

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Thursday, January 30, 2014

LOCATION:

Council Chambers

Scranton City Hall

340 North Washington Avenue

Scranton, Pennsylvania

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

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

AMIL MINORA, 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.

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

16 MINUTES OF THE FIREFIGHTERS PENSION

17 COMMISSION MEETING HELD DECEMBER 11, 2014

18 MR. MCGOFF: Are there any comments?

19 If not, received and filed.

20 Any Clerk's notes this evening?

21 MS. REED: No.

22 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. Do any
23 council members have announcements at this
24 time?

25 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes. The Shaffer

1 family fire relief fundraiser. As we know,
2 this is the family who suffered a fire loss
3 on Price Street in West Scranton. This will
4 be held Saturday, February 1, from 7 until
5 10 p.m. at Haggerty's Tavern, which is on
6 North Main Avenue in West Side. Stop up and
7 have a great time all while contributing to
8 a great case. We are also accepting
9 donations for the family. Clothing,
10 monetary donations or even a toy for one of
11 the children. Clothing or other donations
12 can be dropped off at Representative Marty
13 Flynn's Office at 409 North Main Avenue or
14 you can call Kim Toy at 570-687-4055 or Mike
15 Toy at 570-687-8808. We are also accepting
16 raffle prizes to be raffled at the
17 fundraiser. If you are interested at
18 helping with the fundraiser you can also
19 contact Mike or Kim, and we would appreciate
20 anyone that can help out. Thank you.

21 MR. ROGAN: The Dante Literary
22 Society at 1918 Prospect Avenue in South
23 Side will be having a chicken dinner on
24 Saturday, February 8, from 4:30 to 7:30.
25 It's \$11. Eat in and takeout is available.

1 Thank you.

2 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else? I have
3 one other from the Fortis Institute of
4 Dental Hygiene Clinic is conducting a
5 service for children ages 3 to 15. Exams,
6 x-rays, sealants, fluoride treatments,
7 services are offered by appointment only.
8 Please, to make an appointment please call
9 570-955-4015 during the clinic hours, which
10 are Monday to Thursday 9:30 to 5:30. It
11 also says that children must be accompanied
12 by a parent or legal guardian.

13 I know that has been offered in the
14 past. The Fortis Institute Dental Hygiene
15 Clinic is located 519 Ash Street in
16 Scranton.

17 On tonight's agenda a number of new
18 items. First, 5-B is a request to receive
19 funds from the United Neighborhood Centers
20 for the Cedar 500 project. That is an
21 ongoing project and this is the last phase
22 of the project and the last funding for that
23 particular part of the project.

24 5-C is for a grant application for
25 supplemental funding for basically the

1 Business Administrator's Office. These are
2 things that we are discussed during the
3 budget process in 2013. The city is making
4 grant application through DCED and under the
5 kind of approval of the DCED for these
6 funds.

7 Also, Item 6-B, which is the
8 extension of the deadline for the discount
9 period on real estate taxes, we are going
10 to, assuming that this passes in Sixth
11 Order, we are going to ask that it be moved
12 to Seventh Order so that it can coincide
13 with the approval of the millage rates and
14 that they can then be forwarded to the Tax
15 Office of so that the tax bills can be sent
16 out along with a notice of the extension of
17 the discount rate -- or the discount period.

18 And I believe that is all for the
19 agenda.

20 MS. REED: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'
21 PARTICIPATION.

22 MR. MCGOFF: Our first speaker on
23 the list, Bill Jackowitz.

24 MR. JACKOWITZ: Good evening,
25 Scranton City Council and, Amil, welcome

1 back.

2 MR. MINORA: Thank you.

3 MR. JACKOWITZ: Some good things I
4 want to talk about here. I've been waiting
5 for 8,021 days to hear salary and
6 sustainability mentioned in the same word,
7 and the business administrator mentioned
8 that on some new salaries. I have been
9 talking about sustainability and salaries
10 for a long time from this podium. It was
11 nice to hear those two words mentioned
12 together at the caucus this evening.

13 Also, the city gets pension break.
14 I take that as meaning good news. I have
15 been waiting for a long 8,021 days to hear
16 that too, so I take that as being good news.
17 I think this one the taxpayers won one I
18 hope anyway. I hope I'm reading this right.

19 And most importantly of all, I read
20 in today's paper that Mr. McGoff appeared
21 before the county commissioners to seek
22 cooperation for tackling the many problems
23 facing Scranton. About time. I have been
24 addressing this for a long time. I have
25 suggested many years from in podium that

1 city council, county commissioners, school
2 board and everyone get together and talk and
3 work things out to make things easier for
4 the taxpayer. And, Mr. McGoff, I want to
5 congratulate you for going to the County
6 Commissioner's Office and hopefully we can
7 progress from this. We need to get the
8 school board involved in this, we need to
9 get everybody else involved in this.

10 And I still suggest that we hold a
11 town hall meeting either at the Scranton
12 High School or somewhere where we get the
13 county commissioners, we get the school
14 board and the city council and the mayor
15 together and allow the citizens of Scranton
16 to ask them questions. I really believe that
17 that will help and we need to get the
18 citizens of Scranton and taxpayers of
19 Scranton involved in this.

20 Okay, now as far as we need to
21 really think about this when it comes to
22 delinquent taxes and stuff. You know, 12
23 percent of the delinquent taxes is pretty
24 much built into the tax system, and what I
25 mean by that is about 12 percent of the

1 property owners in the City of Scranton are
2 from out of town and out of state and I
3 firmly believe that they are not going to
4 pay their taxes. They really not, so you
5 can look at 88 percent tax collection pretty
6 much on a yearly basis because most of the
7 them landlords that live out of state and
8 live out of the city they really are not
9 concerned about their properties in
10 Scranton, so unless you can come up with a
11 way to collect that 12 percent I really
12 think you need to build that 12 percent in
13 and only expect about 88 percent property
14 tax collection on a yearly basis because
15 they are just not going to pay their taxes.
16 They don't care if you take the property,
17 tear it down or do whatever you want with it
18 because they are never going to come back to
19 Scranton.

20 The Pennsylvania Economy League, are
21 we are going to work a lot closer with a
22 Pennsylvania Economy League? I mean, it
23 sounded like from the caucus meeting that we
24 are and, I mean, you know, maybe we need to
25 get them back in here. Maybe we can get a

1 representative from them coming in here
2 quarterly or semi-annually.

3 MR. MCGOFF: May I just interrupt
4 for a second, Mr. Jackowitz?

5 MR. JACKOWITZ: Sure. Go ahead.

6 MR. MCGOFF: We met with PEL every
7 week.

8 MR. JACKOWITZ: Oh, I understand
9 that, but, I mean, the citizens are not
10 aware of it. The majority of the citizens
11 of Scranton are not aware of it. I'm saying
12 let's get the citizens involved. They are
13 the ones paying the bills. They are the
14 ones that pay the taxes. Let's get the
15 citizens involved so that they know what's
16 going on within the city because we have
17 been told so many different stories and so
18 many different ways of doing things. I know
19 that you meet with them on a weekly basis,
20 but the majority of the citizens in the City
21 of Scranton don't know that.

22 What's the status of the loans? Are
23 we making any progress on the loans and what
24 I mean is the people who we have loaned the
25 money to? You know, it sounds like we have

1 a lot of delinquent loans out there and we
2 need to get that money back. I mean, the
3 Hilton still owes us \$3 million. Are we
4 ever going to get that? Probably not. The
5 Steamtown Mall, you know, we made a deal
6 with them, we cut their interest for a
7 couple of years a few years back, what's
8 going on with the Steamtown Mall? Are we
9 getting any money back from them people?
10 Are we paying their loans on time? Are they
11 current? Are they up-to-date?

12 We need the money. The money needs
13 to come to the city now not two years from
14 now, not three years from now, but now. We
15 need the money now.

16 And what's the status on the
17 surveillance cameras? A few years ago,
18 three, four, five years ago we spent
19 \$250,000 on surveillance cameras that we put
20 out throughout the city. There is a couple
21 in South Side and other parts of the city
22 and the last time I heard that no one was
23 monitoring them, so basically we wasted
24 \$250,000 on surveillance cameras. Are those
25 cameras being used, and if not, why are they

1 not being used and if there is no one
2 available to monitor them why isn't there
3 anybody available to monitor them and why
4 did we spend \$250,000 on them, so thank you.

5 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

6 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you,
7 Mr. Jackowitz.

8 Andy Sbaraglia. Mr. Sbaraglia,
9 before you begin could I just mention one
10 other thing I forget prior? Item 7-E on the
11 agenda is going to be amended and basically
12 what it does is it changes the time frame in
13 which the refuse bill can be paid. It
14 extends the second payment from what was it,
15 July 1 to September 1, but I just wanted to
16 mention that. I forgot to do that before.
17 Thank you.

18 MR. SBARAGLIA: Okay. Andy
19 Sbaraglia, citizen of Scranton. Fellow
20 Scrantonians, the paper printed a good
21 synopsis of this TAN. We borrowed \$12 1/2
22 million and we are paying back almost \$14
23 million. We borrowed 22 million at the same
24 9 percent, so technically out there if we
25 add up the 22 and the 12 1/2 we got close to

1 35 million in loans out there at 9 percent.
2 How sustainable do you think that is?

3 And the unions are on our back to do
4 something about awards they got from the
5 Courts, and if you went out into the
6 marketplace and tried to borrow another 22
7 million at 9 percent you can see what a
8 terrible burden it's going to be on the
9 taxpayers of Scranton.

10 That 9 1/2 percent and them fees
11 they charged shows you how bad the city is
12 and how bad we are in debt, but I didn't
13 hear an answer from any of the old people on
14 council about what we can do to do anything
15 with it. There is a lot of things, I heard
16 the counselor, I guess advisor they hired
17 down at the chamber, mention the Parking
18 Authority very lightly. At \$2 million debt
19 for God knows how long, but he didn't
20 mention that the garages are falling apart,
21 and if they ain't brought up to where they
22 should be we are going to take a total loss
23 of the garages. They will tearing them down
24 long before they are paid.

25 I mean, there is a lot of problems.

1 I realize somewhere along the line you are
2 going to have to get after the employees, I
3 know that, that's coming. Anybody that can
4 add one and one and get two realizes that.
5 We just can't afford it like it was and like
6 it will be, but you got to remember when a
7 lot of these things were passed the
8 employees were only make \$1.50, \$2.00. They
9 were very low paid. That's why a lot of
10 these things went into effect. Now, their
11 pay has been brought up pretty good where
12 they are no longer getting that minimal pay.
13 In fact, they are almost twice as much as
14 the average worker in the city, so something
15 along the lines is going to have to be done
16 there.

17 And I guess the mayor that's the
18 reason why he wants to hire that consultants
19 for the unions into the labor. I can
20 understand that because, man, that man is
21 going to have to hell of a fight because
22 something got to be done and the problem is
23 how did you balance safety with costs?
24 That's where the problem arises. You want
25 the city to be safe, but you want it to be

1 at an affordable cost.

2 So somewhere along the line someone
3 is going to have to get areal real sharp
4 pencil and see what they can do because like
5 it is now whatever you do up there doesn't
6 make a bit of difference. We are going to
7 slide into that abyss or maybe that sink
8 hole up there in South Side but we are
9 heading that direction and rapidly, so
10 somewhere along the way somebody has to come
11 up with a lot of different ideas.

12 I told you once, many times, try to
13 get the unions to accept liability on some
14 of these properties in the city and then
15 lease them back. That would cut down that
16 21 or 22 million that you face and have it
17 spread out. I mean, we want them to get
18 their money, but let it spread out. I also
19 said maybe you should look at going to a fee
20 system like you did with sanitary workers.
21 Have a fee for fire, have a fee for the
22 police and get the nonprofits to have to pay
23 that fee.

24 But somewhere along the line we are
25 going to have to do something way off the

1 wall or you are going to have a tax revolt
2 within the city. I can see that coming very
3 plainly. We are very obstinate and when it
4 comes to taxes we are more than obstinate we
5 get mad, so start working on off-the-wall
6 projects. Maybe they won't come.

7 I tell you, the mayor had a good
8 idea asking the Sewer Authority to resign,
9 but how many times have I come before you
10 and asked the Parking Authority people on it
11 to resign and you never did. Why wouldn't
12 you start with -- well, whatever you got an
13 idea I'm not going to try to guess what he
14 got. It's way out there what he wanted to
15 do. Thank you.

16 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you,
17 Mr. Sbaraglia. Ozzie Quinn.

18 MR. QUINN: Good evening.

19 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

20 MR. QUINN: The Scranton/Lackawanna
21 County Taxpayers' Association met last
22 Tuesday and we decided to change the name
23 and unanimously we are going to change the
24 name. We are doing that now with the
25 Department of State, to the

1 Scranton/Lackawanna County Voters and
2 Citizens' Association, Incorporated. The
3 reason being that the turnout voters in the
4 county, and we want to try to put a little
5 more emphasis on getting the people out to
6 vote and this isn't just the last election
7 it's for the last ten years. This is what
8 we are trying to do so it will be now be the
9 Scranton/Lackawanna County Voters and
10 Citizens' Association.

11 Also, we got unanimous support for
12 me to come here to tonight, and that's one
13 of the main reason reasons I'm here tonight,
14 is for dressing council to see if the
15 council will consider an amnesty program for
16 delinquent taxpayers/homeowners in the City
17 of Scranton. My research indicates that
18 over 200, states and municipalities, many in
19 Pennsylvania, have an amnesty programs
20 whereby they actually come in and relieve --
21 forgive for the past five years, for the
22 past five years the penalties and 50 percent
23 of the interest the taxpayer, the delinquent
24 taxpayer owes, okay? And they found that it
25 was a cash cow. In other words to help them

1 with their -- fill the holes in their
2 budget, okay?

3 Now, next month we are going to have
4 120 properties foreclosed upon in the county
5 and I looked and I counted them up, 40 are
6 in the City of Scranton. That's almost
7 approximately 1/3 of the city's homes in the
8 city are going to be foreclosed upon by the
9 banks for economic reasons. And also next
10 month there are going to be a judiciary
11 sale, over 100 properties in the City of
12 Scranton, taxable properties, and my
13 estimate is that there is going to be 500
14 properties next year that will be up for an
15 upset sale for tax delinquency and that sort
16 of alarms me. And the only way a tax
17 collector can get that money is either if
18 there is sufficient funds, a person has
19 sufficient funds to pay their back taxes
20 and/or if the property is saleable. If it's
21 not saleable, if there aren't sufficient
22 funds, they are not even going to approach
23 that person.

24 So I have had people call me and
25 they are very embarrassed and lot of them

1 can't sleep at night because of the fact
2 that they can't pay their taxes, all right?
3 And it got so that it is beyond that they
4 can't pay their taxes, but an amnesty sale
5 will give them an opportunity to relieve
6 them of the penalties, 50 percent of the
7 interest, and suppose all of the taxes will
8 say back from 2009 and back would be
9 forgiven and pay from 2009 up, and it will
10 be a specific period of time, say three to
11 four months for them to do that. We
12 wouldn't drag it on.

13 And in addition, if they do get on
14 the -- in the amnesty program they can only
15 get it one time. It's not that you can come
16 back and back, okay? But there is a lot of
17 research out there to be done about it and
18 it's something that has been a cash cow for
19 a lot of the municipalities. They have been
20 receiving a lot of money that they thought
21 they could never receive and at the same
22 time it has helped a lot of homeowners to
23 stay in their home, especially in the City
24 of Scranton as we know we have a \$22,000
25 median income as was pointed out this

1 morning in the newspaper and a lot of senior
2 citizens and everything.

3 So, you know, it really hurts these
4 people if they can't pay them, but I think
5 if we give them an opportunity they are
6 going to come out and try to pay them, so I
7 would appreciate if you look into that, not
8 only the council, but I'm asking that you
9 collaborate with the mayor and the Scranton
10 School District and the County because they
11 are the three taxing bodies and if we all
12 get together maybe they could receive some
13 money that are never going to receive, they
14 are never going to receive that money there
15 is no doubt about it, and it gives them an
16 opportunity to receive that money.

17 I also want to say the fact that I
18 was asked to bring about the fact that, you
19 know, the backup material for the agenda,
20 all right? Now, I read the agenda while
21 it's coming on tonight and Mr. McGoff read
22 it, but the fact is if the backup material
23 is not available unless we go to the city
24 clerk and we have to pay 25 cents a copy or
25 per page from what I understand, and a lot

1 of people, for instance, might be interested
2 in that Cedar Avenue situation, okay, but if
3 it was on the website, and this is 2014, I
4 mean, the IT could scan that material and
5 put it on the website just like the agenda
6 and there is no reason why it shouldn't be
7 on and I'm sure this lot of people if they
8 knew that something was on that really
9 affected them in their neighborhood they
10 might be here tonight, okay?

11 And the backup material, if you read
12 the backup material and if you had the
13 opportunity you could come up here and you
14 could intelligently speak about what the
15 issue is or what the resolution is up or
16 what other ordinances is up, but if we only
17 have to wait until the time you come up here
18 and what you can say amongst yourselves,
19 find out among yourselves is very difficult.
20 Thank you very much and I appreciate it.

21 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr. Quinn.

22 Les Spindler.

23 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening,
24 Council. Les Spindler. City resident,
25 homeowner and taxpayer.

1 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

2 MR. SPINDLER: First off, I want to
3 thank Mayor Courtright for attending last
4 week's meeting. That was one of the his
5 campaign promises. He said he was going to
6 attend council meetings and shows he is a
7 man of his word, unlike his predecessor who
8 said he was going to be the sixth
9 councilman. He only came here three times
10 in 12 years, twice to beg for money and the
11 other time was to put Mr. McGoff where he
12 is.

13 So I'm proud of the mayor and I
14 think is going to do a great job, as long as
15 council will work with him I think the city
16 is headed in the right direction. We just
17 have to have some patience.

18 Councilman Wechsler, since you are
19 the are Finance Chair, do you know where we
20 stand as far as getting the money to pay the
21 court award to the firefighters and the
22 police officers?

23 MR. WECHSLER: No, I do not.

24 MR. SPINDLER: Could you look into
25 that, please?

1 MR. WECHSLER: I can look into it,
2 but I'm sure it's not an easy answer to get.

3 MR. SPINDLER: Okay, because I know
4 there was a --

5 MR. WECHSLER: I mean, that's the
6 biggest question of the city and I don't
7 think it can be answered --

8 MR. SPINDLER: I know there was a
9 financial institution they were working
10 with, I don't know if there is any update on
11 it. Do you know anything, Mr. McGoff?

12 MR. MCGOFF: I was going to say -- I
13 do know that that's one of the things that
14 Mr. Amaro and the administration is
15 working at. Specifically with what
16 investment firm or bank, I do not know, but
17 it is an ongoing process.

18 MR. SPINDLER: Okay. Just haven't
19 heard anything in the news or in the paper
20 or whatever.

21 MR. WECHSLER: I think really
22 perhaps you may want to ask the mayor that
23 question. I mean, we are here to answer
24 questions as well, and the information comes
25 through the mayor's office to us so you

1 could ask -- perhaps you want to ask him or
2 Dave Bulzoni where they are with that.

3 MR. SPINDLER: Okay. Okay, moving
4 on, Sunday's paper there was an article
5 about Fire Chief DeSarno and I read where it
6 said Councilman Gaughan voted against him
7 because he said he didn't think he would be
8 able to discipline the firefighters. Is
9 that a factual statement, councilman?

10 MR. GAUGHAN: I said I wasn't sure.
11 That was my question last week. I wasn't
12 sure how that arrangement would -- that was
13 one of my -- just one of my questions.

14 MR. SPINDLER: Can I ask how old
15 are?

16 MR. GAUGHAN: How old am I?

17 MR. SPINDLER: Yeah.

18 MR. GAUGHAN: 26.

19 MR. SPINDLER: 26. Okay. Well,
20 Chief DeSarno has been a firefighter almost
21 as long as you have been on this earth and
22 he is a professional person, I don't think
23 he would have a problem disciplining
24 firefighters.

25 MR. GAUGHAN: Right. Well, can I

1 just stop you there?

2 MR. SPINDLER: Can I finish?

3 MR. GAUGHAN: Sure.

4 MS. SPINDLER: You know, if you k
5 new -- I know many of our firefighters, as I
6 know Chief DeSarno for a long time, if you
7 knew them we are not talking about school
8 children here, they are professionals, they
9 are firefighters. There is not going to be
10 a reason for him to discipline someone, so I
11 don't think you should even question that.
12 I think it was irresponsible on your part
13 and, as I said, the chief is a professional
14 person, he is going to do a great job. I
15 have all of the faith in the world in him
16 and that's all I have if you want to --

17 MR. GAUGHAN: No, I was going to say
18 I was questioning him or his abilities at
19 all, I just simply had a question about
20 whether or not he would be able to
21 discipline other union members. Even last
22 week I said I think he is going to do a
23 great job as chief, I spoke to him
24 personally and told him that. So, I mean,
25 just to address your concern. I did not

1 question his ability whatsoever.

2 MR. SPINDLER: Then why did you vote
3 against him?

4 MR. GAUGHAN: Because I had concerns
5 about what I just said and whether or not it
6 would cost the city money and overtime since
7 they would be bumping throughout the
8 department.

9 MR. SPINDLER: Well, I think he is
10 going to do a great job.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: So do I.

12 MR. SPINDLER: Best of luck to him,
13 and he was on the news tonight talking about
14 the water main break, and everybody has to
15 say prayers there is no fire in those
16 areas because he was really concerned where
17 the water is going to come from to bring in
18 tankers or whatever, but that takes time. I
19 hope everybody is safe during this period.
20 Like I said, it could take days. That's all
21 I have tonight. Thank you for your time.

22 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

23 MR. MCGOFF: May I address, it is my
24 understanding just to address the last thing
25 that Mr. Spindler said and maybe Mr.

1 Loscombe may know more, but this afternoon I
2 was told that under an emergency certificate
3 or whatever that they were going to fill all
4 of the tanker trucks and have them ready in
5 case there was a problem where there was no
6 water, so that they were preparing for it.

7 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes, they have a
8 contingency plan --

9 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

10 MR. LOSCOMBE: -- extra companies
11 and such in that situation.

12 MR. ROGAN: I was going to address
13 this under motions, but I'll just mention it
14 now. I did receive a message from the
15 mayor, and I know he messaged you as well,
16 Councilman McGoff, right before the meeting
17 that he spoke to the water company regarding
18 the situation and also the water company
19 informed him that details will be coming out
20 of who was effected. I know the Scranton
21 Times has been reporting what areas of the
22 city, but without any detail. It would say,
23 "Keyser Valley," but Keyser Valley could be
24 widely interpreted. You know, does that
25 include West Mountain or doesn't include

1 West Mountain? The same thing for South
2 side. South Side is the second largest
3 portion of the city, so that should be
4 coming shortly so we can find out exactly
5 where the outages will be.

6 MR. LOSCOMBE: And a big key is to
7 pay attention to your media outlets,
8 newspaper, TV stations, they will be right
9 up-to-date for you on that, but our
10 officials have been meeting consistently
11 since this situation started, and there are
12 water buffalos I understand on Luzerne
13 Street and Pittston Avenue fire station at
14 this time.

15 MR. MCGOFF: Lee Morgan.

16 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Good evening.

18 MR. MORGAN: The first thing I have
19 here tonight is I had have a site called
20 Twitter@LeeMorgan113 and I'm discussing city
21 issues with residents and people outside of
22 the city and I hope people would access that
23 and start discussing what their opinions are
24 about the city.

25 Mr. Sbaraglia came up and said a

1 couple of things and, you know, I listened
2 and talked about sharpening the pencil, I
3 think it's time to break the pencil. And,
4 you know, talking about a tax revolt in the
5 city is really -- I find that to be comical
6 and not that I don't find that
7 Mr. Sbaraglia's statements are incorrect,
8 just that sheep don't revolt and this city
9 has been in trouble for 20 some plus years
10 and the people who vote have gone and
11 continually backed failed plans and listened
12 to miss information, because I'm not going
13 to say anybody is a liar, because I think
14 that's a little harsh, but I think they have
15 listened to misinformation or over two
16 decades and when people outside of this area
17 and other states and in other countries are
18 laughing and we are the laughing stock of
19 everywhere you can imagine, I mean, to go
20 outside of the city and tell them you are a
21 Scrantonian they look at you like you are
22 out of your mind.

23 And at one time when I used to get
24 outside of the city in the 70's when I was
25 much younger and the early 80's, you know,

1 they might have made a comment about the
2 amount of prostitution that was here at one
3 time when the mines were going, but now they
4 are wondering what's going on with the
5 people in this city.

6 And, you know, for generations of
7 Scrantonians for over 80 years to watch the
8 decline of the city and their children and
9 their grandchildren leaving the area, the
10 only recommendation at this point that I
11 give the Scrantonians is if you have any
12 money give it to your children and send them
13 out of here because we have listened to all
14 of these stories for all of these decades
15 and it's just pathetic that people tell you
16 that their whole family is gone.

17 And I have a son that's going to
18 graduate from college in a year, he is a
19 leaving, and I have come to this podium for
20 over 20 years and talked about the issues
21 that this consultant is bringing up now.
22 These aren't secrets, these are things that
23 have been known to the community and
24 everybody in the community who wanted to
25 know what was going on here. And the sad

1 part is we have allowed the union leaders to
2 pick our mayoral candidates and council
3 candidates and allow to campaign for them
4 and put them in these seats. That's my
5 opinion and it's a pathetic place are at.

6 And we just have to ask as we raise
7 fees and we talk about taxation, walk around
8 this city and see the amount of the empty
9 properties in this city and then look at all
10 of the projects. Look it, this is not a
11 shot at the council and not a shot at the
12 mayor, but where is this plan? Where is
13 this grand plan that that's residents should
14 come and back to bring a renaissance to this
15 city? The first council meeting we had we
16 tried to revive the North Scranton project
17 after millions of dollars was spent there,
18 but what about all of the residents of this
19 city?

20 I mean, we have a state
21 representative who sued one of his
22 constituents because he tripped over his
23 constituents sidewalks we have very serious
24 infrastructure problems, not to highlight
25 the water main that's broken. This city has

1 struggled for decades and we keep waltzing
2 around and around an issue. The truth of
3 the matter is that this problem is just so
4 big that the only person that can solve this
5 problem are the people who started it. Some
6 of them are in Washington when they stopped
7 doing federal revenue sharing, the other
8 ones are in Harrisburg that created Act 47.

9 And personally speaking for myself I
10 don't think that the former mayor challenged
11 the unions on his own, the state wanted to
12 smash those unions because all across this
13 Commonwealth their pension plans were under
14 water, not just here but everywhere and the
15 truth be told that, look it, bringing the
16 minimum wage up from \$10 an hour isn't going
17 to solve any of the problems because what's
18 happened to America as a young man who grew
19 up in the 60's and the 70's is I have
20 watched this country fall into poverty.
21 Johnson's great plan for Appalachia to lift
22 it out of poverty, this whole country has
23 gone into poverty. Our standard of living
24 has been very seriously compromised and for
25 one reason we have created a political class

1 of politicians who create laws and have no
2 idea what they are doing and have no concern
3 for it because they are backed by
4 billionaires and multi-millionaires, and the
5 average person on the street he doesn't do
6 \$500 or \$1,000 dinner plate things for
7 politicians. The ordinary people in this
8 country have nothing left.

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

10 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr. Morgan.
11 Is there anyone else who wishes to address
12 council?

13 MS. SCHUMACHER: Thank you.

14 MR. MCGOFF: Ms. Schumacher.

15 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening.

16 Marie Schumacher, city resident and snow
17 shoveler, whatever. Tonight I'd like to
18 start with agenda Item 7-H. What it does
19 essentially is in the event that a member of
20 the bargaining unit leaves or has left the
21 bargaining unit during -- that left the
22 bargaining unit during 2013 or through
23 December 31, 2014, to accept the appointment
24 as city chief of police, such bargaining
25 unit member shall be entitled to (a)

1 continued contributions to the pension plan
2 under the same terms and conditions as a
3 bargaining unit member, and (b) if such a
4 person for any reason elects to return to
5 his or her former bargaining unit position
6 such return shall be in rank within the
7 bargaining unit, the person held prior to
8 assuming the appointment of chief of police
9 and with full contract seniority accrued up
10 to the date that such a person left the
11 bargaining unit to accept the appointment.

12 My question is does the Fire
13 Department have that same terminology in its
14 contract?

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: I don't know if it's
16 the exact same terminology, I haven't seen
17 it in writing, but it's always been a --
18 it's always been that way in the Fire
19 Department. In other words, you could go
20 back in the ranks and, you know, in most
21 cases supervisors doesn't like to go back to
22 the ranks so usually they retire.

23 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. Well, okay,
24 I'll probably get back to that in another
25 week. But Sunday's article in the

1 Times-Tribune revealed that the acting fire
2 chief's salary will be \$69,366.09 for 2014.
3 I would like to know whether or not that
4 salary includes longevity pay and will he
5 also be paid overtime pay? So if you could
6 research that for next week.

7 MR. LOSCOMBE: Sure.

8 MR. SCHUMACHER: I will submit the
9 question. Further, with respect to -- oh,
10 I'm sorry, Chief DeSarno also clarified that
11 though he is acting chief in title he works
12 full-time as the fire chief. Now, this
13 tells me two things, either we are
14 overstaffed in the Fire Department,
15 something I find difficult to believe, or
16 another firefighter will be filling in and
17 we will be paying overtime, which I assume
18 would add up to far more than the \$50,000
19 that the chief's budgeted salary would save,
20 for lack of a better term.

21 Now, despite the comments last week
22 it is clear that the mayor is circumventing
23 the budget. Add to this the appearance of
24 Mr. Hickey last year representing the
25 mayor's transition team and stated in his

1 finale when you add up all of that you come
2 up to a \$7.85 million revenue shortfall
3 without looking at the expense side.

4 Now, the mayor could have been
5 amended the budget to reduce the revenue
6 excesses that he believes are -- the
7 excesses that are there, and he could have
8 increased the fire chief's salary, but he
9 chose instead to keep what his transition
10 team believes to be an unbalanced budget and
11 he is a certainly circumventing the approved
12 budget, which according to the Home Rule
13 Charter was passed by ordinance and he has
14 the duty to enforce ordinances, so he is
15 totally circumventing his duty on the way he
16 is playing with the budget.

17 Now, more of this at a future
18 meeting as I went to get to mine concern,
19 which is our fire protection. In May 2012
20 the city added 30 firefighters who have been
21 paid by a FEMA grant. This is a two-year
22 contract -- or two-year grant so it will be
23 expiring in less than four months. Last
24 week Mr. Loscombe stated that that was
25 covered in the 2014 budget, but I have the

1 the page of that budget and I don't find
2 that. The 30 people were never, because
3 they were not paid out of the operating
4 budget, were listed by positions and number,
5 but they were never in there. This is no
6 bump up to retain those 30 people, so maybe
7 during motions Mr. Loscombe if he knows
8 where it is in the budget could point that
9 out to me because I couldn't find that.

10 Further, there is no indication on
11 the FEMA list of awards that Scranton would
12 be getting more funds. Have we actually,
13 applied for an extension?

14 And if I could just complete this,
15 I'm also concerned about our changes of
16 approval. Sorry, I can't read my own
17 writing. I'm also concerned that our
18 chances of approval of an extension may be
19 diminished because our 2012 audit report per
20 the Times-Tribune notes that the city does
21 not prepare or file timely semi-annual
22 reports regarding a SAFER grant.

23 I'm concerned tonight especially for
24 our residents and those of other
25 municipalities who will be at risk if they

1 are without water and in some cases without
2 heat in which case they may do things that
3 will add to the fire risk and the entire
4 city if the 30 SAFER grant employees are not
5 retained, so I would either like to know how
6 they are being -- how those 30 are being
7 retained or I would like to know the plan
8 for operating with 133 firefighters. Thank
9 you.

10 MR. MCGOFF: Ms. Schumacher? And
11 again, I would ask that any questions that
12 we have during citizens' participation --

13 MS. SCHUMACHER: I will get them in
14 tomorrow.

15 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. Anyone
16 else?

17 MR. MILLER: Good evening, Council.
18 Doug Miller, Scranton. I didn't really have
19 any intention on coming down here, but as I
20 sat back the last few weeks a lot of the
21 events that transpired certainly are enough
22 to scare you and, you know, I can honestly
23 say I don't even know where to begin, but
24 I'll start with the issue that we just heard
25 from Mrs. Schumacher and that's in regards

1 to the SAFER grant.

2 You know, we understand we are very
3 fortunate to have Senator Casey reach out
4 and offer his assistance at a time, a very
5 critical time when we, you know, obviously
6 had less firemen on the street, we faced
7 firehouse closures, very serious issues, and
8 we are able to have some assistance from the
9 federal government who reached out and were
10 willing to help us out.

11 Unfortunately, for whatever reason
12 politics became involved and if we can all
13 recall we gave half of that money back, but
14 we had much debate over that and whether or
15 not that should have taken place. And so
16 moving forward as we look into May, when
17 this grant will expire, we are looking at 30
18 less firemen on the street, and I would have
19 to say it would be a sure bet to say that we
20 are going to have some discussion on whether
21 or not firehouses are going to be closed
22 again.

23 And the issue I have is I don't -- I
24 personally don't feel the federal government
25 is going to take it serious this time, and

1 the reason I say that is because we gave
2 half of a money back and, you know, I think
3 that's a very serious issue that we have to
4 take a close look at and how we want to
5 address that moving forward because if this
6 does fall through and we have an inability
7 to once again receive this grant, we have to
8 find a solution and I think now is the time
9 to begin looking at that, looking a plan B
10 because I have a scary feeling that that's
11 probably what's going to transpire here so
12 we need to really sit down and take a look
13 at what direction we want to move in here.

14 And I'm going to move onto some
15 other issues because I do have a quite a
16 bit. I want to talk about CaseCon and
17 Mr. Mike Judge. This morning we were made
18 aware in this morning's article that the
19 city terminated the contract with CaseCon
20 and Mr. Michael Judge. As we can all recall
21 last year, CaseCon and Mr. Judge were
22 brought in to assist the city in obtaining a
23 TAN to keep us afloat for this year until
24 tax revenues come in. And I just want to
25 remind everyone that if it weren't for

1 CaseCon and Mr. Judge and the work of
2 Attorney Hughes and the previous council
3 this city never would have attained a TAN,
4 whether you want to believe that or not, I
5 just want to inform everyone of that,
6 because nobody else wanted to do any
7 business with the city.

8 So I think we should really take a
9 look at that in that we are very fortunate
10 to obtain that TAN because if we didn't have
11 this TAN this administration would have come
12 into office with no money to work with and
13 we once again would be looking at pay less
14 paydays like we did in the Summer of 2012
15 and we would have some serious challenges in
16 the beginning of this year.

17 Next, I would like to discuss this
18 consultant issue. You know, when I saw this
19 I couldn't help but laugh a little bit and,
20 you know, I try not to laugh because I know
21 you know that the challenges that we face
22 financially are very serious and I take them
23 serious. But, you know, the decision by
24 this administration to bring a consultant in
25 I think is just absolutely ludicrous. Why

1 do we need a consultant from New Jersey to
2 come forward, okay, and tell us things that
3 we already know? Nothing is new. We know
4 quite well that we have a pension shortfall.
5 It's not a secrete. We have known about
6 that for quite some time. He is not just
7 coming in miraculously telling us things
8 that we didn't know ourselves, okay?

9 We know we have a lack of revenue.
10 We have an inability to bring revenue into
11 the city, we knew that, too. We can go back
12 to 2012 and take a look at that for those of
13 us that forget, lack of revenue. We know we
14 have an issue with the nonprofits. We have
15 been discussing that for decades. We don't
16 need Mr. Amaroso to come in and tell us
17 that. I mean, where are we going here?

18 We understand the challenges we
19 face. Many of us have been involved in the
20 community for a long time. You know, we
21 have an administration, we have a mayor who
22 has been involved in this community for a
23 long time. He sat on council for six years.
24 He was there when a lot of this stuff became
25 known and the issues became, you know, to

1 the forefront, and so my question is where
2 is the plan? Why did we just go through a
3 process of, you know, electing a mayor,
4 electing a council and now we are bringing
5 in a consultant from New Jersey who is
6 giving us information that we already know.

7 And so what I want to know tonight
8 is I'm very curious to know what the plan is
9 here. What's the vision for this city? Is
10 it going to be the same tire rhetoric
11 because it seems like we are going down that
12 track again of just recycling the same old
13 thoughtless ideas and recycling the same
14 individuals over and over again and we
15 expect a different result. I mean, the
16 mayor has already acknowledged that he has
17 no vision. I mean, it's ridiculous.

18 And then to say, to acknowledge that
19 he wasn't aware that the contract stated
20 that Mr. Amaroso was brought in to explore
21 the sale the Sewer Authority. And as the
22 chief executive officer of the city don't
23 you think you have an obligation to review a
24 contract before you enter into it? There is
25 just many question marks that I have and,

1 you know, I know we're early in the year
2 here, and I already it's disappointing what
3 I'm seeing here. I really thought we were
4 going somewhere, but it seems like we have
5 become so incompetent that we can't even
6 manage our own city that we need somebody to
7 come in a baby sit us, show us how to put a
8 budget together and put two and two
9 together. It's pretty pathetic where we are
10 today, but I just hope moving forward that
11 we can come up with some solutions ourselves
12 because we have heard many good ideas
13 before, unfortunately in the past we have
14 never followed through on them.

15 And I'm going to end it with this,
16 you know, Mr. Gaughan, I believe, you know,
17 unfortunately, you have been unfairly
18 criticized with your stance on the acting
19 fire chief issue and I just want to throw my
20 two cents in it. I don't think anybody is
21 making this is a personal issue with
22 Mr. DeSarno. Nobody is questioning his
23 leadership or his ability to manage the Fire
24 Department, I think the only issue that
25 people have, you know, I personally don't

1 feel rank and file should be dispersing
2 orders amongst other rank and file and I
3 believe that's the issue. We are not
4 questioning his integrity or his ability to
5 lead the department. I'm sure he can do a
6 fantastic job.

7 But I just hope moving forward we
8 have a true vision for this city. I hope
9 the mayor can put that plan to good use and
10 hopefully we can turn this city around, but
11 I don't have much confidence. Thank you.

12 MR. MCGOFF: Is there anyone else
13 who wishes to address council?

14 MS. REED: FIFTH ORDER. 5-A.
15 MOTIONS.

16 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Wechsler?

17 MR. WECHSLER: Yes, Mr. President.
18 I was pleased to see the editorial in the
19 paper today where Chief DeSarno and
20 representatives from PPL were able to meet
21 and discuss improvements to the response
22 time in case of fires. This is how this
23 problem is going to be fixed with dialogue,
24 not name calling or finger pointing, and I
25 was quite pleased to see that happen.

1 Marty Flynn's Office. I know everyone is
2 focused on the water main break in South
3 Scranton which is going to effect a good
4 chunk of the city, but there is also one on
5 Mary Street in North Scranton that it was a
6 water main break that was repaired and then
7 it was leaking, and I was sent by a resident
8 pictures of the ice coating the road,
9 coating the sidewalks, and thanks to our
10 office and the DPW they have been out there
11 salting every two hours until the water
12 company can get a representative there to
13 fix that. And again, thank you to
14 Representative Flynn's Office, they helped
15 us with contacting the water company to make
16 sure that this is on their list, so the
17 residents in North Scranton the issue is
18 being addressed.

19 And just to piggyback on something
20 that Councilman Wechsler mentioned, a few of
21 did attend the event at Lackawanna College
22 regarding the impact, that economic impact
23 of Marcellus shale in our region.

24 Unfortunately, we don't have gas under the
25 City of Scranton like our neighbors to the0

1 north do, but there is opportunity. There
2 is opportunity with many jobs that are being
3 created, and I had the opportunity to I
4 think it was about two months previous there
5 was another part of the same series at
6 Johnson College they focused on a program
7 they are having, a two-year program where
8 they train students to work in that industry
9 and upon graduation the average salary is in
10 the 50, 60 thousand dollar range. That's
11 the starting salary after just two years at
12 Johnson College, so that's definitely
13 something that could help the city.

14 And one other item that I mentioned
15 previously, and it would be costly initially
16 to start, is the process of converting city
17 vehicles to run off natural gas instead of
18 gasoline. When I initially looked into it
19 the price difference was almost -- there was
20 almost a 50 percent savings between the cost
21 of using CNG compressed natural gas or even
22 liquified natural gas at technology improves
23 compared to using diesel in our trucks.

24 On top of that it's actually better
25 for the engines in the vehicles and it's

1 more environmentally friendly because there
2 is less emissions with the natural gas.

3 It's something long-term, but it is
4 something that, you know, there are grants
5 available that we can look into and I would
6 love to see the possibility of having a city
7 natural gas pump. Ford recently came out
8 with an F150 that individuals can buy that
9 runs off natural gas. Unfortunately, none
10 of us could buy it because the
11 infrastructure isn't setup.

12 Up north of us there is three or
13 four stations for compressed natural gas and
14 also I believe LT Verrastro in Old Forge is
15 working on one converting his vehicles, but
16 it is something that the city definitely
17 needs to take advantage of the cost savings
18 on that, but hopefully that's something we
19 could look into.

20 And I know there is another part of
21 that series that we are at focusing on the
22 educational aspect. Training, job training
23 for people to work in that field, so that's
24 something we can look forward to and
25 hopefully the City of Scranton can attract

1 some of these businesses into the city and
2 Mr. Durkin from the Chamber seemed
3 optimistic that that's something they would
4 be working on.

5 That's all I have. I will have a
6 couple of comments on some agenda items, but
7 that's all for now. Thank you.

8 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.
9 Mr. Loscombe.

10 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes. Thank you.
11 Just to reiterate on the water break
12 situation, the city departments, Public
13 Works, Fire Department, Police Department,
14 License and Inspections have a contingency
15 plan together. I believe there has been an
16 emergency declaration. I don't have any
17 hotline number per se to call if you have an
18 emergency, but I think, we are smart enough
19 to know what the emergency is. If it's a
20 health emergency or a problem with anything
21 like that you could call 911. If you do
22 have a heating emergency or anything you can
23 call our License and Inspections Department.

24 You know, there is still a lot of
25 details flowing in and out. It's supposed

1 to effect at least 8,000 properties at this
2 point. As it was stated earlier, there will
3 be a more defined list and probably the best
4 way to find out is through your local media,
5 the written and the televised media.

6 Other than that, you know, in our
7 offices are open during the day, you can
8 call the appropriate office if it's of a
9 concern to you on certain situation, but the
10 departments have been meeting pretty
11 steadily today to get everything together
12 should there be any kind of problems
13 regarding this situation. Again, it may
14 last until Monday, it may be done before
15 then. I just wanted to see if there is
16 anything else I wanted to add to that.

17 But unfortunately, it's winter, this
18 stuff happens, this happens to be a pretty
19 large size main, and I don't know how else
20 to explain this, but just to shut that main
21 down has taken quite a bit of time. You
22 can't just crank them down without effecting
23 all of the other lines around so it has
24 probably taken 24 hours to just shut that
25 main down before they can dry it out and

1 start the repairs. But PA Water, PA
2 American Water has contacted most of the
3 people, if not all of them, probably more
4 people than will be affected just to put
5 them on notice.

6 And again, you know, as the list is
7 defined again there is emergency water at
8 the fire station on Luzerne Street, you have
9 to bring your own containers, and the fire
10 station on Market Street. If I find out any
11 more I'll forward that to you, but that's
12 about all I have at this point and hopefully
13 we will get through this. Thank you.

14 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you,
15 Mr. Loscombe. Mr. Gaughan?

16 MR. GAUGHAN: I have nothing at this
17 time. Thank you.

18 MR. MCGOFF: A number of items just
19 to respond to some things that were said and
20 also to update a number of the things.

21 First of all, as far as the
22 CaseCon, the termination of the contract of
23 CaseCon, yes, it was terminated as was
24 reported and whether it was a positive or a
25 negative thing it was something that I

1 believe needed to be done since the reason
2 for hiring CaseCon in the first place had
3 been accomplished. Their services were, in
4 fact, not needed.

5 And as far as the TAN that was
6 negotiated by CaseCon for 2014, the stated
7 interest for the TAN was 4.5 percent. When
8 you add to that the cost of issuance then it
9 goes to 9.1 percent. The interest on it is
10 going to be \$562,000. The cost of issuance
11 was \$574,350 of which CaseCon received
12 \$156,250.

13 The cost of issuance for this TAN
14 was extremely expensive. Prior TANS did not
15 come close to those costs, and while it
16 needed to be done we were the cost of the
17 this TAN for 2014 and the method of the
18 payment is for want of a better word very
19 punitive. We needed to do it, and it was
20 costly when you compare it to prior year
21 TANS and also compare it to funding or loans
22 that were received or obtained by the school
23 district and other municipalities, so I
24 think we need to put some things into
25 perspective when we talk about, you know,

1 whether or not CaseCon needed to be extended
2 or whether terminating the contract was a
3 positive thing.

4 As far as the SAFER grant, the
5 people have brought up, I know Mr. Loscombe
6 probably knows more about it than I and is
7 closer to that, but this is an issue that
8 everyone knew existed and the administration
9 is aware of the situation and are trying to
10 determine how they will resolve that
11 situation. I know that the possibility of
12 reapplying for the SAFER grant, that was
13 even talked about last year, but this is
14 something that's basically an administrative
15 function at this point in time whether to
16 reapply or not and I know that also the
17 union is will be into looking into
18 reapplying if I'm not mistaken.

19 So it is something that is being
20 addressed and hopefully we do have some
21 resolution to that prior to those 30 some
22 firefighters being terminated or, you know,
23 taken off trucks and thus jeopardizing our
24 fire protection.

25 As far as the water main break, I'm

1 kind of acutely aware of it. I received a
2 call from my father yesterday morning
3 claiming that he was truly living on River
4 Street. The main break took place right in
5 front of his house and they have been
6 working on that since yesterday morning and
7 I got up this morning to take my daughter to
8 the airport at 4:30 and they were still
9 working on it at 4:30 in the morning, so
10 they have been extremely diligent in trying
11 to, you know, rectify that situation and
12 hopefully it will be resolved sooner than
13 later, but it is a very difficult process
14 that I know they are going through and
15 hopefully I guess it will be resolved
16 quickly.

17 One other thing that came up
18 during -- that was mentioned during caucus
19 today, the pension payments. Last year at
20 the end of 2013 a payment of \$4 million was
21 made toward the pension leaving a balance of
22 \$2 million for the current year. That
23 payment, the payment of \$2 million, is going
24 to be made by the city in a relative short
25 time, I believe by the end of the week.

1 you. So we have been working with the
2 commissioners and I was happy to attend
3 their meeting and speak to the commissioners
4 and get a reassurance from them that they,
5 too, are concerned with the status of the
6 city and the status of the county and are
7 willing to, you know, work with us and with
8 the school district to, as the newspaper
9 quoted, you know, work toward the betterment
10 of the welfare and safety of, you know, the
11 people of the City of Scranton and
12 Lackawanna County.

13 A couple of other things that were
14 mentioned, very interesting, one of the
15 things that they gave a proclamation to, a
16 group from I believe it was Valley View High
17 School for a recycling program. They
18 collected used shopping bags, plastic
19 shopping bags, I don't know how many of us
20 have stacks of those bags, you know, stuffed
21 inside of one another in our homes, I know I
22 do, and it's like what did you do with them?
23 You can't possibly use them, but apparently
24 they can be recycled. They collected, one
25 class alone collected over 11,000 plastic

1 shopping bags, and then one of the things
2 they said was they had to find someone who
3 would then recycle those. I guess it's not
4 an easy process and not everyone can do it,
5 but it was an interesting project. It was
6 conducted and at Valley View High School and
7 I think the total number was around 30,000
8 or something, you know, shopping bags that
9 they collected, so maybe something that, you
10 know, the City and Scranton school district
11 could look into and other organizations
12 rather than putting those things in the
13 garbage, again, maybe they can be recycled.

14 The other thing that was mentioned,
15 and I believe it's something that does
16 concern us, although it's right at this
17 point in time outside of the City of
18 Scranton, but is the occurrence or the
19 recurrence of mine fires in Lackawanna
20 County. It was not only mentioned that it's
21 a danger to the communities in which these
22 fires are, you know, currently burning, but
23 the air quality of all of Lackawanna County
24 is being affected by this and it's something
25 that the county commissioners were asking

1 people if they would contact, you know,
2 their local, state and federal
3 representatives to get behind the program to
4 extinguish these mine fires. I know
5 that it's been costly in the past, but it
6 does speak to certainly the safety and the
7 health of all of the people of Lackawanna
8 County, and so on behalf of the county
9 commissioners I would encourage anyone to
10 contact their state and federal
11 representatives to let them know that there
12 is a concern in our area for this problem.

13 And last, well, maybe not lastly.
14 At the PEL meeting this week, again, we meet
15 regularly with PEL and have been doing so
16 over the past number of the years, a number
17 of things were brought up, most of them ways
18 in which we can deal with expenditures and
19 revenues. One of the things that we talked
20 about was the Rental Registration Program
21 and delinquencies for rental registration.
22 I am meeting tomorrow morning with the
23 Treasurer and with NRS to -- one of the
24 topics being is it worthwhile given the
25 amount of money that is out there and with

1 the inventory properties that we have is it
2 worth -- is it cost effective to go after
3 these delinquencies, and if not for this
4 year if it's a program that we can look at
5 for future years.

6 The other thing that came up was the
7 Comcast contract. There are a number of --
8 me being one, unclear as to what the current
9 contract is. As we went through last year
10 there was a lot of discussion, there was
11 some -- there were two kind of varying
12 contracts that never really got the resolved
13 and so we are not -- it's unclear under
14 which contract we are operating, and so the
15 tech department and the Business
16 Administrator's Office are investigating
17 that and if we are operating under a prior
18 contract is it something that we need to
19 renegotiate and can it be of benefit to the
20 city to renegotiate that contract.

21 Another thing that came up that I
22 know we mentioned, one of the big problems
23 in the city, is the condition of equipment,
24 fire equipment, DPW equipment, police cars,
25 basically old and kind of patched together,

1 and one of the things that we brought up was
2 the possibility over a short term is it
3 possible to lease equipment rather than an
4 outright purchase of equipment? Would it
5 be, again, more cost effective, again, in
6 the short term for leasing equipment that
7 would allow for a more efficient operation
8 of all of the services in the city. And
9 again, it was something that was going to be
10 investigated. It's not something that is
11 going to happen overnight, but it may be
12 possible and it may be something that can be
13 done and that will allow us to improve the
14 quality of the equipment that our, you know,
15 public service people are using.

16 And the last thing that was
17 mentioned at the PEL meeting was SAPA, which
18 s included in the revised Recovery Plan. I
19 know this was something that was defeated a
20 number of years ago, but it is still a
21 program that has some viability. Hopefully
22 we can revisit it, whether it is approved or
23 not, it is something that may be of benefit
24 to the city, and again, it's being
25 investigated and hopefully in the relatively

1 near future representatives from SAPA we
2 will invite them to a caucus and have a sort
3 of representation of the program and allow
4 us to perhaps, you know, look at that again
5 and see if it's something that we at this
6 time can find some benefit from.

7 We all received a letter, and I'm
8 sorry, from residents on Prescott Avenue
9 that were looking for the possibility of
10 permit parking. It is my -- I believe that
11 we received last year a response from the
12 police departments concerning the viability
13 of permit parking in that block of Prescott
14 Avenue. I do not have that letter with me,
15 I will see if we can find that response and
16 provide a response to the people. I will
17 give it to Mr. Gaughan so that he can, you
18 know, provide a response to those people,
19 but I do know that we did receive a
20 response, and I'm not sure exactly how it
21 was worded, so I don't want to mislead
22 anyone.

23 And the last thing and very quickly,
24 I thought we would have a chance during
25 caucus to discuss this, but we haven't, we

1 did not. Mr. Rogan and I talked about it
2 and I believe Mr. Gaughan and I talked about
3 it at one point in time, and the possibility
4 of creating for want of a better term a name
5 a Central Neighborhood Association, a group
6 that would have representatives from the
7 various neighborhood associations to meet on
8 a whatever basis, monthly basis, but to set
9 up something so that these groups can meet
10 together and, you know, just help each other
11 in organization, perhaps provide information
12 to the city as to problems that exist in the
13 neighborhoods.

14 And we are not quite sure what we
15 are looking for, but first of all just
16 provide an organizational-type of meeting,
17 to sit down and see if it's something that
18 will work and can work. Perhaps during the
19 week we'll talk more about it and next week
20 perhaps set up a time for and a place to do
21 that to meet and to see but, you know,
22 setting up that organization, but it's
23 something that had been talked about in the
24 past and I think it's something that can be
25 beneficial, and I'm sorry to have taken so

1 long, but that is all.

2 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. McGoff, can I
3 just add to what you just spoke about? I
4 did receive an e-mail that there is a
5 neighborhood summit meeting. I believe that
6 will happen February 25 at police
7 headquarters. I don't have the details
8 right in front of me, but in the past there
9 has been some it's neighborhood groups and
10 crime watches that are meeting upon maybe a
11 quarterly basis.

12 MR. MCGOFF: Okay.

13 MR. WECHSLER: I think that is
14 scheduled for February 25, if I'm not
15 mistaken, if I read the e-mail correctly.

16 MR. MCGOFF: Maybe I'm being
17 redundant.

18 MR. WECHSLER: No, you're not
19 because it is something that needs to get
20 the weight of the city administration behind
21 it.

22 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. Mrs. Reed.

23 MS. REED: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION -
24 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
25 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE

1 AND ENTER INTO A COMMONWEALTH OF
2 PENNSYLVANIA, FINANCING AUTHORITY FIRST
3 AMENDMENT TO GRANT NO.C000052035 AND
4 FINANCING AGREEMENT, FOR A LOCAL SHARE
5 ACCOUNT GRANT FOR THE PROJECT KNOWN AS
6 "CEDAR 500" AND TO EXECUTE ANY AND
7 ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO CHANGE THE GRANT
8 TO A LOAN PURSUANT TO THE AMENDMENT TO THE
9 CONTRACT.

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

13 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

14 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

15 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? Just
16 briefly, a representative from United
17 Neighborhood Centers came briefly to council
18 to explain what this was, and we would like
19 to thank him for his participation and the
20 information that he provided.

21 MS. REED: 5-C.

22 MR. MCGOFF: All those in favor of
23 introduction 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: Excuse me. 5-C. FOR
6 INTRODUCTION - A RESOLUTION- AUTHORIZING
7 THE CITY OF SCRANTON, LACKAWANNA COUNTY,
8 PENNSYLVANIA THROUGH THE OFFICE OF BUSINESS
9 ADMINISTRATION TO MAKE APPLICATION FOR A
10 GRANT THROUGH THE COMMONWEALTH OF
11 PENNSYLVANIA, DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND
12 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, A COMMUNITY
13 DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) GRANT FOR
14 FINANCIAL AID UNDER AUTHORITY OF THE
15 MUNICIPALITIES FINANCIAL RECOVERY ACT, ACT
16 47 OF 1987, AS AMENDED AND IF THE GRANT
17 APPLICATION IS SUCCESSFUL, AUTHORIZE THE
18 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS
19 TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY
20 TO ACCEPT AND DISBURSE THE GRANT FUNDS.

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

24 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

25 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

1 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? Also,
2 during caucus Mr. Bulzoni, business
3 administrator, did come to our caucus and
4 explain the purpose of this grant and how it
5 would be utilized.

6 All those in favor of introduction
7 signify by saying aye.

8 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

9 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

10 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

12 MS. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The
13 ayes have it and so moved.

14 MS. REED: 5-D. FOR INTRODUCTION -
15 A RESOLUTION - APPOINTMENT OF DOMINIC
16 GEORGETTI, 3015 PITTSTON AVENUE, SCRANTON,
17 PENNSYLVANIA, 18505, AS CHAIRMAN OF THE
18 CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION EFFECTIVE JANUARY
19 24, 2014. MR. GEORGETTI'S TERM WILL EXPIRE
20 WITH THE TERM OF MAYOR WILLIAM L.
21 COURTRIGHT.

22 MR. MCGOFF: At this time I'll
23 entertain a motion that Item 5-D 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 of introduction signify by
4 saying aye.

5 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

6 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

7 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

8 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

11 MS. REED: SIXTH ORDER. 6-A.
12 READING BY TITLE – FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.
13 8, 2014 – AN ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE
14 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS
15 OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO ACCEPT AND
16 DISBURSE GRANT FUNDS FROM THE WALMART
17 FOUNDATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,000.00 TO
18 PURCHASE TOYS AND COATS FROM THE SCRANTON
19 POLICE DEPARTMENT'S ANNUAL TOY/COAT DRIVE.

20 MR. MCGOFF: You've heard reading by
21 title of Item 6-A, what is your pleasure?

22 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-A
23 pass reading by title.

24 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

25 MS. MCGOFF: On the question? All

1 those in favor signify by saying aye.

2 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

3 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

4 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

5 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

6 MR. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The
7 ayes have it and so moved.

8 MS. REED: 6-B. READING BY TITLE -
9 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 9, 2014 - AN
10 ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
11 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXTEND THE
12 DEADLINE FOR THE DISCOUNT PERIOD ON REAL
13 ESTATE TAXES FROM FEBRUARY 28, 2014 TO MARCH
14 31, 2014 IN ORDER TO ALLOW TAXPAYERS AMPLE
15 TIME TO PAY REAL ESTATE TAXES AT THE
16 DISCOUNT RATE.

17 MR. MCGOFF: You've heard reading by
18 title of Item 6-B, what is your pleasure?

19 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-B
20 pass reading by title.

21 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

22 MS. MCGOFF: On the question?

23 MR. WECHSLER: I make a motion to
24 suspend the Rules --

25 MR. MCGOFF: I think we need to vote

1 on it first.

2 MR. WECHSLER: I'm sorry.

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

5 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

6 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

7 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

8 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

11 MR. WECHSLER: Now I make a motion
12 to suspend the rules to move 6-B to Seventh
13 Order for final passage.

14 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

17 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

18 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

19 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

23 MS. REED: 6-C. READING BY TITLE -
24 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 10, 2014 - AN
25 ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.

1 100, 2009 "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING FILE OF
2 COUNCIL NO. 91, 2002 "AN ORDINANCE AS
3 AMENDED PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
4 PARKING METER ZONES WITHIN THE CITY OF
5 SCRANTON; ESTABLISHING HOURS OF OPERATION;
6 PROVIDING FOR THE INSTALLATION OF METERS AND
7 PARKING METER RATES; AUTHORIZING THE
8 ENFORCEMENT OF PARKING ORDINANCES AND
9 PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF"
10 BY AMENDING SECTIONS 3 (A) TO REFLECT THE
11 CHANGE IN HOURLY RATE AT PARKING METERS
12 FROM \$1.00 TO \$1.25 PER HOUR.

13 MR. MCGOFF: You've heard reading by
14 title of Item 6-C, what is your pleasure?

15 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-C
16 pass reading by title.

17 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

18 MS. MCGOFF: On the question? I
19 know Mr. Loscombe had some questions
20 concerning this last time, did we receive
21 any response as to the nature of those
22 meters? I don't believe so.

23 MS. REED: No.

24 MR. MCGOFF: For your edification, I
25 would say that perhaps we can, you know,

1 move this forward and if we don't receive a
2 response by next week --

3 MR. LOSCOMBE: Sure.

4 MR. MCGOFF: -- that we can, you
5 know, at least look into either tabling or
6 amending it somehow.

7 All those in favor signify by saying
8 aye.

9 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

10 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

11 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

13 MR. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The
14 eyes have it and so moved.

15 MS. REED: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A.
16 FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON
17 FINANCE -FOR ADOPTION FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 1,
18 2014 - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 6,
19 1976 ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE (AS AMENDED)
20 IMPOSING A TAX FOR GENERAL REVENUE PURPOSES
21 ON THE TRANSFER OF REAL PROPERTY SITUATE
22 WITHIN THE CITY OF SCRANTON; PRESCRIBING
23 AND REGULATING THE METHOD OF EVIDENCING THE
24 PAYMENT OF SUCH TAX; CONFERRING POWERS AND
25 IMPOSING DUTIES UPON CERTAIN PERSONS, AND

1 PROVIDING PENALTIES", BY IMPOSING THE RATE
2 OF THE REALTY TRANSFER TAX AT TWO AND NINE
3 TENTHS PERCENT (2.9%) FOR CALENDAR YEAR
4 2014.

5 MR. MCGOFF: What is the
6 recommendation of the Chair for the
7 Committee on Finance?

8 MR. WECHSLER: As Chairperson for
9 the Committee on Finance, I recommend final
10 passage of Item 7-A.

11 MR. ROGAN: Second.

12 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? Roll
13 call, please?

14 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

15 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

16 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

17 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

18 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

19 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

20 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

21 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

23 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I hereby declare
24 Item 7-C legally and lawfully adopted.

25 MS. REED: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION

1 BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE -FOR ADOPTION
2 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 2, 2014 - AMENDING FILE
3 OF THE COUNCIL NO. 7, 1976, ENTITLED "AN
4 ORDINANCE (AS AMENDED) IMPOSING A MERCANTILE
5 LICENSE TAX OF 2 MILLS FOR THE YEAR 1976 AND
6 ANNUALLY THEREAFTER UPON PERSONS ENGAGING IN
7 CERTAIN OCCUPATIONS AND BUSINESSES THEREIN;
8 PROVIDING FOR ITS LEVY AND COLLECTION AND
9 FOR THE ISSUANCE OF MERCANTILE LICENSES;
10 CONFERRING AND IMPOSING POWERS AND DUTIES
11 UPON THE TAX COLLECTOR OF THE CITY OF
12 SCRANTON; AND IMPOSING PENALTIES", BY
13 IMPOSING THE MERCANTILE LICENSE TAX AT ONE
14 (1) MILL (.001) FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2014.

15 MR. MCGOFF: What is the
16 recommendation of the Chairperson for the
17 Committee on Finance?

18 MR. WECHSLER: As Chairperson for
19 the Committee on Finance, I recommend final
20 passage of Item 7-B.

21 MR. ROGAN: Second.

22 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? Roll
23 call, please?

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

25 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

2 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

4 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

8 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I hereby declare
9 Item 7-B legally and lawfully adopted.

10 Mrs. Reed, perhaps before you go, I
11 skipped a page and I would like to go back
12 and say, "I hereby declare Item 7-A legally
13 and lawfully adopted."

14 Thank you.

15 MS. REED: 7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION
16 BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE -FOR ADOPTION -
17 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 3, 2014 - AMENDING
18 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 8, 1976, ENTITLED
19 "AN ORDINANCE (AS AMENDED) PROVIDING FOR THE
20 GENERAL REVENUE BY IMPOSING A TAX AT THE
21 RATE OF TWO (2) MILLS UPON THE PRIVILEGE OF
22 OPERATING OR CONDUCTING BUSINESS IN THE CITY
23 OF SCRANTON AS MEASURED BY THE GROSS
24 RECEIPTS THEREFROM; REQUIRING REGISTRATION
25 AND PAYMENT OF THE TAX AS CONDITION TO THE

1 CONDUCTING OF SUCH BUSINESS; PROVIDING FOR
2 THE LEVY AND COLLECTION OF SUCH TAX;
3 PRESCRIBING SUCH REQUIREMENTS FOR RETURNS
4 AND RECORDS; CONFERRING POWERS AND DUTIES
5 UPON THE TAX COLLECTOR; AND IMPOSING
6 PENALTIES", BY IMPOSING THE BUSINESS
7 PRIVILEGE TAX AT THE RATE OF ONE (1) MILL
8 (.001) FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2014.

9 MR. MCGOFF: What is the
10 recommendation of the Chairperson for the
11 Committee on Finance?

12 MR. WECHSLER: As Chairperson for
13 the Committee on Finance, I recommend final
14 passage of Item 7-C.

15 MR. ROGAN: Second.

16 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? Roll
17 call, please?

18 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

19 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

20 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

21 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

23 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

25 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

2 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I hereby declare
3 Item 7-C legally and lawfully adopted again.

4 MS. REED: 7-D. FOR CONSIDERATION BY
5 THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE -FOR ADOPTION -
6 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 4, 2014 - AMENDING
7 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 100, 1976, ENTITLED
8 "AN ORDINANCE (AS AMENDED) LEVYING GENERAL
9 AND SPECIAL TAXES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 1977",
10 BY SETTING THE MILLAGE FOR THE YEAR 2014.

11 MR. MCGOFF: What is the
12 recommendation of the Chair for the
13 Committee on Finance?

14 MR. WECHSLER: As Chairperson for
15 the Committee on Finance, I recommend final
16 passage of Item 7-D.

17 MR. ROGAN: Second.

18 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? Roll
19 call, please?

20 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

21 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

23 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

25 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

2 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

4 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I hereby declare
5 Item 7-D legally and lawfully adopted.

6 MS. REED: 7-E. FOR CONSIDERATION BY
7 THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE -FOR ADOPTION -
8 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 5, 2014 - AMENDING
9 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 17, 1994 ENTITLED
10 "AN ORDINANCE (AS AMENDED) AUTHORIZING THE
11 GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO
12 ENACT' A WASTE DISPOSAL AND COLLECTION FEE'
13 FOR THE PURPOSE OF RAISING REVENUE TO COVER
14 THE WASTE DISPOSAL AND COLLECTION COSTS
15 INCURRED BY THE CITY OF SCRANTON FOR THE
16 DISPOSAL OF REFUSE", BY IMPOSING A WASTE
17 DISPOSAL AND COLLECTION FEE OF \$300.00 FOR
18 CALENDAR YEAR 2014.

19 MR. WECHSLER: I make a motion to
20 amend Item 7-E per the following amendment:

21 "Section III. Fees. All fees fixed
22 by this subsection shall be payable
23 semi-annually. Fees paid on the semi-annual
24 basis shall be due May 1, 2014, and
25 September 1, 2014, in the amount of \$150 per

1 payment.

2 Item IV. The second semi-annual
3 payment of \$150 due on September 1, 2014,
4 shall be become null and void in the event
5 the city by proper legislation adopts a per
6 bag waste collection fee on or before August
7 1, 2014. If a per bag fee is adopted by the
8 city, the waste collection fee shall be
9 charged and collected pursuant that that
10 ordinance. If the city fails to adopt such
11 per bag waste collection fee, then the
12 second semi-annual fee of \$150 shall be due
13 on September 1, 2014."

14 MR. ROGAN: Second.

15 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? All
16 those in favor of the motion to amend Item
17 7-E signify by saying aye.

18 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

19 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

20 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

21 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

24 What is the recommendation of the
25 Chair for the Committee on Finance?

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

4 MR. ROGAN: Second.

5 MR. WECHSLER: As amended.

6 MR. ROGAN: Still second.

7 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? I do
8 want to mention that, again, Mr. Rogan
9 brought it up during caucus there is
10 currently no legislation concerning a per
11 bag fee. There are a lot of discussions
12 about, you know, possibilities for different
13 forms of collection and this was put in
14 simply to alleviate any problems that may
15 occur if, in fact, something were to change
16 during the course of the year.

17 MR. ROGAN: And Mr. Bulzoni did a
18 great job explaining that to us and he also
19 mentioned that PEL and the administration
20 are currently reviewing how they would want
21 to proceed moving forward on the payment of
22 the garbage fee, whether it's something that
23 is done the way we have it now where you pay
24 it twice a year or whether it breaks out
25 into a quarterly or bimonthly payment like

1 your sewer bill or a per bag fee or a hybrid
2 per bag fee and a standard fee, there is
3 many different ways that this fee can be
4 implemented and the city is reviewing those
5 currently.

6 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else on the
7 question? Roll call, please?

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

9 MR. MCGOFF: 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. GAUGHAN: Yes.

16 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

17 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I hereby declare
18 Item 7-E legally and lawfully adopted. Item
19 7-E, as amended, legally and lawfully
20 adopted.

21 MS. REED: 7-F. FOR CONSIDERATION BY
22 THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE -FOR ADOPTION -
23 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 6, 2014 - AMENDING
24 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 145 OF 2007 ENTITLED
25 "AN ORDINANCE RENAMING THE EMERGENCY AND

1 MUNICIPAL SERVICES TAX ("EMST") TO LOCAL
2 SERVICE TAX ("LST")" AND BY IMPOSING A
3 WITHHOLDING OF \$52.00 FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR
4 2014.

5 MR. MCGOFF: What is the
6 recommendation of the Chair for the
7 Committee on Finance?

8 MR. WECHSLER: As Chairperson for
9 the Committee on Finance, I recommend final
10 passage of Item 7-F.

11 MR. ROGAN: Second.

12 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? Roll
13 call, please?

14 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

15 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

16 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

17 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

18 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

19 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

20 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

21 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

23 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I hereby declare
24 Item 7-F legally and lawfully adopted.

25 MS. REED: 7-G. FOR CONSIDERATION BY

1 THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE -FOR ADOPTION -
2 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 7, 2014 - AMENDING FILE
3 OF THE COUNCIL NUMBER 17, 2012, (AS AMENDED)
4 ENTITLED "ESTABLISHING A REGISTRATION
5 PROGRAM FOR RESIDENTIAL RENTAL PROPERTIES;
6 REQUIRING ALL OWNERS OF RESIDENTIAL RENTAL
7 PROPERTIES TO DESIGNATE AN AGENT FOR SERVICE
8 OF PROCESS; AND PRESCRIBING DUTIES OF
9 OWNERS, AGENTS AND OCCUPANTS; DIRECTING
10 THE DESIGNATION OF AGENTS; ESTABLISHING FEES
11 FOR THE COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE
12 REGISTRATION OF RENTAL PROPERTY; AND
13 PRESCRIBING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS" BY
14 AMENDING SECTION 9 -FEES TO INCLUDE THE
15 INCREASES IN THE ANNUAL RENTAL REGISTRATION
16 FEE TO \$50.00 PER UNIT AND THE ANNUAL PERMIT
17 FEE TO \$150.00 PER SITE.

18 MR. MCGOFF: What is the
19 recommendation of the Chair for the
20 Committee on Finance?

21 MR. WECHSLER: As Chairperson for
22 the Committee on Finance, I recommend final
23 passage of Item 7-G.

24 MR. ROGAN: Second.

25 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? Roll

1 call, please?

2 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

3 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

5 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

7 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

9 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

11 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I hereby declare
12 Item 7-G legally and lawfully adopted.

13 MS. REED: 7-H. FOR CONSIDERATION BY
14 THE COMMITTEE ON RULES-FOR ADOPTION
15 RESOLUTION NO. 14, 2014 - AMENDING
16 RESOLUTION NO. 604, 1999 ENTITLED
17 "AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE
18 CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A
19 COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN E.B.
20 JERMYN LODGE NO. 2 OF THE FRATERNAL ORDER OF
21 POLICE AND THE CITY OF SCRANTON FOR THE
22 CALENDAR YEARS JANUARY 1, 1996 TO DECEMBER
23 31, 2002 IN ORDER TO AMEND ARTICLE 26,
24 SECTION 7 PER A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT
25 BETWEEN THE PARTIES.

1 MR. MCGOFF: As Chair for the
2 Committee on Rules, I recommend final
3 passage of Item 7-H.

4 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

8 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

10 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

12 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

14 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

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

18 MS. REED: 7-I. FOR CONSIDERATION BY
19 THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE-FOR ADOPTION -
20 RESOLUTION NO. 15, 2014 - APPROVING THE
21 FINANCING BY THE SCRANTON-LACKAWANNA HEALTH
22 AND WELFARE AUTHORITY OF CERTAIN CAPITAL
23 PROJECTS FOR THE BENEFIT OF MARYWOOD
24 UNIVERSITY, A PENNSYLVANIA NOT-FOR-PROFIT
25 CORPORATION; DECLARING THAT IT IS DESIRABLE

1 FOR THE HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE OF THE
2 PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON, LACKAWANNA
3 COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AND THE AREA SERVED BY
4 MARYWOOD UNIVERSITY TO HAVE THE PROJECT
5 PROVIDED BY AND FINANCED THROUGH THE
6 AUTHORITY; DESIGNATING THE MAYOR OF THE
7 CITY, OR, IN HIS ABSENCE, THE PRESIDENT OR
8 VICE PRESIDENT OF THE CITY COUNCIL, AS THE
9 PERSON TO ACT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY COUNCIL
10 AS THE "APPLICABLE ELECTED REPRESENTATIVE"
11 WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE
12 CODE OF 1986, AS AMENDED; AUTHORIZING SUCH
13 MAYOR OF THE CITY OR THE PRESIDENT OR VICE
14 PRESIDENT OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY TO
15 TAKE CERTAIN ACTIONS ON BEHALF OF THE CITY
16 COUNCIL OF THE CITY AS SUCH "APPLICABLE
17 ELECTED REPRESENTATIVE"; AND AUTHORIZING
18 OTHER NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE ACTION.

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

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

25 MR. ROGAN: Second.

1 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? Roll
2 call, please?

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

4 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

6 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

10 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

12 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I hereby declare
13 Item 7-I legally and lawfully adopted.

14 MS. REED: 7-J. FOR CONSIDERATION
15 BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE-FOR ADOPTION
16 RESOLUTION NO. 16, 2014 - AUTHORIZING THE
17 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS
18 TO ACCEPT GRANT FUNDS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF
19 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (DEP) ACT 101
20 RECYCLING PROGRAM PERFORMANCE GRANT IN THE
21 AMOUNT OF \$58,665.00 FOR THE CITY OF
22 SCRANTON RECYCLING PROGRAM.

23 MR. MCGOFF: What is the
24 recommendation of the Chair for the
25 Committee on Finance?

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

4 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

8 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

10 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

12 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

14 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

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

18 MS. REED: 7-K. FOR CONSIDERATION BY
19 THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE-FOR ADOPTION
20 RESOLUTION NO. 17, 2014 - ACCEPTING A
21 DONATION OF FOUR THOUSAND (\$4,000.00)
22 DOLLARS FROM SCRANTON AREA FOUNDATION
23 PRESENTED TO THE CITY OF SCRANTON FIRE
24 DEPARTMENT.

25 MR. MCGOFF: What is the

1 recommendation of the Chair for the
2 Committee on Finance?

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

6 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

10 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

12 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

14 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

16 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

17 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

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

20 MS. REED: 7-L. FOR CONSIDERATION BY
21 THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE-FOR ADOPTION
22 RESOLUTION NO. 18, 2014 - ACCEPTING A
23 DONATION OF ONE HUNDRED (\$100.00) DOLLARS
24 FROM ANTHRACITE HERITAGE MUSEUM AND IRON
25 FURNACES ASSOCIATES PRESENTED TO THE CITY OF

1 SCRANTON FIRE DEPARTMENT.

2 MR. MCGOFF: What is the
3 recommendation of the Chair for the
4 Committee on Finance?

5 MR. WECHSLER: As Chairperson for
6 the Committee on Finance, I recommend final
7 passage of Item 7-L.

8 MR. ROGAN: Second.

9 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? Roll
10 call, please?

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

12 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

14 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

16 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

17 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

18 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

19 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

20 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I hereby declare
21 Item 7-L legally and lawfully adopted.

22 MS. REED: 7-M. FOR CONSIDERATION
23 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES-FOR ADOPTION
24 RESOLUTION NO. 19, 2014 - APPOINTMENT OF
25 PAUL DUFFY, 811 COLFAX AVENUE, SCRANTON,

1 PENNSYLVANIA, 18510, TO THE CIVIL SERVICE
2 COMMISSION EFFECTIVE JANUARY 17, 2014. MR.
3 DUFFY'S TERM WILL EXPIRE WITH THE TERM OF
4 MAYOR WILLIAM L. COURTRIGHT.

5 MR. MCGOFF: As Chair for the
6 Committee on Rules, I recommend final
7 passage of Item 7-M.

8 MR. ROGAN: Second.

9 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? Roll
10 call, please?

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

12 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

14 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

16 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

17 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

18 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

19 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

20 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I hereby declare
21 Item 7-M legally and lawfully adopted.

22 MS. REED: 7-N. FOR CONSIDERATION
23 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES-FOR ADOPTION
24 RESOLUTION NO. 20, 2014 - APPOINTMENT OF
25 JEFF MACKIE, 1422 W. GIBSON STREET,

1 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18504, TO THE CIVIL
2 SERVICE COMMISSION EFFECTIVE JANUARY 17,
3 2014. MR. MACKIE'S TERM WILL EXPIRE WITH
4 THE TERM OF MAYOR WILLIAM L. COURTRIGHT.

5 MR. MCGOFF: As Chair for the
6 Committee on Rules, I recommend final
7 passage of Item 7-N.

8 MR. ROGAN: Second.

9 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? Roll
10 call, please?

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

12 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

14 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

16 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

17 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

18 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

19 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

20 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I hereby declare
21 Item 7-N legally and lawfully adopted.

22 MS. REED: 7-0 - FORMERLY 6-B - FOR
23 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE -
24 FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 9,
25 2014 - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER

1 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXTEND THE
2 DEADLINE FOR THE DISCOUNT PERIOD ON REAL
3 ESTATE TAXES FROM FEBRUARY 28, 2014 TO MARCH
4 31, 2014 IN ORDER TO ALLOW TAXPAYERS AMPLE
5 TIME TO PAY REAL ESTATE TAXES AT THE
6 DISCOUNT RATE.

7 MR. MCGOFF: What is the
8 recommendation of the Chair for the
9 Committee on Finance?

10 MR. WECHSLER: As Chairperson for
11 the Committee on Finance, I recommend final
12 passage of Item 7-0.

13 MR. ROGAN: Second.

14 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? Roll
15 call, please?

16 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

17 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

18 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

19 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

20 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

21 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

25 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I hereby declare

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Item 7-0 legally and lawfully adopted.

Any other business? If not, I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

MR. LOSCOMBE: Motion to adjourn.

MR. MCGOFF: This meeting is adjourned.

C E R T I F I C A T E

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

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