

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:

Tuesday, June 16th, 2020

LOCATION:

VIA ZOOM

Maria McCool, RPR
Official Court Reporter

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

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

WILLIAM GAUGHAN, PRESIDENT

KYLE DONAHUE, VICE PRESIDENT

MARK MCANDREW

JESSICA ROTHCHILD

THOMAS SCHUSTER

LORI REED, CITY CLERK

KATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

KEVIN HAYES, COUNCIL SOLICITOR

1 (Pledge of Allegiance.)
2

3 MR. GAUGHAN: I'd like everyone to
4 please remain standing for a moment of silent
5 reflection for our service men and women
6 throughout the world and also for those who
7 have passed away recently in our community.

8 Let us also take a special moment of
9 silence tonight as we have for the last three
10 months for all of the people in our community
11 and throughout the United States and the world
12 who are suffering or who have passed away from
13 the coronavirus. Let us think about them and
14 their families at this time that they may find
15 peace.

16 Let us think now about the doctors,
17 the nurses, the researchers and all medical
18 professionals and first responders who seek to
19 heal and help those affected and who put
20 themselves at risk in the process, may they
21 find protection and peace.

22 Whether we are home or abroad,
23 surrounded by many people suffering from this
24 illness or only a few, let us stick together,
25 endure together, mourn together, persist and

1 prepare together. And in place of our anxiety,
2 let us continue to hope and find peace. Thank
3 you. Miss Carrera, roll call, please.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Schuster.

5 MR. SCHUSTER: Present.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McAndrew.

7 MR. MCANDREW: Present.

8 MS. CARRERA: Dr. Rothchild.

9 DR. ROTHCHILD: Here.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

11 MR. DONAHUE: Here.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

13 MR. GAUGHAN: Here. Thank you, Miss
14 Carrera. There will be a motion to move Item
15 5-B to Seventh Order for final vote based on
16 the attached emergency certificate. Mrs. Reed,
17 can you please dispense with the reading of the
18 minutes?

19 MS. REED: Thank you. THIRD ORDER.

20 3-A. PROCLAMATION RECEIVED FROM
21 MAYOR PAIGE G. COGNETTI DATED JUNE 8, 2020
22 EXTENDING THE STATE OF EMERGENCY IN THE CITY OF
23 SCRANTON TO JUNE 21, 2020.

24 3-B. MINUTES OF THE HISTORICAL
25 ARCHITECTURE REVIEW BOARD MEETING

1 HELD MAY 14, 2020.

2 3-C. MINUTES OF THE CIVIL SERVICE
3 COMMISSION MEETING HELD MARCH 12, 2020.

4 MR. GAUGHAN: Are there any comments
5 on any of the Third Order items? If not,
6 received and filed. Do any Council members
7 have any announcements at this time?

8 MR. DONAHUE: I just have one.
9 Thank you to Business Administrator Sheridan
10 for getting back to me on this. There isn't a
11 delay in the processing of the refuse bills at
12 all, but since yesterday was the end of the
13 discount period, postmarks will be observed to
14 make sure you got them in before the deadline.

15 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Councilman
16 Donahue. Does anyone else have any
17 announcements?

18 MR. SCHUSTER: Yes, I got a message
19 regarding vaccine clinic that the Wright Center
20 is hosting. So it's -- it's for families that
21 lack the ability to get checkups and
22 inoculations can receive vaccines to stay
23 updated on their vaccines and their children's.

24 They're going to have it on June
25 20th. It's a Saturday at the Scranton practice

1 of the Wright Center at 501 South Washington
2 Avenue in Scranton, June 20th, 9 a.m., one at
3 noon and then one to three.

4 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Mr.
5 Schuster. Anyone else? Okay. Mrs. Reed?

6 MS. REED: Thank you. FOURTH ORDER.
7 CITIZENS PARTICIPATION.

8 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Mrs. Reed.
9 Will someone please make a motion to accept
10 public comment from the following individuals:
11 Bev DeBarros, Patricia Nestor, Marie
12 Schumacher, Corinne Lawrence, Fay Franus and
13 Joe Healy.

14 MR. DONAHUE: So moved.

15 MR. GAUGHAN: There's been a motion.

16 MR. SCHUSTER: Second.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: There's been a motion
18 and a second. On the question? On the
19 question, public comment will be placed into
20 the official record and our official minutes.
21 If anyone would like to review the public
22 comment that has been submitted to Council, you
23 can go to www.scrantonpa.gov under the
24 Council's web page.

25 Any questions that were received by

1 Council are forwarded to the administration.
2 And we continue to urge people if they have any
3 questions or comments to submit those to
4 Mrs. Reed before our meeting end of business
5 4:30 on Tuesday.

6 We did receive quite a few comments
7 and questions. So I am going to send most of
8 these questions to the administration that
9 would apply to them in different departments.
10 Miss Schumacher had a question regarding the
11 agenda items. So we'll address that when they
12 come up. And there was a few other questions
13 that we will forward to the appropriate
14 department.

15 MR. DONAHUE: I'm also going to be
16 addressing -- I just want to say I'll be
17 addressing the recycling questions in Fifth
18 Order as well.

19 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. Great. Anyone
20 else on the question? All those in favor
21 signify by saying aye.

22 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

23 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

24 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

25 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

1 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye. Opposed? The
2 ayes have it and so moved. Okay, we're now in
3 the Citizens Participation portion of the
4 meeting. So we continue our conversation with
5 Mr. Deeley, Mr. Sheridan and Mayor Cognetti.
6 So I know the Mayor was in the middle of saying
7 something before we had to start our meeting.
8 Mayor?

9 MAYOR COGNETTI: Yeah, so,
10 Councilperson Rothchild, we -- I think might
11 have been cutting out. So I don't remember if
12 it was the final week of February or the first
13 week of March we had a meeting in this office
14 with Barry Isett and Associates to look to
15 start working with the Licensing and
16 Inspections Department.

17 If they wrote to us on March 9th and
18 we didn't follow up with it in person meeting
19 that would have been because the world kind of
20 came crashing down just days later. We are
21 really looking at whether that's the right
22 solution.

23 I think that that contract and
24 project was put out last year under a very
25 different circumstance. And as we look to now

1 that -- since that meeting in early March, we
2 looked through what Mr. Sheridan just walked us
3 through in terms of budget.

4 We're looking for places to save.
5 And given -- given not just the budgetary
6 impacts that we're facing but also I think some
7 changes that we could make internally. We're
8 going to take a real close look at whether or
9 not that's -- that's something we should move
10 forward with.

11 So Mr. Deeley is here. I'll let him
12 introduce himself. Carl is going to be kind of
13 taking -- taking that -- that project that --
14 that outlook for how we redo some things in
15 LIPS and decide if it's something we should
16 move forward with. And if we do, to what
17 extent.

18 Again, I think there are only like
19 two people that are in this, you know, virtual
20 room that were on Council last year when this
21 got put forward. And we're in a very -- the
22 administration is in a very different --
23 different and better place.

24 MR. DEELEY: Thank you, Mayor. Good
25 evening everybody. First of all, thank you.

1 Thank you for the welcomes I received so far.
2 I'm really looking forward to meeting in
3 person. I met some people here and working
4 with you on an ongoing basis.

5 In particular this particular
6 project, it's definitely something we have to
7 look at in terms of the requirements that are
8 in the current contract. And as the Mayor
9 explained, in terms of the cost situation right
10 now, we are looking for maybe other ways that
11 we can make these improvements.

12 So, yeah, I'll be taking this one
13 on. And we'll follow up with it so they do
14 have an answer. But right now we do want to
15 revisit that contract and see what's
16 appropriate for this time.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. I just had
18 a quick question, Mayor. Mr. Sheridan
19 mentioned the CARES Act in the beginning of the
20 caucus earlier tonight in terms of that so far
21 to date there has been no revenue or relief to
22 municipalities. It has not been put in that
23 act.

24 Now, in looking at potential deficit
25 between six to 10 million dollars, I think that

1 everyone knows that, you know, the -- most
2 likely what's going to be put forward by PEL
3 and anyone else is that you're going to have to
4 increase real estate taxes, which is not what
5 anyone wants to see happen because this
6 pandemic is, you know, nobody's fault. It
7 just, you know, came out of nowhere.

8 Can you speak to what's been done?
9 I know there's been -- you have signed onto
10 different correspondence. But can you talk to
11 what's been done in terms of lobbying our state
12 and federal government to make sure that
13 Scranton is not left in the cold and left
14 behind and that we don't have to then put this
15 burden on the back of our taxpayers?

16 MAYOR COGNETTI: Yeah, there's a few
17 things. So I and 14 other of the larger city
18 mayors in Pennsylvania are working on --
19 working on continuing to lobby the Senate.
20 It's Mitch -- Senator McConnell from Kentucky
21 that has really been the gatekeeper on that
22 next CARES Act legislation.

23 It's unclear whether or not the
24 Senate will pass legislation that gives relief
25 to cities and states. Mayors across the

1 country are certainly lobbying for that, us
2 included alongside our mayors in the rest of
3 the state are trying to strategize around how
4 we -- how we can best do this and how we can
5 make sure there's federal money coming our way
6 directly.

7 On the -- to the CARES Act money
8 that has been passed, Eileen Cipriani and I
9 were on the phone today with Brian Jeffers and
10 Brenda Sacco at the county making sure that the
11 municipalities are able to get direct money
12 from the 18 million dollars that is flowing
13 from the state down to Lackawanna County.

14 We had a great call with them. And
15 they are very, very aware of the situation for
16 all the municipalities, townships, and boroughs
17 in the county. And we're working closely with
18 them to make sure that we get -- we get the
19 funding that we need and we are currently
20 trying to figure out what are best -- what are
21 the things that we need that funding for so
22 that that is up there for that piece of CARES
23 Act.

24 And what's confusing I know is that
25 there's four different CARES Act packages. And

1 everything gets called CARES Act. But it is a
2 little bit hard to track. So for the future
3 where we hopefully will get direct funding,
4 we're working on lobbying for that.

5 Mr. McConnell -- Senator McConnell,
6 excuse me, said that they wouldn't be taking
7 that up until after July 4th. The county money
8 that -- the 18 million that the county is
9 receiving from the state, you know, the state
10 is a (inaudible) for its federal funding.

11 The county's working hard on that
12 and we're in close touch with them. The other
13 piece would be we're considering doing a
14 request for qualifications for federal and
15 state lobbying. It's something that President
16 Gaughan and I had mentioned over time. I said
17 months ago before COVID hit that I've seen
18 other cities that do have lobbyist in
19 Harrisburg and/or Washington to help get them
20 funds.

21 I think it's something that we
22 should consider because we all know sending out
23 a request for qualifications or proposal
24 doesn't mean that we're going to spend money.
25 But I do think it would be worthwhile and we're

1 looking at drafts of other RFQs from other
2 cities to see what that might look like so that
3 we're able to get what we need so that we don't
4 get left behind.

5 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. Does
6 anybody else have any other questions? I know,
7 Councilman Schuster, you said you had a few.

8 MR. SCHUSTER: If anybody would like
9 to go first you're more than welcome or if
10 you'd like me to start?

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Sure. Go ahead.

12 MR. SCHUSTER: So we talked about
13 some of the, you know, the revenue issues that
14 we were having. We talked about the single
15 taxpayer money. And we talked about the
16 Standard and Poor's outlook for the City of
17 Scranton.

18 Does this -- do we know offhand if
19 it affects things such as the City pensions as
20 well when we're looking at Standard and Poor's
21 outlook?

22 MAYOR COGNETTI: Do you want to --
23 Mr. Sheridan can answer that one.

24 MR. SHERIDAN: So there's two
25 impacts. The Standard and Poor's is really

1 what affects our borrowing rating. So that's
2 more on the borrowing side. As far as the
3 pension plan, the thing that affects that is
4 how the market has affected the investments,
5 the assets relating to what's set aside for the
6 pensions, okay?

7 So when the COVID pandemic first
8 hit, there was actually a reduction in the
9 market of roughly 15 percent. So the assets
10 took a 15 percent hit. They recovered. They
11 went down again. They bounced back and forth.
12 So we're down maybe eight percent I would guess
13 on our pension assets.

14 I have a meeting tomorrow where
15 we're going to get an update on what the latest
16 is. But quite honestly, they've been moving up
17 and down pretty -- with pretty good volatility
18 over the last month.

19 But the Standard and Poor's ratio --
20 excuse me, the Standard and Poor's rating
21 doesn't have as much of an impact on the
22 pension plan but primarily on the borrowing.

23 MR. SCHUSTER: Okay. And then once
24 the information comes out from Berkheimer in
25 July, do we expect to get any budget

1 recommendation from the administration?

2 MR. SHERIDAN: Well, yeah, I mean,
3 what we're going to do, we're going to have
4 obviously a better idea of the earned income
5 tax as it stands for the second quarter. I
6 think Carl Deeley will be taking a look at how
7 that's going to impact or balance the year.

8 It's also going to allow many of the
9 cities who get their reports in and around that
10 same timeframe to get an idea where we're going
11 and what the impact might be. So I'm sure Carl
12 is going to have to take that into
13 consideration for, you know, the remaining half
14 of the year 2020 but also the budget for 2021
15 preparation.

16 MR. DEELEY: Yeah, it's going to be
17 ongoing right now. It seems to be (inaudible)
18 the 2020 forecast. Also we're learning a lot
19 with the 2021 budget process as well. So we
20 should be in a better process to understand
21 what are the assumptions, what are the influx
22 of the 2021 budget that we could get a much
23 more accurate view of things.

24 We're also as well -- the current
25 expenditures. So what can we do (audio

1 interruption.)

2 MR. GAUGHAN: Mr. Deeley, you're
3 freezing quite a bit.

4 MR. DEELEY: Is that better?

5 MR. GAUGHAN: Yeah.

6 MR. DEELEY: So we review of the --
7 (audio interruption.)

8 MR. GAUGHAN: Yeah, you're still
9 freezing pretty bad. Looks like you're asleep
10 now. Sorry. Is that a Hill Section accent or
11 is that North Scranton? I couldn't tell.

12 MR. DEELEY: Further east. You got
13 it.

14 MR. MCANDREW: It's not West Side.
15 I could tell you that.

16 MR. DEELEY: But basically we're
17 looking at both top and bottom line. Right, so
18 reducing the impacts to the current outlook
19 based on our spending and what we can do there
20 immediately.

21 We're currently reviewing budget
22 line items with all directors and department
23 heads to see where we are with that. And then
24 secondly on revenue side, also we are looking
25 for opportunities for grants and funding --

1 MR. SCHUSTER: I'm glad you brought
2 up expenditures there. I'm looking at some of
3 the expenditures for the month of May. I saw
4 that Millennium Administrators were on there
5 for healthcare.

6 And this might just be a comment or
7 a suggestion. But Scranton School District
8 also uses Millennium Administrators for their
9 healthcare. And maybe there's an opportunity
10 there for some savings of administration costs
11 between the City and the district.

12 MR. DEELEY: Absolutely. (Audio
13 interruption) we're working on the budgetary
14 closely (audio interruption) and any
15 opportunities that we see to reduce costs going
16 forward and that is one of them. So thank you
17 for bringing that up. We're going to put those
18 into a plan and prioritize and watching (audio
19 interruption.)

20 MR. SCHUSTER: Thank you.

21 MR. SHERIDAN: Bill?

22 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

23 MR. SHERIDAN: I want to clarify
24 something as it relates to the CARES Act. And
25 when you think about it, it's affecting the

1 City in two ways. One is we have additional
2 expenditures relating to PPE, safety equipment
3 masks, things like that, additional cleaning of
4 playgrounds and so on.

5 There has been money as the Mayor
6 just said that may be available to cover costs,
7 additional costs relating to the pandemic. And
8 that would go through the county and then
9 through the state.

10 The one that I mentioned that hasn't
11 been addressed is the revenue loss. So where
12 there is a revenue loss, lost taxes, reduced
13 taxes and so on, that has not been funded at
14 this point. So I just wanted to clarify that.

15 MR. GAUGHAN: Yeah, and I think,
16 Mr. Sheridan and Mayor Cagnetti and Mr. Deeley,
17 that, you know, maybe we can do something in
18 terms of letting the people of the City know
19 how they can reach out to these different
20 legislators to put pressure on them to make
21 sure that, you know, cities like Scranton don't
22 get left holding the bag as we usually do.

23 As all of you know that they say,
24 well, you know, again raise taxes or put it on
25 the backs of your citizens. I know that nobody

1 wants to do that. So maybe if we can get that
2 out to the public that we have to really put
3 pressure on these people who are in power in
4 our federal government to make sure that they
5 know our cities are important and we can't be
6 left to put the burden again on the people.
7 But that's the only comment I would have on
8 that.

9 Does anyone else have any questions?
10 Mayor, Mr. Sheridan, and Mr. Deeley, I want to
11 thank you so much for the update that you gave
12 us. It's very informative to know where we
13 stand right now. And I think we all understand
14 that the pandemic provides us with a moving
15 target.

16 So what you shared with us today may
17 be different than what you're coming back to us
18 in July and August with to give us an update.
19 And I think I can speak for all four Council
20 people here, all five of us that we are more
21 than willing to work with you to find the
22 solutions that we need to overcome this -- the
23 difficulties that we face in terms of the
24 pandemic and its affect on our budget. So I
25 want to thank you again for coming. We really

1 appreciate it.

2 MR. SHERIDAN: Thank you.

3 MR. DEELEY: Thank you.

4 MR. SCHUSTER: Thank you.

5 MR. MCANDREW: Thank you.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. Anybody else?

7 Any comments?

8

9 (Public Comment, the following are
10 e-mails submitted to Council.)

11

12 Bev DeBarros, see attachment to
13 transcript.

14

15 (Patricia Nestor)

16

17 Because citizens do not receive a
18 response to their "citizen participation"
19 emails, when live council meetings resume, the
20 five minute rule needs to be tossed out.

21 32% of ticks in Lackawanna County sent to the
22 PA tick lab came back positive for tick borne
23 diseases. One of the best way to prevent ticks
24 is to keep grass mowed short.

25 Due to Covid the housing inspectors

1 are furloughed and grass is high at some
2 homes. Another epidemic is in the works and
3 something needs to be done. Bring back the
4 quality of life inspectors.

5 With all the free money from the
6 CARES Act do you think we can hire a couple of
7 people to go down Denaples and separate the
8 cans from the bottles and jars? It's ridiculous
9 to throw them in the landfill because you can't
10 get free inmate labor from LCP. Or maybe ask
11 residents to put cans in a separate bin from
12 the glass?

13 This really doesn't seem like a
14 complicated issue. Put all of your educated
15 heads together.

16

17 Thanks.

18

19 (Marie Schumacher)

20

21 FOURTH ORDER INPUT FOR 16 JUNE 2020
22 COUNCIL MEETING COMMENTS/QUESTIONS.

23

24

25

0 First and foremost I want to ask
if the current Contract with the Police still
includes a clause which keeps the public from

1 knowing of complaints and/or disciplinary
2 actions of each police officer and, if so,
3 ensure this clause is not included in the next
4 Contract.

5 A Clause requiring the Police Chief
6 to report each complaint and disciplinary
7 action with reason to City Council to be placed
8 in Third Order.

9 O Recently Dunkin Donuts switched
10 from styrofoam containers to paper containers.
11 Are the paper containers recyclable or do they
12 go to Refuse Mountain?

13 O Please provide the list of streets
14 included in the 2020 Roadway Improvement Project
15 O A methane transit line was laid on the bridge
16 crossing SR 307 just south of SR 81 to take the
17 gas from the Keystone Landfill to
18 who-knows-where.

19 Subsequently I understand a methane
20 burning plant functions in the immediate area of
21 the Landfill. My question is the line crossing
22 SR 307 still in use and, if not, has it been
23 sealed off permanently.

24 O The Home Rule Charter Section 909
25 addresses Amendments after adoption and states,

1 in part: "Should a deficit develop the Mayor
2 shall make recommendations to minimize the
3 deficit and for that purpose Council may reduce
4 other appropriations.."

5 When do you expect to receive the
6 Mayor's recommendations and have you requested
7 same?

8 O The Emergency Certification
9 appears to be over utilized.

10 O It is time to bring the City
11 workforce back from their homes and to their
12 desks and open the Municipal Building
13 O Judging from the front page article in
14 today's Times-Tribune it appears Recycling is
15 not as important as we were led to believe or,
16 if it is important, perhaps it is time for the
17 City to contract with a third party for the
18 collection of commingled items.

19 O I believe we were told Scranton
20 Tomorrow updated Council quarterly. When will
21 be learn what is holding up turning the worst
22 downtown eyesore into a pocket park?

23 O I know how to find lawsuits
24 against the City but please share how we know
25 when the City received a union grievance? Are

1 there currently any union grievances?

2 AGENDA ITEMS.

3 0 The DCED stated purpose of the
4 Commonwealth's EDA Enterprise Zone Program is
5 job creation and workforce development not
6 business relief so I question the legitimacy of
7 using these funds for 5B and 5C. At the least
8 a letter from DCED stating this to be a proper
9 use, 5B and 5C should be tabled.

10 0 There is no resume attached to 5C
11 which I believe to be a requirement of
12 Council's policy.

13
14 (Corinne Lawrence)

15
16 Councilmembers,

17 I would like to bring a petition to
18 your attention for the removal of courthouse
19 square's Columbus monument, viewable here:
20 [Ps://www.change.org/ScrantonColumbus](https://www.change.org/ScrantonColumbus). Over the
21 course of 5 days, this petition has collected
22 over 1,500 signatures, demonstrating the desire
23 for the community to remove a statue that
24 commemorates a violent, genocidal man bearing
25 no connection to the local history. Removing

1 the statue could be a beginning step to
2 fostering a sense of tolerance, acceptance, and
3 inclusivity in the community.

4 Thank you,
5 Corinne Lawrence

6
7 (Joseph Healy)

8
9 Hello Council,

10 Since Lackawanna county is moving
11 into a "safer" phase in relation to the Covid
12 virus, could you please provide us with an
13 update about when recycling (blue can) will
14 return to normal?

15 Since the outbreak, it was
16 communicated to us that for some reason blue
17 recycling was too dangerous to continue, while
18 red recycling and regular trash pickup would
19 remain the same. Because they have treated all
20 plastic/glass/etc as regular trash, that has
21 left us no choice but to contribute to the size
22 of their landfill.

23 Could council please obtain the
24 following from them:

25 1) A written scientific explanation

1 of why they were/are not able to safely meet
2 the obligations of what they are contracted to
3 do and how the decision to restrict only
4 certain services was made?

5 2) When do they anticipate (blue)
6 recycling to resume?

7 3) Since putting out separated blue
8 recycling has been futile.....why is there
9 still two separate crews for pickup when
10 everything on blue recycling week could be
11 collected together with regular trash?

12 3) Since it's my understanding that
13 the landfill is paid by weight (please correct
14 me if I am wrong), can we expect our bills to
15 be adjusted accordingly for services we did not
16 in fact receive?

17 Perhaps the city could look for
18 reimbursements from insurance policies Keystone
19 may have in place to deal with unforeseen
20 circumstances like this that inhibits them from
21 fulfilling their contractual obligations?

22 4) And lastly.....while we still
23 have a fine progressive city council who no
24 doubt is trying to put corruption behind us and
25 the best interests of our citizens in

1 front.....can we please take advantage of the
2 opportunity to take a serious look into other
3 options to handle city garbage??

4 Be sure that citizens have NOT yet
5 forgotten that among other outrageous practices
6 tolerated by the city.....their blatant and
7 REPEATED use of literal slave labor from our
8 prisoners to staff their operations virtually
9 for free is not only morally reprehensible, but
10 disproportionately financially advantageous to
11 their operation to compete with others.

12 At the BARE minimum, the city
13 deserves rebates for the fees paid to them for
14 work that is completed using OUR prisoners at
15 ZERO cost to them.

16 I know they are a big hill to tackle
17 (no pun intended), but given recent events with
18 their attempts to unlawfully expand their
19 landfill....the public is now well aware of the
20 corruption and I feel would overwhelmingly
21 support council pursuing these issues I raised
22 to the fullest extent.

23 Thank you so much for all you do!
24 Your hard work does not go unappreciated by
25 many citizens.

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

Thank you for your attention and
consideration, and please continue to stay
safe!

Joe Healey
(West Scranton)

(Fay Franus)

Council,

First of all I seriously need and
want to know if the money from the citizens
that paid their garbage fee if that money goes
into the general fund to pay other bills OTHER
than the DPW expenses? The city law states it
must be used ONLY TO PAY FOR DPW expenses
NOTHING ELSE.

I have yet to get a response to this
question. All that would have taken is a call
to the Business Administrator. Have any of you
called to get that information? Not everything
has to be sent to the mayor to get answers.
Even if that were so she also could have
answered this question many times over.

Since we are in bad shape

1 financially due to this virus I also want to
2 know if this budget is going to be opened to
3 lower cost. Example take away the thousands and
4 thousands of dollars,(raises) that Mayor Evans
5 dished out to people who had added duties put
6 on them even though they still only worked
7 eight hours a day.

8 They are not now doing those extra
9 jobs so these raises alone should be done away
10 with. People in the city are struggling to keep
11 their homes because YOU keep taxing them so
12 start being responsible and cut the budget. In
13 many places. You can also lower employee
14 paychecks. Why not-- they make much more than
15 any of us who have to pay them?

16 Now for the police--once their
17 contract is expired there should be no way ever
18 that police should have qualified immunity.
19 They also should not be given everything they
20 want --pensions as high as they are---- pay --
21 they have run this city into a financial hole
22 that will take ages to get out of. Time to
23 clamp down on them and other unions.

24 Do I expect you to ever do
25 this--no--because you want their votes more

1 than you care about all of us. Some day your
2 attitude will catch up with you.

3 Again I will say as I do every week
4 I have yet to get one reply from one council
5 person. Why don't you all write me a check for
6 my part in paying you to do nothing. You have
7 us held hostage to your insane rules of never
8 reading our questions out loud--never
9 responding to us. You should be ashamed but
10 that will never happen. People like you don't
11 know what shame is.

12 Fay Franus

13

14 (End of Public Comment)

15

16 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. Mrs. Reed,
17 Fifth Order.

18 MS. REED: Thank you. FIFTH ORDER.
19 5-A. MOTIONS.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. Councilman
21 Schuster, do you have any motions or comments?

22 MR. SCHUSTER: Not at this time.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. Councilman
24 McAndrew, any motions or comments?

25 MR. MCANDREW: I don't have a

1 motion. But I have a comment just that I'm
2 happy with last night's Supreme Court ruling
3 the Civil Rights Act of 1964 protects LGBTQ
4 Americans from discrimination in employment.
5 That's all I have, Bill. Thanks.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Councilman
7 McAndrew. Dr. Rothchild, any motions or
8 comments?

9 DR. ROTHCHILD: No, I don't have any
10 motions at this time. I'd just like to echo
11 Councilman McAndrew's comments. I also am very
12 excited about the ruling. For a long time I
13 was an advocate on the statewide level for
14 Pennsylvania to pass that type of legislation
15 which protects people and Scranton as a
16 municipality had these protections.

17 But there were still I think at
18 least 17 states in our country that did not.
19 And just to be clear, that only covers
20 workplace discrimination. So LGBTQ people can
21 still be discriminated against in terms of
22 housing or public accommodations.

23 But it is still a start and
24 certainly willing to celebrate. So I am exited
25 about that. And it's very fitting that comes

1 during Pride Month.

2 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Dr.
3 Rothchild. Councilman Donahue, do you have any
4 motions or comments?

5 MR. DONAHUE: Just quickly regarding
6 what the article in the paper this morning that
7 the Recycling Center won't be accepting
8 commingles for the foreseeable future. I did
9 reach out to -- in my meeting with Mr. Preambo
10 last week the topic of recycling on the
11 commingles was discussed.

12 So he's looking at looking into
13 getting the contract for -- and I also talked
14 with Attorney Hayes about it about looking at
15 the contracts we have with Lackawanna County
16 Solid Waste Management Authority regarding
17 recycling.

18 I also think we have to start
19 exploring different avenues where they're not
20 going to continue -- if they're going to
21 continue to not accept commingles that we find
22 different companies or different facilities to
23 take that recycling too.

24 So I think the first step is just
25 seeing what the contract says and then moving

1 on from there. But I also, you know, we should
2 probably -- I'll be reaching out to the
3 administration, you know, to start drafting
4 alternatives to that.

5 And then also on the recycling
6 thing, it was disappointing to read last week
7 of Keystone Sanitary Landfill's threat of
8 Dunmore Council for sending their letter for
9 the lawsuit. So I might be wrong, but I don't
10 think the Mayor has weighed in on this or has
11 addressed the lawsuit.

12 So, Miss Reed, would we be able to
13 send just correspondence to the Mayor -- and I
14 meant to ask her and I missed it on my list,
15 but whether she'll be planning on sending a
16 letter to DEP regarding the Keystone Sanitary
17 Landfill?

18 And then I have a couple things that
19 I'm following up on from previous weeks that I
20 will hopefully have answers to next week. And
21 that is including this very large list of bills
22 currently in the PA Legislature regarding COVID
23 assistance.

24 So I'm going to go through those and
25 see what ones would be of great impact to the

1 City. And that's all I have for tonight.
2 Thank you.

3 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Councilman
4 Donahue. I just have two comments. Number
5 one, I would also like to have our Solicitor
6 review the contract or agreement that the City
7 has with the Lackawanna County Solid Waste
8 Management Authority.

9 It is concerning to read that the
10 Recycling Center may not accept bottles, cans,
11 and jars for the foreseeable future. I do
12 think that recycling is very important. One of
13 the things that this may affect is our 904
14 Performance Grant that we get based on how much
15 we recycle.

16 So that is a concern because we use
17 that funding to pay for a new recycling truck,
18 red bins, blue bins, things of that nature that
19 really help the City and our DPW. So I do
20 agree with Councilman Donahue that it would
21 make sense to have Solicitor Hayes review that
22 agreement and to see if there are any other
23 options available so that, you know, people are
24 able to recycle.

25 And, you know, just the fact that

1 the Recycling Center isn't accepting bottles,
2 cans, and jars because they can't use the
3 prison labor, to me that is not acceptable. I
4 think we should really look into that. And we
5 should ask the County Commissioners to look
6 over that contract as well.

7 I did receive a concern from a
8 citizen in the Keyser Valley area. I asked
9 Mrs. Reed to send something over to Chief
10 Graziano and Mr. Preambo our DPW Director.
11 This is a fairly common occurrence in the area
12 of Briggs Street. North South Road, it turns
13 into Briggs Street. It's right next to Orlando
14 Foods.

15 There has been vehicles that have
16 driven through a gentleman's fence, someone who
17 has young children. Like I said, this has
18 happened three times within the last nine
19 months, five times since that individual's
20 lived there. So I did ask Mrs. Reed to send
21 that to Chief Graziano and Mr. Preambo.

22 Also, this Thursday there will -- I
23 will be involved in a meeting regarding the
24 issues that the residents of Third Avenue are
25 facing. I asked for this meeting a few weeks

1 ago. And it was put together by the
2 administration.

3 So I will fill everyone in on that
4 once that meeting has concluded. And hopefully
5 there is a way we can resolve the trouble in
6 terms of tractor-trailer traffic and -- truck
7 traffic rather on that street. And that's all
8 I have. Mrs. Reed?

9 MS. REED: Thank you. 5-B. FOR
10 INTRODUCTION - A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE
11 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS FOR
12 THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT
13 WITH SCRANTON AREA FOUNDATION, INC. TO
14 ESTABLISH THE CITY OF SCRANTON SMALL BUSINESS
15 FUND, A PASS THROUGH FUND WHICH WILL DISTRIBUTE
16 GRANTS IN THE AMOUNT \$2,500.00 TO VARIOUS SMALL
17 BUSINESS THROUGHOUT THE CITY OF SCRANTON AS
18 PART OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON'S SMALL BUSINESS
19 RELIEF GRANT PROGRAM DUE TO THE COVID-19
20 PANDEMIC. (EMERGENCY CERTIFICATE ATTACHED).

21 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Mrs. Reed.
22 At this time I'll entertain a motion that Item
23 5-B be introduced into its proper committee.

24 DR. ROTHCHILD: So moved.

25 MR. DONAHUE: Second.

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

4 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

5 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

6 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

7 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

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

10 MR. DONAHUE: I make a motion to
11 suspend the rules to move Item 5-B to Seventh
12 Order based on the attached emergency
13 certificate.

14 DR. ROTHCHILD: Second.

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

17 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

18 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

19 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

20 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

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

23 MS. REED: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION -
24 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
25 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND

1 ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
2 BETWEEN THE CITY OF SCRANTON'S OFFICE OF
3 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND NEPA
4 ALLIANCE TO ASSIST THE CITY OF SCRANTON IN
5 PROVIDING CREDIT CHECKS ON APPLICATIONS FOR THE
6 CITY'S SMALL BUSINESS RELIEF PROGRAM.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: At this time I'll
8 entertain a motion that Item 5-C be introduced
9 into its proper committee.

10 MR. DONAHUE: So moved.

11 MR. MCANDREW: Second.

12 DR. ROTHCHILD: Second.

13 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? On
14 the question, I just want to point out -- I
15 meant to mention this in the caucus at the top
16 of the meeting tonight. We had to make a small
17 correction to 5-C. There was an error
18 discovered with regard to the backup for 5-C
19 that has been since fixed and it's been sent
20 out to all Council members.

21 The corrected version will appear on
22 next week's agenda with the memorandum of
23 understanding included in the backup. Anyone
24 else on the question?

25 MR. DONAHUE: Kevin, just on that

1 point, because it's backup, does that have to
2 be amended at all? Like, do we have to approve
3 that or does that -- just because it's backup
4 as long as -- okay.

5 ATTY. HAYES: I think we're fine
6 because it's referencing -- it's referencing
7 the proposed memorandum of understanding that
8 has been circulated. And they'll understand
9 what that is. I think we're okay.

10 MR. DONAHUE: Okay. Thank you.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Anyone else on the
12 question? Okay. All those in favor of
13 introduction signify by saying aye.

14 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

15 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

16 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

17 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

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

20 MS. REED: 5-D. FOR INTRODUCTION -
21 A RESOLUTION - APPOINTMENT OF CARL DEELEY,
22 711 NORTH WEBSTER AVENUE, SCRANTON,
23 PENNSYLVANIA 18510 TO THE POSITION OF BUSINESS
24 ADMINISTRATOR EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2020. MR.
25 DEELEY WILL BE REPLACING PATRICK J. SHERIDAN.

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

4 DR. ROTHCHILD: So moved.

5 MR. DONAHUE: So moved.

6 MR. MCANDREW: Second.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? On
8 the question, I did request, Mrs. Reed to send
9 a note to the administration asking that they
10 provide a resume for Mr. Deeley before final
11 passage next week. That was not included in
12 this legislation. Anyone else on the question?
13 All those in favor of introduction signify by
14 saying aye.

15 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

16 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

17 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

18 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

19 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye. Opposed? The
20 ayes have it and so moved.

21 MS. REED: SIXTH ORDER. 6-A. No
22 business at this time.

23 SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A FORMALLY 5-B -
24 FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY
25 DEVELOPMENT FOR ADOPTION RESOLUTION NO. 37

1 2020. AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
2 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS FOR THE CITY OF
3 SCRANTON TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH
4 SCRANTON AREA FOUNDATION, INC. TO
5 ESTABLISH THE CITY OF SCRANTON SMALL BUSINESS
6 FUND, A PASS THROUGH FUND WHICH WILL DISTRIBUTE
7 GRANTS IN THE AMOUNT \$2,500.00 TO VARIOUS SMALL
8 BUSINESS THROUGHOUT THE CITY OF SCRANTON AS
9 PART OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON'S SMALL BUSINESS
10 RELIEF GRANT PROGRAM DUE TO THE COVID-19
11 PANDEMIC. (EMERGENCY CERTIFICATE ATTACHED).

12 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. What is
13 the recommendation of the Chairperson for the
14 Committee on Community Development?

15 Dr. ROTHCHILD: As Chairperson for
16 the Committee on Community Development, I
17 recommend final passage of Item 7-A.

18 MR. GAUGHAN: Is there a second?

19 MR. MCANDREW: Second.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? Yes,
21 on the question, I just want to reiterate what
22 I said last week that I think this Small
23 Business Relief Program is very, very important
24 for the City of Scranton.

25 If anyone is interested, any small

1 businesses out there, you can go to
2 www.scrantonworks.org. I already received a
3 quite a few questions about it. So if you go
4 to that website, it is laid out plainly and
5 clearly as to what you have to do, what
6 information you have to have before you apply
7 for either the grant or the loan.

8 And the process -- the application
9 process begins tomorrow I believe at 10 a.m.
10 Anyone else on the question? Roll call,
11 please.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Schuster.

13 MR. SCHUSTER: Yes.

14 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McAndrew.

15 MR. MCANDREW: Yes.

16 MS. CARRERA: Dr. Rothchild.

17 DR. ROTHCHILD: Yes.

18 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

19 MR. DONAHUE: Yes.

20 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

21 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes. I hereby declare
22 Item 7-A legally and lawfully adopted. If
23 there's no further business, I'll entertain a
24 motion to adjourn.

25 MR. MCANDREW: Motion to adjourn.

MR. GAUGHAN: This meeting is
adjourned. Thank you everyone.

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

C E R T I F I C A T E

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

June 8 '20

to Scranton City Council — RECEIVED

JUN 10 2020

Dear Friends —

OFFICE OF CITY
COUNCIL/CITY CLERK

Thank you for your good oversight of city govt

43 furloughed workers — couldn't anyone have worked from home actually ~~was~~ earning their salary? were all the jobs necessary in the first place if we are functioning without them?

please look back to the time of Judge Gibbons ruling on Act 511

it was clearly a just decision and I was thankful that past wrong actions would be corrected.

yes, it would be expensive, but our ~~new~~ new administration with all promise of being able to find solutions — immediately — did the wrong thing — without even thinking the problem through without council — hired lawyers at \$470,000 to challenge the court's judgement — the money spent on legal fees will make everything worse.

2 wrongs never make a right

until we go back to recycling bottles,
cans and jars -
it makes sense to just include those
items with regular garbage every week

that would eliminate 2 shifts -
2 weeks per month of DPW workers
to be free to work on pot holes, street
cleaning and what ever else DPW does

I am cleaning & saving my blue can stuff

for when we resume

as for the people who are still putting out these

"recyclables" - are they still washing them too?

if so - that's an additional water waste

SCRANTON
Recycling pickups
to go to landfill

The city will continue collecting commingled recycling, but will dump the materials at Keystone Sanitary Landfill until the Lackawanna County Recycling Center returns to normal operations.

After Friday, the center will stop accepting bottles, cans and jars until the coronavirus crisis subsides. It will continue accepting paper and cardboard recycling.

Scranton residents should follow the city's recycling schedule, available online at scrantonpa.gov, and continue placing items at the curb as they would normally.

"There'll be no interruption in service," DPW Dispatcher Sam Vitris said.

— JEFF NORVATH

Thanks for very strong opposition to the dangerous landfill
expansion

Ben de Barros
914 Quincey Ave
343-4473