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1	SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING
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5	HELD:
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7	Thursday, March 20, 2014
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9	LOCATION:
10	Council Chambers
11	Scranton City Hall
12	340 North Washington Avenue
13	Scranton, Pennsylvania
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24	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 JAMIE MARCIANO, 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. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler.
5	MR. WECHSLER: Here.
6	MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.
7	MR. ROGAN: Here.
8	MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Loscombe.
9	MR. LOSCOMBE: Here.
10	MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan.
11	MR. GAUGHAN: Here.
12	MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.
13	MR. MCGOFF: Here.
14	MS. REED: THIRD ORDER. 3-A.
15	ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT FROM THE OFFICE OF
16	THE CITY CONTROLLER FOR THE YEAR ENDING
17	DECEMBER 31, 2012.
18	MR. MCGOFF: Are there any comments?
19	If not, received and filed.
20	Any Clerk's notes, Mrs. Reed?
21	MS. REED: Nothing, Mr. McGoff.
22	MR. MCGOFF: Do any council members
23	have announcements at this time?
24	MR. WECHSLER: Mr. McGoff, I have
25	one. Tripp Park Neighborhood Association

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roast beef dinner will be held be Sunday
from noon to three at the community center.
Takeouts are available and it's \$10 at the
door.

MR. MCGOFF: Anybody else?

Tonight's agenda I would is say very light in terms of legislation. There are a number of appointments. Other than that nothing.

As far as the appointments, we have received resumes from a number of the people who have been appointed and have been told by the administration that prior to the final vote that resumes will be in for the remainder of those people.

MS. REED: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS' PARTICIPATION.

MR. MCGOFF: Bill Jackowitz.

MR. JACKOWITZ: Good evening,
Scranton City Council. Jamie and Amil and
Mrs. Reed. You know, I'm really not a bad
man. I actually, I think I am a pretty
decent guy and I normally try to follow the
rules and I try to follow the regulations.
You know, city council's rule was to submit
questions in writing. I did that. I have

proof that my faxes were received by the city council. Mr. Rogan answered one of my questions last week in regards for the loan and for Boscov's and the mall. Mr. Gaughan answered my question about my garage being picked up, but I still have like 12 other questions out there and I submitted them on February 19 and February 25.

Now, I followed the rules that city council put out for us citizens to do to submit the questions in writing. Now, like I said, I really believe I deserve an answer. Not only me, but I believe every citizen deserves an answer from our elected officials. You know, that's just the way I feel. You know, maybe it's my military background being a career military person where discipline and so on and so forth is part of it and that's all I'm asking for.

Now, I don't care which council person answers this question, but if you are not going to answer my questions then please tell me that. If you are going to answer my questions, can you please at least have the courtesy to give me the answers to my

questions? Does anybody on council want to address that? Am I going to get answers or am I not going to answer get answers?

MR. MCGOFF: I'll answer it, two things I'll say to that, Mr. Jackowitz.

Number one, some of the questions that you posed have been answered.

MR. JACKOWITZ: I've had two.

MR. MCGOFF: No, because some of them have been answered maybe not directly to you, but certainly the ones dealing with the consultant have been answered during the course of the meetings.

 $\label{eq:MR.JACKOWITZ: Okay, I'll give you} \label{eq:MR.JACKOWITZ: Okay, I'll give you} \\ that one.$ 

MR. MCGOFF: And the second thing is that some of the questions that are posed are things that are not in our purview, that we really don't have control over and it's sometimes difficult, you know, some of those questions are better asked of either the mayor or, you know, someone else.

 $$\operatorname{MR}.\ \operatorname{JACKOWITZ}\colon \ I$$  did submit them to the mayor.

MR. MCGOFF: Okay.

MR. JACKOWITZ: I'm waiting for an answer from him, also.

MR. MCGOFF: And so that just is a partial responsible to what you asked.

MR. JACKOWITZ: Okay, Mr. McGoff, I appreciate that because, you know, you gave me some response and I appreciate that.

That's all I'm asking for. You know, is hey -- and it's not only me, there is a lot of other citizens ask me. That's why a lot of people don't attend the meeting. As you can see, there is nobody here and one of the reasons why I'm told over and over again is, "Why did you continue to waste your time to go there because they are never going to answer your questions and they are never going to give you a straight answer."

So the reason why I continue to come is because it's just my personality. I mean, that's just the way I am, what can I say. But, again, you know, like, that's just like one of my questions was about the lace factory and now they each had a fire down there and, you know, again, what is the status on that property? Obviously people

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are working on it, when is it going to be completed?

MR. ROGAN: Mr. Jackowitz --

MR. JACKOWITZ: How much longer -hold on, Pat -- or Mr. Rogan, I'm sorry. Also, February 1 has come and gone, what's the status on the North Scranton Junior High School, plus April 15 is really not that far away and that was the deadline that was given. It's really not that far away. What's the status on that? These are things that I would like to know and other citizens would like to know because it's the citizens' and taxpayers' money that was giving these loans and grants, you know, the grant came from the state, it's still citizens' taxpayers' money. Okay, Pat, I'm sorry for --

MR. ROGAN: No problem. We did discuss -- I did bring both of these up with Ms. Aebli and I do have an answer on both. We did also discuss them in the caucus a little bit. The lace works the project is moving forward. What the fire may actually have been caused from was some of the work

that's being done as far as remediation of the lead and asbestos in the building. That's the first stage of the project.

It's obviously a huge building.

Until the asbestos and lead is removed from the property they can't move forward on the formal development that you would see.

On the North Scranton project, I spoke to Ms. Aebli on that one as well, that one is also still moving forward. Right now they are working with HUD to get some paperwork together regarding reimbursements for low income housing, so that's where that project stands as well.

MR. JACKOWITZ: Okay. Thank you, I appreciate that and I'm hoping that some of the residents who are watching this broadcast will also appreciate it because at least they have a good understanding of what is going on.

As far as the pothole issue goes, I

don't know if there is a resolution or

solution to that. All I know is the

potholes are getting bigger and bigger and

bigger and I just replaced one tire and hope

1 I don't have to replace anymore, but we do need to get something done with the 2 3 potholes. And as far as the pothole machine, 4 5 that thing has been his history for a long It's been stored in the Sewer 6 7 Authority from what I understand I think it 8 was used once and that was it. So that's 9 the status on the pothole machine. 10 you. 11 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you. 12 MR. MCGOFF: Ron Ellman. 13 MR. ELLMAN: Hello, Council. 14 Mr. McGoff, I saw where you parked tonight, is that an expression of future aspirations 15 16 there? 17 MR. MCGOFF: It's an expression of 18 old age. I don't want to walk very far. 19 MR. ELLMAN: Can I park there 20 without getting a ticket or if I get one can 21 I bring it to you? 22 MR. MCGOFF: You can bring it to me, 23 I don't know that it would do you any good. 24 I have one of my own that I'm --25 MR. ELLMAN: Our esteemed Chamber of

Commerce recently wasted about \$30,000 in hiring this financial wizard whose advice is to get our credit rating up, which would take 20, 30 years, so we can borrow more money. We already owe hundreds of millions of dollars. What kind of advice is this. This just never stops. You people take the taxpayers for your only source of the revenue. There is businesses out here getting away with murder. These nonprofits are businesses, you know, and you just refuse to go after them.

Right here in city this Mr. Amaroso doesn't care or doesn't know 60 percent increase in foreclosures. About a month ago there was 550 in the paper. A couple of weeks ago there was 51 more houses in the paper, these are people's prized possession, you know, that they will probably only get one chance at it and they are losing them. People are just pouring out of here.

This very week the two houses next to me went up for sale. To beautiful neighbors, you couldn't ask for better neighbors. They have had enough. They have

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had enough of this out-of-control school board. They have had enough hiring in the city. You know, we keep hiring consultants because people can't do their jobs. You need to fire them if you can't do their jobs. You don't hire consultants. This just goes on and on and on and it just doesn't stop.

You know, it's like I just said, you can't rely on the property owners to be the only source of revenue and that's what's going on. You know, we have had over 20 years of PEL and Mr. Cross, they don't have one my minute positive thing they have done for the city. We got Ms. Linda over there at HUD giving 25-year interest free loans to some deadbeat businesses with a hope of getting a little money that shouldn't have gotten a loan to start with if that's the feeling about it. Downtown all I hear about is Al Boscov like he is the victim. He owes us money and it's turned around where is he the victim, the developers are victims.

You know, the neighborhoods are falling apart all around us. These

sidewalks, streets, everything, and all of that people worried about is downtown. I tell you, if Mr. Wizard and Gerald Cross and Ms. Linda ever had to go get an honest job like working in a fast food restaurant they would all be fired half-way before the first shift is over from gross incompetence and stupidity. Thank you.

MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Hetman.

MR. HETMAN: Good evening, Council.

MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

MR. HETMAN: Gerard Hetman from
Lackawanna County's Community Relations
Department, good to see you again this
month. To begin this evening, we would just
like to remind council and all citizens that
the 2014 Armed Forces Day parade will take
place on Saturday, May 17, in downtown
Scranton. The parade steps off at 11:00
a.m. from the corner of Penn Avenue and Vine
Street near the Gino Merli Veteran's Center.

This is our third year in our department of working with the Armed Forces week committee to try and grow and develop

the parade into a bigger and better event
that pays tribute to our men and women in
uniform and to help our service veterans to
try and make it better and better every
year.

So if any community groups, any school groups or agencies or entities or nonprofits in the community would wish to participate with a marching delegation in the parade or if anyone, just an interested citizen wishes to volunteer or help plan the parade or any other events taking place during Armed Forces week, which is that week in May that proceeds the parade they can contact Sergeant First Class Mazloski and 570-496-8908 or Joe Seestri at 570-961-2696.

And we do have some posters that the parade committee gave to our department, and I'll lave with Ms. Reed. If you could just place some of them in city hall and other city buildings where appropriate we would appreciate your assistance. Every little bit helps. I know that every spectator that lines the route is much appreciated by the Veteran's and military personnel who march

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in the parade. I have noticed a number of the council members presents at the parade, marching in the parade and I know everyone appreciates your support when everyone shows up and solutes our men and women in uniform, so thank you.

