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COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON
SINE DIE MEETING

HELD:

Monday, January 6th, 2020

LOCATION:

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

Maria McCool, RPR
Official Court Reporter

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

PATRICK ROGAN, PRESIDENT

TIMOTHY PERRY, VICE PRESIDENT - absent

WILLIAM GAUGHAN

KYLE DONAHUE

MARY WALSH DEMPSEY - absent

LORI REED, CITY CLERK

KATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

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

3
4 MR. ROGAN: Roll call, please.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry. Mr.
6 Donahue.

7 MR. DONAHUE: Here.

8 MS. CARRERA: Atty. Dempsey. Mr.
9 Gaughan.

10 MR. GAUGHAN: Here.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

12 MR. ROGAN: Here. Do any Council
13 members have announcements at this time? I
14 have just one. Councilwoman Dempsey asked if I
15 would explain her absence today. Her younger
16 sister passed away January 1st, and the funeral
17 services are being held this morning.

18 Mary stated in an e-mail to us it's
19 not like me to not see things through to the
20 end. But as the old saying goes, "Man makes
21 plans and God laughs."

22 Once again, please keep Councilwoman
23 Dempsey and her family in your thoughts and
24 prayers at this time.

25 Please dispense with the reading of

1 the minutes.

2 MS. REED: THIRD ORDER. 3-A. No
3 business at this time.

4 FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS
5 PARTICIPATION.

6
7 (The following speakers offered
8 public comment:

9 Mayor Wayne Evans
10 Joan Hodowanitz
11 Marie Schumacher
12 John Pocius
13 Norma Jeffries)

14
15 MS. REED: FIFTH ORDER. 5-A.
16 MOTIONS.

17 MR. ROGAN: Mr. Donahue, any motions
18 or comments?

19 MR. DONAHUE: Yes, just briefly.
20 First off, I'd like to send my condolences out
21 to the Walsh family on their loss. It's sad
22 that Mary can't be here today. I would also
23 like to thank Mayor Evans for his service to
24 this City, not only in the last five months but
25 also for the last five years.

1 Tim, I sat next to Tim for two
2 years. I really didn't know Tim that well. I
3 knew him, didn't know him that well. But we
4 always didn't agree but we always, you know,
5 were friendly about it.

6 And also Councilwoman Dempsey
7 stepped up for five months. It's not an easy
8 thing to do to sit up here for that short
9 period of time. It's not an easy thing to do
10 in general. But I would like to thank them all
11 for their service. And that's all I have.

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

14 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, thank you. Good
15 morning, everyone. I also want to send my
16 prayers to Councilwoman Dempsey's family this
17 morning. Her sister Erin as Councilman Rogan
18 mentioned passed away last Wednesday. I did
19 not know Erin Walsh.

20 But there was a beautiful tribute to
21 her in the newspaper. And it's clear that she
22 was loved by her entire family and the
23 community. So please keep the Walsh family in
24 your prayers.

25 I want to personally thank Mayor

1 Wayne Evans. Mayor Evans as everyone knows
2 took on an enormous challenge this past summer.
3 And he did an outstanding job. He displayed
4 great leadership and I really value his
5 friendship. You really get to know somebody
6 when you sit next to them for six years.

7 And, you know, humour got us through
8 a lot of times I think as we would sit here.
9 But I had not met anyone that has more
10 compassion, who is more dedicated and who loves
11 the City as much as Mayor Wayne Evans. So I
12 want to personally thank you for all that you
13 did.

14 I also want to take a minute to say
15 a few words about our departing Council members
16 Mary Dempsey and Councilman Perry. First,
17 Councilwoman Dempsey has been an absolutely
18 fantastic addition to this Council. She worked
19 extremely hard over the last six months. She
20 researched every issue.

21 She made the decision she felt were
22 in the best interest of the people of Scranton.
23 Councilwoman Dempsey is the type of person that
24 should be in a position of public trust. And I
25 hope that she considers pursuing public office

1 in the future.

2 In six short months on this Council,
3 she earned the admiration and respect of her
4 colleagues and the people of this City. I
5 really appreciated her dedication and most
6 importantly her friendship over the last few
7 months. And she will be greatly missed.

8 Councilman Perry and I both grew up
9 in what some consider -- and I know John Pocius
10 might now that he lives there -- God's country,
11 Minooka. I had really enjoyed working with
12 Councilman Perry over the last four years.

13 He worked extremely hard on behalf
14 of the people of this City. And I was able to
15 witness firsthand the way he would deal with
16 citizen's issues and how he would genuinely
17 want to help people. Mr. Perry has a wonderful
18 family. And I know that they are very proud of
19 him as we all are for the work that he did and
20 the service that he gave to our City.

21 I also want to thank our Council
22 Solicitor Amil Minora for his service the past
23 six years. You really as I mentioned before,
24 you get to know someone when you sit across
25 from them once a week for six years. And I

1 can't say enough about the type of person that
2 Amil is. He did a good job representing this
3 Council. And I appreciated his friendship.
4 And I wish him the best of luck.

5 Lastly, I want to thank Councilman
6 Rogan for his leadership as Council President
7 the past two years. Councilman Rogan and I
8 actually have a lot in common raising young
9 families. So we often trade as we did this
10 morning stories about the illnesses that run
11 through our houses. But I appreciate all that
12 Pat has done. And that's all I have. Thank
13 you.

14 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. A couple
15 comments as I -- two years ago when I signed up
16 to be Council President, I certainly couldn't
17 imagine the sequence of events that would have
18 transpired over the last two years. It's
19 certainly been a trying two years for the City
20 of Scranton.

21 But because of the work of this
22 Council, our Mayor, the City has pushed through
23 and the City has been progressing despite many
24 obstacles that we have faced. I would like to
25 join my colleagues and thanking Tim Perry for

1 his service. Tim and I have been on Council
2 for four years together, not only were we
3 colleagues, but we have become friends during
4 that time. So I really appreciate his service
5 to the City.

6 Mary Dempsey as well, it's only been
7 five or six months but certainly have grown to
8 respect the work that she has put in and her
9 analysis of various issues. I think all of us
10 could agree, I think we got more e-mails over
11 the last six months from Mary than anyone else
12 on Council. So we appreciate all of her hard
13 work.

14 And last but certainly not least, I
15 would like to thank our Mayor, Wayne Evans. We
16 have been on Council together nearly six years.
17 We've become good friends. We typically see
18 eye to eye on most issues. And I just want to
19 commend you for the job that you have done
20 stepping in under the most unfortunate
21 circumstances possible.

22 But as I said from the beginning
23 when there was a vacancy in the Mayor's office,
24 there was only one person for the job at that
25 time and that person was Wayne Evans.

1 So I want to thank you for leading
2 the City through these last few months. And I
3 want to wish the incoming Council President and
4 Vice President luck, be here another two years
5 and hopefully we can accomplish a lot.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: I just have one more
7 comment. I just want to recognize Councilman
8 John Pocius. Lori and I every time there's a
9 question, call John. And I really appreciate
10 the, you know, your willingness to pick up the
11 phone and you're a straight shooter.

12 And you always are willing to
13 entertain any questions or anything that comes
14 from any of us up here. So I really appreciate
15 that. I appreciate your service to the City,
16 your integrity that you displayed when you were
17 on Council. And I want to thank you. And I
18 look forward to working with you in the future.
19 Thanks, John.

20 MR. ROGAN: One other person I want
21 to recognize and I agree with Councilman
22 Gaughan is the work of Dave Bulzoni that he's
23 put in over the last six years. Mr. Bulzoni
24 has been an asset as the Business Administrator
25 for the City.

1 I think everyone even when we
2 disagreed on issues certainly respected the
3 work and the opinion that Dave Bulzoni put in
4 and all the hard work he put in for the City to
5 bring us to the point we are today. So I
6 definitely want to recognize him for all of
7 his hard work. And we wish him well in the
8 future as well.

9 MS. REED: 5-B. No business at this
10 time.

11 SIXTH ORDER. 6-A. No business at
12 this time.

13 SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. No business at
14 this time.

15 MR. ROGAN: If there's no further
16 business, I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Motion to adjourn.

18 MR. ROGAN: This meeting's
19 adjourned.
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C E R T I F I C A T E

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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.

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10 _____
11 Maria McCool, RPR
12 Official Court Reporter
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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.)