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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING
PUBLIC HEARING

IN RE: FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF COUNCIL
NO. 10, 2012 - AMENDING FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 40, 2010,
AS AMENDED ENTITLED, "AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE
MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE CITY
OF SCRANTON TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY ACTIONS TO
IMPLEMENT THE CONSOLIDATED SUBMISSION FOR COMMUNITY
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS TO BE FUNDED
UNDER THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)
PROGRAM, HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP (HOME) PROGRAM
AND EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT (ESG) PROGRAM", BY
TRANSFERRING A TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$500,000.00 FROM
PROJECTS 05-15 EMERGENCY FLOOD RELIEF, 07-225
SLIBCO, 05-155 HILL NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION, 05-
172 LACKAWANNA COLLEGE (SCRANTON LACE), 10-199
SCRANTON CULTURAL CENTER, 10-237.2 CENTER FOR
INDEPENDENT LIVING, 10-175 TELESPOND SENIOR
SERVICES, INC. TO PROJECT 11-04. RECONSTRUCTION OF
ROADS AND HANDICAP CURB CUTS.

HELD:

Thursday, January 26, 2012

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:

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: Call this public hearing
2 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 Thursday, January 26,
15 2012, at 6:00 p.m. in council chambers,
16 Second Floor, Municipal Building, 340 North
17 Washington Avenue, Scranton, Pennsylvania.
18 The purpose of said public hearing is to
19 hear testimony and discuss the following:

20 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 10, 2012 -
21 AMENDING FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 40, 2010, AS
22 AMENDED ENTITLED, "AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING
23 THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF
24 THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY
25 ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE CONSOLIDATED

1 SUBMISSION FOR COMMUNITY PLANNING AND
2 DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS TO BE FUNDED UNDER THE
3 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)
4 PROGRAM, HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP (HOME)
5 PROGRAM AND EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT (ESG)
6 PROGRAM", BY TRANSFERRING A TOTAL AMOUNT OF
7 \$500,000.00 FROM PROJECTS 05-15 EMERGENCY
8 FLOOD RELIEF, 07-225 SLIBCO, 05-155 HILL
9 NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION, 05- 172 LACKAWANNA
10 COLLEGE (SCRANTON LACE), 10-199 SCRANTON
11 CULTURAL CENTER, 10-237.2 CENTER FOR
12 INDEPENDENT LIVING, 10-175 TELESPOND SENIOR
13 SERVICES, INC. TO PROJECT 11-04.
14 RECONSTRUCTION OF ROADS AND HANDICAP CURB
15 CUTS.

16 One individual has signed our
17 speakers' sheet for this hearing. Ozzie
18 Quinn.

19 MR. QUINN: Thank you. Good
20 evening. Can I pass these out to the
21 council?

22 MR. JOYCE: Yeah. I am a member of
23 the executive board that is authorized to
24 act on behalf of the Hill Neighborhood
25 Association, Inc. The hill Neighborhood

1 Association is the 501 (c) (3) neighborhood
2 organization in the city, and if you look at
3 the last page of the letter, last part here,
4 there is a letter from the president Drew
5 Mackey which points out all of the
6 activities that were done in the Hill
7 Neighborhood Association building, okay?

8 On May 30, 2001, Mr. Neverosky was
9 the president and he received an approval
10 from the OECD executive director at that
11 time Paul Colarossi under Mayor Connors that
12 this is to inform you that a proposal was
13 submitted to this office, you have that
14 letter for funding, and has been included in
15 the City of Scranton second area project,
16 your project is identified in this plan for
17 the second year which -- blah, blah, blah,
18 and has been allocated \$30,000 in CDBG funds
19 to renovate a house into an office service
20 center, that would be a community facility,
21 operated by the Hill Neighborhood
22 Association.

23 I want to point out that in order to
24 for this -- for the OECD to approve this,
25 okay, first, the OECD gets the application,

1 they look to see if it's a low to moderate
2 income area, which it was, which Ms. Aebli
3 argues that it's not in a low to moderate
4 income neighborhood. Two, they look to see
5 if it's a community facility, which it was,
6 so then they sent it over to the city
7 council, city council has a public hearing,
8 city council approves or disapproves
9 whatever it is and it goes to the mayor and
10 then goes to HUD.

11 This was 2001. Some seven months
12 later, Mayor Doherty took over and they
13 never saw this \$30,000. Through the years
14 they have been asked to get different items
15 to backup this \$30,000. They went out and
16 they got a certified engineer and architect
17 who redrew the design of the building for a
18 neighborhood service center. Under the
19 Community Development Block Grant
20 regulations, this complies as a community
21 facility and it's a low to moderate income
22 neighborhood, which meets the first
23 criteria.

24 So I'm going to you tonight to
25 please delete HNA \$30,000 from that \$500,000

1 until you can meet, one of your members can
2 meet, with the Hill Neighborhood Association
3 Executive Committee to explain and discuss
4 this issue. I think that it's political
5 football to use the Hill Neighborhood
6 Association grants and it was approved by
7 all the bodies, okay, and to find out what's
8 going on. HUD, nobody has any answer from
9 HUD or whatever, okay, but to just take this
10 \$30,000 from them while it was approved by
11 this governing body, the prior governing
12 body, and the former mayor and the OECD
13 would be ashamed, you know?

14 . And if you look at all of the
15 things that they do up there at that Hill
16 Neighborhood Association you would be very
17 proud of them, it's an act of organization,
18 so please consider this to delete them out
19 of that \$500,000 transfer until you can meet
20 with them, okay? Thank you very much.

21 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Is there
22 anyone else who cares to address council on
23 this piece of legislation?

24 MS. SCHUMACHER: Yes, one question
25 and do we -- I believe I asked it before

1 when this was introduced, what is the split
2 between the curbing and actual paving and do
3 we have the list of streets that are to be
4 paved in priority order and can you share
5 that if you have it?

6 MR. ROGAN: I spoke to Linda a few
7 weeks ago about that and they don't have a
8 list, a firm list. They had a suggested
9 list and, you know, I offered some more
10 suggestions of streets that have mentioned
11 at council, but as of now there is no firm
12 list, but there is, you know, a list of
13 suggested streets. The curb cuts are
14 expensive. I'm not sure the exact amount of
15 the fee, but they're not cheap, but they
16 have to be done to be handicap accessible.

17 MS. SCHUMACHER: I thought we got
18 stimulus money for that?

19 MR. ROGAN: We may have. That was
20 before my time on council.

21 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay, well, I think
22 we should be able to review the streets that
23 are included there in a priority order
24 before this is approved.

25 MR. ROGAN: I really wish council

1 was able to draft the list ourselves, but we
2 are not. We receive, you know, the same
3 streets week after week.

4 MS. EVANS: They give us the list.

5 MR. ROGAN: Yeah, they give us the
6 list.

7 MR. EVANS: And they make the
8 selection it appears Ms. Aebli in
9 conjunction with the DPW director so that
10 council has never assigned any streets to
11 that list and the list is always given to us
12 after the fact.

13 MS. SCHUMACHER Okay. Thank you.

14 MR. MORGAN: Yes. I would just like
15 to echo what Mr. Quinn said about the Hill
16 Neighborhood Association's funding. I think
17 it should be deleted, also. I just was
18 there a couple of times on cleanups, I know
19 they have done a lot of important things and
20 Mr. Neverosky had spoke about how the Hill
21 Neighborhood Association tried to get that
22 money over an extended period of time and I
23 just think it's improper to move that money
24 and I think that money should be protected,
25 and that's all I have.

1 MR. JOYCE: Thank you.

2 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

3 MR. DOBRZYN: This hearing is based
4 on improvements to streets and curb cuts and
5 so forth?

6 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

7 MR. DOBRZYN: Well, it's nothing
8 that we have now, but we really need an
9 inspection system for the repairs with the
10 gas, water and sewer because we have spent a
11 lot of money fixing the streets like Moosic
12 Street and it's a mess already, the 700 and
13 800 block of Moosic Street, the Sewer
14 Authority has been in there, maybe somebody
15 else, I'm not sure, but the repairs are
16 totally, totally unacceptable and it's
17 ashamed.

18 That's not a Scranton street, but
19 the same thing happens everywhere throughout
20 Scranton, we no sooner spend a lot of money
21 on the street and the next thing you know
22 they come in and install the potholes later,
23 and you people get to hear all about it year
24 in and year out on your computer you
25 probably have 30 different e-mails every

1 week on the pothole and most of them are by
2 and large the -- so we really need a pothole
3 inspector in this town if we can find
4 anybody from DPW or whatever to start going
5 around and inspecting these jobs after they
6 are done after the digging and the repairs
7 that were done.

8 MS. EVANS: Actually the city does
9 employ a pave cut inspector whose job it is
10 to handle, you know, whatever projects are
11 done by the utility companies that disturb
12 the road conditions on city streets and they
13 must be repaired to the condition, to the
14 prior condition.

15 MR. DOBRZYN: Yes.

16 MS. EVANS: So I don't know --

17 MR. DOBRZYN: I mean, if it has to
18 be done, it has to be done. Nobody wants a
19 gas leak that could flatten a whole
20 neighborhood, but therein again when you
21 spend thousands of dollars on the street
22 only to have it done by the gas or sewer ors
23 somebody else it's really ashame and it
24 costs us a lot of money and a lot of --

25 MS. EVANS: So then probably then

1 the best thing that could happen is that
2 either Ms. Aebli or the DPW director perhaps
3 might be in touch with the utility companies
4 to ascertain when and where they intend to
5 pursue projects within the city and those
6 streets really then should be paved until
7 they finish.

8 MR. DOBRZYN: Right. But therein
9 again even if they have to do an emergency
10 repair we should some kind of inspector to
11 go over it, and it's just food for thought
12 in the future, it hasn't been done in the
13 past, and I think there is a lot of money to
14 be saved there and a lot of streets that
15 could be a lot of nicer even though we spent
16 the money anyway. Thank you.

17 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Is there
18 anyone else? This public hearing is
19 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