

SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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

HELD:

Thursday, May 29, 2014

LOCATION:

Council Chambers

Scranton City Hall

340 North Washington Avenue

Scranton, Pennsylvania

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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

CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

ROBERT MCGOFF, PRESIDENT

PATRICK ROGAN, VICE-PRESIDENT

JOHN LOSCOMBE

JOSEPH WECHSLER

WILLIAM GAUGHAN

LORI REED, CITY CLERK

JAMIE MARCIANO, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

AMIL MINORA, SOLICITOR

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

3 MR. MCGOFF: Roll call, please.

4 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler.

5 MR. WECHSLER: Here.

6 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

7 MR. ROGAN: Here.

8 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Loscombe.

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: Here.

10 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Here.

12 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

13 MR. MCGOFF: Here. Dispense with
14 the reading of the minutes.

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

16 MINUTES OF THE SCRANTON LACKAWANNA HEALTH
17 AND WELFARE AUTHORITY'S REGULAR BOARD
18 MEETING OF APRIL 24, 2014.

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

21 MS. REED: 3-B. MINUTES OF THE
22 COMPOSITE PENSION BOARD MEETING HELD
23 APRIL 23, 2014.

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

1 MS. REED: 3-C. AUDIT STATUS FROM
2 ROBERT ROSSI & CO RECEIVED MAY 22, 2014.

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

5 MS. REED: 3-D. TAX ASSESSOR'S
6 REPORT FOR THE HEARING DATE HELD MAY 7,
7 2014.

8 MR. MCGOFF: Are there any comments?
9 If not, Received and filed.

10 Are there any Clerk's notes?

11 MS. REED: Nothing, Mr. McGoff.

12 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. Do any
13 council members have announcements?

14 MR. WECHSLER: Yes, Mr. McGoff. I'd
15 like to announce that the Serving Seniors
16 will hold their annual picnic at Waldorf
17 Park on Sunday, June 1, from 3 to 7.
18 Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$12 for
19 children and will be available at the door.

20 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else?

21 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. I just
22 wanted announce that the Neighbor Works will
23 be holding a project, it's being planned for
24 West Scranton in partnership with Group
25 Cares, Incorporated and the West Scranton

1 Hyde Park Neighborhood Watch for the week of
2 July 28 to August 1. They are going to be
3 doing porch repairs, construction, step
4 repairs, exterior painting, interior
5 painting, weatherization, wheel care ramp
6 repair and construction. Both labor and
7 materials are free to qualifying households.
8 You can get the application and apply for
9 this program by going on line to
10 www.nwnepa.org or you can 570-558-2490.

11 Also, the Paint the Town project
12 will be happening in the Hill Section.
13 Paint the Town is a project being planned
14 again by Neighbor Works Northeast
15 Pennsylvania and Habitat for Humanity of
16 Lackawanna County for the week of August 16
17 to August 22. This project will bring
18 together volunteers from our areas to do
19 serve work for those who could use a helping
20 hand with all work done at no cost to the
21 homeowner. Applicants will be selected
22 based on need and availability of
23 assistance. Income guidelines are on the
24 back of the application. If you have any
25 additional questions, please call Krista

1 570-558-2490. You can also find the
2 application on the same website as the
3 previous one I mentioned www.nwnepa.org.

4 And that is all I have. Thank you.

5 MR. MCGOFF: On tonight's agenda
6 there are two pieces of legislation in Fifth
7 Order which were the subject of the
8 tonight's public hearing, those are dealing
9 with the changes to the CDBG funding, both
10 of those will be in Fifth Order for
11 introduction this evening.

12 In Sixth and Seventh Order there is
13 legislation dealing with the surveillance
14 network system that Scranton police
15 Headquarters. There were some questions
16 that were asked last week concerning this,
17 those questions I believe will be addressed
18 by Mr. Loscombe and Mr. Gaughan during
19 motions or when the legislation is ready.

20 And that is all.

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

23 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Quinn?

24 MR. QUINN: Good evening, Council,
25 Ozzie Quinn.

1 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

2 MR. QUINN: Hill Neighborhood
3 Association president. First of all, I want
4 to thank Councilman Wechsler and Councilman
5 Gaughan for attending our meeting last night
6 at the Hill Neighborhood Association to
7 listen to the people's concerns. It's great
8 to have elected officials to be with us who
9 are able to talk firsthand face-to-face and
10 it's great. Thank you very much, gentlemen.

11 And secondly, on our agenda we also
12 have, as Mr. Gaughan previously said in
13 motions, Neighbor Works will be in the Hill
14 Section and you can also get an application
15 at the Hill Neighborhood Association Office
16 419, Prescott Avenue.

17 We also discussed the cell tours and
18 we had an M.D. at the meeting last night and
19 she expressed that there is information
20 coming out, new information, that it is
21 negative in regards to cell towers, and if
22 you'd like I'd put you in touch with her,
23 okay?

24 And on those two CDBG programs, if
25 you look at that HUD audit you are not going

1 to approve that. You are not going to
2 approve. It was just chaos being done by
3 that OECD Department since 2008, '9 and '10.
4 That's what that audit is from four years
5 and it's just complete chaos and if you
6 approve that without looking at that audit
7 then I don't know, it's like spitting in the
8 Inspector General's face, you know?

9 I also want to say that in regards
10 to that I appreciate you having the
11 surveillance for the police on there. You
12 know that the Hill Neighborhood Association
13 has three bikes in its basement which we
14 bought and we used to have the neighborhood
15 patrols, which was a great thing, there was
16 no doubt about it, it was like a beat cop
17 you never knew when that guy was going to
18 show up, that police officer, you know,
19 zipping down on that bike. And the more you
20 realize it the more we got to find ways to
21 get them back into the neighborhoods. There
22 hasn't been any approaches I'd say in the
23 last 12 years and I hope that you gentlemen
24 will sit down with the administration and
25 try to find ways.

1 You know, when you say that a
2 policeman that's paid from OECD, that's
3 CDBG, can only go to Olive Street and then
4 can't -- can turn around because he is
5 paying with OECD funds is ridiculous and
6 there has got to be some way that if you
7 discuss this with HUD there is a
8 possibility, you know what I mean, that
9 there is it a way that you can do this? But
10 I don't see it being done right now by just
11 saying black is black and white is white.
12 It's not going to done. Thank you very
13 much.

14 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr. Quinn.
15 Bill Jackowitz.

16 MR. JACKOWITZ: Good evening,
17 Scranton City Council, Jamie, Cathene, did I
18 get it right? Lori and Amil, haven't seen
19 you guys in awhile. I'm just going start
20 off by saying the question that I asked
21 about 13 years ago, where is the money and
22 where di all the money go?

23 I think that whenever we get the
24 answer to that question maybe we can solve
25 some of the problems that the city now sees.

1 The problem, you know, I was at the
2 caucus, and I was here for half the caucus,
3 but, you know, the problem is there was
4 never any documentation of anything, nothing
5 was ever documented, I mean, at OECD or the
6 Single Tax Office. If you remember doing
7 this period of time, I believe Mr. McGowan I
8 think was his name was the tax collector and
9 he lost \$11 million and we couldn't even get
10 a forensic audit done by the FBI or by
11 anyone because it was that messed up, and
12 the FBI came out and said, "We cannot
13 prosecute incompetence."

14 So these problems go back ten years
15 ago, 15 years ago, and they were allowed to
16 fester for all of those years. I can
17 remember all those three to two votes. We
18 had three to two votes for four years and
19 every one of those votes was basically, in
20 my opinion, a wrong vote because it was
21 against the taxpayers. Now, all of those
22 votes are coming against us now.

23 The police and fire arbitration
24 award, the Supreme Court award, what's being
25 done on that? Probably nothing yet and

1 every day the interest builds on that so we
2 have serious problems here.

3 Do I have the answers or solutions?
4 No. But I'm not an elected official and I
5 didn't run for office either so I just know
6 that we need to do something because we
7 continue to go in reverse. One of these
8 days somebody is going to find the "D" on
9 the shifter level and we are actually going
10 to go forward and get it out of "R" to
11 reverse mode because everything just
12 seems -- nothing seems to get better.

13 The garages. The garages have \$10
14 million worth of damage or repairs that
15 needed to be done five years ago. They
16 probably need \$15 million worth of repairs
17 now. Why? Because nothing has ever been
18 done. Now, they are recommending that we
19 sell the garages. I don't know if that's a
20 good idea, I don't know if that's a bad
21 idea, but one thing I do know the garages
22 will never be repaired. They will not be
23 repaired because the city does not have the
24 money, you know?

25 Borrowing more money, borrowing more

1 money is not the solution. That's not even
2 a Band-Aid anymore. We tried that for years
3 and years and years and where did it get us?
4 Raising taxes again, that's not a solution
5 because people can't afford to pay the taxes
6 now, most of the people.

7 Furthermore, the majority of the
8 people that live in the City of Scranton are
9 not taxpayers because they are not property
10 owners, and then you got that 12 percent
11 that never pay anyway. So you got to keep
12 that all in consideration.

13 The audit, where is the audit? The
14 audit is supposed to done 31 May. Where is
15 it? Is it done? Is it completed? Will it
16 be completed by 31 May? I bet the answer is
17 no, so that's another problem that's been
18 festering for year after year after year
19 after year and then we want to know why
20 nobody has any answers or nobody has any
21 solutions?

22 Has progress been made? Yes, some
23 progress has been made. The new
24 administration is a much better
25 administration than the past administration.

1 The people in charge of these department
2 heads are much better people. They are
3 willing to sit down and talk with you and
4 help you, but do they have the solutions to
5 the problems? No. Why? Because we need
6 money. That's the bottom line. I've said
7 this many times from this podium. There is
8 two five letter words that go hand-in-hand,
9 money and power. If you money, you have
10 power. If you have power, you have the
11 money. And there is no truer statement than
12 that and that's exactly what happens not
13 only in Scranton city government, it's
14 happening in state government and in the
15 federal government.

16 I mean, look at what's going on in
17 the federal government. It's terrible.
18 It's horrible. And who is getting hammered
19 all the time? The middleman. The little
20 guy. The working guy. The guy who goes
21 packs a lunch every day and take his ham and
22 cheese sandwich to work, he is getting
23 killed. You know, does anybody care? They
24 say they care, but are they doing anything
25 about it, no? Just watch Dave Kearney's

1 news conference every day and tell me what's
2 going in Washington and whatever.
3 Absolutely nothing. There is no answers,
4 there is no solutions, and no one is willing
5 to accept the blame. Until people stand up
6 and start accepting the blame for the
7 decisions that they made and the votes that
8 they made and caused the problems that the
9 citizens now face nothing is ever going to
10 change because someone is responsible for
11 it.

12 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

13 MR. MCGOFF: Joan Hodowanitz.

14 MR. HODOWANITZ: Joan Hodowanitz,
15 city resident. I know in the caucus you
16 discussed Mr. Amaroso whether or not he
17 would be making a return engagement to your
18 chambers and that he does not work for the
19 council, but I think we've heard that he
20 does recall care, especially with the
21 publicity he got recently about his
22 recommendation, so to speak, become selling
23 five garages and pensions and income tax.
24 Even the city opts never to follow his
25 recommendations I still would like to hear

1 what he has to say since he came in here and
2 tried to give us a picture of the city, and
3 we also need to know from the mayor because
4 he's been in office almost five months now
5 what he is going to do about the budget. He
6 opted not to open the budget when he became
7 mayor and modify it, so I think we are
8 getting close to the point where he should
9 be ready to tell the city what he plans to
10 do. So if you hear anything about
11 Mr. Amaroso coming forward make sure it's on
12 page one this time.

13 I looked at the back up paperwork
14 earlier today and I saw Mr. Rossi's firm
15 give us another status of the audit report
16 as of May 22. Today is May 29. The reports
17 should have been out by Saturday, but there
18 is still 26 outstanding items, I think it's
19 the same 26 outstanding items that was on
20 his prior status report, so I don't think
21 much progress has been made there. I looked
22 on the website and I noticed that the last
23 audit didn't come out until mid-November of
24 last year. If that holds true for this
25 year, it's not going to help much preparing

1 next year's budget.

2 Mr. Loscombe, I think you are going
3 to be talking about that surveillance
4 system?

5 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

6 MS. HODOWANITZ: You are going to be
7 addressing whether in terms of protecting
8 citizen privacy and what's going to happen
9 with that data?

10 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

11 MS. HODOWANITZ: How you are going
12 to store it, who is going to have access to
13 that, I would like to hear that.

14 And I'm not going to go back go OECD
15 and the line of credit, I have had my say on
16 that, I just hope that we don't any more
17 rude surprises this week, I've had my quota.
18 Thank you.

19 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

20 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Ms.
21 Hodowanitz. Anyone else who wishes to
22 address council?

23 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening, Council.
24 Dave Dobrzn, resident, taxes paid, garbage
25 fee paid. Last week we missed a great

1 opportunity once again for tax exempt
2 compensation and I feel that if they don't
3 want to compensate you people through the
4 PILOTS that they should at least be willing
5 to go to our state representatives and the
6 governor and see if we can get some kind of
7 compensation from the state inasmuch as 33
8 percent of our properties are tax exempt and
9 we receive nothing for them and they benefit
10 the entire region, if not the country.

11 Now, delinquent fees once again. I
12 paid my trash bill last week and it look a
13 sizeable chunk of my income tax return,
14 there isn't much left after that, and it
15 would be nice to start collecting and this
16 year is the year that personally as a voter
17 I expect to see a line drawn in the sand.
18 No more people with six homes in the city
19 scoffing at the trash fees. If I have to
20 pay extra, they should at least pay their
21 fair share.

22 And on the OECD now that we know how
23 done it, what about who done it and why --
24 and how this happened that a million dollars
25 or whatever was some how deposited in the

1 wrong account and somebody said, yeah, we
2 got it. Let's go. It's like being overpaid
3 at an ATM machine or something, you are
4 supposed to turn that money back. If I put
5 in \$50 and I get \$500 out I'm liable for it.

6 And once again, I hear about sale of
7 the sewage treatment plant. I fail, I
8 absolutely fail to comprehend how adding a
9 large margin of the profit to some hedge
10 fund manager that would buy up the sewer
11 treatment plant, how that will benefit us as
12 far as reducing our taxes. It absolutely
13 won't because we will be paying three times
14 over down the line. And, by the way, they
15 will be sending lobbyists to our senators
16 and congressmen and lobbyists to our EPA and
17 getting extensions and not doing the proper
18 updates, that's what the problem was the
19 last time we got fined \$2 million, it was
20 reduced to one.

21 And on these loans that were given
22 out years ago, I'd like to hear about how
23 much of those we're liable for, and I
24 understand about one-third of them never
25 really paid.

1 And again, this week our hospitals
2 are losing money, somebody has to do
3 something. If you don't like Obama care
4 then come up with a better idea, but I don't
5 think they have a better idea. They got 151
6 amendments on Obama care, but that is when
7 hospitals lose money when some poor jerk
8 gets run over down the street and you are
9 going to the hospital with a heart attack
10 and he is getting sewn up first, well, you
11 know, you might sit there and die even
12 though you have good insurance.

13 Okay, once again call your
14 congressman and the president and tell them
15 no more trade packs. Does anybody -- can
16 anybody figure out that when somebody goes
17 from \$15 an hour to \$8 or \$9 an hour that
18 that's less city taxes and less school taxes
19 and so forth they are paying that are being
20 paid in. I mean, it's just unfathomable how
21 gullible it can be. You know, you can have
22 all the import goods on the shelf you want
23 but if people aren't buying they are not
24 worth anything.

25 And once again, I'll talk about a

1 small national issue, Congressman Burr of
2 North or South Carolina walked out on
3 advocacy groups and returned only to try and
4 treat them like beggars and, of course, we
5 have a national scandal with our veterans'
6 care and, you know, he walked out as soon
7 they started to talk and he walked back in
8 right as they were finishing and treated
9 them, like I said, like beggars and snake
10 oil. So, Congressman Burron, you get the
11 golden parrot so bawk, bawk and don't forget
12 to bawk, bawk, bawk. Have a good night.

13 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

14 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening,
15 Council. Marie Schumacher.

16 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

17 MS. SCHUMACHER: I'd like to start
18 with the proposed or possibly to be proposed
19 cell phone tower at Nay Aug Park,
20 specifically because I pulled out my copy of
21 the deed and it does state that the only
22 proper use on behalf of the said party of
23 the second part, which is the City of
24 Scranton, its successors and assigns forever
25 as and for a free public open park forever

1 and for no other use, intent or purpose
2 whatsoever. So I would think a cell tower
3 would fall into that category and not be
4 proper on that piece of the land.

5 Next, 5-B and C I do have a say
6 something, I think the wrong entity is
7 embarrassed by this. I don't think it
8 should have been Mr. Boscov who was
9 embarrassed, it should be the City of
10 Scranton. We knew how much came in, we know
11 how much goes out, obviously there was a big
12 chunk of unaccounted for money and we have
13 no idea where it went and it's very sad.
14 It's a black eye again going back to the
15 Single Tax Office, just as bad. I guess it
16 will never end.

17 On election evening there was a
18 meeting held primarily for the
19 municipalities but also for the public on
20 the Keystone Landfill expansion. Sadly,
21 nobody from Scranton attended that, not our
22 engineer, not anybody and if I were an
23 engineer I wonder how it could be treated
24 because the landfill expansion has the same
25 as CECO, the same as we have and how that

1 would might possibly be a conflict of
2 interest, but I would hope you would urge
3 the administration to get them involved.
4 Maybe you are not aware because of your
5 location, and I don't even know maybe this
6 Act 101 opens things up again, I don't know
7 if it's just for the host communities or
8 those affected, but those of who live on the
9 east mountain are definitely effected. We
10 are affected now when that peak is where it
11 is now. I have already been forced into my
12 home from doing yard work because of the
13 horrible stench from that landfill, and the
14 only thing that DEP would guarantee is that,
15 hey, it's a landfill, it's garbage and it's
16 going to stink and it's going to get worse
17 and it's going it go up what, 165 feet
18 higher? It's going be a peak and when the
19 wind is against us it's going to definitely
20 affect our quality of the life and I think
21 also our property values, and I would hope
22 on behalf of those on the east mountain the
23 City of Scranton would get involved.

24 Next, the treasurer sale, I did go
25 over the amounts owed and it seems to me, I

1 don't know, maybe somebody can explain to me
2 how this works. Does a treasurer's sale
3 actually take a property away for say -- a
4 lot that were under \$1,000. I would think
5 that if this actually takes that person's
6 home away from them where they had built up
7 equity over years that there should be some
8 threshold, and you can tell me if that
9 doesn't happen, but I think it does, and I
10 think there should be some threshold where a
11 lien is filed against it so that when --
12 such that when the home is sold that's when
13 the city gets paid for their back taxes.

14 Taking someone's life-long equity
15 for \$635.27 does not seem right nor does it
16 seem proper that this city would have some
17 more ownership in our land values and our
18 property values if they were dependent for
19 their taxes on the market price of that
20 home. They continue to sink. It's very bad
21 and I would like -- does a property get
22 taken away from an individual due to a
23 treasurer's sale?

24 MR. MCGOFF: I do not know.

25 MS. SCHUMACHER: Perhaps you can

1 find out and let us know next week. Thank
2 you.

3 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else?

4 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.

5 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

6 MR. MORGAN: You know, I'd just like
7 to say here tonight that, you know, reading
8 the article in the Scranton Times about sale
9 of city assets once again like the garages,
10 I think we need to ask ourselves how much
11 those garages cost to build and then what we
12 are willing to try and sacrifice them for.
13 I think that sale of those garages -- I'm
14 hoping that Mr. Washo and the bondholders
15 refuse to sell or fight the sale. I hope
16 that if comes to council that council will
17 not consider it.

18 The same with the Sewer Authority.
19 We had the American Anglican deal, did
20 nothing for the residents except, you know,
21 just really cause a lot of havoc with the
22 equipment at the Sewer Authority and
23 everybody made money and I don't think that
24 should be an option either. I think really
25 what needs to happen here in the city is

1 really quite simple, I think we need to turn
2 the pensions -- the city's pension fund over
3 to the Commonwealth. There is just
4 absolutely no way the city can finance it.
5 It's time really for the council and the
6 mayor to come forward and tell the residents
7 exactly where we sit and what our options
8 are and in my opinion they are not very
9 pleasant, but to be honest with you, we just
10 don't have the money in this city to pay
11 those debts.

12 Selling the assets like the Sewer
13 Authority off might be one-time revenue
14 enhancement, but we have done that all along
15 for decades. There is just nothing left. I
16 mean that Sewer Authority really also
17 belongs to Dunmore, and I just can't
18 understand how Mr. Amaroso, the mayor, this
19 council or anybody else in elected office
20 can continue to follow a course of action
21 which continues to deplete the city of all
22 of its assets. I believe we are going to
23 lose the firemen again very soon because I
24 haven't heard anything about a new grant and
25 I just have to say to this council that it's

1 not -- it's not a black mark on the
2 government to find finally admit that we are
3 beyond our means and over our head, and when
4 people come to the podium here and talk
5 about the Commonwealth stepping in and
6 helping us, the Commonwealth is talking
7 about selling billions of dollars of pension
8 bonds because they are in trouble. We are
9 all in trouble. We have lived beyond our
10 means for decades and pretended that we
11 could just borrow continually forever and
12 everything would be okay and that's why we
13 have double digit unemployment, but we have
14 recalculated the way we calculate somebody
15 as being unemployed so we drive our numbers
16 down and more of the baby boomers in my
17 generation are leaving the job market
18 through retirement than young adults and we
19 still give them employment.

20 America is a very sick country with
21 very serious problems, and in my opinion
22 they are politically based, and if we are
23 going to right this ship then I think it's
24 time for the elected officials, and I have a
25 great amount of respect for all five of you,

1 including the mayor, and I don't want
2 anybody to have the opinion that I have an
3 adversarial position against you, I just
4 think that it's important that at this time
5 to tell the residents not only here but
6 across the state government and the federal
7 government to be honest for once with the
8 people in this country and tell them we have
9 kicked this can down the road as far as we
10 can. There is no money, there is not going
11 to be any money. There aren't any jobs in
12 this country. Listen to people talk about,
13 I don't know, giving businesses tax breaks
14 and then you take a look at what it costs
15 banks to borrow money, nothing.

16 So it just proves the point that we
17 are in real big trouble here and I think
18 that selling the parking garages isn't going
19 to take us anywhere because if you pull a
20 number out of your hat you say it cost \$20
21 to build them, and we are going to sell them
22 for \$2 then the residents of this city lost
23 \$18.

24 And when you talk about the Sewer
25 Authority, we took a bath the last time with

1 American Anglican, but if we are going to
2 turn around and sell an asset like this and
3 say that cost \$20 and we are going to sell
4 it for \$2 and then we are going turn around
5 and unleash that company on the residents of
6 this city who are going to double or triple
7 rates to get a return on their investment
8 doesn't make any sense either, and I think
9 it's time to tell the firemen and police or
10 municipal unions that we can't pay that
11 settlement, because if we had the ability to
12 borrow that money it would have been done by
13 now, and if the city's employees want to
14 take city hall I'd tell them, "Let them have
15 it."

16 And if they want to run the Sewer
17 Authority, let them run in, but the truth of
18 the matter is we are out of money, we're out
19 of options. We can move whatever you want
20 to call it, the little ball under the shells
21 around a little bit more but the truth of
22 the matter is when you look at this city
23 there is an awful lot of empty properties
24 here. The tax sales of properties isn't
25 going to get us anywhere, but I appreciate

1 your time.

2 MR. MCGOFF: Would you just state
3 your name for the record.

4 MR. MORGAN: Lee Morgan. Thank you.
5 Have a good day.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

7 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else who wishes
8 to address council?

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

11 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Wechsler?

12 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you,
13 Mr. McGoff. First I would like to offer my
14 condolences to the Darbenzio family. I'm
15 sure it was a tragic loss for them. I'd
16 also like to thank the Scranton Police
17 Department and the District Attorney's for
18 their quick apprehension of the suspect in
19 this case.

20 It's my hope the fact that there was
21 a quick arrest here would send a message to
22 other people who want to come to our town
23 that if they come here and commit a crime
24 that they will be prosecuted to the fullest
25 extent of the law.

1 I also would like to say that this
2 is a great reason why our crime watches and
3 neighborhood associations really are the
4 extra eyes for our police force in our city
5 to help prevent future incidents like this.

6 On Monday I was fortunate enough to
7 attend Memorial Day services at both the
8 Cathedral Cemetery and Nay Aug Park. There
9 is a great turnout and support for these men
10 and women who have given their lives for our
11 country and it was extremely encouraging to
12 see how many Boy Scouts were there, and the
13 fact that there were many grandfathers and
14 grandmothers there with their grandchildren
15 who can get an understanding of how great
16 our country is and I was proud to be a part
17 of those services. Thank you, Mr. McGoff.

18 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Rogan?

19 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. Just a few
20 comments on the agenda items and some other
21 items. I will start off with the items in
22 Fifth Order regarding the OECD funds. It's
23 certainly not a position any us up here
24 wanted it be put in because of a mistake
25 that was made nearly 20 years ago, and it is

1 unacceptable that that lingered for this
2 long until it was finally discovered.

3 Unfortunately, that million dollar
4 needs to be paid back and I think as a
5 council we should do everything we can next
6 year when he working with the administration
7 to fund the programs that we can't fund
8 because of this mistake that was made.

9 Regarding the \$600,000 portion of it
10 of, which is the payment that wasn't made by
11 Boskov and Steamtown Mall Partners, as I
12 mentioned during the public hearing and
13 judging by the comment that Mr. Boskov made
14 in the paper, I hope that he is a man of his
15 word and he does what he said in the paper
16 and makes the city whole. We will see what
17 happens after, you know, the next few months
18 pan out, we will see what happens to the
19 foreclosure process and with the mall and
20 then there is going to come a point in time
21 where the city needs to be repaid or we will
22 have the \$600,000 deficit in our federal
23 funding every year, and that money is used
24 for a lot of programs throughout the city.
25 It helps with Boys and Girls Club, it helps

1 pave roads, demolish hazardous properties,
2 helps support many local groups, Dress for
3 Success, so many groups.

4 So I hope that Mr. Boscov keeps that
5 into consideration moving forward and, like
6 I said before, if he does make whole on this
7 the city would be very appreciative of it,
8 but if he doesn't, and I know from talking
9 to many residents out there, people won't
10 patronize his store if the city is on the
11 hook for this kind of money, so we hope for
12 the best on that situation.

13 Next, and I meant to bring this up
14 in our caucus but I didn't get a chance to,
15 I know there have been some zoning issues
16 regarding North Scranton and the Villa
17 Maria. I'm not sure where that ended. I
18 know there were talks on zoning where a
19 variance was denied, then it came to the
20 city and not really sure where that stands.

21 So, Mrs. Reed, could we please
22 inquire on that to see where the zoning
23 issues regarding the Villa Maria currently
24 stand so we can get that sorted out on
25 behalf of the residents over there.

1 Today there was a fire over in the
2 Hill section, a resident and friend of mine
3 who lives in that neighborhood called me and
4 he smelled smoke, starting walking down to
5 the fire, less than 15, 20 minutes the house
6 fire was already out, and our guys just did
7 an excellent job and they deserve a job well
8 done for that.

9 And finally, and I apologize in
10 advance if I say something things that may
11 be a little harsh on this next topic, but
12 the murder that occurred the other day and
13 the media coverage that followed it, what
14 took place was absolutely disgusting that a
15 hardworking man out their driving a cab
16 trying to support his family working at 3:00
17 in the morning would be brutally murdered by
18 a thug from outside of this city. He is not
19 a city resident, he is from New Jersey who
20 came to this city to sell drugs, to be in a
21 gang and to cause terror. That's not what
22 Scranton is about.

23 There are so many people that were
24 following this coverage said, "Boy, Scranton
25 neighborhoods aren't what they used to be."

1 That's not Scranton. It's some
2 out-of-town thug that came here to harm our
3 neighborhoods and harm our residents, and as
4 Mr. Wechsler mentioned, what an amazing job
5 by our police department. They solved a
6 murder in hours, hours. Almost as quick as
7 you see an episode of Law and Order.
8 Unfortunately, this was real life and
9 children don't have a father anymore because
10 of a coward that came to our city and join a
11 gang and sell drugs.

12 This is why we need to support our
13 police department, our neighborhood groups,
14 our district attorney and personally, I know
15 this can't happen, I think the perpetrator
16 should receive the death penalty. I know
17 that can't happen because of his age, but
18 this is one of the most disgusting things
19 that has happened in our town in a long
20 time, and I hope that those out there
21 watching don't get the impression that's how
22 the people in Scranton are, because it's
23 not. It's somebody from New Jersey that
24 came to our town. It's not a Scrantonian.
25 The majority of our neighborhoods are safe

1 and are good places.

2 If you compare us to Wilkes-Barre we
3 are doing much better, but we need to
4 continue to support our police department in
5 these effort and break into these gangs and
6 stop these incidents from happening, and my
7 condolences to Mr. Darbenzio and his family.
8 I knew him casually, we have met a few
9 times, always a very nice man and this
10 shouldn't happen. And I hope that our
11 District Attorney, and I'm confident that he
12 will prosecute this thug to the fullest
13 extent of the law. And that's all I have to
14 say. Thank you.

15 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Loscombe?

16 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes, thank you. I,
17 too, would like to echo my colleagues who
18 spoke before me regarding the shooting. My
19 condolences to the Darbenzio family for
20 their loss, and again, I met with Chief
21 Graziano and I did commend him for the work
22 that he and his police officers had done in
23 apprehending the suspect quickly and without
24 incident -- without further incident.

25 An, you know, just in my

1 conversation with him this man was capable
2 of carrying this on. If anybody saw him on
3 the TV they saw, you know, just how ruthless
4 of a person he is, and as Mr. Rogan said, he
5 is not one of ours. He is not from
6 Scranton. He came here to cause trouble and
7 to join his friends in the gang and, you
8 know, I hope he gets his due justice. And
9 the D.A.'s Office, too, receive some kudos
10 for this situation.

11 And in speaking with the police, you
12 know, they just didn't drop it after they
13 arrested him. They have done some further
14 investigation, I'm not going to go into
15 details other than they did stop some
16 associates of this man and remove guns from
17 them, three different associates, so they
18 are being proactive, as they do every day
19 out there trying to make it safe for us, and
20 I think we all appreciate what they do for
21 us on a daily basis and this is a fine
22 example of, you know, everyone coming
23 together and solving this quickly.

24 But it doesn't take back the life of
25 a working man and for that we feel. This is

1 not something we are used to seeing around
2 here and, you know, I hope we don't see
3 anything further on that aspect. Usually we
4 read about it in the news in other areas.
5 We have to be vigilant in our neighborhood
6 associations and the police that are doing a
7 good job on this.

8 A couple other things in my
9 conversation with Chief Graziano, he did
10 inform me that one day I believe they are
11 going to be ordering three new police cars
12 with monies that they have raised from fines
13 so they are bringing their fleet right
14 up-to-date.

15 And, actually, Monday the bids will
16 be open for the junk vehicles that were put
17 out on the internet for bid. I guess the
18 bid date is -- the deadline was Monday and
19 there is approximately 17 vehicles so that
20 money will towards purchase of another
21 vehicle or so, whatever they can raise from
22 that.

23 Mr. Jackowitz I believe mentioned
24 the arbitration awards, is the
25 administration or anybody doing anything on

1 asked are: "Will the images by the system
2 be stored?"

3 And Chief Graziano's answers were,
4 "The police department will not store any
5 images. We will only be secondary live feed
6 of already existing various public cameras."

7 In other words, they are just being
8 fed from these businesses and they are not
9 storing anything. It's just a live feed.

10 "Live feed from existing cameras and
11 other entities such as the school district,
12 housing authority, parking garages, and
13 others will be sent to us in addition to be
14 viewed by the owner or possessor of the
15 camera systems."

16 Question two is, "Who can view the
17 images?"

18 "On our end, the police and
19 department end, the images will be viewed
20 strictly by police officers."

21 And the third question, "If they are
22 stored, what is the length of time that the
23 images will be stored?"

24 Well, that doesn't apply since they
25 won't be doing any storage of these images.

1 And then just another in our conversation
2 they had an incident, I believe it was on
3 Mulberry Street or lower Mulberry Street the
4 other evening, and they had the opportunity
5 to use this camera and zero in on, I guess
6 the perpetrator or whatever, so it also
7 allowed them, the dispatcher, to give more
8 information to the responding police
9 department what they had to deal with there.

10 You know, this system, we have to
11 realize there is cameras everywhere anymore.
12 Everybody is taking pictures with our phones
13 and you don't know where there is a camera,
14 but I believe this system here is going to
15 be a great benefit to our safety, to the
16 citizens' safety, and just to have the fact
17 of having cameras, I mentioned before, say
18 someone has a holdup on a certain area and
19 there might be 30 cameras in that live feed
20 from that area, and it gives them the
21 opportunity to make a quick response to the
22 proper area of the getaway. In other words,
23 they look at the cameras going this way, the
24 car didn't go that way so they pick him up
25 here, they can redirect those officers

1 rather than have them all scrambling in the
2 same area.

3 And again, you know, they could be
4 some crimes that are being committed that
5 are actually visual right there that they
6 could dispatch right from the office. There
7 is many uses and many benefits. I think the
8 benefits far outweigh any problems with this
9 system and I think it will be good for us
10 all in the future. And I think that's all I
11 have. Thank you.

12 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you,
13 Mr. Loscombe.

14 Mr. Gaughan?

15 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, thank you. I
16 attend the Hill Section neighborhood meeting
17 last night to update the residents on the
18 parking issues in the 900 block of Prescott
19 Avenue. Council will be moving forward with
20 a parking form within the next few weeks as
21 I mentioned a previous meeting and we
22 discussed this in our caucus before
23 tonight's meeting. Hopefully, this will
24 alleviate some of the issues in that
25 neighborhood.

1 I received a complaint from a
2 resident about a problem of couches and
3 garbage on a porch located on Swetland
4 Street in West Scranton. I forwarded that
5 information along to the Licensing and
6 Inspections Department.

7 I received concerns from a few
8 residents regarding trucks picking up scrap
9 metal and driving with it unfastened in the
10 back of the truck, which is very dangerous.
11 I reached out to the police chief, Carl
12 Graziano, who explained that this particular
13 issue isn't covered under a city ordinance,
14 but it is covered under the Pennsylvania
15 Vehicle Code. The high unit officers are
16 being vigilant regarding these violations
17 due to the rising prices paid for scrap
18 metal.

19 And finally, next week from June 2
20 to June 6 the street sweeper is scheduled to
21 be in the East Scranton area from Arthur
22 Avenue to Taylor Avenue including all
23 streets and avenues. And that is all I
24 have. Thank you.

25 MR. MCGOFF: It was mentioned, one

1 of the things was mentioned earlier was the
2 talk of the beat cops. That has also come
3 up as an issue for downtown that there at
4 one time was a beat cop in the downtown
5 area, no longer exists, and now that there
6 are more people living in the downtown area
7 it seems as though there is even a greater
8 need for police presence in the evenings,
9 especially in the downtown.

10 I believe that beat cops in all
11 areas of the city would be a great idea. I
12 realize that there are problems with funding
13 of that and all, but hopefully we can move
14 toward some type of system where those
15 police -- where there is a greater police
16 presence in all areas of the city.

17 As far as the budget process is
18 concerned, I know that, you know,
19 expectations of a budget being done by the
20 end of May are absolutely -- obviously are
21 not going to take place. For a variety of
22 reasons the budget over the past years has
23 traditionally been late, last year very
24 late. I know that the Business
25 Administration Office is trying to expedite

1 the process as best they can. I would think
2 that an end of summer expectation would be
3 prudent. It's not going to be done -- I
4 don't think it will be done before that, but
5 hopefully we can look forward to something
6 maybe by the end of the summer for
7 completion of the budget.

8 As far the cell towers, they were
9 mentioned, also, keep in mind that this is
10 a -- the idea of the cell towers and using
11 city property for them this is a process
12 that's basically in it's infancy. There is
13 no definite proposal, there have been some
14 sites mentioned, but we are far from seeing
15 any legislation on this issue. There is a
16 lot that needs to be done before this would
17 come before council for approval. Yes, it
18 is something that people should maybe get
19 some information about if it does, in fact,
20 come to council, so that we are informed,
21 but be it known that we are not voting on
22 this very soon.

23 I will also reiterate what one of my
24 colleagues have said concerning the incident
25 at Valley View. I don't think that we

1 should compare ourselves to Wilkes-Barre or
2 Reading or any other city as far as the
3 police presence, we are better than that. I
4 think our police department treats the city
5 with a no tolerance policy. No tolerance
6 for violent crime or any type of crime and
7 that is what we should be looking at. We
8 don't want to be judged in relation to any
9 other city. We simply want to do, and I
10 think the Scranton Police Department does,
11 it's very best to keep this a safe city and
12 I commend them for that, and I think the
13 Public Safety Department overall does a
14 great job and it should always be commended
15 for the services that they perform. And
16 that is all. Thank you.

17 MR. LOSCOMBE: Mr. McGoff, I believe
18 you refer to the audit, you were saying the
19 budget.

20 MR. MCGOFF: Did I say budget?

21 MR. LOSCOMBE: I'm sorry for the
22 correction. I know what you meant, but just
23 for the correction.

24 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

25 MR. LOSCOMBE: Also, in our

1 conversation with Chief Graziano we did
2 discuss the police and downtown and stuff
3 like that, too, and he is working on that.
4 That's not something that would happen this
5 year, but he definitely has been working on
6 that and, you know, more OECD/O officers for
7 foot patrols for next year, also. I meant
8 to mention that. Mr. Quinn had brought it
9 up, too. Thank you.

10 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

11 MS. REED: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION -
12 AN ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
13 OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF
14 SCRANTON TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY ACTIONS TO
15 IMPLEMENT NUMEROUS ACCOUNTING ADJUSTMENTS TO
16 THE CITY OF SCRANTON'S IDIS SYSTEM FOR
17 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS BY
18 DECREASING FUNDING FOR VARIOUS PROGRAMS TO
19 ACCOUNT FOR DEFICIENCIES IN THE CITY OF
20 SCRANTON'S LINE OF CREDIT WITH THE
21 DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
22 ("HUD") DUE TO UNPLANNED SECTION 108
23 PAYMENTS BY THE CITY OF SCRANTON IN THE
24 AMOUNT OF \$1,662,043.98.

25 MR. MCGOFF: At this time I'll

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

3 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

4 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

5 MR. MCGOFF: On the question?

6 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. McGoff, I have a
7 comment to make, please. I would like to
8 mention and commend the current staff of
9 OECD for the work they have done in bringing
10 this issue to light. It's very difficult to
11 come out and issue a report that says that
12 the city somehow did not account for so much
13 money, but they did that and this I believe
14 is the first step in many steps that are
15 going to be taken over the next year or so
16 where we get our house in financial order,
17 and when you do that the news isn't
18 necessarily going to be good. If would have
19 been great if they said they found 2 million
20 dollars instead of losing a million dollars,
21 but this is something that had to happen.

22 The Federal Government has the
23 authority to take money from our account
24 without permission, which it did, and the
25 morning the money was there, in the

1 hope again going into the future that there
2 is more, you know, more attention paid to
3 the accounts coming in and the accounts
4 going out or, you know, maybe modernize our
5 system or whatever. I don't know what the
6 answer is, so in the future we don't run
7 into this again.

8 But what we have in front us is a
9 fact, it's something that has to be done and
10 it has to be paid and, unfortunately, some
11 of these organizations are going to be
12 penalized and suffer this year on it, but I
13 think, you know, as a whole we are looking
14 to make them whole in the future. And
15 again, I understand, like Mr. Wechsler said,
16 they are looking for shovel ready products
17 -- or projects. I learned that by, you
18 know, working on projects with the
19 administration, Mrs. Aebli and Mr. Preambo.
20 They gave me a pretty good education on what
21 has to be done on that, so I do commend them
22 for coming in and explaining it. It is a
23 tough decision, but it's something that our
24 hands are tied and we have to get this done,
25 get our housekeeping in order, and I'll be

1 voting for it. Thank you.

2 MR. MCGOFF: And again, some people
3 spoke to the reasons why this occurred,
4 unfortunately, we at this point in time are
5 not in a position to assess blame nor will
6 it do us any good to assess blame to any
7 person, entity or organization. We need to
8 deal with the problem that exists and these
9 two pieces of legislation that we are
10 looking at address the problem in the
11 present and we need to move forward.

12 All those in favor of introduction
13 signify by saying aye.

14 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

15 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

16 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

20 MS. REED: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION -
21 AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL
22 NO. 56 OF 2012 TITLED "AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR
23 AND OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE CITY
24 OF SCRANTON TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY ACTIONS TO
25 IMPLEMENT THE CONSOLIDATED SUBMISSION FOR

1 COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS
2 TO BE FUNDED UNDER THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
3 BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM, HOME INVESTMENT
4 PARTNERSHIP (HOME) PROGRAM AND EMERGENCY
5 SOLUTIONS GRANT (ESG) PROGRAM FOR THE PERIOD
6 BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2013" BY DECREASING
7 FUNDING FOR VARIOUS PROGRAMS TO ACCOUNT FOR
8 DEFICIENCIES IN THE CITY OF SCRANTON'S LINE
9 OF CREDIT WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND
10 URBAN DEVELOPMENT ("HUD") DUE TO UNPLANNED
11 PAYMENTS IN VARIOUS SECTION 108 LOANS
12 GUARANTEED BY THE CITY OF SCRANTON IN THE
13 AMOUNT OF \$1,662,043.98.

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

17 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

18 MR. LOSCOMBE: 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. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

25 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

1 MS. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The
2 ayes have it and so moved.

3 MS. REED: SIXTH ORDER. 6-A.
4 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.
5 23, 2014 - AN ORDINANCE - CREATING AND
6 ESTABLISHING SPECIAL CITY ACCOUNT NO.
7 02.2229609 ENTITLED "COMMUNITY SURVEILLANCE
8 NETWORK SYSTEM" FOR THE RECEIPT AND
9 DISBURSEMENT OF GRANT FUNDS RECEIVED FOR THE
10 ACQUISITION AND INSTALLATION OF THE
11 COMMUNITY SURVEILLANCE NETWORK SYSTEM AT
12 SCRANTON POLICE HEADQUARTERS.

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

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

17 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

18 MS. MCGOFF: On the question?

19 MR. LOSCOMBE: I just wanted to
20 correct during my motions I mentioned 7-A,
21 it's actually 6-A, just to correct it for
22 the record.

23 MR. MCGOFF: You've heard Reading by
24 Title -- or excuse me, on the question. All
25 those in favor signify by saying aye.

1 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

2 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

3 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

4 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

7 MS. REED: 6-B. READING BY TITLE -
8 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 24, 2014 - AN
9 ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
10 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO APPLY FOR AND
11 EXECUTE A GRANT APPLICATION AND IF
12 SUCCESSFUL A GRANT AGREEMENT AND ACCEPT THE
13 FUNDS RELATED THERETO THROUGH THE BJA FY 14
14 EDWARD BYRNE JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT
15 ("JAG") PROGRAM LOCAL SOLICITATION IN THE
16 AMOUNT OF \$23,898.00.

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

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

21 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

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

24 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

25 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

1 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

2 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

3 MR. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The
4 ayes have it and so moved.

5 MS. REED: 6-C. READING BY TITLE -
6 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 25, 2014 - AN
7 ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
8 APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF
9 SCRANTON TO ENTER INTO A LEASE AGREEMENT
10 WITH THE SCRANTON SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR USE OF
11 CITY OWNED PROPERTY IN CONNECTION WITH
12 APPROVED WEST SIDE HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER TEAMS
13 FOR A THREE-(3) YEAR PERIOD COMMENCING APRIL
14 15, 2014 AND ENDING APRIL 14, 2017.

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

17 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-C
18 pass reading by title.

19 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

20 MS. MCGOFF: On the question? All
21 those in favor signify by saying aye.

22 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

23 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

24 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

25 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

1 MR. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The
2 ayes have it and so moved.

3 MS. REED: 6-D. READING BY TITLE -
4 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 26, 2014 - AN
5 ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
6 APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF
7 SCRANTON TO ENTER INTO A LEASE AGREEMENT
8 WITH THE SCRANTON YOUTH SOCCER FOR THE USE
9 OF CITY OWNED PROPERTY IN CONNECTION WITH
10 APPROVED SCRANTON YOUTH SOCCER FOR A THREE
11 (3) YEAR PERIOD COMMENCING APRIL 15, 2014
12 AND ENDING APRIL 14, 2017.

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

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

17 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

18 MS. MCGOFF: On the question? All
19 those in favor signify by saying aye.

20 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

21 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

22 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

1 MS. REED: 6-E. READING BY TITLE -
2 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 27, 2014 - AN
3 ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.
4 75, 2012 AN ORDINANCE (AS AMENDED) ENTITLED
5 "AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE REVENUE FOR THE
6 CITY OF SCRANTON BY IMPOSING A TAX UPON THE
7 PRIVILEGE OF ATTENDING OR ENGAGING IN
8 NONEXEMPT AMUSEMENTS, INCLUDING EVERY FORM
9 OF ENTERTAINMENT, DIVERSION, SPORT,
10 RECREATION AND PASTIME, REQUIRING ALL
11 PERSONS, PARTNERSHIPS, ASSOCIATIONS AND
12 CORPORATIONS CONDUCTING PLACES OF
13 AMUSEMENTS; IMPOSING DUTIES AND CONFERRING
14 POWERS UPON THE TREASURER OF THE CITY OF
15 SCRANTON; PRESCRIBING THE METHOD AND MANNER
16 OF COLLECTING THE TAX IMPOSED BY THIS
17 ORDINANCE; AND IMPOSING PENALTIES FOR THE
18 VIOLATION THEREOF" BY AMENDING SECTION 4.
19 DEFINITIONS - PLACE OF AMUSEMENT.

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

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

24 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

25 MS. MCGOFF: On the question? All

1 those in favor signify by saying aye.

2 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

3 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

4 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

5 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

8 MS. REED: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR
9 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC
10 SAFETY - FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF THE COUNCIL
11 NO. 22, 2014 - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL
12 NO. 26, 2013, AN ORDINANCE, ENTITLED
13 AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 22, 2006,
14 ENTITLED "AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING THE
15 DESIGNATION OF PARKING SPACES FOR CERTAIN
16 CITY OF SCRANTON PERSONNEL IN AND ALONG DIX
17 COURT, THE PARKING AREA IN THE REAR OF CITY
18 OF SCRANTON MUNICIPAL BUILDING AND A PARKING
19 LOT ALONG MULBERRY STREET ADJACENT TO
20 SCRANTON FIRE HEADQUARTERS, AND AUTHORIZING
21 THE CITY OF SCRANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT TO
22 ENFORCE THE PARKING DESIGNATIONS AS
23 REFLECTED IN THE ATTACHED SCHEMATIC" BY
24 ADDING AN ADDITIONAL PARKING SPACE BEHIND
25 SCRANTON FIRE HEADQUARTERS AND

1 RE-DESIGNATING CERTAIN PARKING SPACES TO
2 REFLECT THE CHANGE IN WHICH SOME CITY OF
3 SCRANTON PERSONNEL CURRENTLY PARK AS
4 REFLECTED IN THE ATTACHED SCHEMATIC.

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

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

11 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

14 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler.

15 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

16 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

17 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

18 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Loscombe.

19 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

20 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan.

21 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

22 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

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

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

1 THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE -FOR ADOPTION -
2 RESOLUTION NO. 58, 2014 - RATIFYING AND
3 APPROVING THE EXECUTION AND SUBMISSION OF
4 THE GRANT APPLICATION BY THE CITY OF
5 SCRANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT FROM THE
6 2013/2014 JAG SINGLE SOLICITATION LOCAL
7 INITIATIVE PROGRAM FOR THE PENNSYLVANIA
8 COMMISSION ON CRIME AND DELINQUENCY JUSTICE
9 ASSISTANCE GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF
10 \$146,390.00 FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON POLICE
11 DEPARTMENT FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE
12 ACQUISITION AND INSTALLATION OF THE
13 "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: What is the

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

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

6 MR. ROGAN: Second.

7 MR. MCGOFF: On the question?

8 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, just to mention a
9 few points about this legislation. The
10 police department is soliciting grant funds
11 from the PA Commission on Crime and
12 Delinquency Justice Assistance Grant Program
13 in the amount of \$146,000, \$146,390. This
14 will create a system in which all of the
15 surveillance from security cameras will be
16 used by cooperating agencies in a closed
17 circuit feed to 32 monitors located at
18 Scranton Police headquarters 24 hours a day
19 seven days a week.

20 Currently there are five agencies
21 that are committed to this project. They
22 are the Scranton Housing Authority,
23 Lackawanna College, Elm Street
24 Revitalization Project, the Scranton School
25 District and the University of Scranton.

1 The Scranton Police Department will continue
2 to recruit businesses and agencies to be
3 involved in this project. The network will
4 be fully operational within six months of
5 funding and none of the cameras that are
6 being monitored actually belong to the City
7 of Scranton. They are cameras that are in
8 place and are currently being monitored
9 and/or recorded by the entities that already
10 have them deployed.

11 Essentially, the cameras have become
12 a force multiplier in this instance as
13 police can then cover many intersections at
14 once and potentially direct responding
15 officers more effectively and efficiently to
16 the scene and/or to the locations of any
17 suspects. Any recorded video that is needed
18 for evidentiary purposes must be obtained as
19 it is currently done now from the entity
20 possessing the cameras.

21 And the police department is not
22 guaranteeing 24/7 coverage -- 24/7 coverage
23 to any of the participants, so as I just
24 wanted to mention that just in case -- I
25 know Mrs. Hodowanitz has some questions

1 about that and Mr. Loscombe touched on it.
2 And that is all I have on that. Thank you.

3 MR. MCGOFF: I think that in
4 addition, that the City of Scranton is not
5 adding additional cameras, none of -- there
6 will not be any cameras that the City of
7 Scranton added to the system.

8 MR. GAUGHAN: Oh, and one more
9 point, somebody had asked me a question
10 about this and inquired of Chief Graziano,
11 no additional salaries and/or overtime will
12 be expended on this project. While the desk
13 area is staffed 24/7 by an officer, this
14 officer also has other duties to perform and
15 would not be available at all times to watch
16 the cameras. So just to clear that up if
17 anybody had any questions about that. Thank
18 you.

19 Roll call, please?

20 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler.

21 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

22 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

23 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

24 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Loscombe.

25 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

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

MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan.

MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

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

Any further business? Entertain a
motion to adjourn.

MR. LOSCOMBE: Motion to adjourn.

MR. MCGOFF: Meeting adjourned.

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

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