

COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON

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

HELD:

Monday, October 7th, 2019

LOCATION:

Council Chambers  
Scranton City Hall  
340 North Washington Avenue  
Scranton, Pennsylvania

Maria McCool, RPR  
Official Court Reporter

1 C O U N C I L M E M B E R S :

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

PATRICK ROGAN, PRESIDENT - absent

TIMOTHY PERRY, VICE PRESIDENT

WILLIAM GAUGHAN

KYLE DONAHUE

MARY WALSH DEMPSEY

LORI REED, CITY CLERK

KATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

COREY EAGEN, ESQUIRE

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

3  
4 MR. PERRY: Roll call, please.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

6 MR. PERRY: Here.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

8 MR. DONAHUE: Here.

9 MS. CARRERA: Attorney Dempsey.

10 ATTY. DEMPSEY: Here.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: Here.

13 MR. PERRY: Mr. Gaughan, would you  
14 like to make a motion?

15 MR. GAUGHAN: Yeah. I'd like to  
16 make a motion to appoint Councilman Perry as  
17 Temporary Chair for the Committee on Rules.

18 MR. DONAHUE: Second.

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

21 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

22 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

23 ATTY. DEMPSEY: Aye.

24 MR. PERRY: Aye. Opposed? The ayes  
25 have it and so moved. Dispense with the

1 reading of the minutes, please.

2 MS. REED: THIRD ORDER. 3-A.  
3 SINGLE TAX OFFICE CITY FUNDS DISTRIBUTED  
4 COMPARISON REPORT 2018-2019 YEAR TO DATE  
5 SEPTEMBER 30, 2019.

6  
7 3-B. TAX ASSESSOR'S RESULTS REPORT FOR HEARING  
8 DATE HELD SEPTEMBER 18, 2019.

9  
10 3-C. BREAKDOWN OF ELIGIBLE SALARIES FOR THE  
11 LIQUID FUELS ACCOUNT FOR THE MONTHS OF JULY,  
12 AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER 2019.

13 MR. PERRY: Are there any comments?  
14 If not, received and filed. Do any Council  
15 members have any announcements at this time?

16 MR. DONAHUE: I have one. The City  
17 of Scranton is preparing their Five Year  
18 Consolidated Plan, Annual Action Plan and its  
19 analysis of impediments to fair housing choice.

20 As part of the planning process, the  
21 City is conducting a survey to identify  
22 residents' needs in the community and ideas on  
23 what the City residents would like to see funds  
24 used for.

25 Please take a few minutes if you

1 haven't already and complete the survey which  
2 can be found at the top of the City's website  
3 Scranton PA dot gov.

4 ATTY. DEMPSEY: I have a few as  
5 well. Thank you. Good evening, everybody.  
6 And thank you for attending. My first  
7 announcement is I want to thank our Ethics  
8 Board. I was reading the paper today and I see  
9 that we have our first scheduled meeting for  
10 October 10th at 5 p.m. So thank you to the  
11 people who are following through on that and  
12 making sure that gets scheduled in a timely and  
13 an expedited fashion. And we do appreciate  
14 that.

15 The second thing I will mention is  
16 I saw this on Facebook. And it had to do with  
17 a Scranton Police Officer. And I really think  
18 it's a beautiful sentiment. And it says, Today  
19 is October 3rd, 2019. Two years ago on October  
20 3rd, 2017, Scranton Police Officer, Christopher  
21 Hallock was diagnosed with cancer.

22 The Scranton Police Officer writing  
23 this post is Officer Chris Hallock. I just  
24 wanted to send a special thank you to the great  
25 City of Scranton, the many business owners and

1 the residents who call it home. So many people  
2 have supported me and my family through this  
3 difficult journey.

4 Community policing has always been  
5 so important to me and my favorite part of  
6 being a police officer. No matter what you  
7 were dealing with or going through, do not give  
8 up on yourself. Continue to push forward.  
9 Take it one step at a time.

10 A quote that helped on tough days  
11 was: Tomorrow is a brand new day with a brand  
12 new beginning. Be kind to one another. And  
13 let's continue to make Scranton the great City  
14 that it is.

15 So I thought that was a beautiful  
16 sentiment. And to Officer Hallock we send our  
17 thoughts and our sentiments for a speedy  
18 recovery. Thank you.

19 MR. PERRY: I have a couple  
20 announcements. Beginning today October 7th,  
21 the License, Inspections and Permits Department  
22 will no longer accept cash payments. Only  
23 credit cards, checks and money orders will be  
24 accepted as form of payment.

25 There is no fee imposed for using

1           your credit card. Mayor Evans made  
2           arrangement that no fee would be charged. Once  
3           again, cash payments will no longer be accepted  
4           in Licensing and Permits Department.

5                         Also this Sunday, October 13th, will  
6           be the 24th Annual Steamtown Marathon. I can't  
7           believe it's almost been 25 years already.  
8           Remember when that first started it was a big  
9           deal? I can't believe it's been 24 years  
10          already. The annual Steamtown Marathon will be  
11          held. Please be mindful of the runners as you  
12          travel through the City on Sunday and plan for  
13          slight delays and/or road closures. I would  
14          like to congratulate all the participants and  
15          wish them a good race day.

16                        Next Monday, October 14th, City Hall  
17          will be closed in observance of Columbus Day  
18          holiday. DPW will also be off on that day.  
19          Refuge and recycling will be one day behind  
20          next week.

21                        Council's next regularly scheduled  
22          meeting will be on Monday, October 21st. A  
23          public hearing will be held that evening at  
24          5:45 for Item 5-B on tonight's agenda. The  
25          legislation pertains to a parking permit on the

1 900 block of Jefferson Avenue. Thank you.

2 MS. REED: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS  
3 PARTICIPATION.

4 (The following speakers offered  
5 public comment on agenda items or matters of  
6 general concern.

7 Les Spindler

8 Normam Jefferies

9 Joan Hodowanitz

10 Ron Ellman

11 Bob Bolus

12 Lee Morgan

13 Dave Dobrzyn

14 Marie Schumacher

15 John Tarantino)

16

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

18 MOTIONS.

19 MR. PERRY: Mr. Donahue, any motions  
20 or comments tonight?

21 MR. DONAHUE: Yes, just real  
22 quickly. An updated -- I asked for a timeline  
23 last week on the old Garcia's Market on  
24 Pittston Avenue. And I did get something back  
25 this morning for Mr. Oleski that the demo

1           should occur on that property before the end of  
2           this month.

3                         Also myself and Councilwoman Dempsey  
4           met with representatives from SEIU Healthcare  
5           about their contract negotiations with Regional  
6           Hospital. A couple -- or over the weekend,  
7           I -- one of the representatives reached out to  
8           me and they're currently working without a  
9           contract, which expired on September 30th.

10                        So I would like to make a motion  
11           that we send the following letter to the CEO of  
12           Regional Hospital, Michael Brown. The letter  
13           reads: Dear Mr. Brown, we were recently  
14           informed that members of the SEIU Healthcare of  
15           Pennsylvania in your hospital are currently  
16           working without a contract, which is expired on  
17           September 30th.

18                        It is our understanding that  
19           negotiations will not begin until the end of  
20           October. We are writing you today to urge you  
21           and your staff to begin negotiations  
22           immediately. As representatives of the City of  
23           Scranton, it is a part of our duty to ensure  
24           that our residents have access to the highest  
25           quality of patient care.

1                   We urge you to work with these  
2                   caregivers to reach a fair union contract that  
3                   ensures easily, obtainable, and affordable  
4                   healthcare while also setting wages that ensure  
5                   the hospital can recruit and retain the best  
6                   talent.

7                   In closing, thank you for your time  
8                   and consideration regarding this important  
9                   matter. We look forward to seeing reports of  
10                  an agreement that improves the quality of care  
11                  within the City of Scranton.

12                 MR. PERRY: Okay. There's a motion  
13                 on the floor. Do we have a second?

14                 MR. GAUGHAN: Second.

15                 MR. PERRY: All right. We have a  
16                 motion and a second. Anybody on the question?  
17                 All those in favor of sending the letter to  
18                 Regional Health signify by saying aye.

19                 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

20                 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

21                 MR. PERRY: Aye. The ayes have it  
22                 and so moved.

23                 ATTY. DEMPSEY: Would you please  
24                 note me as abstaining?

25                 MR. DONAHUE: That's all I have for

1           tonight. Thank you.

2                       MR. PERRY: Thank you. Attorney  
3           Dempsey, any motions or comments?

4                       ATTY. DEMPSEY: Yes, thank you so  
5           much. I do have a couple comments and I do  
6           have a couple motions. The first thing I'd to  
7           bring up is I think most people who know me and  
8           who've worked with me over the years it will be  
9           close to 30 years I have been practicing law  
10          know I try to be as diplomatic as I can in just  
11          about everything I do.

12                      But I also have a strong sense of  
13          passion. I'm also the mother of three girls  
14          and an aunt of many girls. And a comment was  
15          made here tonight that I found offensive as a  
16          female, I found offensive as a professional  
17          and that I found insulting as a member of  
18          government.

19                      And I will not call out the person  
20          by name. But when a female candidate running  
21          for Mayor is called a Barbie doll, again, I  
22          find that sexist and I don't think it's  
23          acceptable. We do have rules of Council that  
24          say no person shall use their time to  
25          personally insult or attack any individual.

1 I'm going to leave it at that. But I'm going  
2 to respectfully request that in the future we  
3 refrain from any type of offensive, insulting,  
4 or sexist comments.

5 A couple other comments.

6 Attorney -- excuse me, Mr. Donahue and I are  
7 going to visit the Boys and Girls Club. It's  
8 going to be this Thursday. Actually Mayor  
9 Evans will be joining us as well. So we're  
10 looking forward to that.

11 They want to give us a tour of their  
12 facilities and explain to us everything that  
13 they do for the boys and girls. And we're  
14 looking forward to that. I think that's going  
15 to be very informative and very helpful for us  
16 to see it firsthand.

17 My ongoing problems with venue --  
18 my ongoing problems with trash I do have some  
19 announcements. This Thursday at 2:00 I will be  
20 having a meeting with NRS that will happening  
21 over at City Hall. The Mayor will be  
22 participating as well Mr. Bulzoni, Solicitor  
23 Eskra. And I'm not sure if additional people  
24 from the administration will be coming as well.

25 And NRS will be bringing one, if not

1 two representatives. So I'm looking forward to  
2 that meeting. Again, that will be this  
3 Thursday at 2:00. And I'll have an update on  
4 that once that is complete.

5 I want to give a background on this  
6 and then I'm going to have a quick motion to  
7 finalize it. With regard to our gas card  
8 audit, Norma, I believe you had asked whether  
9 it was going to be all credit cards or, in  
10 particular, gas cards.

11 Right now we truly are focusing on  
12 gas cards. That is not to say that we are  
13 opposed to having other audits. In fact, many  
14 of us have spoken about that whether it be with  
15 regards to credit cards, City Council is given  
16 that power. And I will repeat in this post  
17 political corruption era if there is any time  
18 for us to use it I think it is now.

19 But what we had done a few weeks ago  
20 is we had sent a letter to the Controller  
21 asking her to prepare that audit for us. She  
22 kindly wrote back and said due to a lack of  
23 manpower she is unable to do that. So Mr.  
24 Bulzoni, our Business Administrator sent out  
25 requests for qualifications or proposals. I'm

1 not quite sure what the correct term is.

2 To make a long story short, I  
3 believe they are due back on or before November  
4 1st. Here is my concern from a time  
5 standpoint. I don't want to us pick someone --  
6 let's say the qualifications are due back  
7 November 1st. Maybe a decision is not made  
8 either that day or a couple weeks.

9 I would like to propose and then  
10 I'll make a motion that we send a letter either  
11 to the Controller and/or to the BA's Office,  
12 the Business Administrator's Office, whoever  
13 holds these gas bills going back for the last  
14 three years that they start putting these  
15 together. And that way when our auditor is in  
16 place, whether it be the first week in November  
17 or thereafter, he or she could start working  
18 immediately.

19 I don't want this to be delayed.  
20 So, gentlemen, my motion would be that we send  
21 a letter to the Controller and the Business  
22 Administrator asking them to please put  
23 together any and all data including the gas  
24 bills and any other information regarding the  
25 holders of the gas cards for the bills going

1 back three years and to please have that  
2 completed by 11/1/19, which is the date when  
3 the RFPs are due back.

4 MR. PERRY: Okay. We have a motion  
5 on the floor. Is there a second?

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Second.

7 MR. PERRY: And on the question?  
8 Yeah, just on the question just so I'm clear,  
9 we're just asking just to have them start to  
10 pull the data proactively so when the auditors  
11 come in it's a clean, quick process.

12 ATTY. DEMPSEY: That's correct.

13 MR. PERRY: Okay. All right. All  
14 those in favor signify by saying aye.

15 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

16 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

17 ATTY. DEMPSEY: Aye.

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

20 ATTY. DEMPSEY: And then one more  
21 thing, if I may. And this was brought up by  
22 one of our speakers. I as well was taken aback  
23 when I read the headline in today's paper about  
24 the Scranton Sewer funds. And I was more taken  
25 aback when I saw the amount of money that was

1 at stake. I nor -- I don't want to speak for  
2 these Council members.

3 But we sit up here in a fiduciary  
4 duty on behalf of the taxpayers of the City.  
5 And it is a potential 11 million dollars that  
6 could be split 80 percent to this City and 20  
7 percent to Dunmore. And I have a lot of  
8 questions about that.

9 And I know the article specifically  
10 uses the term confidential quite a bit. And as  
11 a lawyer I do understand that. However, what  
12 we want to know and what we're hoping to find  
13 out with regard to these liens that are out  
14 there and with regard to what is being done to  
15 try and rectify this situation how -- what in  
16 the past have they done?

17 Has this been going on for three  
18 years or have they just started this in the  
19 near future? Again, is this deadline coming up  
20 in a month or is this deadline coming up in a  
21 year? And we want to know what type of due  
22 diligence has been done in order to see, again,  
23 what type -- the number of easements, number  
24 one; and number two, how are they approaching  
25 these easements? I'm very concerned about

1           that. And I as a taxpayer and as a resident  
2           am not willing to sit up here and say that we  
3           are willing to lose that 11.5 million or 80  
4           percent of that.

5                        So my motion on that would be as  
6           follows: That we send a letter to Attorney  
7           Jason Shrive the Solicitor for the Scranton  
8           Sewer Authority asking him for a meeting as  
9           soon as possible and if it deals with  
10          confidential matters that this be held in  
11          executive session and that he answer any and  
12          all questions that Council may have regarding  
13          these remaining funds and any and all questions  
14          that Council may have regarding these  
15          easements.

16                      MR. PERRY: There's a motion on the  
17          floor. Is there a second?

18                      MR. GAUGHAN: Second.

19                      MR. PERRY: On the question?

20                      MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question I  
21          agree with Attorney Dempsey's motion and her  
22          comments. I too have quite a few questions  
23          after reading the article in today's paper. My  
24          first question would be, you know, why wasn't  
25          this disclosed? This is a public asset. This

1 is ratepayer money. Going back a few years to  
2 when this whole Sewer Authority thing was going  
3 down, people were sold a bill of goods and year  
4 after year it's becoming clearer and clearer  
5 that it didn't pan out the way I think people  
6 were promised.

7 The fact that this amount of  
8 ratepayer money, millions and millions of  
9 dollars can go back to a private company in  
10 Pennsylvania American Water because a deadline  
11 isn't met is absolutely positively outrageous.  
12 This money is the money of the people of the  
13 City and of Dunmore.

14 There should be -- if there is a  
15 deadline then that deadline should be met. And  
16 why it wasn't disclosed is ridiculous. And we  
17 need to know why it wasn't disclosed. And  
18 quite frankly -- and maybe I'm missing  
19 something here, if there was a deadline, an  
20 escrow reversion deadline, shouldn't it have  
21 been in writing someplace? Was it in the  
22 purchase agreement? And if not, why not? Was  
23 this deadline created after the fact, after the  
24 purchase agreement, after the sale had closed?  
25 These are all questions I think what Attorney

1 Dempsey was alluding to as well as there's a  
2 lot of questions that need to be answered here.

3 And I think the question of why this  
4 wasn't disclosed needs to be answered  
5 publically to the people because I don't think  
6 we can lose sight of the fact that this is  
7 their money. This is millions of dollars over  
8 decades that was invested by the people of this  
9 City and the people of Dunmore.

10 And again, to have that money  
11 revert -- possibly revert back to a private  
12 company is outrageous. So I thank Attorney  
13 Dempsey for the motion. And I look forward to  
14 the answers hopefully.

15 MR. PERRY: Yes, on the question.  
16 There's just too much money on the table that's  
17 in limbo without good enough answers. And I  
18 think we all discussed that at our caucus  
19 today. And, you know, that money if lost, you  
20 know, that's infrastructure improvements.  
21 That's City Hall improvements.

22 You know that's money could be used  
23 for stormwater management. There's a lot of  
24 things that that money can go towards that's  
25 going to be put to well -- and we need to make

1           sure that we have a handle on this. And I know  
2           we did talk about inviting Mr. Shrive to a  
3           meeting a Monday before Council.

4                         But, you know, I'll be the first one  
5           to say if this is something that isn't with his  
6           schedule. I'd be willing to meet at any time  
7           during the week to make sure that we get this  
8           taken care of. We can meet in executive  
9           session if necessary at any point during the  
10          week when we can all make ourselves available  
11          because this is something that just can't go  
12          on. All in favor signify by saying aye.

13                        MR. PERRY: Aye.

14                        MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

15                        MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

16                        ATTY. DEMPSEY: Aye.

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

19                        ATTY. DEMPSEY: That's all I have.  
20          Thank you.

21                        MR. PERRY: Thank you. Mr. Gaughan,  
22          motions or comments tonight?

23                        MR. GAUGHAN: Yes. Thank you. Last  
24          week I mentioned an issue at Hilltop Manor,  
25          several residents had reached out about loud

1 noise and parties going on all hours of the  
2 night. I did receive a prompt response from  
3 the Chief of Police that they are coordinating  
4 with the Scranton Housing Authority and that  
5 problem is and will be addressed.

6 I believe it was asked a few weeks  
7 ago about LERTA applications how many have been  
8 taken out. We did get a response from  
9 Mr. Oleski from the Licensing and Inspections  
10 Department. They currently have five LERTA  
11 applications which represent five new homes in  
12 the City.

13 There was also one for a commercial  
14 space on Main Avenue in West Scranton. So that  
15 was the statistics on that. I did ask in the  
16 caucus for Mrs. Reed to contact the  
17 Controller's Office for an update on where we  
18 stand year-to-date with overtime figures across  
19 all departments.

20 Also, I received a complaint that we  
21 did send to Licensing and Inspections on a  
22 City-owned property on empty, overgrown lot at  
23 618 East Elm Street. And that's all I have  
24 this week. Thank you. Actually sorry, I  
25 forgot. Mrs. Reed, if you could -- and, Mrs.

1           Jefferies, if you want to stay after the  
2           meeting and leave your e-mail or your address  
3           or you can wait for a copy if we can get her a  
4           copy of the contract with the sign management  
5           company.

6                         Also, one thing I wanted to mention  
7           was these -- we have two openings for the  
8           alternate positions on the Zoning Board. So we  
9           did discuss in the caucus that we will be  
10          putting out an advertisement in the newspaper  
11          requesting people to submit letters of interest  
12          and resumes if they are interested in being an  
13          alternate on the Zoning Board.

14                        Mrs. Schumacher I believed asked a  
15          question about the Ethics Board and whether  
16          we're going to provide funding for that. Yes,  
17          we will. And this is just my thought when we  
18          were going through this whole process. I know  
19          in the Ethics Code it calls for the board to  
20          have a secretary.

21                        I did talk to Mr. Bulzoni. This  
22          would obviously have to be a decision made by  
23          the administration. But we do have a Boards  
24          and Commission secretary. It would be my  
25          recommendation if, you know, they would be

1 willing to do this that you make that person  
2 your secretary.

3 That person is already getting paid  
4 to be in charge of the boards and commissions.  
5 I don't know how that will work or if they will  
6 be agreeable to that. I certainly think that  
7 would, you know, save money and I think it  
8 makes sense. So that's all I have. Thank you.

9 MR. PERRY: Thank you, Mr. Gaughan.  
10 I want to comment on something that came up  
11 last week I wasn't able to speak on. That was  
12 the -- Mayor Evans with the raises. I know  
13 that was a hot topic and that was spoke on a  
14 lot.

15 But just to weigh in on that, you  
16 know, that's something I'm in favor of for this  
17 short time period with the positions taking on  
18 extra workload. Is it something I'm interested  
19 in going forward for 2020? While I do see  
20 there's a benefit in increasing salaries to  
21 get the best people for the job, it is  
22 difficult for me to justify raises right now in  
23 the City of Scranton when we are still  
24 distressed.

25 And I'm well aware of where we are

1 in terms of salary and other cities in this  
2 area whether it be Hazleton or whether it be  
3 Wilkes-Barre. There are positions similar that  
4 are making more money than we have. But we're  
5 not in charge of their cities. We're in charge  
6 of our city right now.

7 And while I do believe it's prudent  
8 to take care of the people pulling double duty  
9 right now, I don't know if going forward  
10 implementing a raise that would perpetuate into  
11 the future when we are actually not done with  
12 getting out of Act 47 is the best thing.

13 So, you know, before the budget  
14 comes out I'm sure we'll have discussions on  
15 that. We'll go back and forth with the Mayor  
16 and Mr. Bulzoni. And we can go further and dig  
17 deeper in that. That's just -- I just want to  
18 let you guys know where my thinking was right  
19 now behind the current raise situation on 2019  
20 and then the upcoming ones in 2020. That's all  
21 I have for today.

22 MS. REED: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
23 AN ORDINANCE - ESTABLISHING PERMIT PARKING  
24 ON THE EVEN SIDE OF THE 900 BLOCK OF JEFFERSON  
25 AVENUE.

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

4 ATTY. DEMPSEY: So moved.

5 MR. PERRY: And I need a second.

6 MR. DONAHUE: Second.

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

10 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

12 ATTY. DEMPSEY: Aye.

13 MR. PERRY: Aye. Opposed? Ayes  
14 have it and so moved.

15 MS. REED: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
16 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER  
17 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER  
18 INTO A CONTRACT WITH BARRY ISETT & ASSOCIATES,  
19 INC. FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON LICENSES AND  
20 PERMITS DEPARTMENT SERVICE ASSESSMENT.

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

24 MR. GAUGHAN: So moved.

25 MR. DONAHUE: Second.

1 MR. PERRY: On the question?

2 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.  
3 We discussed this in detail in caucus tonight  
4 and I just want to bring a few questions that I  
5 have. And I think we'll hopefully get our  
6 questions answered before final passage.

7 I do think we should move cautiously  
8 on this. There were only two bidders that  
9 submitted. According to Mr. Bulzoni's memo  
10 that accompanied this legislation, both are  
11 somewhat similar. I do think though that we  
12 need more explanation on the SAFEBuilt  
13 application.

14 One of the things that they're  
15 offering that I am really interested in is  
16 something called Community Corps. This is a  
17 proprietary online community development  
18 software tool which manages permitting, plan  
19 reviews and approvals and inspection  
20 activities.

21 The system integrates with other  
22 government software systems and it's designed  
23 to streamline and automate building department  
24 processes, ensure compliance, manage work  
25 flows, generate activity reporting and provide

1 transparency to all stakeholders.

2 In the SAFEBuilt proposal they say  
3 that this software solution can transform the  
4 way the City conducts plan reviews, applicants  
5 can submit plan reviews electronically and  
6 track the progress of each step in real time  
7 from applicant submittal through certificate of  
8 occupancy.

9 This gives the City's clients,  
10 people who are coming for permits, clear  
11 insight as well as detailed information on the  
12 status of each permit. The interesting thing  
13 about this software is that SAFEBuilt is  
14 offering it at no cost. So I think we do have  
15 to weigh that before we move forward with this.

16 I don't know in it of itself how  
17 much that will cost the City. But I do think  
18 that one of the things that we have discussed  
19 over and over and over again is making that  
20 office more efficient and using technology to  
21 make it more efficient.

22 In other words, if you are a person  
23 in the City or a contractor, you should in all  
24 rights be able to get a permit online and  
25 receive an update about your permit and the

1 process online through an e-mail, things like  
2 that.

3 I think that would make the whole  
4 office more user-friendly. One of the other  
5 questions that I had in the Barry Isett  
6 proposal which is the other one, the one that  
7 the administration is choosing, they have two  
8 people who are going to be doing the review of  
9 the department. That's a project administrator  
10 at \$95 an hour 12 hours week; and an  
11 administration assistant for \$62.50 per hour  
12 six hours per week.

13 So one of the questions I had was  
14 just in in other reviews in other  
15 municipalities how long it took them to do that  
16 type of review. The SAFEBuilt proposal,  
17 they're offering a flat fee for the initial  
18 assessment. And after that they have one  
19 person a senior level building official at \$115  
20 per hour and a building analyst at \$90 per  
21 hour. And again, I don't think they delineated  
22 how long it might take for a more detailed  
23 review.

24 Two of the other things that caught  
25 my eye from the SAFEBuilt proposal is that they

1 would be willing to credit the amount spent on  
2 this assessment against any future contracts  
3 that extends beyond the 36 months.

4 And they would also allocate point  
5 four percent of City of Scranton's annual spend  
6 with SAFEBuilt towards local community outreach  
7 programs. And then as I mentioned, the  
8 cloud-based permitting and inspection software  
9 would come at no cost.

10 So I think we should have a deeper  
11 conversation with the administration on this to  
12 make sure we're moving forward in what's the  
13 most advantageous manner for the citizens and  
14 for that department. Thank you.

15 MR. DONAHUE: I also have some  
16 concerns. I had a conversation with Councilman  
17 Gaughan this afternoon about this. And looking  
18 at reviewing this sheet that we got that has  
19 both comparisons, the first time I got it was  
20 this afternoon when we came in.

21 But just looking at it now it says  
22 that Isett and Associates their RFQ timeline  
23 extends to July 31st, 2021. Whereas  
24 SAFEBuilt's is only -- the initial assessment  
25 is only a four week engagement.

1                   So I agree that this is -- this is  
2                   important to do. If we're going to do it, we  
3                   have to make sure we do it right. And if we  
4                   can do it right and do it as quickly as  
5                   possible that would be even better. So I also  
6                   have more questions that I'll have to get  
7                   answered before final passage.

8                   MR. GAUGHAN: The other thing I want  
9                   to know too if anyone is looking at the backup,  
10                  the cost that were received for each proposal  
11                  were actually omitted from the backup. So Mr.  
12                  Bulzoni did provide Mrs. Reed with that  
13                  information. So we do have that if anyone  
14                  would like to look at it. Thank you.

15                  MR. PERRY: Yeah, as Mr. Donahue and  
16                  Mr. Gaughan said, the two bidders there were  
17                  very similar. There was pluses and minuses  
18                  with both bids. And we did just get extra  
19                  information with costs on it today before the  
20                  meeting. So there is a lot to go over.

21                  And I do like these guys have  
22                  questions with exactly why we chose this one  
23                  over the other, what was his line of thinking  
24                  on it and is this actually the best way to go  
25                  because they are things that we're not going to

1 get depending on which company we go.

2 We just want to make sure that we do  
3 this right. So we do have questions for Mr.  
4 Bulzoni, Mr. Evans -- Mayor Evans and, you  
5 know, we hope to get that in the coming weeks  
6 and be able to make a better decision on this  
7 piece of legislation. All those in favor of  
8 introduction signify by saying aye.

9 MR. PERRY: Aye.

10 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

12 ATTY. DEMPSEY: Aye.

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

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

16 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 74,  
17 2019 - AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE  
18 COUNCIL NO. 44, 2014 AND FILE OF THE COUNCIL  
19 NO. 118, 2015, ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE  
20 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE  
21 OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO TAKE ALL  
22 NECESSARY ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE CONSOLIDATED  
23 SUBMISSION FOR COMMUNITY PLANNING AND  
24 DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS TO BE FUNDED UNDER THE  
25 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)

1 PROGRAM, HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP (HOME)  
2 PROGRAM AND EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANTS (ESG)  
3 PROGRAM FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING JANUARY 1,  
4 2015 AND FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING JANUARY 1,  
5 2016" BY AMENDING THE 2015 ACTION PLAN AND THE  
6 2016 ACTION PLAN BY UTILIZING SIXTY-THREE  
7 THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED THIRTY ONE DOLLARS AND  
8 SIXTY NINE CENTS (\$63,831.69) FROM THE  
9 2015 ACTION PLAN AND SIXTY-THREE THOUSAND  
10 SEVENTY ONE DOLLARS AND TWENTY-ONE CENTS  
11 (\$63,071.21) FROM THE 2016 ACTION PLAN IN  
12 ORDER TO PROVIDE A TOTAL OF ONE HUNDRED AND  
13 TWENTY-SIX THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED AND TWO  
14 DOLLARS AND NINETY CENTS (\$126,902.90)  
15 UNDER THE HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM  
16 (HOME) TO BUILD A TWO (2) UNIT RENTAL HOUSE FOR  
17 LOW INCOME FAMILIES IN THE CITY OF SCRANTON OR  
18 TO ACQUIRE AND REHAB TWO (2) VACANT HOUSES IN  
19 THE CITY OF SCRANTON FOR LOW INCOME FAMILIES BY  
20 AND THROUGH THE SCRANTON LACKAWANNA RESOURCES  
21 DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, A SUBSIDIARY OF THE  
22 SCRANTON LACKAWANNA HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AGENCY.

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

25 MR. GAUGHAN: I move that Item 6-A

1 pass reading by title.

2 ATTY. DEMPSEY: Second.

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

5 MR. DONAHUE: Abstain.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

7 ATTY. DEMPSEY: Aye.

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

10 MR. GAUGHAN: I would like to make a  
11 motion to table Item 6-A to comply with the  
12 30-day public comment period as required by  
13 HUD.

14 ATTY. DEMPSEY: Second.

15 MR. PERRY: There's a motion on the  
16 floor and a second to table Item 6-A. On the  
17 question? All those in favor signify by saying  
18 aye.

19 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

21 ATTY. DEMPSEY: Aye.

22 MR. PERRY: Aye. Opposed? The ayes  
23 have it and so moved.

24 MS. REED: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR  
25 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR

1 ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 164, 2019 -  
2 AUTHORIZING RE-APPOINTMENT OF TARA MAN SHANKAR,  
3 840 WHEELER AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA  
4 18510, AS A MEMBER OF THE HUMAN RELATIONS  
5 COMMISSION FOR AN ADDITIONAL FOUR (4) YEAR TERM  
6 EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 12, 2019. MR. SHANKAR'S  
7 TERM EXPIRED ON OCTOBER 14, 2018, AND WAS HELD  
8 OVER UNTIL SEPTEMBER 12, 2019. HIS NEW TERM  
9 WILL EXPIRE ON OCTOBER 14, 2022.

10 MR. PERRY: As Temporary Chair for  
11 the Committee on Rules I recommend final  
12 passage of Item 7-A.

13 ATTY. DEMPSEY: Second.

14 MR. PERRY: On the question? Roll  
15 call, please.

16 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

17 MR. DONAHUE: Yes.

18 MS. CARRERA: Attorney Dempsey.

19 ATTY. DEMPSEY: Yes.

20 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

21 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

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

25 MS. REED: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION

1 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION -  
2 RESOLUTION NO. 165, 2019 - AUTHORIZING  
3 RE-APPOINTMENT OF PAUL J. STRUNK, 3 CROSS  
4 DRIVE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA 18505, AS A  
5 MEMBER OF THE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION FOR AN  
6 ADDITIONAL FOUR (4) YEAR TERM EFFECTIVE  
7 SEPTEMBER 12, 2019. MR. STRUNK'S TERM  
8 EXPIRED ON SEPTEMBER 16, 2018, AND WAS HELD  
9 OVER UNTIL SEPTEMBER 12, 2019. HIS NEW TERM  
10 WILL EXPIRE ON SEPTEMBER 16, 2022.

11 MR. PERRY: As Temporary Chairperson  
12 for the Committee on Rules I recommend final  
13 passage of Item 7-B.

14 ATTY. DEMPSEY: Second.

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

17 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

18 MR. DONAHUE: Yes.

19 MS. CARRERA: Attorney Dempsey.

20 ATTY. DEMPSEY: Yes.

21 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

22 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

23 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

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

1 MS. REED: 7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION  
2 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION -  
3 RESOLUTION NO. 166, 2019 - AUTHORIZING  
4 RE-APPOINTMENT OF OM TIMSINA, 809 CEDAR AVENUE,  
5 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA 18505, AS A MEMBER OF  
6 THE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION FOR AN  
7 ADDITIONAL FOUR (4) YEAR TERM EFFECTIVE  
8 SEPTEMBER 12, 2019. MR. TIMSINA'S TERM  
9 EXPIRED ON SEPTEMBER 16, 2018, AND WAS HELD  
10 OVER UNTIL SEPTEMBER 12, 2019. HIS NEW TERM  
11 WILL EXPIRE ON SEPTEMBER 16, 2022.

12 MR. PERRY: As Temporary Chairperson  
13 for the Committee on Rules I recommend final  
14 passage of Item 7-C.

15 ATTY. DEMPSEY: Second.

16 MR. PERRY: On the question? Roll  
17 call, please.

18 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

19 MR. DONAHUE: Yes.

20 MS. CARRERA: Attorney Dempsey.

21 ATTY. DEMPSEY: Yes.

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

25 MR. PERRY: Yes. I hereby declare

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

Item 7-C legally and lawfully adopted. If there's no further business, I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

MR. GAUGHAN: Motion to adjourn.

MR. PERRY: Meeting's adjourned.

C E R T I F I C A T E

1  
2  
3 I hereby certify that the proceedings and  
4 evidence are contained fully and accurately in the  
5 notes taken by me of the above-cause and that this copy  
6 is a correct transcript of the same to the best of my  
7 ability.

8  
9  
10 \_\_\_\_\_  
11 Maria McCool, RPR  
12 Official Court Reporter  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21

22 (The foregoing certificate of this transcript does not  
23 apply to any reproduction of the same by any means  
24 unless under the direct control and/or supervision of  
25 the certifying reporter.)