

1 SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

2 PUBLIC HEARING

3
4 IN RE: FILE OF COUNCIL NUMBER 40, 2011, AMENDING
5 CHAPTER 332 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TITLED
6 PARKS AND RECREATION BY ADDING ARTICLE III, "WEST
7 SCRANTON SKATE PARK FACILITIES RULES AND REGULATIONS."

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10 HELD:

11
12 Tuesday, July 12, 2011

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14 LOCATION:

15 Council Chambers
16 Scranton City Hall
17 340 North Washington Avenue
18 Scranton, Pennsylvania

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24 CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - COURT REPORTER
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CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

JANET EVANS, PRESIDENT

PAT ROGAN, VICE-PRESIDENT

ROBERT MCGOFF

FRANK JOYCE

JOHN LOSCOMBE

NANCY KRAKE, CITY CLERK

CATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

BOYD HUGHES, SOLICITOR

1 MS. EVANS: I'd like to call this
2 public hearing to order. Roll call, please.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

4 MR. MCGOFF: Here.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

6 MR. ROGAN: Here.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: Here.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

10 MR. JOYCE: Here.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

12 MS. EVANS: Here. Notice is hereby
13 given that Scranton City Council will hold a
14 public hearing on Tuesday, July 12, 2011, at
15 6 p.m. in council chambers, second floor
16 municipal building, 340 North Washington
17 Avenue in Scranton, Pennsylvania. The
18 purpose of said public hearing is to hear
19 testimony and discuss the following:

20 File of Council No. 40, 2011,
21 amending Chapter 332 of the Code of the City
22 of Scranton titled Parks and Recreation by
23 adding Article III, "West Scranton Skate
24 Park Facilities Rules and Regulations."

25 Is there anyone who cares to address

1 council?

2 MS. SCHUMACHER: Marie Schumacher.

3 I understand the backup -- the resolution of
4 the regulations that are being inserted into
5 the city code weren't in there, so could you
6 read what the regs are for us? If it's not
7 too long. And what is the address of the
8 West Scranton Skate Park?

9 MS. EVANS: It is located at North
10 Bromley Avenue and Jackson Street.

11 These will be the facility rules:
12 Park is open Monday through Saturday 12 p.m.
13 to 8 p.m. or at dusk. Sunday the park is
14 open is 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. or at dusk. The
15 facility a closed when equipment ramp
16 surface is wet, icy, snow covered or as
17 deemed necessary for safety reasons.

18 All skaters under the age of 18 must
19 wear at all times an ANSI or Snell approved
20 safety helmet with chin strap secured. Knee
21 pads, elbow pads, gloves, close-toed shoes
22 and wrist braces are strongly suggested.
23 All skaters must provide their own skating
24 equipment.

25 Skating into and out of the park is

1 prohibited. All skates and skateboards must
2 be carried into and out of the park. Any
3 and all types of bicycles and scooters are
4 prohibited in the skate and basketball
5 areas.

6 An adult must accompany skaters
7 under the age of ten at all times.

8 It is recommended that skaters use
9 only the equipment that is appropriate for
10 their skill level.

11 Recklessness will not be tolerated.
12 All skaters must use this facility
13 responsibly to avoid injury to themselves or
14 to others.

15 The use of proper skater etiquette
16 is expected at all times. Profanity or
17 obscene language is prohibited. Persons
18 violating this rule will be removed from the
19 park and skating privileges revoked.

20 Use of illegal drugs, alcohol or
21 tobacco products is prohibited. Violators
22 will be prosecuted.

23 Food or drink is prohibited in the
24 skating areas. All trash must be placed in
25 the appropriate trash receptacles.

1 Individuals found violating the
2 rules of the park will be reported to the
3 Scranton Police Department.

4 And I believe this backup would have
5 been provided, Ms. Schumacher, when the
6 ordinance was originally introduced in Fifth
7 Order.

8 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. Thank you.
9 Is there an attendant in that skate area and
10 is it locked when it when it's not -- the
11 hours are being open?

12 MS. EVANS: I believe, yes, it will
13 be locked and when it not in use, and
14 obviously, according to the backup I just
15 read, there will be staff present at the
16 park at all times.

17 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. Thank you.

18 MS. EVANS: You're welcome. Is
19 there anyone else who cares to address
20 council?

21 MS. FOSTER: Good evening, Karin
22 Foster, West Scranton resident. I'm just
23 coming up today to let you know that we have
24 been implementing most of these rules for
25 the past two months to give the children and

1 adults that are using the park an
2 opportunity to get used to the idea that
3 they can't do just what they want to do with
4 the exception of enforcing the helmet rule.
5 They are aware that as of the passing of
6 this law that they will be required, and
7 that bicycles that have been currently using
8 the ramps will no longer be able do so, and
9 the scooters.

10 So far the response has been very
11 positive and I think that they will be a
12 good change for the community. Thank you.

13 MS. EVANS: Absolutely. Thank you.
14 Is there anyone else who cares to address
15 council?

16 MR. JACKOWITZ: Bill Jackowitz. I
17 just have a couple of questions. First of
18 all, the skate park, is it going to be under
19 the control of Parks and Recreation, parks
20 and Recreation Authority? They would be the
21 ones in charge of the park?

22 MS. EVANS: Oh, the Recreation
23 Authority? No. This will not fall under
24 the Recreation Authority.

25 MR. JACKOWITZ: Okay, who will it

1 fall under?

2 MS. EVANS: Well, obviously,
3 violations have to be reported to and
4 enforced by the Scranton Police Department
5 who I believe also has located it's West
6 Scranton satellite office directly inside of
7 that park, and I believe that the city's
8 Parks and Recreation Department will
9 probably be the employees who would be
10 maintaining the park along with the crime
11 watch facility.

12 MR. JACKOWITZ: I understand the
13 crime watch, I mean, I'm totally in favor of
14 it, I just wanted to know who was going to
15 overall in charge of the parks, so basically
16 it would be the city and parks and
17 recreation and with the backup being the
18 Neighborhood Association, is my
19 understanding correct?

20 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

21 MS. EVANS: Yes, actually, the
22 neighborhood association -- well, I believe
23 the Crime Watch Association comprised of
24 over 100 neighbors in West Scranton and they
25 have been working very hard on this park for

1 a period of months and actually supervising
2 the activities that have been ongoing daily
3 and they have been doing a very good job of
4 such and it's my understanding that they
5 would be continue to do so and that they
6 would be locking the facility each evening.

7 MR. JACKOWITZ: Yeah, I heard that,
8 because my concern is I just don't want the
9 Park and Recreation Authority to have
10 anything at all to do with it.

11 MS. EVANS: No, they do not. They
12 do not.

13 MR. JACKOWITZ: Thank you.

14 MS. EVANS: You are welcome.

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: I've gone by several
16 evenings, it looks like you are doing quite
17 a bit of business there. I think these
18 three girls here with their whips in their
19 hands up there, I think that sort of helps
20 maintain it, but I think it's fantastic. It
21 appears that a lot of the children are
22 utilizing the facilities and you are doing a
23 good job up there. I haven't heard of any
24 problems or complaints, so keep up the good
25 work.

1 MS. EVANS: And if I might add, I
2 think that this type of facility is long
3 overdue. Having taught in high school and
4 intermediate school for many years I'm aware
5 that skateboarding has become an
6 increasingly popular activity among
7 youngsters and as a result they very often
8 are forced to skateboard on streets and
9 sidewalks throughout the city and I think
10 this provides a location where they can go
11 without disturbing others and certainly
12 enjoy themselves, it's a very healthy
13 activity, and I think it's something we
14 would like to see more of in the city.

15 Is there anyone else who would like
16 to address council? This public hearing is
17 adjourned.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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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