

SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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HELD:

Monday, September 10, 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. TAX
16 ASSESSOR'S REPORTS FOR HEARING DATES HELD
17 AUGUST 22, AUGUST 29, AND SEPTEMBER 5, 2018.

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

20 MS. REED: 3-B. TAX ASSESSOR'S
21 REPORTS FOR HEARING DATES TO BE HELD
22 SEPTEMBER 12 AND SEPTEMBER 19, 2018.

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

25 MS. REED: 3-C. SINGLE TAX OFFICE

1 CITY FUNDS DISTRIBUTED COMPARISON REPORTS
2 2017-2018 YEAR TO DATE JULY 31 AND AUGUST
3 31, 2018.

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

6 MS. REED: 3-D. TAX ASSESSOR'S
7 RESULTS REPORTS FOR HEARING DATES HELD JULY
8 25, AUGUST 1, AUGUST 8, AUGUST 15 AND AUGUST
9 22, 2018.

10 MR. ROGAN: Are there any comments?
11 If not, received and filed.

12 MS. REED: 3-E. CHECK RECEIVED
13 AUGUST 8, 2018 FROM COMCAST IN THE AMOUNT OF
14 \$256,378.76 FOR QUARTERLY FRANCHISE FEE
15 PAYMENT.

16 MR. ROGAN: Are there any comments?
17 If not, received and filed.

18 MS. REED: 3-F. CORRESPONDENCE
19 RECEIVED FROM THOMAS J. ANDERSON &
20 ASSOCIATES, INC. REGARDING THE 2019
21 FINANCIAL REQUIREMENT AND MINIMUM
22 MUNICIPAL OBLIGATION (MMO).

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

25 MS. REED: 3-G. CONTROLLER'S REPORT

1 FOR MONTH ENDING JULY 31, 2018.

2 MR. ROGAN: Are there any comments?

3 If not, received and filed.

4 MS. REED: 3-H. MINUTES OF THE
5 SCRANTON FIREFIGHTERS PENSION COMMISSION
6 MEETINGS HELD JUNE 20 AND JULY 18, 2018.

7 MR. ROGAN: Are there any comments?

8 If not, received and filed.

9 MS. REED: 3-I. MINUTES OF THE
10 NON-UNIFORM MUNICIPAL PENSION BOARD MEETING
11 HELD JULY 18, 2018.

12 MR. ROGAN: Are there any comments?

13 If not, received and filed.

14 MS. REED: 3-J. MINUTES OF THE
15 SCRANTON POLICE PENSION COMMISSION MEETING
16 HELD JULY 18, 2018.

17 MR. ROGAN: Are there any comments?

18 If not, received and filed.

19 MS. REED: 3-K. MINUTES OF THE
20 COMPOSITE PENSION BOARD MEETING HELD JULY
21 18, 2018.

22 MR. ROGAN: Are there any comments?

23 If not, received and filed.

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

1 HELD AUGUST 15, 2018.

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

4 MS. REED: 3-M. MINUTES OF THE
5 REGULAR MEETING OF THE LACKAWANNA COUNTY
6 LAND BANK HELD JULY 13, 2018.

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

9 MS. REED: 3-N. MINUTES OF THE
10 SCRANTON MUNICIPAL RECREATION BOARD MEETINGS
11 HELD JUNE 4 AND JULY 9, 2018.

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

14 MS. REED: 3-O. MINUTES OF THE
15 REGULAR MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF SCRANTON
16 HOUSING AUTHORITY HELD JULY 2, 2018.

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

19 MS. REED: 3-P. REQUEST AND
20 APPROVAL FOR THE INSTALLATION OF A STREET
21 LIGHT AT CONNELL STREET AND HERZ COURT.

22 MR. ROGAN: Are there any comments?
23 If not, received and filed. Do any council
24 members have announcements at this time? I
25 have a few. The Friends of Scranton Public

1 Library will hold a book sale beginning
2 tomorrow, September 11 through September 16,
3 on the second floor of Marketplace at the
4 Mall at Steamtown.

5 On Sunday, September 16, at 12 noon,
6 there will be a raising of the flags
7 dedication to Memorial Park. The park is
8 located on Providence Road between Memorial
9 Stadium and Scranton High. The public is
10 invited to attend.

11 And, finally, next Monday, September
12 17, at 5:15 p.m. council will hold a public
13 hearing for OECD's 2019 CDBG, HOME and ESG
14 programs.

15 MS. REED: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'
16 PARTICIPATION.

17 (The following speakers offered
18 public comment: Gerard Hetman spoke on
19 matters of general concern. John Foley
20 spoke on city business and matters of
21 general concern. Les Spindler spoke on
22 agenda items, city business and matters of
23 general concern. Bernie McGurl spoke on
24 matters of general concern. Ken Norton
25 spoke on city business Fay Franus spoke on

1 city business and matters of general
2 concern. Lee Morgan spoke on matters of
3 general concern. Ron Ellman spoke on
4 matters of general concern. Marie
5 Schumacher spoke on city business. Dave
6 Dobrzyn spoke on agenda items and matters of
7 general concern.)

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

9 MOTIONS.

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

12 MR. PERRY: Yes, I do, thank you.
13 Before I start, I want to say welcome back,
14 Kathy, and it's nice to see you here again.
15 Kathy was out for awhile, she is back
16 joining us and just our whole staff does a
17 fantastic job. They are all the lifeblood
18 that makes our office works so I just want
19 to welcome you back, it's nice seeing you
20 again.

21 MS. CARRERA: Thank you.

22 MR. PERRY: A couple of items,
23 Mr. Spindler I think he had an issue about
24 the fireworks and what's on our agenda
25 tonight. Unfortunately, the legislation is

1 -- it's only as good as the piece of paper
2 it's written on if it's not being enforced.
3 Some of the issues he spoke about with the
4 fireworks situation in his neighborhood
5 sounds like more of an enforcement problem.
6 If there is already a law on the books that
7 won't allow fireworks to be set off within
8 150 foot of any structure and that's not
9 being honored then that sounds like an issue
10 the police department that needs to come up
11 and take care because there is already --
12 the way the legislation is written it's
13 pretty stringent that fireworks cannot be
14 set of off within 150 feet of any structure
15 so that really limits it down, or on city
16 property so you can't even go in a street,
17 an alley, you can't go to a neighborhood
18 park, all of these places are off limits to
19 set off fireworks. So right now as this
20 legislation stands if it's being followed
21 and enforced I think it's good legislation.

22 Some issues that were taken care of
23 over the break that I haven't been able to
24 update everybody on, there is a dangerous
25 intersection at the 2600 block of Pittston

1 Avenue. If anybody is unfamiliar with this
2 situation it is where one lane turns into
3 two lanes and what happened is if someone is
4 coming up and they're not paying attention
5 that one way if you are in the right-hand
6 lane you just drive right up into oncoming
7 traffic. There is some minor signs there
8 but in my opinion and based on some of the
9 accidents that have been over the years it's
10 just not enough, so we did get PennDOT to
11 give us some new signage, some new
12 reflectors and just to make that more of in
13 your face to drivers of oncoming traffic.
14 They are also going to do a study there to
15 see if there absolutely needs to be more
16 enforcement done and just more make the
17 traffic more aware of the upcoming
18 situation. So I'll keep you guys updated on
19 that, but as of right now there is going to
20 be some updated larger signs with reflectors
21 at that intersection.

22 Also, some basin rain has been
23 terrible, terrible and, you know, our
24 infrastructure for handling it is not very
25 good. We just aren't -- we just cannot

1 handle it and the stuff that we have needs
2 to be cleaned out and cleaned out regularly.
3 There has been two basins that I know have
4 been taken care of that have come to my
5 attention, one was in Powell Court, that was
6 taken care of two days before this weather
7 hit, that rain, and the people there were
8 very thankful because that was -- when I
9 took a look at that not only was it blocked
10 but it was just right up to the grate. The
11 whole thing was just covered and it was in a
12 back alley, it was probably out of sight,
13 out of mind type of situation and the
14 citizens there and the residents just put up
15 with that for too long, and I'm glad they
16 were able to pick up the phone and talk to
17 us, American Water Company was out there
18 quick to take care of it because it was part
19 of their responsibility, and it was taken
20 care of and did some follow-up during the
21 rain and they didn't have any flooding
22 issues in that particular part.

23 Also, there has been a drain basin
24 issue that has been fixed on Church Street,
25 again, the water company was out there to

1 take of that. And there is also a follow-up
2 item that I will have more information on
3 when I get it, there needs to be some
4 milling done on that street to offset just
5 the way the road lies it kind of tends to
6 pool water off in one section or away from
7 the drainage, so even though the drain is
8 open there might still be a stagnant water
9 situation so once I get an update on DPW on
10 the millage of that street I'll make sure to
11 pass that on.

12 On our agenda tonight I'm very happy
13 to see some legislation on the street sign
14 project. I'm glad to see this going forward
15 as we all talk about it, we all know it's
16 something that needed to be do and I'm
17 hoping within the next couple of months to
18 get the street project off the ground and
19 get some of these signs changed. You know,
20 just for instance my wife is from the
21 Pittston area and sometimes we go to visit
22 family and I'll tell you what those signs
23 are fantastic. They are brand new, they are
24 up, they are out there, I don't know my way
25 around there but I can look at a street sign

1 and know exactly where I'm going and what
2 street I'm on. That's the type of street
3 signs and just the infrastructure that we
4 need for our citizens and our visitors in
5 this city because right now, you know, I'll
6 be the first to say I think it's a disgrace.
7 I'll even go in parts of the city I do know,
8 the upper South Side or West Side, you know,
9 they just need to be there. It's just
10 something, it's a basic city service that I
11 think I think we need to provide.

12 What else do we have, there is so
13 much going on. Okay, so I haven't weighed
14 in officially on the coffee shop situation
15 that I think has been going on. Now, let me
16 tell you this, it's been in the paper, there
17 has been many articles about it. As we
18 know, our LIPS director, Mr. Hinton, wants
19 to open a coffee shop in the old boathouse
20 in Nay Aug. That has been going back and
21 forth with us and it appears that -- in his
22 application all of the checks, you know,
23 they might have hit the right boxes, but the
24 legality of it at the moment it looks like
25 his application was filled out correctly, it

1 was announced correctly, he did everything
2 he needed to do to take care of this. With
3 that being said, I still think it's bad
4 optics. You know, there is an eyeball test
5 to everything and when you see a city
6 employee getting in business with the city,
7 you know, that always raises a red flag and
8 concern. So while it appears that
9 everything was done correctly, and I say
10 appears because I have been -- we have been
11 bouncing this off our solicitor back and
12 forth, it just doesn't pass the optic test
13 for me, that's what I'm saying, and I'm for,
14 and I know Mr. Gaughan and several of the
15 council men will bring this up as well, but
16 I'm definitely in favor of any kind of ethic
17 code amendment that we need to do because,
18 you know, there is some things just -- some
19 things just don't sit right and this is one
20 that just doesn't pass the optic test or the
21 eyeball test to me.

22 Lastly, I know Mr. Rogan hit on this
23 with September 11 tomorrow, again, guys,
24 let's just keep the family of fallen in our
25 thoughts, you know, I send all of my love I

1 have to those families and what a horrific
2 day that we all remember. It was one of
3 those flash bulb memory days where we
4 remember everything we were doing that
5 morning and, again, just to show you that,
6 you know, the first responders, God bless
7 them, they are out there. They don't know
8 who you are and you don't know who they are,
9 but they will be there for you in a second
10 and they be willing to give their lives to
11 help you, so let's all remember that and,
12 again, let's never forget the tragedy that
13 fell on us September 11. That's all I have
14 today. Thank you.

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

17 MR. DONAHUE: Yes, just to quickly
18 follow-up on what Marie brought up with the
19 storm drains. Mrs. Reed, would be able to
20 send a request to DPW asking for a list of
21 all storm drains that they are responsible
22 for?

23 Also, regarding Mr. Hinton's
24 proposed coffee shop at Nay Aug Park, this
25 whole legal back and forth is just

1 ridiculous to me. In my opinion it doesn't
2 matter whether the state ethics code
3 preempts the city's or not, the City of
4 Scranton has an ethics code and it should be
5 followed. Either Mr. Hinton wants to be the
6 Director of Licensing and Inspection or he
7 wants to run a coffee shop. It's my opinion
8 that he should not be permitted to do both
9 but that's a decision that will ultimately
10 fall on the mayor. And that's all I have.
11 Thank you.

12 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. Mr. Evans,
13 any motions or comments?

14 MR. EVANS: Yeah. Touching on that
15 subject on the Nay Aug Park issue, at
16 council's request we asked our solicitor for
17 an opinion if there is a conflict between
18 the city's ethics code and the code adopted
19 by the state. So in typical bureaucratic
20 fashion the state authored an ethics code in
21 1998 and then put in a caveat that if a city
22 code was enacted prior to 1998, and ours was
23 in 1976, then the state code supercedes the
24 local code. However, if the city code was
25 enacted after 1998, even if it was

1 restrictive, then it would become the code
2 that guides the city. Typical government
3 nonsense. With that said, I would be in
4 favor of amending our code, even slightly
5 amending it, effectively creating a new code
6 and allowing Scranton's more restrictive
7 code to take precedent or reviewing the
8 recent ordinance like the one from the city
9 of Reading that Councilman Gaughan brought
10 to our attention during our caucus.

11 Although it won't effect this matter, it
12 will clear up any future questions as to
13 what code should be used.

14 But, quite frankly, all of this is
15 just corrective action. In my simplistic
16 viewpoint, I really don't care, as
17 Councilman Donahue said, that the current
18 code is not what legally binds this issue.
19 To me, it doesn't matter if this issue was
20 determined to be legal. Something being
21 legal, something adhering to the letter of
22 the law does not always make it the right
23 thing to do. We are elected officials and
24 along with appointed officials as well as
25 employees of the city, particularly cabinet

1 members, we should be held to a different
2 standard, to a higher standard. What guides
3 us shouldn't be if something is legal to do,
4 what should always guide is if something is
5 the right thing to do. In all honesty, I'm
6 extremely disappointed that the mayor has
7 allowed this ever to get this far. At the
8 end of the day, the mayor must decide if he
9 wants the members of his cabinet be fully
10 dedicated to their position with the city or
11 if they should be allowed to seek outside
12 business opportunities using city assets.

13 On the storm water issue, obviously,
14 this was a big topic for discussion tonight,
15 the storms of August clearly showed beyond a
16 shadow of a doubt that we are not prepared
17 as a city to deal with storm water with the
18 present arrangement. There is no doubt that
19 city employees responded the best they could
20 to the severe emergency conditions, but we
21 need a plan and we need it now.

22 So I'm requesting that the
23 representatives of Arcadis finally be
24 invited to a public caucus or possibly a
25 work session in the very near future to

1 discuss the status of the study that they
2 have been working on for months and months
3 and months to give us a some preliminary
4 findings and hopefully creat a dialogue that
5 will allow us to get all on the same page to
6 get this thing done. I remain confident
7 that we can ultimately can come up with a
8 long time plan that will be proactive
9 instead of reactive in our handling of the
10 storm water. The clock is ticking. Our
11 friends, our neighbors and our family
12 members have been affected by storm water
13 and our suffering so we need to act and we
14 need to act soon.

15 One final subject, I want to talk a
16 little bit about the Scranton bypass to
17 Clarks Summit. This is the \$170 million
18 Scranton bypass as proposed by the turnpike
19 commission and PennDOT, in my opinion, we do
20 not need another ill conceived and
21 unnecessary road construction project. They
22 are asking all of us to buy into a project
23 that will be taking people's homes, most
24 likely not to pay for itself ever. It will
25 not create additional growth opportunities

1 and as a project takes traffic away from the
2 City of Scranton and that is never a good
3 thing for the current or future economic
4 growth of the city.

5 Again, all of this to save a few
6 minutes on a morning or evening commute for
7 a few people. If there is \$170 million
8 laying around in available funds, we should
9 not be creating and expanding the highway
10 system, we should be rebuilding our existing
11 roads and bridges and infrastructure. If
12 there is \$170 million around, I'm sure the
13 City of Scranton could identify many
14 projects, including storm water, that would
15 rebuild our existing infrastructure without
16 the need to build one new road. We can even
17 dedicate some of that undoing to many wrong
18 headed decisions on some of the state roads
19 within the city, roads were are designed to
20 move cars quickly through our downtown and
21 neighborhoods at the peril of pedestrians
22 and even the few bicyclists that will brave
23 our streets.

24 So to our neighbors in Clarks Summit
25 who may lose your homes in the name of

1 questionable progress, I want you to know
2 that I stand with you on this issue. That's
3 all I have tonight.

4 MR. ROGAN: Mr. Gaughan, any motions
5 or comments?

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, thank you. First
7 of all, I want to congratulate Councilman
8 Rogan on the birth of his daughter and wish
9 him and his wife and new daughter all of the
10 best.

11 MR. ROGAN: Thank you.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: Just a couple of
13 citizens' requests over the month of August.
14 1207 North Main Avenue, Mrs. Reed, can we
15 double check again if this property is on
16 demolition list and if so when is it
17 scheduled to be demolished? I have been in
18 contact with one resident that lives right
19 next door and the hole has opened up on the
20 border of this property and it's become very
21 dangerous and the house is in horrible
22 condition. He has told it was on the
23 demolition list but we just need to confirm
24 that.

25 Also, Mrs. Ann Robinson, who has

1 come to these meetings several times about
2 803-805-808 and 809 Hampton Street in West
3 Scranton, 808 and 809 are listed as vacant
4 lots. She has complained numerous times
5 that the lots are not being taken care of,
6 so I have reached out to Ralph Pappas from
7 the county to see if there is any way we can
8 get those placed in the land back.

9 Just to touch on storm water for a
10 minute, I have several questions on the
11 Merrifield Avenue pumping station, right
12 after the storm flooded in August I met with
13 some residents in that area and to say that,
14 you know, there were devastated is an
15 understatement, and this isn't anything new.
16 Every time we get a heavy rain they get
17 absolutely -- their houses get flooded.
18 It's unbelievable.

19 So I would like to know about the
20 Merrifield pumping station. Number one,
21 what kind of maintenance is done at that
22 pumping station and when is it done? Has
23 there been any testing done on the pumping
24 station? How frequently is that done? And
25 who is trained on running this pumping

1 station? What is the city's plan? You
2 know, we are talking up here about storm
3 water for the last three years, and
4 Councilman Evans brought up the Arcadis
5 study. Now, I got an e-mail from -- because
6 I have been asking about this from
7 Mr. Bulzoni, and it looks to me that he is
8 saying we are not going to see anything
9 until at least 2019. Once we confirm that
10 they can do the mapping, according to this
11 e-mail and Anthony Dill from Arcadis who
12 doing the study, it's going to take
13 approximately two to three months to
14 complete the digitizing work. Once that is
15 complete, they have to do an analysis of the
16 rate and credit and appeals policy so that
17 has to be to developed, billing options, and
18 that's going to take an additional three
19 months to complete from my understanding
20 reading this e-mail.

21 So I agree with Mr. Evans that, you
22 know, we were told two years ago that this
23 thing was going to take nine months and two
24 years later we are still in the same
25 position, so I do think we need a caucus

1 with all of the individuals involved so that
2 we can get an update and get a handle on
3 this because I don't think we are moving
4 fast enough or in the right direction.

5 I also think based on my
6 conversations over the last month with
7 really the residents in every section of the
8 city, we need a public meeting or a public
9 caucus on the recent storm and the city's
10 response because I do not fault the fire
11 department, I think they did a great job,
12 the police department or DPW, but there
13 definitely was a communications breakdown
14 someplace, and I'll give you one example.
15 People have experienced thousands of dollars
16 of damage in basements and in their homes
17 and I asked multiple times, asked the
18 mayor's office, who from the city is going
19 out and assessing this damage, how is that
20 being done, what is the process, because we
21 can get reimbursed by the state. I still
22 have not gotten an answer on that, so I
23 don't know if there is a plan or if anything
24 is being done or what the case is, but I had
25 several questions, and Councilman Donahue

1 brought one of these up in the caucus
2 earlier, who is in charge of emergency
3 management in the city, who coordinates
4 these efforts? So when we have a major
5 emergency like the flood who is getting
6 information out to residents? You know, in
7 my opinion there should have been a press
8 conference, there should have been something
9 in the newspaper, in the news media telling
10 people where to go, what to do, where to
11 file this paperwork that's so important.
12 Who is trained to operate the levy system?
13 Are the gates tested? We had several
14 questions about that. And how much damage
15 in dollar amount was there from the recent
16 storm and are we submitting this information
17 to PEMA, the Pennsylvania Emergency
18 Management Association -- or agency? And
19 how does this process work? How are
20 residents supposed to know where to go for
21 help and does damage that occurred to an
22 individual homeowner factor into the
23 assessment? So I think that we need a clear
24 handle on this I would like to have a public
25 caucus so we can get answers.

1 Mr. Norton, who came earlier, I have
2 been in contact with him and the
3 Pennsylvania American Water Company is,
4 again, the 1100 blocks of Rundell Street and
5 really from South Main Avenue from St. Ann's
6 Street all the way down to Loomis Avenue the
7 storm drains are clearly inefficient to
8 handle storm water here in heavy rain
9 events. So, again, I asked Mrs. Reed
10 earlier, we need a meeting with the water
11 company and with city officials to find out
12 what the remedy for that situation is.

13 Mr. Srebro and Mr. Besko, who have
14 come here multiple times with their issues
15 of flooding in Keyser Valley, tried to set
16 up a meeting with them and the city engineer
17 and the mayor. I sent a letter, no reply,
18 for the last few weeks. I did receive an
19 e-mail or was copies on an e-mail from
20 Mr. Pocius to Kay Garvey, the mayor's
21 secretary, and Mrs. Reed, August 24, that
22 states that Mr. Pocius did meet with
23 Mr. Besko and he is doing research on the
24 information that Mr. Besko provided and he
25 will get back to him with his findings.

1 Mr. Evans brought up a program, and
2 It think it's so important and it will be so
3 beneficial to the city, the See, Click, Fix
4 initiative so if we, as a council, send a
5 letter again to the mayor to find out,
6 number one, if he is onboard with this idea
7 or not, and if he is on board with it are
8 we, you know, moving forward with it or
9 aren't we because it's been months now since
10 Mr. Evans had brought that information to
11 this council. We had a public caucus on it
12 and the presentation and I think, quite
13 frankly, that it would allow the city to
14 hold our departments accountable and it
15 would provide great communication between
16 the government and the people.

17 Now, onto the coffee shop business
18 with Mr. Hinton. While we are on recess
19 during the month of August there was an
20 article in the Scranton Times regarding
21 Mr. Hinton, who is the director of
22 Licensing, Inspections and Permits, and the
23 article had to do with Mr. Hinton entering
24 into a lease in July of 2017 with the
25 Scranton Recreation Authority to run a

1 coffee shop out of the building at Nay Aug
2 Park. The lease is for 12 years with the
3 first two years being rent free and then
4 \$3,000 a year thereafter. First of all, let
5 me say that, you know, I think this idea
6 might be a good one in all reality, just not
7 with a member of the mayor's cabinet running
8 it, especially the director of the
9 Licensing, Inspections and Permits. I have
10 to preface my comments tonight by saying
11 this is not anything personal against Mr.
12 Hinton, but the mere appearance of a city
13 employee using the building on city property
14 at a city-owned park to run a coffee shop
15 should have been enough for Mayor Courtright
16 and members of the Recreation Authority
17 Board to say no way to this idea.

18 The mayor has been silent on this
19 issue. I approached him, I called his
20 office, sent an e-mail, no reply, and then I
21 approached him up at McLane Park for a grand
22 opening of the park a few weeks ago and he
23 told me it was a personnel issue and he
24 walked away from me.

25 This shouldn't be a surprise to

1 anyone who has been following city
2 government over the last five years. The
3 mayor is using the excuse that this is a
4 personnel issue. Ladies and gentlemen, that
5 is absolutely ridiculous. Mr. Hinton is not
6 covered under any bargaining unit, he serves
7 at the pleasure of the mayor and his
8 cabinet. Therefore, this is the mayor's
9 problem. If this was so transparent, why
10 didn't anyone on the council besides I think
11 Mr. Evans know about it? If this was so
12 transparent and the mayor believed that he
13 should open up something, a coffee shop in
14 that building at Nay Aug Park, why wasn't
15 there a major public announcement, a press
16 conference, a press release? Some
17 communication between the mayor, the
18 Recreation Authority and city council?
19 There was zero. Zip. So, again, they talk
20 about transparency, I don't see it.

21 The city's ethics code is very, very
22 clear on this issue and I did ask our
23 solicitor to provide his opinion on whether
24 Mr. Hinton violated any portion of the
25 city's ethics code and Mr. Minora agreed

1 that he did violate the city's ethics code.
2 You know, there is a question obviously
3 about of whether or not the state ethics
4 code preempts the city's ethics code, but
5 regardless, as my colleagues said, of any of
6 that, this is not right. The question of
7 the legality of it is still unclear, but it
8 doesn't make it right, it's my opinion still
9 unethical. That we have a city employee
10 using city property to run a coffee shop.

11 Now, Mr. Hinton's counsel sent me a
12 letter, and I'd just like to go through this
13 very quickly. He makes several points in
14 this letter addressing my concern about the
15 ethics -- possible ethics violations. His
16 council says, "No person from the public,
17 city council or the authority raised any
18 objection to the lease agreement prior to
19 its execution."

20 My response to that would how would
21 we provide an objection when we didn't know
22 about it -- or at least I didn't know about
23 it until I ready it in the paper. It also
24 says Mr. Hinton met with council and Wayne
25 Evans, which he just addressed as a former

1 conversation and to discuss his plans,
2 apparently this is supposed to be enough to
3 satisfy the disclosure requirement in our
4 ethics code. He should have disclosed it to
5 the full council, not just one member.

6 It also says no person objected to
7 his plans or the lease nor did anyone advise
8 him they thought the lease was violating the
9 City of Scranton's Ethics Code. That should
10 have been up to, number one, the solicitor
11 of the Recreation Authority, and Mr. Hinton.
12 The State Ethics Commission always commits
13 to giving advisory opinions on these type of
14 issues and so would the Ethics Board and
15 they did not do that.

16 He also says Mr. Hinton has already
17 spent considerable funds on the
18 rehabilitation of the property after
19 execution of the lease. Nobody from the
20 City of Scranton or the city council
21 objected while Mr. Hinton spent thousands of
22 dollars and countless hours of labor during
23 his off hours to renovate the property.
24 Again, how would we have known even to
25 object. I would have objected to this the

1 moment that I knew about it.

2 He also says in his letter to me
3 that many public officials have side
4 business or second jobs that don't interfere
5 with their public jobs, and I can understand
6 and that and that is true, everyone up here
7 has a second job, it's just not running a
8 coffee shop out of a public building on
9 public land.

10 He also says that Mr. Hinton
11 acknowledges being a public official
12 warrants close scrutiny of his conduct.
13 Council should withhold judgment on this
14 transaction until it learns all of the
15 facts.

16 Now, his counsel says that and I
17 asked Mr. Hinton and I have a letter here
18 that I sent a few weeks ago. Mr. Hinton's
19 reply to my letter in e-mail to Mrs. Reed,
20 our city clerk, is really arrogant and
21 troubling. He says in his e-mail to
22 Mrs. Reed he is more than happy to talk to
23 -- or have me talk to his attorney, and also
24 was more than welcome to stop for a coffee
25 when his shop is open. This is not only

1 extremely arrogant but it's completely
2 unprofessional and unbecoming of a cabinet
3 member of the City of Scranton, but it is
4 not surprising. Mr. Hinton has a history of
5 being arrogant and, quite frankly, aloof in
6 his position as Licensing and Inspections
7 director, and let me reference a recent
8 decision and a recent newspaper article with
9 the headline, "Judge rules Scranton revoking
10 of contractor's license without a hearing
11 violated due process rights."

12 I just want to read very quickly
13 from a hearing in Federal Court. "In
14 January of 2014, Patrick Hinton was
15 appointed to serve as the director of
16 Licensing, Inspections and Permits for the
17 City of Scranton. Prior to accepting this
18 position, Hinton had work as a drug and
19 alcohol counselor and as a wellness
20 coordinator for the Scranton School
21 district. Hinton had no previous direct
22 work experience with the Department of
23 Licensing, Inspections and Permits before
24 assuming the position of director of that
25 office. Owing to this lack of prior

1 other instances from my understanding where
2 the city has lost at the magisterial level
3 and Mr. Hinton is costing the city money.

4 In light of Mr. Hinton's coffee shop
5 deal, Mayor Courtright's silence and utter
6 disregard for our ethics code I decided and
7 I talked to my colleagues in the caucus that
8 it's time for the city's ethics code to be
9 updated and to be expanded. So over the
10 past few weeks I have looked at how other
11 cities across Pennsylvania deal with their
12 ethics. I found Reading, Pennsylvania's
13 Ethics Code to be extremely comprehensive
14 and well written. I provided a copy of that
15 ordinance to my colleagues and to Solicitor
16 Minora in the caucus tonight. I also last
17 week spoke to Mr. Ed Stock, who was an
18 attorney for the Reading Ethics Board and we
19 discussed how their system works.

20 So I would like to use their ethics
21 code as a model and as a guide for updating
22 our ethics code, and I would like to read
23 for a second what their ethics code says
24 right in the first paragraph. Their
25 declaration of policy says the following:

1 "The proper operation of a democratic
2 government requires that public officials
3 and employees be independent, impartial and
4 responsible to the people. That government
5 decisions and policy be made in the proper
6 channels of governmental structure that
7 public office not be used for personal gain
8 and that the public have confidence in the
9 integrity of its government. Each official
10 or employee of the city must be constantly
11 on guard in its conflict of interest. No
12 official or employee should be involved in
13 any activity which might be seen as
14 conflicting with his or her responsibilities
15 to the city. The people of Reading have a
16 right to expect that their representatives
17 act with independence and fairness to all
18 groups and not favor a few individuals or
19 themselves."

20 So there is one or two paragraphs
21 that I would like included in our updated
22 ethics code and I think that applies partly
23 to the situation that we find ourselves in
24 with Mr. Hinton. And, again, let me say
25 about my comments, this is not a personal

1 vendetta. Mr. Hinton in his e-mail said
2 this was a personal vendetta against him by
3 myself. This is not a personal vendetta. I
4 would be bringing this issue up if it was
5 any other employee in city hall. Ladies and
6 gentlemen, this, as my colleagues have said
7 tonight, is not right.

8 Now, one of the most interesting
9 parts of in Reading's Code of Ethics, was
10 the inclusion of campaign finance reform and
11 I also mentioned in the caucus tonight that
12 as a part of our updating of the ethics code
13 and I really think we should include
14 campaign finances reform as a part of that.
15 The perception that the people have in the
16 City of Scranton in my experience over the
17 last five years is that our government
18 relies heavily on pay-to-play politics. The
19 way that it usually works, in my estimation,
20 is that lawyers flood the mayor's campaign
21 coffers, not just Mayor Courtright, but
22 mayors going back decades, and then they
23 line their pockets with taxpayer money and
24 eventually land some kind of legal work.
25 People have grown tired not just in

1 Scranton, but across the country of a small
2 group of people who can write large checks
3 having so much influence and control over
4 elected officials. We need to look no
5 further than the recent sewer sale here in
6 the City of Scranton. Mr. Abrahamsen, who
7 sued a member of council over asking for
8 receipts, \$200,000 payments for the Parking
9 Authority deal and the Sewer Authority deal
10 and he is the mayor's -- one of his largest
11 campaign donors. This perception that
12 Scranton's motto is "It's not what you know
13 it's who you know" is bad for business.
14 What do outside businesses think if they
15 might be interested in moving here when they
16 read our local newspaper and see all of the
17 different antics that go on in their mind?
18 It's my belief that it is time to put the
19 power and influence back into the hands of
20 the average middle class citizen. Those
21 people who don't have enough money to write
22 a \$500,000 check but who would still like
23 the ear of local politicians, so I'm
24 proposing that we follow Readings lead and
25 that we set limits for campaign

1 contributions in the City of Scranton. For
2 too long it has been open season for deep
3 pocket donors and special interests in this
4 area and it is time for that to end.

5 As I mentioned to my colleagues and
6 shared with them, some of the campaign
7 limits, I won't go through all of them, but
8 what this would do is set a limit for
9 campaign contributors for both election
10 years and non-election years, so for
11 individuals you would only be able to donate
12 to a candidate up to \$2,600 and so on and so
13 forth. So, again, I think we are putting
14 the power back into the people's hands.

15 So at this time, I'd like to make a
16 motion that city council directs Attorney
17 Minora to draft legislation amending and
18 updating the City of Scranton's Ethics Code
19 to also include campaign finance reform.

20 MR. DONAHUE: I'll second that
21 motion.

22 MR. ROGAN: On the question?

23 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question, I
24 would ask that we use Reading's Ethics Code
25 and campaign finances reform as a model and

1 a guide that we follow the spirit of that
2 law.

3 MR. ROGAN: Anyone else?

4 MR. DONAHUE: On the question real
5 quick, I would just like to say that I just
6 couldn't agree with the comments that
7 Mr. Gaughan just made.

8 MR. ROGAN: Any else? All those in
9 favor of introduction 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 so moved.

16 MR. GAUGHAN: And, finally, just
17 another matter of concern when we talk about
18 our own Board of Ethics, when you look at
19 what Reading does they take their Code of
20 Ethics seriously. They convene I believe in
21 June or July. They announce or elect a
22 chairperson and vice chairperson and there
23 several mechanisms in here that clearly show
24 that Reading takes campaign finance reform
25 and ethics seriously. The way that we have

1 it currently set up I don't think we are
2 taking ethics seriously in the City of
3 Scranton. For example, last year I had
4 inquired with the mayor's office on why the
5 terms of all of the people who are currently
6 listed on the City of Scranton's Board of
7 Ethics have expired. I never got an answer
8 to that question, so we have five people who
9 are appointed by the mayor to the Ethics
10 Board and all of their terms have expired.
11 Back in 2001 as an addition to the research
12 that I did, notice was given that the Board
13 of Ethics in May of 2001, had been
14 appointed, formed and convened and then it
15 lists all of the different mechanisms that
16 you can take to file a claim. To my
17 knowledge, that's never been done so I don't
18 even know if the current board that we have
19 is even legitimate.

20 So, again, I do think that is so
21 important. I look forward to working with
22 Solicitor Minora and my colleagues to
23 updating this ethics code and finally in the
24 City of Scranton taking ethics seriously.
25 Thank you.

1 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. Just TWO
2 items I wanted to bring up, we did receive
3 the report from Dave Bulzoni last month. If
4 you recall, about a year or so ago
5 Councilman Evans and myself worked with the
6 Neighbor Works to put together a first time
7 homebuyer's program when they could also use
8 this money for down payments assistance or
9 for rehabilitation. We did receive a report
10 in August and it lists so far there has been
11 33 applicants who had applied for this
12 program and the vast majority of them have
13 already closed and they are right in our
14 community, a number of them in West Side, a
15 lot in West Side, South Scranton, North
16 Scranton, the Hill, so this program really
17 is a huge success so far and I think it's
18 something we need to continue to fund,
19 hopefully fund it on an increased level,
20 which is great. These are many of the
21 streets and neighborhoods within our city
22 that do need that little bit of a facelift
23 where people could get a little bit of money
24 to fix up their homes when they're buying
25 them and it puts properties in the hands of

1 homeowners instead of possibly as
2 out-of-town landlords that may be coming in
3 and purchasing the properties otherwise. So
4 this is very good news. It's something I
5 think we need to continue to fund and
6 continue to push.

7 Lastly, I just want to comment,
8 Councilman Evans brought up the Scranton
9 bypass. I wasn't planning on addressing
10 this issue, but I have to disagree with some
11 of what was mentioned, many of us who live
12 in the City of Scranton dread that travel on
13 Interstate 81 so something certainly needs
14 to be done. Personally I think widening the
15 road to three or four lanes would be a
16 better solution than having a bypass around
17 the city, but something needs to be done.
18 Anyone who travels that road knows how much
19 of a disaster it is, it's impossible to get
20 around. It's probably one of the most
21 frequent complaints that I hear from people
22 in our area is the amount of congestion on
23 interstate 81 so something certainly needs
24 to be done. I think a bypass should be
25 explored, I'm not saying I'm for it, but I'm

1 saying it's something that should certainly
2 be explored and if that's the only way to
3 alleviate a lot of that traffic on
4 Interstate 81 it's something that should
5 move forward. Like I said, I would prefer
6 to see the road widened so traffic can move
7 through quickly.

8 MR. PERRY: And to chime in on that
9 as well, I'm not sure why they want to spend
10 \$170 million when they can just repair the
11 Northeast extension on the turnpike and make
12 it free and that would go from Pittston to
13 Clarks Summit, the road is already there.
14 I'm just saying.

15 MR. DONAHUE: I did attend the
16 public hearing that was held in council
17 chambers in August about them closing down
18 to do light repairs, closing down on Moosic
19 Street exit, and one of the things that was
20 brought up in that hearing was that bid work
21 for -- bid work for a redesign of the entire
22 highway has just gone out. I mean, that's
23 not -- the way it was explained it's still
24 eight to 10 years down the road but they did
25 -- PennDOT did put out requests for

1 proposals to get complete redesign from the
2 Luzerne County line at least through
3 Dunmore.

4 MR. ROGAN: And that's the worst
5 part, too. I know that all of the new
6 bridges that went in are designed to hold at
7 least three lanes of traffic, which is good.
8 Unfortunately, infrastructure does take
9 time, eight to ten years is long time to
10 wait so anything that could be done to
11 alleviate the problem I think is certainly
12 warranted. That is all.

13 MS. REED: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION -
14 AN ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
15 OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF
16 SCRANTON TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY ACTIONS TO
17 IMPLEMENT THE CONSOLIDATED SUBMISSION FOR
18 COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS
19 TO BE FUNDED UNDER THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
20 BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM, HOME INVESTMENT
21 PARTNERSHIP (HOME) PROGRAM AND EMERGENCY
22 SOLUTIONS GRANTS (ESG) PROGRAM FOR THE
23 PERIOD BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2019.

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

1 introduced into its proper committee.

2 MR. PERRY: So moved.

3 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

7 MR. PERRY: Aye.

8 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

9 MR. EVANS: Aye.

10 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

13 MS. REED: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION -
14 AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL
15 NO. 125, 2017, AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED
16 "GENERAL CITY OPERATING BUDGET 2018" BY
17 TRANSFERRING \$50,000.00 FROM ACCOUNT NO.
18 01.401.17040.4299 (NON-DEPARTMENTAL
19 EXPENDITURES-OPEB TRUST FUND) TO ACCOUNT NO.
20 01.401.10110.4299 (NON-DEPARTMENTAL
21 EXPENDITURES-SHADE TREE COMMISSION) TO
22 PROVIDE FUNDING FOR ADDITIONAL TREE
23 MAINTENANCE COSTS AND THE PREPARATION OF A
24 BASIC PLAN ON HOW TO DEPLOY ADDITIONAL TREES
25 IN THE DOWNTOWN SECTION OF THE CITY.

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

4 MR. PERRY: So moved.

5 MR. EVANS: Second.

6 MR. ROGAN: On the question?

7 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question,
8 as I mentioned in caucus I would like to
9 know how much would be left in the OPEB
10 trust fund after transferring this money.

11 MR. ROGAN: Anyone else? All those
12 in favor signify by saying aye.

13 MR. PERRY: Aye.

14 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

15 MR. EVANS: Aye.

16 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

17 MR. ROGAN: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
18 have it and so moved.

19 MS. REED: 5-D. FOR INTRODUCTION -
20 AN ORDINANCE - ACKNOWLEDGING THE ADOPTION BY
21 THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA OF THE
22 PENNSYLVANIA FIREWORKS LAW, ACT 43 OF 2017,
23 ACKNOWLEDGING THAT THE FIREWORKS LAW
24 PROHIBITS THE IGNITING OR DISCHARGE OF
25 CONSUMER FIREWORKS ON PUBLIC OR PRIVATE

1 PROPERTY WITHOUT THE EXPRESS PERMISSION OF
2 THE OWNER, PROVIDING THAT THE CITY OF
3 SCRANTON DOES NOT GRANT PERMISSION FOR
4 ANYONE TO IGNITE OR DISCHARGE CONSUMER
5 FIREWORKS ON THE STREETS OR SIDEWALKS OF THE
6 CITY OF SCRANTON OR PROPERTY OWNED BY THE
7 CITY OF SCRANTON INCLUDING, WITHOUT
8 LIMITATION, ALL OF THE CITY OWNED PARKS AND
9 PUBLIC BUILDINGS; DIRECTING THAT THE CITY OF
10 SCRANTON PROVIDE CERTIFIED COPIES OF THE
11 ORDINANCE TO ALL MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGES
12 WITHIN THE CITY; PROVIDING FOR A REPEAL OF
13 INCONSISTENT ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR THE
14 SEVERABILITY OF THE ORDINANCE; AND PROVIDING
15 THAT THE ORDINANCE SHALL TAKE EFFECT IN
16 ACCORDANCE WITH PENNSYLVANIA LAW.

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

20 MR. PERRY: So moved.

21 MR. EVANS: Second.

22 MR. ROGAN: On the question? All
23 those in favor of introduction signify by
24 saying aye.

25 MR. PERRY: Aye.

1 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

2 MR. EVANS: Aye.

3 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

6 MS. REED: 5-E. FOR INTRODUCTION -
7 AN ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
8 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE
9 A DEED OF EASEMENT AND RIGHT OF WAY BETWEEN
10 THE CITY OF SCRANTON ("GRANTOR") AND THE
11 PENNSYLVANIA-AMERICAN WATER COMPANY
12 ("GRANTEE") GRANTING TO THE
13 PENNSYLVANIA-AMERICAN WATER COMPANY THE
14 EASEMENT, RIGHT OF WAY AND RIGHTS AS ARE SET
15 FORTH BELOW WITH RESPECT TO THE PROPERTY,
16 WHICH DEED OF EASEMENT AND RIGHT OF WAY ARE
17 ATTACHED HERETO AS EXHIBIT "A".

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

21 MR. PERRY: So moved.

22 MR. EVANS: Second.

23 MR. ROGAN: On the question?

24 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes. Mr. Dobrzyn
25 asked where this was and it is according to

1 the legislation near Wells Street in North
2 Scranton and Leggets Creek.

3 MR. ROGAN: All those in favor of
4 introduction signify by saying aye.

5 MR. PERRY: Aye.

6 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

7 MR. EVANS: Aye.

8 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

11 MS. REED: 5-F. FOR INTRODUCTION -
12 AN ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
13 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE
14 AND ENTER INTO A PERMANENT EASEMENT
15 AGREEMENT AND TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION
16 EASEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF SCRANTON AND
17 LACKAWANNA HERITAGE VALLEY AUTHORITY FOR
18 REAL ESTATE OWNED BY THE CITY OF SCRANTON
19 AS MORE FULLY DESCRIBED IN EXHIBIT "A"
20 ATTACHED HERETO.

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

24 MR. PERRY: So moved.

25 MR. EVANS: Second.

1 MR. ROGAN: On the question?

2 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, again on the
3 question, Mr. Dobrzyn asked about this piece
4 as well and I'm looking at the map, it is in
5 the area of Parker Street in North Scranton.

6 MR. ROGAN: All those in favor
7 signify by saying aye.

8 MR. PERRY: Aye.

9 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

10 MR. EVANS: Aye.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

14 MS. REED: 5-G. FOR INTRODUCTION - A
15 RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
16 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE
17 AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH HIGHLAND
18 ASSOCIATES TO PERFORM THE CITY OF
19 SCRANTON MUNICIPAL BUILDING FACILITIES
20 CONDITION ASSESSMENT.

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

24 MR. PERRY: So moved.

25 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

4 MR. PERRY: Aye.

5 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

6 MR. EVANS: Aye.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

10 MS. REED: 5-H. FOR INTRODUCTION -
11 A RESOLUTION - APPOINTMENT OF ROBERT J.
12 MORRIS, 648 WALES STREET, SCRANTON,
13 PENNSYLVANIA, 18508 AS THE ALTERNATE NO. 2
14 MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS FOR
15 THE CITY OF SCRANTON. MR. MORRIS WILL FILL
16 THE ALTERNATE NO. 2 POSITION THAT WAS
17 VACATED BY ROBERT GATTENS WHEN HE BECAME A
18 REGULAR MEMBER OF THE BOARD BY RESOLUTION
19 NO. 56, 2016. MR. MORRIS WILL FILL THE
20 UNEXPIRED TERM OF MR. GATTENS WHICH
21 EXPIRES ON JULY 1, 2020.

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

25 MR. PERRY: So moved.

1 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

5 MR. PERRY: Aye.

6 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

7 MR. EVANS: Aye.

8 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

11 MS. REED: 5-I. FOR INTRODUCTION -
12 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
13 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE
14 AND ENTER INTO A GRANT APPLICATION BY THE
15 CITY OF SCRANTON TO THE PENNSYLVANIA
16 DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC
17 DEVELOPMENT ("DCED") FOR A LOCAL SHARE
18 ACCOUNT GRANT (GAMING FUNDS) MONROE COUNTY
19 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$464,239.00 FOR A PAVING
20 PROJECT IN THE FAWNWOOD HEIGHTS DEVELOPMENT
21 IN WEST SCRANTON.

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

25 MR. PERRY: So moved.

1 MR. EVANS: Second.

2 MR. ROGAN: On the question?

3 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, I do have a
4 question about this and I brought it up in
5 the caucus, I remember that with the city's
6 2018 paving project a lot of these streets
7 were on there so I'm assuming that they were
8 taken off so if we could get an update on
9 the city's paving project and get a
10 clarification on that so that is why we are
11 asking for grant funding because we took
12 those off the original list? Thank you.

13 MR. ROGAN: Just to reiterate, I
14 know I spoke about this before, this
15 development has some of the worst roads
16 within our city and they also pay some of
17 the highest taxes in the city so this is
18 long overdue for the folks who live in the
19 Fawnwood section.

20 All those in favor of introduction
21 signify by saying aye.

22 MR. PERRY: Aye.

23 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

24 MR. EVANS: Aye.

25 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

3 MS. REED: 5-J. FOR INTRODUCTION – A
4 RESOLUTION – AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
5 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE
6 AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH KS ENGINEERS,
7 P.C. FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON TRAFFIC SIGN
8 MANAGEMENT SYSTEM.

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

12 MR. PERRY: So moved.

13 MR. EVANS: Second.

14 MR. ROGAN: Yes, on the question, we
15 discussed this in caucus as well, but I do
16 have several questions on this. I would
17 like to, if we could, have Mr. Bulzoni come
18 into a caucus and go through some of these
19 questions. One of the questions that I have
20 is in his memo he says that as a budgetary
21 consideration the city may contemplate
22 staffing need since the sign inventory is
23 now managed by one full-time and one
24 part-time employee, so I would like a better
25 understanding as we approach the 2019

1 budget, I mean, we are getting close enough
2 where I think we can assume that that is
3 either going to be in there or not in there
4 so I would like to know that before we delve
5 into this, and then we are also seeking a
6 DCED multi-modal transportation grant to
7 fund 70 percent of the project so our match
8 if we got the grant would be roughly.
9 \$81,200. If we don't get the grant I think
10 we are just going to fund the entire cost
11 out of our debt service account fund balance
12 so that would require council approval so I
13 have some questions about that as well so I
14 think Mr. Bulzoni could probably clear a
15 lot of that. And I would like to hear from
16 the DPW on this and what their thoughts are,
17 especially I know Gene Reed has been running
18 the sign department for the last number of
19 years so he would have a lot of experience
20 in that, so if we could set that up in the
21 next week or two that would be great.

22 MR. ROGAN: Anyone else? All those
23 in favor signify by saying aye.

24 MR. PERRY: Aye.

25 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

1 MR. EVANS: Aye.

2 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

3 MR. ROGAN: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
4 have it and so moved.

5 MS. REED: 5-K. FOR INTRODUCTION - A
6 RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
7 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO APPLY
8 FOR AND EXECUTE A GRANT APPLICATION BY THE
9 CITY OF SCRANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT TO
10 THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND
11 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (DCED) FOR A LOCAL
12 SHARE ACCOUNT GRANT (GAMING FUNDS-MONROE
13 COUNTY) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$70,003.00 TO BE
14 USED FOR THE CANINE UNIT FOR THE PURCHASE OF
15 A CANINE VEHICLE AND A DUAL PURPOSE CANINE.

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

19 MR. PERRY: So moved.

20 MR. EVANS: Second.

21 MR. ROGAN: On the question? All
22 those in favor of introduction signify by
23 saying aye.

24 MR. PERRY: Aye.

25 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

1 MR. EVANS: Aye.

2 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

3 MR. ROGAN: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
4 have it and so moved.

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

7 SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. NO BUSINESS AT
8 THIS TIME.

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

12 MR. PERRY: Motion to adjourn.

13 MR. ROGAN: Meeting 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