The second item this evening is for the second year the Lackawanna County Commissioners and the Lackawanna County Highway Safety Department or annual bike safety fair. It takes place on Saturday, April 26, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at McDade at the Pavilion No. 1, which is the first pavilion pulling in on the right side of the park. There is actually two parts to this. The Scranton Police Department and also the Lackawanna County Sheriff's Office and the District Attorney's Office will do free bike safety demonstrates for children, and then all present get a free bike helmet to take We have a number of sizes and we have home. worked with community partners to fund the event through sponsors so every child gets a free bike helmet and they will also be able to enter that day to enter a free bicycle

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compliments of Cedar Bike Path.

But preceding that, children can go to the Lackawanna County website and we'll also leave you a paper copy with the flyer. The website is LackawannaCounty.org and they can download and print one of blank helmets and they can color it in with the design of their choosing and submit it to the Commissioner's Office either in person or by male and the commissioners then choose one male and one female winner among the entrants, and it goes up to 13 years of age. Anyone younger than that can enter, and each -- the male and the female winner will receive a bike. The only stipulation is if those individuals come to the bike safety fair they can't win the random drawing. can't have two bikes going home with the same child.

But it's a great day. Last year we had close to 200 children in attendance and I'm sure that all of the council members and everyone here can relate with me when I say riding a bike around the streets of Scranton is almost a right of passage in our area, so

it's a great way to teach kids how to do
that safely and get great cooperation with
the police department and we appreciate
that.

And then lastly, a item relating to Penn State Extension. The Penn State Extension branch of the Lackawanna County will host a spring vendor and craft fair on Saturday, April 5. It takes place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at West Scranton Intermediate School. A wide variety of different crafters and community vendors will be there.

And the funds raised benefit the Prosper program, which is a family based drug and alcohol prevention program designed at -- targeted at adolescents in Lackawanna County, particularly in the Scranton School District. Penn State Extension has worked with the School District for the past eight years using this program to take a family based approach to adolescence in terms of drug and alcohol abuse prevention.

So it's a great opportunity to visit some of your neighbors who may have

businesses and take advantage of the products that they offer for a good cause to help strengthen our community.

So that's all I have for this evening and thank you, ladies and gentlemen.

MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr. Hetman.

Anyone else who wishes to address council? And please be careful.

MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening,
Council. Marie Schumacher, resident and
taxpayer.

MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

MS. SCHUMACHER: I guess maybe there must be something in the air because I sort of feel the same way as Bill Jackowitz. I do have a host of questions but my senses are telling me that council is not going to be very receptive in answering them or timely, so I'll have to bother Mr. Bulzoni with a barrage of Right-to-Know letters and go that route so tonight I'll stick to a few comments.

First, I have some concerns about what Mr. Amaroso presented last week.

Number one, the obvious is I didn't think that he told us very much that we didn't already know and haven't known for a long time.

And second, during the 2014 budget process Mayor Courtright sent a representative of his transition team to advise council in the mayor-elect's team opinion that revenues for this year's budget were overstated by 7 1/2 million yet Mr. Amaroso did not once mention this deficit or identify actions to fill in that particular hole.

And the most troublesome is the last, I need to review the tape of the actual presentation, but he did say something about the uniformed employees

Court award bringing it into the budget and if that means what I think it --what I fear actually, not what I think it means, he is sort of upgrading the status of that bond, I guess for lack of a better term, over the other bonds and that would really, really make it difficult if we thought that the Scranton Parking Authority problem was

keeping bond sellers away, I think if that were to happen they would just turn and run as fast as they could and that troubles me.

And something I've talked about before is ability to pay. There has again been not a lot of good news. The first was on the 16th, which was Sunday, noting that the low income enrollment, the percent of students to qualify for free or reduced price lunches, the percent changed calculated over a five-year period and Scranton has gone from 56 percent in five years ago to 68 percent of the children being eligible.

Now, that gives you some indication of their parents or their household income, so that certainly is not good news for the city.

The next was yesterday's on the jobless noting that the number of the people employed fell by 4,600 over the year to 255,200 in January. Everything I have seen come out of Harrisburg or from Mr. Amaroso really is how can we get more taxes or more fees out of the people who are already

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paying, and I think it's time that council concentrate on improving the environment here in the city such that people want to come and work and live here and that businesses want to locate and hiding our heads in the sand and saying our tax policy is not the cause of some of these departures or people not coming here is very unrealistic.

And again, I spoke about this before, I just brought page one, but if anybody would like it, it is the document that the Scranton Sewer Authority filled out three years ago now that -- that Ann Flemming did for them. It was a long-term control plan for the combined sewer operation and it was a Financial Capability Assessment and I recommended -- well, I have been recommending since 2011 that every council person read that because what it does is calculate the ability of the ratepayers to actually pay and it did result in a change in the rates and stringing them out maybe a little bit more than they would ave been, and I think you need to read that,

and if I may finish with one other?

The other thing and I'll just read the first paragraph and then I'll leave it here for the copies, it's titled -- it's an article that's written by the man who was the first receiver for the City of Harrisburg and the title is "The Critical First and Last Steps in Municipal Workout, Vallejo, Harrisburg and Detroit."

"The first critical step and municipal workout, whether inside or outside of the bankruptcy, is to get all parties, the debtor and the creditors, to accept that they will all have to incur significant losses as a result of a workout process. Secured creditors will do better than unsecured creditors, but taking that into account, the losses need to be fair and proportionate and the municipality needs to come out the other end of the process able to operate successfully into the future."

I think that is the kind of person
we should have hired and a mediator and this
is what we should be doing instead of just
tweaking the existing system and I hope you

will all read it and take that under advisement. Thank you.

MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

MR. DOBRZYN: Trying not to waste any time, Dave Dobrzyn, resident of Scranton, and I have a little printout here with some things I wish to discuss. Pass one over.

First of all, my name is Dave

Dobrzyn, resident of Scranton, taxes paid so far, I'm still working on the rest. Now, at the top of my list I put "fair share" and many people have come up with this idea before and I think a few could always adopt it and I wouldn't be insulted. Instead of a trash fee, we should have a public service fee, and it should be levied on everyone at least a couple of hundreds dollars for a tax exempt organization and if they are much larger they certainly could afford to pay more.

The only time that the "U", for instance, was penalized was when fire alarms were hit as a prank, not when somebody burnt their toast, and set off a massive fire

alarm and our fire company had to show up and we do have some crime problems, I mean, there was a murder up in the Hill Section, a senseless murder of a college student from another college, so I think it should be a public safety fee and street maintenance fee and that's the way it should be.

Now, on the Chamber of Commerce, it's already to a point where they should drop Scranton from their title. I mean, I agree with Mr. Gaughan last week nobody is fighting for us. It would be very interesting, very interesting to find out whether that new building that the former Diversified is going into isn't another tax exempt, and I'd like to point out that Sanofi Pasteur received a tax exemption for ten years, we built parking garages and everything else, now there is a \$200,000 a year hole in the budget.

Andy Sbaraglia was complaining years back that the Hilton was given over a quarter million dollars a year free parking, which I understand they charged their customers for.

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My Comcast bill for internet, phone, and television has gone from \$176 to \$196. It's already major so if we negotiate a new contract please start to discuss the price. It's time for a rollback. That's not worth any more than a \$100 a month; and furthermore, I don't watch most of the silly garbage that's on it. I watch the documentaries, I'm like an information sive like that little robot that they had the film on, "Input, input," you know, years back if anybody has ever seen it. What is the name of that? "Batteries Not --" no, it wasn't "Batteries Not Included", I'll think of it some day.

And as far as the unions are concerned I'd like to point out, and this also relates to our default on the parking garages, we lost \$25 million from the same people that are criticizing us for allowing a default on an unauthorized loan, and also, Ms. Fay Franus was very accurate last week in pointing out that it was like a criminal trial here when you people were just asking a few questions on the financing and wages

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and so forth of the day-to-day operations of the Parking Authority. It was actually shameful to have an attorney sitting next to him telling people not to answer you people, which is something you have been bashed for time and time again.

And I'd also like to point out that on Prospect, Willow, Hickory, and God only knows how many other streets, the utilities have been tearing them up. River Street was torn up, also, with that big leak and the repairs don't cut it. They don't cut it. Ι certainly hope they will be back. didn't think that we had a six-month memory loss or something because I remember what those streets look like beforehand they weren't too bad. Now they are terrible. They are awful and a lot of potholes aren't the fault of the city not doing things. It's there is fault for coming in and doing third rate repairs on the way out. They should be repayed.

Now, also, I have an article here, I will leave it with Jamie, "Courtright Needs to Fight Job Exodus." You know, the guy

wasn't -- didn't even serve a day in office, not one day in office and they were already making skits about him and cartoons about him just because their choice didn't make it. You know, nobody is perfect, but I'd rather Mr. Courtright than anybody that they pick to be our fearless leader.

And I'll leave this with Jamie. How do you fight job losses in central city when the county and the Chamber of Commerce are actually drawing people out of town and seducing them to go to other places? Tax free, of course, after we went in the hole over them.

And finally, on Steamtown, please read it, I have asked for a letter from council several times, that was one of my small disappointments with the last council and we never got it, and there is some information there about a lot of losses, I apologize about the poor print, I guess it's time for a new cartridge, that seems like that's on a daily basis, but that's besides the point.

And finally, on the way out, trade

1 Tired of 245 billion for packs. 2 supplemental income for low wage workers? 3 Call your representatives, call your senators, call the president, and tell them 4 5 take the trade packs and stuff them under the rug, stuff them anywhere you want and if 6 7 they get smart with you, you have my 8 permission to tell them to stuff them 9 somewhere else. Thank you and have a good 10 night. Don't forget to bawk, bawk. 11 golden parrot is back. 12 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you. 13 MR. DOBRZYN: By the way, the 14 Keystone pipeline steel is coming from India. Jobs. 15 16 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else? 17 MS. REED: FIFTH ORDER. 5-A. 18 MOTIONS. MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Wechsler? 19 20 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, 21 Mr. McGoff. I'd like to take the 22 opportunity to congratulate the St. 23 Patrick's Day Parade Committee for their 24 efforts on Saturday. It was the first time 25 I ever got to walk in the parade so I could

enjoy the entire route to see the streets filled mostly with families all having a good time. Didn't really see any true problems downtown.

I'd like to also thank the Scranton Police and Fire Department for their roles, and also for the great job that the DPW did in the cleanup post parade, and I'd also like to thank all of the people who came to Scranton to enjoy our city and somehow we need to find more ways to do that.

One thing I just want to touch on and this, and we are going to talk about this again this week, when we ask about who is fighting or working for Scranton I can tell you right now that the people I sit with on this dais every day we are working and fighting for Scranton. We attend meeting at night, Mr. McGoff attends meetings in the day, so it disturbs me when I hear people say that no one is fighting for Scranton.

It's a tough fight, so we might not be winning, but we are fighting, and I don't appreciate the fact when I'm hearing that no

one is fighting for Scranton. My fellow councilmen and I are, I know that. Thank you.

MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Rogan?

MR. ROGAN: Yes, thank you. Just a quick update, last night I met as part of the Citizens Advisory Council through OECD, just to give an update on where everything stands. At last night's meeting we worked on the surveys that will be going out. Very shortly, on the city's website and they will be distributed through the community groups and presentations will be made. Every five years the city is required to go through this process and basically for the residents out there who want to have an input on how our federal dollars are spent.

The survey will only be a few pages and it lists different items that the city -- some that the city currently uses CDBG money for, some that the city does not, and for the residents to rank how they feel both that money should be spent. If you believe more money should be spent on paving, you could, you know, put that as a

high priority on your survey.

Once that survey is finalized, I will be sure to bring a stack to City Council's Office, I know we will be distributing all throughout the city through different organizations, and it will be posted on the city's website as well, so I definitely will keep everyone informed as those things progress.

I did speak a little bit about these two projects earlier, but I did want to just reiterate again. First with the North Scranton Junior High School project, I did speak to Ms. Aebli regarding this project and it is still moving forward. Right now there is some paperwork being done between Goodwill and HUD regarding the low income aspect of some of the housing and that will be there when this project is complete.

And regarding the Lace Works'

project, as I mentioned, this project, this

-- and I may be wrong, but the Lace Works is

probably the biggest or the second biggest

building in the City of Scranton. It's a

lot of work and a lot of time just to get it

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to the point where they can begin the construction and modernizing that facility. When that building was built, everything was coated in lead point. All of the pipes were coated in asbestos and that's a very expensive process and a very time consuming process. That's where everything currently stands on that project. I will continue to follow-up on it, and I do know the developer, Mr. Cordaro, has been very open with city council. We have had him here a number of the times and I have spoken to him a number of times regarding other issues. He has been great to work with and we are looking forward to that project continuing to move forward.

Also, regarding the Lace Works, and I know Mr. Loscombe will speak about this further, what a great job the Fire Department did yesterday. Two fires, back to back in an hour apart, one in one of the largest buildings in the city and one right over, you know, in North Scranton and they did a phenomenal job, so really hats off to them, they did a great job, and this is why

we have a paid professional fire department in the City of Scranton and why it's so critical that we have that fire protection.

Finally, I'd just like to echo what Mr. Wechsler said, many of us on council did have an opportunity to walk in the parade on Saturday. I believe we all had a good time seeing residents out and it was good to see the downtown full and the businesses busy, and Mr. Wechsler is right, we need to have more events that bring people into the city and hopefully on May 17 with the Armed Forces parade the streets will be lined up as well and I know I'm looking forward to walking in that parade again this year. So that is it all I have for tonight. Thank you.

MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

MR. ROGAN: Actually, I do have one more item, sorry, Jack. We talked about this in the caucus a little bit, we were speaking about the condition conditions of the roads and specifically North Main Avenue in West Scranton. Anyone who lives in West Scranton or drives through knows that is

council is going to do, I met with representatives at PennDOT, this is about two weeks ago, and I was lobbying them very hard not only for those holes to be filled

probably one of the worst roads, if not the

worst road in the city. Now, what city

milled and paved, a proper repair that will

last and give the residents what they

temporarily, but for Main Avenue to be

deserve.

So city council will be sending a letter to PennDOT asking if that street, it's not only paved, but it's milled and paved properly, and that is it all.

MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Loscombe?

MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you. First of all, I, too, would like to give my kudos to the parade committee for the St. Patrick's Day parade this year. We were blessed with a beautiful day for most of the day, and it was nice to march in the parade, as Mr. Wechsler had said, and just to see everyone lined up along that whole parade route with quite a few children and families there, which is very nice. The parade

committee did a great job.

Our police department, fantastic, they kept control. I didn't see any issues, I mean, I believe there were some minor issues here and there, but they kept them clear of the parade route. The fire department and the public works did a fantastic clean up job afterwards. So, you know, it was a great day for the people of Scranton and hopefully we get more and more people out for these situations, parades and whatever.

And remember, again, May 17, the
Armed Forces parade, as Mr. Hetman mentioned
from the county, we would like to see as
many people out as possible for that.

Next, I'm glad Mr. Rogan gave the report because I was going to ask about the Scranton Lace building and the Goodwill building tonight, some people had asked me what the progress was, and I'm glad Mr. Rogan was able to give us an update on that, and the Lace Works coming into play, again, because of the fire yesterday there and I, too, have to congratulate the

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firefighters for the job they did there.

You know, building under renovation, a lot of money being invested in that building, when I heard there was a fire there, you know, my heart sank. I figured, you know, it could be bad. But, fortunately, they were able to get in there and confine it and save the building for future development.

And that's, again, why we have the fire department like we have. I believe they are second to none, not because I was there at one time, but I see it on a daily basis. These gentleman are dedicated and they go in there and fight the battle and they are happy to win the war. And that's an example when I was on the job we had the Oppenheim's building, which was under development at that time, and we had a major fire in there and, fortunately, we were able to save the structure where it was rehabbable and you see it today. It has been renovated, but that could have easily been destroyed. But that's the kind of the professionalism we have.

And then right after the fire at the

Lace Works there was a fire in North Scranton, maybe half a block away from Engine 9 and they made a quick response, they had some backup engines, and the crews got there pretty rapidly, although the station was empty because they were at the other fire. Fortunately, they were able to get into that house and, you know, if you drive by the house there is not a hole in the roof, the siding is intact, it looks pretty good, but, you know, they have to replace the windows and there is lot of interior work.

So, unfortunately, there were a lot of people displaced in that fire.

Fortunately, they all escaped without injury and now the rebuilding process begins for them so I understand there may be a fundraiser coming up for that family and announcing in the future so to help them out.

But those are just some of the incidents and there is many incidents that go on on a daily basis here that you don't see in the paper or, you know, you don't

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read about or hear about because they are done and taken care of pretty rapidly, smile fires and stuff like that. But our police department is constantly, you know, and they can't publicize a lot of the drug arrests they make because they are going after some bigger fish, so they have to keep it quiet, but on a daily basis they are chipping away at the drug problem in this area and they don't want to see us end up in the same position as our down valley city.

You know, they have their problems down there, but our police department, again, second to none. They work professionally and they are fighting the fight every day and not looking for any recognition or anything but they are making a difference, the difference is it is safe to walk around some of our streets. there work to be done? Naturally. But, you know, it could have been a lot worse and I believe, you know, they are keeping everyone safe and doing it on a daily basis and a lot of it is under the wire, people don't see what's going on, so I do commend them for

that.

And lastly, I think it was

Mr. Dobrzyn mentioned about the utilities,
tearing up the roads, and I know that's
happening in the new year and Keyser Avenue,
which is a nightmare if anyone tries to
drive up there, and then West Side, lower
West Side, there is a couple of streets
there that are torn up since the fall and
it's like one day they are here, a week
later they are back.

I do have to say that the mess they have created the weather didn't cooperate, they had some holes that they filled in and it washed right out, there was a lot of mud. I do commend the company I believe it was TSC they have come back and repaved those areas that they had dug up. However, there is still some issues that have be resolved, and I'll be getting to the appropriate department heads with those.

But, you know, what they are doing there basically, I don't know, I mean, it's one day they are here, water, next day they are at another house, but there has been

I've noticed where they patched some of the blacktop on driveways or sidewalks for the people they have actually covered the shutoffs for the water and the gas. Some of the people have caught them and had them come back, but they have to make sure they are all done.

But it's unfortunate, I mean, it should be done right the first time, it's only going to cause problems down the road. But I see down the future, maybe in the near future, we have some kind of an open meeting or a town meeting in the city with all of these contractors to sort of explain to our constituents what their schedule is, where they are going to be next, when they are going to done in a certain area, what the expectation is.

I know Keyser Avenue, I mean, it seems like they are in the same place 15 times and then they are up the other place 15 times and then they are back. There is just no uniformity to it and the traffic backup is a nightmare. Now, I understand

the progress is going to be well worth it in the long run, but I think there has to be some kind of a get together and a better system on how they are doing these repairs, how are going to maintain the traffic flow, and what to let the people in different neighborhoods expect.

I mean, I understand we have a lot of projects down the pike on different streets and at least if we give everyone a heads up on what to expect in our neighborhood and when it's going to happen because it is a mess and, you know, it's not easy to do road construction and keep it clean, but there are ways they could appease the neighborhoods while they are doing it and, you know, it's just something we are going to have to discuss down the road to see if we can work on some kind of a plan to let everyone know.

I mean, we have bridge projects
coming up, again, a number of road projects
in different areas, South Side and West
Side, but when are those streets going to be
completed and where are they moving on next?

We should have -- you know, somebody should be able to know about that and to prepare.

And, you know, that's all I have to say on that, but hopefully we can, you know, work on something to educate everyone.

Thank you.

MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Gaughan.

MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, thank you. Just a few things very briefly. Mrs. Schumacher had asked two questions last week and I have the answers to both of them. The first question was about how much money the city receives from the Department of Environmental protection from the recycling grant.

The city receives grant funding from the Department of Environmental Protection based on annual recycling tonnage. Reports are filed annually. The most recent amount received deposited in July of 2013 for tonnage collected in 2012 was \$34,488. It went into a special savings account. The amount we would likely receive for 2013 will be in excess of \$40,000.

The second question was about

whether or not the city will pick up garbage from people who are delinquent on their garbage fee. The city will always pick garbage up. If they didn't, obviously, it would effect the health and welfare of the citizens and it would provide a sanitation issue. But the city is working with Northeast Revenue Service to be able to provide the ability to lien those people who did not pay their garbage fee.

Mrs. Franus brought up a question about the pothole machine, I think
Mr. Jackowitz touched on it and so did
Mr. Rogan last week. I spoke to our DPW
director, Dennis Gallagher, the pothole
machine is obviously broken. It cannot be
repaired. It's currently located at the
Scranton Sewer Authority. It's going to be
scraped and it's been unusable for seven
years. So that's the answer on that.

And just like to echo the comments from my fellow council members about the job that the DPW, police department and the parade committee, everyone did a tremendous job this past Saturday on our parade, and I

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thank them for that.

I also spoke to our DPW director, Dennis Gallagher, today about the list of concerns that I mentioned last week from the residents of North Scranton. I was at that neighborhood meeting last Monday and the DPW is working on a list of concerns that I received from those residents, they are doing a wonderful job and that department and that director, Mr. Gallagher, has been very responsive and very quick with the responses so I thank him for that and I will forward that information along to the appropriate people within that neighborhood And that's all I have. group. Thank you.

MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. Mrs. Reed, Sixth order. Fifth order.

MS. REED: FIFTH ORDER: 5-B. FOR

INTRODUCTION - A RESOLUTION - APPOINTMENT OF

THOMAS C. HORLACHER, 902 NORTH WEBSTER

AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA 18510, AS A

MEMBER OF THE HOUSING APPEALS REVIEW BOARD.

MR. HORLACHER WILL BE REPLACING RICHARD

LEONORI WHOSE TERM EXPIRED NOVEMBER 24,

2013. MR. HORLACHER WILL BE APPOINTED

1 TO A FIVE (5) YEAR TERM WHICH WILL EXPIRE ON 2 NOVEMBER 24, 2018. 3 MR. MCGOFF: At this time I'll 4 entertain a motion that Item 5-B be 5 introduced into its proper committee. MR. ROGAN: So moved. 6 7 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second. 8 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? A11 9 those in favor of introduction signify by 10 saying aye. 11 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. 12 MR. ROGAN: Aye. 13 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye. 14 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye. MS. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? 15 The 16 ayes have it and so moved. 17 MS. REED: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION -18 A RESOLUTION - APPOINTMENT OF CHARLES 19 WATONIS, 950 TAYLOR AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA 18510, AS A MEMBER OF THE 20 21 HOUSING APPEALS REVIEW BOARD. MR. WATONIS WILL BE REPLACING MARIO SAVINELLI WHOSE TERM 22 23 EXPIRED NOVEMBER 24, 2013. MR. WATONIS WILL 24 BE APPOINTED TO A FIVE (5) YEAR TERM WHICH 25 WILL EXPIRE ON NOVEMBER 24, 2018.

MR. MCGOFF: At this time I'll 1 entertain a motion that Item 5-C be 2 3 introduced into its proper committee. MR. ROGAN: So moved. 4 MR. LOSCOMBE: 5 Second. MR. MCGOFF: On the question? 6 A11 7 those in favor of introduction signify by 8 saying aye. 9 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. MR. ROGAN: Aye. 10 11 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye. 12 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye. 13 MS. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The 14 ayes have it and so moved. MS. REED: 5-D. FOR INTRODUCTION -15 16 A RESOLUTION - APPOINTMENT OF GERALD SMURL, 17 300 PROSPECT AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA 18 18505, AS A MEMBER OF THE HOUSING APPEALS REVIEW BOARD. MR. SMURL WILL BE REPLACING 19 GENE TESEROVITCH WHOSE TERM EXPIRED NOVEMBER 20 21 24, 2013. MR. SMURL WILL BE APPOINTED TO A FIVE (5) YEAR TERM WHICH WILL EXPIRE ON 22 23 NOVEMBER 24, 2018. 24 MR. MCGOFF: At this time I'll 25 entertain a motion that Item 5-D be

introduced into its proper committee. 1 2 MR. ROGAN: So moved. 3 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second. 4 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? A11 5 those in favor of introduction signify by 6 saying aye. 7 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. 8 MR. ROGAN: Aye. 9 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye. 10 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye. 11 MS. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The 12 ayes have it and so moved. MS. REED: 5-E. FOR INTRODUCTION - A 13 14 RESOLUTION - APPOINTMENT OF MICHAEL BURKE, 74 SNOOK STREET, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA 15 16 18505, AS A MEMBER OF THE HOUSING APPEALS 17 REVIEW BOARD. MR. BURKE WILL BE REPLACING 18 JOSEPH KAYES WHO REPLACED ROBERT BUTCHKAVITZ UPON HIS RESIGNATION AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF 19 20 THE BOARD WHOSE TERM EXPIRED NOVEMBER 24, 21 2013. MR. BURKE WILL BE APPOINTED TO A FIVE 22 (5) YEAR TERM WHICH WILL EXPIRE ON NOVEMBER 23 24. 2018. 24 MR. MCGOFF: At this time I'll 25 entertain a motion that Item 5-E be

introduced into its proper committee. 1 2 MR. ROGAN: So moved. 3 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second. 4 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? A11 5 those in favor of introduction signify by 6 saying aye. 7 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. 8 MR. ROGAN: Aye. 9 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye. 10 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye. 11 MS. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The 12 ayes have it and so moved. MS. REED: 5-F. FOR INTRODUCTION - A 13 14 RESOLUTION - APPOINTMENT OF LOUIS DIBILEO, 29 FOREST GLENN DRIVE, SCRANTON, 15 PENNSYLVANIA 18504, AS THE ALTERNATE NO. 1 16 17 MEMBER OF THE HOUSING APPEALS REVIEW BOARD. MR. DIBILEO WILL REPLACE ROBERT JENSEN WHO 18 WAS ALTERNATE NO. 2 BUT BECAME ALTERNATE NO. 19 1 UPON JOSEPH KAYES REPLACEMENT OF ROBERT 20 21 BUTCHKAVITZ UPON HIS RESIGNATION AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE BOARD WHOSE TERM 22 23 EXPIRED NOVEMBER 24, 2013. MR. DIBILEO WILL 24 BE APPOINTED TO A FIVE (5) YEAR TERM WHICH 25 WILL EXPIRE ON NOVEMBER 24, 2018.

1 MR. MCGOFF: At this time I'll 2 entertain a motion that Item 5-F be 3 introduced into its proper committee. 4 MR. ROGAN: So moved. MR. LOSCOMBE: 5 Second. MR. MCGOFF: On the question? 6 A11 7 those in favor of introduction signify by 8 saying aye. 9 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. 10 MR. ROGAN: Aye. 11 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye. 12 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye. 13 MS. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The 14 ayes have it and so moved. MS. REED: 5-G. FOR INTRODUCTION - A 15 RESOLUTION - APPOINTMENT OF CHARLES DECKER, 16 17 430 CHARLES STREET, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA 18 18508, AS THE ALTERNATE NO. 2 MEMBER OF THE HOUSING APPEALS REVIEW BOARD. MR. DECKER 19 WILL FILL THE NOW VACANT ALTERNATE NO. 2 20 21 POSITION THAT WAS VACATED BY ROBERT JENSEN WHO WAS ALTERNATE NO. 2 BUT BECAME ALTERNATE 22 NO. 1 UPON JOSEPH KAYES REPLACEMENT OF 23 24 ROBERT BUTCHKAVITZ UPON HIS RESIGNATION AS A 25 REGULAR MEMBER OF THE BOARD WHOSE TERM

EXPIRED NOVEMBER 24, 2013. MR. DECKER WILL 1 2 BE APPOINTED TO A FIVE (5) YEAR TERM WHICH 3 WILL EXPIRE ON NOVEMBER 24, 2018. 4 MR. MCGOFF: At this time I'll entertain a motion that Item 5-G be 5 introduced into its proper committee. 6 7 So moved. MR. ROGAN: 8 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second. 9 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? A11 10 those in favor of introduction signify by 11 saying aye. 12 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. 13 MR. ROGAN: Aye. 14 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye. MR. GAUGHAN: 15 Aye. 16 MS. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The 17 ayes have it and so moved. 18 MS. REED: 5-H. FOR INTRODUCTION -A RESOLUTION - APPOINTMENT OF JOSEPH G. 19 HEALEY, 2049 EDNA AVENUE, SCRANTON, 20 21 PENNSYLVANIA, 18508, AS A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF THE SCRANTON REDEVELOPMENT 22 AUTHORITY. MR. HEALEY WILL BE REPLACING 23 24 WILLIAM LAZOR WHOSE TERM EXPIRES ON MARCH 25 19. 2014. MR. HEALEY'S TERM WILL EXPIRE

1 ON MARCH 19, 2019. 2 MR. MCGOFF: At this time I'll 3 entertain a motion that Item 5-H be 4 introduced into its proper committee. MR. ROGAN: So moved. 5 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second. 6 7 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? A11 those in favor of introduction signify by 8 9 saying aye. 10 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. 11 MR. ROGAN: Aye. MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye. 12 13 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye. 14 MS. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The ayes have it and so moved. 15 16 MS. REED: SIXTH ORDER. 6-A. NO 17 BUSINESS AT THIS TIME. 18 SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. F0R CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES -FOR 19 ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 33, 2014 -20 21 APPOINTMENT OF ROBERT WEBER, 2309 PITTSTON AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18505 AS A 22 MEMBER OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION FOR THE 23 24 CITY OF SCRANTON. MR. WEBER WILL BE 25 REPLACING JOHN F. KENNEDY WHO RESIGNED

1	EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 7, 2014. MR. WEBER'S
2	TERM WILL EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 31, 2015.
3	MR. MCGOFF: As Chair for the
4	Committee on Rules, I recommend final
5	passage of Item 7-A.
6	MR. ROGAN: Second.
7	MR. MCGOFF: On the question? Roll
8	call, please?
9	MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler.
10	MR. MCGOFF: Yes.
11	MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.
12	MR. ROGAN: Yes.
13	MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Loscombe.
14	MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.
15	MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan.
16	MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.
17	MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.
18	MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I hereby declare
19	Item 7-A legally and lawfully adopted and
20	wish Mr. Weber great luck on the Planning
21	Commission. I know he will be a welcome
22	addition.
23	Any other business? Motion to
24	adjourn.
25	MR. LOSCOMBE: Motion to adjourn.
	II

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<u>C L K I I I I C A I L</u>

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