

SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL

HELD:

DECEMBER 4, 2014

TIME:

6:30 P.M.

LOCATION:

Council Chambers

Scranton City Hall

340 North Washington Avenue

Scranton, Pennsylvania

AMELIA NICOL, RPR  
COURT REPORTER

CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

ROBERT MCGOFF, PRESIDENT

PATRICK ROGAN, VICE PRESIDENT

JOSEPH WECHSLER

WILLIAM GAUGHAN

WAYNE EVANS

LORI REED, CITY CLERK

JAMIE MARCIANO, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

AMIL MINORA, SOLICITOR

1 (Pledge of Allegiance. )

2 MR. MCGOFF: Please remain  
3 standing for a moment of silent  
4 reflection for the serviceman and  
5 women throughout the world and also  
6 for all those who have passed away in  
7 our community during this past week  
8 and a special prayer for Cathene  
9 Nardoizzi, our stenographer, who was  
10 evacuated from her home this morning  
11 in the explosion that took place in  
12 Dunmore. I am told that she is fine.  
13 There was a fatality in the home but  
14 that Cathene and her family are fine  
15 but they were evacuated so please keep  
16 her in your prayers.

17 (Moment of Silent Reflection.)

18 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. Roll  
19 call, please.

20 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler.

21 MR. WECHSLER: Here.

22 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

23 MR. ROGAN: Here.

24 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Evans.

25 MR. EVANS: Here.

1 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan.

2 MR. GAUGHAN: Here.

3 MS. MARICANO: Mr. McGoff.

4 MR. MCGOFF: Here. Dispense with  
5 the reading of the minutes.

6 MS. REED: 3RD ORDER. 3-A.  
7 AUDIT STATUS REPORT FROM ROBERT  
8 ROSSI & COMPANY RECEIVED NOVEMBER 20,  
9 2014.

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

13 MS. REED: 3B. SINGLE TAX OFFICE  
14 CITY FUNDS DISTRIBUTED COMPARISON  
15 REPORT 2014-2013 RECEIVED NOVEMBER 25,  
16 2014.

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

19 MS. REED: 3C. TAX ASSESSOR'S  
20 REPORT FOR HEARING DATE TO BE HELD  
21 DECEMBER 10, 2014.

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

24 MS. REED: 3D. MINUTES OF THE  
25 SCRANTON-LACKAWANNA HEALTH AND

1 WELFARE AUTHORITY MEETING HELD OCTOBER  
2 16, 2014.

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

5 MS. REED: 3E. AGENDA FOR THE  
6 BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS MEETING TO  
7 BE HELD DECEMBER 10, 2014.

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

10 Anything from council?

11 MR. ROGAN: I have two  
12 announcements to make. The annual  
13 Guns versus Hoses Football Game will  
14 held December 7th at 8:30 a.m. at the  
15 Riverfront Sports Complex. This games  
16 pits Scranton firefighters against our  
17 Police Department in a charity game.  
18 I had the pleasure of playing with the  
19 Fire Department last year for the  
20 softball game and this game will be a  
21 great experience as well. There are  
22 raffles, there are T-shirt sale and  
23 all the money goes for charity.

24 I spoke to Giovanni Piccolino,  
25 the owner of Buona's who thanked me

1           for announcing his free dinner that he  
2           gave away for seniors and those who  
3           were unable to have a Thanksgiving's  
4           dinner and he said he wanted to thank  
5           me because of the announcement there  
6           were a group of 20 seniors at the high  
7           rise over on Jackson Street. They  
8           were delivered dinner from Mr.  
9           Piccolino. And he said because of the  
10          success of this year's Thanksgiving  
11          dinner, he wanted to also extend it  
12          for Christmas for anyone that needed a  
13          delivery of a dinner, they can call  
14          Buona Pizza at 342-4032 and that will  
15          be from 12 to 2. And I see, again,  
16          that Mr. Bolus is here. I know his  
17          dinner will be going on on Christmas  
18          Day and I know that's always a big hit  
19          so we thank Mr. Bolus and Mr Piccolino  
20          for their generosity. Thank you.

21                 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Gaughan.

22                 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, I have one.  
23                 Thank you. Agenda Item 5C I will be  
24                 abstaining from this vote tonight. I  
25                 informed my colleagues last week when

1 the legislation was made available to  
2 us. My parents are buying a piece of  
3 property next to their home through  
4 the Pittsburgh Plan so I will  
5 abstaining from that vote. Thank you.

6 MR. MCGOFF: I would like to  
7 announce that this is little belated  
8 but Matthew's Mission Breakfast with  
9 Santa will be held this Saturday.  
10 It's a great event. They have a lot  
11 of activities for children as well as  
12 a very nice breakfast and, of course,  
13 is there. It's held at -- it will be  
14 held at Scranton High School. There  
15 are two seatings for the breakfast,  
16 one at nine and one at 11. I  
17 unfortunately don't have the contact  
18 number. I thought I did. I'm just  
19 looking and I do have it. If I get it  
20 before the end of the meeting, I'll  
21 pass that along but it's a great  
22 event. It's to honor and to its to  
23 raise funds for Matthew's Mission.  
24 It's conducted by the Newell family  
25 who operates Matthews's Mission, a

1 great family and a great purpose. And  
2 the funding goes to helping children  
3 with disabilities, and like I said,  
4 it's just a great event and well worth  
5 attending.

6 Also Holiday on the Square will  
7 take place Friday, December 5th and  
8 Saturday, December 6th. Friday is  
9 from 5 to 9 p.m.; Saturday is from 11  
10 a.m. to 6 p.m. It's on Lackawanna --  
11 it's on the Courthouse Square. It's  
12 an outdoor winter market with various  
13 areas artists, vendors, music,  
14 activities and there will be a tree  
15 lighting that will take place on  
16 Friday at 6 p.m. So that's Holiday on  
17 the Square, this weekend, Friday and  
18 Saturday. And that's all.

19 MS. REED: 4th ORDER, CITIZENS  
20 PARTICIPATION.

21 MS. HODOWANTIZ: Joan Hodowantiz,  
22 Scranton. I would like to draw to  
23 everyone's attention that next week  
24 the Library Express which part of the  
25 Scranton Public Library will have its



1           annual Christmas sale books in the  
2           Library Express which is on the second  
3           floor of the Steamtown Mall. It runs  
4           from December 9th which is Tuesday  
5           through the 14th which is Sunday.  
6           When they did this last September, I  
7           don't want to promise anything but I  
8           personally got two hardcover books for  
9           two dollars each. Now, I don't know  
10          where you're going to find a bargain  
11          like this before Christmas. They have  
12          all kinds of books. Most of them are  
13          hardcover, a lot of them are in mint  
14          condition and they're extremely cheap.  
15          So this is a win/win. The library  
16          wins by getting some extra revenue and  
17          by changing turning over its inventory  
18          and you win because I don't know where  
19          you're going to find a hardcover for  
20          \$2 or \$3, I just don't know. And this  
21          is just before Christmas so I would  
22          strongly encourage anybody who is  
23          looking for a good Christmas gift or  
24          if you just like to read, come on  
25          down. No parking problems. You park

1 at the mall.

2 MR. MCGOFF: Except on the one  
3 side.

4 MS. HODOWANTIZ: Say again?

5 MR. MCGOFF: Except on the one  
6 side.

7 MS. HODOWANTIZ: I know, I know.  
8 The one part that needs to be repaired  
9 but there's enough parking spaces,  
10 believe me.

11 With regard to 3A, Rossi's audit  
12 status. One more time, I think the  
13 only thing they did on this report was  
14 to change the date stamp to November  
15 20th. Still 23 items outstanding and  
16 the last item outstanding is once  
17 again the audited financial statements  
18 from the Parking Authority for which  
19 you did approve a four million dollar  
20 loan. So I'm not so sure, you know,  
21 what we're going to do next month but  
22 we start to start contracting for the  
23 2014 audit when you're going to be  
24 still looking for the 2013 audit. I'm  
25 also a little nervous with suddenly

1           this list is exhausted. I'd be  
2           wondering about the credibility of the  
3           numbers if it's gone this long with no  
4           change in the status if it suddenly  
5           materializes in the next month or to  
6           two. That would create a lot of  
7           oversight. And the audit leads brings  
8           me to the final thing and that's the  
9           budget which I know you'll be voting  
10          on tonight and I expect it to be  
11          passed. But I've got to tell you, I'm  
12          still a little surprised when senior  
13          citizens are getting a 1.16th percent  
14          increase in their COLA and Mr. Bulzoni  
15          who is the architect, the primary  
16          architect of this budget is getting a  
17          49.2 percent pay raise. Now, I  
18          understand that involves grant money  
19          but that grant money is only good for  
20          three years. And I just don't know.  
21          That just -- that doesn't pass my  
22          personal smell test, okay. Because  
23          we're going to ask those senior  
24          citizens to take a 19 percent real  
25          estate tax increase when they get a

1           1.16th percent COLA increase and Mr.  
2           Bulzoni is going to get a 49.2 percent  
3           pay raise. Think about it. That's  
4           all I have.

5           MR. MCGOFF: Doug Miller.

6           MR. MILLER: Doug Miller,  
7           Scranton. I think over the last few  
8           weeks coming forward it's pretty clear  
9           where I stand on the budget so I don't  
10          think I really need to, you know, go  
11          into further detail on it other than  
12          just to say it's a great  
13          disappointment to see that this  
14          council has chosen to play politics,  
15          so to speak, not have the interest of  
16          the residents of the city in mind.  
17          When I look at this budget, I think  
18          was anything done to protect the  
19          seniors, was anything done to protect  
20          the poor or the hardworking blue  
21          collar residents of this city? And  
22          the answer to that question is very  
23          simple. No. Nothing was done. Once  
24          again, we are resorting to the same  
25          old philosophy of placing the burden

1           on the same people over and over again  
2           and expecting them to come forward  
3           with something that they just simply  
4           don't possess and for some reason our  
5           government just has yet to grasp that  
6           understanding unfortunately and we're  
7           just continuing to go down the same  
8           failed path and for some reason we  
9           actually have this delusional fantasy  
10          that we actually think we're moving  
11          forward and we're getting somewhere.  
12          You know, the previous council made  
13          some tough decisions, made some  
14          decisions that weren't very popular.  
15          We had council members on that council  
16          that put a lot of time and effort into  
17          the process and then we had those who  
18          chose to take the lazy man's approach  
19          and I don't think we need to go back  
20          in time. I think a lot of us who have  
21          been around understand what went on.  
22          And some good things took place and we  
23          felt were maybe seeing some light at e  
24          end of this tunnel and now we had a  
25          new council come in and had all sorts

1 of, you know, allusions that we were  
2 get some somewhere and had, you know,  
3 all these illustrative ideas, these  
4 visions we brought in, Amoroso who we  
5 made out to be the messiah. You know,  
6 we had Mr. Bulzoni come forward. But,  
7 you know, ultimately all we're doing  
8 here is punching our ticket onto the  
9 Titanic. And I know a lot of it  
10 sounds repetitive but that's where we  
11 are, 19 percent tax increase, tripling  
12 the LST. You know, the previous  
13 speaker made a very good point about  
14 the raises and whether it's grant  
15 money or not, it's really at this  
16 point irrelevant. It's just the  
17 concept. It just doesn't look  
18 appropriate at a time when the city is  
19 on a verge of a fiscal collapse but  
20 the truth of the matter is we probably  
21 are at that point and so to come  
22 forward and present raises is just an  
23 absurdity. And then going back to the  
24 point I made previously, you know, it  
25 comes to a time where it's pretty

1           embarrassing for a city to present a  
2           budget and stand up and say we're  
3           funding a portion of our city  
4           government on grant money. When is  
5           the last time we can honestly say we  
6           invested in ourselves with our own  
7           money without having to rely on state  
8           grants, federal grants. When can we  
9           actually say we invested in ourselves  
10          with our money? You have to go back a  
11          long, long, time. And I understand,  
12          you know, Scranton is not the only  
13          city in this situation. It happening  
14          all over the nation. But it doesn't  
15          justify the fact that our government  
16          has failed us time and time again and,  
17          you know, it's just sad because we  
18          talked about the need for drastic cuts  
19          to be made. You know, we said, you  
20          know, possibly 30 percent cuts across  
21          the board and that didn't happen, you  
22          know. And yet we have thousands of  
23          residents fleeing this city on a daily  
24          basis. And I have to ask, what was in  
25          this budget to address the needs to

1 entice people to stay here? What was  
2 done to provide the next generation  
3 with an opportunity to stay here.  
4 There's no jobs here, there's blight  
5 everywhere. Just go around the city.  
6 People are doing everything they can  
7 to get out of her. You know, we  
8 talked about the need for a thriving  
9 downtown. It has happened. The  
10 neighborhoods are falling apart and  
11 that's not even the tip of the  
12 iceberg. You know, as we head into  
13 the new year, I think it's appropriate  
14 to say an accurate assessment would be  
15 that the city certainly is not taking  
16 a path that is going to lead to  
17 physical solvency because the future  
18 looks pretty bleak right now and  
19 that's really sad to say. We've seen  
20 a lot going on here and looking around  
21 and, you know, we all love this city.  
22 You know, it's not something where,  
23 you know, we're all -- the intention  
24 is to harm the city but, you know, at  
25 the end of day we have to ask



1           ourselves are we going to finally show  
2           some leadership and make the choices  
3           or we are going to continue to just  
4           the political thing. And passing this  
5           budget tonight is doing the political  
6           thing and I would hope that this  
7           council would reconsider and vote for  
8           the people tonight because that's what  
9           this about. It's not about voting for  
10          what the administration wants but for  
11          looking out for the little guy and I  
12          hope that maybe we're put the rubber  
13          stamps aside tonight and do the right  
14          thing. Thank you.

15                 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr.  
16                 Miller. Bob Bolus?

17                 MR. BOLUS: Good evening,  
18                 council. Bob Bolus, Scranton. I  
19                 don't want you guys to take this the  
20                 wrong way tonight but tonight history  
21                 is being made right here in this room.  
22                 If we approve this budget, I think  
23                 it's the demise of the city because at  
24                 no point and at no time has anyone  
25                 looked at the alternatives other than

1 a tax Increase. As the Attorney  
2 General Kane stated in the Scranton  
3 Times, she calls us the regular people  
4 because don't have the means or the  
5 ability that she and others have to  
6 fight the bullies in the system.  
7 That's what is happening right now.  
8 Nothing appalled me more than seeing  
9 this ad, this headline in the Scranton  
10 Times. It's a total embarrassment to  
11 all those in legislation to allow this  
12 to take place. I attended the council  
13 meetings in Dunmore, I attended them  
14 in Throop, I raised my issues but I  
15 never in a thousand years would  
16 believe the weakness of those councils  
17 of Dunmore and Throop that allowed us,  
18 the regular people to be bullied into  
19 a landfill expansion, a 50 year  
20 contract that turns around and just  
21 embarrasses us, makes us look like  
22 bloody fools. As soon as that  
23 happened, it turned around and what  
24 did DeNaples do? Blames the new  
25 arrangement to put the screws to the

1 regular people in the City of  
2 Scranton. Something we're not going  
3 to stand back for. If you take a good  
4 hard look, Dunmore sold their souls to  
5 the devil so to speak for a penny,  
6 this penny. Remember it in the paper,  
7 the legislators we have, all the  
8 representatives out there, they  
9 allowed DeNaples to raise the fee by  
10 one penny per ton. Think of that?  
11 One penny per ton. Look what he just  
12 did to us, 79 cents more yet we had an  
13 agreement how we should deal with  
14 landfill but yet DeNaples hasn't paid  
15 on parking garage. How long has that  
16 litigation gone on? Think about it.  
17 Yet we're going to be bullied and  
18 bowed down because this man wants to  
19 sell our souls, we the regular people  
20 for a bloody penny. That is sad. And  
21 if this city sits back and let's this  
22 happen, gentlemen, I'm going to do  
23 this for you tonight. I'm going to  
24 leave the penny right here because if  
25 we allow what happened in Dunmore to

1           happen to this city right now, that's  
2           what all we're worth is one cent.  
3           Think about that? This man dictated  
4           who the lawyer should be, he dictated  
5           what they should do in Dunmore,  
6           everyone, this council, Dunmore and  
7           Throop ignored the health issues that  
8           I presented here with certified lab  
9           reports showing the toxicity and the  
10          chemicals that are going into that  
11          landfill from the Marcella. Think  
12          about it. You have a little nuclear  
13          waste, it's only a little bit, but as  
14          you dump each container, it get bigger  
15          and it gets bigger. It's like putting  
16          a cigarette in a pack. You put one  
17          cigarette one, you put two, pretty  
18          soon you have a pack, then you buy  
19          another pack and then soon you have a  
20          carton and so on and so forth. So you  
21          take the combined compound and  
22          multiply over hundreds and hundreds of  
23          tons that are going in there, you're  
24          sitting on a time bomb. He wants to  
25          the move the old landfills that have

1           been there for 100 years were  
2           unpermitted. DEP is going him to do  
3           it? They dictate how we should live  
4           or how we should die? This is our  
5           community, not DeNaples but that's  
6           what it's turning into if we allow  
7           this happen. You pass this budget  
8           without making modifications to make  
9           everyone in this community pay and  
10          that's your nonprofits, you pass a fee  
11          that goes across everybody instead of  
12          a tax because you're only taxing the  
13          regular people. You're not taxing  
14          everybody else. Put a fee, a one  
15          percent fee across everybody in the  
16          City of Scranton and everybody pays.  
17          That's the universities, the  
18          hospitals, everybody. Nonprofits,  
19          they all pay one percent. That's fair  
20          and it's just. And it's justice for  
21          the regular people. You go the other  
22          way around, you put the screws to the  
23          regular people and you let the bullies  
24          with money dictate the future demise  
25          of this city. I didn't come here in

1           to insult. I came here to be as  
2           realistic. I've lived in the city my  
3           whole life. I've invested in this  
4           city and I believe in this city and  
5           I've represented this city all over  
6           the world, including Tokyo and Japan,  
7           with the Emperor of Japan. And I'm  
8           proud of Scranton but if we go where  
9           you are, you can't say you're proud  
10          anymore if we let happen what's  
11          happening now. And, gentlemen, don't  
12          be Dunmore, don't be Throop, don't be  
13          bullied. Stand up for the regular  
14          people. That's why you're here.  
15          Don't be like the representatives like  
16          Marino and the rest. They work for  
17          DeNaples. They won't do nothing about  
18          it. You can't let this city be  
19          punished and the regular people pay  
20          the price if we don't do something  
21          right.

22                 Mr. Rogan, thank you for the plug  
23                 for the dinner. It will go on even  
24                 though some of the people in this  
25                 community tried to stop it. I won't

1 be bullied. This is Scranton. Thank  
2 you.

3 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr.  
4 Bolus. Anyone else who wishes to  
5 address council?

6 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening,  
7 Marie Schumacher, resident, taxpayer.

8 First of all, I would like to  
9 know why the audit's report status,  
10 why the audit status is stalled and  
11 will we ever get an audit? I mean,  
12 this is -- this is terrible. We were  
13 told the end of the year. We keep  
14 getting new dates, new dates. We  
15 don't even have new ECD. I mean, will  
16 it be here by the end of the first  
17 quarter of next year?

18 MR. MCGOFF: I will -- just to  
19 answer part of the question. The  
20 report that we have received from  
21 Rossi and Rossi is not necessarily 100  
22 percent accurate. Some of the items  
23 that are listed there is as incomplete  
24 have, in fact, been completed by the  
25 administration and as far as I know

1 the administrations is -- I'll say  
2 prepared to move forward with at least  
3 the draft of the audit and are waiting  
4 for the auditor to move forward as  
5 well.

6 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. Maybe  
7 next week you could mark up that --  
8 their incorrect letter than. And just  
9 a word to someone who may be watching,  
10 a concerned citizen who wrote me a  
11 letter on an issue. I do have the  
12 answers but I don't think I'll have  
13 time to address them tonight but I  
14 will go getting back to her maybe next  
15 week.

16 And just another quick question  
17 and then I'll get on what I consider  
18 overlooked revenue sources. Why were  
19 the only revenues published in the  
20 paper for the public hearing and not  
21 the expenditures? Every other  
22 municipality and township around when  
23 they do theirs has both revenue and  
24 expenses. Is there some particular  
25 reason? Well, I would suggest next



1           year we might want to do both or none  
2           at all, just said budget.

3           I did -- I want to thank Mr.  
4           McGoff. He did provide late this  
5           morning a copy. I ran into him here  
6           at City Hall when I was doing some  
7           other things and he did provide a copy  
8           of the answers to the questions that I  
9           asked on the budget. Unfortunately  
10          the rest of my day did not provide me  
11          enough time to read through them so  
12          maybe if I have any comments, I'll  
13          make them next week. Although there  
14          was one that was -- they deferred to  
15          PEL because it was a question about  
16          why the parking fees and the answer  
17          that I got also I think begs the  
18          question that I hope you will take  
19          under consideration which is that the  
20          primary difference between the amount  
21          of that \$500,000 was because this  
22          Scranton Parking Authority was not  
23          included in that fee structure. But  
24          if the plan is still to monetize sale  
25          or lease, the parking garages, I think

1           it's only fair that you revise that  
2           ordinance and include the Scranton  
3           parking garages such that any bidder  
4           will have the full knowledge of what  
5           they're facing when they prepare their  
6           bids. So I think that should be  
7           pretty high on next year's.

8           And I am looking forward to  
9           hearing from Mr. Evans on the  
10          comparisons, on the real estate  
11          comparisons and the information he got  
12          I know on the tax bills during fifth h  
13          order.

14          And now to the examples of where  
15          we're missing revenue. This is the --  
16          I'm sure at least the third or fourth  
17          time I have brought this up at council  
18          and not once and I'm not begging for  
19          the answer because I'm not going to  
20          provide it. It's up to their  
21          administration to do their job and  
22          that is Pittsburgh properties that are  
23          sold. I've done right to knows on  
24          some properties. All these people  
25          pay. These are eight, nine properties

1           that were sold on the Pittsburgh plan  
2           or approved by council back in 2010, I  
3           believe. The amount was just of  
4           the -- wait. I'll just look for that.  
5           Just the amount was something like  
6           \$56,000. When you take the unpaid  
7           taxes, they are still -- they have  
8           never paid -- made those payments. So  
9           we have people who are buying  
10          properties under the Pittsburgh  
11          property, letting them sit, probably  
12          developers, I don't know but letting  
13          them sit -- if I may finish on just  
14          this one? I wish I could do more but  
15          I'll bring next week. But we are  
16          letting people just pay that \$100, do  
17          the thing, get the approval here and  
18          then maybe they'll come in and pay the  
19          purchase price. In the meantime we  
20          have lost tax revenue, considerable  
21          balance tax revenue just on these  
22          properties for every year subsequent  
23          to that. I think you need an  
24          ordinance that says Pittsburgh Plan  
25          once they are approved by this

1           council, the payments need to be made  
2           within 90 days or it's put back on  
3           the-- these properties are put back  
4           on. And for people who have  
5           previously been -- had approval by  
6           that council, that they should not get  
7           the deeds to those properties until  
8           such time as all past -- all taxes  
9           that have been due since the time they  
10          were approved and the purchase prices  
11          are paid immediately. Thank you.

12           MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. I would  
13          just like to make two comments  
14          concerning the response to the  
15          questions that you asked. It was  
16          my -- it's my belief that when we hold  
17          a public hearing, that the purpose of  
18          the public hearing is to address the  
19          questions that citizens may have. And  
20          I believe that it is our obligation as  
21          a council, as an administration to  
22          provide answers to those and I brought  
23          that up to Mr. Bulzoni and we agreed  
24          that, you know, and the responses that  
25          you received are from the Business

1 Administrator. So I just wanted to  
2 make that clear.

3 MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, I just  
4 want you to know that I do appreciate  
5 ti. They're few and far between when  
6 answers are forthcoming but I do  
7 appreciate that and I will study them  
8 and maybe make comments next week.  
9 Thank you.

10 MR. DOBZYN: Good evening,  
11 council. Dave Dobzyn, a resident.

12 I read in the paper the other  
13 day, I guess we a small order of  
14 thanks to Mr. Boscov. He did come  
15 through with his promise so far so  
16 hopefully he's not too mad at us or  
17 frustrated with us.

18 But I also have a question on 5H.  
19 Once again I read the word,  
20 subordinate, and that concerns me  
21 because we're always the ones that  
22 take the beating on these subordinate  
23 loans. So if you want to enter it  
24 tonight but I really would like to see  
25 that word disappear from any loans

1           that the city gives, any whatsoever.  
2           It shouldn't be subordinate. We're  
3           putting forth money and if it's over  
4           the Woolworth building, we just got a  
5           promise that a business would be in  
6           town for years, many years to come and  
7           they were here for ten years, tax  
8           exempt. Parking was constructed for  
9           them which is not any longer being  
10          used by that institution. And where's  
11          the money for us? We didn't make any.  
12          So the bottom line as far as I'm  
13          concerned is, if people don't want to  
14          pay our taxes and fees and especially  
15          reasonable taxes and fees so other  
16          people can pay reasonable taxes and  
17          fees, we don't need them. Just don't  
18          need them, period. We don't need  
19          them.

20                 And on the budget I see some  
21                 salaries are going up. I'd like to  
22                 remind everybody that gets a salary  
23                 from government and I'm not a tea  
24                 partier. I'm exactly the opposite.  
25                 But many, many, millions of people

1           since 2007 has had their salaries or  
2           wages hit the trash bin of history and  
3           it's really gotten to a point where,  
4           for instance, our last governor was  
5           campaigning on hands off of any wages  
6           freezes like Obama did. He froze  
7           federal wages. Just said no more, we  
8           can't do this and run around granting  
9           tax cuts and taking half of what we  
10          used to. So it was a start.

11                 And once again on tax exempts, I  
12          think it's time that we start to go to  
13          court over the definition and if the  
14          state wants to run around and play  
15          Santa Claus with our tax money or the  
16          county government, then it's time that  
17          they replace the money. We have an  
18          organization in this town, all good  
19          things. And it's a mess, it's always  
20          a mess. Do you remember the Forever  
21          family? Wayne, we're exactly the same  
22          age. That's the same organization.  
23          They used to take in runaway kids back  
24          in the early seventies, around '74 and  
25          have them in a commune feeding them

1 rotten food, they wound up in a  
2 hospital at state expense. It was  
3 just ridiculous. They have no, no,  
4 absolutely no assemblance or  
5 resemblance to a nonprofit. It's  
6 strictly profit driven there. A  
7 meteor at that time was flying around  
8 going to planes and several cars and  
9 he had all these kids out in the  
10 streets, panhandling. Their mothers  
11 were worried, where the hell are they?  
12 They disappeared off the map. It's a  
13 shame.

14 And right before the holidays we  
15 had a little thing here with the leaf  
16 recycling. Unfortunately a lot of  
17 newspapers and what have you sat out  
18 in my neighborhood for weeks now.  
19 They're hopefully disappear tomorrow  
20 which would be our scheduled trash  
21 day.

22 And I don't know how it was  
23 around the rest of the town because I  
24 just don't go riding around for no  
25 purpose. But hopefully they can come



1 up with a better solution to that  
2 because the people with people  
3 recycling are year round and the  
4 leaves are once a year and maybe we  
5 should do it after the holidays or  
6 something but the paper people should  
7 not be discouraged because it is  
8 important and it costs us a lot up in  
9 the DeNaples Landfill instead of the  
10 Recycling Center. Thank you have and  
11 have a good evening.

12 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr.  
13 Dobzyn. Anyone's else who wishes to  
14 address counsel?

15 (No response.)

16 MS. REED: 5TH ORDER. 5A.  
17 MOTIONS.

18 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Wechsler, if you  
19 don't mind, just break the tradition a  
20 little bit. I just have a couple  
21 things to say first and then we'll --  
22 The first is just a follow-up on the  
23 Matthew's Mission Breakfast with  
24 Santa. I did find the information  
25 that I was looking for. Again, the

1 breakfast with Santa is at Scranton  
2 High School, Scranton High School  
3 cafeteria. There are two seatings,  
4 nine and 11. It's \$12 for adults, \$8  
5 for children and reservations can be  
6 made by calling 570-961-0818. It's  
7 Kathleen Hackis. Kathleen, I hope  
8 that's the right number and that I'm  
9 not giving away some private number.  
10 But, please, you know, again, it's a  
11 great benefit event and encourage  
12 everyone to attend.

13 Also as a followup Mrs.  
14 Hodowantiz mentioned the Library  
15 Express and I forgot to mention this  
16 before. Tomorrow evening from six to  
17 eight there's a book signing at  
18 Library Express. The book is Sign in  
19 the Morning, Cry at night. It's  
20 written by Barbara Taylor, a resident  
21 of the City of Scranton, a lady with  
22 whom I worked at Pocono Mountain.  
23 It's a wonderful book. It's set in  
24 the City of Scranton around, I  
25 believe, 1913 and for who have lived

1           in Scranton and know about -- you  
2           know, have a kind of a history of the  
3           ethnic and cultural backgrounds of the  
4           City of Scranton, it's a wonderful,  
5           wonderful book and Barb is doing a  
6           book signing. That's tomorrow night  
7           from six to eight at Library Express,  
8           and, again, as Ms. Hodowantiz said a  
9           great opportunity to order some nice  
10          Christmas or holiday presents.

11                 And the last thing I neglected to  
12          say at the beginning of the meeting, I  
13          would like to express a thank you to  
14          Mr. Al Boscov for his donation of  
15          approximately \$700,000 to the City of  
16          Scranton. I know I was critical in  
17          the past but I do want to thank Mr.  
18          Boscov and I hope that this goodwill  
19          towards the City of Scranton  
20          continues. And that is all.

21                 Mr. Wechsler.

22                 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr.  
23          McGoff. Just a few things. Last  
24          Tuesday I was fortunate enough to  
25          attend the Friend of the Poor dinner,

1 sponsored and run by Sister Ann Walsh.  
2 It's the first time that I  
3 participated in that event and to see  
4 the outpouring of volunteerism in the  
5 community is something that is very  
6 encouraging to me as we go through  
7 this holiday season. We do have a lot  
8 of problems in the city but our  
9 generosity is not one of them.

10 In reference to the budget this,  
11 to vote on the budget, I will be  
12 voting for this budget this evening.  
13 I did have some concerns that I  
14 addressed with Mr. Bulzoni during the  
15 week. I, too, have a big concern  
16 about raises and new positions in our  
17 city government. The reality is many  
18 of these increases are mandated by  
19 contracts. The other reality is is  
20 that people are doing additional work,  
21 we have additional spots that we have  
22 fill and I think sometimes you can be  
23 pennywise and pound foolish. I think  
24 these positions are needed to help us  
25 run an efficient government and to

1           make sure that we're able to do the  
2           things that a lot of times are  
3           requested here at the podium,  
4           different services and things like  
5           that.

6           But for one of the rare occasions  
7           I do agree with one of the speakers  
8           tonight. This budget does not do  
9           anything to encourage people to live  
10          in the City of Scranton. It does not  
11          do anything to encourage young people  
12          to stay here. But the reality is that  
13          we have not paid attention to the  
14          things that have been done for so many  
15          years that we have been scaring these  
16          people away from our city. The one  
17          thing that I do feel comfortable with  
18          is that we are facing our problems  
19          head on and we making progress on  
20          dealing with them. Do we have the  
21          answers? No. The one thing though I  
22          am satisfied with and especially  
23          speaking with Mr. Bulzoni who seems to  
24          get a lot of criticism here. But Mr.  
25          Bulzoni understands the financial

1 situation of this city. He realizes  
2 that within the next year or so if we  
3 don't get our house in order, all  
4 these things that we are doing here  
5 may not matter one bit. And I don't  
6 think it's fair next year when we go  
7 into the budget talks again, there is  
8 no way that we can have a huge tax  
9 increase like this again. There's no  
10 reward to it. It's just you're  
11 chasing your tail. If we don't see  
12 some changes in the way that we  
13 compensate our employees or reward our  
14 pensioners, what we're doing here  
15 won't matter. So for myself tonight I  
16 will vote for this. You can't look  
17 into the future and see for the 2016  
18 budget if we're have the same accord  
19 on this or not, but like I said, I do  
20 feel comfortable with this budget and  
21 we are going to work on several  
22 different things, the audit being one  
23 of tem to get that done on time in  
24 2015. We may have to extend the due  
25 date if reality means we can't get it

1           done on time. We already put things  
2           into place to be more efficient in  
3           collecting our refuse tax, keeping  
4           track of who paid, who didn't pay so  
5           there's a lot of things going into  
6           2015 that may put us in better shape  
7           for 2016 but, like I said again just  
8           to repeat, there is no way that we're  
9           going to be able to tax away out of  
10          this problem and we're at the point of  
11          no return right now. Thank you, Mr.  
12          McGoff.

13                 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Rogan?

14                 MR. ROGAN: Yes, a few comments  
15           on some various issues tonight. The  
16           first one regarding the budget, Mr.  
17           Wechsler hit on some of the points  
18           that were already brought up. And  
19           there are a few other things that I  
20           want to address. I know many of the  
21           speakers, they come to council have  
22           some concerns about the budget and  
23           some criticisms and the one that kind  
24           of bothered me today is people are  
25           criticizing the city's use of grants.

1 Grants aren't free money. They are  
2 your tax dollars from either the state  
3 or federal level. And the reality of  
4 these grants is they're either going  
5 to come home to be used in Scranton or  
6 they're going to be used in another  
7 municipality. They're not funds that  
8 if they're not used, just get  
9 reimbursed to the taxpayer. I believe  
10 the city needs to use grants more. I  
11 think we need to do everything we can  
12 to keep the burden off of the  
13 taxpayers in the City of Scranton.  
14 For instance, the safety grant that we  
15 used to rehire many of the men from  
16 the Fire Department that the previous  
17 administration cut. That was a good  
18 thing for the city. It saved the  
19 taxpayers money and at the same time  
20 it increased our public safety. We  
21 used our -- everything we do through  
22 the Office of Economic Community  
23 Development is a grant. They're  
24 federal funds. When you see those  
25 neighborhood police officers walking



1 the beat, they're funded by grants.  
2 When you see paving in low to moderate  
3 income areas, it's also funded by  
4 grants. So grants aren't a bad.  
5 Thing they're t good thing and I  
6 commend the mayor and the business  
7 administrator for pursuing them to  
8 fund items that would unpopular to  
9 fund through city taxpayer dollars.  
10 The new position, for instance, of  
11 flood control which initially I didn't  
12 see the necessity of it but after  
13 speaking to the mayor and the business  
14 administrator, it was something that  
15 was pushed for actually by the Army  
16 Corps of Engineers because we're not  
17 doing good enough of a job to the  
18 maintain the projects that were done  
19 by the Army Corps. Various salary  
20 adjustments in the budget funded  
21 through grants instead of being funded  
22 through Scrantonian's tax dollar to  
23 the city. In the past I sat here and  
24 rad off probably an hours of worth of  
25 amendments to remove grants -- or to

1           remove exorbitant pay increases in the  
2           budget for many department heads,  
3           under department heads, new positions.  
4           This budget, there are a couple salary  
5           increases but as I mentioned they're  
6           mostly funded through grants which is  
7           how we should try to fund those types  
8           of items that we can't afford to pay  
9           for.

10                 Next, regarding the audit which  
11           is also intertwined with the budget, I  
12           did have a conversation with  
13           Councilman McGoff this morning and I  
14           think they are two sides to the  
15           budget -- or to the audit. The city  
16           receives a lot of criticism for being  
17           late chronically and I'm sure there is  
18           criticism that needs to be given to  
19           the city. But the other side of the  
20           kind is the audit firm. If you  
21           recall, four years ago when the city  
22           picked Rossi and Rossi to continue to  
23           be our auditor, it was a somewhat  
24           contentious vote. I believe it was  
25           approved by a three to two vote. I

1 know I opposed it and Councilman  
2 McGoff opposed it. Rossi was the  
3 highest bidding firm. They were the  
4 most expensive auditor. And there is  
5 a time and a place for a more  
6 expensive bid if the service is  
7 better. But in the case it's very  
8 clear that the service that we're  
9 receiving from Rossi is not what we  
10 should expect. I believe that that  
11 contract is expiring next year. I  
12 think the administration and city  
13 council needs to take a good look at  
14 all the proposals that come in because  
15 I do believe we need change the course  
16 and chose a different auditor so the  
17 audit can be done prior to the  
18 budgets.

19 Next and I know Councilman Evans  
20 will talk a little bit more about this  
21 but the Quality of the Life Ordinance  
22 is up to introduction this week and I  
23 will like to thank Councilman Evans  
24 for his hard work with this and also  
25 Pat Hinton of LIPS and the Mayor of

1 Hazleton and Police Chief from  
2 Hazleton. Myself, Wayne, the folks  
3 from Hazleton and Pat met I would say  
4 about a month, two months ago and here  
5 it is on the agenda. So great job on  
6 everybody that was involved with this  
7 ordinance. This is just a start.  
8 There are some other items that I  
9 would like to include in there that  
10 I've discussed with Councilman Evans  
11 to address some other issues that may  
12 be brought up in the future but this  
13 is a great first start with the  
14 Quality of Life Ordinance.

15 Next, regarding the Boscov loan.  
16 I would also like to thank Mr. Boscov  
17 and thank Mr. McGoff at the same time  
18 for putting some pressure on Mr.  
19 Boscov. That \$700,000 coming back  
20 into the city is coming at a time when  
21 we really need it. Obviously the  
22 budget situation is very tight. I did  
23 speak with the mayor regarding the use  
24 of that money and encouraged him to  
25 consider spending it on neighborhood

1 police officers and road paving which  
2 are two items that are desperately  
3 throughout the city and the mayor did  
4 seem agreeable to that and I know that  
5 they are two proprieties that he has  
6 as well. So definitely thank him for  
7 his support on that.

8 And finally I just wanted to  
9 address one issue. It's somewhat  
10 related to our Police Department but  
11 it's more of a national issue and I  
12 try to stay away from larger and  
13 national issues at the council  
14 meeting. But currently right down the  
15 street a block away there's a protest  
16 regarding police officers and some of  
17 the national issues that we have seen  
18 in New York City and Ferguson. I  
19 would just like to take a moment to  
20 thank our police officers in Scranton  
21 and the great that they do putting  
22 their lives on the line everyday and  
23 sometimes unfortunately situations  
24 happen where they have to use force  
25 and they shouldn't be punished for

1           doing their job. So I just wanted to  
2           give a little rebuttal to the protest  
3           that's going on down the street to say  
4           that we have a great law enforcement  
5           community in the City of Scranton. We  
6           have great officers. The men and  
7           women do a great job and I just wanted  
8           to thank them. And that is all.  
9           Thank you.

10           MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Evans?

11           MR. EVANS: Thank you. I'm going  
12           to use my time to read the report that  
13           I got from the treasurer, Wayne Beck  
14           to day on the waster disposals. "The  
15           amount collected for waste disposal  
16           fees from -- through November 15,  
17           2014, totals 5,442,877. The amount  
18           collect for the same period is 2013  
19           totaled 3.4 million dollars. The  
20           amount budget for 2014 is 5.8 million,  
21           therefore you're at 94 percent of the  
22           total budget allocation with the last  
23           15 days of November yet to counted and  
24           all of December so I think we may be  
25           on track to meet our budgeted item.

1           The unpaid trash bills are two  
2           million, sixty-four thousand, one  
3           hundred and ninety-six dollars. Of  
4           course, this does vacancy requests,  
5           condemned properties or demolished  
6           properties not yet reported so we have  
7           some work to do on that front."

8           The request from Marie Schumacher  
9           about the real estate information I  
10          gave several years ago, I have a  
11          report for you so I'll give this to  
12          you at the end of meeting if you don't  
13          mind and I'd say it's pretty in depth  
14          so I don't want to get into during  
15          motions. So that's all I have right  
16          now. I'll reserve comment for when we  
17          introduce some more legislation.

18          MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Gaughan?

19          MR. GAUGHAN: Yes. Thank you.  
20          I've received numerous requests to  
21          have streetlights fixed in many parts  
22          of city over the past few weeks.  
23          Joyce Electrical who takes care of  
24          those issues, they are backed up and  
25          are trying to get to whatever request.

1           From the time a resident reports a  
2           streetlight out, it may take 10 to 14  
3           days for it to be fixed. Our office  
4           has been touch with DPW so that we are  
5           updated ton the status of these  
6           reports. I did receive an e-mail  
7           earlier today about a streetlight out  
8           in the 800 block of Yard Avenue. I  
9           will be contacting that resident to  
10          get the pole so that we can try to get  
11          that taken care of.

12                 Council did request two weeks ago  
13           that the proposed 2015 budget be put  
14           on the city's website. Unfortunately  
15           as of today that hasn't been done. I  
16           haven't seen it on website. I think  
17           that in the future the proposed budget  
18           should be published on our website so  
19           that people can review it. Not  
20           everyone has the time to come down to  
21           City Hall and request a copy of it.

22                 If my colleagues would be  
23           agreeable, I would also like to ask  
24           that we send a letter to the Mayor's  
25           Office on behalf of council asking



1           that the trash and recyclable pickup  
2           scheduled be posted on the city's  
3           website. I have received a few  
4           inquiries about this and many people  
5           think it would be helpful especially  
6           those who are knew to the city.

7           And that is all I have and I'll  
8           reserve the rest of my comments for  
9           motions. Thank you.

10          MR. MCGOFF: One last thing since  
11          Mr. Rogan brought it up. I know there  
12          have been a number of protests and one  
13          that has been reported on, a  
14          significant protest involving what I  
15          feel is the desecration of the  
16          American flag. I know that this has  
17          been excused as freedom of expression.  
18          I taught Social Studies for 35 years  
19          and one of the things that always  
20          talked about was peoples' rights and  
21          the idea that all rights are limited.  
22          Just because you have the freedom of  
23          expression, it does not mean that you  
24          can express yourself in any way that  
25          you feel appropriate. There are

1 limits and I feel that any time that  
2 someone desecrates a national symbol  
3 that that goes beyond the right of  
4 expression and should be dealt with.  
5 And while people do have a right to  
6 protest and express themselves, I  
7 believe that what took place with the  
8 American flag was inappropriate and  
9 especially should be dealt with by the  
10 authorities and the people in charge.  
11 And that was all. Thank you.

12 MS. REED: 5B. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
13 AN ORDINANCE - AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING  
14 THE QUALITY OF LIFE AND VIOLATIONS  
15 TICKET PROCESS IN THE CITY OF  
16 SCRANTON.

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

20 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

21 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

22 MR. MCGOFF: On the question?

23 MR. EVANS: On the question.

24 First of all, I would like to thank  
25 the Mayor and his administration and

1 the Law Department for getting this  
2 legislation to city council. I would  
3 also like to thank Pat Hinton,  
4 Director of Licensing and Inspections  
5 for his consistent support for this  
6 ordinance. Without Pat's endorsement  
7 it would have been very difficult to  
8 move this task forward. I still  
9 believe and I've said this before when  
10 first this up that if it's properly  
11 enforced, this ordinance is going to  
12 be a game changer for our  
13 neighborhoods in our city. That's all  
14 I have for now. Thank you.

15 MR. MCGOFF: I would like to add  
16 as well. I know there's been some  
17 people have criticized this Quality of  
18 Life Ordinance. You know, it's sort  
19 of another attack upon the citizens of  
20 Scranton but it's not. This Quality  
21 of Life addresses a lot of the  
22 complaints that the citizens of  
23 Scranton have. This is to take care  
24 of the complaints that people do have,  
25 of neighbors or people in their

1 neighborhood that do not take care of  
2 their property that do, you know, that  
3 add to the blight in the city and if  
4 this ordinance can help take care of  
5 that, fine. Also, you know, if it  
6 does produce revenue, I think that  
7 that's an even second benefit.

8 Personally I wouldn't mind if this  
9 ordinance never collected a cent  
10 because that would mean that people  
11 are complying with the law and that  
12 our neighborhoods have improved. I  
13 think it's, again, I thank Councilman  
14 Evans and Councilman Rogan for working  
15 on this and bringing it to the City of  
16 Scranton. I think it's something that  
17 will be beneficial in many ways.

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

20 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

21 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

22 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

23 MR. EVANS: Aye.

24 MR. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed?

25 (No response.)

1 MR. MCGOFF: Ayes have it and so  
2 moved.

3 MS. REED: 5C. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
4 AN ORDINANCE - SALE OF TAX  
5 DELINQUENT PROPERTY MORE COMMONLY  
6 KNOWN AS 94 CRANE STREET, SCRANTON,  
7 PENNSYLVANIA, TAX MAP NO. 16620-010-  
8 008 TO JOHN GAUGHAN AND MARIE GAUGHAN,  
9 99 CRANE STREET, SCRANTON,  
10 PENNSYLVANIA, 18505, FOR THE  
11 CONSIDERATION OF \$2,500.00.

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

15 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

16 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

17 MR. MCGOFF: On the question?

18 (No response.)

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

21 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

22 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

23 MR. EVANS: Aye.

24 MR. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed?

25 Abstention.

1 MR. GAUGHAN: Abstention. Thank  
2 you.

3 MR. MCGOFF: Ayes have it and so  
4 moved.

5 MS. REED: 5D. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
6 AN ORDINANCE - AN ORDINANCE  
7 DEDICATING THE GREENWAY ALONG  
8 LEGGETT'S CREEK IN NORTH SCRANTON TO  
9 BE KNOWN AS "DONALD AND EDITH MCLANE  
10 LEGGETT'S CREEK GREENWAY".

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

14 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

15 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

16 MR. MCGOFF: On the question?

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the  
18 question. I would just like to say  
19 that one of the great families in  
20 North Scranton is the McLane family.  
21 Tom McLane who works very closely with  
22 the City of Scranton on a number of  
23 different projects spearheaded this  
24 effort and he should be commended for  
25 that and I'm very happy to see this

1           legislation on our agenda.

2           MR. EVANS: I would like to  
3           concur with that. I worked with Tom  
4           on many projects and he's one of our  
5           best assets as far as the city is  
6           concerned and he's given away  
7           countless hours of his own time on  
8           many, many projects so I'm glad to see  
9           this move forward.

10          MR. GAUGHAN: And the greenway is  
11          a real tribute to his parents who were  
12          also active in the community.

13          MR. MCGOFF: All those in favor  
14          of introduction signify by saying aye.

15          MR. ROGAN: Aye.

16          MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

17          MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

18          MR. EVANS: Aye.

19          MR. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed?

20          (No response.)

21          MR. MCGOFF: Ayes have it and so  
22          moved.

23          MS. REED: 5E. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
24          AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE  
25          COUNCIL NO. 177, 1994 ENTITLED

1 "AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 52,  
2 1903, ENTITLED AN ORDINANCE (AS  
3 AMENDED) RELATING TO DOGS, THE  
4 LICENSING OF, AND DOG POUND THEREFOR,  
5 AND PROVIDING FOR A FUND AND  
6 REGULATING THE PAYMENT OF BILLS FOR  
7 THE TREATMENT FOR THE PREVENTION OF  
8 HYDROPHOBIA," AS AMENDED BY FILE OF  
9 THE COUNCIL NO. 13, 1963, INCREASING  
10 LICENSE FEES BY AMENDING SECTION 1(A)  
11 TO CHANGE THE FEES OF THE CURRENT  
12 DOG LICENSES FOR ALL DOGS WITHIN THE  
13 CITY LIMITS ALONG WITH THE TIME FRAME  
14 OF A DOG LICENSE.

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

18 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

19 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

20 MR. MCGOFF: On the question?

21 MR. ROGAN: Yes, on the question.  
22 Just moving forward, I think that when  
23 it comes to fees and taxes and many  
24 other items, I think what was done in  
25 his ordinance is appropriate and



1           should continue to happen when a  
2           discounted rate is given for senior  
3           citizens in the City of Scranton,  
4           especially when it comes to the burden  
5           of property taxes, more with the  
6           school district even more than the  
7           city it always falls on the back of  
8           the senior citizens that seem to be  
9           paying more and more. By offering a  
10          discount to seniors I do believe it is  
11          just to do that. And also while  
12          mentioning discounts for senior  
13          citizens, the property tax and rental  
14          rebate program through the state, the  
15          deadline is December 31st to apply for  
16          that. If you are over age 65 or you  
17          are retired or a widow, you can apply  
18          for that by contacting your state  
19          representative or state senator.

20               MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else? All  
21               those in favor of introduction,  
22               signify by saying aye.

23               MR. ROGAN: Aye.

24               MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

25               MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

1 MR. EVANS: Aye.

2 MR. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed?

3 (No response.)

4 MR. MCGOFF: Ayes have it and so  
5 moved.

6 MS. REED: 5F. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
7 AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE  
8 COUNCIL NO. 98, 2009 ENTITLED "AN  
9 ORDINANCE AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL  
10 NO. 242, 2003, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING  
11 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 155, 1999, AN  
12 ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE LICENSING  
13 AND REGULATING OF CONTRACTORS DOING  
14 BUSINESS IN THE CITY OF SCRANTON  
15 INCLUDING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE  
16 GRANTING OF PERMITS AND FEES FOR SAME;  
17 PROVIDING PENALTIES AND RIGHTS OF  
18 APPEAL BY INCREASING THE COST OF  
19 PERMIT FEES IN THE CITY OF  
20 SCRANTON" BY ESTABLISHING A NEW PERMIT  
21 FEE SCHEDULE.

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

25 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

1 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

2 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? I  
3 did have one question concerning this  
4 legislation and it was where does this  
5 fee schedule place us in relationship  
6 to other communities. Mr. Gaughan did  
7 respond to me. He had been in contact  
8 with a number of developers who felt  
9 that it was an increase but within an  
10 acceptable range. And I also talked  
11 to Pat Hinton, Director of LIPS, and  
12 he said that they researched  
13 approximately 20 local communities and  
14 that this fee schedule would put it  
15 somewhere in the middle of those  
16 communities. So that it is not while  
17 raising fees, yes, we're raising fees  
18 but it is not to put us out of a  
19 competitive framework in the local  
20 communities.

21 MR. EVANS: It's refreshing to be  
22 in the middle.

23 MR. MCGOFF: I'm sorry?

24 MR. EVANS: It's refreshing to be  
25 in the middle and not on top or the

1 highest so we'll take it as a good  
2 thing.

3 MR. MCGOFF: All those in favor  
4 of introduction signify by saying aye.

5 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

6 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

8 MR. EVANS: Aye.

9 MR. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed?

10 (No response.)

11 MR. MCGOFF: Ayes have it and so  
12 moved.

13 MS. REED: 5G. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
14 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR  
15 AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS  
16 FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO ENTER INTO  
17 A LOAN AGREEMENT AND MAKE A LOAN  
18 FROM THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK  
19 GRANT PROGRAM, PROJECT NO.150.34 IN AN  
20 AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$40,000.00  
21 TO TERRA PRETA, LLC TO ASSIST AN  
22 ELIGIBLE PROJECT.

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

1 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

2 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

3 MR. MCGOFF: On the question?

4 (No response.)

5 MR. MCGOFF: All those in favor  
6 of introduction signify by saying aye.

7 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

8 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

9 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

10 MR. EVANS: Aye.

11 MR. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed?

12 (No response.)

13 MR. MCGOFF: Ayes have it and so  
14 moved.

15 MS. REED: 5H. FOR INTRODUCTION  
16 – A RESOLUTION – AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR  
17 AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS  
18 TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A MORTGAGE  
19 SUBORDINATION AGREEMENT, AND ANY  
20 RELATED DOCUMENTS, IN FAVOR OF FIRST  
21 NATIONAL COMMUNITY BANK CONCERNING A  
22 CITY OECD COMMERCIAL INDUSTRIAL LOAN  
23 WITH WOOLWORTH DEVELOPMENT COMPANY  
24 LLC.

25 MR. MCGOFF: At this time I'll

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

3 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

4 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

5 MR. MCGOFF: On the question?

6 (No response.)

7 MR. MCGOFF: All those in favor  
8 signify by saying aye.

9 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

10 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

12 MR. EVANS: Aye.

13 MR. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed?

14 (No response.)

15 MR. MCGOFF: Ayes have it and so  
16 moved.

17 MS. REED: 6TH ORDER. 6A.

18 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF THE COUNCIL  
19 NO. 63, 2014 - AN ORDINANCE -  
20 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER  
21 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE  
22 AND ENTER INTO AN  
23 ACCESS EASEMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE  
24 CITY OF SCRANTON ("GRANTOR") AND  
25 AMERCO REAL ESTATE COMPANY ("GRANTEE")

1 FOR A PARCEL OF LAND LOCATED  
2 UNDERNEATH THE BRIDGE CARRYING WEST  
3 LACKAWANNA AVENUE OVER CANADIAN  
4 PACIFIC RAILWAY.

5 MR. MCGOFF: You've heard reading  
6 by title of Item 6A. What is your  
7 pleasure?

8 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6A  
9 pass reading by title.

10 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

11 MR. MCGOFF: On the question?

12 (No response.)

13 MR. MCGOFF: All those in favor  
14 signify by saying aye.

15 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

16 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

18 MR. EVANS: Aye.

19 MR. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed?

20 (No response.)

21 MR. MCGOFF: Ayes have it and so  
22 moved.

23 MS. REED: 7th ORDER. 7A. FOR  
24 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON  
25 FINANCE - FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF THE

1 COUNCIL NO. 57, 2014 - AMENDING  
2 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 55, 2013, AN  
3 ORDINANCE ENTITLED "GENERAL CITY  
4 OPERATING BUDGET 2014" BY TRANSFERRING  
5 \$41,500.00 FROM ACCOUNT NO.  
6 01.401.16090.4299 (NONDEPARTMENTAL  
7 EXPENDITURES-UNENCUMBERED EXPENSES  
8 PRIOR YEAR OBLIGATIONS) TO THE  
9 ACCOUNTS LISTED BELOW TO PROVIDE  
10 FUNDING TO SUPPLEMENT THE SALT  
11 ACCOUNT, MONTHLY PAYMENTS TO THOMSON  
12 REUTERS (WEST LAW) AND FUNDING FOR  
13 MISCELLANEOUS OFFICE SUPPLIES FOR ALL  
14 DEPARTMENTS THROUGH THE PERIOD ENDING  
15 DECEMBER 31, 2014.

16 MR. MCGOFF: What is the  
17 recommendation of the chair for the  
18 Committee on Finance?

19 MR. EVANS: As chairperson for  
20 the Committee on Finance, I recommend  
21 final passage of Item 7A.

22 MR. ROGAN: Second.

23 MR. MCGOFF: On the question?

24 (No response.)

25 MR. MCGOFF: Roll call, please.



1 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler.

2 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

3 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

4 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

5 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Evans.

6 MR. EVANS: Yes.

7 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan.

8 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

9 MS. MARICANO: Mr. McGoff.

10 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I hereby  
11 declare Item 7A legally and lawfully  
12 adopted.

13 MS. REED: 7B. FOR CONSIDERATION  
14 BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE - FOR  
15 ADOPTION -FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 58,  
16 2014 - APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE  
17 EXPENSES OF THE CITY GOVERNMENT FOR  
18 THE PERIOD COMMENCING ON THE FIRST DAY  
19 OF JANUARY, 2015 TO AND INCLUDING  
20 DECEMBER 31, 2015 BY THE ADOPTION OF  
21 THE GENERAL CITY OPERATING BUDGET FOR  
22 THE YEAR 2015.

23 MR. MCGOFF: What is the  
24 recommendation of the chair for the  
25 Committee on Finance?

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

4                   MR. ROGAN: Second.

5                   MR. MCGOFF: On the question?

6                   MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the  
7                   question. I will be voting no tonight  
8                   on Mayor Courtright's 2015 budget. I  
9                   met with the Mayor today to discuss  
10                  the budget and express my descent. I  
11                  cannot in good conscience vote for a  
12                  budget that creates new positions,  
13                  increase discretionary salaries and  
14                  expenditures and adds additional debt  
15                  while failing to realize any savings  
16                  or concessions from the unions. It is  
17                  not fair to ask the people of Scranton  
18                  to once again make sacrifices and bear  
19                  the burden of a tax increase along  
20                  with the tripling of the LST tax when  
21                  Mayor Courtright has not the difficult  
22                  things and made the necessary  
23                  sacrifices that he needs to make. The  
24                  plan that Mayor Courtright adopted  
25                  earlier this year from Consultant

1 Henry Amoroso included specific  
2 recommendation regarding union  
3 negotiations and targeted concessions  
4 to address over 80 percent of the  
5 city's budget. The plan makes it very  
6 clear that our present financial  
7 course is simply unsustainable. If  
8 all we can is nickel and dime our way  
9 through budgets each year, we will  
10 never see long term structural  
11 financial change and will continue to  
12 plague the people of Scranton with  
13 large tax increases. We have a  
14 difficult financial situation that  
15 calls for bold and tough decisions in  
16 order to stabilize the city's  
17 finances. I don't see those bold and  
18 tough decisions reflected in this  
19 budget which is why I will be voting  
20 no. Thank you.

21 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else?

22 MR. EVANS: On the question.

23 Turn mic on. It helps. It is never  
24 easy to adopt a budget with nearly a  
25 19 percent tax increase and it never

1           should be. Our taxpayers are tired,  
2           beleaguered and frustrated. What I  
3           signed on to support the plan and this  
4           budget makes the basic criteria as  
5           called for in the plan. It is an  
6           honest attempt at transparency and I  
7           respect that. I want the plan to work  
8           and I'm willing to do whatever is  
9           reasonable to make that happen because  
10          I honestly feel it is our way to  
11          financial solvency. And I fully  
12          understand there are a lot of moving  
13          parts to the plan but I will tell you  
14          right now, I never want to see a  
15          budget in the City of Scranton with a  
16          double digit tax increase again. This  
17          is where we have to draw the line for  
18          the taxpayers of Scranton because if  
19          we have decided our only answer would  
20          be future budgets with large tax  
21          increases, then the city should move  
22          towards receivership or bankruptcy  
23          now. If that is our solution, then  
24          let's stop wasting everybody's time.  
25          I don't want that to happen but if we

1 don't do what needs to be done, then  
2 we'll have no choice. We have to know  
3 that we are well beyond the point of  
4 diminishing returns as it relates to  
5 large tax increases and the negative  
6 implications loom large. So with that  
7 said, I'm already looking ahead and  
8 this is what I hope to see prior to  
9 next year's budget. One, pension  
10 reform which would include or should  
11 include a plan to put the balance of  
12 the court aware directly into pension  
13 funds. Two, union concessions.  
14 Three, a comprehensive plan to deal  
15 with the nonprofits. Four, a dialogue  
16 or more with the county concerning  
17 reassessment. Five, a plan for the  
18 modernization of the Parking Authority  
19 and the Sewer Authority. Six, a  
20 feasibility study to determine the  
21 impact of a payroll and the  
22 elimination of the mercantile and the  
23 business privilege tax. Seven, a tax  
24 increase of less than six percent.  
25 All those items are or should be part

1 of a new recovery plan. This is our  
2 last chance to get it right. Those  
3 are my benchmarks for the 2016 budget  
4 and those are the criteria I will use  
5 when I determine how I will vote on  
6 the budget when it comes to city  
7 council next year. It's that simple  
8 and that hard. I didn't ask for this  
9 job because I thought it would easy  
10 and believe it's not. So let's all  
11 remember that the process starts again  
12 the day after this budget is adopted.  
13 Thank you.

14 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else?

15 MR. ROGAN: I would just like to  
16 reiterate what I mentioned before and  
17 I think Councilman Evans make a lot  
18 good points regarding moving forward  
19 some items that need to be done.

20 One area where I do disagree is  
21 on the idea of receivership for the  
22 city. I do believe that would be a  
23 disaster and result in even more tax  
24 increases than we currently see.

25 While I respect of Mr. Gaughan, I

1           guess I have to ask the question. Why  
2           not offer amendments to the budget?

3           MR. GAUGHAN: I was wondering the  
4           same thing about you. Are you going  
5           to make amendments to the budget?

6           MR. ROGAN: No. I already  
7           told -- I already expressed my  
8           support.

9           MR. GAUGHAN: Well, because --  
10          see, I'm glad you brought that up and  
11          I wasn't going to say anything but  
12          since you brought it up. You're  
13          asking me if I'm going to make  
14          amendment to this budget. I thought  
15          we would be coming from the same  
16          playbook. Because in 2012 you were  
17          quoted in the Scranton Times as  
18          saying, "I do many find it outrageous,  
19          I really do. It's not fair to  
20          taxpayers to ask them to pay in taxes  
21          when a few employees are getting  
22          massive raises. How can you justify  
23          given \$10,000 a year raises when we're  
24          asking everyone to pay more in taxes."  
25          Mr. Rogan said, "These salaries should

1           remain the same." Also, "I'm voting  
2           for every single one of the cuts. We  
3           need to save money so it's plain and  
4           simple for me." You supported cutting  
5           out the Pennsylvania League of Cities  
6           expense which we find in this budget.  
7           You said, "I don't believe it is a  
8           valid expenditure of taxpayer's  
9           dollars. When you have a city that's  
10          broke, we can't afford to be spending  
11          money. I voted for 19 cuts tonight."  
12          In 2011 you said, "At the end of the  
13          day city council has to represent all  
14          of the people of Scranton and cuts  
15          have to made in every department.  
16          It's just the state of affairs the  
17          city is in right now."

18                 So before you try to call me out  
19                 for not make amendments, I was waiting  
20                 for you to open your mouth. See, the  
21                 reason I'm not making amendments is  
22                 because the real change that needs to  
23                 happen in this budget I can't affect.  
24                 It's union negotiations and  
25                 concessions. Everything else is a



1 drop in the bucket. Do I agree with  
2 some of the raises in this budget and  
3 the new positions? Not at all. Not  
4 when there's a 19 percent tax increase  
5 and a tripling of the LST tax. So if  
6 anyone should be making amendments  
7 based on prior comments and the way  
8 you used to do things, I would expect  
9 that it would come from you.

10 MR. ROGAN: Well, Mr. Gaughan,  
11 this actually should have been an area  
12 where we could have common ground and  
13 worked together on these.

14 MR. GAUGHAN: Well, you never  
15 reached out to me --

16 MR. ROGAN: Well, you knew --

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Wait a minute --

18 MR. MCGOFF: This has become  
19 personal --

20 MR. GAUGHAN: It has become  
21 personal at all. No, it hasn't. It  
22 has not become personal. Mr. Rogan  
23 likes to flip flop on things. That is  
24 a great example. I have the article  
25 right here. Why is Mr. Rogan not

1 making amendments to this budget when  
2 in the past he wanted a cut in every  
3 single department in City Hall. Yet  
4 this year quieter than a church mouse.  
5 But he wants to ask me if I'm going to  
6 make amendments to the budget. I find  
7 that funny.

8 MR. ROGAN: Excuse me --

9 MR. MCGOFF: Both of you are --  
10 it has become personal. We're talking  
11 to each other rather than -- about  
12 each other rather than about the  
13 budget.

14 MR. ROGAN: Now, if I may reply.  
15 In those years when I -- those 19 cuts  
16 that I spoke where 19 separate  
17 amendments that I made to the budget  
18 and then, yes, I did vote not. I  
19 voted no on those budgets because I  
20 believe there are a lot of items in  
21 there that shouldn't have been. Do I  
22 agree with everything in this budget?  
23 Of course no. But do I think on a  
24 whole it is a much better  
25 representation --

1 MR. GAUGHAN: Well, make  
2 amendments to it then. You should  
3 make amendments. If you don't agree  
4 with certain parts of the budget --

5 MR. ROGAN: May I finish --

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Make amendments  
7 like you did the past three years.  
8 But don't ask me if I'm going to make  
9 amendments because that's makes no  
10 sense.

11 MR. ROGAN: Mr. Gaughan, may I  
12 finish?

13 MR. GAUGHAN: Certainly.

14 MR. ROGAN: Those amendments were  
15 made, I knew I was likely outnumbered  
16 on those votes and I --

17 MR. GAUGHAN: And I realize I'm  
18 likely outnumbered myself.

19 MR. ROGAN: -- and I offered them  
20 anyway and I think I lost most of  
21 those votes. Actually I don't believe  
22 some of them came to a vote or Mr.  
23 McGoff may have seconded them just to  
24 allow for a vote. But many of them I  
25 lost by a four to one vote, three to

1           two vote. I think a couple might have  
2           been approved. Sometimes it is a  
3           uphill battle and you know how the  
4           votes are going to go but before  
5           making those comments, before casting  
6           that no, but I did try to make those  
7           changes to the budget. And also as I  
8           mentioned before regarding the use of  
9           grant money, this is a much different  
10          approach at thing than we saw a few  
11          years ago. There is no question that  
12          I wasn't on the same page with the  
13          previous mayor. We did have many  
14          discussions. I think I met with Mayor  
15          Doherty maybe three times. During  
16          this budget process I've talked to the  
17          Mayor, I've talked to the business  
18          administrative. I think we all have.  
19          And as was mentioned by a couple other  
20          council members, I agree with the plan  
21          that was put forth. The long term  
22          compiled by Mr. Amoroso, I know it may  
23          not be popular, but do think it will  
24          work.

25                 Two of the other items that I've

1 always fought for and they were never  
2 included in budget that are now  
3 included in the Amoroso plan, two of  
4 the large ones, one is the sale of the  
5 Scranton Sewer authority which, I  
6 think, needs to be done. It needs to  
7 be done to super fund the pension or  
8 to pay down other city debt. Another  
9 item is the sale of the Scranton  
10 Parking Authority garages which I  
11 think needs to be done. That is also  
12 included in the plan. The one item  
13 that I've always supported and I still  
14 do even though the department has  
15 gotten better is the privatization of  
16 the city refuse. That's something I  
17 still continue to support.  
18 Unfortunately that contract was  
19 approved by a four to one vote two  
20 years ago. So those are the items  
21 that I have supported. I don't know  
22 why Mr. Gaughan got so upset about a  
23 simple question but that's where I've  
24 stood and that's where I continue to  
25 stand and if you would like to work

1           together in the future on cost saving  
2           measures, I'd be happy to.

3           MR. GAUGHAN: Look, I didn't get  
4           upset. I am just annoyed. Annoyed is  
5           the key word here. When someone asks  
6           me if I'm going to make amendments to  
7           the budget when -- I mean, I came to  
8           this meeting and, in fact, when I  
9           didn't hear from you all week, I was  
10          surprised. I thought you would have  
11          asked me, Mr. Gaughan, you should make  
12          amendments to this budget. When I  
13          look at your record on this city  
14          council, that's what you've done,  
15          that's what you'll all about.

16          And you talk about grants.  
17          There's positions in this budget that  
18          aren't funded by grants, \$115,405  
19          worth of positions but I didn't hear  
20          one cut from you. But you want to ask  
21          me if I'm going to make amendments.  
22          I'll repeat, I will repeat, you said  
23          in 2012, "I'm voting for every single  
24          one of these cuts. We need to save  
25          money so it's plain and simple for

1 me."

2 MR. MCGOFF: Gentlemen, we have  
3 gotten off the budget and we are still  
4 talking --

5 MR. GAUGHAN: We did not get off  
6 the budget --

7 MR. MCGOFF: Yes, we are, Mr.  
8 Gaughan --

9 MR. GAUGHAN: Mr. Rogan brought  
10 it up and I'm trying to finish my  
11 sentence.

12 MR. MCGOFF: We are out of order  
13 because we're not talking about the  
14 budget --

15 MR. GAUGHAN: -- nobody is out of  
16 order. Yes, we are. I'm bringing up  
17 the budget. I'm bringing up past  
18 times when Mr. Rogan has made  
19 amendments and now all of a sudden  
20 he's quiet. But he asked me if I'm  
21 going to amendments so it's not right.

22 MR. MCGOFF: Gentlemen, please.

23 MR. ROGAN: That's correct. I  
24 voted against the budget and I made  
25 amendments --

1 MR. GAUGHAN: Well --

2 MR. MCGOFF: Please, please.

3 MR. GAUGHAN: -- this year it's  
4 different so I see it as a big, big,  
5 big -- it's a flip flop.

6 MR. ROGAN: It's a much different  
7 budget.

8 MR. GAUGHAN: No. It's a flip  
9 flop. Everybody knows it. So before  
10 you call somebody out for not making  
11 amendments --

12 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Gaughan --

13 MR. GAUGHAN: You can ask  
14 yourself --

15 MR. MCGOFF: -- I'm going to ask  
16 you once again to stop.

17 MR. ROGAN: I simply asked the  
18 question. I didn't mean to make you  
19 upset.

20 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Rogan, we're  
21 done.

22 MR. GAUGHAN: I'm not upset. I'm  
23 just -- I'm just simply making a  
24 point.

25 MR. MCGOFF: My comments on the



1 budget. It's not perfect and I agree  
2 with Mr. Wechsler, does it encourage  
3 moving into the city? Perhaps not.  
4 Does it afford concessions from unions  
5 or forced concession? Well, that's a  
6 contradiction in terms. You can't  
7 force concessions. No, it does not.  
8 But I think this budget allows us to  
9 move into 2015 with a reasonable  
10 expectation at moving toward recovery.  
11 We need to get onto the recovery phase  
12 and to move through recovery before we  
13 can reform the way in which the city  
14 does business. I believe that this  
15 budget, as I said, it's not perfect  
16 but it's a reasonable plan for some  
17 stability moving forward that will  
18 then allow us to look at the problems  
19 that we have and perhaps move towards  
20 reforming some of those problems. I  
21 know that the business administrator  
22 has worked very diligently on  
23 preparing this budget and other  
24 members of the administration have  
25 done so as well. I think all of the

1           council people have been involved in  
2           the process to some extent and, again,  
3           this agreement on the budget is fine.  
4           I have no problem with that. That's  
5           always going to happen but I think,  
6           again, this is a plan that we have.  
7           If it's not acceptable, then we would  
8           need to create an acceptable plan but  
9           I believe we need to vote on this this  
10          evening and hopefully move forward  
11          into 2015 with the opportunity to make  
12          this a realistic budget for the year  
13          2015. Anyone else?

14                (No response.)

15          MR. MCGOFF: Roll call, please.

16          MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler.

17          MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

18          MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

19          MR. ROGAN: Yes.

20          MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Evans.

21          MR. EVANS: Yes.

22          MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan.

23          MR. GAUGHAN: No.

24          MS. MARICANO: Mr. McGoff.

25          MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I hereby

1 declare Item 7B legally and lawfully  
2 adopted.

3 MS. REED: 7C. FOR CONSIDERATION  
4 BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE - FOR  
5 ADOPTION - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 59,  
6 2014 - CREATING AND ESTABLISHING  
7 SPECIAL CITY ACCOUNT NO. 02.229614  
8 ENTITLED "PAFRS" PA FIRE RECOVERY  
9 SERVICE FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF  
10 DONATIONS TO SCRANTON FIRE DEPARTMENT  
11 AND PAYMENTS FROM PAFRS (INSURANCE) IN  
12 ORDER TO MAKE NECESSARY EXPENDITURES  
13 FOR THE PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT  
14 AND APPARATUS AND MAINTENANCE OF BOTH.

15 MR. MCGOFF: What is the  
16 recommendation of the chair for the  
17 Committee on Finance?

18 MR. EVANS: As chairperson for  
19 the Committee on Finance, I recommend  
20 final passage of Item 7C.

21 MR. ROGAN: Second.

22 MR. MCGOFF: On the question?

23 (No response.)

24 MR. MCGOFF: Roll call, please.

25 MR. MCGOFF: On the question?

1 (No response.)

2 MR. MCGOFF: Roll call, please.

3 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler.

4 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

5 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

6 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

7 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Evans.

8 MR. EVANS: Yes.

9 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan.

10 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

11 MS. MARICANO: Mr. McGoff.

12 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I hereby  
13 declare Item 7C legally and lawfully  
14 adopted.

15 MS. REED: 7D. FOR CONSIDERATION  
16 BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY FOR  
17 ADOPTION – FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 60,  
18 2014 - AUTHORIZING THE REMOVAL OF THE  
19 EXISTING “NO PARKING” SIGNS LOCATED AT  
20 THE INTERSECTION OF HARRISON AVENUE  
21 (SR 0611) AND EAST GIBSON STREET, WE  
22 MAINTAIN THE “ALL WAY” STOP SIGNS AND  
23 INSTALL NEW R7-302 NO PARKING  
24 SYMBOL/ARROW SIGNS.

25 MR. MCGOFF: What is the

1 recommendation of the chair for the  
2 Committee on Public Safety?

3 MR. WECHSLER: As chairperson for  
4 the Committee on Public Safety, I  
5 recommend final passage of Item 7D.

6 MR. ROGAN: Second.

7 MR. MCGOFF: On the question?

8 (No response.)

9 MR. MCGOFF: Roll call, please.

10 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler.

11 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

12 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

13 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

14 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Evans.

15 MR. EVANS: Yes.

16 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

18 MS. MARICANO: Mr. McGoff.

19 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I hereby  
20 declare Item 7D legally and lawfully.  
21 Adopted.

22 MS. REED: 7E. FOR CONSIDERATION  
23 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR  
24 ADOPTION - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 61,  
25 2014 - REPEALING FILE OF THE COUNCIL

1 NO. 11, 2014, AS AMENDED AN  
2 ORDINANCE AMENDING FILE OF COUNCIL NO.  
3 74, 1993, AS AMENDED, ENTITLED "CITY  
4 OF SCRANTON ZONING ORDINANCE OF  
5 1993", BY CHANGING THE ZONING MAP  
6 DESIGNATION OF THE JOHN J. AUDUBON  
7 SCHOOL FROM R-1A (MEDIUM LOW DENSITY  
8 RESIDENTIAL) TO INS-G (GENERAL  
9 INSTITUTIONAL) IN THE CENTRAL PLANNING  
10 AREA IN THE EASTERN PORTION OF THE  
11 CITY OF SCRANTON AS SAID ORDINANCE WAS  
12 ADOPTED AFTER AN INSUFFICIENT NOTICE  
13 OF PUBLIC HEARING HAD BEEN POSTED.

14 MR. MCGOFF: As chair for the  
15 Committee on Rules, I recommend final  
16 passage of Item 7E.

17 MR. ROGAN: Second.

18 MR. MCGOFF: On the question?

19 MR. EVANS: On the question.

20 While I fully expect this ordinance to  
21 pass tonight because it already  
22 essentially passed before, I will be  
23 taking one of those symbolic votes  
24 tonight. I understand the need of the  
25 Scranton School District to plug the

1 money in from the proceeds into their  
2 budget. We all serve the same  
3 taxpayers but as a former city  
4 planning commission member, I  
5 fundamentally disagree with spot  
6 zoning and that is what we're doing  
7 tonight. It is my personal opinion  
8 that Geisinger should develop a plan  
9 for this parcel, apply for a variance  
10 and get approval from the Zoning Board  
11 of Appeals just like everybody else.  
12 So my vote tonight will be no.

13 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else?

14 (No response.)

15 MR. MCGOFF: Role call, please.

16 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler.

17 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

18 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

19 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

20 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Evans.

21 MR. EVANS: No.

22 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

24 MS. MARICANO: Mr. McGoff. Yes.

25 I hereby declare Item 7E legally and

1 lawfully adopted.

2 MS. REED: 7F. FOR CONSIDERATION  
3 BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY  
4 DEVELOPMENT - FOR ADOPTION -RESOLUTION  
5 NO. 102, 2014 - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR  
6 AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY  
7 OFFICIALS TO GRANT A SPECIAL  
8 ENCROACHMENT PERMIT TO BAR  
9 PAZZO, INC. TO OPERATE AN OUTDOOR  
10 RESTAURANT AT 524-526  
11 LACKAWANNA AVENUE, SCRANTON,  
12 PENNSYLVANIA.

13 MR. MCGOFF: What is the  
14 recommendation of the chair for the  
15 Committee on Community Development?

16 MR. ROGAN: As chairperson for  
17 the Committee on Community  
18 Development, I recommend final passage  
19 of Item 7F.

20 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

21 MR. MCGOFF: On the question?  
22 Roll call, please.

23 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler.

24 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

25 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.



1 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

2 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Evans.

3 MR. EVANS: Yes.

4 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan.

5 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

6 MS. MARICANO: Mr. McGoff.

7 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I hereby  
8 declare Item 7F legally and lawfully  
9 adopted.

10 MS. REED: 7G. FOR CONSIDERATION  
11 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR  
12 ADOPTION -RESOLUTION NO. 103, 2014 -  
13 APPOINTMENT OF KRISTIN JENKINS, 818  
14 CAPOUSE AVENUE, SCRANTON,  
15 PENNSYLVANIA, 18509 AS A MEMBER OF THE  
16 SCRANTON MUNICIPAL RECREATION  
17 AUTHORITY. MS. JENKINS WILL BE  
18 REPLACING ANTHONY MARINUCCI WHO  
19 RESIGNED EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 2, 2014.  
20 MS. JENKINS WILL FULFILL THE  
21 UNEXPIRED TERM OF MR. MARINUCCI WHICH  
22 WILL EXPIRE ON JUNE 17, 2015.

23 MR. MCGOFF: As chair for the  
24 Committee on Rules, I recommend final  
25 passage of Item 7G.

1 MR. ROGAN: Second.

2 MR. MCGOFF: On the question?

3 MR. WECHSLER: Yes, Mr. McGoff.

4 I'd like to thank Mr. Marinucci for  
5 his service. He did a wonderful job  
6 in leading the board through some  
7 difficult times with the improvement  
8 up at Nay Aug Park and I once again  
9 would just like to thank for his  
10 service.

11 MR. MCGOFF: It might also be  
12 noted that we have received a resume  
13 from Kristin Jenkins prior to  
14 tonight's vote. Roll 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. MARICANO: Mr. McGoff.

24 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I hereby  
25 declare Item 7G legally and lawfully

1           adopted.

2           MS. REED: 7H. FOR CONSIDERATION  
3           BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE - FOR  
4           ADOPTION -RESOLUTION NO. 104, 2014 -  
5           ACCEPTING A DONATION OF ONE THOUSAND  
6           NINETY DOLLARS AND 51/100 CENTS  
7           (\$1,090.51) PRESENTED TO THE CITY OF  
8           SCRANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT FROM  
9           KILDARE'S SCRANTON, INC.

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

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

16          MR. ROGAN: Second.

17          MR. MCGOFF: On the question?

18          (No response.)

19          MR. MCGOFF: Roll call, please.

20          MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler.

21          MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

22          MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

23          MR. ROGAN: Yes.

24          MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Evans.

25          MR. EVANS: Yes.

1 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan.

2 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

3 MS. MARICANO: Mr. McGoff.

4 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I hereby  
5 declare Item 7H legally and lawfully  
6 adopted and once again I would like to  
7 thank Kildare's for their donation.

8 MS. REED: 7I. FOR CONSIDERATION  
9 BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY  
10 DEVELOPMENT - FOR ADOPTION -RESOLUTION  
11 NO. 105, 2014 - A RESOLUTION  
12 ESTABLISHING A SISTER CITY  
13 RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE CITY OF  
14 SCRANTON, LACKAWANNA COUNTY,  
15 PENNSYLVANIA AND GUARDIA DEI LOMBARDI,  
16 PROVINCE OF AVELLINO, ITALY.

17 MR. MCGOFF: What is your  
18 recommendation of the chair for the  
19 Committee on Community Development?

20 MR. ROGAN: As chairperson for  
21 the Committee on Community  
22 Development, I recommend final passage  
23 of Item 7I.

24 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

25 MR. MCGOFF: On the question?

(No response.)

MR. MCGOFF: Roll call, please.

MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler.

MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

MR. ROGAN: Yes.

MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Evans.

MR. EVANS: Yes.

MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan.

MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

MS. MARICANO: Mr. McGoff.

MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I hereby  
declare Item 7I legally and lawfully  
adopted. And would like to welcome  
Guardi Dei Lombardi into the family.

If there's no further business,  
entertain a motion to adjourn.

MR. ROGAN: Motion to adjourn.

MR. MCGOFF: This meeting is  
adjourned.

(Proceedings concluded at 7:56  
p.m.)

## 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 taken by me at the hearing of the above-captioned matter and that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript to the best of my ability.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Amelia Nicol, RPR  
Court Reporter