

SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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HELD:

Monday, March 5, 2018

LOCATION:

Council Chambers

Scranton City Hall

340 North Washington Avenue

Scranton, Pennsylvania

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

PATRICK ROGAN, PRESIDENT

TIM PERRY, VICE PRESIDENT

WAYNE EVANS

WILLIAM GAUGHAN

KYLE DONAHUE

LORI REED, CITY CLERK

KATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

AMIL MINORA, ESQUIRE - SOLICITOR

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

3 MR. ROGAN: Roll call, please.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

5 MR. PERRY: Here.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

7 MR. DONAHUE: Here.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

9 MR. EVANS: Here.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Here.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

13 MR. ROGAN: Here. Dispense with the
14 reading of the minutes.

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

16 AGENDA FOR THE BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS
17 MEETING TO BE HELD MARCH 14, 2018.

18 MR. ROGAN: Are there any comments?
19 If not, received and filed.

20 MS. REED: 3-B. MINUTES OF THE
21 SCRANTON LACKAWANNA HEALTH & WELFARE
22 AUTHORITY MEETING HELD JANUARY 18, 2018.

23 MR. ROGAN: Are there any comments?
24 If not, received and filed.

25 MS. REED: 3-C. AGENDA FOR THE

1 LACKAWANNA COUNTY TAX COLLECTION COMMITTEE
2 MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 22, 2018.

3 MR. ROGAN: Are there any comments?
4 If not, received and filed.

5 Do any council members have
6 announcements at this time? I have a
7 couple. This Saturday, March 10, is the
8 annual St. Patrick's Day parade. The parade
9 will step off at 11:45 a.m. The route starts
10 on Mulberry Street and Wyoming Avenue moving
11 towards Lackawanna then turning onto
12 Jefferson, Spruce and a final turn onto
13 North Washington Avenue. Please be mindful
14 of the road closures as well as numerous
15 pedestrians if you need to travel downtown
16 on Saturday.

17 Colts buses will offer free rides on
18 all routes on parade day. To encourage
19 people to use public transit on Saturdays to
20 participate in the day's festivities buses
21 will run on a regular scheduled Saturday.

22 This Sunday, March 11, begins
23 daylight savings time. Please remember to
24 turn your clocks ahead and to change the
25 batteries in your smoke alarms.

1 And, finally, the permit parking on
2 the 900 block of Olive Street public hearing
3 will be held next Monday, March 12, at 5:15
4 p.m.

5 MS. REED: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZEN'S
6 PARTICIPATION.

7 (The following speakers offered
8 public comments:)

9 MR. ROGAN: Mr. Perry, any comments
10 or motions?

11 MR. PERRY: Just two quick things.
12 I just want to say thank you to DPW that got
13 that light fixed on 17th and Division
14 Street. It actually went up that Monday
15 morning before we even had our meeting so
16 thank you for that, that's taken care of, I
17 know that was out for awhile with a pole
18 being down, it got fixed, the light went on
19 top, so we're good in that area.

20 And really the only thing else I
21 wanted to address with the parade this
22 weekend, I want everybody out there have a
23 good time, stay safe, which is one of the
24 most important things, be mindful when you
25 are driving, there is going to be a lot of

1 people, a lot of children out. Like
2 Mr. Rogan said, Colts is having free bus
3 rides. There is Lyft, there is Uber, there
4 is taxis, there is no reason to drink and
5 drive, stay safe, watch out for each other
6 and, you know, don't just visit the
7 downtown, I know downtown is the hub of the
8 parade day, but there is so many other local
9 businesses out there that celebrate and a
10 lot of pockets in the community that have a
11 great time, so just get out there and enjoy
12 yourself. Show your Irish pride and if you
13 are not you can pretend you are for the day
14 and enjoy yourself. That's all I have.

15 MR. ROGAN: Thank you, Mr. Perry.
16 Mr Donahue, do you have any motions or
17 comments?

18 MR. DONAHUE: Yes, I just have a
19 couple of comments. I got a couple of
20 complaints last week, actually the week
21 before about the handicapped sign that was
22 out in front of city hall that it was
23 defaced with some sort graffiti, so we
24 reached out to DPW and they took that down
25 to clean that and that will be put up as

1 soon as possible.

2 I also got some complaints about the
3 traffic light on Pittston and Birch that was
4 blinking for five or six days and we did
5 reach out to PennDOT and they were reaching
6 out to the signal contractor because they
7 had just put new mast irons in and from what
8 I've seen that issue was fixed. I haven't
9 seen any blinking in the last couple of
10 days, and also there was a sign on the top
11 of River Street where River and Meadow meet.
12 There is a "No Right Turn" on that where you
13 really can't take a right turn, but some of
14 our English as a second language people are
15 taking it more literally that they couldn't
16 right from River Street onto 81 South, so we
17 reached out to PennDOT and they were going
18 to look into that, too.

19 And, also, again, I'd ask for the
20 permits for the Birch Street project. Mrs.
21 Reed, would you be able to -- that's been
22 about three weeks or so since -- and I
23 haven't gotten them, so would you be able to
24 reach out to Mr. Hazzouri again to request
25 those? And that's all I have. Thank you.

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

3 MR. EVANS: Yes, thank you. First
4 I'd like to talk about the decision to stop
5 the verbatim of the transcription of the
6 public comment beginning with the first
7 meeting of January of this year. First of
8 all, in retrospect yes, it could have been
9 handled slightly better and maybe we could
10 have announced it at our first meeting in
11 January. And, yes, I would be putting more
12 information like the subject of the speakers
13 comments and maybe some additional
14 information in the minutes in addition to
15 just the name of the speak and I think we
16 work towards that, but you can be assured it
17 was never an intent to deceive anyone from
18 the city council.

19 From my perspective, based on the
20 fact that the city, you know, there is a
21 video record on YouTube, there is a DVD in
22 the library, I wasn't -- to be honest with
23 you, I don't know why there was a problem
24 last week. Clearly technology is made the
25 need for transcription obsolete. Some of

1 the comments of some of the speakers last
2 week, in my opinion were, quite frankly,
3 over the top. In a world that could always
4 use a little more civil discourse, civility
5 was clearly missing from that meeting.

6 Since I have been on city council we
7 have strived to be efficient and cost
8 effective in our operations, Granicus is one
9 example, the idea sessions are another.
10 Tonight's resolution for a shared services
11 committee with the school board is another
12 and yes, reducing meeting costs is an
13 another example.

14 To study what other city councils do
15 across the state, Scranton City Council is
16 the outlier with this issue and with other
17 meeting benchmarks as well. Allentown,
18 Altoona, Bethlehem, Easton, Erie,
19 Harrisburg, Hazelton, Lancaster, Reading,
20 Wilkes-Barre, and York not one municipality
21 that was studied transcribed their meetings,
22 and not only just a public part of it, they
23 do not transcribe any part of their
24 meetings. Tens of thousands of dollars have
25 been spent, probably more approaching well

1 over \$100,000 over the years in transcribing
2 meetings. Was this necessary and needed
3 once the videotaping of meetings began?
4 What we are doing is not good government, it
5 is wasteful government.

6 Additionally, over the course of
7 studying how comparable cities and how their
8 council operates other changes, other things
9 came out, for example, their regular council
10 meeting schedules. Allentown meets twice a
11 month. Altoona meets once a month.
12 Bethlehem meets twice a month. Easton meets
13 twice a month. Erie meets twice a month on
14 the first Wednesday at 9 a.m. and the third
15 Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. Harrisburg meets
16 twice a month for a regular council meeting,
17 but has two work sessions included with
18 their meeting schedule. Hazelton meets
19 twice a month for nine months for nine
20 months and once a month for three months.
21 Lancaster meets twice a month. Wilkes-Barre
22 meets twice a month, but also has two work
23 sessions in their schedule. York meets
24 twice a month as well.

25 So you can see Scranton, again, is

1 the outlier where other council meetings are
2 twice a month or less in every city
3 reviewed. Only two city councils meet as
4 much as Scranton does, yet, they still only
5 have two regular council meetings and are
6 both supplemented with the addition of two
7 work sessions.

8 Personally, I feel the Harrisburg
9 and the Wilkes-Barre model tend to lend
10 themselves to better government and a better
11 dialogue among council members. By having
12 two work sessions, they are able to more
13 fully discuss agenda items together ahead of
14 the regular council meetings. They can more
15 fully discuss other city issues together and
16 also allows them to bring special guests,
17 etcetera, on more regular basis.

18 This is a meeting model I think will
19 make more efficient meetings and more
20 effective government. Over the next month
21 or so, I plan on making a trip to
22 Wilkes-Barre to sit on a work session held
23 by their city council to see firsthand the
24 process that they use and if it could be
25 beneficial. At that time, I will report

1 back to my colleagues and fully discuss this
2 issue. Now is time for such a change?
3 Maybe, maybe not, but I will say there
4 should always be time to make time for good
5 government. So that's all I have tonight on
6 that issue.

7 MR. ROGAN: Thank you, Mr. Evans.
8 Mr. Gaughan, do you have any motions or
9 comments?

10 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the
11 transcription issue. You know, first of
12 all, I think to say that maybe we could have
13 done better, we could have definitely done
14 better. You know, I think it was completely
15 mishandled. As I said earlier in response
16 of Mr. Morgan, I had no clue that we were
17 just ending transcription of public comment,
18 and the fact that the City of Scranton is an
19 outlier to other cities, you know, maybe
20 that's a good thing. You know, when I look
21 at some of the issues that have gone on in
22 this city over the last four years whether
23 it's the Sewer Authority, backdoor meetings
24 with other officials, closed door meetings,
25 you know, what's the harm in transcribing

1 public comment or at the very least if, you
2 know, the majority of my colleagues want to
3 end transcribing public comment at least
4 have a summary of what the citizens spoke
5 about, as I think almost all of the other
6 cities do, and I don't think we should work
7 towards that I should it have been yesterday
8 if that's what my colleagues want to do.

9 But, no, I don't think that you
10 know, maybe we could have done it a better
11 way, I think it was mishandled. It was
12 never discussed publically. It was just
13 done with a click of the finger so I had no
14 clue that was being done and I really don't
15 agree with it.

16 Second thing, on the Arcadis study,
17 I have said all along that the
18 administration needs to come to a public
19 caucus, give us an update and when the study
20 is complete, because we have been told time
21 and time again it was going to be done I was
22 told last November or October or November
23 you know, now it's the first quarter, now
24 it's the summer. Well, what's the hold up
25 here? I know that we are having trouble

1 getting a meeting with the Scranton Sewer
2 Authority, but we do need a public meeting
3 on that because it was a very important
4 topic and it is going to continue to be a
5 hot topic in the city.

6 I did receive, again, and this is
7 the third or fourth time, but a traffic
8 issue with trucks driving from the Stauffer
9 Industrial Park on Main Avenue, turning up
10 Oram Street and then turning onto West
11 Gibson Street and getting struck. So we did
12 ask the city engineer months ago to address
13 this issue. The gentlemen that is having
14 some problems with this, he lives on West
15 Gibson Street, sent me pictures again the
16 other day. This is actually an issue so I'm
17 going to get together with Mrs. Reed after
18 the meeting and we'll get in contact with
19 PennDOT because it's my belief that there
20 has to be more signage and I don't think we
21 can ignore that any longer.

22 Also, received some issues, a
23 complaint about Birch Street and South
24 Washington Avenue, residents wanted to know
25 if we could put a streetlight up there -- or

1 not a streetlight, a traffic signal. We did
2 get a response from the city engineer that
3 we would have to find funding for that. It
4 could cost somewhere in the \$250,000 range
5 and we would first have to have a study
6 completed, so I'll update the residents on
7 that as information becomes available.

8 Also, if we could reach out, Mrs.
9 Reed, to Director Gallagher again about the
10 1600 block of Church Avenue. Residents are
11 still complaining about flooding there. I
12 did send him pictures, but I haven't heard
13 back yet.

14 As far as I know, we didn't receive
15 anything from the letter I sent February 6
16 regarding information on the Civil Service
17 Commission, so if we could ask them if they
18 are going to respond to my request or if
19 they are going to just simply ignore it I'd
20 like to know in case I have to do
21 Right-to-Know request.

22 I did before the meeting tonight had
23 a pleasure of meeting with residents of the
24 Greenridge apartments down on Dickson
25 Avenue. I mentioned here before about some

1 of the issues that they were having with the
2 management company, Clover Management. I
3 met with -- there was about 30 or 40
4 residents there, the room was packed, and
5 Jason Kavulich, who is the executive
6 director of the Area Agency on Aging, and
7 Nancy Barrasse, who is their solicitor who
8 specializes in elder law was there, and I
9 really appreciated them answering questions.

10 I continue to be extremely concerned
11 about what is occurring down there with
12 these residents. There were a number of
13 people who actually live there and then
14 there was a lot of people there who would no
15 longer lived there because they were forced
16 out one way or the another. So what
17 happened at the meeting is Attorney Barrasse
18 and Director Kavulich are going to reach out
19 to the Attorney General this Friday and
20 we'll go from there and see what happens,
21 but I just want to -- for those senior
22 citizens in the audience tonight and those
23 who are watching at home, there are a lot of
24 great programs through the Area Agency on
25 Aging, so you can get legal representation

1 at a very low cost and there are other
2 services, so I think one of the things that
3 came out of this meeting was you don't have
4 to be afraid. There are people who will
5 listen to you, and I think that was really,
6 you know, a big part of the meeting, people
7 just felt that they weren't being listened
8 to. So there are people that can help you
9 and I think we are on the right path there.
10 And that's all I have this week. Thank you.

11 MR. ROGAN: Thank you very much. A
12 couple of the items and then what came up
13 from the meeting then two larger items. Two
14 points, actually three points I want to make
15 first. First is any speaker that brings up
16 something that's incorrect or only partially
17 true about my record or something I said is
18 going to be corrected, whether it's on their
19 time or on my time it's going to be
20 corrected. If the speaker would like an
21 additional 30 seconds because a council
22 member was engaging with them that's a
23 courtesy that always should be given to any
24 speaker.

25 Secondly, this is the last time I'm

1 going to address this item regarding the
2 meetings on Monday, the council meetings are
3 set on a date that works best for the five
4 members of council. I know that other
5 members of the community have other
6 engagements and other items going on, but
7 they are set around the five council members
8 schedules. Since the time I have been on
9 council, I have met on Monday nights,
10 Tuesday nights, Wednesday nights and
11 Thursday nights. The only night we have not
12 met was Friday. So council meetings have
13 changed with the schedule of council, and
14 that's the last of that item to be
15 addressed.

16 Regarding the minutes, and again,
17 this is the last time I'm going to address
18 this item as well, Council Evans hit the
19 nail on the head. I did apologize to my
20 colleagues. I should have announced it at
21 the first meeting and I think I said that
22 last week that it should have been announced
23 publically about the change. That was an
24 error on my end. Sometimes as council
25 people we are so involved in the things that

1 we know what we know but we don't think to
2 relay it sometimes, so that was an error on
3 my part. But anyone who is suggesting
4 intent is anything other than to save money
5 and prevent duplication of an item that
6 really is, as Councilman Evans mentioned,
7 extremely outdated is wrong. That is the
8 reason why it was done.

9 And I know another resident brought
10 up that they watch the meetings on YouTube,
11 I'll say it until I'm blue in the face, that
12 format of seeing of live video, live video
13 or taped correspondence in the meeting is
14 much more powerful than reading the words.
15 So much can be lost in tone and inflection
16 and what's actually meant in the words.
17 When you hear it, you hear it. And if you
18 want to do a gotcha or go back and bring a
19 future recording of something that was said
20 you can still do that as well. That
21 information will continue to be out there
22 and if for some reason there was a problem
23 with ECTV or something happened we would
24 work to continue to make sure meetings are
25 available for the public. So that is the

1 last time I will address that item as well.

2 Onto some matters of business, there
3 is two items that really could help the City
4 of Scranton that, unfortunately, in most
5 cases the five members up here don't have
6 much control of, one are school property
7 taxes and the other is reassessment. On the
8 issue of reassessment, I did get a little
9 bit of good news and I did forget to mention
10 this in the caucus, but in the meeting with
11 the mayor this morning he did get a reply
12 back from the county from the letter that
13 was sent quite a lot over the last months
14 regarding the reassessment, so a meeting is
15 going to be scheduled with members of the
16 administration, myself and I was going to
17 invite the Finance Chair as well to be part
18 of that meeting to try and convince the
19 commissioners to pursue a reassessment.

20 If that does not happen, I have been
21 on the record of supporting suing the county
22 to force their hand regarding reassessment.
23 Hopefully it doesn't come to that, but if it
24 did it's something that I would certainly
25 support, so that's the first issue.

1 The second one is school taxes,
2 specifically, school property taxes, and the
3 reason I bring this up is there was an
4 article in the Sunday Times, there was also
5 a number in the regional paper, Citizens
6 Voice, same article, "Legislation to
7 introduce bill to replace school property
8 tax system." Over the last number of the
9 years I have spoken at length about Senate
10 Bill 76, formerly House Bill 1776, Property
11 Tax Relief Act, and as many of you know this
12 bill would eliminate your property tax bill
13 entirely. There are some people that think
14 that's a great idea, I'm one of them,
15 because if you look at your tax bills, which
16 we have all just recently received, your
17 school taxes is by far the biggest portion
18 of your taxes.

19 So in this article, people who
20 support it, people who oppose it go there
21 and discuss their points, but I do have to
22 take issue with something that was said by
23 our senator. Senator Blake says that it's
24 disingenuous for supports of the Bill to
25 talk about it in this way and say they're

1 touting it. What really upset me about
2 reading this comment is a number of years
3 ago when council was pushing Senator Blake
4 to support Senate Bill 76, he was telling
5 residents, his staff, was telling residents
6 that called up his office that he was going
7 to vote "yes" in support of Senate Bill 76.
8 That vote was a tie vote in the State
9 Senate. Passed the state house on a
10 bipartisan vote, Democrats and Republicans
11 were for it, in the Senate it was a 50/50
12 split and Senator Blake voted "no" and if
13 he truly believed that this wasn't the best
14 thing to do, that's his choice to believe
15 that, but to tell residents he was going to
16 vote one way and then go there and vote
17 another and now say that it's disingenuous
18 that the proponents of the bill are framing
19 it one way it me is ludicrous.

20 So I would hope that Senator Blake
21 would continue to look into this issue and
22 maybe change his mind for the third time and
23 go back to the supporting the bill because
24 it really would help our city and
25 particularly the senior citizens in our city

1 who are paying for enormous tax increases by
2 the school district.

3 On the school district, I'm glad to
4 see we have legislation in regard to shared
5 services, hopefully that could save the
6 school district some money, but how they are
7 funded is still a state issue and it's a
8 major issue and unless our senator gets his
9 act together and starts working on some
10 property tax relief those tax bills are just
11 going to continue to go up. That is all for
12 tonight.

13 MR. GAUGHAN: Just because I forget
14 to mention it earlier, regarding the public
15 transcription just so I'm clear, are we
16 going to direct the stenographer to include
17 a summary what the speakers talked about?
18 As Councilman Evans said, we are going to
19 work towards that, but when, next week or --

20 MR. ROGAN: Yeah, that's something
21 we can discuss in caucus more. I don't
22 think would it be on our stenographer to do
23 that, I think it would more on our clerk or
24 our assistant city clerk, but that's
25 something that, as we discussed in caucus,

1 we will put a brief summation, for instance,
2 speaker spoke about this issue. That's
3 definitely something that we can certainly
4 put into be in line with all of those
5 comments that councilmen mentioned.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: And the reason I bring
7 that up, just as I was sitting here thinking
8 about this whole controversy that it has
9 turned into, you know, my great-grandfather,
10 Ed Nolan, was president of the South Side
11 Surface Protective Association, so he fought
12 against, you know, the mine companies and
13 the mine owners and the holes that were
14 opening up on Pittston Avenue and my
15 grandmother always told me and my brother
16 and my sister about how we come down to the
17 council meetings so I was very interested to
18 see if there was a public record of that,
19 and we did look back in the 1940's and he
20 did get up and podium and he spoke and there
21 was a record of that. So I do think there
22 is an importance to that even if there is
23 video and YouTube and all of that kind of
24 stuff, it is a good historical document to
25 have, but putting aside the fact you might

1 not agree with what everybody says and maybe
2 it doesn't make sense or it's totally off
3 topic, but there is a historical background
4 to that so --

5 MR. ROGAN: I couldn't agree more
6 and when our grandchildren watch the
7 meetings they can not only read it but be
8 able to see it as well.

9 MR. GAUGHAN: Not everybody has
10 YouTube. Thank you.

11 MS. REED: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION -
12 AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL
13 NO. 95, 2015, AN ORDINANCE, ENTITLED
14 "AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 79 OF
15 2015, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING FILE OF THE
16 COUNCIL NO. 145 OF 2007 ENTITLED "AN
17 ORDINANCE RENAMING THE EMERGENCY AND
18 MUNICIPAL SERVICES TAX ("EMST") TO LOCAL
19 SERVICE TAX ("LST") AND BY IMPOSING A
20 WITHHOLDING OF \$52.00 FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR
21 2015 AND THE SAME SHALL REMAIN IN FULL FORCE
22 AND EFFECT ANNUALLY THEREAFTER BY INCREASING
23 THE LOCAL SERVICES TAX WITHHOLDING FROM
24 \$52.00 TO \$156.00 FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR
25 2015, AND PROVIDING FOR AN EXEMPTION FROM

1 TAXATION FOR ANY PERSON WHOSE TOTAL EARNED
2 INCOME AND NET PROFITS FROM ALL SOURCES
3 WITHIN THE MUNICIPALITY IS LESS THAN
4 \$15,600.00 FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2015 UNDER
5 AND PURSUANT TO THE LOCAL TAX ENABLING ACT,
6 ACT 511 OF 1965, P.L. 1257, 53 P.S. §6924.101
7 ET. SEQ. AND THE MUNICIPALITIES RECOVERY
8 ACT, ACT 47 OF 1987, P.L. 246, 53 P.S.
9 §11701.101 ET. SEQ. AND THEIR RESPECTIVE
10 AMENDMENTS" EFFECTIVE RETROACTIVE TO JANUARY
11 1, 2018. THIS TAX IS EXPECTED TO GENERATE
12 APPROXIMATELY FOUR-MILLION EIGHT-HUNDRED
13 TEN-THOUSAND (\$4,810,000.00) DOLLARS IN
14 REVENUE IN CALENDAR YEAR 2018 BY ENABLING
15 THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO CONTINUE TO LEVY THE
16 LOCAL SERVICES TAX AT THE FISCAL YEAR 2017
17 RATE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018 FOR A TOTAL
18 MAXIMUM LOCAL SERVICES RATE OF ONE HUNDRED
19 FIFTY SIX (\$156.00) DOLLARS FOR THE FISCAL
20 YEAR 2018 EFFECTIVE RETROACTIVE TO JANUARY
21 1, 2018 AND PROVIDING FOR AN EXEMPTION FROM
22 TAXATION FOR ANY PERSON WHOSE TOTAL EARNED
23 INCOME AND NET PROFITS FROM ALL SOURCES
24 WITHIN THE MUNICIPALITY IS LESS THAN
25 \$15,600.00 FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2018.

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

4 MR. PERRY: So moved.

5 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

9 MR. PERRY: Aye.

10 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

11 MR. EVANS: Aye.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

15 MS. REED: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION -
16 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
17 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE
18 AND ENTER INTO A SIDEWALK EASEMENT
19 SUBSTANTIALLY IN THE FORM ATTACHED HERETO AS
20 EXHIBIT "A" BY AND BETWEEN PPL ELECTRIC
21 UTILITIES CORPORATION ("GRANTOR") AND THE
22 CITY OF SCRANTON ("GRANTEE") FOR THE STR
23 3B-3 STRUCTURE ACROSS FROM THE NEIL
24 ARMSTRONG SCHOOL IDENTIFIED AS THE "EASEMENT
25 AREA" ON THE PLAN AND METES AND BOUNDS

1 DESCRIPTION ATTACHED HERETO AS EXHIBIT "B".

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

5 MR. PERRY: So moved.

6 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

10 MR. PERRY: Aye.

11 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

12 MR. EVANS: Aye.

13 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

16 MS. REED: 5-D. FOR INTRODUCTION -
17 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
18 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE
19 AND ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
20 BY AND BETWEEN THE CITY OF SCRANTON ("CITY")
21 AND THE SCRANTON SCHOOL DISTRICT ("SCHOOL
22 DISTRICT") SETTING FORTH THE TERMS AND
23 CONDITIONS REGARDING THE OBLIGATIONS OF THE
24 SCHOOL DISTRICT TO THE CITY AND THE
25 DISBURSEMENT AND USE OF EDUCATIONAL AND

1 GOVERNMENTAL ("EG") CAPITAL GRANT FUNDS.

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

5 MR. PERRY: So moved.

6 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

10 MR. PERRY: Aye.

11 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

12 MR. EVANS: Aye.

13 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

16 MS. REED: 5-E. FOR INTRODUCTION -
17 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE FORMATION OF
18 A SHARED SERVICES TASK FORCE IN COOPERATION
19 WITH THE SCRANTON SCHOOL DISTRICT TO EXPLORE
20 SHARED SERVICES, COSTS AND EXPENSES.

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

24 MR. PERRY: So moved.

25 MR. EVANS: Second.

1 MR. ROGAN: On the question?

2 MR. DONAHUE: On the question, I'd
3 just like to make a friendly amendment to
4 change where it reads "Task Force" for it to
5 read "Committee."

6 MR. ROGAN: Is there a second?

7 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

10 MR. PERRY: Aye.

11 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

12 MR. EVANS: Aye.

13 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

14 MR. ROGAN: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
15 have it and the amendment passes.

16 MR. GAUGHAN: And then on the
17 question, you know, the concept of shared
18 services has the potential to not only save
19 tax dollars through economies of scale, but
20 to improve both the efficiencies of the
21 school district and the city. Instead of
22 duplicating parallel services, we should
23 really be joining forces and it's my belief
24 that this should have been done a long time
25 ago but I'm very hopeful that this will be

1 the first step towards not only the city and
2 the school district working together but the
3 city and the county and the school district
4 and all municipalities, Boroughs and
5 townships that surround us. I think that
6 that there will be resistance because of a
7 common mentality, and I have mentioned this
8 before, a mentality from both the school
9 district and the city that this is the way
10 we have done things for the last 100 years
11 so we need to continue to do it this way. I
12 think that when we are forming this
13 committee and they report back to council
14 and we are looking at ways to share services
15 we need to rise above these fears and
16 everybody who has their fights in the city
17 and the school district, and these old ways
18 of thinking, this old mentality, and we need
19 to do what's best for the taxpayers in our
20 community.

21 And I read a very interesting quote
22 from an article from Governing Magazine and
23 it was about shared services and it said,
24 "When common sense does battle with common
25 fears and practices, good new ideas will be

1 crushed in the conflict."

2 So I think that we need to make sure
3 that we do not let good ideas get crushed in
4 the conflict and we need to work together
5 with the school district because it benefits
6 both of us and it benefits the taxpayers.
7 Thank you.

8 MR. ROGAN: Anyone else on the
9 question?

10 MR. EVANS: Yes, on the question. I
11 will comment on one phrase that Councilman
12 Gaughan made is exactly true, this is the
13 way it's always been done. That is the
14 death nail of efficient government. Over
15 and over and over again that is what stymies
16 improvement and efficiencies in government,
17 sort of like transcribing the minutes, just
18 like that. Always been done that way.

19 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

20 MR. EVANS: Anyway, that's all I
21 have on that comment.

22 MR. ROGAN: Anyone else.

23 MR. ROGAN: I want to add, too, when
24 we're looking at we are going to meet and
25 report back to council, the full body, but

1 when we are looking at different ways, I
2 mean, right off the top of my head, and I
3 think this has already been discussed, where
4 we can share services, purchasing, our IT
5 Departments, legal services, things of that
6 nature and really when you look at other
7 communities not only in Pennsylvania, but
8 across the country they have been doing this
9 for decades now, so I think we are behind
10 the times on, you know, tearing down these
11 barriers between whether it be the county
12 and school district and the city and other
13 Boroughs and municipalities, tearing down
14 the barriers to be able to work with them
15 and share services, because we need to do
16 this for what's best for all of the
17 taxpayers in our community. Thank you.

18 MR. ROGAN: Anyone else? All those
19 in favor of introduction signify by saying
20 aye.

21 MR. PERRY: Aye.

22 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

23 MR. EVANS: Aye.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

25 MR. ROGAN: Aye. Opposed? The ayes

1 have it and so moved.

2 MS. REED: SIXTH ORDER. 6-A.

3 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.

4 5, 2018 - AN ORDINANCE - CREATING AND

5 ESTABLISHING SPECIAL CITY ACCOUNT

6 NO.02.229625 ENTITLED "SERRENTI EMERGENCY

7 CENTER" FOR THE RECEIPT AND DISTRIBUTION OF

8 GRANT FUNDS FROM THE PENNSYLVANIA GOVERNOR'S

9 OFFICE LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES

10 APPROPRIATIONS GRANT FUNDING IN ORDER TO

11 PROVIDE FUNDING TO CONVERT THE SERRENTI

12 MEMORIAL ARMY RESERVE CENTER INTO AN

13 EMERGENCY SERVICES CENTER.

14 MR. ROGAN: You've heard reading by

15 title of Item 6-A, what is your pleasure?

16 MR. PERRY: I move that Item 6-A

17 pass reading by title.

18 MR. EVANS: Second.

19 MR. ROGAN: On the question? All

20 those in favor signify by saying aye.

21 MR. PERRY: Aye.

22 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

23 MR. EVANS: Aye.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

25 MR. ROGAN: Aye. Opposed? The ayes

1 have it and so moved.

2 MS. REED: 6-B. READING BY TITLE -
3 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 6, 2018 - AN
4 ORDINANCE - ESTABLISHING PERMIT PARKING ON
5 THE EVEN SIDE OF THE 900 BLOCK OF OLIVE
6 STREET FROM 912 OLIVE STREET EAST TO QUINCY
7 AVENUE AND ON THE ODD SIDE FROM 915 OLIVE
8 STREET EAST TO QUINCY AVENUE.

9 MR. ROGAN: You've heard reading by
10 title of Item 6-B, what is your pleasure?

11 MR. PERRY: I move that Item 6-B
12 pass reading by title.

13 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

16 MR. PERRY: Aye.

17 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

18 MR. EVANS: Aye.

19 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

22 MS. REED: 6-C. READING BY TITLE -
23 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 7, 2018 - AN
24 ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
25 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO DISBURSE SIX

1 THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$6,000.00) FROM THE UDAG
2 REPAYMENT ACCOUNT INTO WHICH URBAN
3 DEVELOPMENT ACTION GRANTS (UDAG) REPAYMENTS
4 ARE DEPOSITED. THIS WILL COVER THE CITY OF
5 SCRANTON'S SHARE OF COSTS FOR THE UNITED
6 NEIGHBORHOOD CENTERS OF NORTHEASTERN
7 PENNSYLVANIA TO ADMINISTER THE CONTINUUM OF
8 CARE FOR LACKAWANNA COUNTY DURING THE PERIOD
9 JULY 1, 2017 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2018.

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

12 MR. PERRY: I move that Item 6-C
13 pass reading by title.

14 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

17 MR. PERRY: Aye.

18 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

19 MR. EVANS: Aye.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

23 MS. REED: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR
24 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC
25 WORKS - FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF THE COUNCIL

1 NO. 3, 2018 - ESTABLISHING PERMIT PARKING ON
2 THE EASTERLY (EVEN) SIDE ONLY OF THE 300
3 BLOCK OF TAYLOR AVENUE FROM 316 TO 330
4 TAYLOR AVENUE (316-322, 324-326 AND
5 328-330).

6 MR. ROGAN: What is the
7 recommendation for the Chair for the
8 Committee on Public Works?

9 MR. GAUGHAN: As Chairperson for the
10 Committee on Public Works, I recommend final
11 passage of Item 7-A.

12 MR. EVANS: Second.

13 MR. ROGAN: On the question? Roll
14 call, please?

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

16 MR. PERRY: Yes.

17 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

18 MR. DONAHUE: Yes.

19 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

20 MR. EVANS: Yes.

21 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

22 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

23 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

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

1 MS. REED: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION BY
2 THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE - FOR ADOPTION -
3 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 4, 2018 - AMENDING
4 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 17, 1994 ENTITLED
5 "AN ORDINANCE (AS AMENDED) AUTHORIZING
6 THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON
7 TO ENACT 'A WASTE DISPOSAL AND COLLECTION
8 FEE' FOR THE PURPOSE OF RAISING REVENUE
9 TO COVER THE WASTE DISPOSAL AND COLLECTION
10 COSTS INCURRED BY THE CITY OF SCRANTON FOR
11 THE DISPOSAL OF REFUSE", BY IMPOSING A
12 WASTE DISPOSAL AND COLLECTION FEE OF \$300.00
13 FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2018 AND THE SAME SHALL
14 REMAIN IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT ANNUALLY
15 THEREAFTER.

16 MR. ROGAN: What is the
17 recommendation of the Chair for the
18 Committee on Finance?

19 MR. EVANS: As Chairperson for the
20 Committee on Finance, I recommend final
21 passage of Item 7-B.

22 MR. ROGAN: Is there a second?

23 MR. GAUGHAN: Second.

24 MR. ROGAN: On the question?

25 MR. DONAHUE: Yes, on the question,

1 I would just like to note that I'm going to
2 reluctantly vote for this item and that is
3 only because it's the fiscally responsible
4 thing to do. The 2018 budget, which this
5 revenue is dependent on I didn't get a
6 chance to weigh in on, but I will say that I
7 will not vote for this in it's current form
8 moving forward next year. Thank you.

9 MR. ROGAN: Anyone else? Roll call,
10 please?

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

12 MR. PERRY: Yes.

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

14 MR. DONAHUE: Yes.

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

16 MR. EVANS: Yes.

17 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

18 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

19 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

20 MR. ROGAN: Yes. I hereby declare
21 Item 7-B legally and lawfully adopted.

22 MS. REED: 7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION
23 BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS - FOR
24 ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 15, 2018 -
25 AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT

1 OF PUBLIC WORKS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO
2 SIGN AND SUBMIT THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT
3 OF TRANSPORTATION ("PENNDOT") APPLICATION
4 FOR TRAFFIC SIGNAL APPROVAL FOR TRAFFIC
5 SIGNAL PERMIT NO.6358 TO UPGRADE EXISTING
6 TRAFFIC SIGNAL AT GREEN RIDGE STREET (SR
7 011) AND SANDERSON AVENUE.

8 MR. ROGAN: What is the
9 recommendation of the Chair for the
10 Committee on Public Safety?

11 MR. GAUGHAN: As Chairperson for the
12 Committee on Public Safety, I recommend
13 final passage of Item 7-C.

14 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

17 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

18 MR. PERRY: Yes.

19 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

20 MR. DONAHUE: Yes.

21 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

22 MR. EVANS: Yes.

23 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

25 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

1 MR. ROGAN: Yes. I hereby declare
2 Item 7-C legally and lawfully adopted.

3 MS. REED: 7-D. FOR CONSIDERATION
4 BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT -
5 FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 16, 2018 -
6 RATIFYING AND APPROVING OF THE EXECUTION AND
7 SUBMISSION OF THE GRANT APPLICATION BY THE
8 CITY OF SCRANTON, ON BEHALF OF THE UNITED
9 NEIGHBORHOOD CENTERS (UNC)/UNITED
10 NEIGHBORHOOD COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
11 CORPORATION (UNCDC), TO THE COMMONWEALTH OF
12 PENNSYLVANIA ACTING THROUGH THE COMMONWEALTH
13 FINANCING AUTHORITY FOR A LOCAL SHARE
14 ACCOUNT GRANT, PURSUANT TO THE PA RACE HORSE
15 DEVELOPMENT AND GAMING ACT IN THE AMOUNT OF
16 \$120,000.00 FOR THE PROJECT TO BE KNOWN AS
17 "SOUTH SCRANTON WOMEN'S BUSINESS INCUBATOR
18 PROJECT" LOCATED AT 526-530 CEDAR AVENUE,
19 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, AND AUTHORIZING THE
20 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS
21 OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO ACCEPT THE GRANT,
22 IF SUCCESSFUL AND EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A
23 LOCAL SHARE ACCOUNT GRANT CONTRACT AND
24 COMMITMENT LETTER WITH THE COMMONWEALTH OF
25 PENNSYLVANIA TO ACCEPT AND UTILIZE THE

1 GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$120,000.00 AWARDED
2 BY THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA FOR SUCH
3 PROJECT.

4 MR. ROGAN: What is the
5 recommendation of the Chair for the
6 Committee on Community Development?

7 MR. DONAHUE: As Chairperson for the
8 Committee on Community Development, I
9 recommend final passage of Item 7-D.

10 MR. EVANS: Second.

11 MR. ROGAN: On the question? Roll
12 call, please?

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

14 MR. PERRY: Yes.

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

16 MR. DONAHUE: Yes.

17 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

18 MR. EVANS: Yes.

19 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

21 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

22 MR. ROGAN: Yes. I hereby declare
23 Item 7-D legally and lawfully adopted.

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

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MR. PERRY: Motion to adjourn.

MR. ROGAN: Meeting is adjourned.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER