

SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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HELD:

Thursday, September 11, 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

WAYNE EVANS

JOSEPH WECHSLER

WILLIAM GAUGHAN

LORI REED, CITY CLERK

KATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

AMIL MINORA, SOLICITOR

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

3 MR. MCGOFF: Roll call, please.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

5 MR. WECHSLER: Here.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

7 MR. ROGAN: Here.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

9 MR. EVANS: Here.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Here.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

13 MR. MCGOFF: Here.

14 MR. GAUGHAN: I make a motion to  
15 appoint Councilman Wechsler temporary chair  
16 for the Committee on Public Safety.

17 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

20 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

21 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

22 MR. EVANS: Aye.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

1 Dispense with the reading of the  
2 minutes.

3 MS. REED: THIRD ORDER. 3-A.  
4 MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
5 MEMBERS OF  
6 THE SCRANTON HOUSING AUTHORITY HELD JULY 7,  
7 2014.

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

10 MS. REED: 3-B. COMPARISON OF CITY  
11 FUNDS DISTRIBUTED FROM THE SINGLE TAX OFFICE  
12 FOR THE YEARS 2013 AND 2014.

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

15 MS. REED: 3-C. AGENDA FOR THE BOARD  
16 OF ZONING APPEALS MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 10,  
17 2014.

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

20 MS. REED: 3-D. AUDIT STATUS REPORT  
21 FROM ROBERT ROSSI & CO RECEIVED AUGUST 29,  
22 2014.

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

25 MS. REED: 3-E. TAX ASSESSORS

1                   REPORTS FOR THE HEARING DATES TO BE HELD  
2                   SEPTEMBER 17, 20, 23 AND 24, 2014.

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

5                   MS. REED: 3-F. CONTROLLERS REPORT  
6                   FOR THE MONTH ENDING JULY 31, 2014.

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

9                   MS. REED: 3-G. REPORT ON THE  
10                  FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE REDEVELOPMENT  
11                  AUTHORITY DATED DECEMBER 31, 2013.

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

14                  Are there any announcements from  
15                  members of council?

16                  MR. ROGAN: I have two. On  
17                  Saturday, September 13, this Saturday, from  
18                  11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Paws in the Park will take  
19                  place at Nay Aug Park. It will be a fun  
20                  filled day of crafts, live entertainment,  
21                  concessions, photographers and, of course,  
22                  animal rescues. All of the proceeds from  
23                  this event will benefit Low Cost Spay and  
24                  Neuter Animal Rescue.

25                  Second, the St. Ann's Maronite

1 Catholic Church located at the corner of  
2 Sumner Avenue and Price Street in West  
3 Scranton will hold it's annual parish  
4 festival this coming Sunday, September 14,  
5 from 12 noon until 7:00 p.m. There will be a  
6 huge variety of homemade Lebanese foods and  
7 pastries to enjoy along with coffees,  
8 auctions, baskets, 50/50 raffles, some  
9 rummage sale games, music and plenty of fun  
10 for the entire family. Thank you.

11 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else? I would  
12 like to make two announcements. First,  
13 apparently I added some confusion last week  
14 by talking about the elevator and the  
15 possibility of moving council meetings. The  
16 change of location for council meetings will  
17 take place when the renovations to the  
18 elevator take place. We are not sure what  
19 dates those are or when that will take  
20 place. Be assured that the date and  
21 location of any future council meetings or  
22 changes will be made well in advance so that  
23 people will be aware of the change.

24 And also, we will be introducing  
25 CDBG funding or through OECD, funding

1 through OECD tonight. Next week there will  
2 be a public hearing on that funding. That  
3 public hearing will be at 5:30 in council  
4 chambers.

5 MS. REED: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'  
6 PARTICIPATION.

7 MR. MCGOFF: Bill Jackowitz.

8 MR. JACKOWITZ: Good evening,  
9 Scranton City Council, Kathy, city council  
10 stenographer, Lori and Amil. You know, I'm  
11 going to start off with the school board  
12 because, you know, the school board kind of  
13 reminds me of the Affordable Care Act and  
14 better known as Obama Care. Let's pass it  
15 and then we'll read it later. I mean, how  
16 can you pass a contract and give raises to  
17 people when you haven't even gone over it.  
18 I know this refers to city business because  
19 it is the Scranton School Board. How do you  
20 do that? How do you give raises to people  
21 when you haven't even read the contract yet  
22 and as far as I know the contract hasn't  
23 been signed yet. I don't understand this.  
24 This is one of the reasons why Scranton  
25 continually gets itself into trouble.





1 MR. MCGOFF: There was a \$10,000, I  
2 think it was \$10,000 donation.

3 MR. JACKOWITZ: Yeah, it was a  
4 \$10,000 donation from Allied, is that what  
5 we are talking about?

6 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. Yes.

7 MR. JACKOWITZ: Okay, I just wanted  
8 to know where the money came from because  
9 for years and years and years we were told  
10 there was no money so now all of a sudden --  
11 I fought this for seven years, Mr. McGoff,  
12 giving me those eyes, will you? I fought  
13 this for seven years, I raised money. We  
14 had -- five years I ran programs from  
15 donations from city residents and city  
16 businesses because we were told by the  
17 Scranton Recreation Department year after  
18 year after year after year that they had no  
19 money to pay for the upkeep of the pool  
20 that's why I'm bringing in.

21 MR. MCGOFF: This money was just  
22 received.

23 MR. JACKOWITZ: I know that. I'm  
24 just saying, I asked where the money came  
25 from and I got an answer, okay? That's all

1 I wanted to know is where the money came  
2 from because for years we were told there  
3 was no money --

4 MR. MCGOFF: There isn't.

5 MR. JACKOWITZ: -- by the Parks and  
6 Recreation Board. They told us for years  
7 and years and years there was no money.

8 MR. MCGOFF: There wasn't.

9 MR. JACKOWITZ: Now all of a sudden  
10 we have money and I asked where it came  
11 from, you gave me an answer so why are we  
12 prolonging this discussion?

13 MR. MCGOFF: I don't know.

14 MR. JACKOWITZ: As far as grants go,  
15 don't depend on too much money from the  
16 federal government because they are broke  
17 and they are damn sure not going to give any  
18 money to the distressed cities like Scranton  
19 who have a history of blowing all of the  
20 money that they get, so I'm just saying  
21 don't count on a lot of grant coming from  
22 the federal government, and if you don't get  
23 a lot of the federal government don't count  
24 on a lot of money coming from the state  
25 government because you are not going to get

1           it from them either so let's really balance  
2           this budget this year, let's work hard at it  
3           and let's just spend the money that we have,  
4           okay?

5                        Okay, you know, in the caucus you  
6           guys were talking about follow-up on garbage  
7           fees and I guess everything what I got out  
8           of it everything seemed to stop in October  
9           and November and nothing else will done on  
10          it. That's how we fell \$7.2 million behind.  
11          Again, I reemphasize, it's time to start  
12          with some SOP's, standard operating  
13          procedures, and checklists so that the  
14          person who is in charge of collecting the  
15          garbage fees will have a checklist in front  
16          of them and it will tell them and it will be  
17          a reminder don't forget to send out  
18          delinquent tax garbage bills to the people  
19          who didn't pay it. It's simple. Mr.  
20          McGoff, when you meet with the mayor on  
21          every Monday why don't you bring this up to  
22          him if you haven't already done it? The  
23          administrative department in city needs to  
24          stop during their J-0-B and start doing  
25          things that need to be done. S-0-P's and

1 checklists.

2 Okay, now change in subjects again.  
3 Boots on the ground. Why do you think the  
4 boots that military wear and people have  
5 wore them for years even though they have  
6 changed why do they call them combat boots?  
7 Can somebody answer that for me? Why do  
8 they call them combat boots? They are  
9 called combat boots because in the military  
10 the war fighters that wear those are going  
11 into combat. It doesn't matter what their  
12 AFSC is or what their MOS is. So if  
13 somebody is trying to tell you there is no  
14 boots on the ground don't believe them  
15 because they are not telling you the truth.  
16 As soon as those war fighters step of the  
17 plane or ship or wherever and those combat  
18 hit ground and your PDU's hit the ground and  
19 the war fighter, the American war fighter is  
20 in those PDU's and wearing those combat  
21 boots, guess what, we have combat boots on  
22 the ground.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

24 MR. MCGOFF: Joan Hodowanitz.

25 MS. HODOWANITZ: Joan Hodowanitz,

1 city resident. Once again the city audit  
2 due on May 31 is 103 days late, and we have  
3 65 days until November 15 when the city must  
4 present its proposed 2013 budget to you.

5 I don't know whether or not the  
6 mayor watches these meetings, I hope he does  
7 and, Mr. McGoff, I think it's very good that  
8 you meet with him on a weekly basis and  
9 perhaps you can pass some of these comments  
10 on to him. There is still 24 items  
11 outstanding on the city budget -- the city  
12 audit, but this brings to mind the issue  
13 that the city needs personnel who are  
14 trained in government accounting to prepare  
15 financial statements in accordance with GAO  
16 standards.

17 Now, you should be aware that the  
18 University of the Scranton, which teaches  
19 courses in accounting and offers degrees in  
20 accounting, does teach government accounting  
21 courses and perhaps one of the novel things  
22 that we might consider is asking the  
23 University to come down here and train the  
24 staff down here perhaps in lieu of some of  
25 their taxes. It will be a win-win situation

1 for both sides. I.

2 Also hope that when mayor presents  
3 his 2013 proposed budget that we can  
4 identify the people in the budget who are  
5 going to be responsible for preparing future  
6 budgets and their job description should  
7 require that they know how to do government  
8 accounting. If not, you know, you have got  
9 nobody able to do it and hopefully we will  
10 get some standard operating procedures done.

11 With regard to Items 5-C and 5-D on  
12 the agenda, the delinquent refuse fees and  
13 the delinquent taxes and other fees, I hope  
14 that the city will provide to the city  
15 council periodic updates on how much  
16 delinquent fees and taxes are outstanding  
17 and how they are doing collecting those  
18 taxes. It is one thing to have an ordinance  
19 or resolution for delinquent fees and taxes,  
20 it's another thing to collect them. If we  
21 are not able to collect them then we are  
22 still at square one and we need these  
23 delinquent fees and taxes.

24 And finally, I read the compliance  
25 audit for the aggregate pension fund that

1 Mr. DePasquale briefed us on the other week  
2 and I'm going to turn to the finding on page  
3 five, finding: Failure to timely pay the  
4 minimum municipal obligation of the plans.  
5 Okay? Apparently the city did not pay the  
6 MMO required by December 31, 2013. The city  
7 deposited the remaining MMO balance of \$2  
8 million into the fund on January 31, 2014.  
9 However, the city failed to pay interest due  
10 on the late deposit.

11 Cause: City officials failed to  
12 establish adequate internal control  
13 procedures to ensure that the full amount of  
14 the MMO due is paid timely and that the  
15 interest due on the late payment of the 2013  
16 MMO was determined and paid in accordance  
17 with Section 302 of Act 205.

18 Management's response: Municipal  
19 officials agree with the finding without  
20 exception. On May 28, 2014, the city paid  
21 \$185,300 in interest due to the police and  
22 firemens' pension plans for the late payment  
23 of the 2013 MMO.

24 That's our tax dollars. That  
25 \$185,000 should never have been incurred.

1 Now, that's bad enough. What I want to know  
2 from the mayor, and maybe Mr. McGoff you can  
3 bring this issue up, is have we now  
4 implemented the appropriate internal  
5 controls procedures so this will never  
6 happen again? It's one thing for the city  
7 taxpayers to contribute to the pension  
8 plans, and that's legitimate, but to pay  
9 \$185,000 as a penalty because we missed a  
10 payment is not acceptable and it was an  
11 internal control failure.

12 I understand that some of this  
13 happened on the previous watch, but there  
14 will be no excuses if it happens again and  
15 you will see some irate taxpayers here the  
16 next time if we see an audit filing like  
17 this. This is not excusable. Thank you.

18 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. Ozzie  
19 Quinn.

20 MR. QUINN: Good evening. Ozzie  
21 Quinn. Resident of the Hill Neighborhood  
22 Association and also president of the  
23 Scranton/Lackawanna County Taxpayers'  
24 Association.

25 First, the Hill Neighborhood



1 Association will meet on Wednesday on  
2 September 24, 7:00 p.m. at Immaculate  
3 Conception Church. Dennis Gallagher, the  
4 director of the DPW will be our guest. The  
5 Hill Neighborhood Association would like to  
6 thank Councilman Bill Gaughan and Joe  
7 Wechsler for attending our meetings to get  
8 the pulse of the neighborhood people.  
9 Council is invited to attend our 9-24  
10 meeting.

11 Tonight I'd like to address council  
12 regarding the Lackawanna County's Tax Claim  
13 Bureau September 29 sale, upset sale, of  
14 1,200 city properties who are delinquent in  
15 property taxes. Of these 1,200 properties  
16 roughly 600 are vacant land and the other  
17 600 are land with improvements on them, i.e.,  
18 houses.

19 In regards to 5-D, Northeastern  
20 Revenue, right, what is the cost of that  
21 contract?

22 MR. MCGOFF: I believe it's 15  
23 percent of the collection.

24 MR. QUINN: I don't see how these  
25 properties become delinquent if they are

1           doing their job, you know? It's just  
2           unbelievable. Those delinquent taxpayers  
3           that are fortunate to be able to muster  
4           enough money to pay off the back taxes will  
5           not be on the list. At the upset sale a  
6           bidder may make a bid for the property. The  
7           bidder must bid the minimum tax owed,  
8           however, must be responsible to pay for the  
9           liens on the property if they win the bid.  
10          At the upset sale these homes that are not  
11          sold will go to a judicial sale next  
12          February. At the judicial sale, the bidder  
13          doesn't have to pay the liens, interest or  
14          penalties. They get clear title to the  
15          property.

16                   My argument is that the judicial  
17                   sale is tantamount to amnesty. Why would we  
18                   give the property to a bidder who is going  
19                   to put one of our own out on the street and  
20                   it will be an absentee landlord and we  
21                   define, the Hill Neighborhood Association,  
22                   defines an absentee landlord as anyone who  
23                   owns a property, however, does not reside in  
24                   the structure. The city only has three  
25                   inspectors and they have a lot of area to

1 cover and hopefully in the next budget you  
2 expand that to at least five or six.

3 Now, what I fear is that if the  
4 judicial sale these people don't get their  
5 out, if they don't sell the property it goes  
6 into the Lackawanna County repository, and  
7 once it enters the repository it's in the  
8 graveyard. You're never going to get the  
9 properties sold, they'll never be sold, and  
10 those taxes will never be collected. Right  
11 now there is 200 city properties in the  
12 repository. It's just dropping into a dark  
13 hole so there has got to be another way to  
14 collect those taxes. We have to start being  
15 a little creative here, you know, in regards  
16 to putting people out in the street because  
17 they don't pay their taxes, we don't get any  
18 revenue and, you know, in the future you  
19 won't get any revenue.

20 Lastly, if a home was not sold, you  
21 know, it goes to the repository. Again, as  
22 I said last January, and I plead with  
23 council to please continue the September  
24 sale to try to do something to stop this  
25 here sale. It's ridiculous. 1,200

1 properties, 600 with homes, and if they are  
2 not sold, you know, we are going to have  
3 absentee landlords. We are very much  
4 worried in the Hill Neighborhood, that's one  
5 of the reasons I'm here. We look at the  
6 absentee landlords under the definition that  
7 we have and we have 505 absentee landlords  
8 in the Hill Section, can you believe that?  
9 As far away as California, you know. So, I  
10 mean, some of them care about their  
11 properties, but the majority do not care  
12 about the properties, all they do is care  
13 about collecting the rent. That's why we  
14 have so much blight in the Hill Section. We  
15 have to do something to address it, and like  
16 I said, three inspectors is not enough to  
17 address it. You know, you have over 30,000  
18 units in the City of Scranton and you cannot  
19 address it.

20 One quick question, 6-A, Mr. McGoff,  
21 what Mr. Jackowitz talked about, you said  
22 \$10,000 from Allied Services? That's  
23 depleted, isn't it?

24 MR. MCGOFF: I'm sorry?

25 MR. QUINN: That's depleted. That

1 money is gone. It's spent. They got that  
2 in July and the Bureau of Recreations spent  
3 that in July for swimming, I don't know why  
4 you are putting that all -- why you are  
5 doing that right now unless you are going to  
6 do it for next year hopefully that you are  
7 going to get some money.

8 MR. MCGOFF: This came from the  
9 administration. I'm assuming that there is  
10 money to deposit in the account or they are  
11 creating the account so that if there is  
12 further donations they can --

13 MR. QUINN: I hope so. I hope that's  
14 the reason. Thank you.

15 MR. MCGOFF: Lee Morgan.

16 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Good evening.

18 MR. MORGAN: I brought a couple of  
19 Right-to-Knows with me today, and I guess  
20 I'll give them to the clerk today and some  
21 day next week I'll come and get a copy time  
22 stamped and I questions we are go from  
23 there. The first question I have is the  
24 number of city-owned parking garages, the  
25 cost of each one to construct, the funding

1 source, loans, grants for each one, and  
2 state or federal funds used, okay? That's  
3 one.

4 The other one is who authorized the  
5 removal of the cages from Nay Aug Park, you  
6 know, who authorized it. Where did the  
7 steel go? And if it was scrapped who  
8 authorized that because I really think we  
9 need to know. Who told somebody it was all  
10 right to go in and remove steel from a  
11 city-owned property and if somebody gave  
12 authorization for that or if the Recreation  
13 Authority did it without authorization I  
14 think somebody really needs to be done about  
15 that. I think we have ignored too many  
16 things for too long in this city.

17 And the other the question I have is  
18 the cost of construction of the Scranton  
19 Sewer Authority. The source of the funding  
20 and the cost of construction of the  
21 collection system from homes and businesses  
22 to the treatment plant because I think that  
23 all of these are very valid questions and  
24 since they are a Right-to-Know request maybe  
25 instead of asking questions and never

1 getting an answer maybe we can move forward  
2 here because I'm very sincere when I said  
3 last week that I want this council to cut  
4 the budget by 30 percent. I'm also very  
5 sincere on everything that I have ever said  
6 from this podium, and I just think that we  
7 need to find a whole new way of thinking in  
8 this city if there is going to be anything  
9 left of the city in the future.

10 Mr. Quinn -- you know, all due  
11 respect to Mr. Quinn, you know, we are  
12 talking about absentee landlords. I think  
13 that if somebody was going to do a little  
14 research they would find out when you go the  
15 magistrate and get a judgment from the  
16 magistrate you can't collect it because the  
17 State Representatives and the State Senate  
18 and the Governor haven't enacted laws making  
19 it possible for you to collect, because to  
20 be quite honest with you, when you follow  
21 the whole process out to the end all the  
22 person has to do is file bankruptcy and you  
23 can't collect anything so when you talk  
24 about absentee landlords, you know what,  
25 absentee landlords aren't the problem in the

1 city like I said last week. People are  
2 happy to have people come and invest in a  
3 town and buy rental properties but when you  
4 can't collect rents from tenants, and to  
5 illustrate that you just have to go to the  
6 North Scranton project because they got 30  
7 vouchers signed over to them. They weren't  
8 going to receive with that project at north  
9 Scranton Junior High School unless the state  
10 and the government financed it and then they  
11 wanted proof that the state or the federal  
12 government was going to pay the rent for the  
13 people that were going to live there, and I  
14 think the real problem here is the people  
15 own rental properties have been put at such  
16 a disadvantage for decades that they cannot  
17 conduct business in this city.

18 And, you know, the last question I  
19 have here today, and I asked this the other  
20 day on that Steve Corbett's radio show,  
21 where are the city's neighborhood groups  
22 when we are in such a dire straight here  
23 when we are discussing what we are going to  
24 sell and how we are going to proceed  
25 forward, and to be really honest with you





1           because the people we elected didn't do  
2           their job and put the city in bankruptcy or  
3           close to it? The only thing that's stopping  
4           the city from going into receivership or  
5           bankruptcy is this council and the mayor and  
6           that's all that's stopped it previously and  
7           if you can't cut the budget by 30 percent  
8           and you can't start to change the things  
9           that need to be changed then we need to  
10          change something else. Thank you.

11                   MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr. Morgan.

12                   MS. REED: Excuse me, Mr. McGoff,  
13           Right-to-Know requests need to be submitted  
14           to the BA's Office.

15                   MR. MCGOFF: I'm sorry?

16                   MS. REED: The Right-to-Know  
17           requests need to be submitted to the BA's  
18           Office to the Right-to-Know officer. We  
19           can't be responsible for processing  
20           Right-to-Know requests. That needs to go  
21           to the Right-to-Know officer.

22                   MR. MORGAN: Well, could I say  
23           something?

24                   MR. MCGOFF: You can submit your  
25           questions, Right-to-Knows to the BA's

1 Office.

2 MR. MORGAN: Well, no, I will do  
3 that but I thought that quite possibly that  
4 council would like to know what's happening  
5 in our city since we can't get answers to  
6 any of our questions.

7 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Morgan, thank you.

8 MR. MORGAN: No, that's fine. Thank  
9 you.

10 MR. MCGOFF: Bob Bolus.

11 MR. BOLUS: Good evening, Council.  
12 Bob Bolus, Scranton. I'll try to go through  
13 a few things as fast as I can. I'm going to  
14 bring up some of the issues from last week.  
15 I don't come here to waste my breath and  
16 waste my time and energy, I come here  
17 because I care about Scranton and I'm proud  
18 to say I'm a Scrantonian. I'm not proud of  
19 what's been happening in this city and where  
20 it's headed, and I didn't appreciate  
21 comments that were made last week and I'm  
22 going to address them.

23 Mr. Gaughan, and don't take it  
24 personal, I heard you about the Gaughan Code  
25 of Ethics. Well, let's talk about ethics

1 for a quick moment. Let's talk about when  
2 the University was going to build -- tear  
3 the YMCA down -- or the YW down, Mr. McGoff  
4 worked for the University, he didn't recuse  
5 himself, and that's his choice.

6 Mr. Wechsler worked in a plant, it  
7 wasn't his choice, but he worked in a plant  
8 that illegal aliens were taken out of it.  
9 He was the plant manager, you say he  
10 violated ethics?

11 Mr. Evans sells real estate. He has  
12 got to make a deal wherever he can, that's  
13 his bread and butter, so if a guy wanted to  
14 build in Scranton and he says, "No, I got a  
15 better deal out here because it's less  
16 taxes," or something or you going to  
17 challenge his ethics?

18 You don't go to a school board  
19 meeting and challenge them over raises, pay  
20 raises for teachers or higher pensions that  
21 are killing us with the tax base, is that  
22 ethical?

23 What about Mr. Rogan? He got  
24 criticized by everybody blasting him in  
25 every direction. I'm proud to say I know

1 him because he tried to make a business deal  
2 that he was entitled to make like anybody  
3 else who would make yet he was man enough to  
4 give it up. He didn't take anything from  
5 the city. To the contrary, the city took it  
6 from him.

7 So let's not talk about who is  
8 ethical and unethical here. What's  
9 unethical is where Scranton is right now  
10 today. Mr. McGoff said that it's a  
11 Herculean task for us to put a casino in  
12 downtown Scranton, and he is right. You are  
13 darn right it's a Herculean task, it's a  
14 major task, but it took a Herculean task by  
15 past councils and the administrators in this  
16 city to put Scranton where it is today, to  
17 put us on the verge of destruction. It was  
18 Herculean, you are darn right it was. It  
19 was political and lot of it was unethical.

20 What I'm looking here they  
21 accomplished that task, look where we are  
22 today. I'm turning around and asking is it  
23 a Herculean task, Mr. McGoff, for any  
24 council member to pick up this ballpoint and  
25 ink a letter with your signature to the

1           legislatures in our state and our government  
2           that ask them to go to the gaming board to  
3           create a casino license and a resort license  
4           for downtown Scranton and the Steamtown  
5           Mall. Is that Herculean task to do? Is  
6           that going to break somebody's hand? I want  
7           you to understand something, don't lose  
8           sleep over who will lose or get the license.  
9           I'm not putting a license in my name, even  
10          though I probably could if I wanted to  
11          because it was created for one felon it  
12          could be created for another one so let's  
13          get that on the table.

14                        I can assure you one thing, it won't  
15          be you or the other leaders that are going  
16          to put a dime losing sleep over it. It's  
17          our investment that we are putting here.  
18          It's an investment we want to put in to save  
19          the city. Not everybody can be as fortunate  
20          as you that we can go to various casinos and  
21          patronize them, as you said last week. A  
22          lot of people can't do that and that's your  
23          choice, okay? The bottom line is this is  
24          about the City of Scranton. We are looking  
25          to invest our capital into this city. Don't

1 worry about who is going to get the license,  
2 worry about what's going to get the city  
3 where it's going. Stop worrying about what  
4 casinos you patronize right now, worry about  
5 what you can patronize in this city and  
6 Lackawanna County. Forget about Monroe  
7 County, forget about Luzerne County, concern  
8 yourselves about this city, this county,  
9 this is where we live. We are giving you  
10 the opportunity to do something and do it  
11 right for the first time in a long time I'm  
12 around here, so take a Herculean task, take  
13 a vitamin, pick up a pen and send a letter  
14 to the legislators. It's not that hard to  
15 do and that's what I'm asking here today  
16 because Scranton is doomed otherwise.

17 I'm going to give you something real  
18 quick information here on the landfill, if I  
19 may?

20 MR. MCGOFF: Please.

21 MR. BOLUS: Just briefly, I  
22 presented this information to Throop and  
23 Dunmore councils the other night. What you  
24 have before you is what's going in the  
25 landfill. You have a certified report from

1 the laboratory of the chemicals being  
2 deposited in the Keystone Landfill. This  
3 concerns each and every one of us from a  
4 health standpoint. You can read it and see  
5 it's there. You won't read it in the paper,  
6 but I presented this to DEP at a public  
7 meeting. I'm concerned about the fact that  
8 2 million ton of unregistered waste,  
9 unpermitted waste is going to be removed  
10 from that landfill and moved somewhere else  
11 that over the years you name it it went in  
12 before anything was ever permitted. There  
13 is still a million ton underneath there  
14 that's still going to sit in that landfill.  
15 We want core samples taken right through  
16 what's in there before anything gets moved  
17 and down below to see what's transpired into  
18 our system. These are created into airborne  
19 carcinogens that we breath in here. Forget  
20 about your water supply, think about the  
21 dust that flows from that landfill, the  
22 higher it gets the more dust is going to  
23 come in here, it's pulverized by equipment  
24 in there, it's co-mingling, you take each  
25 container going in there with every bit of



1 chemical coming off the Marcellus, you are  
2 turning around, you put it in a volume and  
3 you got some serious issues, that's what  
4 this shows you. It's something that we are  
5 asking the City of Scranton to intervene and  
6 look into because this is it our town, too.

7 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

8 MR. BOLUS: And the last to last  
9 thing I'm going to give you briefly some  
10 information that helps you make some money.

11 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Bolus --

12 MR. BOLUS: One second, Mr. McGoff,  
13 I took a second to give you some papers,  
14 this is for the benefit of you and the City,  
15 this is to take to the Scranton Sewer  
16 Authority both in Throop and in Scranton and  
17 do some conversions with money and start  
18 cleaning and recycling the water from the  
19 Marcellus shale up there and do you the  
20 recycling and put it back there and turn it  
21 into millions of dollars to help this city.  
22 Don't let it all waste in the landfill.

23 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

24 MR. BOLUS: Use that for something  
25 we need to get the city out of debt and

1 don't blow it off so easy. Thank you.

2 MR. MCGOFF: Doug Miller.

3 MR. MILLER: Good evening. Doug  
4 Miller, Scranton. Before I get into the  
5 brunt of what I came here for this evening,  
6 you know, I just think it's kind of  
7 troubling in a city that's facing tough  
8 financial times when we have a citizen come  
9 forward and ask its government to get  
10 answers to questions and we have an  
11 inability to submit that request on behalf  
12 of a citizen I think that that really just  
13 is very discouraging and I understand this  
14 idea that it goes to the BA's Office, but  
15 why the Office of City Council can't submit  
16 a request on behalf of a citizen is beyond  
17 me. I have submitted requests in the past  
18 to the previous council, gave it to the city  
19 clerk and the office staff and it was never  
20 an issue and I just think it goes to show  
21 how the times have changed in the way this  
22 office is run and I think it's really  
23 unfortunate, and that if this council is  
24 really committed to getting real hardcore  
25 answers there shouldn't be an issue. What's

1           it going to take five minutes, not even to  
2           send two pieces of paper upstairs? Just  
3           baffles me.

4                     My first question this evening is in  
5           regards to the elevator situation, simple  
6           question, where is the money coming from?  
7           How are we paying for it? Do we know?

8                     MR. MCGOFF: It's in the capital  
9           budget, I believe.

10                    MR. MILLER: It's the capital  
11           budget. The capital budget is more of a  
12           wish list though, is fixing the elevator  
13           more of a wish list project or do we have  
14           concrete documentation to show --

15                    MR. MCGOFF: I don't have it in  
16           front of me, Mr. Miller, so I can't say for  
17           sure.

18                    MR. MILLER: Well, I think that's an  
19           important question. We are talking about  
20           making a repair and yet we don't know the  
21           cost. It's just doesn't seem to make sense.

22                    Last week, Mr. McGoff, you had  
23           stated that you will be conducting weekly  
24           meetings with the administration,  
25           particularly the mayor to discuss the

1 critical issues facing the city, and another  
2 question this evening to you would be have  
3 you at this time or do you plan on having  
4 any discussions with the mayor in regards to  
5 the potential sale of the parking garages?

6 MR. MCGOFF: That's been an ongoing  
7 process.

8 MR. MILLER: Okay. And kind of  
9 continuing along that path has there been  
10 any discussion as to an alternative solution  
11 rather than selling off other assets? Has  
12 there been any discussion as to maybe  
13 reaching out to the banking community and  
14 considering possibly refinancing some of  
15 that debt so that the city doesn't sell off  
16 another asset and we lose potential revenue  
17 in the city?

18 MR. MCGOFF: The business  
19 administration office has been in an ongoing  
20 process dealing with all things parking, all  
21 avenues are being investigated.

22 MR. MILLER: Has this council had  
23 discuss. I understand the business  
24 administrator has discussions on a daily  
25 basis, but has this council in general had

1 discussions with the administration on  
2 exploring alternative solutions to the  
3 parking garages?

4 MR. MCGOFF: I have been at many of  
5 the meetings, same meetings as the business  
6 administrator.

7 MR. MILLER: And have you had  
8 discussions with the business --

9 MR. MCGOFF: Yes, we have spoken.

10 MR. MILLER: And you have discussed  
11 alternative solutions?

12 MR. MCGOFF: I said we -- all  
13 investigations.

14 MR. MILLER: I guess that's the best  
15 I'm going to get, but I think that if we --

16 MR. MCGOFF: I don't know what you  
17 want me to tell you.

18 MR. MILLER: -- explore other  
19 alternatives rather than getting the run  
20 around as we do on a frequent basis we need  
21 to get down to the heart of the matter and  
22 the idea of selling another asset is just an  
23 absurdity and, you know, Mr. Wechsler, as  
24 the Finance Chair, I'd have ask in the last  
25 seven months have you spearheaded any

1 dialogue with the administration, not even  
2 just on the parking authority, but just in  
3 the city's financial situation in general.

4 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I have met with  
5 the business administration several times.

6 MR. MILLER: And I certainly  
7 appreciate that and I think that, you know,  
8 more creativity and discussion needs to take  
9 place. You know, the idea that we want to  
10 follow a plan brought forward by Mr. Amoroso  
11 I'm not really interested in Mr. Amoroso's  
12 plan because we have already determined that  
13 that plan is only going to kill this city,  
14 and I just don't understand, and this will  
15 be a question I would pose to this council  
16 tonight is why is it in the city's best  
17 interest to sell parking garages at such a  
18 discounted rate and who determined that  
19 these parking garages were worth the alleged  
20 21 or 22 million dollars, does anybody know  
21 that? Who determined their value?

22 MR. MCGOFF: There was a 2012 study  
23 done in which they were evaluated. In order  
24 to go through the process at this time there  
25 would have to be another monetization of the

1           Parking Authorities looked at. Plus the  
2           value is always in the supply and demand,  
3           let's say, what is it that people are going  
4           to offer for them?

5                   MR. MILLER: I just -- what really,  
6           you know, the bottom line and that's sort of  
7           what I'd like to get down is the bottom line  
8           is you owe \$50 million allegedly on these  
9           parking garages and you want to potentially  
10          sell them for \$22 million and leave the  
11          taxpayers holding that \$31 million bag, does  
12          that really make sense? I just don't think  
13          it does, and I do think drastic cuts need to  
14          be made in the 2013 operating budget,  
15          between 30 to 35 percent worth of cuts, and  
16          if we have an inability to do that then I do  
17          think we need to explore the idea of  
18          bringing in a receiver and possibly  
19          exploring a bankruptcy petition, and I in  
20          the past was never one to really go down  
21          that road, but we have gone to that point,  
22          and I intend to spend between now and  
23          November 15 and I am going to propose cuts,  
24          myself along with other concerned  
25          individuals --

1 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

2 MR. MILLER: And we intend on  
3 proposing those to this council because  
4 tough decisions need to be made and if we  
5 don't do something about it now, if this  
6 council isn't willing to stop playing  
7 politics then the city is finished. Thank  
8 you.

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

11 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,  
12 citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians,  
13 you made the comment last meeting where you  
14 would allow people from outside of the city  
15 to come and speak before you. Well, I have  
16 been speaking before you for over a decade  
17 and it hasn't done a darn thing. Them  
18 people should get representation on the  
19 pension board, that's where they need to be.  
20 If you are going to collect money for a  
21 commuter tax they should be allowed to be on  
22 the pension board some way, somehow. That's  
23 the most fairest thing to do. Then they  
24 know what's happening. Coming in here to  
25 speak before you wouldn't do too much, I can



1 tell you that now. Like I said, for a  
2 decade we been speaking and the only thing  
3 we got was ridiculed, but the trouble is we  
4 were telling the truth and for some reason  
5 you didn't want to accept the truth. We had  
6 people that looked at things a lot different  
7 than people that had to pay for the things  
8 they were looking at. We got a lot of  
9 garages that we didn't need, but nobody went  
10 back and see who recommended all of these  
11 garages? Why were they all built? Remember  
12 that was brought up before the last council  
13 was seated, somebody mentioned maybe we  
14 should hold the person who recommended all  
15 of these things accountable for some of the  
16 recommendations if they were paid for them,  
17 but that fell on deaf ears, too.

18 I once asked when we lent our money  
19 to Boscov's the last payment did we lend it  
20 to the Scranton Mall Partners or to  
21 Mr. Boscov himself. If the money was given  
22 to the Mall Partners then I suggest you look  
23 for a legal ramification because they had no  
24 intention of paying off the bond. You know  
25 that and I know that, but still you were

1           silent. You were silent too many times.  
2           You were silent for the Hilton when millions  
3           was lost at the Hilton, and there was no  
4           reason for that money to be lost at the  
5           Hilton because they wanted to come before  
6           you to support their own. That was the most  
7           stupidest thing council ever did, but  
8           whoever said council was no brilliant. We  
9           wouldn't be in this position if they were.

10                         Now, I know the new members are  
11           stuck. You are stuck, it came before you.  
12           When I came before you when you were seated  
13           I told you the only thing you can expect is  
14           higher taxes. That's it. There is no  
15           solution. The unions don't have to give up  
16           a darn thing, not a thing, because the  
17           contract is set for three years so they have  
18           to open it, they have to be willing to open  
19           the contract. Now, are you willing to give  
20           up your \$12,500 for 800, 900, 1,000? You  
21           are not going to go backwards. The unions  
22           are not going backwards. Their motto is  
23           forward, not backwards. The things that  
24           were done is over the last three or four  
25           years that's when it was all done. Like I



1                   standalone license, I doubt. Thank you.

2                   MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening,  
3                   Council, Marie Schumacher. Last week's vote  
4                   on 7-B has been haunting me all week. I did  
5                   a Right-to-Know and I found that those three  
6                   advertisings cost \$872.95 just to advertise  
7                   that. Now, when according to you and the  
8                   administration the ordinance rammed through  
9                   last week was unnecessary. Therefore, if it  
10                  was not necessary that could not be an  
11                  emergency so that was a false document to  
12                  allow you to ram through the ordinance in  
13                  one evening. That's a lot of waste for a  
14                  city significantly in the red. To  
15                  paraphrase the English proverb "A dollar is  
16                  a lot of money if you have not got a  
17                  dollar."

18                  Back in April you tried to convince  
19                  the public and yourselves, I believe, that  
20                  it was critical that we had to spend \$40,000  
21                  more than the offer of the lowest bidder for  
22                  the services of a city engineer. This  
23                  flagrant spending has got to stop. I did  
24                  not know how you are able to sleep nights  
25                  when you do not save every dollar possible

1 while telling us you are going to raise  
2 property taxes 18 percent on top of a  
3 massive increase in the past several years.  
4 It's time more attention was given to  
5 collecting the money already owed to the  
6 city than spending money when it is, in your  
7 own words, not necessary. I'll have more on  
8 this during the 2015 budget discussions.

9 And now I want to move to the  
10 tonight's appointments, specifically, 7-A, B  
11 and D and E. The Scranton Parking Authority  
12 met on the second of September, and I would  
13 believe that the decisions, any decisions  
14 they made that night are null and void as  
15 council has not approved any of those  
16 appointments at the time of that meeting.  
17 7-A is one that is it being backdated to  
18 8-11. "B" was empty as of 8-6, so that one  
19 was sort of okay, but "D" expired on 6-1,  
20 June 1, that could have been taken -- that's  
21 either sloppy administration or who knows  
22 what, but those people were not legitimate  
23 members of the board and now you are going  
24 back. If I'm delinquent on the tax could I  
25 backdate my check to avoid penalties and

1 interest? I don't think so. So it makes  
2 sense that you guys should not be allowed to  
3 backdate stuff either. If it is wrong for  
4 government -- it is wrong for government to  
5 afford itself privileges that are not  
6 afforded to the general public and the  
7 citizens you represent.

8 Now, on 7-E Dominic Georgetti -- a  
9 Dominic Georgetti of the same address was  
10 appointed Chair of the Civil Service  
11 Commission for the duration of Mayor  
12 Courtright's term back I believe it was  
13 February 2 or -- anyway, back in February.  
14 Is this the person who is also seeking a  
15 Scranton Sewer Authority position as well?  
16 If yes, will he continue to hold both  
17 positions or will he be giving up the Civil  
18 Service Commission? I'd like to know that.

19 Then also last week I asked if the  
20 Court approves the commuter tax how many  
21 more years will it buy us in being able to  
22 pay the pensions we currently owe,  
23 Mr. Evans, were you able to get that  
24 information.

25 MR. EVANS: What's the question,

1 Marie?

2 MS. SCHUMACHER: You're the new  
3 Finance Chair, the number of years that that  
4 \$5 million in the commuter tax, if it's  
5 approved, will keep the pension fund  
6 solvent?

7 MR. EVANS: I didn't get the exact  
8 amount I think that the Auditor General's  
9 report has -- you know, he is looking at  
10 three to five years, I don't think it makes  
11 much difference the \$5 million, but I'll  
12 verify that, you know, the exact amount.

13 MS. SCHUMACHER: Thank you.

14 MR. EVANS: But more than that we  
15 are looking at a \$12 million payment this  
16 year so --

17 MS. SCHUMACHER: And then on 3-B  
18 tonight I know those numbers look rather  
19 healthy because they are comparing 2013  
20 numbers -- 2013 collections to 2014  
21 collections when you had big tax increases  
22 in the property tax, but I would also like  
23 to know how those track to our cash flow  
24 projections on everything that's collected.

25 Okay, I will be back next week, good

1 Lord willing, and I haven't forgotten you,  
2 Mr. Rogan, I'll be back. Thank you.

3 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening, Council,  
4 Dave Dobrzyn, resident. Taxes paid, fees  
5 paid. Now, over the last couple of months  
6 over this commuter tax I seen several  
7 articles in the Scranton Times on letters to  
8 the editor about how we have volunteer fire  
9 companies such and we don't have to pay  
10 taxes such as this and these people should  
11 start to keep in mind volunteer fire company  
12 losses. Swoyersville \$700,000 was pilfered  
13 out of their funds, Moosic over \$300,000  
14 pilfered out of their funds, and years back  
15 I had a person that was literally pestered  
16 into a psychiatric counseling because he  
17 couldn't live up to his job as an  
18 uncompensated EMT and show up for chicken  
19 barbecues or whatever and help out all day  
20 with that, too, and Olyphant now we had the  
21 fire at Scranton Cooperage with all of that  
22 dye and all of that stuff and apparently  
23 they some kind of salt that helps to start  
24 fires so they are back there four times and  
25 say they are not returning again, so my



1 proposition there or supposition is that  
2 some day volunteer fire companies are going  
3 to fall by the wayside and rightfully so.

4 Kane Street project, does anybody  
5 know if that has anything to do with the  
6 pipeline damage that was inflicted from the  
7 gas line or the landfill in Taylor? I mean,  
8 Kane Street was a stream for years, but I  
9 certainly hope that once again we weren't  
10 bamboozled by somebody making a lot of money  
11 digging up the street making a mess out of  
12 it and turning a fantastic profit and  
13 leaving us holding the bag.

14 My comments on 5-C and D it's way  
15 past due. Way past due that we start to get  
16 some kind of collections in, and once again  
17 I'd like to mention that some of these  
18 companies or organizations should be  
19 steering people towards possibly paying off  
20 with a reverse mortgage. Do you really want  
21 to be put out of your house some day? I  
22 just heard a story about somebody didn't pay  
23 their taxes, I don't know why, but they had  
24 until September 30 to move and I think it's  
25 down on Hickory Street, it's right near us,

1 Wayne, they're out as of September 30. They  
2 didn't pay trash fees, they didn't pay -- I  
3 don't know what it was all about, they know  
4 what their finances were, might have been  
5 met medical bills, might have been buying 20  
6 lottery tickets a day, who knows, you know?  
7 So much for casinos.

8 I'd also like to remind people in  
9 town that we have some severe fraud going on  
10 with selling secondary sales of the  
11 electrical service. These companies have  
12 more copper in the phone wires going into  
13 their office than they own in generating  
14 power or supplying power or delivering  
15 powering. There is 350 organizations or  
16 companies that are selling electricity on a  
17 so-called competitive basis and the PUC is  
18 doing nothing about it, they are basically a  
19 fraud. My suggestion is when they call you  
20 use the appropriate foul language, because  
21 they called you, be abusive and hang up on  
22 them because you will get swamped with 50 to  
23 60 -- or 600 percent, five and 600 percent  
24 some people are paying and a variable rate  
25 for electricity. It's just ungodly and I

1 have the article right here, I passed it to  
2 you a few weeks ago, all of you, and it's  
3 basically nothing but a whole energy  
4 situation nothing but a fraud.

5 And finally, another buyer beware, I  
6 have to read this article, somebody was kind  
7 enough to pass it to me, Pennsylvania sales  
8 and use tax, restaurant industry alone \$922  
9 million in revenue that the State of  
10 Pennsylvania is being cheated out of on an  
11 annual basis \$922 million, so if somebody  
12 tells you to increase sales taxes, well, we  
13 better straighten them out before we  
14 increase them.

15 And one final note on the taxpayers  
16 we had a conference on the river with Bernie  
17 McGurl, and he is a river activist and if  
18 you can catch it on ECTV sometime try and  
19 watch it because it will show you a lot of  
20 the concerns with what he are faced with the  
21 river and I certainly don't want to see the  
22 sewer plant monetized, but --

23 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

24 MR. DOBRZYN: -- there is a big road  
25 ahead. Thank you and have a good night.

1 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else who wishes  
2 to address council?

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

5 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Wechsler?

6 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr.  
7 McGoff, a few things tonight. The first  
8 thing I'd like to talk about is to thank and  
9 congratulate the first responders, including  
10 the fire department, police and ambulance,  
11 Red Cross people, volunteers from the  
12 neighborhood who responded to the fire on  
13 Stafford Avenue on Sunday morning. You  
14 know, being familiar with that neighborhood  
15 that could have been a much worse problem  
16 than it was and, once again, I would like to  
17 congratulate everyone that was involved with  
18 that.

19 In regards to the news about  
20 Goodwill that was in the paper this week,  
21 city council has sent a letter to the county  
22 requesting that they support Goodwill's  
23 application for those transfers. We are at  
24 point now where we have to do whatever we  
25 can to move that Goodwill project along and

1           this helps that and I'm all in favor of it.

2                        Last week there was some questions  
3           asked about the SAFER grants, I spoke to  
4           Captain Lucas today about that, the SAFER  
5           grant money for 2014 is for the most part  
6           been received and it going to cover the  
7           amount of money targeted for that amount  
8           this year.

9                        In terms of where we are in terms of  
10          going forward, to date the July was the  
11          proposed announcement of the applications  
12          and that has not happened yet. As a result,  
13          I believe that the city should be preparing  
14          for no SAFER grants for next year's budget.  
15          That would require us to propose funding  
16          required to keep at least 126 firemen  
17          working and that would have to come out of  
18          our budget. If money becomes available,  
19          we'll be ahead of the game, but I think this  
20          is the practice that's been used in the past  
21          where we kind of budget it by wish. I think  
22          going forward we have to start to budget by  
23          fact.

24                        We did speak tonight in the caucus  
25          the garbage tax bills were due, the final

1 payments were due on September 1. There is  
2 a grace period until September 30 for people  
3 to pay those bills. I would like to see or  
4 find out what attempts the city makes to  
5 collect those taxes before the end of the  
6 year. I am a bit concerned that once the  
7 state passes these delinquent garbage bills  
8 go somewhere else and they are kind of  
9 forgotten about. Next year when the bills  
10 are mailed out it's only the bill for 2015  
11 and there is no reference to the prior  
12 balance that people may owe. I think there  
13 is lot of people that pay the first half,  
14 put the bill in the drawer and forget the  
15 second half. There is people that think  
16 since I didn't pay it I'm just going to take  
17 my chances, so I would like to see some more  
18 aggressive collecting of those taxes before  
19 the end of the year.

20 . In regard to some of the points  
21 that were brought up tonight, in terms of  
22 the neighborhood groups, it's hard to  
23 stomach criticism of the neighborhood group.  
24 The neighborhood groups are out there  
25 working. They are not coming to council to

1 speak, they are out their supporting their  
2 neighborhoods. The walking around money  
3 that was around when I was the president of  
4 the East Mountain Resident's Association we  
5 got a lot of money from walking around money  
6 that's not available anymore. Any monies  
7 that these neighborhoods have for the most  
8 part has been developed by their hard work.  
9 They do participate in some grants, but it's  
10 hard work and volunteerism and I don't think  
11 that they have to be here at city council to  
12 show that they are supporting the city and  
13 doing their best. I would welcome them to  
14 come. I would like to hear them come and  
15 speak. I attend a lot of the meetings, a  
16 lot of professionals are there, a lot of  
17 commitment and a lot of success independent  
18 of the city.

19 I'd like to mention about the  
20 casino, I don't have any problem with  
21 supporting the casino but my biggest problem  
22 is right now looking in downtown Scranton  
23 I'm very, very concerned that a casino put  
24 into the Steamtown Mall would dry up any of  
25 the small restaurants and bars that are

1           currently available down there. I think a  
2           casino may have the result of people go in  
3           there and never come out, so I am very  
4           nervous about that. I'm not opposed to the  
5           idea, but I would have to be sold that it  
6           would not hurt the downtown people.

7                         And just one comment about the  
8           citizen who wanted us to submit their  
9           Right-to-Know Act, over the past couple of  
10          weeks we have heard a lot about standard  
11          operating procedures. I'm all in favor, my  
12          career has been based on writing standard  
13          operating procedures and evaluating their  
14          success. The procedure for this is to  
15          present it to the BA's Office and to the  
16          Right-to-Know Office. I can foresee a  
17          problem where if we accept this and for  
18          somehow it's not in a timely fashion or it's  
19          not submitted correctly that the request is  
20          not answered, so like I said, I agree with  
21          everybody about SOP'S and the SOP for this  
22          is to submit it to the business  
23          administrator, and that's all I have. Thank  
24          you.

25                         MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Rogan?



1 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. A few items.  
2 First, this is one that Mr. McGoff mentioned  
3 during our opening prayer that today is  
4 September 11. We certainly need to remember  
5 all of the police officers, firefighters and  
6 EMT's that rushed into those buildings when  
7 the rest of us were rushing out and to  
8 remember to keep in them in their prayers as  
9 well as the troops that were overseas. It  
10 looks we may be engaging in more military  
11 action overseas.

12 Onto some city business, we did  
13 receive a letter from PennDOT following up  
14 the letter that we sent regarding Keyser  
15 Avenue and Dalton Street. In summary, the  
16 letter states, "I'm writing in response to  
17 your correspondence regarding the trucks  
18 turning onto Dalton Street from Keyser  
19 Avenue in Scranton."

20 It says, "The Department is  
21 evaluating whether modifications to the road  
22 can be done to try to accommodate larger  
23 vehicles. We are having our consultant look  
24 at the layout and the follow-up with the  
25 findings. Very hopeful that PennDOT will be

1           able to come to a resolution on this, that  
2           they can work for business owners and  
3           residents in that part of Scranton."

4                       Next, regarding I believe it's item  
5           -- one of the first items we are vote on the  
6           CDBG allotments for this year, I just wanted  
7           to give a brief rundown of some of the  
8           highlights in these grant allotments as they  
9           currently stand. Now, the way the process  
10          will work we will introduce this legislation  
11          tonight, next week there will be a public  
12          hearing and then there will be a 30-day  
13          waiting period where residents can give  
14          comments through OECD or through city  
15          council at the podium if they wish.

16                      The first item I want to talk about  
17          is one of the most popular parts of the CDBG  
18          allotment and that's the neighborhood police  
19          patrol. That's currently being budgeted for  
20          \$300,000. The \$300,000 allocation will fund  
21          the three officers we currently have through  
22          the neighborhood police patrols and one  
23          additional officer. It says, "The  
24          neighborhood police patrol officers will  
25          continue to be on foot and/or bicycles. The

1 neighborhood police patrol will be assigned  
2 to solely neighborhoods that qualify for  
3 expenditures of the federal monies under the  
4 new 2010 census data that became effective  
5 July 1, 2014."

6 And as we learned when previous  
7 Mayor Doherty cut the police department,  
8 these officers cannot be used to fill cuts  
9 on the city end, so the city regular police  
10 patrol must be at 140 officers. Any  
11 reduction below that amount would forbid us  
12 from being able to use these funds.

13 The second item, which is another  
14 very popular item, reconstruction of roads,  
15 paving, including handicapped curb cuts,  
16 Scranton has reviewed the new 2010 census  
17 data and the administration is requesting a  
18 \$640,500 to be allocated for the  
19 reconstruction of roads to include handicap  
20 curb cuts. OECD will look at streets that  
21 were not previously eligible to include them  
22 on the potential paving list.

23 One of the issues that using CDBG  
24 money for paving is it can only be used in  
25 certain areas that are deemed by the federal

1 government to be low to moderate income so  
2 it does restrict where those funds can be  
3 used, but because of the new census that  
4 came out there have been changes so they  
5 will be looking at some possibly areas that  
6 weren't low to moderate in the past census  
7 that may be on that list now.

8 Number three, and these are just the  
9 highlights not the entire package, number  
10 three is the new pumper engine for Station  
11 7. A new pumper/engine for Engine 7 will be  
12 purchased. The \$100,000 is a down payment  
13 for the fire truck. The city will pay for  
14 the rest of the truck over time so that's  
15 certainly an improvement. I know have  
16 speaking to members of the fire department  
17 that there is much investment needs to be  
18 paid in equipment for the fire department so  
19 that is a piece of the good news there as  
20 well.

21 The HOME program. The City of  
22 Scranton Housing Rehabilitation Program  
23 previously funded through Neighbor Works  
24 will now be funded through OECD. Currently  
25 OECD has redesigned the program and will be

1 looking for inspection service to provide  
2 assistance. The administration is  
3 requesting \$175,000 for this program.

4 Lackawanna Neighbors, would be zero  
5 dollars through the CDBG funding and \$75,000  
6 for the HOME program. The OECD determined  
7 each of the decreases in CDBG program  
8 funding. Lackawanna Neighbors would be  
9 funded through the HOME program for housing  
10 purchase, rehabilitation, lead abatement and  
11 resale in the amount of \$75,000. After the  
12 completion of the rehabilitation, the home  
13 will be sold to an income eligible applicant  
14 under Scranton's Home Buyer Program. Homes  
15 will be located anywhere within the City of  
16 Scranton.

17 Number six, administration. Fair  
18 housing analysis. In 2015, Scranton is  
19 required to prepare a fair housing analysis.  
20 OECD has made it a policy that every five  
21 years when Scranton submits its five-year  
22 consolidated plan for HUD the city will  
23 prepare a fair housing analysis. This is an  
24 administrative expense that will cost  
25 approximately \$20,000. Under the HOME

1 program Scranton is allowed 10 percent of  
2 the allocation to go towards administration.  
3 As you can see the \$20,000 for the fair  
4 housing analysis and the other \$20,000 will  
5 go towards running the HOME program.

6 And finally, the demolition of  
7 blighted and abandoned properties throughout  
8 the City of Scranton. That line item  
9 currently is proposed at \$200,000 for this  
10 year.

11 And actually one point that I forgot  
12 to mention, the Novembrino pool, which is  
13 one that has been talked about much at these  
14 meetings as the children in West Side being  
15 the biggest part of the city and the  
16 children not having a pool over there, the  
17 project is being funded currently at  
18 \$220,000. This project will eliminate the  
19 current usable pool and rehab the space by  
20 adding a total park complex, a retrofitting  
21 of the pump house to include restrooms and  
22 provide more safety and security features.  
23 I'm sure that will be much more discussion  
24 of these items as we move forward. I just  
25 wanted to announce these today, and that's

1 all. Thank you.

2 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Evans.

3 MR. EVANS: Thank you. Last week  
4 during motions I mentioned that I would like  
5 to see Don King and the Planning Commission  
6 to take a look at the cell tower zoning code  
7 and I'm not sure what the procedure is to  
8 make that happen, do we send a letter, do we  
9 call him?

10 MS. REED: Sure.

11 MR. EVANS: You will contact him?  
12 All right. Tonight I'd like to talk a  
13 little bit about tax exempt properties,  
14 another key component of the Amoroso plan.  
15 In the plan the stated goal is to increase  
16 PILOT payments to \$1.5 million by the Year  
17 2015. This could be in the form of money to  
18 the general fund or possibly in the form of  
19 services or specific projects, such as  
20 infrastructure improvements or public safety  
21 or accommodations, those components, but  
22 before those discussions begin, I think a  
23 better understanding of their tax exempt  
24 status is important.

25 Purely Public Charity is tax exempt

1 for purposes of local real estate taxes  
2 under the Pennsylvania constitution.  
3 However, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, as  
4 a result of a Court case in 1985 created  
5 what's called the hub test to determine  
6 whether a nonprofit organization is to be  
7 treated as such a charity. It should also  
8 be noted that each and every parcel that a  
9 nonprofit owns must meet those requirements  
10 as well. The five part hub test is as  
11 follows:

12 Number one, they need to advance a  
13 charitable purpose. Two, donate or render  
14 gratuitously a substantial portion of their  
15 services. Three, benefit a substantial an  
16 indefinite class of persons who are a  
17 legitimate subject of charity. Four,  
18 relieve the government of some of its  
19 burden; and five, operate entirely free of  
20 profit motive.

21 While I don't dispute there are  
22 nonprofit property owners more than likely  
23 meet all of those requirements, I am less  
24 confident that every parcel that they may  
25 own would meet those standards. A



1 particular property might not qualify for a  
2 real estate property exemption if the  
3 property is not actually and regularly used  
4 for the purposes of that institution.  
5 Ownership of a property is not the sole  
6 determiner of a taxable status. The use of  
7 the property must be in support of the  
8 purpose or mission of the tax exempt  
9 institution.

10 So, therefore, it's a real very good  
11 possibility that we may find certain  
12 property owned by a purely public charity to  
13 be liable for real estate taxes if the  
14 property will not used to advance the  
15 purpose of the institution in question.

16 Also, the governing bodies, like the  
17 City of Scranton, the Scranton School  
18 District, or any other government body,  
19 always has th ability to appeal the  
20 assessments to the local appeals board to  
21 determine if correctly the tax exempt status  
22 in question is proper. To that end, a  
23 progressive county in Western Pennsylvania  
24 had begun a parcel by parcel review of all  
25 tax exempt properties in their county. They

1 sent a letter to every property owner that  
2 has tax exempt parcels as a purely public  
3 charity. Their property owners have been  
4 given a deadline to provide the county with  
5 application explaining how they qualify for  
6 tax exempt status under the hub test for  
7 each individual parcel and, of course, this  
8 process is still ongoing. Other progressive  
9 county governments have internal policies  
10 that dictated that when any property is  
11 transferred to new ownership that property  
12 would automatically be made taxable despite  
13 who the seller or the buyer was. This then  
14 allowed the nonprofit to make their case  
15 before an appeals board as to why that  
16 parcel should be tax exempt. This simple  
17 policy change would have a dramatic effect  
18 on the taxing bodies affected.

19 Those are several things, again,  
20 that our state reps and state senators could  
21 look into our behalf as statewide solutions  
22 to the inconsistencies in how the government  
23 choose to deal with in their dealings with  
24 nonprofits. As the Finance Chair for  
25 Scranton City Council, if it is appropriate

1 I would offer my services and commitment to  
2 join the administration in any discussions  
3 with our purely public charities. Thank  
4 you.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Gaughan.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, thank you.

7 Council received correspondence from OECD  
8 regarding the CDBG funds used for the 2014  
9 paving project throughout the city.  
10 American Asphalt Paving Company was the  
11 lowest bidder in the amount of \$791,00. A  
12 pre-construction meeting will be held on  
13 September 17. A notice of receipt date is  
14 September 22 and paving should be completed  
15 by October 31 of this year depending on  
16 weather conditions.

17 I have a list of the streets, it's a  
18 little lengthy, but they will be paving in  
19 Pinebrook, the Weston Field section, North  
20 Scranton, and West Scranton, so that's a  
21 good project and I'm sure the residents of  
22 those neighborhoods will be glad to see  
23 streets paved.

24 Last week I mentioned that council  
25 had received a letter from residents of the

1 Geneva House on Adams Avenue regarding their  
2 request for a new "Emergency Exit Only/No  
3 Parking" sign and their concerns over the  
4 people illegally parking in front of the  
5 emergency exit. Council received a quick  
6 response from Chief Graziano and they took  
7 care of the problem along with DPW Director  
8 Denny Gallagher, so on behalf of council I  
9 would like to thank them for that and I know  
10 that the residents of the Geneva House are  
11 grateful for the quick response because that  
12 was a major issue.

13 Last week I had requested a process  
14 for residents requesting a streetlight in  
15 their neighborhood be published on the  
16 city's website. Mrs. Reed was in contact  
17 with our IT Department who put it on the  
18 main page this week and we thank them very  
19 much for that.

20 There is a vacant lot in the corner  
21 across from the Veteran's Center on Pittston  
22 Avenue that has overgrown weeds and grass  
23 and looks like it hasn't been maintained in  
24 quite some time so it's a real eyesore. The  
25 address is 929 Pittston Avenue. I was

1                   contacted by neighbors who would like to see  
2                   it cleaned up.

3                   Our office will be forwarding this  
4                   concern to Licensing, Inspections and  
5                   Permits Department which I also should say  
6                   is doing a good job getting to these  
7                   complaints and concerns from neighbors. And  
8                   that is all I have this week. Thank you.

9                   MR. MCGOFF: And I would like to  
10                  reiterate that council meeting will continue  
11                  to be held on Thursday nights 6:30 in  
12                  council chambers until further notice. When  
13                  we receive information as to the renovations  
14                  of the elevator and when that will take  
15                  place, notice will be given as to where and  
16                  when council meeting will be held. That's  
17                  all.

18                  MS. REED: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
19                  AN ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND  
20                  OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF  
21                  SCRANTON TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY ACTIONS TO  
22                  IMPLEMENT THE CONSOLIDATED SUBMISSION FOR  
23                  COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS  
24                  TO BE FUNDED UNDER THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
25                  BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM, HOME INVESTMENT

1 PARTNERSHIP (HOME) PROGRAM AND EMERGENCY  
2 SOLUTIONS GRANTS (ESG) PROGRAM FOR THE  
3 PERIOD BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2015.

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

7 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

8 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

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

12 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

13 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

14 MR. EVANS: Aye.

15 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

16 MS. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The  
17 ayes have it and so moved.

18 MS. REED: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
19 AN ORDINANCE - APPROVING PENALTY, INTEREST  
20 AND FEE SCHEDULE FOR COLLECTION OF  
21 DELINQUENT REFUSE FEES.

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

25 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

1 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

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

5 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

6 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

7 MR. EVANS: Aye.

8 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

9 MS. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The  
10 ayes have it and so moved.

11 MS. REED: 5-D. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
12 AN ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND  
13 OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF  
14 SCRANTON TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A THIRD  
15 ADDENDUM TO THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES  
16 CONTRACT WITH NORTHEAST REVENUE SERVICES LLC  
17 FOR THE COLLECTION OF DELINQUENT TAXES TO  
18 EXPAND THE COLLECTION SERVICES PERFORMED BY  
19 NORTHEAST REVENUE SERVICES TO INCLUDE THE  
20 COLLECTION OF DELINQUENT ANNUAL OCCUPANCY  
21 LICENSE AND PARKING LOT OPERATOR FEES.

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

25 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

1 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

2 MR. MCGOFF: On the question?

3 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

4 MR. GAUGHAN: Oh, sorry.

5 MR. WECHSLER: Before final passage  
6 of this I would like us to do some further  
7 investigation into if any of these fees can  
8 be collected by the Single Tax office.

9 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question,  
10 I was talking to Bill Fox, our tax  
11 collector, today and he feels strongly that  
12 their office can do this work so I agree  
13 with Councilman Wechsler that we have two  
14 meetings left so by the final vote we will  
15 try to iron that out and find out if it  
16 makes more sense just to have the Single Tax  
17 Office collect those delinquent fees.

18 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else? All those  
19 in favor of introduction signify by saying  
20 aye.

21 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

22 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

23 MR. EVANS: Aye.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

25 MS. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The



1 ayes have it and so moved.

2 MS. REED: 5-E. FOR INTRODUCTION - A  
3 RESOLUTION - RATIFYING AND APPROVING OF THE  
4 EXECUTION AND SUBMISSION OF THE GRANT  
5 APPLICATION BY THE CITY OF SCRANTON POLICE  
6 DEPARTMENT TO THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF  
7 COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (DCED)  
8 FOR A LOCAL SHARE ACCOUNT GRANT (GAMING  
9 FUNDS) MONROE COUNTY IN THE AMOUNT OF  
10 \$180,000.00 FOR THE SCRANTON POLICE  
11 DEPARTMENT TO FUND THE COMPLETION OF PHASE 2  
12 OF THE COMMUNITY SURVEILLANCE NETWORK  
13 PROJECT. AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER  
14 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO ACCEPT THE  
15 GRANT, IF SUCCESSFUL, COORDINATING AND  
16 DISBURSING THE GRANT FUNDS FOR PHASE 2 OF  
17 THE COMMUNITY SURVEILLANCE NETWORK PROJECT.

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

21 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

22 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

23 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? All  
24 those in favor of introduction signify by  
25 saying aye.

1 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

2 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

3 MR. EVANS: Aye.

4 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

7 MS. REED: 5-F. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
8 A RESOLUTION - RATIFYING AND APPROVING OF  
9 THE EXECUTION AND SUBMISSION OF THE GRANT  
10 APPLICATION BY THE CITY OF SCRANTON  
11 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS TO THE  
12 PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND  
13 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (DCED) FOR A LOCAL  
14 SHARE ACCOUNT GRANT (GAMING FUNDS) MONROE  
15 COUNTY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$625,417.00 FOR THE  
16 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS TO FUND THE  
17 COMPLETION OF PHASE 2 OF THE KANE STREET  
18 PROJECT. AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER  
19 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO ACCEPT THE  
20 GRANT, IF SUCCESSFUL, COORDINATING AND  
21 DISBURSING THE GRANT FUNDS FOR PHASE 2 OF  
22 THE KANE STREET PROJECT.

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

1 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

2 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

3 MR. MCGOFF: On the question?

4 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.

5 I just want to say that I fully support this  
6 grant application and I hope that we do get  
7 the grant because as someone who lives in  
8 Minooka and travels this area often, in  
9 fact, when I first on council many of the  
10 complaints that I got was about Kane Street  
11 and it really is in awful condition. I  
12 wouldn't even consider it a road at this  
13 point so I hope that we can get this money  
14 and appreciate the administration submitting  
15 this grant and trying to take care of this  
16 problem.

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

19 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

20 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

21 MR. EVANS: Aye.

22 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

25 MS. REED: 5-G. FOR INTRODUCTION -

1 A RESOLUTION – RATIFYING AND APPROVING OF  
2 THE EXECUTION AND SUBMISSION OF THE GRANT  
3 APPLICATION BY THE CITY OF SCRANTON, ON  
4 BEHALF OF THE EVERHART MUSEUM, TO THE  
5 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA ACTING THROUGH  
6 THE COMMONWEALTH FINANCING AUTHORITY FOR  
7 A LOCAL SHARE ACCOUNT GRANT, PURSUANT TO THE  
8 PA RACE HORSE DEVELOPMENT AND GAMING ACT IN  
9 THE AMOUNT OF \$300,000.00 FOR THE PROJECT TO  
10 BE KNOWN AS "EVERHART MUSEUM SAFETY  
11 INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT" LOCATED IN SCRANTON,  
12 PENNSYLVANIA. AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND  
13 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS OF THE CITY  
14 OF SCRANTON TO ACCEPT THE GRANT, IF  
15 SUCCESSFUL, AND EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A  
16 LOCAL SHARE ACCOUNT GRANT CONTRACT AND  
17 COMMITMENT LETTER WITH THE COMMONWEALTH OF  
18 PENNSYLVANIA TO ACCEPT AND UTILIZE THE GRANT  
19 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$300,000.00 AWARDED BY THE  
20 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA FOR SUCH  
21 PROJECT.

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

25 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

1 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

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

5 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

6 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

7 MR. EVANS: Aye.

8 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

9 MS. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The  
10 ayes have it and so moved.

11 MS. REED: 5-H. FOR INTRODUCTION - A  
12 RESOLUTION - RATIFYING AND APPROVING OF THE  
13 EXECUTION AND SUBMISSION OF THE GRANT  
14 APPLICATION BY THE CITY OF SCRANTON FIRE  
15 DEPARTMENT TO THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF  
16 COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (DCED)  
17 FOR A LOCAL SHARE ACCOUNT GRANT (GAMING  
18 FUNDS) MONROE COUNTY IN THE AMOUNT OF  
19 \$916,035.00 FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON FIRE  
20 DEPARTMENT TO BE USED TOWARD THE PURCHASE OF  
21 A NEW KME 100' MID MOUNT AERIAL TRUCK TO  
22 REPLACE A 2001 FERRARA TRUCK. AUTHORIZING  
23 THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY  
24 OFFICIALS TO ACCEPT THE GRANT, IF  
25 SUCCESSFUL, COORDINATING AND DISBURSING THE

1 GRANT FUNDS TOWARD THE PURCHASE OF THE NEW  
2 AERIAL TRUCK.

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

6 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

7 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

8 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? All  
9 those in favor of introduction signify by  
10 saying aye.

11 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

12 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

13 MR. EVANS: Aye.

14 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

15 MS. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The  
16 ayes have it and so moved.

17 MS. REED: 5-I. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
18 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND  
19 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE  
20 AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH A & M  
21 ELECTRICAL CONSTRUCTION, INC. TO PROVIDE  
22 MAINTENANCE OF TRAFFIC SIGNALIZATION FOR THE  
23 CITY OF SCRANTON FOR THE PERIOD OF ONE (1)  
24 YEAR FROM SEPTEMBER 1, 2014 THROUGH AUGUST  
25 31, 2015.

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

4 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

5 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

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

9 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

10 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

11 MR. EVANS: Aye.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

13 MS. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The  
14 ayes have it and so moved.

15 MS. REED: SIXTH ORDER. 6-A.  
16 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.  
17 42, 2014 - AN ORDINANCE - CREATING AND  
18 ESTABLISHING SPECIAL CITY ACCOUNT NO.  
19 02.229612 ENTITLED "FREE SWIM FOR CITIZENS  
20 OF SCRANTON" FOR THE RECEIPT AND  
21 DISBURSEMENT OF THOSE FUNDS RECEIVED FOR  
22 THIS PURPOSE.

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

25 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-A

1 pass reading by title.

2 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

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

5 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

6 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

7 MR. EVANS: Aye.

8 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

9 MR. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The  
10 ayes have it and so moved.

11 MS. REED: 6-B. READING BY TITLE -  
12 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 43, 2014 - AN  
13 ORDINANCE - DESIGNATING THE 500 BLOCK OF  
14 BOGART PLACE AS ONE WAY  
15 DESIGNATION-WESTBOUND FROM CEDAR AVENUE TO  
16 SOUTH WASHINGTON AVENUE, APPROXIMATELY 430  
17 LINEAR FEET.

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

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

22 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

23 MS. MCGOFF: On the question?

24 MR. WECHSLER: Yes, Mr. McGoff, one  
25 question on this, a resident called and



1           asked me these one-ways does there have to  
2           be a traffic study for this?

3                   MR. MCGOFF: I think it was done if  
4           I'm not mistaken.

5                   MR. WECHSLER: Thank you.

6                   MR. GAUGHAN: I think in the backup  
7           from what Chief Graziano said they did do a  
8           study. I could be wrong there, I think I  
9           remember seeing that.

10                   MR. ROGAN: I was like one of the  
11           speakers, I was under the assumption this  
12           always was a one-way.

13                   MR. MCGOFF: It was, the other way.

14                   MR. EVANS: And then it became two  
15           ways somehow, but --

16                   MR. GAUGHAN: And I think the  
17           pedestrian traffic increased and that is  
18           what brought this whole thing about.

19                   MR. MCGOFF: All those in favor  
20           signify by saying aye.

21                   MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

22                   MR. ROGAN: Aye.

23                   MR. EVANS: Aye.

24                   MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

25                   MR. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The

1 ayes have it and so moved.

2 MS. REED: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR  
3 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES -  
4 FOR ADOPTION -RESOLUTION NO. 71, 2014 -  
5 APPOINTMENT OF SANTA J. CORBY A/K/A SANDY  
6 CORBY, 401 WILLIAMSBURG LANE, SCRANTON,  
7 PENNSYLVANIA, 18504 AS A MEMBER OF THE  
8 BOARD OF THE SCRANTON PARKING AUTHORITY  
9 EFFECTIVE AUGUST 11, 2014. MRS. CORBY WILL  
10 BE REPLACING FRANK J. TUNIS, JR. WHO WAS  
11 REMOVED FROM THE BOARD BY LETTER DATED  
12 JANUARY 22, 2014. MRS. CORBY WILL FILL THE  
13 UNEXPIRED TERM OF FRANK J. TUNIS, JR., WHOSE  
14 TERM IS SCHEDULED TO EXPIRE ON JUNE 1, 2017.

15 MR. MCGOFF: As Chairperson for the  
16 Committee on Rules, I recommend final  
17 passage of Item 7-A.

18 MR. ROGAN: Second.

19 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? Roll  
20 call, please?

21 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

22 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

23 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

24 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

25 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

1 MR. EVANS: Yes.

2 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

3 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

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

7 MS. REED: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION  
8 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION  
9 -RESOLUTION NO. 72, 2014 - APPOINTMENT OF  
10 MAUREEN MCNICHOLS, 551 NORTH HYDE PARK  
11 AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18504 AS A  
12 MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF THE SCRANTON PARKING  
13 AUTHORITY EFFECTIVE AUGUST 11, 2014. MRS.  
14 MCNICHOLS WILL BE REPLACING ROSETTA WALSH  
15 WHO RESIGNED EFFECTIVE AUGUST 5, 2014. MRS.  
16 MCNICHOLS WILL FILL THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF  
17 ROSETTA WALSH, WHOSE TERM IS SCHEDULED TO  
18 EXPIRE ON JUNE 1, 2015.

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

22 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

25 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

1 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

2 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

3 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

5 MR. EVANS: Yes.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

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

11 MS. REED: 7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION  
12 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION  
13 -RESOLUTION NO. 73, 2014 - AMENDING  
14 RESOLUTION NO. 1, 2014, ENTITLED "ADOPTING  
15 THE RULES AND ORDER OF BUSINESS OF THE  
16 SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL, SCRANTON,  
17 PENNSYLVANIA", BY AMENDING ARTICLE III.  
18 COMMITTEES, SECTION 2. STANDING COMMITTEES  
19 OF THE COUNCIL AND SECTION 3. STANDING  
20 SUB-COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL.

21 MR. MCGOFF: As Chairperson for the  
22 Committee on Rules, I recommend final  
23 passage of Item 7-C.

24 MR. ROGAN: Second.

25 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? All

1                   those in favor, signify by saying aye.

2                   MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

3                   MR. ROGAN: Aye.

4                   MR. EVANS: Aye.

5                   MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

6                   MS. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The  
7                   eyes have it and so moved.

8                   MS. REED: We'll need a roll call  
9                   vote, Mr. McGoff.

10                  MR. MCGOFF: Oh, I'm sorry. Roll  
11                  call, please.

12                  MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

13                  MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

14                  MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

15                  MR. ROGAN: Yes.

16                  MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

17                  MR. EVANS: Yes.

18                  MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

19                  MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

20                  MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

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

24                  MS. REED: 7-D. FOR CONSIDERATION BY  
25                  THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION

1           -RESOLUTION NO. 74, 2014 - RE-APPOINTMENT OF  
2           MICHAEL SALERNO, 1200 BRYN MAWR STREET,  
3           SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18504, AS A MEMBER  
4           OF THE BOARD OF THE SCRANTON PARKING  
5           AUTHORITY FOR AN ADDITIONAL FIVE (5) YEAR  
6           TERM. MR. SALERNO'S CURRENT TERM EXPIRED ON  
7           JUNE 1, 2014 AND HIS NEW TERM WILL EXPIRE ON  
8           JUNE 1, 2019.

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

12          MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

15          MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

16          MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

17          MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

18          MR. ROGAN: Yes.

19          MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

20          MR. EVANS: Yes.

21          MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

22          MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

23          MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

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

1 MS. REED: 7-E. FOR CONSIDERATION  
2 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION  
3 -RESOLUTION NO. 75, 2014 - APPOINTMENT OF  
4 DOMINIC GEORGETTI 3015 PITTSTON AVE,  
5 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18505, AS A MEMBER  
6 OF THE BOARD OF THE SCRANTON SEWER AUTHORITY  
7 EFFECTIVE AUGUST 27, 2014. MR. GEORGETTI  
8 WILL BE REPLACING ELIZABETH RANDOL WHO  
9 RESIGNED ON AUGUST 26, 2014. MR. GEORGETTI  
10 WILL FILL THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF ELIZABETH  
11 RANDOL, WHOSE TERM IS SCHEDULED TO EXPIRE ON  
12 DECEMBER 31, 2015.

13 MR. WECHSLER: I make a motion to  
14 amend Item 7-E per the following corrections  
15 to read: "Whose term is scheduled to expire  
16 on December 31, 2016."

17 MR. ROGAN: Second.

18 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? All  
19 those in favor of the motion to amend 7-E  
20 signify by saying aye.

21 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

22 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

23 MR. EVANS: Aye.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

25 MS. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The

1 ayes have it and so moved.

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

5 MR. ROGAN: Second.

6 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? Roll  
7 call, please?

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

9 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

11 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

13 MR. EVANS: Yes.

14 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

15 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

16 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

17 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I hereby declare  
18 Item 7-E legally and lawfully adopted.

19 MS. REED: 7-F. FOR CONSIDERATION BY  
20 THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY - FOR  
21 ADOPTION -RESOLUTION NO. 76, 2014 -  
22 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE  
23 CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO AN  
24 AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN THE CITY OF  
25 SCRANTON, PP&L AND THE UNIVERSITY OF



1 SCRANTON FOR THE PLACEMENT OF SURVEILLANCE  
2 CAMERAS ALONG A PORTION OF VINE STREET IN  
3 THE CITY OF SCRANTON AS WELL AS ANY AND  
4 ALL ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS THAT MAY BE  
5 NECESSARY TO CONSUMMATE THIS TRANSACTION.

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

9 MR. WECHSLER: As temporary  
10 Chairperson for the Committee on Public  
11 Safety, I recommend final passage of Item  
12 7-F.

13 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

16 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

17 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

18 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

19 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

20 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

21 MR. EVANS: Yes.

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

25 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I hereby declare

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Item 7-F legally and lawfully adopted.

If there is no further business,  
I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

MR. ROGAN: Motion to adjourn.

MR. MCGOFF: Meeting adjourned.

C E R T I F I C A T E

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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.

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CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR  
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER