

SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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HELD:

Thursday, May 22, 2014

LOCATION:

Council Chambers
Scranton City Hall
340 North Washington Avenue
Scranton, Pennsylvania

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

ROBERT MCGOFF, PRESIDENT

PATRICK ROGAN, VICE-PRESIDENT

JOHN LOSCOMBE
(Not present)

JOSEPH WECHSLER

WILLIAM GAUGHAN

LORI REED, CITY CLERK

KATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

PATRICK SCANLON, SOLICITOR

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

3 MR. MCGOFF: Roll call, please.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

5 MR. WECHSLER: Here.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

7 MR. ROGAN: Here.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe. Mr.
9 Gaughan.

10 MR. GAUGHAN: Here.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

12 MR. MCGOFF: Here.

13 MR. MCGOFF: Let the record reflect
14 that Mr. Loscombe did call earlier and that
15 he was not feeling well and will be unable
16 to attend this evening's meeting.

17 MR. ROGAN: Due to Mr. Loscombe's
18 absence, I would like to make a motion to
19 appoint Councilman Gaughan temporary chair
20 for the Committee on Public Safety.

21 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

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

24 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

25 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

1 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

2 MS. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The
3 eyes have it and so moved.

4 Dispense with the reading of the
5 minutes, please.

6 MS. REED: THIRD ORDER. 3-A.
7 LACKAWANNA COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
8 SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT EVALUATION
9 RECEIVED ON APRIL 9, 2014.

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

12 MS. REED: 3-B. AGENDA FOR THE CITY
13 PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING TO BE HELD MAY
14 28, 2014.

15 MR. MCGOFF: Are there any comments?
16 If not, received and filed. Are there any
17 Clerk's notes?

18 MS. REED: Nothing, Mr. McGoff.

19 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mrs. Reed.

20 Do any council members have
21 announcements? I would like to make mention
22 of the two things, first on the agenda there
23 are two pieces of legislation that will be
24 taken from the table and placed into Seventh
25 Order. They are the subject of the two

1 public hearings held prior to the meeting.

2 Also, I would like to make note that
3 we did take from our agenda for this week
4 legislation dealing with leases of the
5 little league and baseball fields in West
6 Scranton. I just want to make note that
7 there have been some rumors that somehow the
8 administration and city council were somehow
9 involved in giving these leases
10 inappropriately to people and that we were
11 depriving some children of playing on these
12 fields. That is totally untrue.

13 What had taken place is that
14 Attorney Shrive, the city solicitor, met
15 with representatives of all of the various
16 concerns, spoke with them and put together
17 leases that we felt everyone -- that he felt
18 everyone had agreed to. It seems as though
19 there is some disagreement now with the
20 leases and it is council's position and also
21 the administration's position that we will
22 not put anything on our agenda that the
23 respective organizations have not agreed to.
24 It is up to them to formulate a method for
25 field use and when they have determined that

1 it's something that benefits the children of
2 that community and that they can agree to
3 then they will put the leases back on the
4 agenda for approval. It is not our concern
5 to take sides on any of this. This is up to
6 the adults in those respective organizations
7 to do what is best for the children of West
8 Scranton. As I said, when that is done then
9 we will respond.

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

12 MS. HODOWANITZ: Good evening,
13 Council. Joan Hodowanitz, Scranton
14 resident.

15 MR. GAUGHAN: Good evening.

16 MS. HODOWANITZ: Do we have any
17 information on whether or not Mr. Amaro is
18 planning another presentation, and if so
19 when?

20 MR. MCGOFF: I'm unfortunately going
21 to give you the same answer that I been
22 giving you. I am told that, yes, by the end
23 of the month, you know, in two weeks --

24 MS. HODOWANITZ: Well, he will not
25 fall off my radar.

1 MR. MCGOFF: There hasn't been a
2 specific date set.

3 MS. HODOWANITZ: He will not fall
4 off my radar screen, I will keep watching
5 for that.

6 With regard to 5-G, the acquisition
7 and installation of a community surveillance
8 network, I haven't seen any background
9 information which would tell me are you
10 going to be maintaining stored images that
11 are shared, where and how are you going to
12 store them, who would have access to them?
13 Is that information going to be made public
14 before you decide on this program? Does
15 anybody have any information on that? I
16 understand the basic concept, my concern is
17 the privacy of the citizens, okay, and are
18 you going to maintain. As somebody worked
19 in the intelligence community for 23 years
20 and spent three years at the National
21 Security Agency, I will tell you that the
22 technology exists to abuse that information,
23 so certainly we should have access to the
24 plan. What are you going to do with these
25 images? Who will have access to them? How

1 long will they be stored?

2 MR. MCGOFF: This has been a
3 question in the past as well as to the
4 utilization station and operation of this
5 type of equipment, I'm not sure what the
6 plan is, as to how it will be utilized and
7 stored or whatever the case may be, but we
8 will make that query for you.

9 MS. HODOWANITZ: I would hope that
10 you would at least go back to the
11 administration and see what the plan is and
12 I think the plan should be available before
13 the decision is made. It's not that I'm
14 against the acquisition of the system, it's
15 that I would like to the city to have a plan
16 in place and that the public can see what
17 that plan is before we end up going down the
18 road, and it's something to think about.
19 You may think, oh, well, you know, it's
20 little a backward city, you know, nothing
21 ever happens here, you know, that kind of
22 thing. That's not true. You know, people
23 should guard their privacy very zealously
24 and there should be very strict guidelines
25 on when, you know, the images can be taken

1 and what can be done with them and who can
2 see them for how long. Thank you.

3 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

4 MR. MCGOFF: Justine Yeager.

5 MS. YEAGER: Hi, how are you? I'm
6 Justine Yeager, a librarian at the Albright
7 Memorial Library and I'm here to invite you,
8 and all of you, to the library block party
9 fundraiser Swingin' on Vine. This event
10 will be held tomorrow, Friday, May 23, from
11 5 to 8 p.m. \$15 in advance and \$20 at the
12 door will get you three hours of unlimited
13 food and drinks, chances to win awesome
14 raffle prizes and live music from Paul
15 Labelle and the Exact Change.

16 All raffle prizes are donated by
17 local businesses including gift cards and
18 baskets from Market Street Bar and Grill,
19 Steamtown Hot Yoga, Leahey Family Fun Park,
20 Stanky's Bar and Grill, and even an
21 overnight stay at the Cleland House and Ann
22 Sekadoran's bed and breakfast in the
23 historic hill section of Scranton. These
24 are some of our great prizes and, in fact,
25 none of our prizes are valued at less than

1 \$50 and with a couple of the exceptions
2 raffle tickets are only a \$1 a piece.

3 Like our raffle prizes all food is
4 donated by local restaurants and
5 organizations and this year thanks to the
6 Lackawanna College's culinary arts degree
7 program we are excited to feature a
8 southwestern menu to go along with our
9 signature drink the margarita.

10 We will also have yummy desserts
11 from Minooka Pastry Shop, Gertrude Hawk,
12 Rita's Water Ice and many more, including
13 contributions by staff and they are very
14 talented bakers, I have to say.

15 Now, many of you may have noticed
16 that the Albright building is being
17 renovated and we'd like to take a moment and
18 thank the city for partnering with us on the
19 Keystone Grant which will ensure that the
20 building remains an architectural gem in the
21 community for years to come. Proceeds from
22 Swingin' on Vine will help to defray some of
23 the renovations and benefit the Albright
24 Memorial Library, Nancy Kay Holmes branch
25 and the Lackawanna County Children's Library

1 so that we may continue to provide the
2 highest quality collections and services to
3 the community free of charge. This means
4 everything from DVD's and blue rays to
5 e-books and free internet access and wi-fi,
6 and of course we are always adding new
7 titles to our fantastic great collection.
8 Don't forget, we also have programs for
9 children, teenagers and adults.

10 So we are very much hoping to see
11 all of your faces tomorrow night at Swingin'
12 on Vine and you can get tickets at the
13 Albright Memorial Library, Nancy Kay Holmes
14 branch, and the Library Express in Steamtown
15 Mall or you can go on-line to
16 LCLSHOME.ORG\SWINGIN-ON-VINE, and if you
17 want more information you can call or visit
18 our website. So tomorrow night, rain or
19 shine, Swingin' on Vine five to eight.
20 Thank you very much.

21 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Justine, and
22 we will encourage all to attend.

23 MS. YEAGER: Thank you.

24 MR. MCGOFF: Fay Franus.

25 MS. FRANUS: Fay Franus, Scranton.

1 Mr. McGoff, may I ask Pat Rogan a question?

2 MR. ROGAN: Sure.

3 MS. FRANUS: Pat, when SAPA was on
4 the agenda before, a couple years ago, you
5 were against that, weren't you.

6 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

7 MS. FRANUS: May I ask you why you
8 were against it?

9 MR. ROGAN: A number of reasons,
10 some of them being the costs weren't defined
11 and I frankly didn't believe and I still
12 don't believe that it's something that
13 really will benefit the city.

14 MS. FRANUS: And Jack Loscombe felt
15 the same way.

16 MR. ROGAN: Correct.

17 MS. FRANUS: I just hope that both
18 of you feel strongly against this. I see no
19 reason for SAPA to come to the City of
20 Scranton. If any business wants to come to
21 Scranton, there is nothing stopping them.

22 MR. ROGAN: And I voted yes to
23 introduce it.

24 MS. FANUCCI: Pardon me?

25 MR. ROGAN: I voted yes to introduce

1 it to allow debate, but I did mention that I
2 am, you know, going to listen to the
3 residents but I am leaning towards voting
4 no.

5 MS. FRANUS: I see no reason for it
6 whatsoever and I can't even comprehend why
7 anybody on this council representing the
8 people in Scranton would want this. The
9 reason they don't come to Scranton, the
10 businesses, is because the taxes are so
11 high. It's not because of any other reason,
12 so there is nothing stopping any business
13 from coming here. As a matter of fact, that
14 Delta Medix is going to Dunmore, how is SAPA
15 helping them stay? They are not.

16 The other municipalities, Clarks
17 Summit and Waverly, see, Scranton has all
18 the social services. They have all of the
19 buildings, and the federal building, the
20 courthouse buildings and all of the
21 nonprofits and the projects in the city.
22 Clarks Summit we don't want projects, they
23 want their places to be green and nice and
24 open, but the plan that's put forward is to
25 stop sprawl, so I hope that Scranton, the

1 city council, who represents the people in
2 this city do not adopt that because we do
3 not need it. If anybody wants to come here
4 they can. Thank you, Mr. Rogan.

5 Now, on another matter, I listened
6 to what Marie Schumacher said last week
7 about that financial group that you hired
8 until 2018, and she asked a question of
9 Mr. Minora and Mr. McGoff you didn't let him
10 answer and if it's a legal question why
11 wouldn't you want the lawyer for the council
12 to answer?

13 MR. MCGOFF: She asked why we voted
14 for it and --

15 MS. FRANUS: She asked if it was
16 legal, and you answered.

17 MR. MCGOFF: She asked if I felt it
18 was legal, yes.

19 MS. FRANUS: But she also asked
20 Mr. Minora and he wasn't able to answer. I
21 just think when there is a legal question
22 the lawyer should be able to answer. Am I,
23 that's what he's there for.

24 And you said it was legal because
25 there will be money in the budget for it in

1 2015. Well, there is no money in this
2 budget for it in and this is the time and
3 amendment that it says the money should be
4 allocated now when it is voted on, not a
5 year from now. So, yes, it is illegal even
6 though you say it isn't, and I want the
7 people at home to know that just because you
8 say something, Mr. McGoff, it doesn't mean
9 it's so. Because, trust me, you don't know.
10 You can laugh, we will find out. We'll find
11 out.

12 And another thing, last week when
13 you made a comment about you moved something
14 to Seventh Order like you are tonight, not
15 that this is law or anything, but it's up to
16 you, I guess, but I think if you can be fair
17 if you had people like say, for example, I
18 wanted to speak on that item, I don't think
19 I should have to talk about it in my five
20 minutes in motions. Your meetings are over
21 like in an hour anymore, I mean, I don't
22 know what your rush is to get out of here.
23 I just think it would be fairer if you had
24 people that want to speak on something in
25 Seventh Order that it be moved ahead to have

1 a chance to speak before the vote not our
2 time in the public comment time, they should
3 be allowed to speak two times. Well, what
4 do you think about that, Mr. McGoff?

5 MR. MCGOFF: Citizens' participation
6 is the time for public comment on agenda
7 items and --

8 MS. FRANUS: So you are saying --

9 MR. MCGOFF: And it was made
10 known -- and it was made known that anyone
11 who wished to speak to those items should do
12 so during citizens' participation.

13 MS. FRANUS: So you don't think they
14 should be able to speak again on it?
15 Because most people don't know --

16 MR. MCGOFF: No one spoke to it the
17 first time.

18 MS. FRANUS: People don't know when
19 they come here, most people have their --
20 what they are going to say ready and that
21 usually takes five minutes, so people don't
22 know you are going to move something to
23 Seventh Order until you say so that night,
24 so they need a little time to think about it
25 and prepare. I think they should be allowed

1 to speak again on the issue.

2 MR. MCGOFF: We made it known the
3 week before that it was going to be moved.

4 MS. FRANUS: Did you let this -- was
5 it known for tonight that this was going to
6 be moved? The items you are talking about
7 tonight moving to Seventh Order did you let
8 that be known last week or is it just
9 tonight right before the meeting, is that
10 when you first said it?

11 MR. MCGOFF: I don't remember
12 offhand.

13 MS. FRANUS: Oh, that sounds
14 convenient.

15 MR. MCGOFF: Well, it is convenient,
16 but that's the answer I have.

17 MS. FRANUS: So basically what you
18 are trying to do is you don't want people to
19 have too much say because you are cutting
20 their time.

21 Another thing, last week you had a
22 caucus in the back room about Verizon moving
23 the cell towers, another thing you don't
24 want the people at home and that's watching
25 council on television to see what's going

1 on. There is no transparency, there is just
2 no reason in the world why you wouldn't --
3 shouldn't have people out here doing the
4 caucus on important issues such as the
5 Verizon cell towers or any other important
6 issue. I mean, to me it's just stopping the
7 public from knowing what is going on in this
8 city deliberately.

9 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. Is there
10 anyone else who wishes to address council?

11 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,
12 citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians, a
13 few words on this SAPA. I know you all made
14 up your mind probably which way you are
15 going on that, but I can't see how it will
16 make sense without including Dickson City,
17 Taylor, and Moosic as part of the group. As
18 you know, the way you are dealing with it is
19 not in the best interest of our community.
20 We are going to have to go to Moosic,
21 Dickson City and Taylor for some type of a
22 commuter tax. You know that, I know that,
23 everybody knows that so start reaching out
24 to them communities now because there is
25 nothing else you can do. You are not going

1 to go in Chapter 9, which is probably the
2 best way to go at the position we are in.
3 We are and everybody that comes to me says
4 we are bankrupt. You cannot pay off a loan
5 to the firemen and police awards and they
6 are drawing over \$100,000 a month up and you
7 sit there and close your eyes to it. But,
8 Mr. McGoff you can close your eyes to a lot
9 of things that happened in your watch. We
10 are in a position we are now is because of
11 you and the Times didn't realize what was
12 happening, didn't care what was happening,
13 but when blindly what the mayor was doing.
14 When that council came four years ago there
15 was \$22 million in debt sitting on the
16 books, under your watch they were occurred
17 and you sit there and close your eyes to
18 what's happening to the city.

19 I can't understand people, like I
20 say, you cannot vote your party or your
21 name, you got to look at each candidate
22 individually and vote on their merits, not
23 what name they bare or what party they go on
24 belong to, if you ever want to get out of
25 the mess we're in.

1 Well, a few words on this
2 entertainment tax. That lady come before
3 you for the library would she be exempt from
4 this tax if it was passed or would she be
5 required to pay? They are charging
6 admission to go to this affair. Is it the
7 same with the political? I went to a lot of
8 political where they had entertainment and
9 at the door they were looking for political
10 contributions, are they exempt from this
11 tax?

12 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Sbaraglia, all we
13 are doing is we're trying to make it easier
14 to collect by making it if you are a group
15 of the less than 500 you are not subject to
16 the tax.

17 MR. SBARAGLIA: For a group of 500.

18 MR. WECHSLER: Or for an
19 establishment that has less than 500 seats.

20 MR. SBARAGLIA: It didn't quite say
21 in there, but all groups that are under 500
22 are exempt.

23 MR. WECHSLER: Correct.

24 MR. SBARAGLIA: Which means there is
25 only what, two or three things in the city

1 that actually can be taxed. One is the
2 water park, and the other is the Masonic
3 Temple. Other than that, I think that other
4 thing that they have is up in Moosic, that
5 belongs to Moosic up there and not Scranton.
6 And the ballpark, of course, isn't in.

7 Scranton either. So you got --
8 you're actually trying to get these two
9 entities to pay for a big bunch of taxes. I
10 don't know if that's going to work.

11 MR. WECHSLER: There are other
12 vendors that have over 500 capacities.

13 MR. SBARAGLIA: Name one?

14 MR. WECHSLER: The hotels in the
15 city.

16 MR. SBARAGLIA: The hotels --

17 MR. WECHSLER: The rooms, the
18 banquets.

19 MR. SBARAGLIA: The hotels are
20 already taxed by the county. You are
21 putting the tax away you are saying? Is
22 that what you are planning to tax because
23 you may have 500 people at wedding?

24 MR. ROGAN: Mr. Sbaraglia, if I
25 could jump in, this isn't -- this tax is

1 already on the books, what we are doing is
2 Councilman Wechsler and myself were
3 approached by bar owners and band owners who
4 were being negatively impacted by the tax.
5 What this exemption does, when this was
6 passed it was never the intention to have
7 people who are going to see a local band at
8 a local tavern pay a tax. This would give
9 them a de facto exemption because their
10 venue is smaller than 500.

11 Now, if you go to Montage to see a
12 national act the tax would be included or at
13 the Cultural Center that would have large
14 venues as well, but this is not an
15 additional tax, this is an exemption from
16 the current tax.

17 MR. SBARAGLIA: I realize that, we
18 passed the tax the first time it wasn't very
19 good and we brought all of these objections
20 up to you at that point. At this point, you
21 are clarifying, but not really clarifying,
22 you didn't change the wording. It's not in
23 the -- maybe in the backup it's spelled out
24 a little different, but I can see a lot of
25 people are going to be very unhappy

1 especially you put things like La Festa in
2 that. Now, that committee -- that has
3 hundreds of thousands of people may come
4 there, what are we going to with that?

5 MR. ROGAN: It's for ticketed
6 venues. I mean, it has to be a ticketed
7 venue, so the Italian festival you don't get
8 a ticket to go in so they wouldn't pay the
9 tax. It's mostly for concerts is where most
10 of the revenue on an amusement tax comes in,
11 and the issue that we are addressing is that
12 the local -- the small venues, the corner
13 bar that has, you know, a local band play
14 and charges \$5 at the door, we don't think
15 they should be forced to pay this tax but
16 that's why we worked on this exemption.

17 You know, neighborhood festivals,
18 things like that they are not subject to the
19 tax and I know there are already exemptions
20 carved out for educational, for school say
21 West Side High School wanted to have an
22 event, they were already exempted and I
23 believe nonprofits are exempt as well. So
24 this is just trying to correct a mistake
25 that was in the original legislation and I

1 think it's most -- you know, one of the
2 problems that it was hurting the little guy
3 and we didn't want to hurt the local music
4 industry and the taverns in the city.

5 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening. Dave
6 Dobrzyn, resident and I placed myself here
7 some time going by. Once again, I'd like to
8 express the hope that the audit comes in if
9 not on time but at least by midsummer. The
10 last few years have been insufferable and
11 almost useless if they even had it at that
12 time.

13 We had a vote a few days ago and,
14 well, once again poor turn out. I wish
15 people would wake up and get out and vote.
16 It must be disconcerting to a politician in
17 realizing that if the majority showed up he
18 could be voted out of office even though
19 they one by a landslide.

20 Towers. I'm neutral on this tower
21 up at Nay Aug Park, but we have towers at
22 Nay Aug Park, and I'll have to get in touch
23 with the taxpayers or somebody with more
24 resources and see what we can do about
25 finding out whether or not PPL is paying

1 their fair share because they are taking a
2 considerable swath out of the park, they
3 have power transmission towers right through
4 it and I would almost find it doubtful that
5 someone wouldn't scream that from the
6 rooftops that they aren't paying.

7 And a few years ago when the
8 Roseland Project, I asked them about it, I
9 wanted the officials to attend the meeting
10 and they mentioned that it would take
11 millions of dollars to remove to relocate
12 those towers so there is a lot of money
13 there.

14 And once again you poor guys get the
15 dirty end of the stick with the Geisinger
16 issue. I was watching it from my house
17 until I had to leave to get here, and there
18 are concerns. That school should never have
19 been closed. Shame on the school district
20 that shut that down and \$750,000 is not
21 really good compensation for the loss of the
22 school that could have been fixed for six or
23 seven million dollars. It's really ashamed
24 and those kids from the Hill section and
25 South Scranton are getting shoved all over

1 the place. The one lady had a letter in
2 there that her child was in fourth grade and
3 she hadn't attended the same school any
4 given year, so that was four different
5 schools she was located in in four years.
6 So I don't know how I feel about them
7 tearing that down and putting a parking lot.
8 I would sympathize with those neighbors.

9 On this issue with Seventh Order, I
10 would consider just allowing people to go up
11 and speak. I wouldn't want to put up with
12 the grief that are you getting over it.
13 It's really ashamed that we can't take two or
14 three more minutes per person and just let
15 them have their say. Then they can't --
16 they probably just come up and complain some
17 more, at least they had their opportunity.

18 On parties, what do you do when one
19 party is lame and the other one is crazy? I
20 don't know. That goes for the voting. It's
21 really ashamed but there are some crazy
22 people in certain parties and the other ones
23 don't now how to run the party. Drill,
24 baby, drill. They should have had when one
25 party was chanting that during the oil spill

1 they should have had -- their commercial
2 should have been US spill in Louisiana which
3 brings me to the golden parrot, I know it's
4 national, but it is local, we have the mines
5 under our houses and now we get to pay for
6 insurance that we would have never needed
7 because some dishonest jerk took the coal
8 out from under our house. Congressman
9 McAllister was badgering an environmental
10 advocate who was there to complain that an
11 oil company repaired an oil leak on a
12 wildlife preservation with duck tape and a
13 garbage bag and he is from Louisiana. I
14 mean, how crazy can you get? I wouldn't
15 vote at all if I had two people like that
16 running. Thanks, and have a good night.

17 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else who wishes
18 to address council?

19 MR. SHOCKER: Good evening. Alan
20 Shocker, West Scranton. I was thrilled to
21 hear tonight that you have taken the leases
22 off the agenda and I'm thrilled here that
23 council is going to wait until we can work
24 something out. I am here for little league
25 and this was kind of dropped on us at the

1 last minute. The rumors, I don't know where
2 the rumors came from. We did take two
3 social media, we did pass a petition, but
4 that is all we knew to do. I'm just a
5 baseball coach, just a dad, I'm not a
6 politician, not a lawyer, it's what we do.
7 But I really appreciate all of you, and
8 Mr. Rogan reached out to us, Mr. Gaughan
9 reached out to u and, you know, the mayor
10 give us great advice, Mr. Shrive gave us
11 great advice and we are going to try and sit
12 down with the other parties and work this
13 out and hopefully everybody is happy again,
14 but I appreciate everything you have done
15 for us. Thank you.

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

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

19 MOTIONS.

20 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Wechsler?

21 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you,
22 Mr. McGoff. To touch a little bit as we
23 were speaking before during public comment,
24 tonight we are going to modify the amusement
25 tax. Councilman Rogan and myself, Business

1 Administrator Bulzoni, Solicitor Jason
2 Shrive, counsel to the city, along with
3 Solicitor Minora we have been working on
4 this since we took our seats in January. We
5 really feel that this modification will
6 allow the smaller businesses not to suffer
7 from an additional tax that really wasn't a
8 burden to them.

9 And the other side of the coin,
10 also, it allows the city to move this down
11 to the Single Tax Office where we can
12 actually start collecting some of this
13 revenue. We do have it budgeted for about
14 \$300,000 in our budget this year and, like I
15 said, this will allow us to start collecting
16 that. There is a couple of other bits of
17 legislation, ordinances that are on the
18 books that we are going to try to do the
19 same thing, this is the first of and a
20 start.

21 A couple of other things, I would
22 like to thank the organizers of the Armed
23 Forces Day parade on Saturday. We got to
24 see the city. My sister visited from
25 Maryland, she didn't know she was going to

1 end up in the parade Saturday, so she ended
2 up marching in the parade. There was a good
3 turnout along Washington Avenue of people to
4 offer their support. I was in the parade
5 last year, I thought there was more people
6 this year, but it was really great and you
7 have to appreciate our veterans because we
8 lose so many of them every day.

9 And Sunday night I had the honor of
10 representing the city as the Amos Lodge
11 honored Dave Wenzel with their Americanism
12 award. Mayor Wenzel is a special person.
13 He was handicapped in Vietnam, did not let
14 that determine him. Came back and served
15 the city as mayor and tax collector. Went
16 on to serve on several commissions under
17 President Bush and continues today to do his
18 work throughout the city and I was honored
19 to have dinner with him on Saturday.

20 Just one other thing, I'd like to
21 mention one of the speakers talked about
22 Delta Medix moving to Dunmore, I can tell
23 you that no decision by Delta Medix has been
24 made on that. The city, other private
25 investors and Dunmore this is going -- a

1 competition for the city we are all going to
2 have to work very hard in making sure that
3 we try or best to keep Delta Medix here in
4 Scranton and saying that they moved to
5 Dunmore is not going to help us, so we would
6 like to have support from the public.
7 Whatever you can do to try and convince them
8 to stay, but that's what we are going to
9 have to do, it's going to have to be a team
10 effort. That's all I have.

11 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. Mr. Rogan?

12 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. A few items,
13 I'd like to first start off by thanking city
14 employee Paul O'Hora and ECTV volunteer
15 Charlie Newcomb, Jr., there was an emergency
16 on Tuesday, election day, in which city hall
17 was closed and for those of you who watched
18 the election results on Channel 19 you saw
19 they are broadcast from council chambers.
20 Thanks to our city clerk getting in touch
21 with Mr. O'Hora, Mr. Newcomb they were able
22 to get city hall opened up so they could
23 broadcast those election results, so a thank
24 you to all three of you for the great work
25 on your day off, for Mrs. Reed and

1 Mr. O'Hora, so we thank you for that and
2 Charlie, as always, does a great job
3 operating the cameras.

4 I'd also like to congratulate all of
5 the candidates from the election on Tuesday,
6 I'd especially like to congratulate my state
7 rep Marty Flynn on an enormous victory and
8 our new state rep in part of Scranton
9 Representative Frank Farina, who will now be
10 representing Scranton, so we look forward to
11 working with him as well.

12 A couple of comments regarding the
13 West Scranton baseball fields, and this is
14 an issue that's important to me because as a
15 kid I played on these fields, so to me it's
16 important to see that the younger generation
17 has the same opportunity that I had, to go
18 in and to place baseball in their community,
19 so I know we have all received a lot of
20 calls and e-mails and on election day at the
21 polls and in my neighborhood in West Side
22 and every parent that came up said, "What's
23 happening with the baseball fields?"

24 So I'm glad, you know, that you all
25 reached out to us and I'm hopeful that an

1 agreement will work out that works so kids
2 that play baseball can play baseball, kids
3 that play football can play football, and
4 that's what it's all about at the end of the
5 day doing what we can for the kids.

6 On the amusement tax, Mr. Wechsler
7 summed it up perfectly. We were both
8 approached by bands and bar owners who were
9 upset that they would have to pay this tax
10 and it wasn't -- when it was passed it was
11 never intended for the local band and the
12 local bar owner to be affected by this tax.
13 It was implemented to offset the costs of
14 large vendors. For instance, when Montage
15 Mountain has a venue, and Montage is in
16 Scranton, we do receive revenue from that
17 venue, there is a large cost associated with
18 a concert where you have 10,000 people
19 there. That was the point of the amusement
20 tax was to offset that cost. At no point
21 did anyone involved ever want to hurt our
22 local music scene which is great. There are
23 a lot of great local bands in our community
24 and I had the pleasure of talking to many of
25 them in addition in those bands and bar

1 owners and, you know, myself and Councilman
2 Wechsler, our attorney, the city attorney,
3 the mayor went over together to solve this
4 problem so that the local bar owners and the
5 local bands weren't hurt by that tax, and as
6 also mentioned, it will make it easier for
7 it to be collected by the venues that do
8 have to pay the tax to the larger venues.

9 Two other things, the Armed Forces
10 parade I agree was a pretty good crowd this
11 year, a little bit better than the year
12 before. Hopefully that will continue to
13 grow. It was great seeing and talking to
14 many veterans and many residents in the
15 downtown, it was a beautiful day, and
16 hopefully next year's attendance will be a
17 little bit higher.

18 I was going to wait until motions to
19 speak regarding the property in the Hill
20 Section with it being purchased. I'm going
21 to vote "yes" for the zoning change for a
22 number of reasons. One of the main reasons
23 is if we have a building there that if it's
24 not purchased it may sit there vacant for
25 who knows how long. There are certainly no

1 shortage of vacant buildings in the City of
2 Scranton, and the last thing we need is
3 another one.

4 Secondly, the school district
5 certainly needs the revenue. There are some
6 members of the school board talking about
7 raising taxes and \$700,000 can certainly
8 offset some of that on the school board's
9 end.

10 Third, the city will receive tax
11 revenue. Once this transaction is completed
12 what will happen is a property that was not
13 taxed for many, many years as a school will
14 now become taxable, which is a nice because
15 usually it's one or the other way around
16 where taxable properties become tax exempt.

17 And finally, and this is the
18 strongest argument I have for supporting it
19 is, in the City of Scranton in the last ten
20 years one of the industries, and it's not
21 really an industry, but one of the
22 categories of employment that has done
23 pretty well is the medical field. We have a
24 new medical college, which has been great
25 for the city, and we have great hospitals in

1 the city. I think that's something the City
2 of Scranton needs to embrace and needs to
3 build on. We want young doctors moving into
4 the city, buying homes in the city and
5 raising a family in the city, and we want
6 good services at our hospitals for the
7 senior citizens and the younger people in
8 the community that need those services, so
9 for those reasons I do support the change in
10 the zoning to allow the purchase of this
11 property to go through.

12 I do see the other side where some
13 residents can be concerned about sprawl, but
14 in this specific instance we are taking a
15 building that was used as a school so there
16 already was a lot of, you know, hustle and
17 bustle there with buses coming and going,
18 teachers coming and going and turning that
19 into a medical use, which I think will be
20 good for the city, good for business, and
21 hopefully the medical industry in the city
22 continues to draw people here and the
23 medical school, and the hope is that when
24 students come and come to the medical school
25 will come here and work in our hospitals and

1 take care of the residents in the City of
2 Scranton, and because of those reasons I
3 will be voting "yes" for the zoning change.
4 That's all. Thank you.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Gaughan.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes. Thank you. On
7 Monday, May 26, which is a Memorial Day the
8 DPW will be off and refuse and blue recycle
9 will be a day behind.

10 On Thursday, May 29, from 9 a.m. to
11 1 p.m. the City of Scranton will have a tire
12 recycling event. The cost is \$2 per
13 passenger tire and \$3 for SUV or pickup
14 tires. The tires must be residential only
15 and all tires must be without rims. Anyone
16 wishing to recycle tires are asked to bring
17 them to the Department of Public Works which
18 is located at 101 West Popular Street.

19 I am happy to report that we are
20 making some progress with the parking issue
21 that I have brought up the past two weeks in
22 the 900 block of Prescott area. The Police
23 Department conducted a parking study this
24 past week. Based on the study and the
25 parking complaints from residents, council

1 will be proceeding to a public forum as per
2 city ordinance. I would like to thank
3 Police Chief Carl Graziano and Attorney Amil
4 Minora for their assistance with this
5 matter.

6 I received a complaint from a
7 resident about some dangerous potholes in
8 the 800 block of Crown Avenue in South
9 Scranton. I will forward that request to
10 our DPW director.

11 I also would like to mention that
12 three eighth grade students from West
13 Scranton Intermediate School one third prize
14 in a contest sponsored by CSPAN. The
15 contest was called Student Cam where
16 students had to create a documentary. The
17 documentary these students created was
18 called, "Commit support to Veterans." It
19 was very impressive. The students will be
20 honored Friday, May 30, at West Intermediate
21 School where CSPAN representatives will be
22 honoring them with a ceremony. I would like
23 to congratulate these students for being
24 recognized by CSPAN and representing the
25 City of Scranton very well.

1 Just to echo the comments from
2 Mr. Rogan and Mr. Wechsler, the Armed Forces
3 Day parade was a great success this past
4 Saturday. It was an honor to watch the men
5 and women march who have served our country
6 throughout the years. There was a nice
7 crowd in attendance and I thank everyone for
8 coming out. I urge everyone to continue to
9 support these veterans and thank them for
10 all that they have done.

11 And that is it all I have. Thank
12 you.

13 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. Once again
14 to reiterate what the young lady said,
15 please come out tomorrow evening for
16 Swingin' on Vine. Great opportunity to
17 support the Albright Library. Our library
18 system is I would say second to none and the
19 Albright Library itself is beautiful
20 building that needs it be preserved and
21 anything we can do to help support the
22 Albright Library is certainly a good thing.
23 So, please, if you have the opportunity
24 please come to the Albright Library tomorrow
25 evening and support it.

1 Just a couple of responses to things
2 that were mentioned, as far as the audit is
3 concerned there has been, and I think it was
4 mentioned last week, there has been a
5 transfer of an employee from the
6 Controller's Office to the Business
7 Administrator's Office that should speed up
8 the process. They are behind simply because
9 of a staffing issue, but hopefully with
10 additional help the audit, audit process
11 will accelerate through the couple of months
12 and hopefully will be completed sooner than
13 it has in the past couple of years.

14 And I would like as far as the
15 citizens' participation and opportunity to
16 speak at our meetings, no one has been
17 denied their right to speak to council. I
18 believe that we are as transparent and as
19 open as any council has been in the past and
20 I believe that our weekly caucus is an
21 opportunity for the public to -- a greater
22 opportunity for the public to see what is
23 taking place with council. The prior four
24 years we didn't have a weekly caucus, so it
25 was very often people came to the meeting

1 without any idea of what might be taking
2 place. I think that we have opened it up
3 quite a bit to allow people to see what's
4 going on with city council.

5 And the last thing, as far as
6 citizens' participation, our application of
7 I'll say the guidelines for speaking are
8 extremely liberal. If one were to look at
9 Rules of Council and the Administrative
10 Code, Home Rule Charter, there are specific
11 guidelines to be followed for citizens'
12 participation which basically says you can
13 speak to agenda items and matters of concern
14 to the city. We have I would say applied
15 that very liberally in allowing people to
16 speak to council so I don't think that we
17 are denying anyone their opportunity to
18 speak, and actually we encourage anyone to
19 come to council to speak to us to voice
20 their concerns. They would be more than
21 welcome. And that all. Thank you.

22 MS. REED: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION -
23 AN ORDINANCE - CREATING AND ESTABLISHING
24 SPECIAL CITY ACCOUNT NO. 02.2229609 ENTITLED
25 "COMMUNITY SURVEILLANCE NETWORK SYSTEM" FOR

1 THE RECEIPT AND DISBURSEMENT OF GRANT FUNDS
2 RECEIVED FOR THE ACQUISITION AND
3 INSTALLATION OF THE COMMUNITY SURVEILLANCE
4 NETWORK SYSTEM AT SCRANTON POLICE
5 HEADQUARTERS.

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

9 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

10 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

11 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? To
12 respond to one of the citizen's concerns, I
13 will have or ask Mr. Loscombe if he would
14 look into, since that is his committee, if
15 he would like into the plan for usage for
16 that equipment.

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

19 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

20 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

21 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

24 MS. REED: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION -
25 AN ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND

1 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO APPLY
2 FOR AND EXECUTE A GRANT APPLICATION AND IF
3 SUCCESSFUL A GRANT AGREEMENT AND ACCEPT THE
4 FUNDS RELATED THERETO THROUGH THE BJA FY 14
5 EDWARD BYRNE JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT
6 ("JAG") PROGRAM-LOCAL SOLICITATION IN THE
7 AMOUNT OF \$23,898.00.

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

11 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

12 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

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

16 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

17 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

18 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

21 MS. REED: 5-D. FOR INTRODUCTION -
22 AN ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
23 OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF
24 SCRANTON TO ENTER INTO A LEASE AGREEMENT
25 WITH THE SCRANTON SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR USE OF

1 CITY OWNED PROPERTY IN CONNECTION WITH
2 APPROVED WEST SIDE HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER
3 TEAMS FOR A THREE-(3) YEAR PERIOD COMMENCING
4 APRIL 15, 2014 AND ENDING APRIL 14, 2017.

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

8 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

9 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

10 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? I
11 would like to make note that this involves
12 soccer teams, that they have agreed to the
13 leases with the city and, therefore, it is
14 included on our agenda and we will vote on
15 it.

16 All those in favor of introduction
17 signify by saying aye.

18 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

19 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

23 MS. REED: 5-E. FOR INTRODUCTION -
24 AN ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
25 OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF

1 SCRANTON TO ENTER INTO A LEASE AGREEMENT
2 WITH THE SCRANTON YOUTH SOCCER FOR THE USE
3 OF CITY OWNED PROPERTY IN CONNECTION WITH
4 APPROVED SCRANTON YOUTH SOCCER FOR A THREE
5 (3) YEAR PERIOD COMMENCING APRIL 15, 2014
6 AND ENDING APRIL 14, 2017.

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

10 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

11 MR. WECHSLER: 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. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

20 MS. REED: 5-F. FOR INTRODUCTION -
21 AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL
22 NO. 75, 2012 AN ORDINANCE (AS AMENDED)
23 ENTITLED
24 "AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE REVENUE FOR THE
25 CITY OF SCRANTON BY IMPOSING A TAX UPON THE

1 PRIVILEGE OF ATTENDING OR ENGAGING IN
2 NON-EXEMPT AMUSEMENTS, INCLUDING EVERY FORM
3 OF ENTERTAINMENT, DIVERSION, SPORT,
4 RECREATION AND PASTIME, REQUIRING ALL
5 PERSONS, PARTNERSHIPS, ASSOCIATIONS AND
6 CORPORATIONS CONDUCTING PLACES OF
7 AMUSEMENTS; IMPOSING DUTIES AND CONFERRING
8 POWERS UPON THE TREASURER OF THE CITY OF
9 SCRANTON; PRESCRIBING THE METHOD AND MANNER
10 OF COLLECTING THE TAX IMPOSED BY THIS
11 ORDINANCE; AND IMPOSING PENALTIES FOR THE
12 VIOLATION THEREOF" BY AMENDING SECTION 4.
13 DEFINITIONS - PLACE OF AMUSEMENT.

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

17 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

18 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

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

22 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

23 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

25 MS. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The

1 ayes have it and so moved.

2 MS. REED: 5-G. FOR INTRODUCTION – A
3 RESOLUTION – RATIFYING AND APPROVING THE
4 EXECUTION AND SUBMISSION OF THE GRANT
5 APPLICATION BY THE CITY OF SCRANTON POLICE
6 DEPARTMENT FROM THE 2013/2014 JAG SINGLE
7 SOLICITATION LOCAL INITIATIVE PROGRAM FOR
8 THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION ON CRIME AND
9 DELINQUENCY JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT IN THE
10 AMOUNT OF \$146,390.00 FOR THE CITY OF
11 SCRANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR FINANCIAL
12 SUPPORT FOR THE ACQUISITION AND INSTALLATION
13 OF THE “COMMUNITY SURVEILLANCE NETWORK” – A
14 THIRTY-TWO (32) MONITOR VIDEO WALL LOCATED
15 AT SCRANTON POLICE HEADQUARTERS – TO CREATE
16 A SYSTEM IN WHICH ALL SURVEILLANCE OF
17 COOPERATING AGENCIES WILL BE SHARED IN A
18 LIVE FEED TO THE SCRANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT
19 AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
20 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO ACCEPT THE
21 GRANT, IF SUCCESSFUL, AND DISBURSE THE GRANT
22 FUNDS FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON POLICE
23 DEPARTMENT ACQUISITION AND INSTALLATION OF
24 THE COMMUNITY SURVEILLANCE NETWORK SYSTEM.

25 MR. MCGOFF: At this time I'll

1 entertain a motion that Item 5-G be
2 introduced into its proper committee.

3 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

4 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

5 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? All
6 those in favor of introduction signify by
7 saying aye.

8 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

9 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

10 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

13 MS. REED: SIXTH ORDER. 6-A.
14 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.
15 22, 2014 - AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF
16 THE COUNCIL NO. 26, 2013, AN ORDINANCE,
17 ENTITLED AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.
18 22, 2006, ENTITLED "AUTHORIZING AND
19 APPROVING THE DESIGNATION OF PARKING SPACES
20 FOR CERTAIN CITY OF SCRANTON PERSONNEL IN
21 AND ALONG DIX COURT, THE PARKING AREA IN THE
22 REAR OF CITY OF SCRANTON MUNICIPAL BUILDING
23 AND A PARKING LOT ALONG MULBERRY STREET
24 ADJACENT TO SCRANTON FIRE HEADQUARTERS, AND
25 AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF SCRANTON POLICE

1 DEPARTMENT TO ENFORCE THE PARKING
2 DESIGNATIONS AS REFLECTED IN THE ATTACHED
3 SCHEMATIC" BY ADDING AN ADDITIONAL PARKING
4 SPACE BEHIND SCRANTON FIRE HEADQUARTERS AND
5 RE-DESIGNATING CERTAIN PARKING SPACES
6 TO REFLECT THE CHANGE IN WHICH SOME CITY OF
7 SCRANTON PERSONNEL CURRENTLY PARK AS
8 REFLECTED IN THE ATTACHED SCHEMATIC.

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

11 MR. ROGAN: 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. ROGAN: 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 RULES -FOR
23 ADOPTION - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 18, 2014
24 - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
25 APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF

1 SCRANTON TO ENTER INTO LEASE AGREEMENTS
2 WITH VARIOUS LITTLE LEAGUE, TEENER LEAGUE,
3 MISS-E LEAGUE, AND JUNIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE
4 ASSOCIATIONS FOR USE OF CITY OWNED PROPERTY
5 IN CONNECTION WITH APPROVED LITTLE LEAGUE,
6 TEENER LEAGUE, MISS-E LEAGUE, FARM LEAGUE,
7 T-BALL LEAGUE AND JUNIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE
8 ACTIVITIES FOR A THREE-YEAR PERIOD
9 COMMENCING APRIL 15, 2014 AND ENDING APRIL
10 14, 2017.

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

14 MR. ROGAN: Second.

15 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? I
16 would like to point out that these leases
17 are with organizations that have agreed to
18 the provisions of the leases, and again,
19 therefore, we have included them on the
20 agenda for passage.

21 Roll call, please?

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

23 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

25 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

2 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

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

6 MS. REED: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION
7 BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY - FOR
8 ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 57, 2014 -
9 ACCEPTING A DONATION OF A USED COMMERCIAL
10 GRADE STOVE, COMMERCIAL GRADE STAINLESS
11 STEEL SINK AND WORK ISLAND FROM TITAN TREE
12 SERVICE PRESENTED TO THE CITY OF SCRANTON
13 FIRE DEPARTMENT FOR INSTALLATION AT FIRE
14 HEADQUARTERS.

15 MR. MCGOFF: What is the
16 recommendation of the temporary Chair for
17 the Committee on Public Safety?

18 MR. GAUGHAN: As temporary
19 Chairperson for the Committee on Public
20 Safety, I recommend final passage of Item
21 7-B.

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. Gaughan.

5 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

7 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I hereby declare
8 Item 7-B legally and lawfully adopted and
9 thank the Titan Tree Service for their
10 donation.

11 MR. ROGAN: I would like to make a
12 motion to take File of Council No. 11, 2014,
13 as amended, from the table.

14 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

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

17 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

18 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

19 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

22 MS. REED: 7-C, PREVIOUSLY TABLED,
23 FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON
24 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - FOR ADOPTION - FILE
25 OF COUNCIL NO. 11, 2014 - (AS AMENDED) -

1 AMENDING FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 74, 1993, AS
2 AMENDED, ENTITLED "CITY OF SCRANTON ZONING
3 ORDINANCE OF 1993", BY CHANGING THE ZONING
4 MAP DESIGNATION OF THE JOHN J. AUDUBON
5 SCHOOL FROM R-1A (MEDIUM LOW DENSITY
6 RESIDENTIAL) TO INS-G (GENERAL
7 INSTITUTIONAL) IN THE CENTRAL PLANNING AREA
8 IN THE EASTERN PORTION OF THE CITY OF
9 SCRANTON.

10 MR. MCGOFF: What is the
11 recommendation of the Chair for the
12 Committee on Community Development?

13 MR. ROGAN: As Chairperson for the
14 Committee on Community Development, I
15 recommend final passage of Item 7-C, as
16 amended.

17 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

18 MR. MCGOFF: On the question?

19 MR. WECHSLER: Yes, Mr. McGoff, just
20 a comment. This evening we heard testimony
21 from the neighbors around this site and I
22 share their concerns as well. We asked many
23 of the same questions when we had a caucus
24 earlier this year with the representatives
25 from Geisinger. We asked specific questions

1 about concerns about what additional areas
2 may be considered for this type of rezoning
3 and at that time we were told that there is
4 no further consideration of any of the other
5 properties around the Audubon site.

6 In addition, part of the county's
7 approval of this plan was they made a valid
8 point that perhaps when the original zoning
9 ordinance was passed the Audubon School site
10 probably should have been listed as a
11 institutional zone at that time, so right
12 now, although it's one of the most difficult
13 decisions I have had to make since I'm here
14 on council, since people said I'm the
15 neighborhood person and I'm a fiscal person,
16 and I do believe that in this case this site
17 is best served by putting it back on the tax
18 rolls, having it being evaluated for future
19 use and hopefully eventually turned it into
20 a green space. That's what I would like to
21 see after the project has been completed at
22 the hospital and perhaps, like I said, I
23 would like to see this go back to a green
24 space.

25 In addition, as anything would come

1 up further with this there is going to be
2 all sorts of regulations that would have to
3 go through in terms of the planning, zoning,
4 and I would anticipate just from the turnout
5 that we saw tonight in the community that
6 those people will have the serious input on
7 any future development at that facility.

8 So, like I said, this is one of the
9 hardest decisions I had to make so far.
10 Thank you, Mr. McGoff.

11 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Gaughan?

12 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, I just would
13 agree and echo Mr. Wechsler's comments. I
14 tried to put myself into the neighbor's
15 shoes, so to speak, and I was debating, you
16 know, the negatives and the positives of
17 this whole deal, and voting "no" means that
18 the school will sitting there and nothing
19 will be done with the school. Voting "yes"
20 means something will be done. It will be
21 used as a staging area, and then it will be
22 used as green space and then hopefully a
23 building will be erected there.

24 I look at the creation of jobs,
25 economic development, as Mr. Rogan stated

1 earlier, \$155 million invested by Geisinger
2 into the City of Scranton. \$97 million
3 expansion project currently underway, so
4 that is what I am basing my decision on.

5 Also, today I had our city clerk,
6 Mrs. Reed, pull from the Licensing and
7 Inspection Department the amount of money
8 that Geisinger has given to the city in
9 permit fees, almost a million dollars. I
10 did go up there with a few neighbors and I
11 looked at that site and I did see trucks,
12 but I did see trucks from people who live in
13 the City of Scranton, who there is companies
14 that are in the City of Scranton that are
15 working on that project so we are employing
16 some of the tradesmen up there, also.

17 So again, as Mr. Wechsler said, it's
18 a difficult decision. I sympathize and
19 understand the resident's concerns up in the
20 Hill Section in that neighborhood but I
21 can't base my vote on what might happen in
22 ten years or 20 years, I can only base my
23 vote on what I have in front of me and I
24 will be voting "yes" because of that, so
25 thank you.

1 MR. MCGOFF: And I will also agree
2 with what my colleagues have said. Many of
3 the concerns that were expressed this
4 evening during the public hearing I felt
5 were based on supposition that things that
6 could happen. I believe that the immediate
7 benefit to this far outweighs the supposed
8 drawbacks, and one of the things that was
9 brought up that, you know, I would assume
10 that placing an unusable building with even,
11 if there is construction in the future,
12 would only enhance the property value of the
13 people in that area. I can't see that it
14 would be a detriment to them at all, and
15 again, because of the fact that the benefits
16 right now outweigh the drawbacks I, too, am
17 planning to vote "yes."

18 MR. ROGAN: I would just reiterate
19 what I mentioned under motions that I do
20 think that this is a good use for that land
21 and we have to -- you know, have to continue
22 to support businesses in the city any way
23 that we can. And for our representatives in
24 Geisinger here today you have a partner in
25 the city, we want to work with you and work

1 with us and this is how it should be done
2 out in the open. You came to our caucus to
3 inform us initially, and throughout the
4 entire process this is how it should work
5 and I hope the see the same thing happen
6 with other businesses and even nonprofits in
7 the city. We need that partnership because
8 we need to grow as a city and I think that
9 this is a good piece of legislation to help
10 that growth.

11 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else? Roll
12 call, please?

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

14 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

16 MR. ROGAN: 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-C, as amended, legally and lawfully
22 adopted.

23 MR. ROGAN: I would like to make
24 amotion to take File of Council No. 17 of
25 2014 from the table.

1 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

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

4 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

5 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

9 MS. REED: 7-D, PREVIOUSLY TABLED,
10 FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON
11 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - FOR ADOPTION - FILE
12 OF COUNCIL NO. 17, 2014, AMENDING THE FILE
13 OF COUNCIL NO. 47, 2013, ENTITLED AN
14 ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
15 APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF
16 SCRANTON TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY ACTIONS TO
17 IMPLEMENT THE CONSOLIDATED SUBMISSION FOR
18 THE COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
19 PROGRAMS TO BE FUNDED UNDER THE COMMUNITY
20 DEVELOPMENT BLOCK PROGRAM (CDBG), HOME
21 INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP (HOME) PROGRAM, AND
22 EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT (ESG) PROGRAM, FOR
23 THE PERIOD BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2014, BY
24 AMENDING THE 2014 ACTION PLAN TO ACCEPT THE
25 \$160,000 REQUESTED UNDER THE EMERGENCY

1 SOLUTIONS GRANT PROGRAM AND THE ORIGINAL
2 PLAN, AND AN ADDITIONAL \$53,519 RECEIVED
3 UNDER THE PROGRAM TO ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF
4 HOMELESS PEOPLE IN EMERGENCY OR TRANSITIONAL
5 SHELTERS FOR A TOTAL GRANT OF \$213,519.

6 MR. MCGOFF: What is the
7 recommendation of the Chair for the
8 Committee on Community Development?

9 MR. ROGAN: As Chairperson for the
10 Committee on Community Development, I
11 recommend final passage of Item 7-D.

12 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

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

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

16 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

17 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

18 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

19 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

21 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

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

24 Anything further? If not, motion to
25 adjourn.

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MR. ROGAN: Motion to adjourn.

MR. MCGOFF: Meeting adjourned.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER