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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Wednesday, March 23, 2016

LOCATION:

Council Chambers

Scranton City Hall

340 North Washington Avenue

Scranton, Pennsylvania

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

JOSEPH WECHSLER, PRESIDENT

PATRICK ROGAN, VICE-PRESIDENT
(Not present)

WAYNE EVANS

WILLIAM GAUGHAN

TIM PERRY

LORI REED, CITY CLERK

JAMIE MARCIANO, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

AMIL MINORA, SOLICITOR

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

3 MR. WECHSLER: Roll call, please.

4 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Perry.

5 MR. PERRY: Here.

6 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan. Mr.

7 Evans.

8 MR. EVANS: Here.

9 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan.

10 MR. GAUGHAN: Here.

11 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler.

12 MR. WECHSLER: Here. There was an
13 executive session held last night regarding
14 a pending contract. City Hall will be
15 closed this Friday, March 25, in observance
16 of Good Friday. The DPW will be working
17 this day. They will be off on Monday, March
18 28, therefore, refuse and recycling
19 collection will be delayed by one day next
20 week. It will be collected in blue
21 recycling containers. Council will resume
22 its regular meetings schedule next week.
23 Our next meeting will be on Thursday, March
24 31.

25 Dispense with the reading of the

1 minutes.

2 MS. REED: THIRD ORDER. 3-A.
3 CONTROLLER'S REPORT FOR MONTH ENDING
4 FEBRUARY 29, 2016.

5 MR. WECHSLER: Are there any
6 comments? If not, received and filed.

7 MS. REED: 3-B. MINUTES OF THE
8 SCRANTON FIREFIGHTERS PENSION COMMISSION
9 MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 17, 2016.

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

12 MS. REED: 3-C. MINUTES OF THE
13 COMPOSITE PENSION BOARD MEETING HELD
14 FEBRUARY 17, 2016.

15 MR. WECHSLER: Are there any
16 comments? If not, received and filed.

17 MS. REED: 3-D. MINUTES OF THE
18 NON-UNIFORM MUNICIPAL PENSION BOARD MEETING
19 HELD FEBRUARY 17, 2016.

20 MR. WECHSLER: Are there any
21 comments? If not, received and filed.

22 MS. REED: 3-E. AGENDA FOR THE
23 NON-UNIFORM MUNICIPAL PENSION BOARD MEETING
24 HELD MARCH 16, 2016.

25 MR. WECHSLER: Are there any

1 comments? If not, received and filed.

2 Do any council members have
3 announcements at this time?

4 MS. REED: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'
5 PARTICIPATION.

6 MR. WECHSLER: Steve Patrick.

7 MR. PATRICK: Good evening, Council.
8 I have some photographs I'd like to present
9 to you. I submitted a petition about three
10 weeks ago with 79 residents against Shay
11 Demolition clearing a lot of Pike Street for
12 all of those heavy equipment and large
13 trucks, I would like to know if you have
14 made any decisions yet about this matter?

15 Number two, I would also like to
16 know why Pike Street is marked "Dead End" or
17 "No outlet" cannot be posted, "No Trucks
18 Allowed. Local Deliveries Only. Fines
19 Imposed."

20 There isn't any reason truck traffic
21 would want to drive down a no outlet street.
22 The signs were posted 13 years ago so please
23 vote on it and put it into law.

24 Number three. Why is zoning
25 allowing two driveways to be installed on

1 Pike Street. There isn't proper visibility
2 on one of them because it's located on a
3 turn in the road. I almost hit one of his
4 trucks two weeks ago when he came out of
5 woods after dumping. I also believe that
6 Shay Demolition is installing his driveway
7 in a residential zone. I spoke to Pat
8 Hinton and he told me that he would look
9 into it. Shay's trucks are also depositing
10 rocks and mud on Pike Street and just
11 driving off. They are driving off the road,
12 they can't make a turn after dumping and are
13 creating deep ruts on the shoulder of the
14 road which can pull our cars into the ditch.
15 This is a dangerous situation. Let's face
16 it, this street isn't wide enough for truck
17 traffic.

18 MR. WECHSLER: We had taken your
19 concerns back to Director Gallagher and to
20 city engineer John Pocius and I have not
21 heard anything back from him yet except that
22 they the originally had said that they had
23 reviewed the development up there and then
24 they had told me it was in compliance with
25 the zoning.

1 MR. PATRICK: Well, the only thing I
2 did speak with Mr. Pocius, but he said it
3 was very difficult to close the street off
4 for truck traffic and I said to him, "How
5 could it be? It's a dead end street. What
6 truck driver in their right mind would want
7 to go down a dead end street and try to turn
8 around? Why can't they post it?"

9 And I never got an answer after
10 that.

11 MR. WECHSLER: Like I said, we did
12 take your concerns again and at a city
13 council we can only present these facts --

14 MR. PATRICK: Sure, I understand.

15 MR. WECHSLER: -- the administration
16 and we can continue to do that now, I
17 understand that Mr. Bulzoni was up there?

18 MR. PATRICK: I'm sorry, I can't
19 hear.

20 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Bulzoni was up
21 there?

22 MR. PATRICK: Yes. Yes.

23 MR. WECHSLER: Looking at the road?

24 MR. PATRICK: Yes, he was talking
25 about tarring and chipping it, and as you

1 see in those photos it's so cracked that I
2 don't believe tarring and chipping is going
3 to really do any good. After it's done,
4 Shay is going to drive his tri-axles and
5 over 50 tons on it and it's just -- you know
6 what it's going to do, it's going to tear
7 right up again, so it's going to be a waste
8 of money I believe. So I appreciate your
9 concerns and any comments you can give to me
10 in the future.

11 MR. WECHSLER: Like I said, we will
12 resubmit these concerns again and see if it
13 changes any opinions.

14 MR. PATRICK: Thank you.

15 MR. WECHSLER: Joan Hodowanitz.

16 MS. HODOWANITZ: Joan Hodowanitz,
17 city resident and taxpayer. I just gave you
18 a copy of the extract from the Home Rule
19 Charter on Article III, city council. If
20 your turn your attention to the second page,
21 Section 313, Annual Independent Post-Audit.
22 "Council shall provide for an independent
23 audit of all city revenue and accounts by
24 certified public accountant," etcetera,
25 etcetera.

1 If you turn your attention to the
2 very last sentence, which I highlighted in
3 yellow, "A summary of the fiscal affairs
4 shall be published in the local newspapers
5 by May 31 of each year."

6 Now that we have the 2014 audit I
7 look forward with anticipation to see the
8 summary that you shall provide to the
9 Times-Tribune in the near future. I would
10 also like to remind you that the 2015 audit
11 should be published in the newspaper in 69
12 days so you have your work cut out for you.

13 Earlier this week on March 21 I give
14 each one of you a copy of my questions to
15 the Office of Business Administration with
16 regard to the 2014 independent audit. You
17 should also know that on that day I asked --
18 requested an appointment with Mr. Bulzoni
19 and the mayor and I have yet to hear back,
20 actually I requested an appointment back on
21 March 16 the day I found out that the audit
22 had been completed and it's been one week.
23 I doubt very much I'll get the courtesy of a
24 return phone call, I think I'll just be
25 ignored, but what am I, just a resident and

1 a taxpayer.

2 I would still like to know where the
3 audit was between the dates of March 4, it's
4 publication date, and March 15, the date it
5 surfaced. What was it doing for 11 days?

6 MR. WECHSLER: According to Mr.
7 Bulzoni the audit draft one was dated March
8 14 --

9 MR. HODOWANITZ: Fourth.

10 MR. WECHSLER: I'm sorry, March 4,
11 and Mr. Bulzoni received it and approved it
12 on March 11.

13 MS. HODOWANITZ: Then that's an
14 issue with SB & Company. One does not date
15 an audit and sit on it, especially one as
16 late as this one. That needs to be pursued
17 with the auditor. That's not professional.
18 That's not appropriate if that's true.

19 Did SB & Company provide an exiting
20 briefing? If so, when and who was there?

21 MR. WECHSLER: No, it did not.

22 MS. HODOWANITZ: Is it going to
23 provide an exit brief in the near future?

24 MR. WECHSLER: After last week's
25 meeting we were in contact with Business

1 Administrator Bulzoni and we are efforting
2 with him to be a participant in that.

3 MS. HODOWANITZ: Okay. I'm very
4 curious to see exactly what Rainey & Rainey
5 accomplished last year. As you can tell
6 from my memorandum, there are a lot of
7 internal inconsistencies in that document
8 which are in excusable so it looks to me
9 like no one proofread the document.

10 On one page of the document there
11 are five sentences missing words. Four of
12 the sentences have no subject and that could
13 not have been proofread.

14 At any rate we'll keep on with this
15 week by week. Oh, by the way, the audit is
16 not yet on the city website and I would like
17 to know if we have any feedback of what we
18 plan to do about our two adverse opinions.

19 A separate subject, if you recall
20 last June Jim Lockwood did a story about an
21 individual who was hired who apparently had
22 a relative who was a close friend of
23 Mr. Courtright who had been a donor to
24 Mr. Courtright's campaign. This individual
25 was hired and worked in public works I

1 believe and had a conviction as a felon.
2 Last January we hired 15 new firefighters.
3 It would appear that the nephew of this DPW
4 worker and the son of the donor is one of
5 the new hires. That's wonderful. God bless
6 anybody willing to become a firefighter,
7 with one exception why would we ever hire
8 anyone as a city worker who has not paid
9 their property taxes for the last two years
10 or their garbage fees for the last three
11 years. If I have to pay my taxes and pay
12 that man's salary he should be a citizen in
13 good standing before we offer him a job, but
14 then I'm only a taxpayer and a resident.

15 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Gerard
16 Hetman.

17 MR. HETMAN: Good evening, Council.
18 Gerard Hetman from Lackawanna County's
19 Community Relations Department. My
20 condolences to Mr. Rogan on the passing of
21 his dad. I never had the chance to meet Mr.
22 Rogan but I'm sure he is proud of his son.
23 My thoughts and prayers are with his family.

24 To begin this evening, regarding the
25 request for council on the tax exemption

1 from new home construction in cooperation
2 with the county, in my meetings with the
3 commissioners the commissioners broadly
4 support the idea as proposed by council, but
5 the commissioners wish to wait to act until
6 both local taxing bodies pass the
7 legislation necessary to make this happen.
8 This is the county standard procedure in
9 recent years when dealing with local tax
10 exemption requests such as LERTAs, and one
11 of my either assignments I dealt with Moscow
12 Borough on LERTA and we waited until Moscow
13 Borough and North Pocono School District
14 passed their legislation before the county
15 would. The theory on this is that the two
16 local taxing bodies know the project best
17 and that they can best advise the county, so
18 to say, on the validity of the projects by
19 passing it first. This also eliminates the
20 need for the County to pass amended
21 legislation if we pass it before the city
22 and the school districts.

23 If council wishes to speak with the
24 commissioners on the issue, we will be happy
25 to arrange a meeting.

1 Also, the Lackawanna County Coal
2 Mine Tour is one of 20 attractions
3 nationwide to be listed in the top all
4 around attractions category as a USA ten
5 best Reader's Choice Awards. Voting is now
6 open on-line and runs until Monday, April
7 11, at 11:59 p.m. To vote, visit
8 www.tenbest.com/awards/travel or visit the
9 link on the Lackawanna County website and
10 Facebook page. You can vote once per day.
11 Please also share the link via your social
12 media pages, and I recently observed the
13 Pennsylvania Department of Environmental
14 Protection Bureau of Deep Mine Safety Rescue
15 Team conduct a rescue training exercise in
16 the mine last week. If you get a chance,
17 check out the photos on our Facebook page
18 and the Scranton Times website. They have a
19 photo gallery and some really neat images
20 from the exercise.

21 Our Parks and Recreation master
22 schedule is now available. This lists of
23 all camps, clinics, and sports leagues for
24 children and adults at all of our county
25 parks this year. It's available on the

1 County website at LackawannaCounty.org. We
2 will also provide a copy to Ms. Reed for our
3 bulletin board and I appreciate your
4 cooperation on that. Both of the individual
5 fliers list the programs available as they
6 open up for registration.

7 And, finally, the Lackawanna County
8 Tax Claim Bureau's 2016 judicial sale will
9 be held on Monday, March 28, at 10 a.m. at
10 the Lackawanna County Courthouse. The last
11 day to pay on those properties is Thursday,
12 March 21 -- or, excuse me, Thursday, March
13 24, due to the courthouse being closed on
14 Good Friday. That is all I have for this
15 evening.

16 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Hetman, one
17 question?

18 MR. HETMAN: Sure.

19 MR. WECHSLER: How is your birthday?

20 MR. HETMAN: Oh, it's tomorrow, sir.

21 MR. WECHSLER: Happy birthday.

22 MR. HETMAN: Thank you. Appreciate
23 it. As I said, we'll wait for council's
24 actions on the tax exemption request. If
25 any of you have any questions on it or wish

1 to speak to the commissioners we would be
2 happy to do so. This has been a standing
3 procedure, and again, the commissioners have
4 always felt previously as do the current
5 administration that the two local bodies
6 know the project best so it's just kind of
7 watching from their end that they would pass
8 it first and then the County would offer our
9 support to support the local emphasis on it
10 so we look forward to working with you on
11 it.

12 MR. PERRY: We are glad that you're
13 here, were your ears ringing today?

14 MR. HETMAN: What's that?

15 MR. PERRY: Were your ears ringing
16 today? We were talking as this tax
17 abatement goes forward one of the questions
18 was is the County still on board.

19 MR. HETMAN: Oh, absolutely, sure.

20 MR. PERRY: And here you are talking
21 about it today so we are very happy to hear
22 that.

23 MR. HETMAN: Oh, thank you. Sure,
24 it's just standard procedure, something we
25 don't always get the local body as we did

1 with guys, you folks coming out very I don't
2 want to say aggressively, very actively
3 seeking our cooperation. Sometimes it
4 starts a little bit slower and we kind of
5 get wind of it so actually I actually
6 compliment all of you folks for being active
7 right from the start and engaging us, we
8 appreciate it so we'll keep moving on with
9 your cooperation. Thank you.

10 MR. WECHSLER: Enjoy your day
11 tomorrow.

12 MR. HETMAN: Thanks.

13 MR. WECHSLER: Fay Franus.

14 MS. FRANUS: Fay Franus, Scranton.
15 I'd like to start off tonight by mentioning
16 something, Marie Schumacher for the last
17 three weeks has been asking this council,
18 and I'll read what she asks, she asks this
19 council to write a letter to the business
20 administrator asking to have MUNI service
21 provide actuals for each budget line item
22 monthly. Three times she has asked this
23 council to write this letter, has anybody
24 done this yet for her?

25 MR. EVANS: I had a conversation

1 with Mr. Bulzoni and I gave Ms. Schumacher
2 the answer -- Ms. Schumacher the answer.

3 MS. FRANUS: Okay.

4 MR. EVANS: So I think that's better
5 than a letter.

6 MS. FRANUS: Pardon me?

7 MR. EVANS: I think that's more
8 appropriate than a letter.

9 MS. FRANUS: Okay. Yes, it is.
10 Now, Mr. Wechsler, if you get a chance to
11 look outside you will notice that we are not
12 in North Korea, we're in the United States
13 and I do believe you owe Mr. Ellman an
14 apology. You really crushed him with that
15 freedom of speech the way you carry on. I
16 mean, the way you talk to people is
17 unbelievable. It's like a dictator. I
18 think the people have had enough of it.

19 Now, I want to ask Mr. Evans a
20 question so I'll ask you, Mr. Wechsler, to
21 ask Mr. Evans and whoever wants to answer
22 can answer.

23 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Evans can answer
24 any questions that he chooses to, but please
25 just direct the questions to me.

1 MS. FRANUS: I know that. Here's
2 the question, does it cost anything for a
3 study commission for the garbage fee? You
4 say you are going to have a study
5 commission, is that going to cost anything?

6 MR. EVANS: It's not a study, the
7 commission is going to be a study and we
8 have asked the administration to look for
9 grant money and if there is grant money
10 available for that so, yes.

11 MS. FRANUS: It won't be people that
12 you can pick out and choose.

13 MR. EVANS: Oh, no, no. It will be a
14 study.

15 MS. FRANUS: Let me ask you this,
16 why would you even pay one penny of any
17 grant money that goes someplace else when
18 all you have to do as the Finance Chair is
19 go talk to Mr. Bulzoni or talk to Wayne Beck
20 and get any answer you want. I have been
21 asking since last March, a year, to find out
22 what money comes in and what money goes out
23 and to this day I haven't gotten one answer.

24 MR. EVANS: Well, the way the
25 accounts are set up they are not set up

1 appropriately to get those answers.

2 MS. FRANUS: Pardon me?

3 MR. EVANS: The accounts are not set
4 up appropriately to GET those answers.

5 MS. FRANUS: The accounts are not
6 set up appropriately?

7 MR. EVANS: You have to have a
8 specific account for all of those things
9 that are associated with garbage and that's
10 simply not the case right now.

11 MS. FRANUS: Why? I mean --

12 MR. EVANS: I don't know why but
13 that's not the case, that's why we haven't
14 been able to get an answer.

15 MS. FRANUS: It may not be the case,
16 Mr. Evans, but we been doing this for years
17 so you are trying to say it took years for
18 you to find out they haven't been doing it
19 correctly to get these answers?

20 MR. EVANS: That's were we are
21 asking for a comprehensive study so we can
22 find out once and for all what the true cost
23 is of garbage collection so we can find out
24 what the cost should be.

25 MS. FRANUS: I can't even comprehend

1 this. This is ridiculous. If you go to
2 Bulzoni and say, "What's coming in --" and
3 Wayne Beck, the treasurer, "What's coming in
4 and what's going out, "you're trying to tell
5 me they can't tell you, they don't have
6 records right in front of them?

7 MR. EVANS: That doesn't include the
8 cost of the trucks and the --

9 MS. FRANUS: Well, that's written
10 down some place, isn't it.

11 MR. EVANS: What?

12 MS. FRANUS: Isn't that written down
13 some place? They have bills. The garbage
14 collection people have the -- DPW have
15 bills.

16 MR. EVANS: Apparently it's not
17 written down at that level to get a true
18 cost.

19 MS. FRANUS: Then something is
20 drastically wrong and I'm shocked that it
21 took this many years for you to finally
22 notice that something isn't right. I mean,
23 I have been asking for a year, nothing,
24 nothing has been done.

25 MR. PERRY: Well, I don't want to

1 interrupt your time and, please, give her
2 another 30 seconds, a minute, but --

3 MS. FRANUS: Sure, go ahead.

4 MR. PERRY: But just to help, I was
5 at the meeting also with Wayne and we talked
6 about this for well over an hour and the
7 root of the issue why we need to do more
8 research on this and get a third party in
9 here to see is what was going is to actually
10 see how much money is coming in and how much
11 is going out is that DPW is in charge of a
12 heck of a lot more than garbage so the uses
13 of their trucks and their time we need to
14 like integrate that out and see how much is
15 actually dedicated to the collection of
16 garbage and in turn how much money do we
17 need to get in from the city as a fee to pay
18 for that time, and that's where we kind of
19 just ping pong the ball around the room and
20 nobody really had an answer and that's where
21 we came to this --

22 MS. FRANUS: I understand this, but
23 I have been asking this question for a year.

24 MR. PERRY: I'm as frustrated, I
25 can't do anything about the time it took

1 but, you know, I know we are doing something
2 about it right now and that's kind of where
3 we are with it.

4 MS. FRANUS: I understand that, but
5 I think it just goes to show your lack of --
6 not you particularly, but council's lack of
7 --

8 MR. WECHSLER: I disagree. Excuse
9 me one minute, based on the questions that
10 you and other speakers asked about we did go
11 and contact Business Administrator Bulzoni,
12 we also contacted the advisors from the
13 Pennsylvania Economy League. We are the
14 ones that got the ball rolling on this to
15 take a look at answering your questions.

16 MS. FRANUS: After a year, thank
17 you.

18 MR. EVANS: No, this question was
19 answered in the same fashion months ago.

20 MS. FRANUS: No, it wasn't.

21 MR. EVANS: Yes, it was.

22 MS. FRANUS: No one came to me with
23 any figures ever.

24 MR. EVANS: You didn't ask me
25 personally.

1 MS. FRANUS: Pardon me?

2 MR. EVANS: Mrs. Schumacher asked me
3 and we gave her the answer.

4 MS. FRANUS: Are you trying to say I
5 didn't ask you, Wayne?

6 MR. EVANS: And we gave Ms.
7 Schumacher the answer quite awhile ago, and
8 that answered all -- the lack of enterprise
9 accounts and I gave her exactly what Mr.
10 Bulzoni told us. The reality is we want to
11 get to the bottom of this just as much as
12 you do, I know it took a long time to get to
13 this point, or at least you feel that way,
14 but the reality is we want to find out once
15 and for all what the true cost is, that's
16 our mission and that's our goal and we are
17 going to do that.

18 MS. FRANUS: Do you have any idea
19 how long that will take?

20 MR. EVANS: The study, they are
21 searching for the money now, there is
22 opportunities for the grant money to get it
23 in and we are going to do it as soon as we
24 can.

25 MS. FRANUS: No, but how long do you

1 think this study is going to take?

2 MR. EVANS: Hopefully do it this
3 year.

4 MS. FRANUS: This year?

5 MR. WECHSLER: We are anxious to get
6 it completed before next year's budget.

7 MS. FRANUS: So you should have it
8 for next year's budget.

9 MR. WECHSLER: Anxious to get to
10 that. I can't guarantee that, but, once
11 again, just to repeat, based on the concerns
12 that were raised here we did start the
13 actions and start reviewing the garbage fee.

14 MS. FRANUS: Okay, and just one
15 more--

16 MR. WECHSLER: And the fact that we
17 started the process doesn't mean that we are
18 going to get the answers in a timetable
19 that's acceptable to everyone, but we did
20 start the process.

21 MS. FRANUS: I appreciate that.
22 Just one more thing about the audit, what
23 Joan was saying is exceptional and how much
24 of a job is councils to make sure that this
25 audit for 2015 is done on time? It took

1 over a year to get the 2014.

2 MR. WECHSLER: All we can do is prod
3 them along. We have no control over the
4 physical audit, but we talk to Mr. Bulzoni
5 on a weekly basis and we get updates and we
6 are trying to move the process along as best
7 we can. You know, we don't have the power
8 to push the audit.

9 MS. FRANUS: Thank you very much.

10 MR. WECHSLER: Les Spindler.

11 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening,
12 Council. Les Spindler, city resident and
13 homeowner and taxpayer. First off, my
14 thoughts and prayers go out to Councilman
15 Rogan and his family on the passing of his
16 dad. It was very sad to here that news
17 tonight.

18 I wasn't going to talk about this
19 but since Ms. Franus brought it up, I have
20 talked about this subject for years and
21 years since the last administration. I have
22 a question, whoever wants to answer it, do
23 our property taxes go towards garbage
24 correction? Does anyone know? And I know.
25 Well, they do. So why do we have to pay an

1 extra fee? I have complained about this
2 probably for 12, 13 years, it's illegal, I
3 wish somebody would take it to Court and
4 fight it because it's a double tax and it is
5 a tax not a fee, it's ridiculous. That's
6 what we pay property taxes for and we pay
7 high property tax, it should be abolished.
8 Not lowered, abolished. That's all I want
9 to say about that because I'm getting fed up
10 with it. It's illegal.

11 Something I brought up last week or
12 two weeks ago when I was here, Councilman
13 Rogan looked into it, Denny Gallagher met
14 with the project manager when Farr Street was
15 -- half the street was paved, I spoke to the
16 mayor this summer and the city was going to
17 pave Dorothy Street and Farr Street, the gas
18 company said they are digging it up so they
19 would pave it. Farr Street was half paved
20 and Councilman Rogan was told they are not
21 going to pave it anymore. I think the city
22 should take them to Court and have them do
23 the correct job because the city was going
24 to do it, they were told the gas company was
25 going to do it and then they lied. They

1 should be taken to court and have them do
2 that street correctly. That's all I have to
3 say on that subject tonight.

4 I might be in the minority here, but
5 I was thrilled to hear in the news that the
6 police officers and firefighters are finally
7 going to get the money coming to them and
8 for the people critical of the mayor and,
9 Councilman Gaughan, you are one of them,
10 this was none of his doing, he corrected
11 something that was done by the previous
12 administration that had to be done. We were
13 paying \$100,000 in interest every month. It
14 seems that, Councilman Gaughan, anything the
15 mayor says or does you are critical of him.

16 In the paper last week when the
17 mayor announced the settlement agreement you
18 said it was short on details. Well, if you
19 ready the paper and listened to the news he
20 didn't have any details, all he knows is
21 there was an agreement. He said they didn't
22 have any financial details, the accountant
23 was still working on that, why are you
24 always so critical of the mayor? He had no
25 details to give, that's why he was short on

1 details.

2 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Then why did he
3 announce it?

4 MR. SPINDLER: He announced it
5 because they made an agreement. I guess you
6 are not going to answer my question.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: What exactly is your
8 question?

9 MR. SPINDLER: Why you are so
10 critical of the mayor every time he says or
11 does anything?

12 MR. GAUGHAN: He hasn't said or
13 doesn't much in my opinion in the past two
14 years.

15 MR. SPINDLER: That's your opinion,
16 but I think he --

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Well --

18 MR. SPINDLER: --we needed this
19 agreement, it took years and years, it
20 should have been done years ago and it Chris
21 Doherty sat down years ago, like, that's not
22 -- where were you years ago when Chris
23 Doherty was driving the city into the
24 ground? I know I was here every week saying
25 this was going to happen. Myself, Lee

1 Morgan, many other names, too many to talk
2 about tonight, and they just got disgusted
3 and don't come here anymore, and if this was
4 done years ago we wouldn't be in this mess
5 now. The mayor did the only thing he could
6 do, we needed an agreement. Whether our
7 children and grandchildren are going to pay
8 for it it's not the mayor's fault, it was
9 Chris Doherty's fault because he didn't
10 negotiate a contact with the unions. He
11 tried to break the unions, he failed, and
12 the taxpayers are paying it for him. I
13 think that's all I have to say tonight.
14 Thank you for your time.

15 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Ron
16 Ellman.

17 MR. ELLMAN: Hello, Council. Monday
18 night I was one of the 400 people that
19 attended the meeting about the landfill. It
20 sort of reminded of the 60's and the TV
21 shows and hold up signs saying applaud, sit
22 down and be quiet, moan, whatever. This
23 crowd just jumped, you know, just acted like
24 they were being told what to do. I don't
25 know, I don't know how they felt, but one of

1 the girls selling the shirts outside told me
2 they expected to have more people, but it
3 seemed successful but at 7:30 I left there
4 was empty seats there already. I don't
5 know, something didn't hold people's
6 attention and Mrs. Gibbs is sort of an
7 over-the-hill forgotten activist and it
8 seems like Mrs. Dempsey wants to being 20
9 Mrs. Gibbs rolled up in one, but I know she
10 has been trying to pursue the source of the
11 black goo I guess it is and can't seem to --
12 the government said it wasn't the landfill
13 that she needs to do is pursue everybody
14 past the landfill in the industrial section
15 go to Mid-Valley check the car washes, check
16 the cleaning establishments, they have
17 solvents that go through the system, that
18 wasn't too much for me to -- I didn't find
19 it too important for the city. It was
20 supposed to be, but it didn't impress me.

21 Let me tell you what happened, I
22 talked to little fellow that bought a
23 building or like a hundred-year-old building
24 and he got some dumpsters and he cleaned it
25 out and remodeled, he paid all of his taxes

1 and permits to do everything and building
2 permits and he filled up two or three
3 dumpsters remodeling and cleaning much he
4 ordered another dumpster they dumped it on
5 the street on Cedar Avenue. No one told him
6 to get a permit for it or move it or
7 nothing, he got a great big ticket. You
8 know, this isn't right. This city has just
9 become, I don't know, just unfriendly to
10 jobs, unfriendly to businesses, there wasn't
11 no reason for somebody just telling you you
12 have to get a permit if you want to leave it
13 in the street. We are anti everything it
14 seems. Well, he said he will go on, you
15 know, but I think he ought to take the
16 ticket to the mayor's office and see if it
17 could be taken care of because this was --
18 that wasn't called for someone trying to do
19 the right thing.

20 And I know you won't like this, but
21 Mr. Kelly, who I think his column is third
22 or fourth rate, it's not entertaining to me,
23 it's not informative, it's not amusing and
24 for him to I guess ridicule Mr. Courtright
25 for being -- I'm sorry.

1 MR. EVANS: Courtright.

2 MR. ELLMAN: Courtright to be in
3 Washington about the Flint, Michigan,
4 scenario was wrong. Mr. Casey is the one
5 that should be in Washington. If Mr. Casey
6 is so interested in local politics he should
7 just stayed here and let somebody have that
8 job since you never hear his name mentioned
9 or anything. He should have run against
10 Mr. Blake or somebody. I think that column
11 was completely uncalled for. Thank you.

12 MR. WECHSLER: Doug Miller.

13 MR. MILLER: Good evening, Council.
14 Doug Miller, Scranton. You know, as I stand
15 back here this evening I just listened to
16 the total just utter silliness of us
17 discussing grant money, it's just completely
18 just comical. Utter silliness. That's all
19 this city knows is grant money and we have
20 relied heavily on federal grant money for
21 decades. You know, the North Scranton
22 project, that was one of my pet peeves. You
23 know, it's nice to talk about these
24 projects, but my question tonight would be
25 is how much of the developer's own money was

1 invested in that project? A building that
2 years ago we wanted to tear down and it was
3 a detriment to the city. You know, the same
4 thing with a lot of other buildings in the
5 community that have been revitalized. The
6 problem is we are dealing with incompetent
7 people and I'd like to know really tonight,
8 a really important question, is when is the
9 last time the City of Scranton invested in a
10 major project using it's own revenue? You'd
11 probably have to go back a long, long time.

12 It's not just a city relying on
13 grant money, you've got your nonprofits and
14 KOZ's and every other organization and every
15 other leach out there doing the same thing
16 so it's not just you. You know, I had the
17 opportunity a few weeks ago to spend some
18 time in Ohio involved with the Trump
19 campaign and I spent some time there and,
20 know, you tell people where you are from and
21 you're from Scranton and the first thing
22 they do with you is they laugh at you and
23 they just think it's a joke. And to be
24 truthful, I laugh right along with them
25 because I know what a joke this city is,

1 too. They know we have lot of morons in our
2 government who have lead us down the path of
3 destruction. There is no leadership in this
4 city. See, there is a difference, there is
5 leaders and there is puppets and we have
6 nothing but puppets in the city starting
7 with the man downstairs. It's nice to talk
8 about reaching an agreement, it's nice to go
9 back for the last decade and blame
10 Mr. Doherty and believe me, I'm not going to
11 stand up here and defend the man, he could
12 have done a lot of things with the unions,
13 he could have sat down at the negotiating
14 table and worked out an agreement, but for
15 Mr. Courtright to come forward and act as
16 though he it he Messiah and solve our
17 problems, you know, he made the comment that
18 all we have done is kicked the can down the
19 road and he is absolutely right and that's
20 exactly what we are doing with his plan here
21 as well because now we are just going to
22 continue to saddle the taxpayers with more
23 debt that they can no longer afford to take
24 on, and forget about my generation now we
25 are tacking this on to generations and

1 generations after that and it's just
2 completely ridiculous. And the other thing
3 we have to highlight, you know, people want
4 to criticize Mr. Gaughan who is absolutely
5 right. Mr. Courtright hasn't done a darn
6 thing for this city in two years and let's
7 remember he sat on this council for six of
8 those 12 years. He wants to be the champion
9 for everybody but what did he do the six and
10 12 years? He is a puppet. He sat there in
11 silence. He is a cheerleader. This city
12 needs leadership and we haven't had it in a
13 long time, and I think you are going to see
14 a major shakeup take place nationally and I
15 think next year in this election but the
16 people that we don't have here, the hacks we
17 have in our government we are going to get
18 rid of you, we are going to vote you out.

19 Mr. Wechsler, I mean, your actions
20 here you have been a very disrespectful
21 person in my opinion, that's not just me,
22 that's coming from people I talk to. This
23 isn't a dictatorship. I believe Mr. Ellman
24 was treated with disrespect, he has every
25 right to come to this podium. Whether he

1 signed the sheet or he didn't or he stepped
2 out or didn't want to speak at that time
3 it's his freedom of speech. We don't come
4 up here to write you people love letters and
5 Right-to-Know requests and all of this
6 silliness. We expect you to do the research
7 and put the time into it. You dedicated
8 yourselves to this job, you wanted it, well,
9 you have it, you got the keys to this city
10 and so far the majority of you, 99.9 percent
11 of you, haven't done a darn thing because
12 you have got nothing to offer this in city
13 because you are clueless people.

14 And, you know, Mr. Gaughan I
15 appreciate what you are doing, continue to
16 do what you are doing, you are one guy and
17 it's hard to do something when you are only
18 one guy but you know what at least you speak
19 up, you are not a puppet and we have had a
20 lot of those in this community that's why we
21 are in the position we are today. We need
22 to start electing independent people in this
23 community and it hasn't happened because
24 they get shunned away and special interests
25 and money take over.

1 You know, just taking a look around
2 the Novembrino pool project, you know, we
3 are getting to the time of year, year after
4 year I discussed this issues with the
5 swimming pools and we are going to go
6 another summer season without swimming pools
7 being available throughout the
8 neighborhoods. Novembrino pool, Capouse
9 Avenue pool. You know, the discussion there
10 was a meeting held in west side that we are
11 going to convert Novembrino into a splash
12 park because, you know, again, we are
13 leaching onto some grant money, completely
14 ridiculous. I really feel bad for Mrs.
15 Novembrino and her family, I really do,
16 because the intent was for that to be a
17 swimming pool complex for children, not a
18 splash park. You want to run through a
19 hose, run through a hose, but it just goes
20 to show how incompetent our leadership is
21 that we can't even maintain these pools
22 because you have just totally dismantled
23 this city for decades and this is what we
24 are left with, completely incompetent people
25 and it's really sad, but I just don't know

1 colonoscopy and it saved his life, so the
2 message is today to everybody you will wake
3 up but the first question we going to ask
4 are we going to get started and they are
5 going to tell you it's already over with, so
6 don't fear fear itself, fear the
7 consequences if you don't do the proper
8 thing to get a colonoscopy and maybe save
9 your life. So it was a great message that
10 was brought out there today and I'm glad I
11 could bring it out here tonight.

12 I brought up about the mall. Now,
13 we are talking about the city, millions and
14 millions of dollars you are going to borrow
15 here. Regarding for introduction tonight,
16 "D" and "E", you are going to raise 29, 30
17 million or whatever the heck the bottom line
18 is. That's only the gross amount. We are
19 not even looking at what your interest
20 charges are going to be over 20 years or 20
21 some years. It's like kicking the kids in
22 the face of future generations over a deal
23 like this.

24 I have all respect for Mr. Bulzoni,
25 but he is a banker. Bankers aren't people

1 who generally think outside of the box,
2 that's your jobs here and the mayor. He can
3 look at numbers, he will be moving on and
4 everybody moves on, but you are going to
5 leave this burden to the people in this city
6 that are triple taxed to death here between
7 the school district, the county and the city
8 taxes, and you want this to be a good place
9 to live. You can't do what you are doing.
10 This has to be renegotiated. Bulzoni and
11 the mayor are not negotiators. It's not
12 their business. Backers aren't negotiators.
13 They take your money, they charge you an
14 interest, many businesses have been put out
15 of business by bankers who couldn't think
16 outside of box or take an individual for
17 what their net worth or what they could do
18 because they were thinking people going and
19 earning a living.

20 So with that I think you need to
21 really take a real, real hard look at where
22 you are going with this before you even
23 introduce this. I think you need much more
24 information than you have already been
25 given. True, there is union contracts, but

1 there is other remedies. We can't
2 prostitute the people in the city anymore
3 and you have to start looking for other
4 remedies. You have to start thinking,
5 you've got to start negotiating, and start
6 negotiating from a point of strength. We do
7 have strength in this community, and to just
8 give the farm away over the next 20 years
9 with the interest is like giving 50 or 60
10 million dollars away keep that in mind and
11 you are going to burden the kids on top of
12 all of the debt you already have.

13 You are looking to sell the Sewer
14 Authority, cancel the sale of the Sewer
15 Authority, take it over by the city and run
16 it like a business. Cut out the deadbeats,
17 cut out the dead weight and make it
18 profitable, which it can be. Nobody has
19 bothered to take a look at it.

20 Same with the county, put a fee
21 across the whole county if necessary, 1
22 percent on gross. KOZ's, nonprofits, they
23 all pay their fair share to be in this
24 community. You will pay your debt off, let
25 them take their percentage, the city gets

1 their percentage, you will pay your debt
2 off. You don't need to borrow the money to
3 pay the debt off and kill everybody in this
4 community. The simplicity is increase the
5 tax base you will decrease the tax rate and
6 you'll make the city grow.

7 Overtime, when I saw that in the
8 paper let's go to a volunteer fire
9 department, part-timers. Cut the costs.
10 Let's not just sit there and say, "Oh, we
11 bid this in a contract, we bid --" it's
12 called negotiations. Negotiations on behalf
13 of the people of this community. Everybody
14 is entitled to a fair wage, but that was an
15 absurdity. Absolute absurdity, okay, and
16 you can't sit here and just ignore it.

17 What you have to do is look at our
18 asset base and make it them make money.
19 That's the key here, make money. Don't give
20 it away, earn the income that we are
21 entitled to earn.

22 I brought up about the mall numerous
23 times here and everybody here buried their
24 heads in the sand, I guess it's a political
25 issue, it's not a common sense issue. It's

1 assessed at \$3 million. I've got a stupid
2 church that you were going to tear down and
3 pay two bucks for I pay \$35,000 for and you
4 assessed me at a half a million bucks. Now
5 you tell me the common sense in what went on
6 here, yet you let this at \$3 million. Get
7 with the county, do a fair assessment of it
8 because you know what, gentlemen, that's
9 city taxpayers' money you are blowing down
10 the toilet and you are not doing anything to
11 recapture it, but yet you want to borrow \$30
12 million. This is the simplicity of doing
13 business in this city and coming up on --

14 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr. Bolus.

15 MR. BOLUS: -- about realtor signs --
16 I understand that.

17 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Bolus, thank you.

18 MR. BOLUS: Yeah, I understand, Mr.
19 Wechsler, I've got a few more things I'd
20 like to say.

21 MR. WECHSLER: You had your time.

22 MR. BOLUS: You are interrupting
23 people--

24 MR. WECHSLER: You had your time.

25 MR. BOLUS: No, I listened to you

1 interrupt some people just now, I have one
2 or more two things to say and I expect that
3 courtesy --

4 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Bolus, you are
5 out of time.

6 MR. BOLUS: -- for you to listen to
7 one or two more things I have an issue here.

8 MR. WECHSLER: You can come back
9 next week.

10 MR. BOLUS: No, I don't have time
11 next week I'm not on your agenda.

12 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Bolus, you had
13 your time.

14 MR. BOLUS: I heard you interrupt
15 people here, Mr. Wechsler, now give some
16 courtesy back. You seem to sit here and
17 demand, just like you did on East Mountain
18 when we had the Neighborhood sessions.

19 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Bolus --

20 MR. BOLUS: No, don't even Mr. Bolus
21 me, I'm not willing to give you that
22 courtesy --

23 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Bolus, your time
24 is up.

25 MR. BOLUS: You dying for respect,

1 Mr. Wechsler, you earn it and you haven't
2 earned it.

3 MR. WECHSLER: With due respect,
4 your time is up. Please leave.

5 MR. BOLUS: No, I asked one more
6 minute to have another question --

7 MR. WECHSLER: No.

8 MR. BOLUS: You have asked other
9 people --

10 MR. WECHSLER: No, you've had your
11 time. Thank you.

12 MR. BOLUS: Mr. Wechsler, let me
13 tell you something, when I come back here
14 the next time you and I are going to have a
15 face-to-face discussion one-on-one and you
16 are going to be held accountable.

17 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr. Bolus.

18 MR. BOLUS: Don't thank me, I'll be
19 back.

20 MR. WECHSLER: Is there anyone else
21 who would like to address council?

22 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,
23 citizen of Scranton, fellow Scrantonian.
24 Bob brought up a good point, you are not
25 borrowing 32 million you are borrowing

1 probably nearly 70 million and when you
2 borrow \$70 million you have to have
3 accountability. Who caused this fiasco?

4 Now, I sat through it all, I know
5 who caused it. The mayor wanted the manning
6 clause changed. The unions wouldn't give it
7 up, so we decided on a new plan. We just
8 won't give them a raise except for the raise
9 they get for longevity and it came to
10 council. On council where Janet Evans, Bill
11 Courtright, Judy Gatelli, Fanucci, and
12 McGoff. They were on council. Any time the
13 mayor sent that were plan out, the budget to
14 council, they had the right to amend it.
15 Now, Janet Evans and Bill Courtright would
16 have amended it if they could have, but,
17 unfortunately, you need four people to
18 override the mayor's veto and then we
19 couldn't get it. Mr. McGoff was dirtily
20 appointed by the mayor. He came in here and
21 voted for him and this is what it cost us.
22 You can't sit there now and say we are going
23 to pay \$70 million. Nobody caused it. That
24 would be a lie. It was caused by the
25 elected officials. Now, you want to honor

1 them. If you want to honor Mr. McGoff, you
2 should Honor him with a tax increase. You
3 should call that McGoff tax because that's
4 what we will be paying.

5 You cannot cover things up. People
6 cause these things and the people have to
7 pay for it. How many homes are going to be
8 lost? And the mayor did win the right for
9 the manning, but you see how good it was.
10 We got police and firemen making over
11 \$100,000 a year, so that was a big waste,
12 and that's what's wrong with this city. Our
13 elected officials waste too much. They
14 don't look at beyond -- I'm telling you,
15 they don't look past their nose.

16 If you look at the picture of the
17 whole city when they say the average
18 resident in the city only makes \$22,500 or
19 something like that, and the reason why they
20 are making at least that much is because all
21 the people we have on the political system
22 because they make a good wage and they are
23 boosting the wage up.

24 You cannot sit there and try to
25 cover up things, you got to point who caused

1 the cost. You still didn't do anything but
2 who caused the pension crisis. That isn't
3 nothing. You are sitting there and nothing.
4 You never found out who did it. Who ordered
5 it illegally? And the same thing with
6 anything else. You cover everything up
7 because they are political. They are your
8 compadres. I have never heard any of you
9 who have ever said anybody that was
10 appointed that you didn't know. That isn't
11 the way it should be. It shows like you
12 were one big happy family or one big happy
13 machine and you are destroying the city.
14 It's the machine who is the destroying the
15 city, not the residents.

16 Caesar put it very good, "The evil
17 that a man does live long after, but the
18 good is often interred with his bones." And
19 that's what we have here. The evil things
20 that you do live long after you, and people
21 are paying for it, and that's the sad part.
22 You are not true Scrantonians. How can you
23 even say you live here, but you are not a
24 Scrantonian. You don't have the values of a
25 Scrantonian. You've got to believe in the

1 little person, not the big person.

2 I voted for Bill, I know Bill's
3 family real good. Same with Novembrino,
4 they were all my neighbors, I know them very
5 well but for some reason they are not
6 running in the right direction. We all grew
7 up poor, we all were that way, but we all
8 stepped up and got out. We stepped --
9 pulled ourselves up, and the sad part is
10 what good did it do because you are pushing
11 us right back down again. I thank you.

12 MR. WECHSLER: Anyone else?

13 MS. SCHUMACHER: Marie Schumacher,
14 city resident and taxpayer. I'm
15 disappointed that Mr. Rogan isn't here this
16 evening, and I feel bad for the reason, but
17 I think it's time that we are owed an update
18 on the lace company building. I have had
19 the occasion to go by there in the last
20 several weeks several times and that is
21 massive -- a piece of massive blight at this
22 point. We sat here and listened to a lot of
23 presentations and what was going to happen
24 and when is it going to happen? That's the
25 mistake we keep making. Just like with the

1 audit, oh, the end of the month. Well,
2 which month, which year? We are going to do
3 this project, when? Which year is that?
4 And, also, the Jersey Central Railroad
5 building. Taxpayers already invested
6 megabucks, I believe seven figures to put a
7 tiled roof on that building and there it
8 sits empty. Poor investments, gentlemen,
9 very poor.

10 Have each of you read the memorandum
11 of understanding that you are going to be --
12 the agreement that you going to be voting on
13 with 5-D and 5-E tonight in its entirety?

14 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

15 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

16 MS. SCHUMACHER: Then would you tell
17 me, what is the deadline? Is there a
18 deadline for payment included in that
19 memorandum?

20 MR. WECHSLER: June 30.

21 MS. SCHUMACHER: Pardon?

22 MR. WECHSLER: June 30.

23 MS. SCHUMACHER: What are the
24 consequences if it's not paid?

25 MR. WECHSLER: The deal is null and

1 void. The mediated settlement is null and
2 void. It goes back to where we are today
3 and the interest starts ticking again.

4 MS. SCHUMACHER: But there is no
5 interest being -- from now until June --

6 MR. WECHSLER: The interest is
7 stopped, yes.

8 MS. SCHUMACHER: -- 30?

9 MR. EVANS: The clock has stopped,
10 yes.

11 MS. SCHUMACHER: And, you, now, we
12 have all of this stuff in the paper about
13 how wonderful we have got this deal or
14 deals, and several of the bond sites have
15 been saying that it looks as though the city
16 is going to go to the stranded debt of the
17 Parking Authority to be part of this and
18 that totally boggles my mind, has anybody
19 checked into that and how is that repayment?
20 Is there going to be a fee or--

21 MR. WECHSLER: What's happening
22 right now is they are evaluating the best
23 way to handle all of the long-term debt
24 including the suspended debt if there is any
25 from the Parking Authority. Also, the

1 long-term debt that's going to result from
2 this agreement if it passes, so they are
3 looking at it as an overall plan.

4 MS. SCHUMACHER: And when is that
5 being completed?

6 MR. WECHSLER: It's being evaluated.

7 MR. EVANS: It could be completed by
8 June 30 if that's the case. If they combine
9 the two, they have to be completed by June
10 30.

11 MS. SCHUMACHER: He said there is
12 other long-term debt that's being looked at.

13 MR. EVANS: Well, Councilmen
14 Wechsler is talking about the stranded debt,
15 that's what you're talking about.

16 MS. SCHUMACHER: I was talking about
17 stranded debt, he said --

18 MR. WECHSLER: Right, but if it's --

19 MS. SCHUMACHER: -- Mr. Wechsler said
20 long-term debt.

21 MR. WECHSLER: If it's possible. If
22 it's possible, I don't know if it's
23 possible, if it's possible to put other debt
24 in there I don't know, I'm not handling
25 that, but I know the plan is to take the two

1 major debts that we have and possibly,
2 finance them together.

3 MS. SCHUMACHER: What is the second
4 major debt?

5 MR. WECHSLER: The stranded debt
6 from the Parking Authority if there is any.

7 MS. SCHUMACHER: And what would be
8 the method of repayment that they are
9 looking at for the stranded debt?

10 MR. WECHSLER: We don't know yet.

11 MR. EVANS: That would come before
12 council.

13 MS. SCHUMACHER: Yeah, I'm sure I
14 know what will happen, too. What is in 5-B
15 tonight I believe it is? I can't read my
16 own writing. Yeah, 5-B, what is the
17 definition of abandoned?

18 MR. EVANS: In this particular case
19 the definition is foreclosed properties that
20 are vacant, for this legislation.

21 MS. SCHUMACHER: Then why doesn't it
22 say that instead of abandoned?

23 MR. EVANS: I'm not sure.

24 MS. SCHUMACHER: Abandoned covers a
25 lot more territory.

1 MR. EVANS: I'm not sure why it says
2 that, but the intent of the ordinance if
3 foreclosed property that is abandoned.

4 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay, thank you.
5 The audit, again, why can you not ask to at
6 least have with respect to the 2015 audit
7 when the -- put some milestones to get us to
8 the end point, tell us what the end point
9 is, will we know what it is?

10 MR. WECHSLER: We have the same
11 problem you do, we ask for milestones, they
12 are established and they are missed.
13 It's --

14 MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, what are
15 they? Let's make them public. Let's maybe
16 look at pressure -- points then we can put
17 pressure on them. Let's go back to progress
18 reports on those milestones. Let's define
19 them, let's look at them at least every
20 other week and tell us what is going on.

21 MR. EVANS: I do agree that we
22 should have an exit interview with SB &
23 Company and ask those questions. I agree
24 100 percent.

25 MS. SCHUMACHER: What about for

1 2015?

2 MR. EVANS: Same thing. Absolutely.

3 MS. SCHUMACHER: Thank you and Happy
4 Easter.

5 MR. EVANS: Thank you. You, too.

6 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.
7 Lee Morgan.

8 MR. GAUGHAN: Good evening.

9 MR. MORGAN: I have a question here
10 today, I'd like know the number of
11 Rights-to-Know filed and received in 2015
12 and the number of Right-to-Knows answered
13 with the requested information? Can I give
14 this to you?

15 MR. WECHSLER: No, you have to --

16 MR. MORGAN: Well, you want
17 questions in writing, don't you? Well,
18 that's my questions?

19 MR. WECHSLER: You can give it to
20 me, but the proper procedure is to file it
21 with the Freedom of Information. I'll
22 request the information.

23 MR. MORGAN: Well, didn't you say
24 you wanted things in writing?

25 MR. WECHSLER: I will. I will

1 accept the question, but I can't guarantee
2 that I will get an answer.

3 MR. MORGAN: Okay.

4 MR. WECHSLER: But I will accept the
5 question.

6 MR. MORGAN: Okay. Now, I'd like to
7 say something else here today, 5-D and 5-E
8 need to be tabled. I don't care what the
9 agreement is between the city firefighters
10 and the city police and the city, it's
11 irrelevant. It really is totally irrelevant
12 what that plan is. The city next year in
13 it's budget needs to cut the budget by 30
14 percent and begin to divert that money to
15 settle this agreement without going to a
16 bank.

17 Now, you know, here's the other
18 thing that really stands out to me where are
19 the city's neighborhood groups that should
20 be engaging our council and our mayor
21 because don't these groups function for the
22 benefit of the neighborhoods? Now, I'm not
23 going to saying this to single anyone out,
24 but I want to say something very straight
25 forward and very honest, Mr. Mulligan is

1 alleged to be the leader of the Greenridge
2 Neighborhood Association. Now, he is a
3 trained attorney, why isn't he filing things
4 in regards to the sewer line going through
5 Greenridge, the American Water, I mean, the
6 agreement with the Sewer Authority, the fire
7 and police agreement. And, look it, I don't
8 want to single this gentleman out, but he
9 has a degree in law, he knows the mechanisms
10 and the processes in law to help the
11 residents of not only Greenridge but this
12 entire city. And I think the other problem
13 we have is that, look it, I'm not going to
14 call anybody a hack because I don't have to
15 say that, I don't have to disrespect anybody
16 and make it personal, but I will say this I
17 don't know how one council member or the
18 mayor can saddle this community with anymore
19 debt, I don't know why in the world we would
20 be taking on more debt when the truth be
21 told is that when the Sewer Authority is
22 gone and when all of these make believe
23 agreements have been taking place that have
24 been finalized this city is going to head to
25 bankruptcy with no assets and so much debt

1 that there is no where to go.

2 And, you know, I live in South Side
3 on Stafford Avenue and I have seen people
4 temporarily buy properties and move in the
5 city and I mean that. I mean, people come
6 in there, they buy them, they clean the
7 house up, they do some work to it, you know,
8 they bring a dumpster in and they just
9 really invest and they are gone. They don't
10 even stay, they put the property up for sale
11 and they are gone. There was a house a
12 couple of blocks from me, I don't know
13 exactly the street it's on but it's really a
14 very nice house, it was probably built in
15 the 60's or early 70's, very nice house.
16 The people lived in it for not even a year.
17 It was for sale and I saw them move out this
18 weekend. Nobody is staying here, and there
19 is a reason why, okay?

20 With the wage base like the city has
21 over an extended period of time and public
22 servants making 100, 120,000 dollars a year
23 and all of the silliness we hear and all of
24 the people who run for public office and say
25 what they are going to do and how they are

1 going to do it and what they are going to
2 accomplish, it's just so ridiculous. It's
3 so twisted, okay? And you just take a look
4 at what -- the average person doesn't watch
5 this meeting, he doesn't have to watch it,
6 he knows he can't live here, he knows his
7 children can't stay here, he knows there is
8 no way to turn this city around, and you
9 don't have to get personal with people over
10 that. There has just been such a lack of
11 leadership, okay? The city probably needs
12 to jettison the vast majority of its
13 employees because a city of 60,000 can't
14 support an infrastructure build an
15 employment base in consideration of twice
16 that number.

17 And, you know, the longer we play
18 and the more make believe we play, you know,
19 you can keep borrowing in the name of the
20 voter and the taxpayer and the resident but
21 they don't have any more money to give, and
22 I firmly believe this, now, this is just me
23 speaking, but, you know, we heard about the
24 sheriff's sales and all of the other
25 silliness but when will Americans realize

1 that the government is stealing everything
2 they own, and like I said to you last week
3 about the British, it's going to come to a
4 point where the sheriff is going to come up
5 on the property and the policemen post the
6 property and somebody is going to shoot
7 them.

8 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr.
9 Morgan.

10 MR. MORGAN: Thank you.

11 MR. WECHSLER: Is there anyone else
12 who would like to address council?

13 MR. GAUGHAN: Mary.

14 MS. GAUGHAN: How are you doing,
15 Councilman Gaughan?

16 MR. GAUGHAN: Where have you been?

17 MS. GAUGHAN: I've been too busy,
18 but not too busy to come and wish everyone a
19 happy Easter. My name is Mary Gaughan and
20 I'm a resident and I would like to say that
21 I commended President Wechsler on the police
22 presence at the parade and how well they
23 were doing their job and I think we owe a
24 debt of gratitude to our council, our mayor
25 and everyone involved.

1 And, also, I was speaking with a
2 good friend Dr. John O'Malley from the
3 University of Scranton, and he informed me
4 that they are having a memorial walk for his
5 son on May 5 at Nay Aug at 10:00 in the
6 morning. Dr. O'Malley taught me at the
7 University and I graduated in 1977 so he is
8 an excellent example of someone that stays
9 in this city, teaches in the city, and pays
10 taxes in the city and is an excellent,
11 excellent resident and thank you for
12 listening and thank you for the police
13 presence at the parade, I hope next year it
14 will be even stronger so that we can get
15 back to celebrating St. Patrick's Day in the
16 way it was intended. Thank you.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

18 MR. WECHSLER: Anyone else?

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

20 MOTIONS.

21 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Perry?

22 MR. PERRY: I just want to send my
23 deepest sympathies to Councilman Rogan and
24 his family. This is a very difficult time
25 for him and his family and I just want him

1 to know he has got a lot of friends and
2 families out there that love him and, you
3 know, no words are ever going to comfort him
4 at this time, but just know that there is a
5 lot of people thinking about him and his
6 family and sending prayers and I'll reserve
7 all my other comments for later.

8 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Mr.
9 Evans.

10 MR. EVANS: Briefly, yes, I also
11 want to offer my deepest condolences to the
12 family of our council colleague Pat Rogan
13 the passing of his dad. You are in our
14 thoughts and our prayers, Pat. As well as
15 my condolences to my cousin, Bob Evans and
16 my cousin Judy Ruane on the passing of their
17 mother and my aunt, Evelyn Evans. A
18 lifelong resident of West Side and a
19 wonderful, wonderful woman.

20 Finally, I want to make one brief
21 comment, I have to tell you I think it's
22 entirely inappropriate for anyone to stand
23 at that podium and criticize someone who is
24 no longer here to defend themselves. That's
25 all I have for now.

1 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Gaughan?

2 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes. I would also
3 like to send my condolences to Councilman
4 Rogan and his family. I can't imagine
5 losing a parent and my prayers are with him
6 at this time.

7 I would like to give everyone a
8 brief update on the Young Lung Program, we
9 have been working and the administration has
10 been working with the American Lung
11 Association to provide free signage to curb
12 smoking at city parks, so hopefully we
13 should see some sort of legislation soon and
14 I'll continue to update everyone on that.

15 We do have a brief update on the
16 Rockwell Avenue bridge project. I have been
17 contacted by a few people who just wanted an
18 update, things are progressing very well on
19 the bridge. The contractors are working on
20 the foundation and shoring and it looks like
21 everything is on schedule.

22 And I also received a complaint this
23 week about potholes on Cedar Avenue, so we
24 will forward that request to the DPW, and
25 that is all I have this week. Thank you.

1 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. I also
2 would like to extend my sympathies to the
3 Rogan family. In true professional style,
4 last night Pat had contacted me and informed
5 me what had happened, that he would not be
6 at the meeting, but we know that he is with
7 us and I know his dad will be looking down
8 on us and part of our team.

9 I also -- the small town of Scranton
10 we are accused of not being true
11 Scrantonians, but in a small town Evelyn
12 Evans was my mother's best friend so that's
13 what kind of town this is.

14 I made comments earlier and we spoke
15 about the audit, after last week's meeting
16 we did contact Business Administrator
17 Bulzoni to arrange for a post-audit of some
18 sort. To the best of your knowledge that
19 has never taken place before, Mrs. Reed, to
20 the best of our knowledge I believe?

21 MS. REED: Right.

22 MR. WECHSLER: So this council is in
23 interested in using the audit as a tool as
24 we go forward and we do needed it explained
25 to us, the highs and lows of the audit.

1 Not to dwell on too much, we did
2 take notice of the article that was in the
3 Scranton Times over the weekend about
4 overtime. The council has been pursuing
5 information all year long about the cost of
6 overtime and the cost of the new contracts.
7 This week we were provided information late
8 in the week concerning the fire department
9 overtime and we will be reviewing that and
10 working with that as the week goes on. And
11 that is all I have for right now.

12 MS. REED: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION -
13 AN ORDINANCE - CREATING AN ABANDONED
14 PROPERTY REGISTRY AND PROVIDING FOR THE
15 REGISTRATION OF ABANDONED REAL PROPERTY IN
16 THE CITY OF SCRANTON.

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

20 MR. EVANS: Second. So moved, I'm
21 sorry.

22 MR. GAUGHAN: Second.

23 MR. WECHSLER: On the question? On
24 the question, I think perhaps maybe we want
25 to take a look at that word abandoned.

1 MR. EVANS: I agree, I think it's
2 foreclosed, but we can work on that next
3 week.

4 MR. WECHSLER: All those in favor of
5 introduction signify by saying aye.

6 MR. PERRY: Aye.

7 MR. EVANS: Aye.

8 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

11 MS. REED: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION -
12 AN ORDINANCE - CREATING AND ESTABLISHING A
13 NEW BANK ACCOUNT FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON'S
14 OFFICE OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
15 ("OECD") TITLED EDA SEQUESTERED FUNDS AWARD
16 #013903140 ACCOUNT NO. 20A0101 FOR THE
17 DEPOSIT OF SEQUESTERED FUNDS AS REQUIRED BY
18 THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, ECONOMIC
19 DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION (EDA).

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

23 MR. GAUGHAN: So moved.

24 MR. EVANS: Second.

25 MR. WECHSLER: On the question? All

1 those in favor of introduction signify by
2 saying aye.

3 MR. PERRY: Aye.

4 MR. EVANS: Aye.

5 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

6 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The
7 eyes have it and so moved.

8 MS. REED: 5-D. FOR INTRODUCTION - A
9 RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
10 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND
11 ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BY AND
12 BETWEEN THE CITY OF SCRANTON AND E. B.
13 JERMYN LODGE NO. 2 OF THE FRATERNAL ORDER OF
14 POLICE.

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

18 MR. GAUGHAN: So moved.

19 MR. EVANS: Second.

20 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

21 MR. PERRY: Yes, on the question, I
22 just want to talk a little bit about this,
23 it's a little bit of a hot topic right now
24 but let's -- I just want to give a little
25 bit of background. The Superior Court

1 decision in believe it was October of '11
2 that landed us where we are right now.
3 There was a settlement agreement in June
4 Scranton never paid. We never paid a dime.
5 We didn't make good on it so we are sitting
6 \$20 million plus 6percent interest which
7 puts us at \$100,000 per month every month
8 compounding.

9 Now, the deal, the deal is to pay in
10 full with 6 percent interest from July 2 of
11 '13 to the end of the year of '13. From
12 that point on, the first of January 2014 to
13 the end of this month only 3 percent with
14 the other 3 percent interest getting put
15 back into the pension plan, which is about
16 \$3 million. Now, that payment does have to
17 be made by the 30th, but at the end of this
18 month there is going to be an interest
19 freeze on this payment until payment is
20 received.

21 Now, what I particularly like about
22 this deal is the third party doctor program
23 for certifying disability for police
24 officers and firemen. Now, as it is right
25 now, you know, we have 50 percent of our

1 applications approved for disability where
2 the average is about 7 percent so we are way
3 out of whack with that. What this is going
4 to do for us this is going to be put a
5 totally third party person with no
6 affiliation with either side in charge of
7 making decisions on disability for our
8 employees, and this third party is going to
9 be outside of the eight county regions, have
10 no affiliation with anybody and I hope that
11 this is going to be in the future a main
12 driver in driving disability costs down in
13 the city because right now it's really,
14 really high.

15 Now, with this being said I am going
16 to abstain from this vote because there is a
17 direct financial benefit of my family to
18 this vote so I will be abstaining from 5-D.

19 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr. Perry.
20 Anybody else?

21 MR. EVANS: Yeah, on the question.
22 I will say there should be no high fives on
23 the resolution of the award with the police
24 and fire unions it's simply something that
25 we have to do and, yes, it is the right

1 thing to do, but history surely has taught
2 us that if we didn't have an agreement like
3 this in our hands right now tonight the
4 unions most likely would be back in Court to
5 attach the proceeds of any sewer deal and
6 any thought of an interest reduction or even
7 a modest pension reform would clearly be off
8 the table.

9 With that said, this is my
10 perspective on the issue. As many of you
11 know, I have been saying for months to
12 anyone who would listen that the award
13 settlement should exclude the interest
14 payments and all of the interest should be
15 put directly into the distressed pension
16 funds of the uniformed workers.
17 Additionally, we should achieve the pension
18 reform as part of any deal, but the day this
19 deal was announced everything changed. The
20 dynamics of any negotiations were totally
21 different at that point and we were left
22 with pretty much in my mind whatever the
23 union leadership was willing to give as what
24 we got.

25 So with that as a backdrop, I

1 appreciate that the administration was able
2 to achieve any givebacks and some modest
3 pension reform language and although I do
4 not categorize this achievement as game
5 changing it's an important part and piece of
6 a multi-level approach to achieving
7 financial solvency and some level of pension
8 reform and at the end of the day it has to
9 be done. There are no other options.

10 But here's the rougher angle, while
11 I fully respect the men and women that
12 protect us each day, to me they are heros
13 and should be respected for what they do for
14 us, these negotiations from my perspective,
15 at least in protecting the many taxpayers
16 were somewhat less than heroic. To reduce
17 or give back the interest or not to give
18 back the interest for the time period that
19 Chris Doherty was mayor in my view was
20 inappropriate and at the end of the day only
21 the taxpayers are out to be punished as well
22 as the distressed pension plan to the
23 uniform employees. To not give all of the
24 interest, quite frankly, shows a lack of
25 compassion for those of us that foot the

1 bill. By us, I mean all of the taxpayers
2 that keep this government afloat, but when
3 you are holding all of the cards and when
4 you know at some point you most likely could
5 take all of the money with no concessions
6 simply by paying a waiting game, this is
7 then the results.

8 I always find it interesting
9 watching how someone responds when they have
10 all of the power. But sure this is the last
11 one we'll soon forget and, of course, there
12 is always a reaction to any event as defined
13 by Newman's law, third law of motion, to
14 every action there is equal and opposite
15 reaction. So relative to this agreement we
16 don't know the ultimate reaction will be,
17 another tax increase? Unlike in the past
18 that is no longer a feasible option because
19 our taxpayers can no longer afford a single
20 dime more.

21 Will there be job cuts? I don't
22 have the answer to that. Only time will
23 tell, but I will finish with this if and
24 when this ordeal is completed the power does
25 shift to this administration and this city

1 council and to the taxpayers and when
2 determining where and how the proceeds will
3 be spent at that time we must not forget
4 that we must get it right. Thank you.

5 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.
6 I will be voting "yes" tonight to introduce
7 both agreements so that we can discuss them
8 over the next week, however, I have many
9 concerns. First, let me start by saying
10 that I fully understand that the city has an
11 obligation to pay this award. The longer
12 this continues the more interest accumulates
13 the more of a burden it becomes, but the
14 bottom line in all of this is simple to me,
15 the taxpayers of this city cannot afford it.
16 We cannot afford the burden of more debt.

17 In early 2015, Mayor Courtright in
18 my opinion decided to ignore his own plan,
19 the Amoroso plan, and turned what was
20 supposed to be union concessions into
21 full-blown contract renegotiations with
22 mystery savings. The mayor promised an
23 immediate savings of over \$1 million. I
24 have asked repeatedly over the past year
25 where are the savings and have consistently

1 adopted, it says the best practice is for a
2 city to hold the fire services overall
3 appropriation at approximately 60 percent of
4 the police's. Among Scranton's peer cities,
5 it is at the very high end.

6 The bottom line is over 80 percent
7 of our budget is still salaries and benefits
8 that the taxpayers of this city simply can
9 no longer afford, as we saw recently in the
10 newspaper article over the weekend. And let
11 me just state that my grandfather was a city
12 policeman and I have all of the respect in
13 the world for the men and women who put
14 their lives on the line every day for the
15 city, but the bottom line is this is absurd.

16 Another major concern of mine is
17 financing of this settlement. In the
18 agreement, the unions have put a deadline of
19 June of this year, which is roughly two
20 months away, when they want payment of the
21 roughly \$30 million. If the city doesn't
22 meet the deadline, then the agreement is
23 null and void and we go back to step one,
24 and as Mr. Evans mentioned, the unions have
25 threatened to take money from the ratepayers

1 for the Sewer Authority deal to garnish it
2 off the top. This seems like an incredibly
3 aggressive deadline especially for a city
4 who is on the ropes financially and when we
5 have no idea what the financing structure
6 looks like if it's even going to be
7 realistic.

8 I have asked since the beginning of
9 Mayor Courtright's term what his vision for
10 the city was and it's becoming clear to me
11 as every day goes by that it's to follow
12 rather than lead and put the interests of
13 the police and fire union ahead of the
14 taxpayers of this city. Thank you.

15 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you,
16 Mr. Gaughan. For me it's something that was
17 decided for us long before we got here.
18 When the prior administration agreed to the
19 judgment of \$20 million dollars and did not
20 attempt to find any ways to pay that, that
21 was passed on unknowing to the new
22 administration, including city council. The
23 problem of that was the fact that the
24 interest was being earned at the cost of
25 \$100,000 per month. It kept going until

1 probably the end of this month. Our
2 responsibility as a council was to bring
3 that to an end. We can't afford to lose
4 \$100,000 a month and this is not a
5 negotiated settlement this is a judgment.
6 This is a judgment that was issued by the
7 Court and agreed to by the city. As such,
8 the amount of money could not be negotiated.
9 That was the final settlement. In fact,
10 there was money given back prior to the
11 final number being established.

12 I look at this as an opportunity for
13 us to settle this issue, put this behind us,
14 and I do understand that there is going to
15 be debt remaining from this and also if we
16 do a lease of the Parking Authority there is
17 also going to be debt from that, but this is
18 an issue that has to be resolved, and
19 whether we like the concessions or not
20 concessions were made. Once again, this was
21 a judgment and no concessions had to be
22 made.

23 As a judgment, whether we like it or
24 not the person that has the judgment has a
25 right to claim money against the assets of

1 the person who has to pay. If the Sewer
2 Authority deal had gone through before this
3 was paid, the unions and their leadership
4 would not be doing their due diligence to
5 their members if they did not try to attach
6 any monies that the city had that go towards
7 the judgment. I don't like it either, but
8 reality is reality.

9 So I will be voting yes tonight for
10 both of these MOUs and look forward to using
11 this as a springboard for future
12 negotiations. As we head down towards the
13 new contracts, the concessions that have
14 been made and the ability of the city are
15 getting closer and closer to a level playing
16 field for future negotiations.

17 I also share the concerns that Mr.
18 Gaughan expressed concerning the June 30
19 deadline. As we have seen in the city,
20 things don't move as fast as we would like.
21 We had requested that we have a caucus with
22 Business Administrator Bulzoni and Mayor
23 Courtright, as part of the executive session
24 last evening we were able to get some
25 information about this issue. We were told

1 that Mr. Bulzoni has been working towards
2 this payment since day one when he took
3 office so some of the groundwork has been
4 laid.

5 Some of the groundwork that we have
6 done as a city council have improved our
7 standing in the financial community. Once
8 again, no one liked it when we paid the
9 Landmark debt, but that brought us back into
10 the financial community. Some of the other
11 things that we have been exercising are
12 bringing us back in the financial community
13 so right now we are able to go out and our
14 interest rates that we are paying are lower
15 than they were when we first got here so in
16 regards to this thing it's something that we
17 found on our doorstep and it's something
18 that I am happy that we are going to be able
19 to put an end to, but once again, expressing
20 the concerns here we do have to understand
21 what the rates are going to be, what the
22 fees are going to be and right now we don't
23 have any of that information yet but we are
24 aware that we are going to have know that
25 before any final votes are taken. That's

1 all I have. Thank you.

2 All those in favor of introduction
3 signify by saying aye.

4 MR. PERRY: Aye.

5 MR. EVANS: Aye.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

9 MS. REED: 5-E. FOR INTRODUCTION - A
10 RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
11 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND
12 ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BY AND
13 BETWEEN THE CITY OF SCRANTON AND
14 INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS,
15 LOCAL UNION NO. 60.

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

19 MR. EVANS: So moved.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: Second.

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

24 MR. PERRY: Aye.

25 MR. EVANS: Aye.

1 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

2 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The
3 ayes have it and so moved.

4 MS. REED: SIXTH ORDER. 6-A.
5 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.
6 17, 2016 - AN ORDINANCE - DEDICATING THE
7 GAZEBO LOCATED IN CONNORS PARK, 515 ORCHARD
8 STREET IN SOUTH SCRANTON IN HONOR OF ROBERT
9 E. MCGOFF, JR.

10 MR. WECHSLER: You've heard reading
11 by title of Item 6-A, what is your pleasure?

12 MR. GAUGHAN: Mr. Chairman, I move
13 that Item 6-A pass reading by title.

14 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

17 MR. PERRY: Aye.

18 MR. EVANS: Aye.

19 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

20 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The
21 ayes have it and so moved.

22 MS. REED: 6-B.

23 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.
24 18, 2016 - AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF
25 THE COUNCIL NO. 165, 2003, AN ORDINANCE

1 ENTITLED "REGULATING THE PLANTING,
2 MAINTENANCE AND REMOVAL OF TREES ALONG
3 STREETS, HIGHWAYS, AVENUES, LANES, ALLEYS
4 AND PUBLIC PARKS AND PLACES WITHIN THE CITY
5 OF SCRANTON, INCLUDING PRIVATE PROPERTIES"
6 BY AMENDING SECTION IV PERTAINING TO THE
7 LICENSING OF VENDORS OF TREE SERVICES,
8 CHANGING THE TITLE OF SECTION IV, DELETING
9 THE LICENSING FEE, ADDING REGISTRATION
10 INFORMATION REQUIRING APPLICABLE PERSONS,
11 FIRMS AND CORPORATIONS BE REGISTERED WITH
12 THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE AND ADDING
13 WORKER'S COMPENSATION INSURANCE.

14 MR. WECHSLER: You've heard reading
15 by title of Item 6-B, what is your pleasure?

16 MR. GAUGHAN: Mr. Chairman, I move
17 that Item 6-B pass reading by title.

18 MR. EVANS: Second.

19 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

20 MR. EVANS: On the question, I would
21 like to find out if we can send a letter to
22 or contact Tony Santoli to make sure he is
23 aware of this and make sure he had input in
24 this ordinance. That's all I have for now.

25 MR. WECHSLER: All those in favor

1 signify by saying aye.

2 MR. PERRY: Aye.

3 MR. EVANS: Aye.

4 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

5 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The
6 ayes have it and so moved.

7 MS. REED: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR
8 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE -
9 FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 13,
10 2016 - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 126,
11 2015, AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED "GENERAL CITY
12 OPERATING BUDGET 2016" BY TRANSFERRING
13 \$10,000.00 FROM ACCOUNT NO.
14 01.080.00083.4550 (DPW BUREAU OF HIGHWAYS
15 CAPITAL EXPENDITURES) TO ACCOUNT NO.
16 01.041.10110.4299 (NON-DEPARTMENTAL SHADE
17 TREE COMMISSION) TO PROVIDE SUFFICIENT
18 FUNDING FOR CLEARING OF STUMPS.

19 MR. WECHSLER: What is the
20 recommendation of the Chairperson for the
21 Committee on Finance?

22 MR. EVANS: As Chairperson for the
23 Committee on Finance, I recommend final
24 passage of Item 7-A.

25 MR. GAUGHAN: Second.

1 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

2 Roll call, please?

3 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Perry.

4 MR. PERRY: Yes.

5 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Evans.

6 MR. EVANS: Yes.

7 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan.

8 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

10 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby
11 declare Item 7-A legally and lawfully
12 adopted.

13 MS. REED: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION
14 BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE - FOR ADOPTION -
15 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 14, 2016 - AMENDING
16 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 126, 2015, AN
17 ORDINANCE "ENTITLED GENERAL CITY OPERATING
18 BUDGET 2016" BY CREATING A NEW REVENUE
19 ACCOUNT NO. 01.380.38004 PA LIQUOR CONTROL
20 BOARD LICENSE FEES.

21 MR. WECHSLER: What is the
22 recommendation of the Chairperson for the
23 Committee on Finance?

24 MR. EVANS: As Chairperson for the
25 Committee on Finance, I recommend final

1 passage of Item 7-B.

2 MR. GAUGHAN: Second.

3 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

4 Roll call, please?

5 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Perry.

6 MR. PERRY: Yes.

7 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Evans.

8 MR. EVANS: Yes.

9 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan.

10 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

12 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby

13 declare Item 7-B legally and lawfully

14 adopted.

15 MS. REED: 7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION

16 BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE - FOR ADOPTION

17 - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 15, 2016 -

18 AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 126, 2015,

19 AN ORDINANCE "ENTITLED GENERAL CITY

20 OPERATING BUDGET 2016" BY CREATING A NEW

21 EXPENSE ACCOUNT NO. 01.080.00083.4370

22 TRAFFIC SIGN ACQUISITIONS.

23 MR. WECHSLER: What is the

24 recommendation of the Chairperson for the

25 Committee on Finance?

1 MR. EVANS: As Chairperson for the
2 Committee on Finance, I recommend final
3 passage of Item 7-C.

4 MR. GAUGHAN: Second.

5 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?
6 Roll call, please?

7 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Perry.

8 MR. PERRY: Yes.

9 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Evans.

10 MR. EVANS: Yes.

11 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

14 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby
15 declare Item 7-C legally and lawfully
16 adopted.

17 MS. REED: 7-D. FOR CONSIDERATION
18 BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY - FOR
19 ADOPTION - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 16, 2016
20 ESTABLISHING PERMIT PARKING ON THE WESTERN
21 (ODD) SIDE OF THE 500 BLOCK OF CLAY AVENUE
22 FROM 523 TO 543 CLAY AVENUE.

23 MR. WECHSLER: What is the
24 recommendation of the Chairperson for the
25 Committee on Public Safety?

1 MR. PERRY: As Chairperson for the
2 Committee on Public Safety, I recommend
3 final passage of Item 7-D.

4 MR. GAUGHAN: Second.

5 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?
6 Roll call, please?

7 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Perry.

8 MR. PERRY: Yes.

9 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Evans.

10 MR. EVANS: Yes.

11 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

14 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby
15 declare Item 7-D legally and lawfully
16 adopted.

17 MS. REED: 7-E. FOR CONSIDERATION BY
18 THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION -
19 RESOLUTION NO. 16, 2016 - RE-APPOINTMENT OF
20 MARIO SAVINELLI, 500 NORTH CAMERON AVENUE,
21 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18504, AS A MEMBER
22 OF THE BOARD OF THE SCRANTON REDEVELOPMENT
23 AUTHORITY FOR AN ADDITIONAL FIVE (5) YEAR
24 TERM. MR. SAVINELLI'S CURRENT TERM EXPIRED
25 ON FEBRUARY 4, 2016. HIS NEW TERM WILL BE

1 EFFECTIVE MARCH 4, 2016 AND WILL EXPIRE ON
2 FEBRUARY 4, 2021.

3 MR. WECHSLER: As Chairperson for
4 the Committee on Rules, I recommend final
5 passage of Item 7-E.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Second.

7 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?
8 Just so everyone knows, we did receive Mr.
9 Savinelli's letter of interest concerning
10 this position. Roll call, please?

11 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Perry.

12 MR. PERRY: Yes.

13 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Evans.

14 MR. EVANS: Yes.

15 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan.

16 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

17 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

18 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby
19 declare Item 7-E legally and lawfully
20 adopted.

21 If there is no further business,
22 I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

23 MR. EVAN: Motion to adjourn.

24 MR. WECHSLER: This meeting is
25 adjourned.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I hereby certify that the proceedings and evidence are contained fully and accurately in the notes of testimony taken by me at the hearing of the above-captioned matter and that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the same to the best of my ability.

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER