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2	SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING	
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6	HELD:	
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8	Thursday, April 16, 2014	
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10	LOCATION:	
11	Council Chambers	
12	Scranton City Hall	
13	340 North Washington Avenue	
14	Scranton, Pennsylvania	
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25	CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER	

CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

4 ROBERT MCGOFF, PRESIDENT

PATRICK ROGAN, VICE-PRESIDENT

JOHN LOSCOMBE

7 JOSEPH WECHSLER

WILLIAM GAUGHAN

LORI REED, CITY CLERK

KATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

AMIL MINORA, SOLICITOR

(Pledge of Allegiance recited and
moment of reflection observed.)
MR. MCGOFF: Roll call, please.
MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.
MR. WECHSLER: Here.
MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan. Mr.
Loscombe.
MR. LOSCOMBE: Here.
MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.
MR. GAUGHAN: Here.
MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.
MR. MCGOFF: Here.
Let the record show that Mr. Rogan
did speak to me earlier and he will be
unable to attend tonight's meeting.
Dispense with the reading of the
minutes, please?
MS. REED: THIRD ORDER. 3-A.
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SCRANTON HOUSING AUTHORITY HELD MARCH 3,
2014.
MR. MCGOFF: Are there any comments?
If not, received and filed.
MS. REED: 3-B. TAX ASSESSOR'S
REPORT HEARING DATE TO BE HELD APRIL 23,

2014.

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

Any Clerk's notes?

MS. REED: Nothing, Mr. McGoff. Do any council members have announcements at this time?

MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, I have one. I mentioned this last week, just to mention it again, this Saturday the Scranton School District will be raising money in the fight against autism from 12 to 2 p.m. with April 19, this Saturday, as I said, at the South Side Bowling Lanes. The event is called "Throwing Strikes Against Autism."

Tickets are \$12 and can be purchased at the door. Your ticket covers two games of bowling and shoe rentals. All proceeds will benefit autistic support classrooms throughout the school district. The Scranton police department will provide a car seat check throughout the event and the Scranton Fire Department will be at the event with their smokehouse and an engine for children to tour. That is all. Thank

you.

MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Wechsler?

MR. WECHSLER: Nothing at this time.

MR. LOSCOMBE: Nothing.

MR. MCGOFF: We did receive a notice on the "Take Back the Night" which will be held Thursday, April 24. It says this is sponsored by the Jane Kopas Women's Center at the University of Scranton and the Women's Resource Center. It will start at 5:30, a pre-rally will begin at 5:30, p.m. on the Dion Green at the University of Scranton and at 7:30 it says, "We will join community members to march down to the Lackawanna Courthouse where we will stand in solidarity with those who have experienced violence."

There are any questions about take back the night, you can contact the Jane Kopas Women's Center at 570-941-6194.

Also, I would like to again remind citizens that City Hall will be closed this Friday, and that the following Monday is a DPW holiday and it may push refuse and recycling and collections back a day for

people. And that is all.

MS. REED: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS' PARTICIPATION.

MR. MCGOFF: Joan Hodowanitz.

MS. HODOWANITZ: Joan Hodowanitz, city resident.

MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

MS. HODOWANITZ: I want to say first how much I appreciate Mr. Quinn hosting the debate last night for the 112 and 113 legislative district. I found it very informative and I would like to see many more of those in the future. I think that's great for voter education.

My second item, it's ashame that
Mr. Rogan is not here tonight, back on
January 16 we discussed the North Scranton
Junior High School project, the Goodwill
project, and I asked Mr. Rogan when he
thought we would know whether or not that
project was going to be viable or it was
going to be dead and needed to be shelved so
we could cover our losses, and he set the
date, April 16, the day after tax day. So
give him a heads up, I will be back here

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next Thursday asking him the same question because I'm concerned that that project is going to get out of mind, out of site and just continue and if there is problems with if we need to address them now, okay?

Next, Item 5-C, the PFM Financial Advisor's Services contract, I looked at the background paperwork in the office from both I would like to know the city and from PFM. is there a cap on the number of billable hours? Because without a cap on billable hours you have no idea how much we are go to be paying per year for this four-year contract? And even though they are deferring the fees for 2014 until next year, we don't want another situation like we had with Carl Greco where we could not take the bill when it finally came due, okay? really think the city ought to look at it's got to be some kind of cap or we are in trouble, okay, and there is no reason to believe that we won't be under budget pressure next year, also. So please find out, if you can, what kind of the cap is going to be put on that.

Also, just for your information, there's a discrepancy in the hour -- bill per hour or billable hours. In the city's paperwork for the analyst it says \$275 per hour per analyst and PFM it says \$225 per hour per analyst and \$50 may not seem like much depending on how much billable hours you have, that should be resolved.

And good luck fixing all of the potholes. I think DPW is doing as good of a job as they possibly can. We can't be everywhere at the same time and I just hope that the weather improves. Thank you.

That's all I have.

MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. Mr. Quinn?

MR. QUINN: Ozzie Quinn. Scranton. Good evening.

MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

MR. QUINN: First, I want to thank

Joan for the debate, but actually it was put
on my the Scranton/Lackawanna County

Taxpayers' Association, it wasn't myself,
and there were questions that were submitted
were all neutral questions submitted by the

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members, one from Tom Ungvarsky, but 112 and 113 covers the entire city, you know, so this raises a very important, because of the way the status of the city is in regards to the distressed city and whatnot and how things are going to move along in the House for the city of Scranton, you know? that's why I think that anybody that didn't see the debate they should Google ECTV's schedule and watch the debate or the Scranton Times had a good article, Boris did a good job covering it last night, because anything you hear on hearsay or whatnot, radio, is just hearsay, okay? You get to watch it on ECTV because there are very important issues out there, so I want to thank everybody on that.

The Hill Neighborhood Association is going to meet next Wednesday, that's April 23, at 7:00 p.m. at the Immaculate Conception Church Hall basement. We would appreciate it if someone from council, somebody would represent council. We changed it from Thursday to Wednesday so someone from city council would come, okay?

Now, 5-D and 5-E have to do with the Harrison Avenue bridge and that is on our agenda. So, I mean, you can rest assured that the decorum will be held to the upmost respect for anybody that attends, okay? But we would love to have someone there that is representing the people of the Hill section so I do want to thank you for that.

That's about all I have to say and thank you very much.

MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Quinn, I plan on attending -- I plan on attending the meeting on Wednesday.

MR. QUINN: Thank you, Mr. Wechsler.

MR. MCGOFF: Dave Dobrzyn.

MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening. Dave Dobrzyn, resident.

MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

MR. DOBRZYN: Taxes paid partially.

Okay, a few weeks ago I made some mentions about the sewage plant and there is a person in Scranton and he is the head of the Lackawanna County River Corridor Association and he is wealth of knowledge on the river and sewage plant issue and if anybody wants

his name I could give you his name after the meeting, but I would recommend before any of these other issues come up that he be brought in and we could consult with him on what the implications are of a possible private public partnership or whatever and the one thing I would like to caution about is the last time it seems that when American Anglican plant we were liable for any goals they failed to meet so we were applying and the fines could have been exponentially higher if the federal government wanted to play hardball.

And another thing I'd like to see is the city school and the city maintenance tax separated. I seem to get -- I'll have to look over my form a little better, but it would be nice to know, maybe it's just that I looked at my mortgage statement, but who is charging what and how much.

Now, Act 47 I have a question for the state, when will they start compensating for required tax exempts? It's their constitution, it's the state constitution that requires us to accept these as tax

exempt, and then they are also requiring us to make up for the fact that they are tax exempt out of our pockets, which is in my opinion a double tax. It's just not acceptable that they could have a constitution that requires us to accept a tax exempt and with no recourse and then they want to come in and preach at the choir later when the financial problems hit the fan.

And I'd also like to remind people get out and vote. It's only a couple of minutes. In other states I see where they changed, I think it was Ohio, they switched the polling place and it takes an hour and a half to get their by bus and there is 41,000 people in that district that have no automobile, personal automobile. So, I mean, just imagine if you had those conditions and some day you might if you don't get out and vote and please do it informed. Please listen to what people have to say, and there will be more debates between the two parties. We do need more debates and more informed voters at the

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polls. I would have worked the polls and it can get pretty sad at the times.

And I'd like to also mention on working class people have lost 20 to 50 percent of purchasing power. representation has gone from 30 to 6 percent and it might be a headache if you are a plant manager or involved with management, but therein again my wife has changed jobs a few times and I have seen where a lot of time just get wasted and inefficiencies that stay in there because the employees have no recourse to ask for a raise and it's really the wages have gone down and down and down on the working class every year. There is a certain percentage. Doctors and lawyers and professional people basically they have stayed the same. They haven't really progressed. There is only a small percentage in this country.

And I don't believe in the current -- I can't believe some of these political parties incoming equality. That's sounds like a Marxist term. You know, incoming sufficiency. It's incoming

sufficiency. Somebody that goes to college for ten years shouldn't have to work for the same wages as somebody that walks out with their GED and two DUIs.

Now, please call your congressmen once again and tell them to stop their trade packs. That's what's killing America. We have had 35 years of it, and both parties are turning around and trying to sell everybody an education and all of this stuff and there aren't any jobs for the educated people. A lot of colleges are getting 40 percent less applications for law school. So, you know, shame on them. Thank you and have a good night.

MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr. Dobrzyn.

MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

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

MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.

MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

MR. MORGAN: I didn't attend the meeting, but I appreciate the fact that SAPA came up on the agenda here. I have long held the opinion that SAPA is the beginning

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of a rebirth of this city. I think it can be used as a catalyst for redevelopment and for state funds to be brought into the city to create economic and light industrial zones throughout the city.

I just think that every councilman, I hope they would really consider this plan because where the city sits right now we want to ask people outside of the city and we have previously to pay a commuter tax. really think what Scranton needs is an opportunity to create small business and I think that can be really accomplished. think Scranton can be become an employment hub in Lackawanna County. I think that we can raise revenue from these businesses. think that Scranton being the only Class 2A city can get a lot of help from the legislatures in order to come up with, for lack of a better term, an enterprise zone as a role model for the Commonwealth since any legislation at that would come through Harrisburg would only have to deal with Scranton since we are the only Class 2A city.

And, you know, one of the speakers previously talked about union membership and I really think that it's very important to realize that, you know, I don't know where we intend to get the funds to pay for a paid fire department and paid police department unless we begin to really do some economic redevelopment in this city and I really think that, you know, with a good stable plan and some state representatives and state senators that are willing to stand up and try to help this city we could really turn this whole city around and this could be the beginning of revitalization of the whole county.

Considering where the City of Scranton sits, you know, in an interstate hub, 380, 80, 84 and then the secondary roads, whether it's 6 or 307 or whatever they may be, but we do need the opportunity to do that and I think that if this council could take a chance and the be open minded and ask the representatives of SAPA to give you the whole plan, or maybe it's on the internet, I know I have the plan, I have

long supported it.

Because, you know, Scranton has been in decline for a long time. We are a hardworking people and we want the city to returned to be a very vibrant community. want our children to stay here. We want opportunity here. We have everything we need in this city to rebound. We have an awful lot of, you know, top shelf colleges here. We have a lot of people that are really determined to be successful and work hard and I think that we need to ask the legislature to come to the table and help us and I just think that if council and this mayor were to accept SAPA and to implement it, the cost to implement it was \$30,000. don't think it's grown very much from that point and, you know, I can't think at this time what would be more vital to this city than implementation of SAPA considering that, you know, we have been through a long very hard recession and we are one of the last places where we are starting to try to work our way out of it and I just think that 25 if we really take a look at this where is

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there a job that nobody wants? Everybody wants to work, but if you look at a revitalized area here, Scranton/Dunmore and revitalized parks people will come from everywhere here to work and when they come here to work they will come here to spend. When they are done working maybe they will go to the Steamtown Mall and shop, okay, and it will really help us with our tax base because we will have industries here where we can collect revenue, it's really just the beginning of a long range plan to turn this city around and I just hope that if your opinions were at one time you are against it, maybe it's time to reconsider it considering where we stand and the tax increases the residents of this city have endured recently.

And, you know, any way we go now is going to be a hard shrug forward we are going to have to really struggle, but that's what we gave done. We have done that for our history. People were laughing when Scranton was first laid out and started to grow. People in Carbondale and Wilkes-Barre

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when they cut Lackawanna County out of
Luzerne County they really didn't think
Scranton was going to go anywhere and we
were very successful because very
hardworking people came here. Thank you for
your time.

MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

MR. MILLER: Good evening, Council. Doug Miller, Scranton. Just to begin real briefly, often times after I, you know, depart these meetings I take the time over the course of the week to sort of, you know, review the tape of these meetings and get a better understanding of what exactly takes place. I feel that's how you, you know, develop your knowledge of what's going on, and often time sitting back listening I find, and not all the time, but, you know, on more occasions than not it seems as if when I'm at the podium addressing council for whatever reason it seems that sometimes there is a flaw in the sound system, I don't know if there is a technical malfunction, but it seems as if, you know, when I leave the podium and, you know, other residents

address the council from this podium, you know, it's not that difficult to hear them and so I don't know perhaps there is, you know, a mechanical malfunction, something has to be looked at, but I just found that sort of puzzling I don't think any resident should be stifled in terms of free speech and I think the viewing audience has a right to hear the message that we might present to the council in any given week, so I just thought I would address that to council. have noticed that on multiple occasions and never really acknowledged it publically, but I thought tonight would be a good opportunity to do that.

Moving on to some issues here, 7-B, I didn't have the opportunity to attend last week's meeting, but I know there was some discussion on the CECO contract and there was obviously some questioning by residents. And, you know, again, I just have to ask myself is this just yet again another political thing we are doing? I mean, I just don't see how we can justify approving a contact when the low bidder beat CECO by

\$40,000. You know, we have heard on many occasions by our council members in the past that, you know, they were elected to do the common sense thing, and I think tonight we have to ask ourselves is this the common sense thing to do? I don't see how we can look ourselves in the mirror and say this is a common sense thing to do. There is no justification for this.

My opinion, and the way I think the perception of a lot of people in the community, because it seems as if often times perception is reality people see that a campaign contribution was made by someone affiliated with CECO and I think the first thing that sparks -- the first thought that sparks people's minds is this just another political game, another political tactic that, you know, we are allowing a campaign contribution to influence policy? And if this is the case then that's a real serious problem, and I thought that we were moving in a different direction. I thought --

MR. MCGOFF: May I object one second, a point of clarification?

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MR. MILLER: Sure.

MR. MCGOFF: The head of the lowest bidder, the person that is that firm, also made a like contribution to the mayor's campaign.

MR. MILLER: Okay. Well, moving away from the campaign contributions, just not even thinking of that, the bottom line is real simple, Mr. Peters was the lowest bidder by \$40,000 so just excluding the campaign contribution, using a little logical thinking and common sense as a legislator, does that make sense? And who determined that CECO was the best engineering firm to lead the city moving forward?

Again, I think this just yet again smells politics. It has a strong stench of politics. I mean, you know, to shake our head and not think I think there is a real serious problem there and I just think that the residents of this city really deserve better.

And, you know, I don't really often, you know, single out particular council

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members, but I do have to say tonight, you know, Mr. Gaughan I really appreciate his careful observation and his insight on a lot of these issues because he seems to be the only one at this point in time, and I know it's a short time, but up to this point he is the only one that's asked any real questions. He is the only one that's asked some questions that have to do with where we are going here, you know, and it started with awhile back when he asked, you know, what is the plan? You know, what is the plan for this administration to address the mass exodus of the businesses that are fleeing this community? And we still haven't gotten an answer to that, but I respect him for asking that question because I have been asking that are question for a long time, well before this administration came into office and I respect him asking questions on this particular piece of legislation.

And I hope moving forward his colleagues will join him and start asking some real tough questions, okay? It's nice

I really appreciate that, but I think we also have to acknowledge that you were elected to do that and so now it's time to roll will your sleeves up and actually come up with a vision. What is the plan? We don't need to hear rhetoric and silliness, we need to hear when a clearcut vision for this city and where we see ourselves moving forward.

And lastly, before I leave, I didn't get to touch on one of the other issues but I'll come back next week, the University of Scranton student that was hit on Mulberry Street a few days ago and I think it was just another unfortunate event, but just, for example, as I have talked about on several occasions the need for pedestrian skywalks to be constructed on Mulberry Street, Jefferson Avenue, and this is just another example as to why a traffic study should have taken place in regards to the Lehigh Hall project but evidently the previous administration and the council and a judge in Lackawanna County didn't believe

that that was necessary, but I think that
this is an example of what could happen, now
you are looking at thousands of students
that are going to be going back and forth in
this new facility, and we could be looking
at some serious issues. Thank you and Happy
Easter.

MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening,

Council. Marie Schumacher.

MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

MS. SCHUMACHER: I, too, would like to start off with 7-B tonight and thank Mr. Gaughan for bringing the change -- the variance between the lowest and the second lowest bidder into everybody's attention and to Mr. Lockwood for researching and reporting on the CECO vp's campaign contribution to Mr. Courtright.

I have a number of comments. First,
I'm confident that when Mr. Swanson was
replaced by CECO there were also ongoing
projects and that was a smooth transition.

Two, it besmirchers the Peters, or the lowest bidders I should say, reputation.

Next, adding a need, as was specified in tonight's caucus, specifying the need for a large firm at this point in the game is either speaking to a deficient RFP or a cover for the selection.

Next, the best interest of the taxpayers is to take the lowest bid. We are already on the hook next year for one-third of the business administrator's increase of \$25,000 or perhaps a little bit more plus the newly created position, now tonight Joan has told us that the financial consultant is-- the 2014 charges were being pushed into 2015.

Next, I don't think there is any basis for assuming the lower bidder can't be just as responsible as CECO without experience.

And, finally, no matter how much it will be denied that award will always be looked at as a political decision.

Now, moving onto to today's newspaper, I'm sorry Mr. Rogan isn't here, I have been after him for a long time on loan status, on OECD loans. Today's paper had an

article about a Scranton cafe getting a new owner, and it's not really very clearly written, I'm sad to say, because it doesn't specify whether Electric City Roasting and Zumo's Cafe, which is a being sold, are from -- are owned by the same person, but back in 2007 we give a \$150,000 loan to the Electric City Roasting Company, and for one would like to know whether they are current on that and how this change in ownership, if at all, affects that loan.

MR. MCGOFF: They are not changing ownership. The cafe is, not Electric City Roasting.

MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. I'd still like to know if that's current.

MR. MCGOFF: Okay.

MS. SCHUMACHER: But thank you.

Then there was also in the legal notices today a request for grass cutting of the Taylor Landfill to be paid for by the City of Scranton. Now, I don't understand that. Perhaps -- I Goggled Taylor Landfill and every address I got for the Taylor Landfill was in Taylor and so I don't know with we

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would be paying for their -- the mowing of the lawn there.

And then I guess, Mr. Wechsler, it's your turn. Can you tell me how much was in the cash -- in for the real estate collections through March 31? Last week I spoke about a matter of the concern that we had only got off something like 6.7 percent from last year when the taxes had gone up so highly, and I'd like to know whether that was what we expected in our cash flow analysis?

MR. WECHSLER: From speaking Mr. Bulzoni he is comfortable that we are on target. The percentage was the 6.7 but the total cash was over \$600,000, so in terms of money brought in that's the amount of money and, like I said, Mr. Bulzoni is comfortable that we are on target, but you have to remember this is the first report we have gotten this year and so we will have to keep track of these numbers as it goes along, but these are the first numbers.

MS. SCHUMACHER: But typically, yes, I am desperately looking for that cash flow

analysis. I can't understand how we could be a quarter -- over a quarter of the year into the new end of fiscal year without a decent cash flow analysis and that's something that needs to be looked into, I believe.

There goes blight to next week again or the following week. Thank you very much and have a blessed Easter.

THE COURT: Thank you. Anyone else who wishes to address council?

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

MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Wechsler?

MR. WECHSLER: Thank you,

Mr. McGoff. Monday I attended a meeting at Keyser Valley Neighborhood Association and while I was there I became aware of a situation at Keyser Valley Community Center. The parking out there is being used for construction vehicles and construction materials for the ongoing project on Keyser Avenue and the residents understand that they are on that busy street and they are being quite cooperative with all of the

agencies involved there. What they would like though is after the project is completed they would like to get some drainage problems corrected on their lot and we think that the contractors that are there should do this for a reasonable or perhaps a gratis type of project.

They are also interested in there is some city-owned land next to the community center that they would also like to acquire to help them with there's drainage problem and the parking situation there, so I will be contacting the mayor and Dennis Gallagher and Dante from PennDOT to make sure that this can take place.

A couple of things I came up tonight, in terms of the Goodwill situation we are monitoring that every week -- every month, I'm sorry. We sat here at the meeting just like you did and we are concerned as well and the answers that we get sometimes aren't satisfactory, but we are monitoring it. I don't want to speak for Mr. Rogan what he is doing on a basis, but I know myself I'm in contact with Ms.

Reed who contacts Mr. Langan and we do keep up-to-date on that.

In terms of the cash flow statements that we received, these are provided to us by the Tax Collector's Office, not that it's a problem, but this statement also does not include the revenue taken in by the Tax Collector Berkheimer so we kind have to get a combination of both so we have some true numbers to deal with and we are collecting those.

And I also would like to thank all of the neighborhood associations, business groups and other people who have had these Easter egg hunts in the city. I know from myself I became active in the neighborhood association as a young person. They used today have a fish derby at Mountain Lake and that's where I was exposed to neighborhood service and I think these egg hunts and Halloween parties and things that these groups have help contribute to the sense of community for our young children.

And I just also would like to add to everyone to have a blessed Passover and a

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Happy Easter. Thank you, Mr. McGoff.

MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Loscombe?

MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes, just a couple of things briefly. I'm not sure if this addresses Mrs. Schumacher's question on the City of Scranton taking care of the grass in Taylor, from my memory and my recollection Scranton owned the city dump off state road which was actually in Taylor many years ago. I believe there may have been an agreement at that time to maintain that property after it was closed and stuff, I'll find out for sure, but that's my recollection that the city still has to maintain that area where the old landfill was. I don't know if you remember, but that's where it was actually in Taylor. It was a city landfill at that time.

Secondly, I apologize for missing last week's meeting, I'm going to comment a little bit on 7-B. I will be abstaining from tonight's vote on 7-B. First of all, I believe Mr. Gaughan brought some pretty good questions up. We do have a bidding process. We have to question anything that sways from

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know both of these engineers personally, Mr. Peters and John Pocius, I grew up with John I consider him a good friend of Pocius. mine, his family, we went to church and school together, done work together. abstention is in no way a reflection of any of their capacities or anything, but the reason I have to abstain is because of my ongoing litigation regarding the pension process may be implicated in a situation because of Mr. Pocius' former positions as city councilman and being having the ability to collect a pension and get paid from the city is basically something that I'm going through with this litigation so I just don't want to on the advice of my attorney it's best not to get involved in this situation and muddy the waters either way.

I'd like to preface it by saying I

But we do have to ask some good hard questions you know, again, we are in a tight situation, we are looking for every penny we can so, you know, I hope the administration is looking at the whole ball of whacks. We did receive an explanation this evening, but

I still have some questions on it, but at this point, you know, my vote will be irrelevant, but I do hope that, you know, if Mr. Pocius is chosen maybe he could work something out with his quote and offer the city more at this point because I believe, you know, everyone that bid on this project knows what our city is going through and it is at this point, a lot of it is about nickles and dimes and that's how we are going to get to, you know, get to our solvency.

But basically that's all I have to say on that I just wanted to explain why I will be abstaining, it has nothing to do personally, but, you know, again, it's a litigation situation. And I believe that's it. Thank you.

MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Gaughan?

MR. GAUGHAN: Yes. Thank you. I attend the Weston Field Bullshead

Neighborhood group last evening. It was great to hear from the neighbors in this area. They definitely take pride in their neighborhood and they do a great job as do

all of the neighborhood leaders and groups throughout the city. There were a few concerns that I intend to pass along to the appropriate departments heads this week and into early the next week.

Mr. McGoff mentioned at the beginning of the meeting about city employee Ray Kakereka of the DPW, I just wanted to say that my thoughts and prayers go out to the family and I would like to thank him for his unwavering support and 46 years of dedication to the city and that's quite an amazing amount of the time to give up to your community.

And I'd like to wish everyone a happy and safe Easter and I'll reserve the rest of my comments for Item 7-B. Thank you.

 $\label{eq:mr} \mbox{MR. MCGOFF:} \quad \mbox{And I will reserve any} \\ \mbox{comments for legislation.}$

MS. REED: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL
NO. 14, 2013 "AS AMENDED" ENTITLED AN
ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF

SCRANTON TO EXECUTE A DEED CONVEYING
PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE COLUMN PARCELS CONTAINING
NINE (9) SQUARE FEET EACH LOCATED IN THE
PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY ON THE 300 BLOCK OF
COLFAX AVENUE AND CONVEYING AN AERIAL DEED
FOR THE AIR SPACE LOCATED ON THE 300 BLOCK
OF COLFAX AVENUE WHERE THE PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE
IS ERECTED SUBJECT TO A REVERTER CLAUSE AND
TO EXECUTE AN AIR RIGHTS AGREEMENT BETWEEN
GEISINGER COMMUNITY MEDICAL CENTER AND THE
CITY OF SCRANTON BE FURTHER AMENDED TO
REFLECT THE NEW CONSTRUCTION DATES FOR
THE PROJECT.

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

MR. LOSCOMBE: So moved.

MR. WECHSLER: Second.

MR. MCGOFF: On the question?

MR. LOSCOMBE: Just on the question, again, I will have to abstain on this vote as an employee of Geisinger so that will be why I'm abstaining.

All those in favor of introduction signify by saying aye.

1 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye. 2 3 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye. 4 MS. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The 5 ayes have it and so moved. 6 MS. REED: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION -7 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND 8 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE 9 AND ENTER INTO A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH THE PFM GROUP TO PROVIDE 10 11 FINANCIAL ADVISORY SERVICES FOR THE CITY OF 12 SCRANTON FOR THE PERIOD OF FOUR (4) YEARS 13 FROM MARCH 9, 2014 THROUGH MARCH 8, 2018. 14 MR. MCGOFF: At this time I'll 15 entertain a motion that Item 5-C be 16 introduced into its proper committee. MR. LOSCOMBE: So moved. 17 18 MR. WECHSLER: Second. 19 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? A11 20 those in favor of introduction signify by 21 saying aye. 22 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. 23 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye. 24 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye. 25 Aye. Opposed? MS. MCGOFF: The

ayes have it and so moved.

MS. REED: 5-D. FOR INTRODUCTION A RESOLUTION — AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE
AND ENTER INTO A SIDEWALK MAINTENANCE
AGREEMENT NO. E00740 WITH THE COMMONWEALTH
OF PENNSYLVANIA, DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION ("PENNDOT") FOR THE
CONSTRUCTION OF NEW SIDEWALKS, ON THE
HARRISON AVENUE BRIDGE AND ADJACENT DUFFY
PARK, THE MAINTENANCE FOR THE PROPOSED NEW
SIDEWALKS THEREAFTER TO BE THE
RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON.

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

MR. LOSCOMBE: So moved.

MR. WECHSLER: Second.

MR. MCGOFF: On the question? I do have we are putting down -- we are going to create new sidewalks at Harrison Avenue and Duffy Park and supposedly in the near future they are going to begin construction on a new bridge and take down the old one. I guess for the time being it's a good idea to

put in new sidewalks, but it does seem like 1 it would be -- I don't know if it's a cost 2 3 efficient thing to do since we are going to destroy it once the new bridge is completed, 4 but I'll find out what the intent is with 5 these sidewalks. 6 7 MR. LOSCOMBE: Mr. McGoff, I'm 8 sorry, I thought it was part of the new 9 project. I didn't get a chance to --10 MR. MCGOFF: No, I think it said 11 for, at least I believe it's for the present 12 not the new bridge. 13 MR. LOSCOMBE: Okay. 14 All those in favor of introduction signify by saying aye. 15 16 MR. WECHSLER: 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 - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE 23 24 AND ENTER INTO A ROADWAY LIGHTING AGREEMENT 25 NO. E00740 WITH THE COMMONWEALTH OF

1	PENNSYLVANIA, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
2	
	("PENNDOT") FOR THE INSTALLATION OF AN
3	ELECTRIC ROADWAY LIGHTING SYSTEM FOR STATE
4	ROUTE 6011, ON THE HARRISON AVENUE BRIDGE
5	AND ADJACENT DUFFY PARK, THE MAINTENANCE OF
6	SUCH LIGHTING THEREAFTER TO BE THE
7	RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON, AND
8	AUTHORIZING SAID CITY OFFICIALS TO APPLY FOR
9	AND ACCEPT A HIGHWAY OCCUPANCY PERMIT
10	NECESSARY TO COMPLETE THE PROJECT.
11	MR. MCGOFF: At this time I'll
12	entertain a motion that Item 5-E be
13	introduced into its proper committee.
14	MR. LOSCOMBE: So moved.
15	MR. WECHSLER: Second.
16	MR. MCGOFF: On the question? All
17	those in favor of introduction signify by
18	saying aye.
19	MR. WECHSLER: 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: SIXTH ORDER. 6-A.
25	READING BY TITLE - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 14,

1	2014 - AN ORDINANCE - TRANSFERRING BOTH
2	TEMPORARY AND PERMANENT EASEMENTS OVER THREE
3	(3) PARCELS OF PROPERTY OWNED BY THE CITY OF
4	SCRANTON LOCATED AT 2004-2006 SANDERSON
5	AVENUE; 2008-SANDERSON AVENUE; AND 2011 ½
6	REAR BOULEVARD AVENUE IN CONNECTION WITH
7	THE SCRANTON SEWER AUTHORITY'S SANDERSON
8	AVENUE STORM WATER SEPARATION PROJECT.
9	MR. MCGOFF: You've heard reading by
10	title of Item 6-A, what is your pleasure?
11	MR. LOSCOMBE: I move that Item 6-A
12	pass reading by title.
13	MR. WECHSLER: Second.
14	MS. MCGOFF: On the question? All
15	those in favor signify by saying aye.
16	MR. WECHSLER: Aye.
17	MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.
18	MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.
19	MR. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The
20	ayes have it and so moved.
21	MS. REED: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR
22	CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
23	-FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 13, 2014
24	- ABOLISHING AND CLOSING OECD ACCOUNTS WITH
25	COMMUNITY BANK, NA AND FIRST NATIONAL BANK

	42
1	TRANSFERRING THE FUNDS FROM THOSE ACCOUNTS
2	TO PNC BANK ACCOUNT LISTED BELOW.
3	MR. MCGOFF: What is the
4	recommendation of the Chair for the
5	Committee on Finance?
6	MR. WECHSLER: As Chairperson for
7	the Committee on Finance, I recommend final
8	passage of Item 7-A.
9	MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.
10	MR. MCGOFF: On the question? Roll
11	call, please?
12	MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.
13	MR. MCGOFF: 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-A legally and lawfully adopted.
21	MS. REED: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION
22	BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES -FOR ADOPTION -
23	RESOLUTION NO. 46, 2014 - AUTHORIZING
24	THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY
25	OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH CECO ASSOCIATES, INC. TO SERVE AS CITY ENGINEER FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON FOR THE PERIOD OF TWO (2) YEARS FROM APRIL 15, 2014 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2016.

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

MR. WECHSLER: Second.

MR. MCGOFF: On the question?

MR. WECHSLER: Mr. McGoff, I just have a comment. My comment tends to more to deal with the process than this actual vote here. I have been in government contracting for 30 years. I have worked on a lot of bids as the low bidder I'm the winner, I have worked on a lot of bids where I have to prepare technical proposals and plans to demonstrate that my company was the best contractor even though I did not have the lowest price.

I think perhaps if we clean up our procedure a little bit more, itemize some of the things that we are looking for perhaps we can avoid situations like this in the

future. After the caucus was held this evening, my opinion from last week has not changed. I believe that the city,
Mr. Gallagher and Mr. Shrive looked at this properly and, like I said, I think that perhaps lowest does not always mean the best. Thank you.

MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.

I want to thank our DPW director Dave
Gallagher, and the city solicitor Jason
Shrive for attending our caucus this
evening. I appreciate their cooperation and
the good work that they are doing for the
city. I am voting "no" tonight on this
legislation. As I stressed last week, my
vote does not indicate any disapproval of
CECO Associates. Their great work on behalf
of the city as engineers speaks for itself.

They are professionals and always do an absolutely outstanding job. As I made very clear last week, my concern is that we are choosing to spend nearly \$40,000 more for a service when we have a lower bidder for the work. We do not have the extra money to spend in the financial situation

that we are in and that concerns me greatly.

I asked if there was a specific reason why the lowest bidder was not chosen, and I have received a response that is not sufficient to me. The argument from the administration is that CECO Associates is involved in many ongoing projects throughout the city and to change engineers in the middle of these projects would be detrimental to the city. I understand this argument but it is not sufficient enough for me to vote "yes" on this legislation.

It was also mentioned in the caucus that the size of the firm, and the firm that bid on the project factored into their decision, meaning the larger firm and the more resources and that would make CECO a better pick. However, this was never mentioned in the RFP, so that also concerns me.

Furthermore, we have had four city engineers over the past 13 years so this is a standard government practice. I am accountable to the citizens of Scranton and how we spend their money. The dollar amount

between bidders was significant enough in this situation to warrant my full attention. I cannot vote to spend nearly \$40,000 more for a service when we have a lower bidder to do the work. Thank you.

MR. MCGOFF: The legislation that provides for professional services of this nature does not differentiate between requests for qualifications and requests for services. Solicitor Shrive explained that part of the RFP was actually a request for qualifications and that it was felt that because of the scope and breadth of the work that is a needed to be done by the city engineer that the qualifications of a firm, a larger firm, was necessary to do the work as opposed to a single person operating as an engineer.

And also in the legislation it provides for -- it does not say that you have to accept the lowest bid. Professional services can be the lowest responsible bidder, and the key word is responsible, and was felt by the administration and by myself that given the situation that the bid by

1 CECO was the most responsible bid and for 2 that reason I am going to vote "yes" on this 3 legislation. 4 MR. LOSCOMBE: Just for the record, 5 as I explained under motions, I will be 6 abstaining. Roll call, please? 7 8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler. 9 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe. 10 MR. LOSCOMBE: Abstain. 11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan. 12 13 MR. GAUGHAN: No. 14 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff. MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I hereby declare 15 16 Item 7-B legally and lawfully adopted. 17 MS. REED: 7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION 18 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES -FOR ADOPTION -RESOLUTION NO. 47, 2014 - DESIGNATING 19 THE CITY OF SCRANTON'S STAFF ACCOUNTANT, 20 21 NANCY KRAKE AS SCRANTON'S OPEN RECORD 22 OFFICER, TO RECEIVE REQUESTS FOR PUBLIC 23 RECORDS, TO DIRECT REQUESTS TO APPROPRIATE 24 PERSONNEL, TO TRACK SCRANTON'S PROGRESS 25 IN RESPONDING TO REQUESTS, AND TO ISSUE

	10
1	INTERIM AND FINAL RESPONSES UNDER
2	PENNSYLVANIA'S RIGHT-TO-KNOW LAW.
3	MR. MCGOFF: As Chair for the
4	Committee on Rules, I recommend final
5	passage of Item 7-C.
6	MR. WECHSLER: Second.
7	MR. MCGOFF: On the question? Roll
8	call, please?
9	MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.
10	MR. MCGOFF: Yes.
11	MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.
12	MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.
13	MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.
14	MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.
15	MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.
16	MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I hereby declare
17	Item 7-C legally and lawfully adopted and I
18	would like to also mention that I believe
19	Mrs. Krake will do an excellent job in this
20	position as open records officer.
21	MS. REED: 7-D. FOR CONSIDERATION BY
22	THE COMMITTEE ON RULES -FOR ADOPTION -
23	RESOLUTION NO. 48, 2014 - DESIGNATING
24	THE CITY OF SCRANTON'S BUSINESS
25	ADMINISTRATOR, DAVID M. BULZONI TO ACT AS
	II

	49
1	SCRANTON'S ALTERNATE OPEN RECORDS OFFICER TO
2	RECEIVE REQUESTS FOR PUBLIC RECORDS, TO
3	DIRECT REQUESTS TO APPROPRIATE PERSONNEL, TO
4	TRACK PROGRESS IN RESPONDING TO REQUESTS,
5	AND TO ISSUE INTERIM AND FINAL RESPONSES
6	UNDER PENNSYLVANIA'S RIGHT-TO-KNOW LAW.
7	MR. MCGOFF: As Chair for the
8	Committee on Rules, I recommend final
9	passage of Item 7-D.
10	MR. WECHSLER: Second.
11	MR. MCGOFF: On the question? Roll
12	call, please?
13	MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.
14	MR. MCGOFF: Yes.
15	MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.
16	MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.
17	MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.
18	MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.
19	MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.
20	MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I hereby declare
21	Item 7-D legally and lawfully adopted.
22	MS. REED: 7-E. FOR CONSIDERATION BY
23	THE COMMITTEE ON RULES -FOR ADOPTION -
24	RESOLUTION NO. 49, 2014 - AUTHORIZING
25	THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY

	30
1	OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A
2	MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN LOCAL LODGE
3	2462 AND THE CITY OF SCRANTON AND THE SCHOOL
4	DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON REGARDING
5	THE SINGLE TAX OFFICE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING
6	AGREEMENT.
7	MR. MCGOFF: As Chair for the
8	Committee on Rules, I recommend final
9	passage of Item 7-E.
10	MR. WECHSLER: Second.
11	MR. MCGOFF: On the question? Roll
12	call, please?
13	MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.
14	MR. MCGOFF: Yes.
15	MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.
16	MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.
17	MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.
18	MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.
19	MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.
20	MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I hereby declare
21	Item 7-E legally and lawfully adopted.
22	Any other business? I will
23	entertain a motion to adjourn.
24	MR. LOSCOMBE: Motion to adjourn.
25	MR. MCGOFF: Meeting adjourned.

ability.

$\underline{\mathsf{C}}\ \underline{\mathsf{F}}\ \mathsf{R}\ \mathsf{T}\ \mathsf{I}\ \mathsf{F}\ \mathsf{I}\ \mathsf{C}\ \mathsf{A}\ \mathsf{T}\ \mathsf{E}$

I hereby certify that the proceedings and evidence are contained fully and accurately in the notes of testimony taken by me at the hearing of the above-captioned matter and that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the same to the best of my

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER