

SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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HELD:

Thursday, January 15, 2014

LOCATION:

Council Chambers

Scranton City Hall

340 North Washington Avenue

Scranton, Pennsylvania

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

ROBERT MCGOFF, PRESIDENT

PATRICK ROGAN, VICE-PRESIDENT

WAYNE EVANS

JOSEPH WECHSLER

WILLIAM GAUGHAN

LORI REED, CITY CLERK

KATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

AMIL MINORA, SOLICITOR

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

3 MR. MCGOFF: Roll call, please.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

5 MR. WECHSLER: Here.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

7 MR. ROGAN: Here.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

9 MR. EVANS: Here.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Here.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

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

15 MS. REED: THIRD ORDER. 3-A.  
16 BREAKDOWN OF ELIGIBLE SALARIES FOR THE  
17 LIQUID FUELS ACCOUNT FOR THE MONTHS OF  
18 OCTOBER, NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2014.

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

21 MS. REED: 3-B. MINUTES OF THE  
22 REGULAR MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF SCRANTON  
23 HOUSING AUTHORITY HELD DECEMBER 1, 2014.

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

1 MS. REED: 3-C. AUDIT STATUS REPORT  
2 FROM ROBERT ROSSI & COMPANY RECEIVED JANUARY  
3 9, 2015.

4 MR. MCGOFF: Are there any comments?  
5 If not, received and filed. Any clerk's  
6 notes?

7 MS. REED: No, Mr. McGoff. Anything  
8 from members of council? Any announcements?  
9 I did have something here. First of all,  
10 Monday, is the official holiday Martin  
11 Luther king day. City hall will be closed  
12 Monday, January 19, in observance of Martin  
13 Luther King day and also DPW is a vacation  
14 day and there will be no garbage pick up on  
15 that day.

16 On the agenda this evening, just for  
17 information's sake 5-B and C deals with the  
18 liquid fuels allocation, these two  
19 ordinances are state mandated and basically  
20 they are a county function for auditing  
21 purposes that is now being mandated by the  
22 state. 5-I deals with the garbage fee and  
23 the garbage fee will be, again, collected  
24 half and half and the collection dates or  
25 the dates for it will be the same as 2014.

1 They were changed in 2014 and they will now  
2 remain those dates from last year. 5-L is a  
3 tax abatement. It is something that is for  
4 the West Scranton Civic Center or Community  
5 Center, the tax abatement has already been  
6 approved by the school district and by the  
7 county and we will be voting on it this  
8 evening. And, finally, 5-K is the  
9 memorandum of understanding for the police  
10 contract that is on the agenda this evening.  
11 And that's all.

12 MS. REED: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'  
13 PARTICIPATION.

14 MR. MCGOFF: Les Spindler.

15 MR. SPINDLER: Thank you, council.  
16 Les Spindler, city owner and taxpayer. You  
17 took me by surprise, Mr. McGoff, you didn't  
18 ask other council if they have any comments?

19 MR. MCGOFF: I'm sorry?

20 MR. SPINDLER: Usually you ask other  
21 council if they had comments first.

22 MR. MCGOFF: We did and nobody had  
23 any.

24 MR. SPINDLER: Okay. Thank you.  
25 Anyway, I'm going to open up talking about

1 the negotiations with the policemen's union,  
2 I think it's a no brainer, I think it should  
3 be passed tonight and next week. It should  
4 be introduced tonight, passed next week.  
5 It's going to save the city money. I sat in  
6 on the caucus, they can't say how much it's  
7 going to save, but as Attorney Abrahamsen  
8 said it's probably going to save more than  
9 what's been publicized already and it's a  
10 great job by the mayor, and for the people  
11 that said the mayor is in the union's  
12 pockets, he is going to give them whatever  
13 they want, I think this proves those people  
14 don't know what they are talking about, if  
15 this was done 13 years ago by the previous  
16 mayor we wouldn't be in this situation right  
17 now. But the mayor sat down and talked with  
18 the unions and I think it was a great move  
19 by the police union even to negotiate, they  
20 didn't have to. They could have ran out the  
21 contract in 2017 and gone to arbitration,  
22 which Attorney Abrahamsen said would just  
23 cost the city more money. Coming here 13  
24 years I know from experience. I don't know  
25 if we ever won an arbitration, so I think

1           this should be introduced tonight and passed  
2           next week. We don't have much other choice.  
3           If it doesn't, it's going to cost the city  
4           more money.

5                         And again, I applaud the police  
6           unions for doing this. They didn't have to  
7           open up that contract and I think it's a  
8           great move and it shows that they care about  
9           this city, because the people that bash the  
10          unions let them move out of the city and see  
11          if they can go somewhere else and live and  
12          get better police officers. We have the  
13          best in the area and it shows they care  
14          about this city by renegotiating that  
15          contract, they didn't have to do it. And,  
16          you know, just -- and I still think even  
17          though it's going to save money we still  
18          have a doubters up on the council and I  
19          don't why.

20                        Moving on just one more thing, I  
21          read in the paper last month about Dunmore's  
22          budget, how they cut taxes and they did away  
23          with their garbage fee, I think council  
24          should get in touch with people from Dunmore  
25          and see how they did that, maybe we can make

1 cuts -- make cuts in our city because I  
2 think our garbage fee is ridiculous. There  
3 is no way it should be \$300. There is \$150  
4 and they did away with it. How were they  
5 able to do it? So I think we should get in  
6 touch with them and see how they are running  
7 their town. And that's all I have. Thank  
8 you.

9 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. Joan  
10 Hodowanitz.

11 MS. HODOWANITZ: Joan Hodowanitz,  
12 Scranton. On Monday morning I noticed that  
13 the 2015 operating budget was finally on the  
14 city's website. I thank the IT Department  
15 for finally doing that, however, we still do  
16 not have the 2013 audit. Mr. Rossi's  
17 updates of January 8 there are still 14  
18 items outstanding including the financial  
19 statements from the Scranton Parking  
20 Authority who got a \$4 million loan.

21 It's a toss up which will appear  
22 first, the 2013 audit or Mr. Bulzoni's  
23 residency waiver. I checked with the  
24 controller's office today, still no sign of  
25 it.



1 I would like to know what is the  
2 amount of the interest we have to pay for  
3 missing the December 31 MMO? Does anybody  
4 know? Do we have that figure yet?

5 MR. MCGOFF: I'm sorry, I do not.

6 MS. HODOWANITZ: If anybody gets a  
7 chance can you check on that for next week?  
8 That's an important figure.

9 MR. MCGOFF: Yes, I will.

10 MS. HODOWANITZ: Thank you. And the  
11 union contract with the police. I sat in  
12 the caucus and listened to the information  
13 provided by Captain Graziano and Attorney  
14 Abrahamsen and I understand that the  
15 attorney and the police captain are going to  
16 represent the interest of the police and the  
17 police unions as best they can and there is  
18 no attempt to lie or subterfuge or anything  
19 else, however, it's important that we have  
20 an independent advocate for the taxpayer who  
21 would have access to the same information  
22 and give their own independent assessment as  
23 would let's say the State Auditor General's  
24 Office, of course we can't have the state  
25 come down and do that, but we have an

1 internal auditor in the building,  
2 controller's office. I would like to note  
3 what an independent advocate would say about  
4 the costs and the savings and what the net  
5 benefit is to the City of Scranton. Most of  
6 what was discussed was management changes  
7 and operational changes and if those savings  
8 come through that's wonderful, and it's true  
9 the police do a wonderful job, I have no  
10 complaint about them, I'm not opposed to the  
11 idea of the union, but the 800 pound gorilla  
12 in the room isn't manning, it isn't these  
13 operational needs that we have, as important  
14 as they are, the 800 pound gorilla is the  
15 severely distressed police pension fund and  
16 nothing these contract negotiations comes  
17 close to fixing that, okay? So if we aren't  
18 going to have an independent advocate look  
19 at those numbers then it falls to you five  
20 people as the city council to stick your  
21 courage to the sticking point and to take a  
22 hard look at these numbers. I think you  
23 need to table 5-K until you had a chance to  
24 study the numbers and have them in front of  
25 you in writing and do something some

1 independent assessment. Maybe you should be  
2 contacting some labor lawyers out of the  
3 area to see what they say and have them take  
4 a look at the information. You are the only  
5 protection that the taxpayers has.

6 If, as the state auditor general has  
7 told us last summer, the pension funds are  
8 so distressed that between two and a half to  
9 five years out down the line we are probably  
10 going to be looking at bankruptcy you are  
11 not going to get to 2021, so opening the  
12 contract and extending it for another four  
13 years may end up being a moot point if we  
14 could end up in bankruptcy anyway.

15 So, yes, it's wonderful if we can  
16 have operational savings and management  
17 changes and better service to the people of  
18 Scranton, but you've got to fix the  
19 pensions. The city has got to do that so  
20 it's fine for you to put a Band-Aid on an  
21 artery that's bleeding, but you are still  
22 going to bleed out, okay? You have to do  
23 something about -- and don't be intimidated  
24 by illusions to the fact well, we've always  
25 lost an arbitration and if you don't want

1           this we can always go back to arbitration  
2           and the grievances and attorney's fees and  
3           everything else are subtle hints that this  
4           is a deal you shouldn't look a gift horse in  
5           the mouth. You have got to take the hard  
6           stand and find a spine and take a hard look  
7           at this. Maybe this is a good deal for the  
8           city, but you still got to address the  
9           pension crisis. Thank you.

10           MR. MCGOFF: Ron Ellman.

11           MR. ELLMAN: Thank you, Council, for  
12           those of you that are still listening to me  
13           or talking to me after last week you weren't  
14           here so --

15           MR. EVANS: I got another chance.

16           MR. ELLMAN: I don't know how to say  
17           this, but this is completely off what we  
18           usually talk about, but I need to get ahold  
19           of someone and I don't now how to do it. A  
20           little girl's father phoned me just before  
21           Christmas, and I don't know if you remember  
22           when I mentioned something about when Jimmy  
23           Klee died out of all the people I knew over  
24           the years he meant so much to me and he  
25           said, "Did you really know Elvis," and he

1           said, "can you talk to my little girl for a  
2           couple of minutes."

3                     And I said, "Sure."

4                     So she is asking me some questions  
5           and she said, "Do you have any pictures?"

6                     And I said, "Not anymore, no."

7                     And she said, "Do you anything that  
8           you could give me?"

9                     And I hesitated because I do have  
10          some things that just mean something to me.  
11          And I said, "Yes, I could get you  
12          something."

13                    And she said, "The nurse is here, I  
14          got to go," and hung up and I kept thinking  
15          her father would phone back and he has never  
16          phoned but he watches this program  
17          occasionally even and if he would phone me  
18          back I have a bottle of colon that Elvis  
19          used called "For Men Only", nobody knows  
20          this, it comes from a store called Bo Brown  
21          where they used to buy those scarves and all  
22          of these weird clothes and I wish this  
23          gentleman would phone me back so I could  
24          send this and I appreciate your time, but  
25          this means something to me really, you know?

1                   And I got one other question and  
2                   I'll get out of your hair, why is Mr.  
3                   Amoroso still here? Are we paying him  
4                   something with our hard earned tax money? I  
5                   mean, what s he doing here? His year is  
6                   over. You know, I still read in the paper  
7                   the Amoroso plan and this and that and what  
8                   is it with him?

9                   MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Amoroso is no  
10                  longer being paid by anyone and he was never  
11                  paid by tax dollars, he was paid by  
12                  donations to the Chamber of Commerce.

13                 MR. ELLMAN: To me he was nothing  
14                 more than a snake oil salesman with a bunch  
15                 of worthless, useless literature. I bet you  
16                 guys mouth watered when you read the KRIZ  
17                 might be available sooner or later to you,  
18                 just think of all of that money that you  
19                 could borrow down and pay 30 years later.  
20                 You know that if the taxes don't come in to  
21                 pay it who would be responsible? The paper  
22                 didn't say to print all of the facts.

23                 I appreciate you letting me try to  
24                 get ahold of this father of the little girl  
25                 and I know, I just don't know any other way

1 to do it, to send that. Thank you very  
2 much.

3 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr. Ellman.  
4 Before the next speaker just a response to  
5 Ms. Hodowanitz, the MMO penalties for this  
6 year was a little over \$300,000. And to  
7 answer a question somebody had last week,  
8 the accounts payable held over was 1.78  
9 million. Thank you. That was all.

10 Our next speaker, Karen Foster.

11 MS. FOSTER: Good evening, Council.  
12 Karen Foster, president of the West Scranton  
13 Hyde Park Neighborhood Watch. I am here for  
14 two general business items for West  
15 Scranton. First of all, starting in January  
16 of this year we are changing our meeting  
17 nights to the last Wednesday of the month so  
18 that would put our first meeting for 2015 at  
19 January 28, 7:00 p.m. We also have changed  
20 the venue to west precinct. We have  
21 recently done a minor remodel in the  
22 addition portion of the building so that we  
23 can have small group meetings there, and the  
24 entrance for that is on Sumner Avenue.

25 Another item is that we are a

1 continuing our shoe drive as a fundraiser  
2 and as a way to help our residents in West  
3 Side. Any shoes that are collected will  
4 first help our community, anything left will  
5 then go to a company that will either  
6 recycle or send them to a third world  
7 country. We will get a portion of the funds  
8 based on the piece rate of these shoes and  
9 will continue this until the end of  
10 February. If anyone is interested in  
11 helping us out, they can e-mail me at  
12 President@HydeParkWatch.org.

13 And finally, I am just here to  
14 appreciate your continued support for our  
15 abatement for the 1621 Washburn Street.  
16 It's been nearly two years now since this  
17 project was in its conception and we are in  
18 the home stretch so thank you so much.

19 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

20 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. Lee Morgan.

21 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.

22 You know, I'm just going to go by the  
23 article in the Scranton Times, I just  
24 finally today got a copy of this agreement  
25 and I agree with what Joan said today,



1 nothing -- it's not a personal shot at the  
2 council members, but to be honest with you I  
3 just don't think you have the understanding  
4 necessary to decipher this contract, and I'm  
5 not saying you are not intelligent enough  
6 to, you are just probably not qualified.  
7 Even though you are been elected, councils  
8 before have made a lot of mistake. We need  
9 an independent person who really knows how  
10 to read this document, can project it out in  
11 front of itself and figure out where we are  
12 going. You know, it's just we have had city  
13 councils make so many mistakes in the past  
14 that it's taken our city to where it is now.  
15 And just saying that a deal is great and  
16 then five years down the road say, well, I  
17 didn't know it was like that, what do you  
18 say to the residents that are fleeing the  
19 city?

20 I'm not against the police, I'm not  
21 against anybody, but I think before you make  
22 an agreement with somebody you should know  
23 exactly what it is, and if you don't know  
24 then I would just think with the powers that  
25 you have with the ink pen to sign and agree

1 to something that you don't understand and  
2 the harm you can do to this city is just  
3 terrible. I don't know, maybe you disagree,  
4 but in five years what will happen if you  
5 were wrong? Look where the city sits now?  
6 Can we afford to make more mistakes?

7 I'm not interested in what the  
8 city's attorney says and I'm not interested  
9 in what the police union says, I'm  
10 interested in what an independent person  
11 says that has nothing in this at all that's  
12 going to project these numbers out an  
13 impartial way and talk about fact and  
14 reality. You know, the truth should be that  
15 making all of these new agreements that we  
16 are going to make that with the labor in the  
17 city isn't going to take us anywhere. This  
18 city is carrying such a massive debt load  
19 that they could go without pay for probably  
20 20 years and it wouldn't do anything to the  
21 debt we possess. We have to thank our  
22 elected officials, look what Mr. Blake is  
23 planning. He is planning to try and save  
24 them mall with taxpayers' money. That's the  
25 problem here. We are saving all of the

1 wrong people. We are not saving the  
2 residents, we are not shielding them from  
3 impossible tax burdens, we forgot all about  
4 them.

5 It's like, you know, I hate to go  
6 back to this, but, you know, the way you  
7 dress is not any indication of anything  
8 intelligent. It's just atrocious where we  
9 are at here. You are going to sit and  
10 listen to a spiel that was given to you and  
11 do you really understand this agreement or  
12 do you think you should table it, tabling it  
13 won't hurt anything and really find out what  
14 the facts are. The Scranton Times brought  
15 up some and just listening to some of the  
16 things they said was a reason to pause.

17 Now, on another think I'd like to  
18 say, you know, Mr. Evans, you weren't here  
19 last week, but I don't see transferring  
20 properties to the Hill Neighborhood  
21 Association being a solution to any problem  
22 in the city at this time possesses because  
23 if the Hill Neighborhood Association  
24 dissolves, who going to care for those lots?  
25 I don't find that to be a solution. I

1 really find the solution to this city's  
2 problem to be totally much different. I  
3 think the city needs to reorganize. Some of  
4 these lots are talking about not being  
5 rebuildable they are building micro homes  
6 across this nation that are much smaller  
7 that might be able to put on those lots if  
8 it came through council, the zoning board,  
9 the city decided to move forward in a way  
10 like that. All of these vacant lots are  
11 only a nightmare.

12 Detroit tore most of itself down  
13 before it filed and went through bankruptcy  
14 in a year and a half, and the problem we  
15 have in this city is we have elected a lot  
16 of people that said a lot of silly things.  
17 You know, this council the first thing it  
18 should have did was solve our financial  
19 problems. We're going to come up with a  
20 labor agreement and we can't even pay our  
21 bills because we are talking about issues  
22 that we shouldn't even be discussing, we  
23 should be trying to figure out how we are  
24 going to salvage th is city and how we are  
25 going to make it possible for people to live

1 here and how people -- you are a realtor,  
2 how long is the average time of a home on  
3 the market in the City of Scranton? It's my  
4 understanding that a house in South Side  
5 just recently sold for \$15,000 that was in  
6 move-in condition.

7 And we listen to people talk with,  
8 well, look at, we need to go back and do  
9 something about, you know, taxes and we  
10 needed a reassessment. No, we need a  
11 government that functions for the people  
12 that understand that this city is dead. The  
13 mall says it all, look at the vacancy rate  
14 in downtown Scranton. This agreement isn't  
15 going to save the city, and all of the other  
16 ones behind it aren't going to do it either,  
17 and to be honest with you I just with all  
18 due respect don't think you understand this  
19 agreement. Thank you.

20 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else who wishes  
21 to address council?

22 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,  
23 Citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians, I  
24 see you are lowering the mercantile and  
25 business privilege to 1 percent from what

1 was it 2 percent down to 1 percent? The  
2 mercantile and business privilege tax. It's  
3 in there. I think it was 2 percent before,  
4 now it's 1 percent, I'm asking you who is  
5 going to makeup the difference between the 1  
6 and 2 percent? Let me go on, when you are  
7 read it maybe you will read all of the  
8 legislation.

9 MR. MCGOFF: I believe it's always  
10 been 1 percent. 1 percent for the city and  
11 1 percent for the school district.

12 MR. SBARAGLIA: Yes, that was 2  
13 percent; right? Now you are reducing it  
14 back. I think it was 2 point some percent  
15 at one time, mercantile and business  
16 privilege.

17 MR. EVANS: No.

18 MR. SBARAGLIA: It doesn't matter  
19 anyway.

20 MR. ROGAN: The city rate is  
21 unchanged from last year.

22 MR. SBARAGLIA: From last year, the  
23 1 percent? I could swear it was 2 percent,  
24 but that's okay. I can look in some of the  
25 old stuff I got.

1                   Okay, let's go onto the police  
2                   union, that seems to be the quirks in the  
3                   matter or actually the iron in the fire, but  
4                   you realize that when somebody puts money  
5                   into the bank it's for their purpose.  
6                   Increase in the payment that they put into  
7                   their fund is for themselves. It's like  
8                   putting money into the bank. To us, it  
9                   doesn't matter. To us, other than the fact  
10                  is we still got to make that minimum payment  
11                  so that's out. That shouldn't even be  
12                  considered as a great concession, but the  
13                  manning clause for some reason or other I  
14                  thought that was instituted by the state  
15                  when they had their thing. Wasn't the  
16                  manning clause somewhere in a mandate?

17                  MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

18                  MR. SBARAGLIA: Was that from the  
19                  Supreme Court mandate?

20                  MR. MCGOFF: I believe so.

21                  MR. SBARAGLIA: How could you change  
22                  it without going back to the Supreme Court?

23                  MR. MCGOFF: It was up to the union  
24                  to do that. That was something they agreed  
25                  to.

1 MR. SBARAGLIA: Regardless, if you  
2 got a Court mandate you should get Court  
3 approval that would make more common sense,  
4 but that's okay, let's go on further. You  
5 believe that anybody can make agreements, we  
6 had with it the hotel, the Hilton. We saw  
7 them agreements that were made, too. If  
8 it's in a Court order like you pointed out  
9 many, many times, the manning clause, the  
10 manning clause, the manning clause, then I  
11 assume if you want to change the manning  
12 clause you would have to go back and have  
13 approval from the people who issued the  
14 order saying that it had to be such, but I  
15 guess you got to -- forget it, the law  
16 doesn't really mean to the people. The  
17 people in power can do what they want until  
18 they finally get called upon by either the  
19 courts or somewhere along the line, but  
20 that's a case, I don't see the point with  
21 the manning clause either because if  
22 it's Court mandated it's subject to  
23 arbitration later on, too.

24 I don't know, what does it cost for  
25 each patrolman's health insurance, does



1 anybody know that cost being you are  
2 planning to give -- I pay 5,000 a month -- I  
3 mean 500 a month for my insurance, you tell  
4 me what it costs for policemen's that's on  
5 retirement in insurance or medical insurance  
6 being you are planning to give or out?

7 No, you can't answer them questions,  
8 can you, but I pay 500 so they may be paying  
9 more, the city is probably paying more per  
10 man because they got a better plan than I  
11 got. You cannot give away free medical  
12 anymore. That's beyond our ability. You  
13 have them give payment and help them pay  
14 some of their costs for medical, but you  
15 can't give away free medical. That's out.

16 And all of these little things, I  
17 can probably go through 100 things with this  
18 contract. I believe in union, I retired on  
19 my pension. I believe that a pension is  
20 sacred. Them people who worked for their  
21 pension should get their pension, but then  
22 you got to look at the people who gave away  
23 a lot of the pension for disability. That's  
24 a board. That was made by individuals of  
25 themselves, the policemen, firemen and

1           whoever had the board and sat on boards, I'm  
2           thinking the mayor representative and I  
3           think our controller.  Them are the ones  
4           that put the fun in jeopardy.  There is no  
5           question about that.  You can't give away a  
6           lot of things they gave away saying you're  
7           disability and you are going to get your  
8           money for life like they did.  The pension  
9           fund was never set up that way to get --  
10          won't get into the actuary accounts, but  
11          find out the costs before you even think  
12          about giving people who aren't working for  
13          the city more free medical.

14                   MR. MCGOFF:  Anyone else?

15                   MR. BOLUS:  Good evening, Council.  
16          Bob Bolus, Scranton.  Just on the agenda, on  
17          the introduction and the ordinance for a  
18          \$300 garbage fee, I think once and for all  
19          that's got to be thrown out.  That's the  
20          taxation without representation, you go  
21          ahead and pay this and then you allow the  
22          landfill to raise it up by 80 cents a ton  
23          yet nobody here has taken the time to  
24          contact the environmental lab that I gave  
25          you the results of laboratory issues

1           regarding the contamination going into the  
2           landfill because everybody just buried their  
3           head in the landfill here and they're not  
4           wanting to find out what we are really  
5           dealing with it. If you are going to object  
6           to it, object to it from a point of strength  
7           and knowledge and if you don't do that you  
8           are not serving us as you should be. This  
9           should be thrown out more than you should  
10          raise -- if this happens you should raise  
11          the fee and create a fee against the  
12          University and everybody else in here that's  
13          a nonprofit and bring in the tax base that  
14          we need and reduce the tax debt that we have  
15          and real estate issues.

16                    As far as in "K", my issue with this  
17                    is this agreement is an agreement with swiss  
18                    cheese, literally more holes in it.

19                    Abrahamsen made a statement, "Oh, we can't  
20                    show our cards, people will know."

21                    Can anybody think we are that stupid  
22                    and naive that one department isn't going to  
23                    talk to the other department? This is  
24                    Scranton. This is more leaks in this  
25                    community than a firehose that is shot with

1 a shotgun, okay? So don't sit in the back  
2 room and play games with us anymore, we have  
3 had enough. True everybody is entitled to a  
4 pension, true everybody is entitled to a  
5 fair wage, but we are also entitled to a  
6 fair admission of knowledge that should be  
7 right here publically, not in the back room  
8 caucus and Ned Abrahamsen afraid to show,  
9 let's play poker, five card stud, lay the  
10 cards out front. Let's play the game and  
11 play it right and once and for all get rid  
12 of this stigma that we have had in this city  
13 for years and years and years and back door  
14 deals. This is about the people in the  
15 city. They are getting screwed every single  
16 day here. Higher taxes, higher rates, what  
17 are you doing, sitting back? It's going to  
18 end and end now so if you vote for this  
19 legislation you are not serving the people  
20 you are serving those for no reason at all  
21 and you are serving an attorney. I'd like  
22 to know how much we have really paid him to  
23 this point.

24 The other part I have is the county  
25 now is looking at the mall and moving county

1 offices in there. If you think we need to  
2 absorb more debt on taxpayers in this city  
3 to put the county offices in the mall?

4 Anybody have an answer to that or are we  
5 just going to bury the people in more debt?

6 MR. ROGAN: I spoke about that a few  
7 months ago when it was first proposed, I  
8 think the county offices in the mall would  
9 be a disaster. I agree.

10 MR. BOLUS: Well, they brought that  
11 up the other the day and everybody is  
12 looking at the mall. I gave you the  
13 opportunity to pen a letter to the  
14 legislators and put a casino here. This is  
15 about saving Scranton. It's nothing  
16 personal or anybody else, because the  
17 investment we are making isn't costing the  
18 city one bloody dime. They could only win,  
19 they could only come out on top, and it's  
20 time to put politics, cronyism and all of  
21 the other nepotism and stuff to the side and  
22 look at Scranton's future. You can get in  
23 your car and drive to Mt. Airy, you can get  
24 in your car and drive to Wilkes-Barre, why  
25 wouldn't you want to patronize something in

1           your own backyard that's paying taxes to  
2           save this city?

3                       I have something else, if I may,  
4           Mr. McGoff?

5                       MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Bolus, have you  
6           applied for a license?

7                       MR. BOLUS: No. I haven't bothered  
8           to do it.

9                       MR. MCGOFF: Why not?

10                      MR. BOLUS: I'll explain that to you  
11           in a minute, if I may.

12                      MR. MCGOFF: You have had every  
13           opportunity.

14                      MR. BOLUS: No, without the support  
15           of the legislators and council I'm not a  
16           fool either to go do something and waste my  
17           time and energy. If council will pen a  
18           letter I'll be more than happy to make  
19           applications with the people that I'm  
20           involved with to do what we need done.

21                      MR. MCGOFF: You don't need city  
22           council to do that.

23                      MR. BOLUS: Absolutely I do.

24                      MR. MCGOFF: No, you don't.

25                      MR. BOLUS: Well, that's your

1 opinion, Mr. McGoff.

2 MR. MCGOFF: Yes, its.

3 MR. BOLUS: I ask the other council  
4 members, you represent the city, it's not  
5 one man's opinion. All I ask is you pen a  
6 letter to the legislators to support our  
7 proposal, and that's all you need to do and  
8 sit back and see what happens, and if that's  
9 the monumental or Herculean task as you call  
10 it you are not representing the city, you  
11 are representing self-interests, and I'm  
12 sorry I don't want to insult people, I  
13 believe in Scranton, and I believe in the  
14 city.

15 What you have before you, I went to  
16 the zoning board last night, I was told to  
17 come here, this was a letter e-mailed on the  
18 internet by the President of the Zoning  
19 Board, Carrie Lynn Newcomb. I have  
20 highlighted the areas on there where she  
21 made comments and says anybody associated  
22 with the individuals she was talking about,  
23 when you also have lost elections. Bob  
24 Bolus is the biggest joke. He is hated more  
25 than you. He is a criminal and the whole

1 city knows it. He is the reason you lose  
2 everything you run for.

3 And there is an additional comments  
4 made by her. I am here tonight, this is a  
5 public official that's disgraced this city  
6 nationally. There is local things that were  
7 done by the San Francisco Chronicle and  
8 other papers all across the United States  
9 based on her comments. She is a public  
10 official that made a derogatory remarks. I  
11 have no dealings with her in any way, shape  
12 or form. Her seat on there has created  
13 other issues for me regarding the zoning,  
14 regarding my home on East Mountain, where  
15 last night she had the audacity, the  
16 unmitigated gall after I stood before the  
17 board and swore where my residence was she  
18 had the nerve to sit there and say I don't  
19 live on Birch Street in Scranton when the  
20 United States government knows where I live,  
21 the postal authority knows where I live, my  
22 pilot's license that I have had since the  
23 70's know where to send me my information  
24 and everyone else, including the zoning  
25 board that filed a claim for me to remove



1 containers that are on my property at the  
2 Birch Street address that came from the  
3 zoning board.

4 I'm here tonight without any  
5 question or doubts to ask for her immediate  
6 resignation and removal from the board by  
7 this council, and this is where I was told I  
8 had to come to do it. I'm putting it out on  
9 the table and if this council fails that I  
10 will file a mandamus action to have her  
11 removed. I will not be discredited by  
12 someone who sits in a position in this city  
13 of authority to discredit me or any other  
14 citizen in this city. They don't have that  
15 right and this council has the authority,  
16 she was appointed by council, and I'm asking  
17 this council to stand up and do what's right  
18 by us as citizens and remove her from the  
19 board. Thank you.

20 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else?

21 MR. MILLER: Good evening, Council,  
22 Doug Miller, Scranton. Just briefly in  
23 regards to the agreement, you know, just  
24 basing off what we have seen in the media  
25 recently, you know, it's hard for me to

1 really get a comfortable gauge as to really  
2 where we are going here with this. It's  
3 hard to get a clear vision as to what the  
4 definitive concessions really are, but  
5 what's most disturbing to me are the alleged  
6 projections for revenue. I believe \$375,000  
7 is the figure being thrown around through  
8 enforcing parking citations, ticketing  
9 illegal cars parked in alleys, on curbs and  
10 sidewalks. And, you know, I'm somewhat a  
11 little uncomfortable with that because it's  
12 hard for me to believe that if this was such  
13 a revolutionary enhancement why haven't we  
14 been doing it all this time if it's  
15 something that's so successful.

16 And, you know, I'm not interested in  
17 a dog and pony show by the administration  
18 coming forward and showing us more or less  
19 an insult by depriving us with the studies  
20 and the facts that were put together to  
21 determine that this revenue would be  
22 realized, and the refusal to present to the  
23 media so that they can do their due  
24 diligence and supply it to the public it's  
25 just a total insult, lack of transparency,

1           it's smoke and mirrors that we are  
2           accustomed to the way this city operates and  
3           I can't say it surprises me because it  
4           really doesn't, as I said, it's kind of the  
5           mindset and philosophy of how we operate  
6           this city and we where we are today.

7                     And, you know, the other thing that  
8           really irritates me is the fact that that  
9           caucus yet again tonight on such a very  
10          vital issue was held in that back room and,  
11          you know, I'm not interested in the idea  
12          that anybody can go back there, that's nice,  
13          what about the people that are home? The  
14          elderly that can't go back there and they  
15          are deprived the opportunity to view it  
16          right from that camera and see and hear what  
17          the previous council held every caucus and  
18          every public in hearing in this chamber  
19          because they knew one thing these issues  
20          were an important and the public needed to  
21          be made aware of what was going on. There  
22          was nothing to hide and there shouldn't be  
23          anything to hide, but this council has had  
24          an ability to present any transparency and  
25          credibility, and that's sort of what's

1 defined this council to date and do I expect  
2 that to change with the leadership we have  
3 here? No, I don't.

4 Just to respond to Mr. Bolus, you  
5 know, this is unfortunate that I even have  
6 to address something that, you know, that  
7 more or less in my opinion is someone who  
8 isn't really that significant, I tend to  
9 think that I carry myself on a much higher  
10 level, but I am going to respond to it. Six  
11 months has passed since the letter that you  
12 have before you was sent to me. That letter  
13 was initially sent to me through my Facebook  
14 by the Zoning Board Chairwoman at the time  
15 Ms. Carrie Newcomb, who felt the need to be  
16 slanderous and insulting to me as someone  
17 who is very vocal for the last 12 years  
18 coming forward and I more or less take it as  
19 a compliment because obviously I'm doing  
20 something right in coming here and fighting  
21 for people. It's not about me, it's about  
22 the people home, that's why I come here, but  
23 I'm going read what she sent to me.

24 "I just feel the need to tell you  
25 what a joke you are. A huge hole to the

1 point where you should be embarrassed to  
2 show your face. You are clueless, you have  
3 been clueless and you sound pathetic  
4 everything you speak." Now, I'm reading  
5 this word for word how she sent it to me.  
6 "If I happen to see my husband's name in a  
7 comment from the Scranton Times one more  
8 time, I will be sure to slam you with  
9 whatever action I feel is necessary.  
10 Everybody knows who you are and everybody  
11 thinks the same way I do, hence the reason  
12 you get the same amount of votes for every  
13 ridiculous election you feel the need to  
14 further embarrass yourself with. Stay out  
15 of the public eye. It is not the place for  
16 you. Anybody associated with you also lost  
17 elections. Bob Bolus is the biggest joke.  
18 He is a hated more than you. He is a  
19 criminal and the whole city knows it. He is  
20 the reason you lose everything you run for.  
21 If you mocking people makes you sleep better  
22 at night then that makes you a bully.  
23 People hate bullies. Hate is a strong word.  
24 I use it very seldom, but it is completely  
25 appropriate in this context. Get a life,

1 get a clue, and get out of mommy's house.  
2 You are a hypocrite. You pay no taxes and  
3 you care about nobody but you. Think long  
4 and hard before you run your mouth again."

5 I'm a bully. I don't know, does  
6 this sound like someone who comes across as  
7 a bully? Someone who should hold themselves  
8 to a higher standard as a zoning board  
9 official? Someone who represents 70,000  
10 people across this entire city? Someone who  
11 makes decisions that impact not only today  
12 but the future? And this is the mentality  
13 we have? This is a prime example of why the  
14 city is in the position it's in because we  
15 put people with the mentality like this in  
16 positions making vital decisions.

17 This third grade mentality has no  
18 business being part of city government, and  
19 as Bob did say, yes, this did make national  
20 news, believe it or not. The reporter from  
21 the Times-Tribune who wrote the story weeks  
22 later actually informed me that the  
23 Associated Press did pick up this issue and  
24 it's really sad and pathetic, to be honest  
25 with you, that the San Francisco Chronicle,

1 the New Jersey Herald, the Houston  
2 Chronicle, pretty much every paper in the  
3 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania picked it up,  
4 New York, the New York Times, Florida, all  
5 over the country, and I've got the articles  
6 here to show. It's an absolute disgrace.

7 She should resign immediately, this  
8 council should send a letter to the zoning  
9 board demanding that she step down because  
10 the zoning board is appointed by each  
11 individual member of council who selects a  
12 zoning board person. There is no place for  
13 this in public government and public service  
14 I have been coming here for 12 years, okay,  
15 and if you want to discredit me about losing  
16 elections you could say whatever you want,  
17 but I have a record that I'm proud to stand  
18 for. I formed the Junior Council, we were  
19 successful in that. I put a handicap swing  
20 set --

21 MR. MCGOFF: May I ask you a  
22 question?

23 MR. MILLER: Please.

24 MR. MCGOFF: This was a Facebook  
25 message sent to you?

1 MR. MILLER: That's correct.

2 MR. MCGOFF: In July of this year --  
3 last year?

4 MR. MILLER: 2014, yes.

5 MR. MCGOFF: And you made this  
6 public?

7 MR. MILLER: I did.

8 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

9 MR. MILLER: Yes, because I believe  
10 of the public should know that someone who  
11 holds themselves in a position that she did  
12 at the time and still does the public should  
13 know that. There is no business for her to  
14 send me that e-mail.

15 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

16 MR. MILLER: If she has an issue  
17 with me she should come forward, and I  
18 believe this council has an obligation to  
19 demand her resignation --

20 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

21 MR. MILLER: -- to throw insults.  
22 This is very serious, and I'm insulted not  
23 for myself, but the fact that she  
24 embarrassed this city nationally.

25 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Miller, thank you.



1 MR. MILLER: She is a stain on this  
2 city and she should resign.

3 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

4 MR. MILLER: And I am going to keep  
5 doing what I'm doing because what I'm proud  
6 of what I have done and I know Mr. Bolus  
7 will continue to do the same thing, and I  
8 just hope this council will take this  
9 serious and do something about it. Thank  
10 you.

11 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening,  
12 Council. I would like to state my opinion  
13 as well that that caucus that was held  
14 tonight should have been in this council  
15 chambers so that more people could have had  
16 the opportunity to hear what was said and to  
17 form their own opinions and questions that  
18 they might want to ask their  
19 representatives.

20 My basic concern is for all of our  
21 debtors and creditors. I have been asking  
22 some questions and I am not getting answers.  
23 I went out and got them from people who I  
24 think are expert, and our constitution does  
25 state in the ex post facto laws under

1           impairment of contracts, Section 17, that no  
2           ex post facto law nor any law impairing the  
3           obligation of contracts or making  
4           irrevocable any grant of special privileges  
5           or immunity should be passed.

6                         Now, I know in Chapter 9 bankruptcy,  
7           which I certainly believe is where we are  
8           headed, certain judges have overlooked that  
9           clause, but there are certainly no  
10          guarantees, and so if you will remember  
11          Mr. Amoroso's presentation and the biggest  
12          chunk is, of course, always our salaries,  
13          which you would expect of a service  
14          organization, but what we are doing here and  
15          I'm quite sure that if this contract is  
16          approved as it's stated now, what you are  
17          really doing is guaranteeing that when we go  
18          into receivership, which will be sooner  
19          rather than later, the biggest chunk of our  
20          budget will continue to be guaranteed by --  
21          that we taxpayers will have to pay 100  
22          percent, and I'm sure that once this one  
23          contract is approved all of the other labor  
24          contracts will follow suit and you are  
25          obligating future councils, and again,

1            putting in jeopardy that we may have to pay  
2            those contracts off at 100 percent despite  
3            the fact that I believe all creditors and  
4            debtors should be treated equally.

5            Now, the recovery, I have asked when  
6            the alarm goes off and as far as the  
7            recovery. Now, the recovery plan was  
8            effective August 24, 2012. The Act 199,  
9            which was the revision of the Act 47  
10           original legislation, goes off in August of  
11           2016 for the beginning of the fiscal year of  
12           the plan and the coordinator has 180 days  
13           from August 2016 to make the recommendation  
14           to the state as to the next steps. That is  
15           it also the beginning of the 2017 budget  
16           cycle. The coordinator has to receive a  
17           budget from the city 120 days before  
18           December 15. Now, I'm surmising since none  
19           of you have been able to accept my challenge  
20           to show me how we are going to get from  
21           where we are now to a healthy position in  
22           what August of 2016 that it's probably going  
23           to be receivership and I don't know that we  
24           should be jeopardizing and tying up all of  
25           our labor with a guarantee of 100 percent.

1           What negotiation is left and what about the  
2           other creditors?

3                       And then, I don't believe, also,  
4           that any -- before any vote -- I do believe  
5           this should be -- "K" should be tabled  
6           tonight and before any vote is taken I think  
7           you should provide to we, the taxpayers, the  
8           annual break out of savings both  
9           individually and with offsets and the net  
10          savings by year so that it could be tracked  
11          and not get any surprises.

12                      And the some of the costs tonight --  
13          or some of the savings are not really  
14          savings they are additional income because  
15          we are going to giving out more parking  
16          tickets, but as we all know not all parking  
17          tickets are paid, so can any of you tell me  
18          what percent of our parking tickets are  
19          actually paid? And will these now -- it was  
20          also stated tonight that it was vehicle  
21          infractions that are going to be ticketed,  
22          but as I recall under the quality of life  
23          legislation you have also given the police  
24          the ability to write these -- may I?

25                      MR. MCGOFF: Please.

1 MS. SCHUMACHER: -- to write these  
2 tickets so I'm wondering if they are also  
3 going to be -- these two people are also  
4 going to be the quality of life police.

5 MR. EVANS: No.

6 MS. SCHUMACHER: And then I think we  
7 need to know, as has been previously stated,  
8 the cost of the lifetime health care that  
9 will be paid for by taxpayers under what is  
10 now 5-K.

11 And then I have two quick questions  
12 on Seventh Order business. 7-F, is the  
13 funds, if the liquid fuels tax receipts are  
14 insufficient to do what is in that  
15 legislation how will it be determined which  
16 streets that are currently in that listing  
17 will be dropped? And on 7-B is this money  
18 coming from the capital budget or the  
19 operating budget or some grant?

20 MR. ROGAN: With regard to the first  
21 one, the past practice the DPW director has  
22 made those decisions regarding what streets  
23 get paved.

24 MS. SCHUMACHER: Without any input  
25 from council even though you are voting on

1 the entire list now?

2 MR. ROGAN: Well, that's in the past  
3 that's how it was done. Obviously, I would  
4 hope that council would have input as well  
5 and I do know we all provided streets to the  
6 administration that we would like to see  
7 paved under that.

8 MS. SCHUMACHER: And on 7-B, the  
9 funding for that is --

10 MR. MCGOFF: I believe that's  
11 general fund, but I'm not sure.

12 MS. SCHUMACHER: General funds.  
13 Okay, maybe you could tell me that next week  
14 then. Thank you.

15 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else who wishes  
16 to address council?

17 MR. LIPTAI: Good evening, Council.  
18 Jack Liptai, City of Scranton, city  
19 employees. I'm not here to bash anybody, to  
20 criticize anybody, I'm here to thank some  
21 people. Shortly before Christmas I had  
22 received a call from the Blind Association  
23 regarding one of their clients who was  
24 having some difficulties paying their  
25 utility bills and they were living in a home

1           where the power had been turned off. I  
2           contacted several agencies unsuccessfully,  
3           finally, I did contact United Neighborhood  
4           Centers and with the help of Jill Moyle,  
5           Tammy, and their staff, we were able to get  
6           the power turned back on and everything  
7           squared away. I'd also like to thank a  
8           member of the Scranton Police Department,  
9           Steve Carroll, who assisted me, and a  
10          member of my office LIPS, Shelly Roberts.  
11          And that's all I have to say.

12                   MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr. Liptai.

13                   MR. ROGAN: Thank you as well.

14                   MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else who wishes  
15          to address council?

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

17          MOTIONS.

18                   MR. MCGOFF: Councilman Wechsler?

19                   MR. WECHSLER: Thank you,  
20          Mr. McGoff. Just a brief comments, I have  
21          some more comments as we go into the  
22          meeting, but last night I attended a  
23          reorganization of the Greenridge  
24          Neighborhood Association and I always get in  
25          trouble when I say this, but it makes me

1 crazy when I hear people say that Scranton  
2 is dead. We have our financial problems and  
3 we are working on those. Last night there  
4 was over 45 people at this meeting all with  
5 ideas on how to help their neighborhood  
6 requesting help from the city in assisting  
7 them with that. No one made them go out,  
8 they came out on their own. The opinions of  
9 the room is they want to get involved, they  
10 want to help their own neighborhoods.

11 That part of the city I can tell you  
12 right now is not dead. They are working to  
13 solve their problems as best they can.  
14 Myself and the rest of the council and the  
15 administration will help them where we can.  
16 Part of our problem is always is finances,  
17 but sweat doesn't cost you anything. So I  
18 am encouraged by them and I promise to help  
19 them with everything that I can help them  
20 with. Thank you.

21 MR. ROGAN: Just very briefly, a  
22 couple of items, the others I'll comment as  
23 they come up, regarding the union  
24 concessions and the union contract, I know  
25 there are many people that have contacted us



1 with different concerns and questions, and I  
2 think a lot of them were addressed tonight  
3 at our caucus and more of them will be  
4 addressed when we receive additional  
5 information from Attorney Abrahamsen. I am  
6 comfortable with introducing this  
7 legislation tonight, and if we don't have  
8 all of the information before the final vote  
9 I would agree with tabling it at that point,  
10 but as of now I am comfortable with the  
11 information, and I will comment on it more  
12 when the vote comes up. I think I made my  
13 stance pretty clear on this issue last week  
14 that I do support the vast majority of what  
15 is in this plan, obviously, there are some  
16 items that we wish weren't in there, but as  
17 with any bargaining it's give a little, get  
18 a little, but I do think that the numbers  
19 show and they will show when we get  
20 additional information that this will  
21 represent a net savings over the current  
22 contract and even more so versus going to  
23 arbitration, which has been a disaster for  
24 the city in the past. But that's all for  
25 now, I'll save the rest of my comments for

1 the votes. Thank you.

2 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Evans?

3 MR. EVANS: I'm going to reserve  
4 comment for when we move into our items.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Gaughan?

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, thank you. I  
7 requested that PEL, our recovery  
8 coordinator, attend tonight's caucus to  
9 discuss and answer questions regarding the  
10 contract revisions between the police union  
11 and the city. Mr. McGoff had forwarded that  
12 request to PEL and PEL sent an official  
13 opinion on the matter that I would like to  
14 read now into the record.

15 The letter says: "Dear Bob, I am  
16 writing in response to your request for a  
17 Pennsylvania Economy League comment  
18 regarding the impact upon the proposed 2015  
19 revised recovery plan of the proposed  
20 Fraternal Order of Police memorandum of  
21 understanding. As you are aware, PEL, as  
22 the City's Act 47 coordinator, will be  
23 presenting a revised recovery plan to the  
24 mayor and city council this month. In the  
25 context of a revised recovery plan process,

1 PEL will be able to adjust the required  
2 baseline projections of expenditures for  
3 2015 through 2020 only to the extent that we  
4 can quantify the increases for reductions  
5 and expenditures under the MOU.

6 For example, the employee pension  
7 contribution, the increases in base wage  
8 from 20118 to 2020 can be calculated as can  
9 the amount of increase in employee pension  
10 contribution. Other items of the MOU rely  
11 on assumptions that cannot be quantified by  
12 PEL in the near future, especially  
13 considering the tight schedule to adopt an  
14 increased local services tax.

15 However, as the year progresses PEL  
16 will review estimates of costs or savings  
17 expected under the MOU that may be provided  
18 by the administration. In addition, under  
19 the new changes to Act 47, PEL is required  
20 to review the City's 2016 budget during  
21 August and September 2015. That review may  
22 provide additional information on the dollar  
23 impact of the M O U.

24 Please feel free to contact me  
25 regarding this matter. Sincerely, Gerald E.

1 Cross, executive director."

2 For the past few weeks we have had  
3 concerns and comments replacing streetlights  
4 that have been out and our office had  
5 contacted Joyce Electric, who has the  
6 contract to do that work in the city. Joyce  
7 Electric responded with a letter dated  
8 December 30, 2014, to city council and I'd  
9 would like to also read that into the  
10 record.

11 "Dear Mrs. Reed, Joyce Electrical,  
12 Incorporated, is in receipt of your letter  
13 dated December 22, 2014. We absolutely  
14 understand your concerns on streetlights  
15 that are out throughout the city. We have  
16 serviced the City of Scranton streetlights  
17 since 2011. The normal procedure was to  
18 wait until 15 lights were out before we sent  
19 a service truck out to repair the lights and  
20 that usually took about five to nine days  
21 before we got the 15 reported out. This  
22 year from April to December we have serviced  
23 763 lights that were reported out. It is  
24 not uncommon for eight lights to be reported  
25 out each day. The reason for this is when

1 the lights were owned by PPL the utility  
2 would relamp entire sections of the city in  
3 bulk. These lamps all have a life  
4 expectancy and this year many sections of  
5 lamp life have expired and we are  
6 experiencing higher than average outage  
7 reports.

8 We have additional manpower and  
9 equipment and working on the lights for the  
10 next two weeks to clear up anything that is  
11 not complete. As I write this letter, five  
12 more lights were just reported out. The  
13 only good news I have to report is the  
14 system of reporting the outages is working  
15 very well. Sincerely, John Joyce."

16 So hopefully, that clears up some  
17 comments and concerns.

18 Also, I think Ms. Hodowanitz brought  
19 up about the city budget being on the  
20 website, it is on the website now just so  
21 everyone is aware.

22 I would like to make a motion at  
23 this time to table agenda item 5-K.

24 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

25 MR. MCGOFF: On the question?

1 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.  
2 I'm asking my colleagues to vote to table  
3 agenda item 5-K, the collective bargaining  
4 agreement between the police union and the  
5 city. On January 8, I requested the  
6 following information from the  
7 administration: A cost savings analysis for  
8 each article that was changed in the  
9 agreement, and an analysis of how much each  
10 concession would could cost the city through  
11 2021. The number of eligible police  
12 officers who would take their retirement  
13 incentive that is included in the new  
14 agreement and what the impact would be on  
15 the pension fund. The calculator on the  
16 longevity bonus for an officer who doesn't  
17 use his sick time, and a clarification  
18 regarding the sick time incentive bonus and  
19 whether or not the bonus would be added to  
20 the officer's base pay for the next year.

21 Some of these questions and concerns  
22 were answered tonight in caucus, and we did  
23 receive, I guess, an analysis just tonight.  
24 My concern with this and the reason that I'm  
25 asking that this be tabled is because I

1 don't understand how we can vote to  
2 introduce something when we literally 20  
3 minutes ago just received what I have been  
4 asking for for a week and half. I don't  
5 think that that is the responsible thing to  
6 do. I am going to need more time to review  
7 this in order to make sure that this deal is  
8 in the best interest of the city.

9 It is our fiduciary responsibility  
10 as elected officials to ensure that this  
11 contract is sustainable and the best  
12 interest of all of the taxpayers in  
13 Scranton. I think it premature and  
14 irresponsible to introduce this contract  
15 tract without reviewing all of the  
16 information, some of which we received  
17 tonight, and I just find it odd that in the  
18 beginning of our caucus, which I was a  
19 little disappointed was not out here in the  
20 public, which I did request, I thought that  
21 would have been a better way to do that  
22 since this is such an important issue, that  
23 Mr. Abrahamsen, the City's labor attorney,  
24 at first when I asked if we could see these  
25 numbers would not give us the numbers

1           because of what he says, and it was quoted  
2           in the paper, that he didn't want to show  
3           our cards because we have to negotiate with  
4           the other bargaining units. Then after much  
5           persistence by myself and some other council  
6           members he finally begrudgingly agreed to  
7           give in and give us these numbers. However,  
8           this is not all that we asked for and he  
9           assured us that we will see the rest of what  
10          we requested on Monday of next week.

11                 Perhaps, this revised contract saves  
12          more money than it costs, perhaps it's a  
13          wash. I fear that we may be losing more  
14          than what we are gaining and that's why I  
15          asked for documents that show me how much we  
16          are saving and on each concession that the  
17          city gave how much we may be losing and, you  
18          know, how does that balance out?

19                 We had no way of knowing this until  
20          we see the numbers, until we see a financial  
21          analysis of how this contract agreement that  
22          extends into 2021 will effect the city as a  
23          whole. So for these reasons, I can't in  
24          good conscience vote to introduce this  
25          contract tonight for approval and I urge my



1 colleagues and council to consider doing the  
2 same. Thank you.

3 MR. EVANS: On the question, if you  
4 don't mind?

5 MR. MCGOFF: I just wanted to make  
6 one note that if this is table it does end  
7 any discussion on the piece of legislation,  
8 just so you know. I just want to note that.

9 MR. GAUGHAN: I would disagree, we  
10 have been discussing this for the -- I mean,  
11 at least I think we have for the better part  
12 of the last year, so I don't think  
13 discussions stops or that we are -- it's  
14 illegal to discuss this. The reason, as I  
15 said, I'm making this motion is because I  
16 think it's very important that we look at  
17 everything. I appreciate Mr. Graziano and  
18 Mr. Abrahamsen coming to our caucus, I  
19 really do, but it's not good enough just to  
20 tell me, you have got to show me. And  
21 again, I think that's our fiduciary  
22 responsibility to review everything and if  
23 you say you are go to save a million dollars  
24 show us and let us review it, let us have  
25 that time. This is a resolution, we only

1 have two weeks to look at this and then make  
2 a final vote that will impact the city in  
3 2021.

4 MR. EVANS: First of all, I'd like  
5 to thank all of those involved in the  
6 negotiation process for their hard work and  
7 dedication to the city. While there are  
8 many things I like about this contract,  
9 there are still many items I have concerns  
10 with. I will withhold comment on the  
11 individual components until we have received  
12 all of the information that we requested.

13 We all have, as Councilman Gaughan  
14 said, a fiduciary responsibility to the  
15 taxpayers and this council must know what  
16 the total cost and/or savings would be as a  
17 result of the proposed changes before we can  
18 act on behalf of the taxpayers. While we  
19 did have a productive caucus tonight with  
20 Chief Graziano and Attorney Abrahamsen, much  
21 more information and due diligence is needed  
22 before I can make a decision on this  
23 contract.

24 The Amoroso plan simply called for  
25 union concessions, somehow we ended up going

1 to a full blown renegotiation and I have to  
2 rectify that myself what I anticipated  
3 happening with the negotiations, so that's  
4 all I have on the matter for this moment.

5 MR. ROGAN: I would just kind of  
6 agree with what Councilman McGoff said that  
7 this is just an introductory vote, and I do  
8 agree with my colleagues that before taking  
9 a final vote we do need all of the  
10 information that was promised at tonight's  
11 caucus, but in the past we have, for  
12 instance, when we receive a budget, it's  
13 multi-hundred of the pages and we introduce  
14 it before everything is read. Introduction  
15 is the formal process of opening debate. I  
16 am comfortable with introducing, if it were  
17 a final vote I would agreeing with my  
18 colleagues that it should be tabled, but it  
19 is not a final vote so I'm comfortable with  
20 introducing it.

21 MR. WECHSLER: As my comment goes, I  
22 second this motion so we could have this  
23 discussion on the floor. For the majority  
24 everything I have heard in the language of  
25 the contract is very promising and I'm very

1 encouraged by it. I don't have a problem  
2 that it was a new contract because it shows  
3 that our unions are willing to work with us  
4 and help us in our situation as we progress.  
5 The information that we received tonight was  
6 only our second session, we had an executive  
7 session last week, this is the only second  
8 time that we had any information shared with  
9 us formally by the administration. To me,  
10 it's as simple as putting a list together of  
11 what the city is gaining and what the city  
12 is giving up to get to this agreement. At  
13 the bottom of that, there is a net or a  
14 minus. It doesn't need to be an actuarial  
15 study or anything like that, simple  
16 spreadsheet with pluses and minuses is all  
17 that I'm looking for.

18 Tonight Chief Graziano provided us  
19 what he had from the operational standpoint.  
20 Once we can digest that, we were handed to  
21 us five minutes before we walked over here.  
22 Once we digest that the savings in that  
23 program are going to be substantial and  
24 benefit to the city. The situation that we  
25 don't have all of the information on is the

1 fact that some of the other contractual  
2 issues haven't been documented to me that I  
3 can look at them and understand them  
4 completely. Numbers thrown at you go in and  
5 out your ear very quickly. The first number  
6 you hear is the only number you remember. I  
7 think part of the reason I would like to  
8 table this this evening is to tonight is  
9 Thursday, tomorrow is Friday, Monday city  
10 hall is closed. If we get the information  
11 Tuesday that only gives us Tuesday and  
12 Wednesday to evaluate this and I'm not sure  
13 how it's going to be presented. If someone  
14 could give me a sheet tomorrow like I  
15 requested the other day, pluses and minuses,  
16 I wouldn't be having this discussion tonight  
17 but we didn't get that, and we'll have to  
18 see what we get next week to move forward on  
19 this.

20 Like I said, right now I have no  
21 objections to the plan. I do not share some  
22 of the concerns that Mr. Gaughan has, I  
23 don't have those concerns, but I do have  
24 some concerns that I would like to see just  
25 a very simple sheet that's accessible to the

1 public that we can all understand and I do  
2 thank all of the effort that was made by the  
3 union, it shows that they are interested in  
4 helping us save the city, and that's what we  
5 are here for, that's the goal.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: I would just like to  
7 add one thing, this could have been I think  
8 avoided if, you know, the administration had  
9 a press conference, touted savings, we  
10 should have received with this legislation  
11 the backup documentation not 20 minutes  
12 before we are supposed to vote to introduce  
13 it, and also, the public should be able to  
14 look at this. This is not our money, this  
15 is dollars that are the taxpayers and that  
16 is who we represent.

17 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else?

18 MR. EVANS: One other comment, I am  
19 going to go along with Councilman Wechsler,  
20 I feel like I would like to see a running  
21 tally basically section by section. Look at  
22 section of entirely the health insurance  
23 tell me what it's going to cost. Look at  
24 the pension contributions, tell what we are  
25 going to save. You know, that's what I'm

1 looking for, something in a simple format  
2 that we can all look at at the end of the  
3 day what's the net, positive or negative.  
4 Thank you.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else? All those  
6 in favor of tabling Item 5-K signify by  
7 saying aye.

8 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

9 MR. EVANS: Aye.

10 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

11 MS. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed?

12 MR. ROGAN: No.

13 MR. MCGOFF: No. 5-K is tabled. Is  
14 that --

15 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, I just -- I'm  
16 sorry. Just one final comment about the  
17 contract, just as I said in the newspaper,  
18 at first glance I did have many concerns,  
19 some of which were talked about in the  
20 caucus, one concern that I have that I think  
21 Mrs. Schumacher brought up is the four-year  
22 expense of the contract. These revisions  
23 extend the contract for an additional four  
24 years until 2021.

25 MR. MCGOFF: This is what tabling

1 does, you should not be discussing it at  
2 this point.

3 MR. GAUGHAN: Right, I just wanted  
4 to briefly --

5 MR. MCGOFF: That's what I said.  
6 No, this is tabled.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: This is going to be  
8 brief.

9 MR. MCGOFF: Once it's tabled --  
10 excuse me, Mr. Gaughan.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Just what Mrs.  
12 Schumacher has said is a concern.

13 (Mr. McGoff gavels Mr. Gaughan.)

14 MR. MCGOFF: You are out of order.

15 MR. GAUGHAN: I don't think I was,  
16 but okay.

17 MR. MCGOFF: You are, and that's  
18 what I said. Prior to -- once it's tabled  
19 all discussions stops.

20 MR. EVANS: So once it's  
21 reintroduced you can begin discussion again.

22 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay, well, that was a  
23 concern of mine. Thank you.

24 MR. MCGOFF: A couple of things.  
25 First of all, going back to something that



1 was said about the contract in the manning  
2 clause, it is my understanding that the  
3 Supreme Court merely supported the existing  
4 contracts that included a manning clause.  
5 It does not mandate a number, all they did  
6 was say that the terms of that contract were  
7 enforceable and, therefore, the decision to  
8 open the contract and change the manning was  
9 up to the union, not the Court.

10 Also, we received from the Single  
11 Tax Office, and I'm sorry, I should have  
12 left this for Mr. Evans, but we did receive  
13 from the Single Tax Office an update on  
14 collections, and just very quickly, real  
15 estate taxes are increased -- year-to-date  
16 an increase is 57.8 percent, which is pretty  
17 comparable to what the tax increase was, you  
18 know, prior years. Delinquent real estate  
19 taxes up 11.4 percent. LST up 0.8 percent,  
20 and business privilege and mercantile tax up  
21 1.0 percent.

22 Finally, as far as the caucus was  
23 concerned and people who have, you know,  
24 criticized having a caucus in the back room,  
25 it's my intention that council members get

1 information that they need in order to make  
2 an intelligent vote and, therefore, the  
3 caucus was held in the back, it was open.  
4 Some of those who criticized the fact that  
5 the caucus was held back there were present  
6 in the building and chose not to go to the  
7 caucus, so their criticism to me is a little  
8 bit unfounded. And that's all. Thank you.

9 MS. REED: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
10 AN ORDINANCE - REPEALING FILE OF THE COUNCIL  
11 NO. 50, 2014 ENTITLED "CREATING AND  
12 ESTABLISHING SPECIAL CITY ACCOUNT NO.  
13 02.229613 ENTITLED "LIQUID FUELS" FOR THE  
14 RECEIPT AND DISBURSEMENT OF THOSE FUNDS  
15 RECEIVED FOR THIS PURPOSE".

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

19 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

20 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

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

24 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

25 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

1 MR. EVANS: Aye.

2 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

5 MS. REED: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
6 AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL  
7 NO. 58, 2014, AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED "GENERAL  
8 CITY OPERATING BUDGET 2015" BY ESTABLISHING  
9 SEPARATE "03" FUND ACCOUNTS TO DEFINE ACTUAL  
10 LIQUID FUEL EXPENDITURES THROUGH THE "03"  
11 FUND DESIGNATION; BY REDESIGNATING FUNDS  
12 FROM CERTAIN DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND  
13 DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING, INSPECTIONS AND  
14 PERMITS ACCOUNTS LISTED BELOW TO THE "03"  
15 ACCOUNTS; THE DEPARTMENT, BUREAU AND LINE  
16 ITEM DESCRIPTION WILL REMAIN THE SAME.

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

20 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

21 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

22 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? I  
23 would just like to reiterate that this  
24 legislation is because of the state mandate  
25 that this be done. All those in favor of

1 introduction signify by saying aye.

2 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

3 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

4 MR. EVANS: Aye.

5 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

8 MS. REED: 5-D. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
9 AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL  
10 NO. 100, 1976, ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE (AS  
11 AMENDED) LEVYING GENERAL AND SPECIAL TAXES  
12 FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 1977", BY SETTING THE  
13 MILLAGE FOR THE YEAR 2015 AND THE SAME SHALL  
14 REMAIN IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT ANNUALLY  
15 THEREAFTER.

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

19 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

20 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

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

24 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

25 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

1 MR. EVANS: Aye.

2 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

5 MS. REED: 5-E. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
6 AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL  
7 NO. 6, 1976 ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE (AS  
8 AMENDED) IMPOSING A TAX FOR GENERAL REVENUE  
9 PURPOSES ON THE TRANSFER OF REAL PROPERTY  
10 SITUATE WITHIN THE CITY OF SCRANTON;  
11 PRESCRIBING AND REGULATING THE METHOD OF  
12 EVIDENCING THE PAYMENT OF SUCH TAX;  
13 CONFERRING POWERS AND IMPOSING DUTIES UPON  
14 CERTAIN PERSONS, AND PROVIDING PENALTIES",  
15 BY IMPOSING THE RATE OF THE REALTY TRANSFER  
16 TAX AT TWO AND NINE TENTHS PERCENT (2.9%)  
17 FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2015 AND THE SAME SHALL  
18 REMAIN IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT ANNUALLY  
19 THEREAFTER.

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

23 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

24 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

25 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? All

1 those in favor of introduction signify by  
2 saying aye.

3 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

4 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

5 MR. EVANS: Aye.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

9 MS. REED: 5-F. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
10 AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL  
11 NO. 7, 1976, ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE (AS  
12 AMENDED) IMPOSING A MERCANTILE LICENSE TAX  
13 OF 2 MILLS FOR THE YEAR 1976 AND ANNUALLY  
14 THEREAFTER UPON PERSONS ENGAGING IN CERTAIN  
15 OCCUPATIONS AND BUSINESSES THEREIN;  
16 PROVIDING FOR ITS LEVY AND COLLECTION AND  
17 FOR THE ISSUANCE OF MERCANTILE LICENSES;  
18 CONFERRING AND IMPOSING POWERS AND DUTIES  
19 UPON THE TAX COLLECTOR OF THE CITY OF  
20 SCRANTON; AND IMPOSING PENALTIES", BY  
21 IMPOSING THE MERCANTILE LICENSE TAX AT ONE  
22 (1) MILL (.001) FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2015 AND  
23 THE SAME SHALL REMAIN IN FULL FORCE AND  
24 EFFECT ANNUALLY THEREAFTER.  
25

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

4 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

5 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

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

9 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

10 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

11 MR. EVANS: Aye.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

15 MS. REED: 5-G. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
16 AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL  
17 NO. 8, 1976, ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE (AS  
18 AMENDED) PROVIDING FOR THE GENERAL REVENUE  
19 BY IMPOSING A TAX AT THE RATE OF TWO (2)  
20 MILLS UPON THE PRIVILEGE OF OPERATING OR  
21 CONDUCTING BUSINESS IN THE CITY OF SCRANTON  
22 AS MEASURED BY THE GROSS RECEIPTS THEREFROM;  
23 REQUIRING REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT OF THE  
24 TAX AS CONDITION TO THE CONDUCTING OF SUCH  
25 BUSINESS; PROVIDING FOR THE LEVY AND

1           COLLECTION OF SUCH TAX; PRESCRIBING SUCH  
2           REQUIREMENTS FOR RETURNS AND RECORDS;  
3           CONFERRING POWERS AND DUTIES UPON THE TAX  
4           COLLECTOR; AND IMPOSING PENALTIES", BY  
5           IMPOSING THE BUSINESS PRIVILEGE TAX AT THE  
6           RATE OF ONE (1) MILL (.001) FOR CALENDAR  
7           YEAR 2015 AND THE SAME SHALL REMAIN IN FULL  
8           FORCE AND EFFECT ANNUALLY THEREAFTER.

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

12          MR. ROGAN: So moved.

13          MR. WECHSLER: Second.

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

17          MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

18          MR. ROGAN: Aye.

19          MR. EVANS: Aye.

20          MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

23          MS. REED: 5-H. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
24          AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL  
25          NO. 11, 1976, ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE (AS



1 AMENDED) ENACTING, IMPOSING A TAX FOR  
2 GENERAL REVENUE PURPOSES IN THE AMOUNT OF  
3 TWO PERCENT (2%) ON EARNED INCOME AND NET  
4 PROFITS ON PERSONS, INDIVIDUALS,  
5 ASSOCIATIONS AND BUSINESSES WHO ARE  
6 RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON, OR  
7 NON-RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON, FOR  
8 WORK DONE, SERVICES PERFORMED OR BUSINESS  
9 CONDUCTED WITHIN THE CITY OF SCRANTON,  
10 REQUIRING THE FILING OF RETURNS BY TAXPAYERS  
11 SUBJECT TO THE TAX; REQUIRING EMPLOYERS TO  
12 COLLECT THE TAX AT SOURCE; PROVIDING FOR THE  
13 ADMINISTRATION, COLLECTION AND ENFORCEMENT  
14 OF THE SAID TAX; AND IMPOSING PENALTIES FOR  
15 THE VIOLATIONS", BY RE-ENACTING THE  
16 IMPOSITION OF THE WAGE TAX AT TWO AND FOUR  
17 TENTHS (2.4%) PERCENT ON EARNED INCOME FOR  
18 RESIDENTS AND ONE (1%) PERCENT ON EARNED  
19 INCOME FOR NON-RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF  
20 SCRANTON, FOR WORK DONE, SERVICES PERFORMED  
21 OR BUSINESS CONDUCTED WITHIN THE CITY OF  
22 SCRANTON FOR THE YEAR 2015 AND THE SAME  
23 SHALL REMAIN IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT  
24 ANNUALLY THEREAFTER.

25 MR. MCGOFF: At this time I'll

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

3 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

4 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

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

8 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

9 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

10 MR. EVANS: Aye.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

14 MS. REED: 5-I. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
15 AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL  
16 NO. 17, 1994 ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE (AS  
17 AMENDED) AUTHORIZING THE GOVERNING BODY OF  
18 THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO ENACT 'A WASTE  
19 DISPOSAL AND COLLECTION FEE' FOR THE PURPOSE  
20 OF RAISING REVENUE TO COVER THE WASTE  
21 DISPOSAL AND COLLECTION COSTS INCURRED BY  
22 THE CITY OF SCRANTON FOR THE DISPOSAL OF  
23 REFUSE", BY IMPOSING A WASTE DISPOSAL AND  
24 COLLECTION FEE OF \$300.00 FOR CALENDAR YEAR  
25 2015 AND THE SAME SHALL REMAIN IN FULL FORCE

1 AND EFFECT ANNUALLY THEREAFTER.

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

5 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

6 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

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

10 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

11 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

12 MR. EVANS: Aye.

13 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

16 MS. REED: 5-J. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
17 AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL  
18 NO. 145 OF 2007 ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE  
19 RENAMING THE EMERGENCY AND MUNICIPAL  
20 SERVICES TAX ("EMST") TO LOCAL SERVICE TAX  
21 ("LST")" AND BY IMPOSING A WITHHOLDING OF  
22 \$52.00 FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2015 AND THE  
23 SAME SHALL REMAIN IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT  
24 ANNUALLY THEREAFTER.

25 MR. MCGOFF: At this time I'll

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

3 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

4 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

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

8 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

9 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

10 MR. EVANS: Aye.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

14 MS. REED: 5-K is tabled.

15 5-L. FOR INTRODUCTION - A RESOLUTION  
16 - AUTHORIZING THE ABATEMENT OF CITY OF  
17 SCRANTON DELINQUENT REAL ESTATE TAXES,  
18 PENALTIES AND INTEREST ON PROPERTY LOCATED  
19 AT 1621 WASHBURN STREET, SCRANTON,  
20 PENNSYLVANIA ALSO KNOW AS PIN  
21 NO.14517-030-052.01.

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

25 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

1 MR. MCGOFF: Is there a second?

2 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

5 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

6 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

7 MR. EVANS: Aye.

8 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

11 MS. REED: SIXTH ORDER. 6-A. NO  
12 BUSINESS AT THIS TIME.

13 SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR  
14 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC  
15 WORKS -FOR ADOPTION RESOLUTION NO. 112, 2015  
16 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE  
17 CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER IN A  
18 GOVERNMENT OBLIGATION CONTRACT THROUGH THE  
19 PENNSYLVANIA INFRASTRUCTURE BANK BETWEEN THE  
20 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, DEPARTMENT OF  
21 TRANSPORTATION (OBLIGEE) AND THE CITY OF  
22 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, FOR A ROADWAY  
23 RESURFACING PROGRAM IN THE CITY OF SCRANTON.

24 MR. MCGOFF: What is the  
25 recommendation of the Chair for the

1 Committee on Public Works?

2 MR. GAUGHAN: As Chairperson for the  
3 Committee on Public Works, I recommend final  
4 passage of Item 7-A.

5 MR. ROGAN: Second.

6 MR. MCGOFF: On the question?

7 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.

8 The approved loan is in the amount of  
9 \$2,242,820. The term of this loan is ten  
10 years at 1.625 percent. This city will  
11 repay the principle and interest of this  
12 loan in ten consecutive annual payments and  
13 the city will use its liquid fuels  
14 allocation from the state to pay back this  
15 loan and the paving project is expected to  
16 begin in the spring of this year.

17 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

18 MR. GAUGHAN: You're welcome.

19 MR. MCGOFF: Roll call, please?

20 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

21 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

23 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

25 MR. EVANS: Yes.

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

2 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

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

6 MS. REED: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION BY  
7 THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY -FOR ADOPTION  
8 RESOLUTION NO. 113, 2015 - AUTHORIZING THE  
9 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS  
10 TO ENTER INTO A MUNICIPAL LEASE AND OPTION  
11 AGREEMENT WITH FIRST BANKERS CORPORATION FOR  
12 THE LEASE PURCHASE OF A PIECE OF FIRE  
13 APPARATUS, A KME PUMPER TRUCK, FOR USE BY  
14 THE CITY OF SCRANTON FIRE DEPARTMENT.

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

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

21 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

25 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

2 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

4 MR. EVANS: Yes.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

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

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

12 MR. ROGAN: Motion to adjourn.

13 MR. MCGOFF: Meeting adjourned.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

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CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR  
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER