24 Tuesday and really we didn't get done  
25 cleaning up until -- probably did end up

1 cleaning at all, there are probably some  
2 streets that are still being done, but I  
3 think the city is still contracting people  
4 as well into maybe Monday, I think we are  
5 still contracting, so the city has to  
6 determine what 48 hours we incurred the most  
7 cost, so there is some calculations being  
8 done with that and I know the business  
9 administrator's office is working on that  
10 and trying to get that information together.

11 The goal of the meeting last night  
12 was that all of the costs throughout the  
13 county are going to combined to meet certain  
14 thresholds, then the county's costs are  
15 going to be combined with other county's  
16 thresholds, so we all have to meet a certain  
17 amount of dollar amount threshold in order  
18 for us to be determined eligible for storm  
19 relief, and if we are found to be -- if we  
20 meet all of those thresholds, I believe it's  
21 75 percent on the dollar.

22 As I mentioned before, we did  
23 contact Business Administrator Bulzoni  
24 earlier in the week to see if we did have to  
25 consider moving around any of this money

1 that was doing the paving. Fortunately, or  
2 unfortunately, I guess, the storm was early  
3 in this fiscal year so there is still  
4 contingency funds available to use for any  
5 of the extra costs that were incurred during  
6 the storm.

7 From attending the meeting last  
8 night, there is lot of costs out there I do  
9 believe that the city and the county and the  
10 state should be able to meet that threshold  
11 for funding and we'll just see how that  
12 goes, but being the fact that the storm was  
13 the most in recorded history in the City of  
14 Scranton I do think that the city response  
15 was quite good. Is there room for  
16 improvement? There is always room for  
17 improvement. We have a big city. Some of  
18 our portions of our town they're not as  
19 populated as they were, but they still have  
20 roads there and they still need services  
21 there, so I do think that the city did a  
22 good job and we will work towards improving  
23 our performance.

24 In regards to Father Pilarz  
25 returning to the University of Scranton, I



1           became an acquaintance of Father Pilarz as  
2           my daughter attended the University of  
3           Scranton. I respect the work that he did  
4           there and he built the most buildings,  
5           raised the most money in the history of the  
6           University of Scranton. You can see the  
7           investment that the University has made in  
8           the city just by looking at the Hill, and I  
9           do want to have an open relationship with  
10          the University. One case in point, I was a  
11          there on Monday evening, there is an IT  
12          class that is going to start working on a  
13          website for city council. It will be for  
14          the city, it's just for city council. The  
15          website would be -- really tie in to what  
16          Mr. Gaughan spoke about another avenue for  
17          more transparency and we can get our  
18          Granicus stuff and also get more information  
19          out that we feel as council.

20                   I posted a lot of stuff on Facebook  
21                   this week about the snow storms, as did  
22                   Councilman Rogan, the most traffic I'd ever  
23                   had on my website in terms of people looking  
24                   for information and really appreciating the  
25                   information because everyone was out working

1 on the snowstorm so the IT Department wasn't  
2 here, city hall was closed to get  
3 information on our website so that was part  
4 of the problem, but the University is doing  
5 this as a service for us. I looked forward  
6 to working with them on other projects like  
7 this, and I think it's a new beginning for  
8 us with Scranton and the University.

9 I'd like to thank Councilman Evans  
10 for bringing up the condemnation policy. I  
11 believe that the city council did a good job  
12 on working with the LIPS Department on  
13 reviewing the rental registration ordinance  
14 and finally getting that to the table and I  
15 think that's something we can do on the  
16 condemnation policy as well.

17 And just one side note we had that  
18 people come here and request that Scranton  
19 City Council support the Steamtown Museum.  
20 I'm happy to report that the Steamtown site  
21 this year had an uptick of attendance of 11  
22 percent. In 2015, there were 89,000  
23 visitors to the site, this year there was  
24 99,000 visitors to the site and they credit  
25 that increase to the return of No. 26 the

1 steam locomotive, so it's another good  
2 example of good things that are happening in  
3 the city. They have a great director over  
4 at Steamtown. The city tries to work as  
5 closely as they can with Steamtown and it  
6 does bring a lot of people to our city who  
7 spend money, which is the thing that we  
8 like. And that's all I have this evening.

9 MS. REED: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
10 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND  
11 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE  
12 AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH KNOWLES  
13 ASSOCIATES LLC, FOR INSURANCE BROKERAGE  
14 SERVICES FOR A PERIOD OF THREE (3) YEARS  
15 WITH THE OPTION OF A 1 TWO-YEAR CONTRACT  
16 EXTENSION FROM APRIL 1, 2017 TO MARCH 31,  
17 2020, AND A CONTRACT WITH CNA INSURANCE  
18 COMPANY, HARLEYSVILLE INSURANCE COMPANY, QBE  
19 SPECIALTY INSURANCE COMPANY, MARKEL AMERICAN  
20 INSURANCE COMPANY AND SAFETY NATIONAL  
21 INSURANCE COMPANY FOR CITY INSURANCE  
22 COVERAGES FOR A ONE (1) YEAR PERIOD FROM  
23 APRIL 1, 2017 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2018.

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

1 introduced into its proper committee.

2 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

3 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

7 MR. PERRY: Aye.

8 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

9 MR. EVANS: Aye.

10 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

13 MS. REED: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION – A  
14 RESOLUTION – AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER  
15 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND  
16 ENTER INTO A LEASE AGREEMENT WITH HORSEPOWER  
17 HARLEY DAVIDSON, INC. FOR THE LEASE OF FOUR  
18 (4) NEW 2017 POLICE PACKAGE MOTORCYCLES FOR  
19 THE CITY OF SCRANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR A  
20 PERIOD OF THREE (3) YEARS FROM JUNE 1, 2017  
21 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2020.

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

25 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

1 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

5 MR. PERRY: Aye.

6 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

7 MR. EVANS: Aye.

8 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

11 MS. REED: 5-D. FOR INTRODUCTION – A  
12 RESOLUTION – AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER  
13 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND  
14 ENTER INTO AS CONTRACT WITH PMA MANAGEMENT  
15 CORP. FOR CITY OF SCRANTON SELF-INSURED  
16 WORKERS' COMPENSATION AND HEART AND LUNG  
17 CLAIMS THIRD PARTY ADMINISTRATION FOR A  
18 PERIOD OF THREE (3) YEARS FROM APRIL 1, 2017  
19 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2020.

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

23 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

24 MR. EVANS: Second.

25 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

1 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.  
2 I'm going to vote to introduce this  
3 legislation tonight, but after reviewing it  
4 my official concern is that, you know, the  
5 administration is going to spend nearly  
6 \$35,000 more for the services when we have a  
7 bidder that is significantly lower. I do  
8 understand that PMA Management Corporation  
9 has been the city's third party  
10 administrator for the Workers' Compensation  
11 program since 2013. They have come up with  
12 some significant cost savings according to  
13 the proposal. You know, but one of the  
14 other arguments in the legislation to go  
15 with the more expensive third party  
16 administrator is just that. They built good  
17 relationships with the city, and this might  
18 be the case, but I don't know if that's  
19 enough to bypass a company that is charging  
20 \$35,000 less and \$5.75 less per medical bill  
21 so PMA is going to charge \$7 per medical  
22 bill, and I believe the low bidder here is  
23 charging a \$1.25. So I am going to continue  
24 to review this legislation, it is quite  
25 lengthy, and I do have a questions for the

1 business administrator, but those are my  
2 initial concerns after reviewing the  
3 legislation. Thank you.

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

6 MR. PERRY: Aye.

7 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

8 MR. EVANS: Aye.

9 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

12 MS. REED: SIXTH ORDER. 6-A.  
13 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.  
14 94, 2017 - AN ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE  
15 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS  
16 TO REALLOCATE A PORTION OF DEBT SERVICES  
17 MONEY TO BE USED FOR PAVING ONLY, AS SAID  
18 MONEY HAS BEEN REFUNDED TO THE CITY AND IS  
19 NO LONGER NEEDED FOR PAYMENT OF THE MARCH  
20 INSTALLMENT DUE ON THE 2012 SERIES A AND B  
21 BONDS DUE TO THE DEFEASANCE OF SAID BONDS  
22 WITH SEWER PROCEEDS.

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

25 MR. ROGAN: Mr. Chairman, I move

1           that Item 6-A pass reading by title.

2           MR. EVANS: Second.

3           MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

4           MR. GAUGHAN: Yes. I'm going to  
5           vote again to move this along for final  
6           passage, but I will reiterate my comments  
7           from last week. You know, I think that  
8           paving is a crate thing and, of course, we  
9           need as much money for paving as possible,  
10          however, based on the meeting that we had in  
11          the Governor's room two or three weeks ago  
12          regarding how we are going to use the  
13          proceeds from the sale of the Scranton Sewer  
14          Authority, I was a little miffed that we are  
15          only putting aside \$500,000 for storm water  
16          management and I wasn't satisfied with some  
17          of the answers that I got to my questions.  
18          So I, you know, am curious to see if anyone  
19          would support moving a portion of this money  
20          for storm water management because, I mean,  
21          paving is great, but it's not going to mean  
22          anything if some of the roads are washed  
23          away because of our storm water issues.

24                        So, again, I think we are, you know,  
25                        underselling storm water management here big



1 time and I'm wondering if this is a good  
2 opportunity to possibly put some of those  
3 funds aside for storm water management and  
4 couple that with the \$500,000 that's already  
5 going to be put aside. Thank you.

6 MR. EVANS: Yeah, on the question, I  
7 know it's always an issue, you know, when  
8 you have an opportunity to pave streets and  
9 part of our problem is the -- I think  
10 Councilman Rogan mentioned this before, you  
11 know, OECD money can only go into certain  
12 locations where this money can go in areas  
13 where it really may be needed and haven't  
14 been paved for a long time, however, I still  
15 strongly understand Councilman Gaughan's  
16 about the storm water issue, again, I would  
17 move this along as well, but I'm going to  
18 personally talk to Mr. Bulzoni myself, I  
19 know Councilman Wechsler talked to him, but  
20 I'd like to talk to him again myself and go  
21 over this issue as well.

22 MR. WECHSLER: Yes, I did speak to  
23 Business Administrator Bulzoni in regards to  
24 this issue. As we mentioned, there are  
25 roads in the city that haven't been paved in

1 years. This is an opportunity to get those  
2 roads paved within the nature future, and we  
3 understand the criticalness of storm water  
4 management, but any money invested in that  
5 right now would not be used immediately.  
6 Based upon what we are told at the work  
7 session, the \$500,000 that's been set aside  
8 is really basically to continue the study  
9 that has been started originally. Right  
10 now, we don't know how much money is going  
11 to be needed for any physical storm water  
12 management improvements. I'm assuming that  
13 \$700,000 will be a small amount towards that  
14 amount, but I do believe that the \$700,000  
15 that will be invested in paving and paved  
16 immediately and for people who have not had  
17 the roads paved in years, so I am  
18 comfortable with this money going directly  
19 into the paving. All those in favor signify  
20 by saying aye.

21 MR. PERRY: Aye.

22 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

23 MR. EVANS: Aye.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

25 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The

1 ayes have it and so moved.

2 MS. REED: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR  
3 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC  
4 WORKS - FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF THE COUNCIL  
5 NO. 93, 2017 - AN ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING  
6 THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY  
7 OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE A DEED OF EASEMENT AND  
8 RIGHT OF WAY GRANTING TO THE  
9 PENNSYLVANIA-AMERICAN WATER COMPANY THE  
10 EASEMENT, RIGHT OF WAY AND RIGHTS AS ARE SET  
11 FORTH BELOW WITH RESPECT TO THE PROPERTY,  
12 WHICH DEED OF EASEMENT AND RIGHT OF WAY  
13 SHALL BE IN THE FORM AS ATTACHED HERETO AS  
14 EXHIBIT "1".

15 MR. WECHSLER: What is the  
16 recommendation of the Chairperson for the  
17 Public Works?

18 MR. GAUGHAN: As Chairperson for the  
19 Committee on Public Works, I recommend final  
20 passage of Item 7-A.

21 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

25 MR. PERRY: Yes.

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

2 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

4 MR. EVANS: Yes.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

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

11 MS. REED: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION  
12 BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT -  
13 FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 128, 2017 -  
14 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE  
15 CITY OFFICIALS TO APPLY FOR AND EXECUTE A  
16 GRANT APPLICATION AND, IF SUCCESSFUL, TO  
17 ENTER INTO A GRANT AGREEMENT AND ACCEPT  
18 FUNDING THROUGH THE KEYSTONE HISTORIC  
19 PRESERVATION PLANNING GRANT FROM THE  
20 PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM  
21 COMMISSION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$25,000.00 TO  
22 COMPLETE A FACILITY ASSESSMENT ON THE  
23 SCRANTON MUNICIPAL BUILDING.

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

1 Committee on Community Development?

2 MR. ROGAN: As Chair for the  
3 Committee on Community Development, I  
4 recommend final passage of Item 7-B.

5 MR. EVANS: Second.

6 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

7 MR. EVANS: On the question, I know  
8 this old building doesn't old work the way  
9 everyone wants it to and it's got some  
10 issues, but it's a classic and it's jewel  
11 and we have to take care of it and this may  
12 be the beginning of the process in finding  
13 out what we need to do to get it back to  
14 where it needs to be, so I'm definitely  
15 going to vote "yes" for this.

16 MR. WECHSLER: Roll call, please?

17 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

18 MR. PERRY: Yes.

19 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

20 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

21 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

22 MR. EVANS: Yes.

23 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

25 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

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

4 MS. REED: 7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION BY  
5 THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS - FOR ADOPTION  
6 - RESOLUTION NO. 129, 2017 - AUTHORIZING THE  
7 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS  
8 TO APPLY FOR AND EXECUTE A GRANT APPLICATION  
9 AND, IF SUCCESSFUL, TO ENTER INTO A GRANT  
10 AGREEMENT, AND ACCEPT THE FUNDING THROUGH  
11 THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
12 LOCAL STORMWATER BMP IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM  
13 AWARDED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$197,325.00 TO  
14 ADDRESS THE WATER QUALITY PROBLEMS  
15 ASSOCIATED WITH URBAN STORMWATER RUNOFF  
16 IN THE LACKAWANNA RIVER.

17 MR. WECHSLER: What is the  
18 recommendation of the Chairperson for the  
19 Committee on Public Works?

20 MR. GAUGHAN: As Chairperson for the  
21 Committee on Public Works, I recommend final  
22 passage of Item 7-C.

23 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

2 MR. PERRY: Yes.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

4 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

6 MR. EVANS: Yes.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

8 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

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

13 MS. REED: 7-D. FOR CONSIDERATION  
14 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES- FOR ADOPTION -  
15 RESOLUTION NO. 130, 2017 - APPOINTMENT OF  
16 ROBERT J. PALMITESSA, 730 NORTH LINCOLN  
17 AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA 18504 AS A  
18 MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS FOR  
19 THE CITY OF SCRANTON. MR. PALMITESSA WILL  
20 FILL THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF STEVEN KOCHIS,  
21 WHO RESIGNED ON FEBRUARY 9, 2017. MR.  
22 PALMITESSA'S TERM WILL EXPIRE ON JULY 15,  
23 2019.

24 MR. WECHSLER: As Chairperson for  
25 the Committee on Rules, I recommend final

1 passage of Item 7-D.

2 MR. ROGAN: Second.

3 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

4 MR. PERRY: Yes, on the question. I  
5 have known Mr. Palmitessa for quite  
6 sometime. He is very involved in the  
7 neighborhoods and he is going to make an  
8 excellent asset to the board.

9 MR. WECHSLER: I agree. I think  
10 Mr. Palmitessa has shown his commitment to  
11 the zoning board by servicing in the last  
12 year as an alternate and I congratulate him  
13 on his full-time appointment. Roll call,  
14 please?

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

16 MR. PERRY: Yes.

17 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

18 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

19 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

20 MR. EVANS: Yes.

21 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

22 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

23 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

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



1           adopted.

2                       MS. REED: 7-E - PREVIOUSLY TABLED -  
3                       FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC  
4                       WORKS - FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO.  
5                       127-2017 - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER  
6                       APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND  
7                       ENTER INTO A RENEWAL OF THE CONTRACT WITH  
8                       JOYCE HATALA ASSOCIATES TO ASSIST THE CITY  
9                       OF SCRANTON WITH ITS RECYCLING PROGRAM FOR  
10                      AN ADDITIONAL EIGHTEEN (18) MONTH PERIOD  
11                      WITH THE OPTION OF AN EIGHTEEN (18) MONTH  
12                      EXTENSION.

13                     MR. WECHSLER: What is the  
14                     recommendation of the Chairperson for the  
15                     Committee on Public Works?

16                     MR. GAUGHAN: As Chairperson for the  
17                     Committee on Public Works, I recommend final  
18                     passage of Item 7-E.

19                     MR. ROGAN: Second.

20                     MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

21                     MR. ROGAN: On the question, just  
22                     one brief comment, I did mention earlier in  
23                     the caucus that I would vote "yes" for this  
24                     legislation, and I know we had a number of  
25                     questions, but I will say that it definitely

1           deserves a renewal. There are initiatives  
2           that are underway that we do need to see  
3           what kind of results they bring for the  
4           residents of Scranton, and I will say this,  
5           at the end of this 18-month period if there  
6           is not significant improvement in our  
7           recycling program and bringing down the  
8           costs of garbage for, especially for the  
9           senior citizens of Scranton, I would not  
10          vote for this again. So over the next 18  
11          months we are going to be keeping a close  
12          eye on the results that we are seeing from  
13          this program.

14                 MR. EVANS: On the question, while I  
15                 agree with your comments, I will say to get  
16                 someone like Ms. Hatala for \$5,000 for 18  
17                 months is a steal. She is dedicated and she  
18                 loves what she is doing. She understands  
19                 what she is doing, but I agree, you know,  
20                 with all of the other initiatives that we  
21                 are going to have in place, we will be  
22                 someplace else I think in the next 18 months  
23                 than we are right now.

24                 MR. WECHSLER: Roll call, please.

25                 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

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

MR. PERRY: Yes.

MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

MR. ROGAN: Yes.

MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

MR. EVANS: Yes.

MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

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

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

MR. ROGAN: Motion to adjourn.

MR. WECHSLER: Meeting adjourned.

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

C E R T I F I C A T E

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

---

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR  
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER