

COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON

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HELD:

Tuesday, June 30th, 2020

LOCATION:

VIA ZOOM

Maria McCool, RPR
Official Court Reporter

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

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- 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

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(Pledge of Allegiance.)

MR. GAUGHAN: Please remain standing for a moment of silent reflection for our service men and women throughout the world and also for those who have passed away recently in our community, especially Corey Buckley, a young man from Minooka who tragically passed in an accident this past weekend.

Corey was loved by all who knew him and he comes from an absolutely wonderful family who we are all praying for during this difficult time. Corey was also a Scranton Firefighter commit.

We also want to acknowledge another tragedy from West Scranton, Paul McAuliffe, Paul Stump McAuliffe; and we pray for his family as well. I'd like to also take a special moment of silence tonight for all of the people in our community and throughout the world who are suffering or who have passed away from the coronavirus. Let us think now about them and their families that they may find peace.

Let us think now about the doctors,

1 nurses, researchers and all medical
2 professionals and first responders who seek to
3 heal and help those affected and who put
4 themselves at risk in the process, may they
5 find protection and peace.

6 Whether we are home or abroad,
7 surrounded by many people suffering from this
8 illness or only a few, let us stick together,
9 endure together, mourn together, persist and
10 prepare together. And in place of our anxiety,
11 let us continue to hope and find peace. Thank
12 you. Mrs. Reed, roll call, please.

13 MS. REED: Mr. Schuster.

14 MR. SCHUSTER: Present.

15 MS. REED: Mr. McAndrew.

16 MR. MCANDREW: Present.

17 MS. REED: Dr. Rothchild.

18 DR. ROTHCHILD: Here.

19 MS. REED: Mr. Donahue.

20 MR. DONAHUE: Present.

21 MS. REED: Mr. Gaughan.

22 MR. GAUGHAN: Here. Thank you,
23 Mrs. Reed. Please dispense with the reading of
24 the minutes.

25 MS. REED: THIRD ORDER.

1 3-A. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM
2 PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL
3 PROTECTION DATED JUNE 11, 2020 REGARDING MEADOW
4 BROOK FLOOD PROTECTION PROJECT, PHASE 3.

5 3-B. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM
6 BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR DATED JUNE
7 22, 2020 REGARDING LICENSING, INSPECTIONS AND
8 PERMITS SERVICES ASSESSMENT PROJECT.

9 3-C. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM
10 THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN
11 DEVELOPMENT (HUD) DATED JUNE 19, 2020 REGARDING
12 ANNUAL COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT.

13 3-D. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM
14 MAYOR PAIGE G. COGNETTI DATED JUNE
15 16, 2020 REGARDING A RESPONSE TO COUNCILMAN
16 DONAHUE'S QUESTIONS FROM JUNE 9.

17 3-E. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM
18 MAYOR PAIGE G. COGNETTI DATED JUNE
19 25, 2020 REGARDING CITY FACILITIES REOPENING TO
20 THE PUBLIC ON JUNE 29.

21 3-F. MINUTES OF THE COMPOSITE
22 PENSION BOARD MEETING HELD MAY 20,
23 2020.

24 3-G. TAX ASSESSOR'S REPORTS FOR
25 HEARING DATES TO BE HELD JULY 16,

1 22, 23, 29 AND 30, 2020.

2 3-H. CORRESPONDENCE SENT TO UNITED
3 STATES SENATORS DATED JUNE 25, 2020 IN SUPPORT
4 OF THE HEALTH AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY OMNIBUS
5 EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS ACT.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Mrs. Reed.
7 Are there any comments on any of the Third
8 Order items? I have one comment and one
9 question. Just in terms of 3-A, the Meadow
10 Brook Flood Protection Project Phase 3, so this
11 is something that's obviously been on the minds
12 of all of Council and certainly of all the
13 people over that area.

14 As of all of you know, we have dealt
15 with and tried to help Mr. Young and other
16 neighbors in that area for the last few years
17 in the flooding problems that they've had.
18 This letter that I received and Council
19 received from the Pennsylvania Department of
20 Environmental Protection basically tells us
21 they have selected Riley Associates to design
22 Phase 3 of the Meadow Brook Flood Protection
23 Project.

24 Riley Associates has completed
25 preliminary design of the project and rights of

1 way plans have been developed. Within this
2 letter they attached our draft right of way
3 plans as well as the draft sponsorship
4 agreement that the City will be required to
5 sign for the project to move forward.

6 It states in the letter that after
7 the plans have been reviewed by the City, DEP
8 and Riley would like to schedule a work meeting
9 with City officials to discuss the proposed
10 features of the project and any concerns with
11 the alignment prior to finalizing the right of
12 way plans and sponsorship agreement.

13 The only question I had, Kevin, if
14 you could look into this, on the sponsorship
15 agreement on the third page it says, whereas
16 the sponsor by resolution of City Council
17 adopted and then it's blank. And it says, and
18 attached hereto approve the rights of way
19 acquisition drawings for project.

20 I'm assuming that that means that
21 we'll have to vote on legislation approving the
22 agreement, the rights of way acquisition but I
23 wasn't positive. Oh, sorry, you're muted, Kev.

24 ATTY. HAYES: That's correct.
25 You're assumption is correct. But I will

1 obtain confirmation on that.

2 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. Thank you. And
3 when -- if that is going to occur, Mrs. Reed,
4 if we could ask the City officials if they
5 could brief us on this project on the timeline,
6 you know, how long it's going to take and any
7 other -- anything -- any other things that
8 would be of relevance.

9 We know that this project is really
10 important. And it's important to the people
11 that are there. So that would be really
12 helpful, okay? That's all I have on the Third
13 Order items.

14 Does anyone else have anything on
15 the Third Order items? If not, received and
16 filed. Do any Council members have any
17 announcements at this time?

18 MR. DONAHUE: I have -- I just have
19 one quick, garbage will be picked up on regular
20 schedule this week. DPW doesn't observe the
21 4th of July holiday until next week so -- until
22 next Monday. So garbage will be a day behind
23 next week but on regular schedule this week.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Kyle.
25 Anyone else have any announcements?

1 DR. ROTHCHILD: Yes, I have an
2 announcement. So I just wanted to make sure
3 that the public was aware -- apparently my dog
4 also has an announcement. So for the Small
5 Business Relief Program, applications are open
6 for loans. And loans can come in an amount
7 from \$3,000 to \$20,000. And this is a great
8 money that we can help small businesses in
9 Scranton.

10 So if any small business owners are
11 interested in applying, they could go to
12 Scranton Works dot org. And they will find the
13 application there as well as the basic
14 requirements in order to apply. Thank you.

15 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. Anyone
16 else have any announcements?

17 MR. MCANDREW: I do. Tomorrow, July
18 1st at Scranton High which is on 63 Munchak Way
19 from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m., the Friends of the
20 Poor, Family to Family and the Weinberger Food
21 Bank, COVID emergency drive through giveaway.
22 All attendees remain in their vehicles like in
23 the past. Food bags will placed directly in
24 their vehicles. They still need a zip code and
25 numbers of children, adults and elderly in

1 their family.

2 I also have another announcement.
3 My beautiful daughter Moriah and her husband
4 Nick will be having a baby boy in December.
5 We're all very excited. You know, living with
6 a bunch of women, it's going to be -- and
7 outnumbered. It's going to be nice to have a
8 little guy around maybe in my corner. That's
9 all I have.

10 MR. GAUGHAN: And I'm sure you'll
11 start the brainwashing for Notre Dame football,
12 correct?

13 ATTY. HAYES: Young Knute -- Knute
14 Rockne.

15 MR. GAUGHAN: Congratulations, Mark.
16 That's great news. Anyone else have any
17 announcements?

18 Okay. I have quite a few. A public
19 hearing will be held next Tuesday, July 7th at
20 5:45 p.m., for Item 5B, which is the transfer
21 of a liquor license. We're also expecting
22 legislation which would amend our Act 47 Exit
23 Plan to extend our stay in Act 47 for 18
24 months. This legislation must be passed by
25 July 27th for DCED.

1 So we're tentatively expecting that
2 on our agenda for next week. And also along
3 that vein, we would have representatives from
4 PEL come in for a caucus in which we would have
5 them present the legislation and then answer
6 questions that Council may have.

7 City Hall will be closed this
8 Friday, July 3rd in observance of the 4th of
9 July holiday. Councilman Donahue mentioned
10 that next Monday, July 6th the DPW is off for
11 the holiday and refuse pickup will be delayed
12 by one day next week.

13 And also, I mentioned in our caucus
14 tonight that due to the coronavirus pandemic
15 and out of an abundance of caution, July
16 Council meetings will continue to be held via
17 Zoom.

18 Under Governor Wolf's orders, public
19 meetings may continue to run remotely. And I
20 thought it was in the best interest after
21 speaking to all of my colleagues on Council,
22 Lori, and Kevin that it would be in our best
23 interest to continue to remain meeting
24 remotely.

25 I would not want to put any member

1 of the public in any sort of danger, any member
2 of Council or any member of -- any person in
3 our office. So we will be meeting virtually
4 throughout July.

5 The same rules apply as they have
6 for the last few months. So if anyone would
7 like to comment on agenda items or City
8 business, you can always send those comments in
9 writing to our City Clerk Lori Reed by
10 e-mailing Lreed@scrantonpa.gov.

11 You can also mail those to 340 North
12 Washington Avenue to our City Clerk Lori Reed.
13 We'll accept those public comments until the
14 day of our meeting, which is Tuesday at 4:30
15 p.m. We review public comment prior to the
16 Council meeting. That public comment is placed
17 on the official record and in the minutes of
18 our meetings.

19 Council's agenda is being posted for
20 public review the Friday before our Tuesday
21 meeting. And Our agenda and all of our minutes
22 can be accessed by going to www.scrantonpa.gov
23 and clicking on the City Council page. And
24 that is all for announcements. Mrs. Reed?

25 MS. REED: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS

1 PARTICIPATION.

2 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Mrs. Reed.
3 Would someone please make a motion to accept
4 public comment from the following individuals,
5 Patti Fowler, Marie Curmaci, Joan Hodowanitz,
6 Fay Franus and Marie Schumacher?

7 MR. DONAHUE: So moved.

8 MR. GAUGHAN: Oh, I'm sorry. Did
9 you -- did someone just -- did someone just
10 make a motion? I'm sorry. I don't think
11 anyone made it.

12 MR. DONAHUE: So moved.

13 MR. MCANDREW: Second.

14 MR. GAUGHAN: Kevin, is that
15 correct?

16 ATTY. HAYES: Did you say Tom Coyne
17 as well?

18 MR. GAUGHAN: No, I think Tom Coyne
19 was from last week.

20 ATTY. HAYES: Okay. All right.
21 That's correct, yep.

22 MR. GAUGHAN: I'm asking if someone
23 would make the motion, I'm sorry.

24 MR. SCHUSTER: I'll make the motion
25 to accept public comment.

1 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. And then can
2 someone second it?

3 MR. MCANDREW: Second.

4 DR. ROTHCHILD: Second.

5 MR. GAUGHAN: Sorry about that. On
6 the question? Okay, public comment will be
7 placed into the official record and our
8 official minutes. Once again, the minutes can
9 be accessed by going to www.scrantonpa.gov.
10 Any of the questions that were included in
11 public comment are being forwarded to the
12 administration, any of those questions that
13 would be better served being answered by the
14 administration and not Council.

15 Again, if anyone would like to view
16 the comments that have been submitted, please
17 go to the web page and review the minutes.
18 They will be located there. Anyone else on the
19 question? All those in favor of the motion
20 signify by saying aye.

21 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

22 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

23 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

24 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

25 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye. Opposed? The

1 ayes have it and so moved.

2

3 (PUBLIC COMMENT, the following are
4 e-mails submitted to Council for Public
5 Comment.)

6

7 (Patti Fowler)

8

9 I would like to know if the fireman,
10 Kyle Armbruster is still off on administrative
11 leave still getting paid and still getting his
12 full compliment of benefits, when we have
13 approximately 40 employees who were furloughed
14 through no fault of their own, and still has no
15 healthcare during a pandemic?

16

17 Sincerely awaiting the information,

18 Patti Fowler

19

20 (Marie Curmaci)

21

22 Hello Lori,

23 I hope this e-mail finds you well.

24 My name is Marie Curmaci. I reside at 1105

25 Saint Ann Street in Scranton, PA.

1 I am contacting you regarding the increased,
2 incessant use of illegal fireworks in our
3 neighborhoods.

4 The tragic death of a young man in
5 the Minooka section of Scranton this past
6 Saturday has compelled me to speak out. If our
7 City laws were enforced, this young man may
8 still be alive. I am fearful for my family,
9 neighbors and pets.

10 Thank you Lori. Very much
11 appreciated. Just an update: The South Main
12 Avenue home address is 1104, not 1114. Also the
13 home on East Park address is 1002. They are the
14 residents blowing off the explosives that I
15 sent you a picture of.
16 Again, I thank you,
17 Marie

18
19 (Joan Hodowanitz)

20
21 Please pass the following questions
22 to city council:

23 1. When will City Council resume
24 public meetings in lieu of virtual meetings?
25 We are now in the green phase.

1 there all the time--this is a residential
2 neighborhood--it is an eye sore--at night there
3 are much more cars than during the day and
4 people are always hanging around playing loud
5 music --working on cars-right now there is a
6 car there up on blocks being worked on- whether
7 they are working on cars or not--cars should
8 NOT be in that gas station lot.

9 Sometimes as many as 15 cars. I
10 want to know the law on this-- Are cars allowed
11 to be parked there in a residential
12 neighborhood.

13 Also someone needs to address those
14 cars parked in front yards of homes across the
15 street from the gas Station on the 500 block of
16 Luzerne Street--That whole block has cops there
17 multiple times about drugs- I thought if police
18 had to come more than 2 times with drug related
19 incidents the people must move.

20 To say nothing of the blasting music
21 you can hear all the way to my house--Housing
22 inspectors absolutely need to check into every
23 house in the 500 block of Luzerne street on the
24 odd side of the street. It is a disgrace.
25 People screaming all the time-- etc etc.

1 Ruining the value of our properties on Railroad
2 Avenue.

3 The gas station is on the corner of
4 Luzerne and Railroad but has a Railroad Avenue
5 address. Perhaps since the owners seemed to
6 have just walked away from it--perhaps a bank
7 owns it-- we need to get to the bottom of this.
8 Every single solitary car in that lot must be
9 made to get out.

10 How would you like to live near this
11 and have to deal with this every day. I don't
12 think you would tolerate it--Please do
13 something. They have to be made to get out.
14 Where did they park before? Let them go back!

15 Thank you for any help you can give
16 me on this-- When I called licensing and
17 inspections the girl said they are looking into
18 it-- REALLY? How long does it take to find out
19 if it is legal to have cars parked in that lot
20 in a residential neighborhood?

21 They need to get on the ball here
22 and start enforcing laws-- There is no reason
23 they should be there-- It is as though they are
24 taking over that whole area. What right do THEY
25 have to do this-- to make this neighborhood

1 look like a slum--which is exactly as it is
2 now -- we need your help here.

3

4 (Marie Schumacher)

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3A - Does the third whereas plan
have to be current? This begs the question
what is the status of the City's request for
the MS-4 Permit? How much longer is addressing
Stormwater issues going to be ignored?

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- - Article 3 Will any changes that
effect the City be discussed and agreed with by
the owner of the residential property owner if
their property is effected.

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- Article 4 What precisely has the
City and/or SAPA done to encourage upstream
municipalities to adopt AND implement
stormwater management ordinances.

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- Article 5 - Please provide the
list of all required all interests required and
disgnate which are completed and who on the
City payroll or under contract is responsible
for completing.

24

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- Article 6 speaks to walls among
other items. As the City owns Ryerson Avenue

1 is stabilization of this wall included in the
2 Project.

3 - Article 7 is scary to me as a
4 taxpayer. Will insurance be obtained to cover
5 the City should this occur and is this cost in
6 an approved Budget.

7 - Article 9 What amount of funding
8 is included in an approved Budget to comply.

9 - Article 11 Will insurance be
10 obtained to cover the City?

11 - Article 13 Estimate date the
12 Project will be advertised for construction.

13 - Article 15 Will this be a
14 dedicated employee or already employed person.

15 - Article 16 Is this \$42,000 funding
16 in the Capital or Operating Budget.

17 -Article 18 Recently a Legal Notice
18 advertising Dunmore Borough Proposed Floodplain
19 Ordinance. Will Scranton do the same and when?

20
21 (End of Public Comment)

22
23 MR. GAUGHAN: Mrs. Reed?

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

25 MOTIONS.

1 MR. GAUGHAN: Councilman Schuster,
2 do you have any motions or comments at this
3 time?

4 MR. SCHUSTER: The only comment I
5 would like to make is to extend my condolences
6 to the Buckley and McAuliffe families.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Councilman
8 Schuster. Councilman McAndrew, do you have any
9 motions or comments at this time?

10 MR. MCANDREW: Yes, I do. I would
11 like to echo Mr. Schuster's statement, my
12 sincere condolences as well to both Buckley and
13 Mr. McAuliffe and his family. In caucus we --
14 actually for the past couple of weeks, there's
15 been a ration of e-mails and calls regarding
16 fireworks and ATV issues.

17 So today, I'd like to report that I
18 was on a conference call with the Mayor and
19 Councilman Gaughan. And what's coming up next
20 week in the form of a resolution will be a
21 letter and a lot of cities are doing that I've
22 actually seen today which is great that will
23 repeal House Bill 542, which replaces the
24 fireworks act.

25 So, you know, which is the purchase

1 of "C" class fireworks. So and with that, I
2 think there's going to be a little bit more
3 teeth in it with regards to maybe increasing
4 the fines, you know, at the city level.

5 And with that said, also in between
6 caucus and this meeting, I came upon an e-mail
7 that the Mayor forwarded us from Senator Blake.
8 And what it actually said was, I'm about to
9 vote an amendment to legislation that would
10 have the effect of giving certain cities and
11 other communities the option to pass an
12 ordinance to prohibit the use of consumer
13 fireworks with municipal boundaries. So I
14 hope, you know, at least we're getting some
15 traction here.

16 And also, in addition to that,
17 please note I made mention of this last week
18 but between now and the 4th of July, you know,
19 if fireworks -- illegal fireworks are occurring
20 in your neighborhood or close by, if you can
21 actually identify where they're coming from
22 because I hear them every night.

23 And I'm not sure if they're a block
24 away or two blocks away. But if you are able
25 to witness this happening, you know, in real

1 time you are to call the nonpolice number which
2 is 570-558-8345. Thank you, Councilman
3 Gaughan. That's all I have.

4 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. Dr.
5 Rothchild, do you have any motions or comments?

6 DR. ROTHCHILD: I'd just like to
7 comment that I look forward to seeing
8 legislation to help tighten up the ordinances
9 around fireworks and ATVs. This is something
10 that I brought up in our caucus last week. I
11 know it's a concern throughout the City. It's
12 a concern for me, my -- one of my dogs, he
13 won't go outside at night because he's afraid
14 of them.

15 And not only is it affecting
16 animals, but it is dangerous for people too as
17 we can clearly see. And I offer my condolences
18 as well to Mr. Buckley's family. But I really
19 would like to see us have some movement on this
20 and I appreciate the administration taking it
21 seriously.

22 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. Great. Thank
23 you, Dr. Rothchild. Councilman Donahue, do you
24 have any motions or comments?

25 MR. DONAHUE: The only thing I have

1 is just to echo the sentiments of my
2 colleagues. My heart breaks for both the
3 Buckley and McAuliffe families. And they will
4 be in my prayers. That's all I have.

5 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. Thank you,
6 Councilman Donahue. I also as I did at the top
7 of the meeting just want to say how sorry I am
8 to the Buckley and McAuliffe families, both
9 tragedies. I knew Corey Buckley personally as
10 I think many of us did growing up in Minooka.

11 His family, really a wonderful,
12 wonderful people and what an absolute tragedy
13 that occurred. So my heart goes out to the
14 family and, you know, I think the community is
15 already coming together. There's a Go Fund Me
16 page if you could look it up on Facebook. And
17 the community is stepping up to help that
18 family out during their time of need.

19 Just a few things I wanted to
20 mention briefly. We received a complaint for
21 the 900 block of Ferdinand Street, quality of
22 life issue. So Mrs. Reed did forward that over
23 to the Licensing and Inspections Department.

24 Councilman Donahue and I had met
25 with Senator Casey's office earlier last week

1 in regard to the Heros Act and potential
2 funding for cities like Scranton because of the
3 coronavirus pandemic.

4 We also have a call tomorrow -- I
5 received an e-mail late today from Senator
6 Toomey's office. So we will be in contact with
7 them. And I know that we're trying to schedule
8 calls also with the other Council members with
9 Senator Casey and Senator Toomey's office as
10 well.

11 On our agenda tonight we have a
12 resolution that Council and the Mayor had
13 worked on together in terms of asking our
14 legislators in the federal government to step
15 up to the plate and not leave cities like
16 Scranton behind in terms of revenue, in terms
17 of funding for the coronavirus pandemic. And
18 it is very important.

19 It is now the end of June. We're
20 coming into July. It's going to be budget
21 season before you know it. And I really am
22 worried that we're going to be looking at a
23 potential deficit, a very large deficit. And
24 we need to make sure that we don't put that on
25 the backs of our elderly and our hardworking

1 people of the City of Scranton. So hopefully
2 our federal legislators will step up to the
3 plate. And I think we'll continue to put
4 pressure on them to do so.

5 As I mentioned at the top of our
6 meeting and I'll mention once again, our July
7 Council meetings will continue to be held via
8 Zoom just so everyone is aware of that. This
9 is out of an abundance of caution due to the
10 coronavirus pandemic.

11 Obviously it's not the ideal
12 situation. We would all like to be back in
13 Council Chambers. But because they're saying
14 not to congregate with groups of people,
15 sometimes we have a few people at a Council
16 meeting, sometimes the chambers might be
17 packed.

18 I would be very hesitant -- and I
19 spoke to each Council member individually, very
20 hesitant to come back at this time with the way
21 things are going, not only in our area but
22 really around the country. So we want to take
23 the utmost caution there. And we're going to
24 do that.

25 We'll reassess the situation at the

1 end of our August recess. In the caucus
2 tonight I had asked Attorney Hayes to touch
3 base which he did with the administration on a
4 few things, the response to our questions about
5 the agreement between the City and NRS, an
6 update on Third Avenue and some issues that
7 were going on there, also an update on the
8 paving project. The bids came in. I would
9 like to know when the award will be issued.

10 Also, one of the things that I
11 failed to bring up that I received a complaint
12 from one of my neighbors is that Brick Avenue,
13 Mrs. Reed, in North Scranton was just paved.

14 And the neighbor reported to me that
15 it looks like it's being marked to be cut up by
16 one of the utilities. So can you just check
17 with the DPW to see what the situation is
18 there? I believe that was paved with OECD
19 funds just recently.

20 The other things I wanted to mention
21 was, last night -- I think I mentioned a few
22 weeks ago. But during the pandemic, really one
23 of the only things that we've been doing -- my
24 family has been doing is just driving around
25 the City just to get out of the house every

1 once in a while.

2 And we happened to drive through Nay
3 Aug Park last night. And I just want to give a
4 shoutout to the members of the Recreation Board
5 led by Bob Gattens who has done an absolutely
6 phenomenal job on that park.

7 I have not seen it look in this good
8 of shape in a while. It looks outstanding.
9 And credit has to be given to the Recreation
10 Board, their leadership. They're doing this on
11 their own time. They don't -- they're unpaid
12 volunteers on this board.

13 And they're really bringing this
14 park alive. And I was so impressed with some
15 of the things that are going on up there. And
16 I also want to give a shoutout to our Parks and
17 Recreation Department who is also helping up
18 there along with all of the other city parks
19 throughout Scranton.

20 So I think even during, you know,
21 this pandemic, they continue to step up and
22 they keep our parks in good shape which is very
23 important. Last thing I wanted to mention was
24 obviously we're now in the green phase in
25 Lackawanna County and most counties throughout

1 the State of Pennsylvania.

2 And I don't want to get on my
3 soapbox here. This is just my own opinion but
4 I feel compelled to just once again say to
5 people that with July 4th coming up, in our
6 normal lives before the pandemic everybody
7 would get together and have parties and all of
8 that.

9 But I would ask once again that you
10 please take caution. We are not even close,
11 not even close to being out of the woods with
12 this pandemic. Someone -- Dr. Fauci was in a
13 Congressional hearing I think the other day.
14 And someone asked him about the second wave of
15 the coronavirus.

16 And he correctly stated that we're
17 not even out of the first wave of the
18 coronavirus. So even though the weather is
19 nice, even though in the Lackawanna County our
20 numbers are down and we're out of all the
21 states in country, we are really doing better
22 than most because of some of the precautions
23 that our Governor had put in place, that could
24 change rather quickly as we've seen happen in
25 other states in the south and out west.

1 So I would ask people to continue to
2 please wear masks. And when you can, continue
3 to social distance. If you don't do that, two
4 to three weeks after July 4th, we can almost
5 guarantee that we're going to be right back
6 where we started. And that's not good for
7 anyone. So all you have to do is just look at
8 what's happening in other states.

9 The other thing I wanted to mention
10 in terms of mental health, I think that this
11 pandemic has obviously taken an unbelievable
12 toll on mental health throughout our community
13 and throughout the country. And I once again,
14 just want to say that if you are struggling
15 with mental health, if you're struggling with
16 food, with really anything, go to
17 www.scrantonpa.gov.

18 There are a number of resources on
19 there for you to help you out. And you could
20 also dial 211 for help as well in terms of
21 social services and all of that. And that is
22 all I have this week. Mrs. Reed?

23 MS. REED: Thank you. 5-B. FOR
24 INTRODUCTION – AN ORDINANCE – APPROVING THE
25 TRANSFER OF A RESTAURANT LIQUOR LICENSE OWNED

1 BY OAK STREET EXPRESS, LLC, 610 NORTH MAIN
2 STREET, TAYLOR, LACKAWANNA COUNTY,
3 PENNSYLVANIA, 18517 RESTAURANT LIQUOR LICENSE
4 NO. R-3114 TO ARADHY BEV BEER,
5 LLC, (THE "MINI MART"), 401 WYOMING AVENUE,
6 SCRANTON, LACKAWANNA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA,
7 18503, AS REQUIRED BY THE PENNSYLVANIA LIQUOR
8 CONTROL BOARD.

9 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Mrs. Reed.
10 At this time I'll entertain a motion that Item
11 5-B be into introduced into its proper
12 committee.

13 MR. DONAHUE: So moved.

14 DR. ROTHCHILD: Second.

15 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question?
16 Kevin, I just have one quick question about
17 this that I had marked. In the letter from
18 Tressler Law which is representing the business
19 that's going to attain the license, it says in
20 the first paragraph the minimart would like to
21 sell beer and wine for on-premises consumption
22 and to go as permitted under the PLCB
23 regulations.

24 And they say I believe the minimart
25 is in a general commercial zone. I don't know,

1 is that required to have a liquor license to be
2 in a general commercial zone? I don't know --

3 ATTY. HAYES: I'd have to check our
4 zoning code. But that, I mean, it clearly is
5 located in an -- it's a commercial zone.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: It's right on Wyoming
7 and Mulberry Street.

8 ATTY. HAYES: Correct.

9 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay.

10 ATTY. HAYES: So it clearly is
11 within -- I can check to see if that's the
12 requirement under our zoning code.

13 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. And the only
14 other comment I would have as I mentioned at
15 the top of the meeting, we will have a public
16 hearing on the liquor license next Tuesday,
17 July 7 at 5:45 p.m. Anyone else on the
18 question? All those in favor of introduction
19 signify by saying aye.

20 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

21 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

22 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

23 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye. Opposed? The
25 ayes have it and so moved.

1 MS. REED: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION -
2 A RESOLUTION - RATIFYING AND APPROVING THE
3 EXECUTION AND SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION
4 BY THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO THE COMMONWEALTH OF
5 PENNSYLVANIA, ACTING THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF
6 HEALTH, IN AN AMOUNT OF UP TO \$20,000.00 FOR
7 THE PROJECT TO BE KNOWN AS "ACTIVE
8 TRANSPORTATION PLAN", AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR
9 AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS OF
10 THE CITY OF SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, TO ACCEPT
11 THE GRANT, IF SUCCESSFUL, AND EXECUTE AND ENTER
12 INTO GRANT CONTRACT AND COMMITMENT LETTER WITH
13 THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA AND TO
14 UTILIZE THE GRANT FOR SUCH PROJECT.

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

18 DR. ROTHCHILD: So moved.

19 MR. DONAHUE: Second.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? On
21 the question, Mrs. Reed, if you could just ask
22 the administration for an update on the
23 walkability study? I can't remember if we ever
24 got anything back on that from the
25 administration.

1 So this -- OECD is going to
2 administer this grant including overseeing the
3 consulting services of two organizations. And
4 it looks like they'll -- that want to use Speck
5 and Associates which is currently conducting
6 the walkability study.

7 They're expected to be -- according
8 to the backup, a leading candidate in the RFP
9 process that the City would use to select a
10 consultant upon the grant award. So if you
11 could just check and see the progress that they
12 made on the walkability study, I'd appreciate
13 it. Anyone else on the question?

14 MR. SCHUSTER: President Gaughan, do
15 you know offhand how much the walkability study
16 costs?

17 MR. GAUGHAN: I can't remember off
18 the top of my head. But I'm sure Mrs. Reed has
19 that available in our office someplace.

20 MR. DONAHUE: Mr. Schuster, I have
21 that too I think somewhere. I'll find that and
22 see if I could -- I'll get that over to you.

23 MR. SCHUSTER: All right. Thank
24 you.

25 MR. GAUGHAN: Great. Anyone else on

1 the question? All those in favor of
2 introduction signify by saying aye.

3 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

4 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

5 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

6 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

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

9 MS. REED: 5-D. FOR INTRODUCTION -
10 A RESOLUTION - RATIFYING AND APPROVING THE
11 SUBMISSION AND EXECUTION OF A GRANT APPLICATION
12 BY THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO THE MAYOR'S
13 INNOVATION PROJECT - HEALTHY BABIES,
14 BRIGHT FUTURES, BRIGHT CITIES FOR A GRANT, IN
15 THE AMOUNT OF \$5,000.00 FOR THE PROJECT TO BE
16 KNOWN AS "SCRANTON PLAYGROUND PALS:KEEPING OUR
17 KIDS SAFE & HEALTHY", AND AUTHORIZING THE
18 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS OF
19 THE CITY OF SCRANTON, PA, TO ACCEPT THE GRANT,
20 AND EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A GRANT AGREEMENT TO
21 ACCEPT AND UTILIZE THE GRANT IN THE AMOUNT
22 OF \$5,000.00 AWARDED BY THE MAYOR'S INNOVATION
23 PROJECT.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: At this time I'll
25 entertain a motion that Item 5-D be introduced

1 into its proper committee.

2 MR. DONAHUE: So moved.

3 MR. SCHUSTER: Second.

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

7 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

8 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

9 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

10 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

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

13 MS. REED: 5-E. FOR INTRODUCTION -
14 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
15 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO APPLY FOR
16 AND EXECUTE A GRANT FOR THE REDEVELOPMENT
17 ASSISTANCE CAPITAL PROGRAM (RACP)
18 THROUGH THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA'S
19 OFFICE OF THE BUDGET IN THE AMOUNT OF TWO
20 MILLION (\$2,000,000.00) DOLLARS; ACCEPTING
21 AND DISBURSING THE GRANT IF THE APPLICATION IS
22 SUCCESSFUL; AND COORDINATE THE USE OF THE GRANT
23 FUNDS WITH "LACE BUILDING AFFILIATES, LP", FOR
24 THE PROJECT TO BE NAMED THE "SCRANTON LACE
25 ADAPTIVE USE PROJECT".

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

4 MR. DONAHUE: So moved.

5 MR. SCHUSTER: Second.

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

9 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

10 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

11 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

12 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

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

15 MS. REED: 5-F. FOR INTRODUCTION -
16 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
17 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO ACCEPT A
18 GRANT FOR THE REDEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE CAPITAL
19 PROGRAM (RACP) THROUGH THE COMMONWEALTH OF
20 PENNSYLVANIA'S OFFICE OF THE BUDGET IN THE
21 AMOUNT OF TWO HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND
22 (\$250,000.00) DOLLARS; AND COORDINATE THE USE
23 OF THE GRANT FUNDS WITH "SCRANTON-CHERRY,
24 L.P. OR THEIR DESIGNEE", FOR THE PROJECT TO BE
25 NAMED THE "SCRANTON COUNSELING CENTER PROJECT".

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

4 MR. SCHUSTER: So moved.

5 DR. ROTHCHILD: Second.

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

9 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

10 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

11 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

12 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

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

15 MS. REED: 5-G. FOR INTRODUCTION -
16 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
17 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO ACCEPT THE
18 AWARD OF GRANT FUNDS FROM THE WILLARY
19 FOUNDATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$50,000 TO
20 UNDERTAKE A STUDY TO EVALUATE TAX POLICY,
21 BILLING, AND COLLECTIONS WITH THE GOAL OF
22 INCREASING COLLECTION RATES, STRENGTHENING
23 INTERNAL CONTROLS, ELIMINATING WASTE AND
24 PROVIDING TAX RELIEF FOR SCRANTON RESIDENTS.

25 MR. GAUGHAN: At this time I'll

1 entertain a motion that Item 5-G be introduced
2 into its proper committee.

3 MR. DONAHUE: So moved.

4 DR. ROTHCHILD: Second.

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

8 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

9 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

10 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

11 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

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

14 MS. REED: 5-H. FOR INTRODUCTION -
15 A RESOLUTION - ENCOURAGING THE UNITED STATES
16 SENATE TO PASS LOCAL GOVERNMENT FISCAL
17 ASSISTANCE AND CALLING ON THE UNITED STATES
18 SENATE TO ADOPT THE FUNDING ENHANCEMENTS
19 TO THE FEDERAL MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PERCENTAGES
20 (FMAP) AS PROVIDED IN THE HEROES ACT HR 6800.

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

24 DR. ROTHCHILD: So moved.

25 MR. DONAHUE: So moved.

1 MR. SCHUSTER: Second.

2 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question?

3 MR. DONAHUE: On the question, just
4 sorry, just, I mean, the meeting or the call
5 myself and Councilman Gaughan had last week
6 with Senator Casey's office, it seemed that
7 Senator Casey was supportive of the Heros Act.
8 So hopefully we'll get the same amount of
9 support from Senator Toomey in our call
10 tomorrow.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Thanks, Councilman
12 Donahue. I would agree. I just want to
13 reiterate, I would urge everyone to call
14 Senator Toomey's office. I don't have the
15 information right in front of me. But if you
16 Google or go online and look his number up and
17 his office e-mail, I'm sure it is on his
18 website.

19 I think we have to make the point
20 that our federal government has no problem
21 bailing out major corporations. They have no
22 problem bailing out corporations that gross
23 billions of dollars a year. They have no
24 problem bailing out Wall Street.

25 But when it comes time to help

1 this time.

2 MR. GAUGHAN: Prior to adjournment,
3 one of the things that I forgot to mention
4 that I just -- I know I talked about it in the
5 caucus; but I think it's important I want to
6 mention at the regular meeting is the recycling
7 contract.

8 So just to reiterate, Council did
9 ask Solicitor Hayes to research the recycling
10 contract. The only one that we could find now
11 besides the one from 1989 is from 2002,
12 Resolution NO. 60, between the City and the
13 Lackawanna County Solid Waste Management
14 Authority for the disposal of recyclable
15 materials collected by the City of Scranton.

16 And just my cursory review of
17 this -- and I did talk to Solicitor Hayes about
18 it today and he's going to look into is Article
19 4, which states: The Authority will accept all
20 recyclable materials delivered by the
21 municipality without change to the municipality
22 regardless of any actual or anticipated
23 financial loss incident to the recyclables by
24 virtue of market condition.

25 Solicitor Hayes, I know that you're

1 still reviewing that. But to me it would seem
2 on the face of it that it shouldn't really
3 matter whether the Recycling Center is taking
4 any sort of loss with regards to market
5 conditions or maybe even the prison labor that
6 they use. Would I be correct in stating that?

7 ATTY. HAYES: That's my
8 interpretation of it as well is that this
9 contract provided the stability even though the
10 market conditions could change, the City
11 wouldn't be affected by those market -- change
12 in market conditions.

13 So obviously we have to get, you
14 know, the current contract. And we're having
15 some challenges because the Law Department is
16 not fully operational at this point in time.
17 But I'll look into it and I'll report back next
18 week.

19 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. And I know that
20 I did ask Mrs. Reed today to look in our
21 records where we keep the legislation. And we
22 could not -- or she could not find any other
23 agreement besides this one going back to 2002.

24 And the issue I would be concerned
25 about there would be that this was a 10-year

1 agreement which really should have been up in
2 June of 2012.

3 The other thing, Mrs. Reed, that I
4 would like to ask is in Article 5, it states
5 that the City should have received a profit and
6 loss statement. Any and all profit will be
7 distributed to the participation municipalities
8 in percentage shares equal to the
9 municipality's percentage contribution to the
10 gross quantity of materials processed by the
11 facility.

12 And that was within 60 days after
13 the close of each operational year. So would
14 you be able to go back and look and see if we
15 have anything in our files in Council's office
16 to see if we received any sort of profit and
17 loss statement each year from the Recycling
18 Center?

19 MS. REED: I will, yes. Thank you.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. And I know
21 we'll look forward to Solicitor Hayes' analysis
22 of that contract. And I appreciate you looking
23 into it, Solicitor Hayes. Anybody else before
24 we adjourn the meeting?

25 MR. MCANDREW: I'd just like to wish

1 everybody a safe and Happy of 4th of July.

2 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, as well.

3 MR. SCHUSTER: To add onto the
4 discussion about the recycling contract, can we
5 also find out what the percentage of prison
6 labor is over there or what the breakdown is of
7 workers?

8 ATTY. HAYES: Right now I thought
9 the program was suspended.

10 MR. GAUGHAN: Yeah, the program is
11 suspended.

12 MR. SCHUSTER: Because of the
13 current circumstances.

14 MR. GAUGHAN: Because of the
15 pandemic.

16 ATTY. HAYES: Are you talking about
17 --

18 MR. SCHUSTER: I'm talking about
19 usual operations.

20 ATTY. HAYES: -- prior to the
21 pandemic. Is that your question, Tom, prior to
22 the pandemic what was the percentage of the
23 workforce that was comprised of inmates?

24 MR. SCHUSTER: Yes.

25 MR. GAUGHAN: And, Mrs. Reed, can

1 you get in contact with Brian Jeffers, the
2 County's Chief of Staff and see if we can get a
3 copy of the agreement between the county and
4 the Recycling Center?

5 MR. REED: Yes.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. Okay, if
7 there's no further business, I'll entertain a
8 motion to adjourn.

9 MR. DONAHUE: Motion to adjourn.

10 MR. GAUGHAN: Meeting's adjourned.

11 Thanks, everyone.

12 DR. ROTHCHILD: Thank you.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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