

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, March 27, 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.

14 Dispense with the reading of the
15 minutes.

16 MS. REED: THIRD ORDER. 3-A. AUDIT
17 STATUS FROM ROBERT ROSSI & CO. RECEIVED
18 MARCH 20, 2014.

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

21 MS. REED: 3-B. LACKAWANNA COUNTY
22 SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT
23 EVALUATION RECEIVED FEBRUARY 12, 2014.

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

1 MS. REED: 3-C. AGENDA FOR THE CITY
2 PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING HELD MARCH 26,
3 2014.

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

6 Clerk's notes?

7 MS. REED: Nothing, Mr. McGoff.

8 MR. MCGOFF: Any council members
9 have announcements?

10 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. McGoff, I have a
11 few. First is the West Scranton Hyde Park
12 Neighborhood Watch is going to hold an April
13 Fool's night out on April 1 with celebrity
14 bartenders to benefit the organization. It
15 will be held at Kilcoyne's in West Scranton.

16 Also, in West Scranton there is a
17 program conducted by Neighborhood Works to
18 offer free home repairs in West Scranton by
19 volunteers that will take place in the
20 summer. The opportunity for those
21 applications closes on March 31. If anyone
22 is interested they should contact
23 Neighborhood Works.

24 And the last thing I have is I'd
25 like to wish someone happy birthday. I

1 haven't done this before, but I haven't
2 heard of anybody who is like this before.
3 Yesterday was Helen Kravitz's 90th birthday.
4 Everybody knows Helen, she has been a great
5 asset to the city, especially in North
6 Scranton, and I'd just like to wish her a
7 happy birthday.

8 MR. ROGAN: Just one announcement.
9 I'd also like to wish Helen a happy
10 birthday, 90 is certainly a milestone and
11 anyone involved in government in the City of
12 Scranton knows Helen and all of the hard
13 work that she does.

14 The announcement is that the Dante
15 Club will be opening on Tuesday, April 1, at
16 11 a.m. It will be a haddock fish dinner on
17 Friday, the 4th, from 4:30 until the fish is
18 gone and it's \$12 for a dinner.

19 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else? I do have
20 one. This is a traffic update. On
21 Saturday, March 29, the 600 block of Linden
22 Street between Adams and Jefferson Avenue
23 will be closed to vehicular traffic from 4
24 a.m. to 5 p.m. That is for the pouring of
25 the concrete and the foundation of the

1 building at that corner. So there will be
2 traffic flaggers posted on Jefferson and
3 Adams Avenue, and also at Linden Street
4 during this time period. So that's
5 Saturday, March 29, Linden Street. The 600
6 block of Linden will be closed from 4 a.m.
7 to 5 p.m.

8 On tonight's agenda there, again,
9 are a number of appointments. We have
10 received letters and resumes from most of
11 those, all of those in Seventh Order have
12 been received, and I believe there is only
13 one in Fifth Order that has not and is in
14 the proces of being received.

15 7-E on the agenda will be tabled.
16 It is our understanding that the person that
17 is involved in that appointment has
18 withdrawn. We have not yet received formal
19 confirmation of that so we will be tabling
20 7-E this evening.

21 And last thing on the agenda, in
22 Fifth Order, there is an amendment of a
23 prior ordinance dealing with secondhand
24 shops, which we will all refer to as pawn
25 shops, but it is an ordinance that was I'll

1 say requested or at least suggested by the
2 Scranton Police Department that would allow
3 them a little bit more control over the sale
4 of goods through the secondhand stores.

5 And it would be a further protection
6 to the general public by forcing people who
7 are selling goods or asking people who are
8 selling good to provide photo identification
9 when they went to these stores. And that is
10 all.

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

13 MR. MCGOFF: Ozzie Quinn.

14 MR. QUINN: Good evening. Ozzie
15 Quinn, Scranton.

16 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

17 MR. QUINN: Last week's
18 Scranton/Lackawanna County Taxpayers and
19 Citizens' Association held a debate between
20 representative Attorney Joseph O'Brien and
21 representative for the Lackawanna County
22 Study Commission, Frank Ruggiero, in regards
23 to the form of government for Lackawanna
24 County which will be on the primary ballot
25 on May 20.

1 We got a lot of good feedback from
2 it. I think it's good if you Goggle ECTV
3 who covered it and watch the debate because
4 I think you will learn a little bit more
5 about the two forms of government and how
6 it's looked at different oppositions, okay?

7 And on April 15 we will be having
8 the house representative candidates here for
9 District 112, 13 and 14 to discuss the
10 issues for this coming election, okay?

11 As president of the Hill
12 Neighborhood Association we told you a week
13 or two ago that we are going along with a
14 socioeconomic study, a sample study in the
15 Hill Section, we are going to do over 500
16 houses as a sample study, about 10 percent
17 of the houses there, to see what the issues,
18 problems and needs are.

19 Concurrently, in April we are going
20 to also do a business retention study. That
21 study is going to be a personal interview
22 which each of the proprietor of the
23 businesses throughout the Hill Section to
24 determine some of their issues that might be
25 bothering them in regards to parking,

1 zoning, job training or capital to fix up
2 their building or to expand it. Business
3 retention I think is a good program and I
4 what we are trying to do is to keep these
5 jobs and everything in Scranton and won't
6 pick up the paper one day and see that
7 somebody left out Mulberry Street.

8 Also, I would just want to mention
9 on that, and this is a very important thing
10 and we are going to give a hand after this,
11 the government, the United States government
12 contracts out \$650 billion a year, okay,
13 that's a lot of money, and we want the
14 businessmen to know this in Scranton up in
15 the Hill Section, not only in the Hill
16 Section but also throughout the city, you
17 know, they give contracts for every industry
18 imaginable. Machinery shops, distributors
19 of all sorts, services, landscaping, lawn
20 cutting, snow removal, construction, A & E
21 firms, suppliers to the construction
22 industry, IT firms, janitor services,
23 suppliers of products, etcetera, etcetera,
24 etcetera.

25 It's a procurement contract and if

1 anybody wants to get in touch with me that's
2 out there, give me a call at the Hill
3 Neighborhood Association and I will be glad
4 to steer you in the right way, okay, because
5 it's quite a way to increase your business.
6 Thank you on that.

7 I went to a public hearing on
8 Tuesday at the University of Scranton to do
9 with the Clarks Summit State Hospital. The
10 Department of Public Welfare is implementing
11 what they call a CHIPS program, Community
12 Home Project Program, okay? What they are
13 going to do through the hospitals throughout
14 the states take patients and put them in
15 community settings. Now, it was packed,
16 packed with over 100 and some people, all
17 right? Some of them are workers, some of
18 them are just interested people like I was,
19 some of them who had their siblings were
20 patients up there, and 26 of the 27 people
21 that spoke were against it closing.

22 And the county commissioner was
23 there, O'Malley, and Representative Flynn
24 was there and the thing was that everybody's
25 fearful that they are going to close that

1 building and they are going to lose a lot of
2 jobs, 400 and some jobs, and I asked the
3 council tonight to try to look into that
4 matter, will you please? A lot of those
5 people that work at Clarks Summit State
6 Hospital are Scranton residents and it will
7 be very difficult, you know?

8 And a lot of people, that wasn't the
9 only reason for jobs, the main reason was
10 they don't feel that the community would be
11 able to handle this type of integration,
12 okay? History would repeat itself, in 1963
13 it happened and what happened was that they
14 just didn't go for their meds, pretty soon
15 we have a lot of urban renewal and as a
16 result a lot of homelessness.

17 Last I want to say, please, if I
18 may, on the amnesty program that I mentioned
19 before, we had a hearing and the judicial
20 sale on Monday, 43 properties in the City of
21 Scranton, the repository for the county,
22 which is their bank, which is the whole city
23 delinquent property tax properties, is
24 probably over -- there is over 200
25 properties right now. Now, do we make

1 money? I don't think so. Not when we need
2 to collect from those people hat went into
3 the banks or the repository.

4 And next September they will have
5 another sale and that will be new people, so
6 we got to do some kind of an amnesty
7 program. It worries me and it worries a lot
8 of people and the fact is that, you know, we
9 just got to do something about the fact
10 that, you know, here is a family, 43 homes
11 were bought did anybody, anybody at all in
12 government go and ask those families what
13 they are going to do? Were they in a fire,
14 were there other evictions where we help
15 these people and these families. I don't
16 know if anybody ever helped contact these
17 families. Thank you.

18 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr. Quinn.
19 Ron Ellman.

20 MR. ELLMAN: Mr. Wechsler, did I say
21 it right?

22 MR. WECHSLER: Like an "X."

23 MR. ELLMAN: I certainly have no
24 arguments with you become how long and hard
25 council works. I've often thought that

1 should be a full-time position, you know,
2 but it never will be.

3 MR. WECHSLER: It is. It is a
4 full-time position.

5 MR. ELLMAN: Yeah, that way, but I
6 meant like the mayor's position and the
7 secretary and so on. I don't know if that
8 was a good example to use, but in the long
9 run it's the results that count in this
10 city. Nothing else, it's the results.
11 That's how you are going to be remembered.

12 Year after year and council after
13 council they haven't had any results, you
14 know? Taxes keep going up and we keep
15 losing properties, nothing seems to change
16 except for the words of the taxable -- the
17 people here. A couple of the weeks ago I
18 mentioned a bunch of different things.
19 Nobody commented on them the next week, you
20 know 60 percent increase in foreclosures and
21 no comments. No comment about the 57
22 percent tax increase. People are talking
23 about all of this. They are worried. These
24 people are going to lose their houses. Not
25 just the tax increase, it's everything else.

1 People in government seem to think
2 the only expenditures we have is taxes. I
3 saw today where they said food went up 19
4 percent since last year. Of course so many
5 people here get food stamps, I don't get
6 food stamps, but I wish I could.

7 You know, every week right here
8 standing before you there is many
9 intelligent speakers and they make some
10 extraordinary good situations and comments.
11 Nobody ever seems interested in them. They
12 just seem to fall on deaf ears. Even our
13 tax reporter never reports what people say
14 in here, and once in awhile somebody asks me
15 that doesn't see it on television or
16 something, you know, about a matter that
17 went on. They always seem to be just
18 throwing good after bad in this city.
19 Hiring and inventing positions and it just
20 doesn't ever stop, you know?

21 Last week I mentioned that the two
22 houses next to me were up for sale last week
23 and I know what to expect. I won't get the
24 caliber of people in the future that are
25 living there right now. My neighborhood has

1 declined something terrible with a bunch of
2 undesirables renting or buying houses. They
3 just don't care. Some of the houses have
4 just gone downhill since I moved in 20 years
5 ago and I it's -- I got a neighborhood full
6 of just problems. There has been houses
7 broken into all around North Scranton that
8 nobody seems to talk about. It's not
9 listed. I don't know.

10 You know, our tax dollars are so
11 tight and half of it goes to the school
12 board I know and that's just a waste. They
13 are just infested with waste over there.
14 Two schools closed because of poor
15 maintenance. You know what the result was?
16 They tired 11 more custodians. Does that
17 mean any sense to anybody? Instead of
18 firing some people responsible for the
19 closure of two schools they hired.

20 Well, my friends, I don't know, I
21 don't know. I don't expect this council to
22 be any different from the past ones. It
23 just your hands are tied and so many
24 problems and the worst problem in the world
25 is the nonprofits. Nobody seems to be able

1 to much counteract that in any way
2 whatsoever. I hope, you know, you guys
3 aren't like the council before and the
4 council before that and the council before
5 that. I hope you can help the people in
6 this city and turn things around.

7 And real quick, I'd like thank Mary
8 Ann for sending me a get well card. It was
9 very kind of her. Thank you.

10 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr. Ellman.
11 Bill Jackowitz.

12 MR. JACKOWITZ: Good evening,
13 Scranton City Council, Kathy, Lori, Amil,
14 and I can never remember your name, I
15 apologize.

16 But anyway, I'm going to kind of
17 piggyback off of Ronnie and a couple of
18 other people. I guess I think I look at
19 things differently and most people do and
20 when I view the problems we have in the City
21 of Scranton and the fact that we have been
22 distressed for 22 plus years, over 8,000
23 days, is the citizens were not and the
24 taxpayers were not responsible for that,
25 okay? The citizens and the taxpayers have

1 to bear the brunt of it because we are the
2 ones whose taxes continue to go up, whose
3 fees continue to go up, and you guys are
4 taxpayers, too, I understand that, but
5 speaker after speaker, year after year came
6 to this city council, to this chamber, and
7 spoke to city council, made recommendations,
8 came up with solutions, came up with ideas.

9 But you know, the citizens were
10 ignored and I'm hoping, we have a new
11 council now, we have a new mayor, I'm hoping
12 that that doesn't happen again because the
13 citizens are not responsible for this city
14 being distressed. The mayor is and past
15 city councils are and past appointed
16 officials to the City of Scranton and that's
17 a fact, Jack. That's just the way it is.
18 They are the ones who made the votes. Every
19 city council, every mayor has a record. All
20 you have to do is go back and look in your
21 record and look at the votes that they made.
22 Okay? Look what they voted for, look what
23 they voted against.

24 We went through a four-year period
25 of time, I'll call it the three to two vote,

1 the Doherty real people I think it was
2 called or whatever it was, they put the city
3 50 years behind times.

4 They are the ones that took us to
5 Court, and put us in Court, so on and so
6 forth, and the previous -- and the council
7 after that the same thing. That's the
8 reason why the city is in the mess it's in
9 now. It's not because of the citizens.
10 It's not because of the residents. But the
11 citizens and the residents are the ones
12 whose taxes continue to get raised, whose
13 garbage fee continues to get raised and so
14 on and so forth. And again, those are the
15 facts and that's what needs to be stopped.

16 We need the mayor, city council, the
17 city controller and everybody to work
18 together and really seriously work for the
19 people. The people are at the end of their
20 rope. They can't afford it anymore. You
21 know, the average person in the City of
22 Scranton gets between six and \$800 a month,
23 in social security? And again, these are
24 facts. This is the way it is and this is
25 what needs to be taken into consideration.

1 Now, do I have a solutions for it?
2 No, I had solutions ten years ago, eight
3 years ago, six years ago. I was ignored.
4 Legion of Doom had a lot of solutions. They
5 were ignored. We are laughed at. We are
6 called names, but you know what? Everything
7 that we said was going to happen basically,
8 happened, but who has taken the brunt of it,
9 the citizens, the taxpayers, the working
10 people in this city.

11 We are losing jobs. People are
12 losing their houses. The roads aren't being
13 repaired. You know, my garbage wasn't
14 picked up for a month. I mean, it just goes
15 on and on. Go on Prospect Avenue in South
16 Scranton, from the 100 block of Prospect
17 Avenue to about the 1000 block of Prospect
18 Avenue its a total mess. You know, the
19 highway up to Bagdad looked better after the
20 bombing from the first Iraq war than what
21 Prospect Avenue looks like.

22 Again, who is taking the brunt of
23 it, the people who live in the City of
24 Scranton. That's why people are moving out.
25 That's why people don't want to move in,

1 okay? Jobs are leaving. Businesses are
2 closing. Parking rates are going up and
3 going up. Why would anyone want to pay a
4 dollar an hour to park in Scranton?
5 Seriously, you know?

6 Everything is going up. Who is to
7 blame for it? Not the citizens. Not the
8 commuters, but the elected officials, the
9 past elected officials. Now we have new
10 elected officials, I'll call you the current
11 elected officials, and I'm hoping that you
12 guys really work for the people. You know,
13 put a lot of time and work for the people.
14 We don't need anymore tax increases. We
15 don't need anymore raising of fees. I know
16 that that might be the only option available
17 to you, but the citizens can't afford it
18 anymore. They really can't, and hopefully
19 we don't lose anymore jobs or businesses or
20 citizens. Thank you.

21 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

22 MR. MCGOFF: Doug Miller.

23 MR. MILLER: Good evening, Council.
24 Doug Miller, Scranton. I'd like to go back
25 to last time I was here I addressed an issue

1 with regard to Mr. Amaro and I raised some
2 real serious and valid questions in regards
3 to his track record or his alleged track
4 record of poor management and in terms of
5 his alleged mismanagement of St. Vincent's
6 Hospital. You know, we sat here and we
7 listened to his presentation of things that,
8 you know, we have gone over numerous times,
9 we're quite well aware of just about
10 everything he went over with us and, you
11 know, before I left the podium I had asked
12 counsel if they had any knowledge of this
13 alleged mismanagement and, you know, it's
14 really discouraging for me to get the
15 impression that it was almost as if this
16 council wanted to do everything it could to
17 dodge that question and not even acknowledge
18 it.

19 This is a serious matter and I do
20 believe this council has an obligation to
21 look into it, whether you believe it or not
22 you do. I think the mayor has an obligation
23 to look into it most of all because this was
24 is his handpicked individual and that
25 question still remains out there is who

1 determined that Mr. Amaroso was, in fact,
2 the best candidate to come in and so-called
3 advise us since we are so incapable of
4 putting two and two together ourselves that
5 we need Mr. Amaroso to begin with, and we
6 are still waiting for that question to be
7 answered and perhaps we can get the mayor to
8 answer that question. You know, perhaps
9 hopefully in-between rides we can -- you
10 know, he could take a few seconds and maybe
11 answer that question for us.

12 But this is a serious issue, I have
13 already been in contact with the attorneys
14 that represented doctors and lawyers -- or
15 excuse me, doctors and nurses that did work
16 for St. Vincent's and tomorrow morning I
17 will be speaking with one of the other ones
18 who is also quite baffled that the City of
19 Scranton and the Scranton Chamber of
20 Commerce would even consider entertaining
21 any sort of business with this individual
22 considering the alleged track record he has.

23 You know, I was told, you know, read
24 his resume. That, you know, people come
25 here and there is tradition of denigrating

1 people. This has nothing to do with
2 denigrating people, I think the problem is
3 that we often time our elected leaders live
4 in a delusional world and have a difficult
5 time of grasping the concept of reality.
6 This is a serious issue and rather than
7 turning a blind eye to it, which is a
8 tradition in this chamber by our council
9 officials, turning a blind eye to important
10 issues, perhaps, maybe you should take the
11 time to review the resume like I did and you
12 will find things like this.

13 We could talk about that he
14 represented the Vatican and he had all of
15 these accolades, that's beautiful. We are
16 talking about the present day. We are
17 talking about the business he is conducting
18 in the city and the recommendations that he
19 is giving us and the trak record he has and
20 that you do have an obligation to look into
21 it, and I'm not going to put this bed
22 because I know that's what we want to have
23 happen, but I'm going to continue to pursue
24 it and the appropriate people will be held
25 accountable because the games in this city

1 have to end.

2 In regards to the DCED grant, this
3 takes us back to the end of last year before
4 the 2014 operating budget was passed and as
5 we can recall this administration and this
6 current administration failed to take part
7 in the budget process rather their objective
8 was to use a few members that are currently
9 on this council to rubber stamp this grant
10 through in last year's budget to avoid
11 having to come in and roll their sleeves up
12 and do some hard work. And thanks to our
13 former council president, Mrs. Evans, and
14 our former Finance Chair, Mr. Joyce, they
15 put a pretty staunch end to at the time.

16 Unfortunately, now, with the
17 transition and everything else, you know,
18 unfortunately, the grant was applied for and
19 received, I believe \$290,000 roughly, I
20 don't have the exact figure, but that's
21 irrelevant, the bottom line is real simple
22 there was no necessity to apply for this
23 grant. I think that the taxpayers need to
24 be made well aware of that. You know, we
25 can talk about the use of a grant, in other

1 words, that's still your tax dollars and the
2 truth of the matter is that in the second
3 year of this grant you are paying one-third
4 of that and the following year two-thirds of
5 that and then moving forward you are paying
6 all of it. The grant eventually expires,
7 that's what happens with grant money.

8 But we are a city who consistently
9 relies on grant money and I think it was
10 Mrs. Schumacher who made a very valid
11 argument at the public hearing on March 17,
12 I believe it was in the newspaper she was
13 quoted as saying, "Here we are again holding
14 our little tin can begging for money like
15 little beggars on the street corner."

16 And I just have to ask this council
17 tonight when are we going to finally face
18 the fact that we cannot continue to function
19 and run our city on grant money? When are
20 we going to finally turn our brains on, use
21 some creativity and generate revenue
22 consistently, a steady stream of revenue
23 that we developed ourselves?

24 Mr. Jackowitz talked about tonight
25 coming here for so many years bringing up

1 solutions and suggestions that we all turn a
2 blind eye. I brought up ideas and impact
3 fees, the 1 percent tuition tax on the
4 University and create 6 to 8 million dollars
5 easily but it fell on deaf ears, as a lot of
6 other things do.

7 So my question tonight is are we
8 ever going to see leadership and, if so,
9 when? We need to solve of our own problems
10 we need to do it now. Thank you.

11 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.

12 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

13 MR. MORGAN: I brought a book with
14 me today, isn't a shot at Mr. Rogan, but
15 just in general I don't know if anybody
16 would want to look at this or not, it kind
17 of explains what a carpet bagger is and the
18 whole terminology behind it, and really I
19 think it's really important to realize
20 what's happenings in this city because
21 Scranton is like the south. It's just being
22 overrun by people that are just picking the
23 last little bit of what's left of our city.

24 I really think this council needs to
25 work together, the five members, to file a

1 petition for bankruptcy. I really think
2 that's really the only way to go. I had a
3 great opportunity this week to be at the
4 Single Tax Office paying my property taxes.
5 The people there were standing in a long
6 line absolutely beside themselves because
7 they can't pay it. They are wondering what
8 this council and what this mayor is
9 thinking. There is people out there saying,
10 "I voted for this guy. Where is his plan?"

11 This is taking place at the mall
12 people are asking this question. They have
13 no more money left. I really think that
14 when you have a credit card bill and you
15 can't pay your bill you hire an attorney and
16 you file a bankruptcy. We are trying to
17 find new revenue streams for money. We have
18 already heard a discussion tonight of what
19 most retirees retire on social security
20 with.

21 My question is and 20 years from now
22 when people in my generation, the baby
23 boomers are dead, who is going to live in
24 this city? Who is going to live in this
25 city when the older people passed away that

1 are in their 70's and 80's now? Nobody. We
2 are going to keep tearing houses down? Is
3 that the solution to our problem? Detroit
4 did that to a large section of their city.
5 It really hasn't done very much for them.

6 And, you know, Mr. Jackowitz I
7 appreciate the things that he said here
8 tonight, but you know, I think is wrong
9 about some of the things he said because the
10 voters most certainly are responsible for
11 everything that's happened here because they
12 voted every single individual end of the
13 mayor's office and the council for the
14 history of this city, and if we wonder what
15 happened in the Scranton School District the
16 same thing happened.

17 This city is stuck in a situation
18 where it has a total lack of ability to pick
19 a leadership team. Leaders don't take a
20 city into bankruptcy, or at least where we
21 are financially and, you know, you don't
22 close schools down and sell them off the way
23 it's happened in this city. We have
24 students without books in this city. How is
25 it possible? Does that show any leadership

1 at all anywhere? I don't think it does.
2 It's just very critical for the people in
3 this city to know one thing, they have a
4 right to vote, they can vote for whoever
5 they cared to vote for, but when situations
6 like this arise they have to look at
7 themselves.

8 I mean, at the Single Tax Office I
9 was laughing, I was having the greatest time
10 of all there because I have been coming to
11 these council meetings for over 20 years and
12 I know exactly what's taking place here.
13 Most of them didn't even understand what's
14 going on. They thought Mr. Courtright was
15 going to get elected, just walk in and cut
16 all their taxes. That's what these people
17 were saying to me. They can't pay anymore.
18 They have no money. They are talking about
19 sale of the property. Can we sell
20 everybody's property in this city?

21 And then we talk with grant money,
22 look at, this city has survived on one grant
23 after another after another after another
24 and the fact of the matter is, you know,
25 when we asked how Mr. Amaroso came here it's

1 very simple, this is a very, very desperate
2 city that has no more straws left to grasp
3 at because of that inability to pick elected
4 leaders that had the ability to lead.

5 And, you know, to be real honest
6 with you the most important person at this
7 point in this city at this time is not the
8 mayor, it's Mr. McGoff because he controls
9 the stuff that comes through this council.
10 He either introduces it or he doesn't. And
11 that's so what's so good, because no
12 disrespect to you, Mr. McGoff, but you know
13 what, you are an older man, you have got
14 nothing to prove to anybody, okay? You are
15 not trying to move up the ladder or down the
16 ladder and you are an intelligent man and
17 you know what? You are a person who is
18 sitting in that seat who has the ability to
19 make great changes to thi city, and that's
20 what I believe and I think you are
21 intelligent enough to do it.

22 Even though some people may disagree
23 because they see to think of the history of
24 some of the people that were on this
25 council, but you know something? Some times

1 there is leaders around you just have to
2 look for them.

3 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

4 MR. MCGOFF: Dave Dobrzyn.

5 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening, Council,
6 Dave Dobrzyn, resident. Something just
7 popped into my mind listening to the other
8 speakers on these grants. Seeing as the
9 state constitution has saddled us with 33
10 percent tax exempt and the federal
11 government for the last three years has seen
12 fit to dry up the revenue sharing, maybe we
13 should get a couple of bigger grants for a
14 change. It's all on how they are spent
15 after that.

16 But basically they stick us with a
17 situation and tell us what rotten people we
18 are for not wanting to pay a bigger bill
19 year in and year out and it's starting to
20 really hit home. I agree with the other
21 side of the equation that people are having
22 a hard time paying their bills.

23 Last week, I mentioned utilities and
24 Prospect Avenue came up, and there a massive
25 water project on that and I do not feel that

1 entails a few years of tax free and then
2 move onto the next tax free and that's one
3 book I have read in the past was "Free
4 Lunch" by David K. Johnston and that's what
5 it's all about. The New York Yankees got
6 \$650 million worth of New York prime real
7 estate parks and so forth handed to them and
8 that's just an example now. We can see that
9 also locally, here. They come into town,
10 they have a business model and we are
11 hopeful that when the tax exemption is up
12 they are going to stay and we are going to
13 have a few tax dollars coming in and it
14 doesn't work out that way. They move on it
15 another tax exempt property and stay there
16 for how many years that it's tax exempt.

17 And back during the election it came
18 to light that a lot of people aren't paying
19 trash fees and they are doing it with
20 impunity, and I would like to see collection
21 and liens against property at the very
22 least, that would mitigate that they are
23 unable to pay. If it's some poor old lady
24 with \$800 a month coming in, if she could
25 just leave the liens file up against her

1 house, but when the house gets sold in the
2 end we could also have our money through
3 attorneys and so forth and closing costs,
4 ten years were owed in one case and that's
5 too much and I am not convinced that that
6 incident and people didn't have the money to
7 pay. It might have been more like motorboat
8 gas for like wonky poo-pooers or something,
9 but it certainly wasn't that they didn't
10 have -- they were living on \$800 a month.

11 And I'd like to mention once again
12 please consider Steamtown. It was put here
13 in 1992, I think it was conceived, and it
14 was cut 10 percent in 2011, 10 percent in
15 2012, it was supposed to be a gem of the
16 city. They no longer -- they are trying to
17 get another steam engine running, they don't
18 even have a steam engine running and their
19 visitorship has been atrocious, I gave you
20 the figures last week, so please consider a
21 letter to congressmen so we can get some
22 money in there and once again it's a tax
23 exempt organization and it's supposed to be
24 the gem of the town and there is a lot of
25 money being lost because people aren't

1 coming in.

2 And one final thing, again, trade
3 packs, we have a transpacific trade pack, we
4 have the Keystone pipeline, the pipes are
5 coming from India. Where are the jobs?
6 There are the jobs. And it's just ashamed
7 because the working man has gone to half of
8 what they used to earn and please contact
9 the congressmen and the Office of the
10 President and tell them no more trade packs.
11 Forget about it. We need jobs. Thank you.

12 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else care to
13 address council? Mr. Sbaraglia?

14 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,
15 citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians,
16 I'm going to say a little tail of two
17 foreclosures, one at the mall and one at the
18 Parking Authority. Both of them have cost
19 the city many millions of dollars and they
20 you should be screaming, but I didn't hear a
21 word out of you.

22 Mr. Boscov as a partner in the mall
23 associates, Mr. Boscov -- Boscov and the
24 Mall Partners are two different entities.
25 It's the mall partners who caused the

1 foreclosure against or Boscov's serves on
2 both places, he sort of comes in as a
3 central figure.

4 Now, currently he had to make a big
5 bond payment and decided not to. What do we
6 think the mall isn't worth the cost of the
7 bond payment or not I know not. What I do
8 know is hoping to buy the mall back at
9 considerable less than the bond payment.
10 And who is hurting this? The people of
11 Scranton. If he pulls it off, he comes out
12 smelling like a rose while we smell like
13 stink weeds? But this is the way it goes in
14 this city.

15 Now, let's take the other thing, the
16 Scranton Parking Authority, that went into
17 foreclosure, too, but you notice there was
18 nobody pushing for a sale of the Parking
19 Authority than the people who foreclosed.
20 Why? It's obvious why. They will make more
21 money off the citizens of Scranton by
22 keeping us paying through those than they
23 would by trying to sell off the properties
24 and this is what we are looking at.

25 Where we are now happened many, many

1 years ago with things going on and nobody
2 paid attention to how many people were
3 coming and using these parking garages. Mr.
4 Boscov, as you know, was called in at the
5 very beginning as a cornerstone of the mall
6 project. I think the mall was something
7 like \$100 and some million was poured into
8 that. It's just the same that somebody
9 would say now it isn't worth the price of
10 the huge bond payment, but where are we
11 going to with the loss?

12 We could have bought a whole fleet
13 of police vehicles, maybe half the fire
14 department could have gotten the vehicles
15 with the money we lost to these two
16 foreclosures.

17 I know you're hoping that you said
18 that the TAN might be paid off in April, is
19 that true? We are in line to pay of the TAN
20 in April and I assume that's the reason why
21 we are holding off on the money for the
22 police and firemen so we get a better place
23 saying we don't have the TAN to pay as well
24 as this other bond issue we are going to
25 have to pay.

1 ain't paid now. Something like that was in
2 the paper again. We cannot take another 22
3 percent tax hike and that's probably what we
4 are going to have to do, maybe even 30
5 percent, and you are going to be responsible
6 for it. Whether you want to do it or not,
7 you are going to -- the responsibility is in
8 your hands when that tax hike comes up, and
9 you know it's coming. All you got to do is
10 -- well, you know it has to be because you
11 got to pay off this 22 million and 7 million
12 they said that the budget was under and the
13 amount of unpaid bills, so what we got, 30
14 million or 30 million more that has to be
15 paid. Thank you.

16 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

17 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening.

18 Council. Marie Schumacher.

19 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

20 MS. SCHUMACHER: Start off tonight
21 under Third Order, is somebody going to
22 share that? Are we on track to get the
23 audit on the time that it's contractually
24 specified to be provided?

25 MR. MCGOFF: We received from Rossi

1 & Rossi the list of things that are needed.
2 At this point in time, it's basically
3 everything, and that's all that we have. I
4 don't know if that's on track or I know that
5 they are working on, you know, the audit,
6 but --

7 MS. SCHUMACHER: Toward a delivery
8 on time this year? Okay. And then also,
9 will we be getting a -- Frank Joyce always
10 provided comparables on a monthly basis of
11 the collections at the Single Tax Office,
12 will council still continue to do that?

13 MR. MCGOFF: We have not received
14 anything from the Single Tax Office to that
15 effect.

16 MS. SCHUMACHER: Has it been
17 requested?

18 MR. MCGOFF: It probably would be a
19 good idea if it were requested that we could
20 have it.

21 MS. SCHUMACHER: I think that would
22 be helpful to provide to us.

23 And then I noticed in the paper this
24 past week that South Abington Township has
25 gotten a new fire rating for their insurance

1 and their insurance rates are scheduled to
2 go down by hundreds of dollars, and I'm
3 wondering what is the rating for the City of
4 Scranton?

5 MR. LOSCOMBE: We are a class four,
6 also, and that's what South Abington just
7 went to, a class four from six.

8 MS. SCHUMACHER: And our insurance,
9 I know there is issues down in the
10 Treasurer's Office, is that \$25,000
11 deductible per year or is that per incident?
12 I know that was discussed with council a
13 number of years ago.

14 MR. MCGOFF: I have no idea.

15 MS. SCHUMACHER: Could we find that
16 out because if not that would certainly be
17 something I'd like to know.

18 And then when Mr. Amaro was here
19 he said he was going to provide his Power
20 Point presentation to -- hard copies to the
21 council or maybe soft copies, I don't know,
22 by the Internet, but do you have those? The
23 Power Point presentation?

24 MR. MCGOFF: Yeah, I do believe that
25 we have that on file.

1 MS. SCHUMACHER: Could you post that
2 on the city council's website?

3 MR. MCGOFF: I believe that that
4 would be possible.

5 MS. SCHUMACHER: In like real time
6 pretty much? The sooner the better? I
7 mean, there really are a lot of questions.
8 I know during his presentation he talked
9 about moving both the pension dollars and
10 the 22 million judgment into the budget.
11 Does that mean, and he didn't specify what
12 he had in mind with respect to the \$22
13 million judgment, but he did say that he
14 wants to dedicate a portion of the
15 residential taxes, the property taxes, for
16 the pension. Now, do we have any idea how
17 much that would be a year?

18 You know, on one hand he said, you
19 know, we have this much money coming in and
20 if we don't have all of this debt everything
21 would be roses, but then -- and then he also
22 proceeded to chip away at that very same pot
23 of money. I don't know if he even realizes
24 that we have got two unfunded debt payments
25 that are coming out of that each year for

1 nine more years or eight and nine, perhaps,
2 and if we do that what are we going to have
3 left to run the city? And will they be
4 formal revenue bonds if he continues with
5 that and it comes to you, would you approve
6 revenue bonds for those two items?

7 MR. MCGOFF: I can't speculate on
8 what Mr. Amaroso intended and I can't
9 speculate on what we do as a council or what
10 the administration would do with the
11 recommendations. We have to wait until it
12 actually happens.

13 MS. SCHUMACHER: When do you expect
14 that would be?

15 MR. MCGOFF: Again, I don't know.

16 MS. SCHUMACHER: You know, again, he
17 said -- if I can just finish with this one
18 thought?

19 MR. MCGOFF: Please.

20 MS. SCHUMACHER: He also said that,
21 you know, really the budget, this year's
22 budget was off by a little bit. Now,
23 remembering that last December the mayor
24 said it was \$7 1/2 million I don't consider
25 that a little bit, but he also said that was

1 being taken care of, I think the quote was
2 by Dave, with expenses. What expenses has
3 Mr. Bulzoni cut to make those adjustments in
4 to match the revenues?

5 MR. MCGOFF: Again, I do not know.

6 MS. SCHUMACHER: Could we find out?

7 MR. MCGOFF: Those would be things
8 that you would have to ask Mr. Bulzoni.

9 MS. SCHUMACHER: Right-to-Know.
10 Okay, another Right-to-Know. If it rains on
11 Saturday I'll have extra time. Thank you
12 very much.

13 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

14 MS. HODOWANITZ: Joan Hodowanitz,
15 city resident. With regard to Mr. Amaroso,
16 he billed his wishful presentation as a
17 preliminary report just to give us a status
18 of where he was. Is he planning a second
19 appearance in front of the council?

20 MR. MCGOFF: There is nothing
21 planned. We asked that when there was a
22 final or even an update if they would, you
23 know, come before council and they accepted.
24 They said that they would do that.

25 MS. HODOWANITZ: Yes, and I believe

1 a lot of people would be very interested
2 into seeing what he will say next, and I
3 agree with Marie, we really need to have his
4 Power Point slides posted to the city's
5 website so that we can look at that
6 information in detail. You can't just pull
7 up the ECTV program and be able to read the
8 slides. You really need that provided. If
9 not, then make hard copies available.

10 And my second item is potholes. You
11 may recall several weeks ago that the Colts
12 bus system had to reroute two buses because
13 the routes were so bad with potholes and the
14 buses simply could not make it through. Is
15 there any possibility that the city could
16 give priority to those stretches of roads
17 that the Colts bus could get back to its
18 original route because that may have
19 effected a lot of the citizens who depend on
20 that service.

21 And, also, maybe the city should
22 take a look at routes that emergency
23 vehicles have to traverse to make sure that
24 they can reach of the citizens and they can
25 get to the three local hospitals. I know

1 money is tight, but perhaps we can maybe
2 prioritize the work as the spring -- God
3 willing there will be a spring.

4 MR. MCGOFF: You are optimistic.

5 MS. HODOWANITZ: I don't know,
6 hopefully there will be a spring and not
7 just now and then the fall, but I think that
8 would be good for the citizens and, you
9 know, you may have only a few dollars, but
10 when you have to reroute buses it says
11 something about the conditions of the road.
12 Thank you.

13 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mrs.
14 Hodowanitz. Anyone else who cares to
15 address council?

16 Mrs. Reed?

17 MS. REED: FIFTH ORDER. 5-A.

18 MOTIONS.

19 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Wechsler?

20 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you,
21 Mr. President. Last week I attended a
22 meeting at the South Scranton Crime Watch.
23 Earlier in the month they had done a walk
24 through South Scranton identifying many
25 different issues with blight and in the

1 lower South Side neighborhood.

2 Also at the meeting was city
3 inspector, Patty Fowler was there, and she
4 took the list that these citizens compiled
5 and took it back to the city. She is a very
6 capable person and gave a good report to the
7 group as to which problems can be worked on
8 which problems can't and I so that list has
9 been taken to Pat Hinton for action.

10 This week Councilman Bill Gaughan
11 and I, we took a tour of my neighborhood up
12 in East Mountain just to take a look at some
13 of the problems that have happened up in my
14 neighborhood. The winter, like everywhere
15 else, has been very tough on that area. A
16 lot of the problems, like everywhere else,
17 are potholes. We had a major reconstruction
18 project on East Mountain Road in 2005 and
19 right now this winter has caused that to be
20 serious damage to that project that we did.

21 We took a look at a couple of other
22 different things and Bill will have the list
23 what we saw to give to DP Director
24 Gallagher. The thing that we found most
25 disturbing, we stopped at Engine 10, which

1 is a very important and required fire
2 station for our neighborhood and for South
3 Side, that station I think is going to
4 celebrate it's 50th anniversary this year
5 and if you go in there it would be like a
6 little trip in a time machine. A lot of the
7 equipment in there, the furnace and things
8 like that are there from the original
9 construction.

10 The roof currently is full of holes.
11 In the summertime there is trees growing out
12 of the roof, and I have spoken to Mayor
13 Courtright and he is aware and Chief DeSarno
14 is aware and we really do have to find a way
15 to make some improvements at that fire
16 station and closure is not an option. That
17 firehouse has to stay open, so we are going
18 to have make an investment in repairing it,
19 including repairs to the engine there.

20 That's it, Mr. McGoff. Thank you.

21 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Rogan?

22 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. Just two
23 items. I just wanted to talk about Item 5-B
24 and one other item. About a month or so ago
25 a detective from the Scranton Police

1 Department contacted me following conducting
2 a raid on local secondhand stores. Many of
3 them you see the "We buy gold" signs where
4 you can sell scrap, gold, jewelry, coins,
5 things of that nature, and there was a city
6 ordinance on the books and also state
7 ordinances requiring that those companies
8 show -- have ID present from the person
9 selling the items to make sure it's not
10 stolen, or if it is stolen so they can be
11 tracked.

12 Unfortunately, there was a loophole
13 in the city ordinance that didn't require
14 identification so when this was brought to
15 my attention I contacted Councilman Loscombe
16 and our solicitor, Mr. Minora, Attorney
17 Minora, and this was what was we came up
18 with between council, the administration,
19 the mayor and city solicitor Jason Shrive,
20 with the ordinance it now requires a better
21 identity to be shown. If the person doesn't
22 have identification with them, a picture has
23 to be taken. And this hopefully will crack
24 down on the selling of the stolen goods in
25 the City of Scranton.

1 It's bad enough if your home gets
2 broken into, but it's even worse when our
3 police see that it was stolen and the goods
4 were sold to a shop in the city and then
5 they can't be tracked. So hopefully this
6 ordinance will crack down on the sale of any
7 stolen goods to the secondhand stores within
8 the city and, you know, something that
9 solves a very widespread problem now that we
10 see these by "We Buy Gold" stores going up
11 everywhere.

12 Just five or six years ago there
13 were only a couple of places where you could
14 sell these type of items. Now you drive
15 down any major street in the area and you
16 can see these type of stores, so this is
17 something that will work to correct that
18 problem so I'm looking forward to passing
19 that.

20 And just an update, last week I
21 spoke about the condition on Main Avenue,
22 and I'm sure all of us on council continue
23 to get calls and e-mails about it. I'd just
24 like to reiterate that Main Avenue is a
25 state road, it is not maintained by the

1 city, but our office did send a letter to
2 Penn DOT requesting that this road is milled
3 and paved and I will follow-up with PennDOT
4 and if not tomorrow the beginning of next
5 week to see where that request stands.

6 And that's all I have for tonight.

7 Thank you.

8 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Loscombe?

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes, thank you.

10 First, I, too, would like to wish Helen
11 Kravitz a very happy birthday. She is very
12 energetic, it's hard to believe that that's
13 her age. She's got more ambition than I do,
14 but God bless you, Helen, and many more.

15 Next I'll address 5-B. Mr. Rogan, I
16 commend you for really pursuing that once
17 you got the information and our solicitor
18 followed up on it with some changes to the
19 legislation. This is something I think will
20 benefit everybody, and again, as Mr. Rogan
21 and said, tighten the loophole on people
22 getting away with selling stolen items.
23 They will have to try and go out of the area
24 and hopefully they will pick up on our
25 ordinance, too.

1 city clerk was there, just an update on the
2 parking situation in Scranton, an update on
3 the technology for the meter systems, and
4 the business administrator at the current
5 time, rightfully so, is concerned about the
6 Pango agreement for credit card payments and
7 the cost at this time to the city and the
8 consumers on that program.

9 We were made aware of other
10 companies that do offer the same programs so
11 from what I understand it may be put out to
12 bid in the very near future because I
13 believe this contract runs out the end of
14 April, if I'm not mistaken, and it will be
15 provide hopefully through the bidding
16 process, the RFP, and provide, you know,
17 better options for the parkers in the
18 downtown.

19 But I do have to say, and I'm sure
20 my colleagues on this board, I think all of
21 us are in meetings just about every day with
22 different members of the administration. I
23 think that's, you know, a breath of fresh
24 air. We make a phone call, they make
25 themselves available to us and I think just

1 in the last month I have more meetings with
2 the administrative personnel than I have in
3 the last -- well, in my time here four
4 years.

5 And it isn't just a meeting, they do
6 express an interest in what we have to say
7 and it's a good educational process for all
8 of us. I was at another meeting Tuesday
9 regarding our alarm ordinances for burglary
10 and fire alarm and, you know, there was a
11 lot of discussion on that. We had met in
12 the solicitor's office with the police
13 chief, fire chief and such, so there is a
14 lot going on behind the scenes. Everything
15 can't be done overnight. I know there is a
16 lot of frustration. Believe me, I get
17 frustrated myself very easy and if something
18 comes up with that I'm going to get
19 frustrated about I'm going to say it, I'm
20 going to yell about it.

21 So far, you know, I'm giving them
22 the benefit of the doubt. It looks like
23 everybody is in the administration is trying
24 to do their best to do what they can for the
25 people in this city. Again, it's very early

1 in the administration, but I see a lot of
2 positive and, you know, I think I am more
3 hopeful than I have ever been that we are on
4 the road to, you know, getting this city
5 back, back to the people, back to where it
6 belongs, not hopeless.

7 Like I said, I don't think any one
8 of us has ever been rebuffed from contacting
9 one of the administrative personnel or even
10 they go out of their way to find time to met
11 us and, you know, I find that refreshing,
12 and I hope that continues and as it goes now
13 it's very good for all of us.

14 And again, at the meeting the other
15 day our business administrator sat here for
16 two hours. When I originally told him it
17 might be a half hour meeting, he sat here
18 for two hours and was very interested and
19 took a lot of notes and a lot of
20 information. In fact, it appears every one
21 of our meetings when we are in caucus before
22 we come out here, our business administrator
23 is still in his office, he comes down and
24 checks with us in our council office to see
25 if we have any questions or concerns or

1 anything that he needs discussed with before
2 he goes home.

3 So, you know, I'm hopeful, I think
4 we are all hopeful. I think it's a breath
5 of fresh air. Hopefully it will continue
6 this way and please, you know, be patient.
7 I know we have been patient for many years,
8 but in my heart I feel confident that things
9 are on the right path. We have to give
10 things a chance and I'm happy to be here and
11 to be part of it, and that's all I have to
12 say. Thank you.

13 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Gaughan.

14 MR. GAUGHAN: Just a few things. As
15 Mr. Wechsler mentioned, we both were at the
16 East Mountain neighborhood meeting this
17 week. It was very good to go around East
18 Mountain and see some of the problems that
19 are going on up there, some of the concerns
20 that those residents have, and I will be
21 forwarding all of those concerns to our DPW
22 director, Dennis Gallagher.

23 We did receive, council received
24 correspondence this week from John Hazzouri,
25 the pave cut inspector. Utility companies

1 are going to be working in South Side on
2 North Scranton and West Side and they will
3 be paving towards the end of April in those
4 area, just to update everybody on that.

5 Just a concern that I had, this week
6 Mayor Courtright was involved in an incident
7 up in the Hill Section on parade day. My
8 concern about the ride along issue is based
9 on the questions regarding the city's legal
10 exposure and liability in an incident like
11 that. I did contact Attorney Shrive, our
12 city solicitor this morning. I talked with
13 him, he sent me some documents that may be
14 helpful with some of the questions that I
15 had about the city's legal exposure, our
16 insurance policies, what kind of things that
17 covers in the event that an elected
18 official, if it was one of us, the mayor,
19 anybody, were to be involved in an incident
20 if they were riding along in a police
21 vehicle, DPW truck, on the scene of a fire
22 on a fire truck, whatever it may be.

23 So I was concerned about some of
24 those issues, as I said, of legal exposure
25 and what the liability would be, so I

1 haven't had a chance to review those
2 documents yet as I just received them today,
3 but I will be doing that.

4 And finally, a few weeks ago, I
5 think three weeks ago, I actually -- March
6 13 I had sent a letter to the mayor
7 concerning questions I had about business
8 retention after we heard the news that two
9 businesses will leave the city. And I just
10 wanted to inform everyone that I did receive
11 correspondence from the mayor's office and
12 I'd like to read that now.

13 We received this March 21 and it
14 said, "Dear Mrs. Reed, I am in receipt of
15 your letter of March 13, 2014, wherein you
16 forwarded questions from Councilman Bill
17 Gaughan regarding business retention
18 efforts.

19 Since that time, city solicitor,
20 Jason Shrive, Esquire, business
21 administrator, David A. Bulzoni and myself
22 have discussed the issues raised by
23 Councilman Gaughan with him to the
24 satisfaction of all parties.

25 Should Councilman Gaughan or any

1 other member of city council request any
2 further information on this issue or any
3 other issue, I will be happy to meet with
4 them to discuss the same.

5 Sincerely, William L. Courtright,
6 Mayor."

7 I did have a back and forth through
8 e-mail correspondence with our business
9 administrator, Dave Bulzoni, and I do
10 appreciate the response from the mayor's
11 office. However, my intent here when I
12 asked those questions on March 13 it wasn't
13 just out of my own curiosity, I asked those
14 questions and hoped that I would get a
15 response that I could share with the public
16 on what some -- what the plan was and what
17 the city was doing.

18 As I said, I have talked to Dave
19 Bulzoni, but it's not just out of my own
20 curiosity. It's not just about me, those
21 were answers that I would hope I could share
22 with the public.

23 And that is all I have. Thank you.

24 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. Very
25 briefly, as far as the mayor's involvement

1 in an incident, I don't know what the legal
2 or the liability issues are, but I know it
3 has been a past practice of many
4 administrations riding along in service
5 vehicles, be they police cars or I know it's
6 been a practice with many mayors during snow
7 storms of going out with DPW and, you know,
8 being involved in those operations, so I
9 actually applaud, you know, anyone in the
10 administration who would, you know, take the
11 time to go out and see what it is like to do
12 those jobs and the difficulty that is
13 involved in, you know, fighting fires or in
14 being a police officer, being a member of
15 the DPW and I'm sure that everything that
16 was done was within the bounds of legality
17 and liability that we have.

18 Many of the issues that are being
19 brought up are legitimate issues, be it
20 street paving, you know, capital
21 improvements in a firehouse, whatever.
22 Realize that all of these are things that
23 are dependent upon time and money and I keep
24 reiterating that in a situation that we are
25 in the city and with the budget that we have

1 things need to be prioritized and the
2 administration and council is well aware of
3 the problems that exist and are trying to
4 address the problems that are of primary
5 importance, be it paving certain streets or
6 dealing with certain, you know, buildings
7 and all. Believe me, we all share in the
8 concerns that people have.

9 What we have to do, as others have
10 said, be a little bit patient and hopefully
11 we resolve these problems as we go along and
12 as they appear, but it is -- as we look into
13 some of these problems and some of these
14 situations we talk about, you know, paving
15 the streets. An estimate of cost to mill
16 and pave one block is somewhere around
17 \$20,000 and it requires things like curb
18 cuts and drainage and all that price goes
19 dramatically up and so it becomes a
20 difficult proposition in determining what we
21 can do and where we can do these things and
22 when we can do them.

23 Hopefully we can resolve many of the
24 problems that people have, but again, some
25 patience and did you mention the street

1 cleaning list?

2 MR. GAUGHAN: No, I didn't.

3 MR. MCGOFF: We did receive a list
4 for street cleaning from DPW from
5 Mr. Gallagher and we are going to request
6 that that list be placed on the DPW -- on
7 the city website and the DPW site so that
8 people are aware of when the street
9 cleanings will take place. They begin in
10 April and there is a schedule all the way
11 through August so it is pretty extensive and
12 it looks as though it covers most of the
13 city, if not all of the city, so if people
14 are concerned, and we will keep you aware of
15 the areas as they become pertinent, those
16 areas that will be covered through the
17 street cleaning.

18 And that is all. Thank you. Yes,
19 please, Mr. Gaughan.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: Just to be clear, just
21 to respond to your comments. I, too,
22 applaud anyone that goes out and gets
23 involved and sees what other city employees
24 do. I'm not anything against any elected
25 officials going out and doing that, my only

1 concern is just to reiterate what I said
2 earlier is the legal liability that it may
3 cause, and that's the whole concern I had
4 and that's why I made a comment on that.
5 Thank you.

6 MR. ROGAN: The mayor is a full-time
7 employee of the city, I don't see how there
8 could be any legal ramification of it. If
9 it was a member of the council there may be
10 other issues because we are part-time
11 employees, but he is a full-time employee of
12 the city.

13 MR. GAUGHAN: But I just think we
14 need clarification on that because I can't
15 see how if an elected official would be
16 involved in anyway in a police activity and
17 in an investigation, in an incident there
18 may be legal liability, I don't know, that's
19 why I'm asking, and I just think we need
20 clarification on that because I wouldn't
21 want to see the city get sued or anything
22 like that. That was my concern. That's why
23 I brought that up.

24 MR. ROGAN: I certainly don't think
25 that the city would be in any legal trouble

1 from a mayor helping a police officer or if
2 it was Joe average on the street helping a
3 police officer in a tough situation.

4 MR. GAUGHAN: Well, I just think
5 it's worth getting clarification. That's
6 the only reason I asked.

7 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

8 MS. REED: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION -
9 AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF COUNCIL NO.
10 11, 1999, AS AMENDED, ENTITLED "AMENDING
11 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 9, 1935, (AS
12 AMENDED) AN ORDINANCE REGULATING THE
13 LICENSING OF PURCHASERS OF SCRAP GOLD, OLD
14 GOLD, SILVER, JEWELRY, CLOTHING AND OTHER
15 VALUABLE ARTICLES, AND PROVIDING PENALTIES
16 FOR THE VIOLATION THEREOF", BY ADDING
17 ADDITIONAL TERMS, INCREASING THE LICENSING
18 FEE, INCREASING THE PENALTIES OF VIOLATIONS
19 THEREOF, PROVIDING FOR SUSPENSION OF
20 LICENSES, AND MODERNIZING THE LANGUAGE
21 THEREOF, AND INCORPORATING RULES AND
22 REGULATIONS BY FURTHER MAKING AMENDMENTS
23 TO INCREASE THE LICENSE FEE IN SECTION 2
24 FROM FIFTY DOLLARS (\$50.00) TO ONE HUNDRED
25 DOLLARS (\$100.00) PER FILE OF COUNCIL NO.

1 178 OF 1992 SECTION 1 CODIFIED IN CHAPTER
2 340 PEDDLING AND SOLICITING §340-13 (A) FEES
3 AND AMENDING SECTION 4 (A) TO PROVIDE
4 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO BETTER IDENTIFY
5 THE SELLER AND THE GOODS OR ARTICLE BEING
6 SOLD AND SECTION 5 (A) TO INCREASE THE
7 PENALTIES FOR NON COMPLIANCE WITH THE
8 PROVISIONS OF THIS ORDINANCE CODIFIED IN THE
9 ADMINISTRATIVE CODE IN CHAPTER 379
10 SECONDHAND GOODS AND DEALERS AT §379-4 (A)
11 AND §379-5 (A) AND TO CHANGE THE DEPARTMENT
12 NAME FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY
13 DEVELOPMENT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING,
14 INSPECTIONS AND PERMITS THROUGHOUT THIS
15 ORDINANCE.

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

19 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

20 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

21 MR. MCGOFF: On the question?

22 MR. ROGAN: Yes, once again, I'd
23 just like to thank Attorney Minora and
24 Attorney Shrive and Mayor Courtright for
25 their quick action on this. It's bad enough

1 if anyone is victimized in a crime, but
2 certainly no business in this city should be
3 making a profit off stolen merchandise and
4 this will help stop that.

5 MR. MCGOFF: I would like to just
6 add to that, a number of years ago our house
7 was burglarized and the police went out to
8 try and find some of the stolen materials
9 and what they met with was they found some
10 of the articles at the store, but yet there
11 was no record of who had sold it to them.
12 They had no record of it and so it was very
13 difficult to track down where some of the
14 other items may be and who had actually sold
15 them to this pawn shop, and so that
16 hopefully this will help save some other
17 people that aggravation that we faced.

18 All those in favor of introduction
19 signify by saying aye.

20 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

21 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

22 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

1 MS. REED: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION - A
2 RESOLUTION - ACCEPTING A CONTRIBUTION IN THE
3 AMOUNT OF \$500.00 RECEIVED BY THE CITY OF
4 SCRANTON FROM THE FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE,
5 E.B. JERMYN LODGE #2 FOR THE PUBLIC SAFETY
6 MANPOWER INITIATIVE.

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

10 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

11 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

12 MR. MCGOFF: On the question?

13 MR. LOSCOMBE: I'd just like to
14 thank the E.B. Jermyn Lodge No. 2 for their
15 donation.

16 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. All those in
17 favor of introduction signify by saying aye.

18 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

19 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

20 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

21 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

24 MS. REED: 5-D. FOR INTRODUCTION - A
25 RESOLUTION - APPOINTMENT OF AL BROCAVICH,

1 701 NEWTON ROAD, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA
2 18504, AS ALTERNATE NO. 3 MEMBER OF THE
3 SCRANTON HOUSING APPEALS REVIEW BOARD FOR A
4 TERM OF FIVE (5) YEARS TO COMMENCE ON MARCH
5 20, 2014. MR. BROCAVICH'S TERM WILL EXPIRE
6 ON NOVEMBER 24, 2019.

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

10 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

11 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

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

15 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

16 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

17 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

18 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

21 MS. REED: 5-E. FOR INTRODUCTION -
22 A RESOLUTION - APPOINTMENT OF MARIO J.
23 BEVILACQUA, 713 ARCHBALD STREET, SCRANTON,
24 PENNSYLVANIA 18504, AS A MEMBER OF THE
25 HOUSING APPEALS REVIEW BOARD. MR.

1 BEVILACQUA WILL BE REPLACING MICHAEL TRAPPER
2 WHOSE TERM EXPIRED NOVEMBER 24, 2013. MR.
3 BEVILACQUA WILL BE APPOINTED TO A FIVE (5)
4 YEAR TERM WHICH WILL EXPIRE ON NOVEMBER 24,
5 2018.

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

9 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

10 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

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

14 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

15 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

16 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

20 MS. REED: SIXTH ORDER. I'm sorry,
21 excuse me.

22 MR. ROGAN: I would like to make a
23 motion to table Item 7-E.

24 MR. MCGOFF: Do we have a second?

25 MR. LOSCOMBE: I'll second.

1 MR. ROGAN: This is the item that
2 Mr. McGoff mentioned at the beginning of the
3 meeting, the appointment of where -- or the
4 appointee that has withdrawn their
5 consideration.

6 MR. MCGOFF: All those in favor of
7 tabling Item 7-E 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: SIXTH ORDER. 6-A. NO
15 BUSINESS AT THIS TIME.

16 SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR
17 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES -FOR
18 ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 34, 2014 -
19 APPOINTMENT OF THOMAS C. HORLACHER, 902
20 NORTH WEBSTER AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA
21 18510, AS A MEMBER OF THE HOUSING APPEALS
22 REVIEW BOARD. MR. HORLACHER WILL BE
23 REPLACING RICHARD LEONORI WHOSE TERM EXPIRED
24 NOVEMBER 24, 2013. MR. HORLACHER WILL BE
25 APPOINTED TO A FIVE (5) YEAR TERM WHICH WILL

1 EXPIRE ON NOVEMBER 24, 2018.

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

5 MR. ROGAN: Second.

6 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? Roll
7 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-A legally and lawfully adopted.

19 MS. REED: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION
20 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES -FOR ADOPTION -
21 RESOLUTION NO. 35, 2014 - APPOINTMENT OF
22 CHARLES WATONIS, 950 TAYLOR AVENUE,
23 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA 18510, AS A MEMBER OF
24 THE HOUSING APPEALS REVIEW BOARD. MR.
25 WATONIS WILL BE REPLACING MARIO SAVINELLI

1 WHOSE TERM EXPIRED NOVEMBER 24, 2013. MR.
2 WATONIS WILL BE APPOINTED TO A FIVE (5) YEAR
3 TERM WHICH WILL EXPIRE ON NOVEMBER 24, 2018.

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

7 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

11 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

13 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

14 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

16 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

18 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

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

21 MS. REED: 7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION
22 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES -FOR ADOPTION -
23 RESOLUTION NO. 36, 2014 - APPOINTMENT OF
24 GERALD SMURL, 300 PROSPECT AVENUE, SCRANTON,
25 PENNSYLVANIA 18505, AS A MEMBER OF THE

1 HOUSING APPEALS REVIEW BOARD. MR. SMURL
2 WILL BE REPLACING GENE TESEROVITCH WHOSE
3 TERM EXPIRED NOVEMBER 24, 2013. MR. SMURL
4 WILL BE APPOINTED TO A FIVE (5) YEAR TERM
5 WHICH WILL EXPIRE ON NOVEMBER 24, 2018.

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

9 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

13 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

14 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

15 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

16 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

17 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

18 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

19 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

20 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

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

23 MS. REED: 7-D. FOR CONSIDERATION
24 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES -FOR ADOPTION -
25 RESOLUTION NO. 37, 2014 - APPOINTMENT OF

1 MICHAEL BURKE, 74 SNOOK STREET, SCRANTON,
2 PENNSYLVANIA 18505, AS A MEMBER OF THE
3 HOUSING APPEALS REVIEW BOARD. MR. BURKE
4 WILL BE REPLACING JOSEPH KAYES WHO REPLACED
5 ROBERT BUTCHKAVITZ UPON HIS RESIGNATION AS A
6 REGULAR MEMBER OF THE BOARD WHOSE TERM
7 EXPIRED NOVEMBER 24, 2013. MR. BURKE WILL
8 BE APPOINTED TO A FIVE (5) YEAR TERM WHICH
9 WILL EXPIRE ON NOVEMBER 24, 2018.

10 MR. MCGOFF: As Chair for the
11 Committee on Rules, I recommend final
12 passage of Item 7-D.

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 Item 7-D legally and lawfully adopted.

2 MS. REED: 7-E is tabled.

3 7-F. FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE
4 COMMITTEE ON RULES -FOR ADOPTION -
5 RESOLUTION NO. 39, 2014 - APPOINTMENT OF
6 CHARLES DECKER, 430 CHARLES STREET,
7 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA 18508, AS THE
8 ALTERNATE NO. 2 MEMBER OF THE HOUSING
9 APPEALS REVIEW BOARD. MR. DECKER WILL FILL
10 THE NOW VACANT ALTERNATE NO. 2 POSITION
11 THAT WAS VACATED BY ROBERT JENSEN WHO WAS
12 ALTERNATE NO. 2 BUT BECAME ALTERNATE NO. 1
13 UPON JOSEPH KAYES REPLACEMENT OF ROBERT
14 BUTCHKAVITZ UPON HIS RESIGNATION AS A
15 REGULAR MEMBER OF THE BOARD WHOSE TERM
16 EXPIRED NOVEMBER 24, 2013. MR. DECKER WILL
17 BE APPOINTED TO A FIVE (5) YEAR TERM WHICH
18 WILL EXPIRE ON NOVEMBER 24, 2018.

19 MR. MCGOFF: As Chair for the
20 Committee on Rules, I recommend final
21 passage of Item 7-F.

22 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

25 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

1 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

2 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

3 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

5 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

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

11 MS. REED: 7-G. FOR CONSIDERATION
12 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES -FOR ADOPTION -
13 RESOLUTION NO. 40, 2014 - APPOINTMENT OF
14 JOSEPH G. HEALEY, 2049 EDNA AVENUE,
15 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18508, AS A MEMBER
16 OF THE BOARD OF THE SCRANTON REDEVELOPMENT
17 AUTHORITY. MR. HEALEY WILL BE REPLACING
18 WILLIAM LAZOR WHOSE TERM EXPIRES ON MARCH
19 19, 2014. MR. HEALEY'S TERM WILL EXPIRE
20 ON MARCH 19, 2019.

21 MR. MCGOFF: As Chair for the
22 Committee on Rules, 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 And I know all of council wishes all
14 of those who were approved for their
15 appointments this evening best of luck in
16 their new positions.

17 If there is no other business, a
18 motion to adjourn.

19 MR. LOSCOMBE: Motion to adjourn.

20 MR. MCGOFF: Meeting is adjourned.

21

22

23

24

25

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