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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Thursday, January 16, 2014

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:

- ROBERT MCGOFF, PRESIDENT
- PATRICK ROGAN, VICE-PRESIDENT
- JOHN LOSCOMBE
- JOSEPH WECHSLER
- WILLIAM GAUGHAN

- LORI REED, CITY CLERK
- KATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK
- PATRICK SCANLON, SOLICITOR

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

3 MR. MCGOFF: Roll call, please.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

5 MR. WECHSLER: Here.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

7 MR. ROGAN: Here.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: Here.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Here.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

13 MR. MCGOFF: Here. Dispense with
14 the reading of the minutes. Third Order.

15 MS. REED: THIRD ORDER. 3-A.

16 CONTROLLER'S REPORT FOR THE MONTH ENDING
17 NOVEMBER 30, 2014.

18 MR. MCGOFF: Are there any comments?
19 If not, received and filed.

20 MS. REED: 3-B. APPLICATIONS ALONG
21 WITH DECISION RENDERED BY THE ZONING HEARING
22 BOARD ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2014.

23 MR. MCGOFF: Are there any comments?
24 If not, received and filed.

25 MS. REED: 3-C. AGENDA FOR THE

1 ZONING HEARING BOARD MEETING HELD JANUARY 8,
2 2014.

3 MR. MCGOFF: Are there any comments?
4 If not, received and filed.

5 Clerk's notes, Mrs. Reed?

6 MS. REED: Mr. McGoff, thank you.
7 Today a check was submitted to our office
8 from the FOP in the amount of \$500 and it
9 will be deposited to the Public Safety
10 Manpower Donations account and it was hand
11 delivered to the BA's Office.

12 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you very much.
13 On the agenda this evening, the beginning of
14 the agenda there are a number of ordinances,
15 all of them, the first view are dealing with
16 budget items. These are items that were
17 approved in last year's budget by last
18 year's council. There are no changes in
19 these from what was approved by the 2013
20 council. These are as were presented in the
21 budget last year.

22 Then there are a number of
23 appointments that are on the agenda, we have
24 decided that we are going to continue the
25 policy that was begun by the last council in

1 asking for either letters of intent or brief
2 resumes for anyone that is being appointed
3 to a position so we will be asking if these
4 people would do that for us, so that we have
5 an idea of basically who it is that we are
6 voting for in these positions. Many of the
7 people we do know, some we don't, and it
8 would just give more credibility to our vote
9 if we had those in our possession.

10 And then finally on the agenda, 5-T,
11 is a resolution dealing with the Goodwill
12 project in North Scranton and it's asking us
13 to basically change some of the lending --
14 lenders, I guess would be better, for a
15 grant that was -- or a loan and grant that
16 were approved some time back in 2006, if I'm
17 not mistaken, but this would allow for the
18 Goodwill project in North Scranton to begin
19 and it's under an emergency certificate
20 because there is some urgency because of the
21 changing of lenders that needs to be taken
22 care of in a timely fashion.

23 And Ms. Aebli and Attorney Hickey
24 are here from OECD to answer any questions
25 that anybody might have about this project,

1 so I'm going to suspend the rules a little
2 bit and if anyone has any questions for them
3 pertaining to this legislation I would ask
4 if they would, you know, just come to the
5 podium now because they do have to leave and
6 so if you have any questions please just
7 come to the podium and they are here to
8 answer those questions. Thank you.

9 MS. SCHUMACHER: Marie Schumacher,
10 taxpayer. Yes, during the caucus there were
11 several terms thrown around, one was grant,
12 that this is being converted to a grant, and
13 then I believe Mr. Hickey, said that it
14 was -- it would remain a loan. Just for the
15 record, what was the interest rate on the
16 prior loan and the terms and what is the
17 interest rate and term on the current loan?

18 MR. HICKEY: May I approach, Mr.
19 McGoff?

20 MR. MCGOFF: Please.

21 MR. HICKEY: I believe the initial
22 interest rate was zero, it hasn't changed,
23 all right, it's just a repayment of the
24 \$700,000 that was previously loaned back in
25 2006. The city has a first mortgage, as I

1 indicated in caucus, and all that's really
2 happening here is the city is going to take
3 a second lien position during construction
4 and then once construction is over permanent
5 financing goes into place, the city's first
6 lien position will resume, and then on top
7 of that a second mortgage is being filed
8 against the leasehold interest because it's
9 the tenant that's actually going to be
10 making improvements to the property.

11 MS. SCHUMACHER: Thank you.

12 MR. UNGVARSKY: I'm Tom Ungvarsky.
13 Can someone tell me why we are giving up
14 first right to the mortgage and becoming a
15 subsidiary to it?

16 MR. MCGOFF: Attorney Hickey will
17 explain.

18 MR. HICKEY: I can explain that.
19 The issue with the giving up the first
20 position was in order for Goodwill to obtain
21 their construction financing and their
22 permanent financing. The construction
23 lender made that one of the requirements in
24 order for the construction lender to provide
25 the loan to Goodwill for the purposes of

1 making improvements and this is not an
2 uncommon occurrence with regard to projects
3 that are funded somewhat with municipal
4 dollars. Actually, a lot of times you will
5 see where the city is taking a third, fourth
6 or even fifth position with regard to that.

7 The nice part of this is we were
8 able to get them to agree to put us back in
9 the first position once the construction is
10 done and a permanent financing is in place.
11 And again, I think we said it in caucus,
12 that's a roughly 24-month maximum period in
13 order for that to happen.

14 MR. UNGVARSKY: I believe when this
15 project was first started we gave them \$2
16 million, which they promptly spent on fixing
17 up the exterior of the building. Several
18 years later they came back and looked for
19 another grant, I believe, to fix the roof.
20 At that time I think they promised they
21 would have at least one apartment ready for
22 occupancy by the first of the year and they
23 haven't even started on it. Does anyone
24 know why they haven't or when they will?

25 MR. MCGOFF: The date that they gave

1 us for -- that they would like to begin
2 hopefully in February of 2014 to put things
3 in place to begin the -- to complete the --
4 begin and complete the project.

5 MR. UNGVARSKY: Well, a year ago
6 they promised they would have the apartments
7 ready by now. Thank you.

8 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr.
9 Ungvarsky.

10 MR. JACKOWITZ: Bill Jackowitz. My
11 question is how many years have we been
12 dealing with Goodwill on this North Scranton
13 High School? How many loans, how many
14 grants have they gotten during this extended
15 period of time? And to the best of my
16 knowledge when I just drove by there,
17 nothing has actually been done. The windows
18 are still broken. I mean, the front of the
19 building doesn't look bad, but if you go
20 down the sides and the back it looks
21 terrible.

22 So my question is when does their
23 credibility end? I mean, the taxpayers are
24 paying for this with either city tax money
25 or state tax money, and they have come to

1 the council and this city and the taxpayers
2 many years and many times, when will it end?

3 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else? Thank
4 you, Ms. Aebli -- this is just on 5-T,
5 Mr. Morgan.

6 MR. MORGAN: Oh, okay, sorry. I got
7 here a little late.

8 MR. MCGOFF: Attorney Hickey, Ms.
9 Aebli, thank you very much.

10 MR. HICKEY: Have a good night.

11 MS. REED: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'
12 PARTICIPATION.

13 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. Our first
14 speaker, Bill Jackowitz.

15 MR. JACKOWITZ: Good evening,
16 Scranton City Council. Welcome back. First
17 of all, I'd like to start off by thanking
18 the people who sent me get well cards and
19 telephone calls and all of the people I have
20 met throughout the city who have approached
21 me and asked me how I am doing and visited
22 and wished me the best, so I would like to
23 thank all of those people. There is too
24 many to name because I know I would forget
25 some names, so I don't want to offend

1 anybody.

2 Secondly, I'd like to wish the new
3 city council good luck because you are going
4 to need. I'd also like to wish Mayor
5 Courtright good luck because he is going to
6 need it and all of the appointees who have
7 been appointed to the administrative
8 positions and becoming department heads.

9 There is a lot of work that has to
10 be done. I promised a friend of mine that I
11 would not mention that the city has been
12 distressed for 8,012 days, so to my friend I
13 guess I broke my promise.

14 But anyway, we need to really get
15 serious, gentlemen. I mean, the time has
16 come. The city needs to get serious. You
17 five people have been elected to govern this
18 city legislatively and I know for one
19 person, I'm going to be watching and I hope
20 you are doing the -- I hope the politics
21 stops, the political games because this city
22 -- I mean, maybe people don't realize but
23 the city is in deep trouble. Like, when you
24 say in Korea, we are in deep kinship.

25 So let's all work together, let's

1 work with the mayor, I know everybody says
2 they are going to do that, but let's
3 actually, do it, okay? Let's get it
4 started. I mean, let's work together, let's
5 sit down and really take our time to really
6 concentrate on the problems that this city
7 has.

8 I mean, the city is well-known
9 throughout the country, but for the most
10 part not for good things. As a matter of
11 fact, my nephew lives in Australia and he
12 called me up and told me that we were in the
13 news in Australia a couple of times in the
14 last couple of years.

15 So, I mean, it needs to stop. We
16 need to work together. It's going to be a
17 difficult job, it's going to be a hard job.
18 I'm probably not going to agree with you on
19 everything, more than likely I'm going to
20 disagree with you more than I agree with
21 you. But anyway, as long as you are being
22 honest, being straightforward, I can't speak
23 for anyone else, I can only speak for
24 myself. I'm a man, I'm an adult, I can
25 handle adversity, I can handle the truth,

1 and that's all I want to hear. I want to
2 hear the truth of what's going on. I would
3 love to know how much money the city is
4 actually in debt. I have heard so many
5 different figures throughout the years that
6 I have no idea how much money the city is in
7 debt. I would really love to know where is
8 the money being spent and how is it being
9 spent.

10 Again, I have heard so many
11 different stories that I don't really know,
12 and I know I'm not the only person that
13 feels this way in the City of Scranton. So,
14 I mean, I'm going to support you. I might
15 yell at you, I might argue with you, but I'm
16 going to support you as long as I feel you
17 are doing the right thing, and I'm sure that
18 most of the citizens in the City of Scranton
19 feel the same way that I do.

20 We are getting a new start. It's
21 2014, we got a new mayor, we got two new
22 council members, we got a chance. I mean,
23 it's not going to be easy, it's go to be
24 very difficult, but I would really like to
25 find out, like, where is the money all going

1 to come from, how are we going to get the
2 money.

3 You know, Mayor Courtright stated
4 that we all have come together and we all
5 have to give. Well, you know, the citizens
6 and the taxpayers have already done that.
7 They observed a 56 percent tax increase and
8 a 69 percent garbage fee increase, so the
9 citizens and the taxpayers have already done
10 that. They have come together and they have
11 given.

12 So now we need the mayor, city
13 council and the administration and all of
14 the department heads to do the same thing.
15 They need to come together and they need to
16 give and they really need to work on making
17 Scranton a better place to live, party at
18 and play and worship, and thank you.

19 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

20 MR. MCGOFF: Gerard Hetman.

21 MR. HETMAN: Good evening, city
22 council. I'm Gerard Hetman from the
23 Lackawanna County Department of Community
24 Relations. As I look at the dais tonight I
25 see three familiar faces, I have worked with

1 three returning councilmen for the last two
2 years in this capacity. For our two new
3 council members and for the general purposes
4 of reorganization, please just allow me to
5 offer a brief overview of myself and what I
6 do.

7 Like I said, I work for Lackawanna
8 County's Community Relations Department. We
9 work on behalf of the Lackawanna County
10 Commissioners, Corey O'Brien, Jim Wansacz
11 and Patrick O'Malley, and it's basically a
12 community outreach and constituent service
13 staff. The work that we do is the way I
14 explained it very similar to what the
15 district staff would do for a state
16 representative, state senator, US
17 Congressman or US senator.

18 We go out to the community, work
19 with citizens and businesses and elected
20 officials on behalf of the commissioners to
21 try and make county services and programs
22 accessible to every resident in Lackawanna
23 County. A key part of our outreach is
24 attending municipal meetings for all the
25 elected officials, bodies in Lackawanna

1 County, school boards, Borough councils and,
2 of course, city councils, including
3 Scranton.

4 So typically I come to the third
5 meeting of the month on the third Thursday
6 of the month for Scranton City Council. If
7 I have a conflict in my schedule or if
8 council doesn't meet during the third
9 Thursday I typically come to the fourth
10 Thursday. The first two weeks I attend
11 other municipal meetings in other
12 municipalities that I'm assigned to.

13 But I'm here to work with you and
14 over the last two years I have enjoyed great
15 cooperation from the five council members
16 that were present during that time and for
17 each of the three returning members I have
18 worked well with you and our two members,
19 looking forward to working with you. I'm
20 your link to county government and any
21 questions or suggestions you have, any
22 issues that you would like to work with the
23 commissioners or any other county department
24 or agency on, I can help you access that and
25 I'm here to, again, to represent the

1 commissioners to city government and I'm
2 looking forward to with all five of you as
3 well as your staff and all of the residents
4 of the City of Scranton.

5 On that note, we just have a couple
6 of items, and typically for the new members
7 I do speak about the new programs and
8 initiatives that the commissioners launch
9 from month to month when I visit.

10 The first one was unveiled yesterday
11 at the commissioner's monthly meeting, which
12 is called the Lackawanna County Code Blue
13 Weather Alert Initiative. The Code Blue
14 program is a public outreach initiative
15 designed to raise awareness of the dangers
16 of freezing weather. It's personal health
17 as well as to pets and personal property for
18 residents and visitors to Lackawanna County.
19 Whenever the temperature, including
20 windchills, is expected to go by 20 degrees
21 Fahrenheit for a period of more than a few
22 hours, typically a day or more, in
23 conjunction with Lackawanna County Emergency
24 Management Agency, the commissioners issue a
25 Code Blue advisory through the media

1 channels and also county social media and
2 website and we can also send it to all of
3 the elected officials so that your
4 departments in government are aware of this.

5 It's very simply an outreach
6 initiative designed to share information
7 from the county website, number one. We
8 have got a whole collection of links and,
9 know, different multi-media from public
10 safety agencies designed to keep people safe
11 with tips and information as they stay safe
12 in the cold weather.

13 And then secondly, we have partnered
14 with three shelters in the City of Scranton
15 that take in residents who may be homeless
16 during the cold weather and most of them do
17 it year around. St. Andrew's Haven on
18 Wyoming Avenue and also the Bethel AME
19 shelter on Washington Avenue are both
20 overnight, and then the Community
21 Intervention Center is a daytime shelter
22 over on Sixth Avenue. We have talked to all
23 three of them and all three of those
24 institutions have partnered with us in
25 agreeing to raise their level of awareness a

1 little bit when the cold weather hits, and
2 all of their contact is accessible, again,
3 on the county website. We will have an icon
4 on there which will be blue when the cold
5 weather alert is in effect, and it's green
6 otherwise. So the information is available
7 for advance in planning.

8 But all of the shelter's contact
9 information, address and there is always
10 operation on there, and I believe I speak
11 for all of us when we know that the homeless
12 residents in the city and the area aren't
13 always cast away, they are among us in the
14 community. They are friends, sometimes they
15 are our neighbors and people we know and see
16 every day and when the cold weather hits we
17 want to make sure they have a safe place to
18 go.

19 The commissioners have modeled this
20 after Code Blue programs in other counties.
21 I believe in Montgomery County, the City of
22 Philadelphia, and I look forward to putting
23 into place, hopefully not too much cold
24 weather, but when it hits we want to make
25 sure everybody knows where to go and what to

1 do.

2 And then the second item that we
3 have is that the Lackawanna County
4 Courthouse is one of the locations open for
5 prescription drug take back, meaning that
6 there is a container there as part of the
7 Healthy PA Initiative. Anyone can drop off
8 prescription -- unused prescriptions there
9 between Monday through Friday between the
10 hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. and there
11 is a container, you just go up and see the
12 deputies, and you can deposit any unused
13 prescription medication that may be laying
14 around your house, again, during business
15 hours 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and it's there
16 for resident's use.

17 So, thank you, gentlemen of council,
18 and we'll see you soon.

19 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr. Hetman.
20 Les Spindler.

21 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening,
22 Council. Les Spindler, city resident and
23 homeowner and taxpayer. I would, too, would
24 like to welcome council back and welcome the
25 new council people, and I am going to be a

1 little bit repetitive of what Mr. Jackowitz
2 said, you have a daunting task ahead of you,
3 but you have to work with the mayor, unlike
4 what's happened in the last 12 years, for
5 the first eight years Mayor Doherty had his
6 rubber stamp council, of which our esteemed
7 president was part of for awhile, and the
8 last four years I thought we had a really
9 good council, which the mayor wouldn't get
10 along with, so for anything to get done this
11 council has to get along with the mayor.

12 I think Mayor Courtright is going to
13 do a fantastic job and I think in his little
14 time in office I think he has shown some
15 good things already. The city has hired a
16 consultant, which the city is not paying
17 for, which unlike in the past where our
18 former mayor, which I can't even say his
19 name anymore because I get ill when I talk
20 about him, he hired consultants costing the
21 city hundreds of thousands of dollars.

22 Now the Chamber of Commerce is
23 paying for his consultant, who has a past
24 history of the help other cities out of the
25 situation we are in, so hopefully is going

1 to do a good job.

2 And Mr. Courtright's business
3 administrator, I worked with him for a very
4 long time at a local bank, very, very
5 qualified person. He worked in business
6 banking for years, it's a great hire, again,
7 unlike the past administration with
8 unqualified people, so I hope this council
9 works with the mayor, and you have to.
10 There is no -- I think he is going to do a
11 great job. This council could do go down in
12 history maybe in turning this city around
13 for where it is now because we are in dire
14 straights as everybody knows.

15 And one thing I don't like -- I
16 think Councilman Rogan deserved to be
17 president. He was the people's choice, had
18 more votes than anybody, more votes than the
19 mayor, and I think a deal was made so Mr.
20 McGoff could be president, but -- deny it
21 all you want, Mr. McGoff, I know what
22 happened.

23 MR. ROGAN: I appreciate the
24 comments, Mr. Spindler. I'm just happy
25 being on board though.

1 MR. SPINDLER: I know you have done
2 a great job in the past.

3 MR. ROGAN: Thank you.

4 MR. SPINDLER: I know you will do a
5 great job now. You have always been a
6 person that's for the taxpayers.

7 MR. ROGAN: Thank you.

8 MR. SPINDLER: And, like I said,
9 council has to work with the mayor and if
10 you don't like other council people that
11 haven't worked with the mayor and haven't
12 liked -- the taxpayers don't like it and
13 they got voted out.

14 So moving on, the Goodwill project,
15 something has to done with that. I mean,
16 that's school is going to keep deteriorating
17 if it's not done now, and I have known
18 Mr. Langan for most of my life and he said
19 if this doesn't go through now this is it,
20 he gives up, and I can't blame him. He has
21 been trying to fix that building up for
22 years and I think if the city could help out
23 and really get that project going I think we
24 have to because I think that would be a
25 great start to turning this city around.

1 It's a beautiful building and if it's, you
2 know, if it's refurbished the way the
3 Goodwill wants to do it I think it will be a
4 great asset for the city.

5 And that's about all I have to say
6 tonight. Good luck to council, and as I
7 said, please work with the mayor because the
8 taxpayers need it. I know it's a long way
9 off, maybe next year's budget we could cut
10 taxes and cut the garbage fee because, like
11 I said, there is some people in this city
12 that just cannot afford it, and especially
13 the garbage tax. I'll be back again. Thank
14 you for your time.

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

16 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you,
17 Mr. Spindler. Anyone else who wishes to
18 address council?

19 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening,
20 Council. Marie Schumacher. Welcome back
21 and all of the best for all of our success.

22 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

23 MS. SCHUMACHER: First, and I think
24 the most important thing, is the loan status
25 for the TAN. Early last year or last month

1 it was stated by Mr. Judge of CaseCon that
2 the closing date of a TAN, \$17 million, I
3 believe, was to be around the 3rd of
4 January. I have heard or seen nothing.
5 That's rather important to the city. What
6 is the status of that TAN and is CaseCon
7 being retained or are they going to be
8 replaced?

9 MR. MCGOFF: I don't -- I thought
10 that the papers for the TAN were signed
11 prior to Mayor Doherty leaving. I have
12 not -- I have been a little out of the loop
13 so, I'm not sure what the status of that is,
14 but we will find out.

15 MS. SCHUMACHER: Yeah, I would hope
16 you would all want to know whether we
17 borrowed that \$17 million.

18 MR. ROGAN: I was the under the
19 impression that everything was taken care
20 of, that's why the city paid its pension
21 fund early to avoid the additional
22 penalties. I know from meeting with PEL
23 previous to this year that the city was
24 waiting to be sure that the TAN would be
25 finalized in order to meet the payroll

1 that's today.

2 MS. SCHUMACHER: But I would like to
3 know if it was executed --

4 MR. ROGAN: Oh, absolutely.

5 MS. SCHUMACHER: If that was
6 actually executed. Maybe next week you
7 could do that, yes.

8 Now, Mr. McGoff, you stated that
9 nothing in the agenda had changed from what
10 the prior council had approved, but I look
11 at 5-P and the budget says we will have a
12 fire chief and on 5-P it says we are going
13 to have an acting fire chief and that's an
14 issue for me. We were told a budget
15 includes a fire chief. Is this only a
16 temporary appointment or --

17 MR. MCGOFF: I don't know the reason
18 for the word "acting". When I said there
19 were no changes I don't think that that's a
20 fundamental change.

21 MS. SCHUMACHER: It is to me. I
22 would -- as a matter of fact, enough that I
23 would ask that you hold up on voting on this
24 tonight until you have the answer on why and
25 the circumstances and make sure that this

1 job is in compliance with the budget from
2 last year.

3 And the rental registration program,
4 I know one of the two people who was working
5 on that has taken another position and is
6 that effort now being reduced to a single
7 person or are has there been another
8 appointment or will there be another hire to
9 keep that position.

10 MR. MCGOFF: That position is still
11 in the budget, but it is a -- I believe it
12 is a union position so, therefore, it would
13 have to be go through the bidding process in
14 order to be filled.

15 MS. SCHUMACHER: So it's --
16 currently there is one person.

17 MR. MCGOFF: And I'm hoping that --
18 yes, currently there is one person. I don't
19 think that that position has been filled as
20 of yet.

21 MR. ROGAN: In addition, regarding
22 the rental registration I know one of the
23 amendments that we were trying to push was
24 for the extra person in the Business
25 Administrator's Office that would oversee

1 the rental registration. I spoke to the
2 mayor earlier in the week and he indicated
3 that he is still trying to work with DCED to
4 obtain that grant for that position that
5 would -- much of the focus would be on
6 maximizing the rental registration program.

7 MS. SCHUMACHER: Thank you. And
8 then another question that I asked last year
9 that never got answered, but I would hope
10 that you could get the -- maybe now would be
11 a good time to ask, can you tell me what the
12 assignments are for the members of the
13 council? Who has finance, who has public
14 works, who has public safety?

15 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

16 MS. SCHUMACHER: Thank you.

17 MR. MCGOFF: Public works. Public
18 Safety, Community Development and Finance.

19 MS. SCHUMACHER: Thank you. Yeah,
20 there was a half a million dollar increase
21 for the Tax Collector Committee, and I'd ask
22 what those expenses were for and I would
23 will really like to know had you that half a
24 million dollars in addition that was put
25 this for this year's budget for that

1 committee, that Act 32 Committee, what that
2 is going to provide.

3 Oh, just a public service kind of
4 thing, a suggestion to property owners
5 living on the top of a hill, I travel up and
6 down and I see a lot of water runoff and a
7 lot of it going across the roads that
8 freezes at night and causes problems in the
9 morning is that the sewer grates or the
10 storm water grates are covered over with
11 leaves yet from the fall, so I would just
12 urge anybody who is a property owner and has
13 a grate in front of their home and has the
14 ability physically to clear those off that
15 would really be helpful and allow the storm
16 water to go into the drains instead of
17 across the road and freeze and cause
18 problems.

19 Now, a little bit more back on the
20 budget. Last year Mr. Hickey was here
21 speaking on behalf of Mayor-elect
22 Courtright, Courtright's transition team, on
23 whether or not the 2014 budget was
24 realistic, so there are a few more questions
25 that I had last year and that weren't

1 answered. The \$1.7 million sale of the city
2 asset, I would like to know what that is and
3 is it a straight out sale or is it a sale
4 leaseback? Maybe by next week you could
5 have that answer or you know now?

6 MR. MCGOFF: I believe that PEL
7 agreed to put that -- that that would be
8 allowed to be put into the budget without a
9 specific sale agreement.

10 MS. SCHUMACHER: Do we even have a
11 clue?

12 MR. MCGOFF: So as far as I know, at
13 this point in time there is not a specific
14 item that is being sold.

15 MS. SCHUMACHER: Umm. Shame on PEL.
16 Okay. Earned income tax, there was some
17 discussion last year on whether or not the
18 spike in 2013 was due to the Act 32 full
19 implementation or whether it was something
20 that was going to continue. I would like to
21 know whether or not we will be able to tell
22 with the first Berkheimer payment comparison
23 of that to last years on whether or not last
24 year was a spike or whether we can expect
25 higher revenues this year from the earned

1 income tax.

2 MR. MCGOFF: Hopefully.

3 MS. SCHUMACHER: Maybe Mr. Wechsler
4 could check that -- run that one out, that
5 would be helpful.

6 And I would like to ask, if I may,
7 directly to our two new members whether or
8 not they believe, because I know how the
9 other three of you voted, whether or not you
10 believe it's realistic to expect that the
11 property taxes will be collected at the same
12 rate in 2014 with the 56.7 percent increase
13 as it was last year?

14 MR. GAUGHAN: I'm not really sure
15 about that to be completely honest with you.
16 I would hope so, but some people don't have
17 the ability to pay now, so I would expect
18 maybe there would be a little bit of a drop
19 off.

20 MR. WESCHLER: I would anticipate
21 that the new mayor and the new business
22 administrator will be successful in
23 collecting at least the same amount that
24 they did last year. I think, as Bill
25 mentioned, I think it will be a problem in

1 terms of some hardships and have to take it
2 as we go.

3 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. I'll come
4 back with the next week as usual, good Lord
5 willing. Thank you.

6 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Ms.
7 Schumacher.

8 MR. ROGAN: One thing to add you
9 brought up about the tax collections coming
10 in, and Mr. McGoff just informed me earlier,
11 one of the things that I know I pushed for
12 last January was to extend the discount
13 period for residents to pay their taxes.
14 Mr. McGoff just informed me that the tax
15 collector, Bill Fox, has agreed to go along
16 with it, I know the county commissioners
17 have and I believe the school board as well,
18 so it seems that the discount period will be
19 extended this year, which will give seniors,
20 mostly seniors and people who own their
21 homes outright, a little bit more time to
22 get in with that discounted rate.

23 MR. MORGAN: Okay. Good evening,
24 Council. The first thing I have here is,
25 well, personally speaking from myself I

1 think that Mr. McGoff is an excellent choice
2 for council president, even though in the
3 future I may seriously disagree with him
4 many times.

5 The first thing I have here is the
6 North Scranton Junior High School project,
7 emergency certificate, I think we should
8 table that today. I think we really need to
9 take a look at the amount of money that we
10 have spent on that project and where that
11 money has gone to.

12 Now, when Mr. McDade gave them \$3
13 million initially to start off with and then
14 all of the other millions that went into
15 this project, I'm just wondering are we
16 squandering tax money and just throwing it
17 into an open pit? I think we have got a lot
18 of problems in the city and I really think
19 we need to research how much money we have
20 spent there and how all of a sudden today it
21 became an emergency. I think there is lot
22 of questions that need to be answered on
23 that.

24 And the other thing I have is, I
25 don't know if it's true or not, but the mall

1 has fired its management team. Has anybody
2 on council heard that? Okay. Well, if
3 that's true, then I would say that the mall
4 is in very serious trouble and I think that
5 if that has happened maybe it's time to
6 abolish the mercantile tax which will put a
7 hole in the budget, but if you want a city
8 that's vibrant and capable of making a
9 return to some semblance of the prosperity
10 we need to give the merchants in this
11 community an opportunity to recover, not
12 only from a very long recession, but from a
13 city that has lost most of its population,
14 okay, over the ensuing 80 years.

15 An awful lot its middle class has
16 disappeared and a lot of really -- we are in
17 really a real mess here and I think that we
18 have to start thinking in a new way and we
19 are going to create a couple of holes in the
20 budget, but can we afford to allow this mall
21 to collapse? And I'm really saying that
22 this mall is very close to collapse. We
23 have lost one of its anchors and we need to
24 start really considering how we are going to
25 turn this city around.

1 Now, I'm troubled that the Chamber
2 has come forward and helped the city hire a
3 consultant because I'm just wondering why
4 can't Scranton elected officials find the
5 solutions to our problems. I mean, they
6 have got the help of PEL, we have got the
7 legislators that come in and give us help
8 and we can't even put our own budgets
9 together anymore. I just don't understand
10 how we can elect people that don't have a
11 real grasp of reality of what's taking place
12 in this city, and when I see that the city
13 has -- the Chamber of Commerce is going to
14 give the city a consultant it reminds me of
15 the Gerry Cooney-Ken Norton fight that
16 lasted 30 seconds. Ken Norton got knocked
17 out by Gerry Coney and everybody hyped it up
18 as a great fight, and what I'm saying in
19 regard to that is we have hyped up this
20 election process as if we -- we have a
21 candidates who ran for office and claimed
22 that they had solutions and if we go to a
23 consultant, where are we? Why are we
24 electing people? I just don't understand
25 that.

1 I mean, you know, we have got to
2 stop borrowing money, we've just had so many
3 problems that, you know, it's hard to
4 comprehend where the city is going to go. I
5 mean, we have to really take a good hard
6 look at what we are trying to do. I'm just
7 thinking that, you know, if the mall
8 collapses where are we going to go? I think
9 the first step this mayor should take is
10 implementation of the Scranton Abington
11 Planning Association's comprehensive plan.
12 I think SAPA would be the greatest possible
13 thing that this council and this mayor can
14 do for this city because we need economic
15 development and we need a change in
16 direction and we just don't seem to have
17 that.

18 And I think that we have got to
19 start looking in a new way and for people to
20 talk about shared sacrifice after 20 years
21 in distressed status this city and,
22 Mr. Gaughan, I think you might have hit
23 something here when you said that you think
24 that this year tax revenue may be less
25 because I really believe that the residents

1 of this city have given all of they have and
2 there is nothing left and these grand tax
3 increases and all of these other things we
4 have a debt that we have to finance, but
5 maybe it's really time to consider that this
6 monster is just to big for us to handle and
7 all across the country they are watching
8 Scranton and they think we are going to
9 collapse. Are we? Thank you.

10 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

11 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening. Dave
12 Dobrzyn, back again just like bad news, it
13 don't go away. Okay, as far as anything on
14 five I'll read through it, see if I have any
15 comments next week.

16 But I had a question that popped
17 into my mind last year, and it's about the
18 PPL translines at Nay Aug Park. Now, back
19 in the 90's, I was driving by it and I seen
20 they were installing all kinds of new
21 transmission lines, high tension lines right
22 through the east side of Nay Aug Park
23 between the broken highway, and the thought
24 occurred to me when the Verizon whatever the
25 person, the representative of that phone

1 company came was offering rent. Now, this
2 goes right through a prime choice, since the
3 bridge was built over the brook, prime land
4 at Nay Aug Park, and, by the way, there is
5 also two Nay Aug Parks. If you go to the
6 end of Elmhurst Boulevard right below the
7 lookout there be will a monument just before
8 you can turn right or left, and that's to
9 the donors -- there is about 40 acres up
10 there that have been deprived of since the
11 highway came through. So I would like to
12 find out if the PPL is renting space out of
13 Nay Aug Park and if they aren't they really
14 should start. It's time.

15 Now, I read in the paper about a
16 sewer plant sale. I'd also like to know if
17 the unions have ever been approached with
18 the new administration about an attempt for
19 time payments. I would caution on sewer
20 plants sales and any type of assets sales
21 where your house could be condemned if you
22 are able to pay a bill. Once you get a
23 corporation involved you are going to
24 compile 30, 40 percent overhead in profits
25 on top of the original costs of replacing

1 equipment, so it's apples and oranges and
2 depends on what you like.

3 And in reality, like health
4 insurance, nonprofit health insurance is
5 about 400 a month for Blue Cross, well, if
6 you try to go on Cobra with Aetna or
7 something it's five and a quarter, 550, so
8 once you get a corporation involved there is
9 going to be profit margins and there is
10 going to be overhead and CEOs and who knows.

11 Okay, recycle, I have a printout
12 here, I have given this before and I might
13 mention in my neighborhood the recycling
14 wasn't picked up two weeks in a row. Now,
15 the week before last we had a nasty snow
16 storm so that's in South Side between Willow
17 and Alder Street up on the upper side. I
18 didn't even bother putting it out, but now
19 my neighbor complained that his recycling
20 wasn't taken and I didn't put my mine out
21 because I didn't have a full bucket anyway.

22 Okay, also a few -- quite awhile ago
23 we lent out a fire truck and that concerns
24 me that another town is benefiting from low
25 taxes possibly or whatever and it's lent out

1 to Throop and it's our equipment. It would
2 be nice if they decided they wanted to buy
3 it if they could throw us a couple of bucks
4 if we are not ever going to use it and if we
5 really need it it's my understanding it
6 never came back and it's been about a year
7 now or since I have known about it, who
8 knows how long it's been.

9 And, once again, trade packs and
10 merchants, we have several stores closing
11 downtown. Galucci's is closing, the music
12 store, they had excellent repair work and
13 customizing work and music lessons, they are
14 moving to Taylor, and it's just ashame with
15 the mall and everything else these merchants
16 and everybody out there has to start facing
17 the fact trade packs are killing the working
18 class in this country and it does not stop.
19 There really isn't very much hope. It's
20 just ashame, but every time they -- right
21 now we have the Transpacific pact and you
22 get cited a couple of jobs, 10,000 jobs,
23 well, the next thing you know 100,000 are
24 moving out of the country and we have 10,000
25 to replace that's just wonderful, but nobody

1 has any money and that's why the mall has no
2 business, that's why the stores are closing.
3 Thank you and have a good night.

4 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr. Dobrzyn.

5 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you. Anyone
6 else?

7 MR. DOBRZYN: Contact your
8 Congressman and tell them no trade pack.
9 Thank you. I'm sorry about that.

10 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else care to
11 address council? Thank you.

12 MS. REED: FIFTH ORDER. 5-A.
13 MOTIONS.

14 MR. MCGOFF: One faux pas that I
15 made in the beginning, I neglected to ask if
16 any council people had any announcements to
17 make or comments to make prior to the
18 meeting or prior to that, hopefully we can
19 do it during motions.

20 Mr. Wechsler?

21 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you,
22 Mr. McGoff. As tonight is my first meeting
23 I can't tell you the excitement that I feel
24 with being here and being a part of what I
25 think is going to be a great turnaround for

1 the City of Scranton. I'd like to thank the
2 people that come to these meetings and take
3 their time to speak. I'd like to thank the
4 people that stay at home and watch the
5 meetings and participate and keep up to
6 date.

7 When we talk about everybody being
8 all in that includes you, and this forum I
9 believe is a welcome place for people to
10 exchange ideas, give comments, but we want
11 to keep it as positive as possible. That
12 doesn't mean you have to be a cheerleader
13 for the city, but when we campaigned, all of
14 us, and we campaigned with the mayor we made
15 a commitment to have a positive attitude
16 towards the City of Scranton. We have set
17 down with each other and we have sat down
18 with the mayor and so far we are working
19 towards that.

20 Speaking about the Chamber of
21 Commerce, the Chamber of Commerce was
22 another example of everybody being all in.
23 To the best of my knowledge, this is the
24 first time that the Chamber has stepped up
25 and wanted to become a participant in the

1 recovery of Scranton. The money that they
2 are providing has come from donors of the
3 members of the Chamber and it's welcome.

4 The other thing I would like to
5 mention is I would like to congratulate
6 Mayor Courtright, and I'd like to
7 congratulate him, also, on the collection of
8 the cabinet members, I'm quite impressed by
9 all of them.

10 And the last thing I had is since we
11 heard tonight about the Goodwill I believe
12 that this, as Mr. Langan said, this is the
13 final step in this project. This is either
14 going to work or it's not going to work.
15 And it does no one no good for this project
16 not to work. The people of North Scranton
17 have waited for this for quite a long time
18 and I'm very excited that this will move
19 forward. Thank you.

20 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr.
21 Wechsler.

22 Councilman Rogan?

23 MR. ROGAN: Yes, thank you. First
24 an announcement and then a few comments.
25 The University of Scranton and the United

1 Way are once again helping low to moderate
2 income individuals, families and senior
3 citizens prepare their taxes this year. For
4 anyone whose household income was less than
5 \$51,000 for the Year of 2013 you may be
6 eligible to have your taxes prepared for
7 free. There are a lot of changes to the tax
8 code this year coming up, and I'm sure many
9 of you have seen the commercials on TV from
10 the companies that want to charge you to
11 prepare, it's very expensive and there is a
12 lot of people that are missing a lot of
13 deductions when they do prepare their taxes.

14 So beginning February 2 appointments
15 will be available, actually all around the
16 county and the other counties, but for
17 Scranton residents specifically they can go
18 to the University of Scranton, but you could
19 call up now to setup an appointment and that
20 number is 570-504-0614, and I'm going to
21 leave this information with our office as
22 well so if anyone has any questions they can
23 give a call and get this relayed to them.

24 It really is a great service. I
25 talked to a few residents that did take

1 advantage of it last year and it really is a
2 help to have your taxes professionally
3 prepared.

4 Next, just a couple of the items
5 that I would like to talk about, January 6
6 right after our swearing in meeting I had a
7 very lengthy meeting with OECD Executive
8 Director Linda Aebli to go over a number of
9 issues, one of them being the issue we see
10 on the agenda tonight, which I'll address
11 later, but it was a very productive meeting
12 and Ms. Aebli did agree that we would be
13 meeting on a monthly basis to go over the
14 inner workings of OECD, which is something
15 that I'm very, very happy about and looking
16 forward to that openness in city hall. It's
17 something that we haven't seen in a long
18 time.

19 Additionally, she did provide me
20 with many documents, some which can be
21 public, some which are not, and I spoke to
22 OECD Attorney Hickey as well and we are
23 going to try to formulate a procedure for
24 dealing with these loans that are in
25 default, whether it be through legal

1 channels or through in-house channels. It's
2 something that needs to be done. There were
3 a lot of bad ones issues over the last
4 decade, and the ones that were it's a loss
5 to the city. And everyone always points to
6 the Molly Brannigan loan and it's by far the
7 biggest loan, hundreds of thousands of
8 dollars that were really just thrown away
9 and there is nothing there now.

10 So I think by working with business
11 owners who are struggling, by working to get
12 the deadbeats to pay and reorganizing this
13 program we could have more money coming in
14 with the revolving loan account, and the
15 more money that's coming in the more money
16 that will be in the city coffers for this
17 program, specifically the loans to other
18 small business.

19 And as much as people dwell on the
20 bad there are some businesses that received
21 a loan, paid it off and are thriving in this
22 city and that's why the programs are there
23 and that's what we hope that in the future
24 it will become a place for small businesses
25 who need a little extra capital to create

1 jobs and to grow in the city, so I'm very
2 grateful for that, looking forward to.

3 There are many challenges, as I
4 think everyone stated tonight over the next
5 four years, but we are certainly up to the
6 task.

7 Regarding the North Scranton Junior
8 High School project, this is a piece of
9 legislation that I'm very happy that we are
10 voting on tonight, and hopefully it will
11 pass unanimously. This project really is
12 one of the two big projects that people in
13 the city have wanted to see take place for
14 decades, the other one being the Scranton
15 Lace project. Two big beautiful buildings
16 in the city that have been sitting there
17 vacant for decades just rotting away, and my
18 mother and her sister and my aunts and
19 uncles many of them went to North Scranton
20 Junior High and they always told stories
21 about walking there from Greenridge, which
22 if you go that way you know it's uphill both
23 ways, and when you drive up Drinker Street
24 and see that building there just imagine
25 what it could be.

1 And there certainly is a demand for
2 low income senior housing in the city. I
3 know we get requests all the time from
4 residents trying to get into Park Gardens,
5 other properties within the Housing
6 Authority and there certainly is a demand,
7 and another thing that was mentioned in
8 caucus by Mr. Langan is that the
9 amphitheater will be open to the public. It
10 will be restored and brought back to what it
11 was.

12 So I am proud to vote for this
13 legislation and it was explained by Attorney
14 Hickey, it really is only a temporary change
15 as far as the city having the first lien
16 position, we are changing to the second
17 position for the construction period, which
18 if things go the way they are planned that
19 should only be a few years and definitely
20 looking forward to groundbreaking next
21 month, maybe if it's on time, if not a
22 couple more, and see this project finally
23 take off.

24 So that's all for now. I probably
25 will have a couple of other comments when we

1 get to the voting portion of the meeting.

2 Thank you.

3 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Councilman
4 Rogan.

5 Council Loscombe?

6 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes. Just briefly,
7 again, I would like to touch on the Goodwill
8 project, also. We had a little caucus this
9 evening, a lot more was explained. I know
10 there is a lot of skepticism because this
11 project has been ongoing for a long time.
12 There were a lot of pieces of the puzzle to
13 be put together and I think right now we are
14 at the tipping point and our legislation is
15 going to be key, and it's only some minor
16 changes, but I think we are going to see
17 some major improvements at the top of
18 Greenridge Street starting in February.

19 I'm optimistic. I think the whole
20 group, Goodwill and everyone involved are
21 very optimistic at this time that this is
22 the final piece of the puzzle and we are
23 ready to move on with this project. It will
24 be a great benefit to the city, specifically
25 North Scranton, and I think all of my

1 colleagues are in favor of seeing this go
2 through at this time.

3 I believe it was Mr. Jackowitz that
4 asked about long-term debt in the city, you
5 know, how do we know what we owe, what
6 things are? Well, Monday, I believe it was
7 Monday, yes, we had a press conference where
8 Mr. Henry Amaroso was introduced. He has
9 been involved in many projects, one of the
10 main projects is helping Newark get out of
11 their financial situation.

12 People question why we need an
13 outsider, why are we paying someone to come
14 in. You know, you could look at it a lot of
15 different ways. It's good to have an
16 outside view. You know, we are all in this
17 community, all of us have a vested interest,
18 but to have someone without outside eyes
19 that has seen these scenarios before, I
20 think it's a great advantage to us. It's
21 not costing the taxpayers any money.

22 You know, the way I look at it is if
23 a family member, you know, needs major heart
24 surgery and, you know, the best surgeons in
25 this area are a little skeptical on some

1 things or they don't have all of the answers
2 and a professional from some other area is
3 recommended, you know, I would take their
4 advice, and in this particular case I think
5 this is a great move by our current mayor.

6 And again, I believe all of us on
7 this dais here have met this gentlemen and
8 we are impressed with his resume, his vision
9 for the future for the city, what he has to
10 say and you know, I can only see positive
11 things ahead. We are going to get to the
12 bottom line. We are going to know where
13 we're at with him and it's going to give us
14 some basis on where to go in the future.

15 But I am very hopeful with the
16 couple of these, you know, these things that
17 have just happened this week alone, and I
18 would also like to commend the mayor on his
19 choice of cabinet members, I think he has
20 put together a great cabinet and they have
21 all been very open to us at this point. I
22 hope they continue to be so, and the best of
23 luck to everybody. But more importantly,
24 the best of luck to you our taxpayers. I
25 think you will see a difference with the

1 cooperation and the openness that's going
2 on, and that's all I have to say at this
3 time. Thank you.

4 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Councilman
5 Loscombe.

6 Councilman Gaughan?

7 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, thank you. I'd
8 like to thank everybody for being here
9 tonight. I'd like to thank my family for
10 all of their help during the election. It's
11 an honor to be sitting up here today as a
12 city councilman and I realize Mr. Morgan
13 mentioned, along with some of the other
14 council speakers, the daunting task that
15 lies ahead of us, but I would like everybody
16 to know that we will do our best and we will
17 work as hard as possible for the city.

18 I do have a few items that I would
19 like to bring up. We did receive
20 correspondence from a gentleman up in the
21 Kane Street area in South Scranton about the
22 condition of Kane Street. It is in
23 deplorable condition, and I don't know, did
24 anybody else get that letter on Kane Street?
25 So I will be following up with the new

1 director of the DPW on that just so that
2 gentleman knows.

3 I'd like to thank Gerard Hetman for
4 coming tonight and introducing himself. I
5 can't wait to work with you.

6 On the Chamber of Commerce deal, I
7 did not have the chance to meet with
8 Mr. Amaroso yet. I agree with Mr. Wechsler
9 that I think it is a good thing that the
10 chamber wants to get involved and help the
11 city. I did have a few questions, one of
12 which was who would be donating the \$30,000
13 to Mr. Amaroso, and according to the paper
14 Mr. Durkin, the president of the Chamber of
15 Commerce, is going to disclose that, so I
16 was glad to see that. So I look forward to
17 meeting Mr. Amaroso and hearing what his
18 ideas are and working closely together with
19 him the mayor and the council.

20 On the Goodwill project, basically
21 what it comes down to, according to what we
22 heard in the caucus, is if we vote "no" on
23 if they lose the money. If we vote "yes" on
24 the project continues mostly in February, so
25 I will be voting "yes" on that. Other than

1 that, I don't have anything. Thank you.

2 MR. LOSCOMBE: Mr. McGoff, I'm
3 sorry, real quick. You know, in the spirit
4 of cooperation, as Mr. Gaughan mentioned,
5 Mr. Hetman, I'm glad to see Mr. Hetman from
6 the county here, I also would like to
7 recognize Larry West, who is here from
8 Senator Bake's Office. This
9 inner-government cooperation is going to be
10 beneficial to everyone in this city, so
11 thanks for coming tonight, too, Larry.

12 MR. ROGAN: Mr. West, if you could
13 get your boss to support Senate Bill 76 we
14 would certainly appreciate it.

15 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. Just a few
16 brief comments. First of all, the idea of
17 cooperation, I think the first ten days of
18 this administration has seen enormous
19 cooperation among all parties involved. I
20 think this is the cooperation that we have
21 been looking for and I hope that the
22 momentum that it has continues throughout
23 the year and even becomes greater. We are
24 trying to foster greater communication, and
25 as Mr. Rogan mentioned, he has already

1 reached out to Ms. Aebli and setting up an
2 open line of communication.

3 We have encouraged all of the
4 members of the council to open lines of
5 communication with the cabinet heads that
6 are related to their particular committee
7 and hopefully that we can work on a kind of
8 face-to-face basis with these people, so
9 that the things can get done in a more
10 timely fashion and a more cooperative
11 fashion. I think that is something that we
12 are looking forward to. I think that is
13 something that you should look forward to.

14 The other piece of cooperation that
15 has been mentioned between the Chamber of
16 Commerce and the city, a great positive
17 partnership. This is a something that
18 should exist. The Chamber of Commerce
19 should act in the interest of the city and
20 the city should act in the interest of the
21 Chamber of Commerce. It should be a
22 symbiotic relationship and hopefully this is
23 the first step, and I thank Mr. Durkin for
24 reaching out and for creating this first
25 step. I think this is something, again,

1 that's going to be very positive for the
2 city.

3 And the selection or the hiring of
4 the consultant, I don't think expert help is
5 ever a bad idea. I know Mayor Courtright
6 promised during his campaign that he would
7 seek out kind of the best and the brightest
8 to help solve the problems of the City of
9 Scranton and I think this is a great step
10 towards doing that, especially when it comes
11 at no cost to the city. This is something
12 that, again, is something that we look
13 forward to and hopefully start to see some
14 progress and some results from it.

15 And people have been -- have
16 mentioned that we had a caucus beforehand, I
17 should have mentioned this prior, we are
18 reinstating the caucus of council at 6:00
19 prior to every meeting. The purpose of
20 these -- of this caucus, I'm not sure what
21 the plural of caucus would be so I'm trying
22 to avoid it, is basically informational and
23 organizational. They are open to the
24 public. We do meet back in the Clerk's
25 Office and the purpose of them is so that we

1 as a council can sit down, look at the
2 agenda, get information that we may need and
3 talk about the procedures that we will be --
4 you know, what will happen during the
5 process of the meeting. As I said, the
6 public is welcome to attend. Realize that
7 is a small room, but it basically is
8 informational and organizational.

9 If there is something that is of
10 major import we will move out to council
11 chambers for the caucus as has been done in
12 the past, but they will be held every
13 evening at 6:00 -- or every council -- prior
14 to every council meeting at 6:00. And that
15 is all. Thank you very much.

16 MS. REED: 5-B. AMENDING FILE OF
17 THE COUNCIL NO. 6, 1976 ENTITLED "AN
18 ORDINANCE (AS AMENDED) IMPOSING A TAX FOR
19 GENERAL REVENUE PURPOSES ON THE TRANSFER OF
20 REAL
21 PROPERTY SITUATE WITHIN THE CITY OF
22 SCRANTON; PRESCRIBING AND REGULATING THE
23 METHOD OF EVIDENCING THE PAYMENT OF SUCH
24 TAX; CONFERRING POWERS AND IMPOSING DUTIES
25 UPON CERTAIN PERSONS, AND PROVIDING

1 PENALTIES", BY IMPOSING THE RATE OF THE
2 REALTY TRANSFER TAX AT TWO AND NINE TENTHS
3 PERCENT (2.9%) FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2014.

4 MR. MCGOFF: At this time I'll
5 entertain a motion that Item 5-B be
6 introduced into its proper committee.

7 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

9 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? All
10 those in favor signify by saying aye.

11 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

12 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

13 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

14 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

15 MS. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The
16 ayes have it and so moved.

17 MS. REED: 5-C. AMENDING FILE OF
18 THE COUNCIL NO. 7, 1976, ENTITLED "AN
19 ORDINANCE (AS AMENDED) IMPOSING A MERCANTILE
20 LICENSE TAX OF 2 MILLS FOR THE YEAR 1976 AND
21 ANNUALLY THEREAFTER UPON PERSONS ENGAGING IN
22 CERTAIN OCCUPATIONS AND BUSINESSES THEREIN;
23 PROVIDING FOR ITS LEVY AND COLLECTION AND
24 FOR THE ISSUANCE OF MERCANTILE LICENSES;
25 CONFERRING AND IMPOSING POWERS AND DUTIES

1 UPON THE TAX COLLECTOR OF THE CITY OF
2 SCRANTON; AND IMPOSING PENALTIES", BY
3 IMPOSING THE MERCANTILE LICENSE TAX AT ONE
4 (1) MILL (.001) FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2014.

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

8 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

10 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? All
11 those in favor signify by saying aye.

12 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

13 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

14 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

15 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

16 MS. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The
17 ayes have it and so moved.

18 MS. REED: 5-D. AMENDING FILE OF
19 THE COUNCIL NO. 8, 1976, ENTITLED "AN
20 ORDINANCE (AS AMENDED) PROVIDING FOR THE
21 GENERAL REVENUE BY IMPOSING A TAX AT THE
22 RATE OF
23 TWO (2) MILLS UPON THE PRIVILEGE OF
24 OPERATING OR CONDUCTING BUSINESS IN THE CITY
25 OF SCRANTON AS MEASURED BY THE GROSS

1 RECEIPTS THEREFROM; REQUIRING REGISTRATION
2 AND PAYMENT OF THE TAX AS CONDITION TO THE
3 CONDUCTING OF SUCH BUSINESS; PROVIDING FOR
4 THE LEVY AND COLLECTION OF SUCH TAX;
5 PRESCRIBING SUCH REQUIREMENTS FOR RETURNS
6 AND RECORDS; CONFERRING POWERS AND DUTIES
7 UPON THE TAX COLLECTOR; AND IMPOSING
8 PENALTIES”, BY IMPOSING THE BUSINESS
9 PRIVILEGE TAX AT THE RATE OF ONE (1) MILL
10 (.001) FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2014.

11 MR. MCGOFF: At this time I'll
12 entertain a motion that Item 5-D be
13 introduced into its proper committee.

14 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

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

18 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

19 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

20 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

21 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

22 MS. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The
23 ayes have it and so moved.

24 MS. REED: 5-E. AMENDING FILE OF
25 THE COUNCIL NO. 100, 1976, ENTITLED “AN

1 ORDINANCE (AS AMENDED) LEVYING GENERAL
2 AND SPECIAL TAXES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 1977",
3 BY SETTING THE MILLAGE FOR THE YEAR 2014.

4 MR. MCGOFF: At this time I'll
5 entertain a motion that Item 5-E be
6 introduced into its proper committee.

7 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

9 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? All
10 those in favor signify by saying aye.

11 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

12 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

13 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

14 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

15 MS. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The
16 eyes have it and so moved.

17 MS. REED: 5-F. AMENDING FILE OF
18 THE COUNCIL NO. 17, 1994 ENTITLED "AN
19 ORDINANCE (AS AMENDED) AUTHORIZING THE
20 GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO
21 ENACT' A WASTE DISPOSAL AND COLLECTION FEE'
22 FOR THE PURPOSE
23 OF RAISING REVENUE TO COVER THE WASTE
24 DISPOSAL AND COLLECTION COSTS INCURRED BY
25 THE CITY OF SCRANTON FOR THE DISPOSAL OF

1 REFUSE"BY IMPOSING A WASTE DISPOSAL AND
2 COLLECTION FEE OF \$300.00 FOR CALENDAR
3 YEAR 2014.

4 MR. MCGOFF: At this time I'll
5 entertain a motion that Item 5-F be
6 introduced into its proper committee.

7 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

9 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? All
10 those in favor signify by saying aye.

11 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

12 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

13 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

14 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

15 MS. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The
16 ayes have it and so moved.

17 MS. REED: 5-G. AMENDING FILE OF THE
18 COUNCIL NO. 145 OF 2007 ENTITLED "AN
19 ORDINANCE RENAMING THE EMERGENCY AND
20 MUNICIPAL SERVICES TAX ("EMST") TO LOCAL
21 SERVICE TAX ("LST")" AND BY IMPOSING A
22 WITHHOLDING OF \$52.00 FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR
23 2014.

24 MR. MCGOFF: At this time I'll
25 entertain a motion that Item 5-G be

1 introduced into its proper committee.

2 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

3 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

4 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? All
5 those in favor signify by saying aye.

6 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

7 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

9 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

10 MS. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The
11 ayes have it and so moved.

12 MS. REED: 5-H. AMENDING FILE OF
13 THE COUNCIL NUMBER 17, 2012, (AS AMENDED)
14 ENTITLED "ESTABLISHING A REGISTRATION
15 PROGRAM FOR RESIDENTIAL RENTAL PROPERTIES;
16 REQUIRING ALL OWNERS OF RESIDENTIAL RENTAL
17 PROPERTIES TO DESIGNATE AN AGENT FOR SERVICE
18 OF PROCESS; AND PRESCRIBING DUTIES OF
19 OWNERS, AGENTS AND OCCUPANTS; DIRECTING THE
20 DESIGNATION OF AGENTS; ESTABLISHING FEES FOR
21 THE COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REGISTRATION
22 OF RENTAL PROPERTY; AND PRESCRIBING
23 PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS" BY AMENDING
24 SECTION 9 - FEES TO INCLUDE THE INCREASES IN
25 THE ANNUAL RENTAL REGISTRATION FEE TO \$50.00

1 PER UNIT AND THE ANNUAL PERMIT FEE TO
2 \$150.00 PER SITE.

3 MR. MCGOFF: At this time I'll
4 entertain a motion that Item 5-H be
5 introduced into its proper committee.

6 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

7 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

8 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? All
9 those in favor signify by saying aye.

10 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

11 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

12 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

13 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

14 MS. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The
15 ayes have it and so moved.

16 MS. REED: 5-I. APPOINTMENT OF
17 LINDA AEBLI, 906 SKYVIEW DRIVE, SCRANTON,
18 PENNSYLVANIA, 18505 TO THE POSITION OF
19 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF ECONOMIC
20 AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT EFFECTIVE JANUARY
21 6, 2014.

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

25 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

1 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

2 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? All
3 those in favor signify by saying aye.

4 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

5 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

6 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

8 MS. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The
9 ayes have it and so moved.

10 MS. REED: 5-J. APPOINTMENT OF CARL
11 GRAZIANO, 418 WILBUR STREET, SCRANTON,
12 PENNSYLVANIA, 18508 TO THE POSITION OF
13 POLICE CHIEF EFFECTIVE JANUARY 6, 2014.

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

17 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

18 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

19 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? All
20 those in favor signify by saying aye.

21 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

22 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

23 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

25 MS. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The

1 ayes have it and so moved.

2 MS. REED: 5-K. APPOINTMENT OF FRANK
3 SWIETNICKI, 2900 PITTSTON AVENUE, SCRANTON,
4 PENNSYLVANIA, 18505 TO THE POSITION OF IT
5 MANAGER EFFECTIVE JANUARY 6, 2014.

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

9 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

10 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

11 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? All
12 those in favor signify by saying aye.

13 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

14 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

16 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

17 MS. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The
18 ayes have it and so moved.

19 MS. REED: 5-L. APPOINTMENT OF WAYNE
20 BECK, 105 YESU DRIVE, SCRANTON,
21 PENNSYLVANIA, 18505 TO THE POSITION OF
22 CITY TREASURER EFFECTIVE JANUARY 6, 2014 TO
23 REPLACE CHRISTOPHER BOLAND.

24 MR. MCGOFF: At this time I'll
25 entertain a motion that Item 5-L be

1 introduced into its proper committee.

2 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

3 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

4 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? All
5 those in favor signify by saying aye.

6 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

7 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

9 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

10 MS. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The
11 ayes have it and so moved.

12 MS. REED: 5-M. APPOINTMENT OF
13 PATRICK HINTON, 319 PROSPECT AVENUE,
14 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18505 TO THE
15 POSITION OF DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
16 LICENSING, INSPECTIONS AND PERMITS EFFECTIVE
17 JANUARY 6, 2014 TO REPLACE MARK SEITZINGER.

18 MR. MCGOFF: At this time I'll
19 entertain a motion that Item 5-M be
20 introduced into its proper committee.

21 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

22 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

23 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? All
24 those in favor signify by saying aye.

25 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

1 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

2 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

3 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

4 MS. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The
5 ayes have it and so moved.

6 MS. REED: 5-N. APPOINTMENT OF
7 EUGENE HICKEY, ESQUIRE, 20 RIDGEVIEW
8 DRIVE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18504 TO THE
9 POSITION OF GENERAL COUNSEL TO THE OFFICE OF
10 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT EFFECTIVE
11 JANUARY 6, 2014 TO REPLACE MICHAEL O'BRIEN,
12 ESQUIRE.

13 MR. MCGOFF: At this time I'll
14 entertain a motion that Item 5-N be
15 introduced into its proper committee.

16 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

17 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

18 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? All
19 those in favor signify by saying aye.

20 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

21 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

22 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

24 MS. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The
25 ayes have it and so moved.

1 MS. REED: 5-0. APPOINTMENT OF
2 DENNIS GALLAGHER, 311 PATTISON AVENUE,
3 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18504 TO THE
4 POSITION OF DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
5 PUBLIC
6 WORKS EFFECTIVE JANUARY 6, 2014 TO REPLACE
7 MARK DOUGHER.

8 MR. MCGOFF: At this time I'll
9 entertain a motion that Item 5-0 be placed
10 into its proper committee.

11 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

12 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

13 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? All
14 those in favor signify by saying aye.

15 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

16 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

17 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

18 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

19 MS. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The
20 ayes have it and so moved.

21 MS. REED: 5-P. APPOINTMENT OF
22 PATRICK DESARNO, 606 HAMPTON STREET,
23 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18504 TO THE
24 POSITION OF ACTING FIRE CHIEF EFFECTIVE
25 JANUARY 6, 2014 TO REPLACE THOMAS DAVIS.

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

4 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

5 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

6 MR. MCGOFF: On the question?

7 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, just on the
8 question, I didn't realize that it said
9 "acting" here until Mrs. Schumacher brought
10 that up, I don't want to table it, but just
11 out of curiosity maybe we can ask the
12 administration why it said "acting" and just
13 not the fire chief?

14 MR. MCGOFF: We will.

15 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

16 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else? All those
17 in favor of introduction signify by saying
18 aye.

19 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

20 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

21 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

22 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

23 MS. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The
24 ayes have it and so moved.

25 MS. REED: 5-Q. APPOINTMENT OF

1 DAVID BULZONI, 2187 PORT ROYAL ROAD, CLARKS
2 SUMMIT, PENNSYLVANIA, 18411 TO THE POSITION
3 OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR EFFECTIVE JANUARY
4 6, 2014 TO REPLACE GINA MCANDREW.

5 MR. MCGOFF: At this time I'll
6 entertain a motion that Item 5-Q be
7 introduced into its proper committee.

8 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

10 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? All
11 those in favor signify by saying aye.

12 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

13 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

14 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

15 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

16 MS. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The
17 ayes have it and so moved.

18 MS. REED: 5-R. APPOINTMENT OF
19 REBECCA MCMULLEN, 1101 GRANDVIEW STREET,
20 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18509 TO THE
21 POSITION OF DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES
22 EFFECTIVE JANUARY 6, 2014 TO REPLACE
23 STEPHANIE DAVIS.

24 MR. MCGOFF: At this time I'll
25 entertain a motion that Item 5-R be

1 introduced into its proper committee.

2 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

3 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

4 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? All
5 those in favor signify by saying aye.

6 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

7 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

9 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

10 MS. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The
11 ayes have it and so moved.

12 MS. REED: 5-S. APPOINTMENT OF JASON
13 A. SHRIVE, ESQUIRE, 180 ACADEMY STREET,
14 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18504 TO THE
15 POSITION OF CITY SOLICITOR EFFECTIVE JANUARY
16 6, 2014 TO REPLACE PAUL KELLY, ESQUIRE.

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

20 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

21 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

22 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? All
23 those in favor signify by saying aye.

24 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

25 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

1 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

2 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

3 MS. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The
4 ayes have it and so moved.

5 MS. REED: 5-T. AUTHORIZING THE
6 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS
7 TO ENTER INTO A LEASEHOLD MORTGAGE, AN
8 AMENDED MORTGAGE ASSUMPTION AGREEMENT, A
9 RELEASE OF A PREVIOUSLY RECORDED MORTGAGE,
10 AN INTERCREDITOR AGREEMENT AND ANY AND ALL
11 OTHER DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO FURTHER THE
12 CONSTRUCTION OF APPROXIMATELY 58 ELDERLY
13 RENTAL UNITS IN THE FORMER NORTH SCRANTON
14 JUNIOR HIGH BUILDING.

15 MR. MCGOFF: At this time I'll
16 entertain a motion that Item 5-T be
17 introduced into its proper committee.

18 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

19 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

20 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? I
21 didn't say anything before about this
22 particular piece of the legislation, I think
23 one important thing is to make note that if
24 we didn't approve this that all of the
25 monies for the construction of that project

1 would be in jeopardy, including the \$700,000
2 that came through OECD that potentially HUD
3 could ask for a return of that money, so
4 putting this off and not approving it could
5 have ultimately cost the city \$700,000. I
6 think it's a much better idea to go ahead
7 with the project and get it done even though
8 we may be changing it somewhat, but I think
9 it's a positive -- a positive step towards
10 the completion of this project. Anyone
11 else?

12 All those in favor of introduction
13 signify by saying aye.

14 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

15 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

16 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

18 MS. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The
19 eyes have it and so moved.

20 MR. ROGAN: I make a motion to
21 suspend the rules and move Item 5-T to
22 Seventh Order to be considered for final
23 passage based on the attached emergency
24 certificate.

25 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

1 MR. MCGOFF: On the question. We
2 were a little bit hesitant to have an
3 emergency certificate first meeting, but as
4 was explained this was something that was
5 kind of put in the lap of the new
6 administration and since we haven't met
7 really since December it became a timely
8 issue and thus the idea of an emergency
9 certificate for this.

10 All those in favor signify by saying
11 aye.

12 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

13 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

14 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

15 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

16 MS. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The
17 ayes have it and so moved.

18 MS. REED: SIXTH ORDER. NO BUSINESS
19 AT THIS TIME.

20 MR. MCGOFF: Since this was moved to
21 Seventh Order, I would ask if you there is
22 anyone who wishes to address council on Item
23 5-T, the emergency certificate legislation
24 that has been moved to Seventh Order.

25 MR. JACKOWITZ: Bill Jackowitz. Not

1 wanting to be a Doubting Thomas, what
2 happens if it doesn't work? Like, if the
3 past repeats itself and the project doesn't
4 get started, doesn't get completed, we have
5 all of this taxpayers' money already
6 invested in it, which I understand and I do
7 wouldn't to lose this, I also understand why
8 you are going to approve it tonight, and I'm
9 in favor of that, but my question is if it
10 doesn't work, and I hope it does, will the
11 people who voted for it and accept it be
12 willing to explain to the people why it did
13 not work?

14 Like I said, I hope it works. We
15 have a lot of the taxpayers' money invested
16 in this program already. I didn't go back
17 like 1993 or 1998 or something like that,
18 I'm not sure of the year, but it's been a
19 long time that we have been looking at that
20 building on the top of Greenridge Street
21 with nothing being done to it.

22 I have been here council meeting
23 after council meeting where people came in
24 here and told us it was going to get down
25 and guess what, it never got done. And me

1 as a taxpayer and a citizen of Scranton,
2 born here in Scranton and educated here in
3 Scranton, I'm tired of it, and I know I'm
4 not the only one that feels this way.

5 But my question is let's pray and
6 hope that it works, what if it doesn't work?
7 What do we do then? Do we borrow more money
8 or do we just tear the building down and
9 waste all that money? I guess what I'm
10 asking for from council and from the mayor
11 and the administration is let's make, and
12 pardon my language, damn sure that we are
13 right this time.

14 MR. ROGAN: Mr. Jackowitz, first to
15 answer your question, this is from not only
16 Ms. Aebli and Mr. Langan, I think everybody
17 involved feels that if this project doesn't
18 come to be after this legislation and the
19 pending loan with Wells Fargo it's not going
20 to happen. That being said, the reason for
21 the legislation is so a loan can be signed
22 for construction. That's the only reason
23 why this legislation is happening and the
24 city taking the second position allows the
25 paperwork to be signed and the loan to be

1 closed on, and I know Attorney Hickey is not
2 here, but I believe it's a week or less than
3 a week the loan for the construction will be
4 signed off on, and I believe that the number
5 is in the tens of millions of dollars of the
6 financing for the construction and that's a
7 private funding outside of the government.
8 We are not voting on any new borrowing or
9 any grants in this scenario here.

10 MR. MCGOFF: I'll further add to
11 that, one of the things that was mentioned
12 in the caucus was that in order to have this
13 legislation approved they had to go through
14 HUD and HUD actually sent a letter back
15 agreeing -- after speaking with Ms. Aebli
16 and Attorney Hickey they received some
17 assurance that this project was moving
18 forward because they, too, had the same
19 questions that this money has been sitting
20 there for a very long time and HUD wanted
21 assurances that the project was going to
22 move forward, and HUD did send a letter to
23 the city that they approved of this
24 legislation and that they were looking
25 forward to it being approved and that the

1 project would move forward.

2 MS. HODOWANITZ: My name is Joan
3 Hodowanitz and I'm a taxpayer and homeowner.
4 Mr. Rogan, I missed the caucus. I wasn't
5 aware of it, be here next week that's for
6 sure. I'm one of those people who went to
7 North Scranton Junior High School and I have
8 a very fond place in my heart for that
9 school. However, okay, I mean, it is a
10 project that's dragged on and on and on,
11 okay, and at some point in time we have to
12 cut our losses.

13 So what I'd like to know from you as
14 I was listening to you without the benefit
15 of what was explained to the caucus can you
16 tell me on what date would we know it's a
17 dead project? March 1? June 1? July 1?
18 You said something to the effect that it's
19 either going to happen or it's not. Can you
20 give me a ballpark date when we would know
21 that?

22 MR. ROGAN: Well, I would -- and
23 I'll see if my colleagues agree with me,
24 from the information that was presented to
25 us at caucus I would say within the next

1 three months. As long as the --

2 MS. HODOWANITZ: January 16,
3 February, March, April 16 so let's say tax
4 day?

5 MR. ROGAN: Fair enough.

6 MS. HODOWANITZ: Tax day?

7 MR. ROGAN: Fair enough.

8 MS. HODOWANITZ: I could come back
9 here and you could say to me that it's up or
10 it's down? And I know we have poured a lot
11 of money into that project, but what are we
12 going to have a billion dollar apartment
13 complex? I mean, you have got to be
14 realistic. If it can't come together after
15 ten or 15 years it's not going to happen,
16 okay? And maybe there comes a point where
17 we have to cut our losses and focus on other
18 projects, okay, but you've got to be
19 stewards of our money once we have paid our
20 taxes to the city and that's what I expect
21 of all of you.

22 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

23 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

24 MS. SCHUMACHER: Marie Schumacher
25 still, I understand you are between a rock

1 and a hard place and I agree that this has
2 to be voted for, but I also agree that we,
3 the taxpayers, have a right to know,
4 particularly those of us who haven't been
5 back in Scranton for 15 years, have a right
6 to know how much has been invested, how much
7 of our public dollars has been invested so I
8 would like a commitment from you folks that
9 that will be provided next week. The
10 amount, the year, and what the terms were
11 and if it was a grant, if it was a loan. If
12 it was a loan, if there was any interest
13 rate on it.

14 And I would also like to know, and I
15 apologize because this just dinged on me, I
16 had to go back to get my purse, who were the
17 principals in this 1530 Main Street, LLP?
18 Do you know?

19 MR. MCGOFF: I'm not sure.

20 MS. SCHUMACHER: If you don't know
21 now, I mean, you are going to vote, but I
22 would like to know who the principals are in
23 that and who is going to be actually leasing
24 if from the Goodwill, okay? Commitment?

25 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

1 MS. SCHUMACHER: Thank you.

2 MR. MCGOFF: I was just looking to
3 see if they were mentioned in the backup and
4 it's -- the 1539 or whatever is mentioned,
5 but the principals themselves are not, the
6 individuals.

7 MS. SCHUMACHER: Maybe you could get
8 that though. Thank you.

9 MR. MCGOFF: Seventh order?

10 MS. REED: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A,
11 formerly 5-T, FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE
12 COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - FOR
13 ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 2, 2014 -
14 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE
15 CITY OFFICIALS TO ENTER INTO A LEASEHOLD
16 MORTGAGE, AN AMENDED MORTGAGE ASSUMPTION
17 AGREEMENT, A RELEASE OF A PREVIOUSLY
18 RECORDED MORTGAGE, AN INTERCREDITOR
19 AGREEMENT AND ANY AND ALL OTHER DOCUMENTS
20 NECESSARY TO FURTHER THE CONSTRUCTION OF
21 APPROXIMATELY 58 ELDERLY RENTAL UNITS IN THE
22 FORMER NORTH SCRANTON JUNIOR HIGH BUILDING.
23 (EMERGENCY CERTIFICATE ATTACHED.)

24 MR. MCGOFF: What is the
25 recommendation of the Chairperson for the

1 Committee on Community Development?

2 MR. ROGAN: As Chairperson for the
3 Committee on Community Development, I
4 recommend final passage of Item 7-A.

5 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

6 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? Roll
7 call, please?

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

9 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

11 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

13 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

14 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

15 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

16 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

17 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I hereby declare
18 Item 7-A legally and lawfully adopted.

19 And prior to adjournment, I failed
20 to mention that Attorney Minora was unable
21 to attend the meeting, but he did send a
22 replacement attorney. I want to thank
23 Attorney Scanlon for being present at the
24 meeting this evening.

25 MR. SCANLON: My pleasure,

1 President.

2 MR. MCGOFF: I'll entertain a motion
3 to adjourn.

4 MR. LOSCOMBE: Motion to adjourn.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Meeting 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