

SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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HELD:

Thursday, September 25, 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

JAMIE MARCIANO, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

AMIL MINORA, SOLICITOR

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

3 MR. MCGOFF: Roll call, please.

4 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler.

5 MR. WECHSLER: Here.

6 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

7 MR. ROGAN: Here.

8 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Evans.

9 MR. EVANS: Here.

10 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Here.

12 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

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

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

16 MINUTES OF THE COMPOSITE PENSION BOARD  
17 MEETING HELD AUGUST 27, 2014.

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

20 MS. REED: 3-B. AGENDA FOR THE CITY  
21 PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER  
22 24, 2014.

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

25 MS. REED: 3-C. CHECK RECEIVED FROM

1 LUTHERWOOD, WHICH IS PAYMENT IN LIEU OF  
2 TAXES FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON IN THE  
3 AMOUNT OF \$6,000.00.

4 MR. MCGOFF: On behalf of council  
5 and the City of Scranton we would like to  
6 thank Lutherwood. They have been very  
7 diligent in their payment in lieu of taxes  
8 to the city and we would like to thank them  
9 again for this donation. Any other  
10 comments? If not, received and filed.

11 MS. REED: 3-D. TAX ASSESSOR'S  
12 RESULTS REPORT FOR THE HEARING DATE  
13 HELD SEPTEMBER 3, 2014.

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

16 MS. REED: 3-E. TAX ASSESSOR'S  
17 REPORTS FOR THE HEARING DATES TO BE HELD  
18 OCTOBER 2ND, 8TH, AND 15TH OF 2014.

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

21 Are there any announcements from  
22 council?

23 MR. WECHSLER: I have one,  
24 Mr. McGoff. On Sunday, the Walter Park will  
25 be having a Tikifest. A Tikifest is kind of

1           like an Octoberfest but it's at the tiki  
2           bar. It will begin at 12 p.m. and run until  
3           6:00. Thank you.

4                       MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else? I would  
5           like to announce that it appears that the  
6           elevator repairs will be taking place  
7           starting on October 6 which will necessitate  
8           moving council meetings to another venue for  
9           the time period that the elevator is out of  
10          service. The dates for the meetings will be  
11          October 9, 16, 23 and 29 and they will be  
12          held at the theatre at Lackawanna College.  
13          Same time, 6:00 caucus, 6:30 meeting, and  
14          the reason for the 29th, which is a  
15          Wednesday, is the theatre is not available  
16          on that Thursday night, so rather than  
17          cancel the meeting we are going to move it  
18          ahead one night, okay? So that's the  
19          theatre at Lackawanna College for October 9,  
20          16, 23, and 29. That's all.

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

23                      MR. MCGOFF: Joan Hodowanitz.

24                      MS. HODOWANITZ: Joan Hodowanitz,  
25          Scranton resident. With regard to Item 6-A

1 on the capital budget I was looking at the  
2 backup papers and I didn't see the actual  
3 itemized budget, did I miss it or was it not  
4 attached? Did you see it, Marie?

5 MS. SCHUMACHER: There is none.

6 MS. HODOWANITZ: I saw like the  
7 ordinance sheet, but I didn't see the actual  
8 budget.

9 MR. MCGOFF: It was on there last  
10 week.

11 MS. HODOWANITZ: I'm sorry?

12 MR. MCGOFF: Was it there last week?

13 MS. REED: Yes.

14 MS. HODOWANITZ: Last week, but it's  
15 not attached, okay, maybe I can see that  
16 later. Does anyone have a status on what's  
17 going on with Goodwill now that they got  
18 their approval? Have they started any work?

19 MR. MCGOFF: I'm sorry?

20 MS. HODOWANITZ: Goodwill, have they  
21 started any work not that they gotten  
22 approval from HUD?

23 MR. MCGOFF: That I do not know.

24 MS. HODOWANITZ: I'll be watching  
25 that. It's heading towards the winter

1 months. I thought maybe they would start by  
2 October and they have plans.

3 Yesterday I went to the Composite  
4 Pension Board meeting and the Scranton  
5 Parking Authority meetings. With regard to  
6 the Composite Pension Board, I asked the  
7 board about the state audit and I asked them  
8 about the finding where the MMO was paid  
9 late and we incurred \$185,300 penalty  
10 because of the last year. I asked them if  
11 they were aware whether or not we  
12 had internal controls that would not happen  
13 again. I was surprised that we were told in  
14 May that I should ignore the cause for the  
15 finding that is in the report that  
16 Mr. DePasquale tells every city the same  
17 thing, lack of adequate internal control  
18 procedures and basically what they told me  
19 are words to some effect was the real  
20 problem was that they ran out of money.

21 So my question becomes, well, why  
22 would the city's management give a response  
23 that they agreed with the finding without  
24 exception if internal controls were not the  
25 problem; and number two, what assurance does

1 the taxpayers have that they were not going  
2 to run ought of money again this year? I  
3 think this year is a worse year than last  
4 year. I didn't really get much of a  
5 response, but I think people should be  
6 painfully aware of when December 31 rolls  
7 around hopefully we will have access to the  
8 Business Administrator's Office to get  
9 confirmation that that last MMO has been  
10 paid or we are going to get hit with another  
11 fine, and they said that in the past.

12 MR. MCGOFF: Just for information  
13 sake, it's not a fine it's the interest on  
14 what we have been paid.

15 MS. HODOWANITZ: Yeah, interest by  
16 any other -- \$185,000 --

17 MR. MCGOFF: I'm just saying it's  
18 not a fine.

19 MS. HODOWANITZ: Well, that we are  
20 going to get hit with another interest hi,  
21 okay?

22 MR. MCGOFF: Okay.

23 MS. HODOWANITZ: I would not want  
24 that to happen again. I think the taxpayers  
25 should be told before December 31 that



1           that's coming and people need to be planning  
2           for that. Hopefully we don't have such a  
3           hole in this year's budget that that's going  
4           to happen again, but I don't have a warm and  
5           fuzzy because we are not seeing much about  
6           the budget really right now.

7                     And I went to the Parking Authority  
8           meeting last night and I said to them,  
9           "Where is the Parking Authority's audited  
10          financial statements that Mr. Rossi is  
11          looking for?"

12                    And they basically referred me to  
13          the receiver, Mr. Washo. Does anybody know  
14          where I can find him because those auditor  
15          financial statements for the Parking  
16          Authority are quite important since Parking  
17          Authority has what we might call issues.  
18          Anybody know how to get ahold of Mr. Washo  
19          owe since he is the only one knows the  
20          status of those statements for 2013?

21                    MR. MCGOFF: Yes. Mr. Washo would  
22          be the one that would have those.

23                    MS. HODOWANITZ: Is he supposed to  
24          be right next door to the Hilton, is that  
25          where his office is supposed to be?

1 MS. EVANS: Yeah, that's where his  
2 office is. The former Parking Authority  
3 offices, yes.

4 MS. HODOWANITZ: Okay, because I  
5 walked down there, I didn't any little  
6 shingle saying the Scranton Parking  
7 Authority.

8 MS. EVANS: Well, it doesn't. I  
9 think it says Central Parking.

10 MS. HODOWANITZ: Ah-hah, Central  
11 Parking.

12 MR. EVANS: Yeah.

13 MS. HODOWANITZ: Okay, just wander  
14 in there. I do hope that he has completed  
15 those other financial statements because  
16 they are a major issue and I don't see how  
17 Mr. Rossi can give us a valid audit for the  
18 city without that input so somebody needs to  
19 be asking those questions.

20 And finally, Mr. Gaughan, many  
21 congratulations on your upcoming nuptials.  
22 I understand Saturday. I understand 1 p.m.?  
23 I won't be there, but rumor has it it's Holy  
24 Rosary?

25 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

1 MS. HODOWANITZ: Good luck.

2 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you very much.

3 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else who wishes  
4 to address council?

5 MR. UNGVARSKY: Good evening, city  
6 council.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: Good evening.

8 MR. UNGVARSKY: I'm Tom Ungvarsky.  
9 When this council was seated we had a hope  
10 for a couple of things, one was that you  
11 would answer the questions they was put to  
12 you. The second was that you would be more  
13 open and have your caucus meetings out here  
14 on the floor. Last week you had a very  
15 important meeting back in the office, I  
16 think the people had a right to hear what  
17 was going on with that one. And the third  
18 one was that you would more open and have  
19 less emergency legislation passed. It seems  
20 like we lost on all three.

21 So far this year this council has  
22 not voted no in final passage on anything.  
23 Let me repeat that, not one councilman has  
24 voted no in Seventh Order.

25 MR. GAUGHAN: Mr. Ungvarsky, I did.

1 MR. UNGVARSKY: I think you voted  
2 on --

3 MR. GAUGHAN: I voted no.

4 MR. UNGVARSKY: -- in Fifth or Sixth  
5 Order.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: And Seventh.

7 MR. UNGVARSKY: We'll check it out.  
8 There is only about 25 or so agendas to  
9 check. Pretty soon this council will have  
10 some tough decisions to make, I hope you are  
11 up to it.

12 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening,  
13 Council. Maria Schumacher.

14 MR. GAUGHAN: Good evening.

15 MS. SCHUMACHER: I'd like to start  
16 with 7-C on tonight's agenda. I reviewed  
17 the materials that were in last week and I  
18 saw nothing about the fee in the contract  
19 and I can't imagine a contract without a  
20 fee. I did notice tonight the letter that  
21 went along with it that Mr. Bulzoni wrote to  
22 the mayor and the city clerk and I think the  
23 treasurer and the solicitor, but check the  
24 fee section. It says, "Will pay for the  
25 above services," but there is no fee that's

1 in the contract and I think that's very poor  
2 business practice. That should be in the  
3 contract and I would hope that you would not  
4 vote on that tonight until you get that  
5 done. That's you are giving an open  
6 ended -- open ended offer of the money to  
7 the bank.

8 Okay, moving along, I would like to  
9 know last week it was 7-C where I would like  
10 to know this was going for a grant to  
11 complete Phase II of the community  
12 surveillance network and I would like to  
13 know where did the dollars come from if the  
14 grant is not received. I did review the  
15 capital budget, which I believe that's where  
16 I would have hoped to find it, but the  
17 capital budget gives like no details. Did  
18 you guys look at the capital budget and you  
19 were satisfied with it that there was  
20 sufficient detail for what was going to be  
21 -- the work that was going to be performed?

22 MR. MCGOFF: I thought it was fine.  
23 I thought it was much better than what we  
24 have had in the past.

25 MS. SCHUMACHER: That's one.

1 Anybody else?

2 MR. MCGOFF: I thought it detailed  
3 what projects the city was looking at and I  
4 thought it detailed where they are going to  
5 possibly receive funding.

6 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. Well, one  
7 out of five. I would like to know,  
8 Mr. Rogan, what is -- if you have check or  
9 if you would check I recall going back  
10 several councils, the building Tom tells me  
11 was the Jersey/Lackawanna train station, I  
12 understand that the government invested a  
13 lot of money to put a slate roof on that  
14 building and it was with the intention that  
15 that was going to be developed and I recall  
16 the last discussion I recall was somebody  
17 followed up on it and it was, well, when the  
18 Lackawanna -- not going to do anything until  
19 after the Lackawanna Avenue bridge is  
20 completed and that's been completed for  
21 quiet awhile now and I sill see no action  
22 there.

23 MR. ROGAN: You are referring to the  
24 large brick building?

25 MS. SCHUMACHER: Yeah. I mean, I

1 think maybe we made a bad investment if  
2 nothing is going to be done with that, but I  
3 would like to know that.

4 Again, I discussed the pay agent  
5 fee, and I'd like to know if council intends  
6 it take up Mr. Evans's offer to make contact  
7 with the nonprofits regarding whether or not  
8 they are truly charitable and in what form  
9 will that take?

10 MR. EVANS: Well, I don't know, I  
11 would hope that at some point when the  
12 administration is ready that we can get  
13 together and I want to participate in those  
14 discussions, but --

15 MS. SCHUMACHER: I thought you made  
16 a finite offer to --

17 MR. EVANS: I did.

18 MS. SCHUMACHER: -- do those letters  
19 and send it out.

20 MR. EVANS: Well, no, the base of my  
21 offer is o participate in discussions.

22 MS. SCHUMACHER: Oh, participate.

23 MR. EVANS: Yeah, with the  
24 administration and also, you know, whenever  
25 they --

1 MS. SCHUMACHER: Have you made any  
2 contact with the administration on whether  
3 they are interested at all?

4 MR. EVANS: No, I'm going to talk to  
5 Dave Bulzoni next week about it.

6 MS. SCHUMACHER: So you will know  
7 something by next Thursday?

8 MR. EVANS: Hopefully.

9 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay, I'll ask  
10 again next week. Thank you. Any answers to  
11 my questions from last week?

12 MR. GAUGHAN: On the Kane Street  
13 project I'll address that in motions.

14 MR. ROGAN: Regarding the fees for  
15 victims of crime, I actually spoke to  
16 Councilman Wechsler following the meeting  
17 and I know he spoke to the police chief  
18 regarding that issue. This legislation is  
19 specific only to accident reports, not crime  
20 reporters.

21 MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, accidents can  
22 be crimes.

23 MR. ROGAN: Well, they would be  
24 covered under insurance in most cases.

25 MR. WECHSLER: Motor vehicles



1 accidents.

2 MS. SCHUMACHER: Yeah. Again, out  
3 of time. I'll be back next week. Thank  
4 you.

5 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening. Dave  
6 Dobrzyn, resident of Scranton. Taxes paid.  
7 Fees paid. I have a little pass out for you  
8 folks. Now, as you can see on the paper  
9 it's embossed from University Councilwoman  
10 Jones she passed it to me and it's on sales  
11 tax, and apparently this study has uncovered  
12 that their is sale suppression technology.  
13 This article is much longer, I really would  
14 have ran out of ink printing the whole thing  
15 for everybody, but we are losing about \$900  
16 -- over \$900 billion a year in sales tax  
17 just by restaurants alone cheating the  
18 system. Every so many customers come in and  
19 it deletes, the program deletes the sales  
20 tax and, of course, then there is no income  
21 tax could be paid on that they are showing a  
22 lower profit margin and so forth, and then  
23 on the back of the header page there is an  
24 article from a book that I have acquired  
25 called the Fine Print, David K. Johnston.

1           It's about how a multitude of companies have  
2 gotten authorization from states to deduct  
3 income tax, PA income tax or wherever income  
4 tax, whatever state, out of the employees  
5 paycheck and keep it in their pocket, not  
6 turn it over.

7           Now, I'm neutral on Act 76 up until  
8 this, I heard it mentioned last week and I  
9 don't want to rain on anybody's parade, I  
10 like everybody up there, but it concerns me  
11 that people are salivating as to how much  
12 more they can cheat the state out, these  
13 businesses. For instance, Michael Francise  
14 anybody know who is he? He was the son of a  
15 Mafia don. The man wound up -- the father  
16 wound up in prison and they abducted him in  
17 New York City and he actually went into --  
18 he was called an earner. Didn't shoot  
19 anybody, didn't kill anybody, but he set up  
20 a wholesale gasoline company, it was 39  
21 cents a gallon, his take every week cheating  
22 the state was eight to 10 million dollars  
23 per week to the Columbo crime family. So  
24 after six or eight months they come to clamp  
25 down on him and it would be shuttered.

1 Well, after by six or eight years of  
2 this they finally caught up with this  
3 Russian immigrant from the Russian mafia and  
4 he tattled on the works and we haven't  
5 been hearing from him lately. In other  
6 words, they took care of him and Michael  
7 Francise spent ten years this prison, but  
8 you can only imagine that's \$400 million a  
9 year minimum they were taking in cheating on  
10 sales tax.

11 So before we go head over heels over  
12 something like Act 76 we really need to  
13 straighten out the sales tax in Greece and  
14 different countries. They actually license  
15 the cash register so it would pay us to  
16 actually provide a cash register to every  
17 small business that they couldn't insert a  
18 program and cheat and it's millions and  
19 millions of dollars that you can see. I  
20 mean, that's not small hardware stores or  
21 anything else or boutiques or whatever, that  
22 is just \$922 million in the restaurant  
23 industry in 2010, so it's no wonder that the  
24 state looks at us and says, "What do you  
25 want, manna from heaven?"

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They are letting people pilfering profit out from under us. And okay, I have another article here I just printed up one, but it's on the drug epidemic and there is a new law in the state that they are trying come out with, but one of the things that I find very important is it would provide legal immunity to witnesses who seek emergency help for someone suffering a drug overdose, and I mentioned that last week. If you help somebody and gave your address you could very well have somebody from the city up putting a pink slip on your house and banking you from occupying it for six months under city ordinances, so that would concern me. A kid went to his mother's house for a visit, took an overdose and the landlord got locked out of his tenant. Thank you and have a good night.

Oh, by the way, you are getting married Saturday? Don't forget now, the key to a successful marriage, "Yes, dear, you are absolutely right, dear, and I'll get to that as soon as I can."

1 MR. GAUGHAN: I appreciate that.

2 MR. DOBRZYN: I'll leave this with  
3 Jamie.

4 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else who wishes  
5 to address council?

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

7 MOTIONS.

8 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Wechsler?

9 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you,  
10 Mr. McGoff. Last week council was addressed  
11 by Sandra Moran from the Olive Avenue  
12 section of Scranton with some concerns about  
13 a bridge problem that she was having. As we  
14 looked into the matter Thursday night I  
15 spoke to Chief DeSarno and to my pleasant  
16 surprise the chief had already been working  
17 on this problem beginning in July. He had  
18 been having conversations with Steve Pendrak  
19 of the UGI company who has control of the  
20 access road. As I said, they have been  
21 working on this since July and finally they  
22 got together last Tuesday to finalize some  
23 type of agreement. So at the meeting was  
24 Chief Lucas, DPW director Dennis Gallagher,  
25 some residents of Hollow Avenue and

1 Mr. Christopher Clancy, who was the  
2 superintendent of operations for UGI.

3 As a result of the meeting, and I'll  
4 read what they have here in terms of what  
5 they are going to do, but the plan is to  
6 clear an access road in the bottom of Wales  
7 Street going north along the riverbank and  
8 connecting to Hollow Avenue on the eastern  
9 side of the creek. The sole purpose of this  
10 road will be to allow much needed access for  
11 emergency vehicles if and when needed and  
12 refuse collection vehicles once a week. At  
13 this time usage as a common, everyday  
14 thoroughfare is not part of the plan. Gates  
15 and signage will be finalized and posted on  
16 either side of the road. Director Gallagher  
17 has expectations of this project starting  
18 some time in October.

19 So once again, I'd like to thank the  
20 chief, the representative of UGI and Dennis  
21 Gallagher and the neighbors for bringing  
22 this to our attention and it seems as though  
23 this problem will be corrected soon so that  
24 was very good.

25 Yesterday or today in the paper I

1 believe it was -- there was a report that  
2 the revised Act 205, Act 47 legislation has  
3 made it out of the Senate and is heading  
4 further into the house. This week we have  
5 been in contact with City Business  
6 Administrator Bulzoni and Solicitor Shrive  
7 in regards to us keeping up-to-date on  
8 what's happening when this bill. There are  
9 several different possibilities of the bill  
10 as proceeds each of which will effect our  
11 legislation as we head in toward the budget.  
12 The reason why I want to bring that up is I  
13 want everyone to know that we are paying  
14 attention to this. We are coming up with  
15 our plan and how this tax will influence our  
16 budget.

17 Last night I attended an opening in  
18 and a viewing party of the new downtown  
19 what's going to be called "The Leonard"  
20 where Leonard's Hardware was. This building  
21 is being done over by Charlie Jefferson who  
22 owns the other projects in town, the Connell  
23 building and the Chamber of Commerce  
24 building. Mr. Jefferson is bringing a  
25 special talent to our city with these

1 buildings and with these remodelings. It's  
2 going to be a center of activity downtown,  
3 and once again, this is something that  
4 Mr. Jefferson is doing with private money  
5 and I commend him for taking an active role  
6 in the City of Scranton. While we have a  
7 lot of problems in our city there is still  
8 quite a few positive things that are  
9 happening and a Mr. Jefferson is one of the  
10 leaders that is doing that.

11 And I would also to take my time and  
12 congratulate Bill and Kellie on their  
13 upcoming wedding on Saturday.

14 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

15 MR. WECHSLER: Congratulations. You  
16 guys make a great couple and I wish you all  
17 the best in the word.

18 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

19 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Rogan?

20 MR. ROGAN: Yes, just a couple of  
21 brief items, I will look into the status of  
22 the Goodwill project following the recent  
23 developments there and hopefully we will  
24 have good news regarding that as well as the  
25 Jersey/Lackawanna train station. It's one I



1 know that there were rumors for many years  
2 of restaurant and different items and we'll  
3 see where that one stands as well.

4           Regarding the 205 tax that was  
5 mentioned in the paper, I think Councilman  
6 Wechsler pretty much hit the nail on the  
7 head that unfortunately the city is in a  
8 position where we have to wait to see what  
9 the state does and then react. Hopefully it  
10 will pass the state house, but we won't know  
11 until their legislative session expires in  
12 the next couple of weeks and then at that  
13 point we will see how to best maneuver and  
14 we'll say I don't think many people, and I  
15 know I certainly wouldn't support levying  
16 three-quarters of a percent wage tax on  
17 residents on Scranton. They certainly can't  
18 afford record that and we need to -- the  
19 reason support the commuter tax and the  
20 reason why I am hoping this becomes law is  
21 because we need to do everything we can to  
22 reduce the tax burden on our residents  
23 whether it be through 205 tax or through an  
24 Act 47 commuter tax, which would need Court  
25 approval, or other options.

1                   So that's all on that issue and  
2                   that's all for tonight. Thank you.

3                   MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Evans.

4                   MR. EVANS: On the quality of life  
5                   ordinance, I talked to Pat Hinton. He has  
6                   been reviewing the ordinance with City  
7                   Solicitor Shrive so I hope that's moving  
8                   along. I also spoke to Hazelton mayor,  
9                   Mayor Joe Yannuzzi and he agreed to meet  
10                  with Pat and myself and anybody else on  
11                  council that would like to join us in  
12                  Hazelton some time next week to discuss the  
13                  ordinance along with his police chief and  
14                  the License and Inspection Department head.  
15                  He was very excited to share his success  
16                  with the ordinance, I think it's important  
17                  to see how their implementation, when and  
18                  how it is working right now in order to hit  
19                  the ground running in Scranton, so thank  
20                  you, Mayor Yannuzzi, and hopefully we will  
21                  see you next week.

22                  Also, I would like to circle back  
23                  for a few minutes on the Amoroso plan. As  
24                  most people know by now I'm in full support  
25                  of the plan. Do I like every element of the

1 plan? Not by a long shot. But this is the  
2 plan, and as I stated in the past several  
3 times, cherry picking things or stating  
4 things be removed from the plan will doom  
5 this initiative and lead us into  
6 receivership or bankruptcy. If we have  
7 learned anything from our past failures it  
8 must be this. Do I like selling and leasing  
9 the Sewer Authority? No, but we must find a  
10 way to Superfund pensions so we need to see  
11 this through to find out if it's feasible.

12 Do I like selling all of the assets  
13 of the Parking Authority? No, but we must  
14 find a way to super fund -- I'm sorry, must  
15 possible still stick -- excuse me, let me  
16 backtrack a little. Do I like selling  
17 assets of the Parking Authority and possibly  
18 be stuck with millions of dollars -- tens of  
19 millions of dollars of debt? No, but I  
20 don't like the prospect of eventually taking  
21 five or ten million dollars to repair the  
22 garages only taking us further in debt and  
23 not having the revenue to support that debt.

24 Do I like Act 205? No, of course  
25 not, but temporarily we me must shore up

1 pensions, again, to avoid receivership or  
2 bankruptcy and, of course, without pension  
3 reform and new hires that are rolled into a  
4 401-K-type plan we will only be kicking the  
5 can down the road once again.

6 As each initiative comes before  
7 council, I hope to provide ideas to make the  
8 that initiative better for our taxpayers and  
9 residents and I'm sure my fellow councilmen  
10 will as well. As we work to bring financial  
11 sovereignty to city government, simply the  
12 arranging the deck chairs on the Titanic is  
13 nor longer an option, it's time for action.

14 Thank you. And also, one last  
15 comment, good luck, Councilman Gaughan, all  
16 the best to you and your future bride.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Appreciate it.

18 MR. EVANS: Best of luck. We all  
19 know -- except Pat, we all relate to the  
20 experience and it's a great day so enjoy it.

21 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

22 MR. EVANS: No, I'm not lying.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

24 Mrs. Schumacher asked a question last week  
25 about the Kane Street project, so I'd just

1           like to take a minute and explain that. The  
2 Kane Street project will be broken down into  
3 two phases. Phase I will be funded by the  
4 city for a total cost of \$281,871.50. Phase  
5 I includes Kane Street reconstruction from  
6 Stafford Avenue to South Webster Avenue.  
7 Phase I is an expected to be funded through  
8 the Department of Transportations  
9 Pennsylvania Infrastructure Bank Loan  
10 Program. The program is a PennDOT operated  
11 program that provides low interest loans to  
12 help fund transportation projects within the  
13 Commonwealth. This city will be repaying  
14 the loan if approved through our liquid  
15 fuels allocation and the loan repayment has  
16 no direct general fund impact.

17                   Phase I has not begun yet, it's  
18 expected to begin pending approval of our  
19 loan sometimes next spring. It's expected  
20 to take approximately one month to complete  
21 according to our city engineer.

22                   Phase II, that we voted on last  
23 week, is being requested through the Local  
24 Share Accounts Fund, Monroe County Gaming  
25 Funds. The total cost of Phase II is

1           \$625,417. Phase II includes Kane Street  
2 reconstruction from South Webster Avenue to  
3 Winfield Avenue, and is also expected to  
4 begin in the Spring of 2015 and take  
5 approximately two months to complete.

6           I received a complaint of constant  
7 speeding between Smith's Restaurant and  
8 Kelly's Restaurant on Cedar Avenue in South  
9 Scranton last week. Chief Graziano  
10 forwarded this complaint to Captain Thomas  
11 to put out to the patrols in the area to  
12 include these blocks on the next speed  
13 enforcement details so thank him for that.

14           Also, a question was posed last week  
15 about the contract with A & M Electrical for  
16 the maintenance of the traffic signalization  
17 within the city and the Electrical is only  
18 responsible for maintenance and they are not  
19 responsible for altering the timing of the  
20 signals.

21           Finally, the State Senate, as was  
22 mentioned by some of my colleagues, passed  
23 the Act 47 legislation yesterday. This was  
24 a major topic of discussion during our Act  
25 205 debate before we went on recess in

1 August. I was concerned then and I am  
2 concerned now that this may mean that the  
3 residents of Scranton will see arise in  
4 their wage tax .75 percent. The bill still  
5 has to pass the House of Representatives and  
6 needs a signature from Governor Corbett.

7 Also, part of this equation is the  
8 fact that we are unsure if the Act 205 tax  
9 will survive a recent Court challenge that  
10 begins tomorrow. There are a lot of  
11 different scenarios that can play out here  
12 over the next few weeks that may impact our  
13 2015 budget and it's my hope that the mayor  
14 is preparing for an alternative way to  
15 approach this. I am hoping that the mayor  
16 has a backup plan, a Plan B or Plan C and  
17 that council is involved in these  
18 discussions leading up to budget time.

19 And that is all I have. Thank you.

20 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. Just a  
21 response to something that was mentioned by  
22 one of the speakers, in the prior council  
23 for four years we did not have one caucus  
24 with council, not one for four years. Since  
25 we obtained -- since the beginning of this

1 year we have held a caucus prior to every  
2 council. When was deemed necessary we have  
3 held the caucuses in council chambers.  
4 Every caucus is open to the public and we  
5 have made every effort to be open and  
6 transparent about everything we are doing.  
7 I think to say that we have failed in doing  
8 that I think is a great misnomer.

9 Everyone is invited to our caucus  
10 where we discuss what is going to happen at  
11 the meetings and I feel that we have done a  
12 good job in doing that. And that's all.  
13 Thank you.

14 MS. REED: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
15 AN ORDINANCE - PROVIDING FOR THE ACCEPTANCE  
16 OF UTILITY AND ACCESS EASEMENTS IN THE  
17 LAUREL WOODS SUBDIVISION LOCATED IN THE CITY  
18 OF SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA. ALSO AUTHORIZING  
19 THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY  
20 OFFICIALS TO ACCEPT FOR THE SUM OF ONE  
21 DOLLAR (\$1.00) AND RECORD IN THE LACKAWANNA  
22 COUNTY RECORDER OF DEEDS OFFICIAL RECORDS A  
23 DEED FOR THE ABOVE MENTIONED EASEMENTS.

24 MR. MCGOFF: At this time I'll  
25 entertain a motion that Item 5-B be



1 introduced into its proper committee.

2 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

3 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

4 MR. MCGOFF: On the question?

5 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question,  
6 council did receive a letter from City  
7 Planner Dong King and City Engineer John  
8 Pocius that all of the punch lists items  
9 were completed and final inspection was  
10 approved.

11 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else? All those  
12 in favor of introduction signify by saying  
13 aye.

14 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

15 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

16 MR. EVANS: Aye.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

20 MS. REED: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
21 AN ORDINANCE - PROVIDING FOR THE ACCEPTANCE  
22 OF ASPEN DRIVE, SYCAMORE LANE AND AZALEA WAY  
23 IN THE LAUREL WOODS SUBDIVISION LOCATED IN  
24 THE CITY OF SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA. ALSO  
25 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE

1 CITY OFFICIALS TO ACCEPT FOR THE SUM OF ONE  
2 DOLLAR (\$1.00) AND RECORD IN THE LACKAWANNA  
3 COUNTY RECORDER OF DEEDS OFFICIAL RECORDS A  
4 DEED FOR THE ABOVE MENTIONED RIGHTS OF WAY.

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

8 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

9 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

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

13 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

14 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

15 MR. EVANS: Aye.

16 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

19 MS. REED: 5-D. FOR INTRODUCTION - A  
20 RESOLUTION - RATIFYING AND APPROVING THE  
21 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS  
22 TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO AN EASEMENT OF  
23 CORRECTION TO INCLUDE ADDITIONAL SIGNATURES  
24 ON THE EASEMENT AGREEMENT WHICH WAS RECORDED  
25 ON DECEMBER 24, 2012 TO INSTRUMENT NUMBER

1                   201224763 BETWEEN THE CITY OF SCRANTON AND  
2                   COLTS REGARDING THE PLANNED ACCESS ROAD  
3                   OFF BRIDGE STREET INTO THE NEW INTERMODAL  
4                   CENTER.

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

8                   MR. ROGAN: So moved.

9                   MR. WECHSLER: Second.

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

13                  MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

14                  MR. ROGAN: Aye.

15                  MR. EVANS: Aye.

16                  MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

17                  MS. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The  
18                  eyes have it and so moved.

19                  MS. REED: SIXTH ORDER. 6-A.  
20                  READING BY TITLE - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.  
21                  47, 2014 - AN ORDINANCE - APPROVING AND  
22                  ACCEPTING THE UPDATED CITY OF SCRANTON  
23                  CAPITAL BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2015 THE  
24                  SECOND-YEAR REVISION AND EXTENSION OF THE  
25                  2013 FIVE YEAR PLAN.

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

3 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-A  
4 pass reading by title.

5 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

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

8 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

9 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

10 MR. EVANS: Aye.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

12 MR. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The  
13 ayes have it and so moved. Might I add it  
14 was not obviously the opinion of one.

15 MS. REED: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR  
16 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE -  
17 FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 45,  
18 2014 - APPROVING PENALTY, INTEREST AND FEE  
19 SCHEDULE FOR COLLECTION OF DELINQUENT REFUSE  
20 FEES.

21 MR. MCGOFF: At this time I'll  
22 entertain a motion that Item 6-B -- excuse  
23 me. Sorry. Got lost. What is the  
24 recommendation of the Chair for the  
25 Committee on Finance?

1 MR. EVANS: As Chairperson for the  
2 Committee on Finance, I recommend final  
3 passage of Item 7-A.

4 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

7 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler.

8 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

9 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

10 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

11 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Evans.

12 MR. EVANS: Yes.

13 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan.

14 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

15 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

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

18 MS. REED: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION  
19 BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE - FOR ADOPTION -  
20 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 46, 2014 (AS  
21 AMENDED) - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER  
22 APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF  
23 SCRANTON TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A THIRD  
24 ADDENDUM TO THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES  
25 CONTRACT WITH NORTHEAST REVENUE SERVICES LLC

1 FOR THE COLLECTION OF DELINQUENT TAXES TO  
2 EXPAND THE COLLECTION SERVICES PERFORMED BY  
3 NORTHEAST REVENUE SERVICES TO INCLUDE THE  
4 COLLECTION OF DELINQUENT ANNUAL RENTAL  
5 REGISTRATION FEES.

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

9 MR. EVANS: As Chairperson for the  
10 Committee on Finance, I recommend final  
11 passage of Item 7-B.

12 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

15 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler.

16 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

17 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

18 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

19 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Evans.

20 MR. EVANS: Yes.

21 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan.

22 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

23 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

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

1 MS. REED: 7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION  
2 BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE- FOR ADOPTION  
3 -RESOLUTION NO. 82, 2014 - AUTHORIZING THE  
4 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS  
5 TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH  
6 COMMUNITY BANK,N.A. TO PROVIDE PAYING AGENT  
7 SERVICES FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON FOR A  
8 PERIOD OF THREE (3) YEARS FROM AUGUST 1,  
9 2014 THROUGH JULY 31, 2017.

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

13 MR. EVANS: As Chairperson for the  
14 Committee on Finance, I recommend final  
15 passage of Item 7-C.

16 MR. ROGAN: Second.

17 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? I  
18 would like to say that I received a note  
19 from Dave Bulzoni, the business  
20 administrator, and just reaffirming that  
21 what this does is it consolidates the fees  
22 that we are already paying for our general  
23 obligation debts. It combines them into one  
24 paying agent and, in fact, may reduce the  
25 actual fees that we pay for the service.

1 MR. GAUGHAN: And I believe in the  
2 letter that Mr. Bulzoni wrote he said that  
3 the banks would looking favorably on that if  
4 it's down to one.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. Roll call,  
6 please?

7 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler.

8 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

9 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

10 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

11 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Evans.

12 MR. EVANS: Yes.

13 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan.

14 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

15 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

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

18 MS. REED: 7-D. FOR CONSIDERATION BY  
19 THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY - FOR  
20 ADOPTION -RESOLUTION NO. 83, 2014 - A  
21 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF SCRANTON  
22 POLICE DEPARTMENT TO USE THE COMPANY KNOWN  
23 AS CARFAX TO MANAGE THEIR REPORTABLE AND  
24 NON-REPORTABLE TRAFFIC ACCIDENT REPORTS  
25 VIA AN ONLINE SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC AND TO



1 ALLOW CARFAX TO ACCEPT PAYMENT FROM CITIZENS  
2 FOR OBTAINING THOSE ACCIDENT REPORTS AND  
3 DISBURSING THOSE PAYMENTS TO THE SCRANTON  
4 POLICE DEPARTMENT.

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

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

11 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

14 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler.

15 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

16 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

17 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

18 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Evans.

19 MR. EVANS: Yes.

20 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan.

21 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

22 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

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

25 If there is no further business,

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I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

MR. ROGAN: Motion to adjourn.

MR. MCGOFF: Meeting adjourned.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

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CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR  
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER