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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Thursday, February 5, 2015

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

PATRICK SCANLON, SOLICITOR

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

3 MR. MCGOFF: Dispense with the
4 reading of the minutes.

5 MR. EVANS: I would like to make a
6 motion to take from the table File of
7 Council No. 73-2015 that was tabled due to a
8 special legal notice requirements of the
9 intention to impose a tax increase according
10 to the Pennsylvania statute.

11 MR. ROGAN: Second.

12 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? This
13 is the milliage ordinance that was needed to
14 be tabled so that it could be properly
15 advertised. It is now being taken off the
16 table in Seventh Order for final vote.
17 Anyone who wishes to speak to this
18 particular piece of legislation may do so
19 during citizens' participation.

20 I would also like to make note
21 officially that there was an executive
22 session held on Tuesday, February 3, at 6:30
23 in the Governor's room with members of the
24 administration and the firefighters' union
25 regarding the personnel and labor and

1 negotiations.

2 Are there any announcement from
3 council?

4 MR. EVANS: I have one. There be
5 will a community tribute to police set for
6 February 8. The 911 Memorial Committee of
7 the Lackawanna County will host a community
8 tribute to those who protect and serve on
9 Sunday, February 8, at Scranton High School,
10 63 Munchak Way near Providence Road in
11 Scranton. The doors will open at noon at
12 the event will start at 1:00 p.m. the event
13 will include songs by the Scranton High
14 School chorus and tributes to fallen State
15 Trooper, including Byron Dickson, police and
16 correction officers, members of Trooper
17 Dickson's family have been invited and are
18 expected to speak as well as President Judge
19 Thomas Munley and District Attorney Andy
20 Jarbola. Family members of slain
21 corrections officer Eric Williams also will
22 speak. Thank you.

23 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else? Just one
24 thing that I would like to mention,
25 yesterday was National Cancer Awareness Day.

1 I would just like to say that I know all of
2 us have been effected in some way, you know,
3 by this insidious disease and I would just
4 encourage anyone that, you know, knows of
5 someone who is fighting this or dealing with
6 the treatments involved with cancer be a
7 friend. One of the things that happens to
8 cancer patients and those under treatment,
9 depression is a very significant aspect of
10 it, and believe it or not, simply sitting
11 down and talking with people, going and
12 watching a television show, bringing dinner
13 and, you know, having something to eat with
14 them goes a long way to helping people deal
15 with that, and I would just encourage that,
16 you know, if you know someone please be a
17 friend and, you know, be part of the helping
18 process.

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

20 MINUTES OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON FIREFIGHTERS
21 PENSION COMMISSION MEETING HELD DECEMBER 10,
22 2014.

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

25 MS. REED: 3-B. MINUTES OF THE

1 NON-UNIFORM MUNICIPAL PENSION BOARD MEETING
2 HELD DECEMBER 10, 2014.

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

5 MS. REED: 3-C. MINUTES OF THE
6 COMPOSITE PENSION BOARD MEETING HELD
7 DECEMBER 10, 2014.

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

10 MS. REED: 3-D. AGENDA OF THE
11 NON-UNIFORM MUNICIPAL PENSION BOARD MEETING
12 HELD JANUARY 28, 2015.

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

15 MS. REED: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'
16 PARTICIPATION.

17 MR. MCGOFF: Joan Hodowanitz.

18 MS. HODOWANITZ: Joan Hodowanitz,
19 Scranton resident. The 2013 audit is now
20 250 days late, is there any hope for it or
21 just kind of --

22 MR. MCGOFF: I do not have any
23 further information than what was provided
24 last week or the week before.

25 MS. HODOWANITZ: Has anybody given

1 thought somebody to do the 2014 audit
2 because that's just going to be late.

3 MR. MCGOFF: I can address that
4 during motions, but there is -- I do have an
5 answer for you.

6 MS. HODOWANITZ: Okay, thank you.
7 The 2012 recovery plan, it is 930 days until
8 August 23, 2017, when that would have died a
9 natural death, is there any possibly they
10 might put the modified plan on the website
11 for public review?

12 MR. GAUGHAN: I don't know that they
13 put the draft on it --

14 MS. HODOWANITZ: The draft.

15 MR. GAUGHAN: -- but I think that
16 they would put the final version on the
17 website. I would expect that to happen.

18 MS. HODOWANITZ: Well, the 2012 one
19 isn't on the website, it's on the internet
20 but on the website.

21 MR. GAUGHAN: I don't know for sure.

22 MS. HODOWANITZ: I hope that you can
23 goose the IT Department or Mr. Bulzoni to do
24 that. In fact, I would really love to see
25 the backup paperwork that you have every

1 week that are public documents those should
2 routinely be put on the website. It is not
3 that easy to come here the day of council
4 meeting to review those documents, they
5 really should go on the website if you are
6 going to have an informed citizenry.

7 With regard to the 2015 operating
8 budget, which was unbalanced, the revenues
9 did not watch the expenditures, is anything
10 happening on that to make those amendments?

11 MR. GAUGHAN: In the caucus last
12 week we did have the discussion on it
13 briefly, and I did ask Attorney Minora to
14 look into what the proper procedure is,
15 whether to amend the budget or not, and
16 Attorney Minora said that he was going to
17 wait until he got an opinion from Attorney
18 Shrive, the city solicitor, so right now
19 it's kind of up in the air. I do have
20 concerns about that and I was going to
21 mention it in motions, but it was briefly
22 discussed last week.

23 MS. HODOWANITZ: Okay. 5-D,
24 Mr. Bulzoni's waiver for residency. It
25 bothers me on many levels, but I think what

1 bothers me most is that he did not even
2 request a waiver until it started becoming
3 an issue. He should have requested it
4 before the first six months of his
5 employment expired. I'm also surprised that
6 a mayor that had been a councilman and ran
7 the Single Tax Office who should be
8 intimately familiar with the City Code would
9 not have discussed a request for a waiver
10 long before January 27 of this year, but
11 it's now in your laps.

12 And finally on the firefighters'
13 contract, I'm bothered by the fact that new
14 hires are not going to be getting some kind
15 of change in their retirement plan because
16 their pension plan is severely distressed
17 and despite all of the improvements in the
18 contract I don't see anything in this
19 change -- in this new contract that's going
20 to effect the distressed status of that
21 pension plan. I know they are going to make
22 greater percentage of contributions, but
23 that does not really effect the hole that
24 they are in and sooner or later the city and
25 the unions are going to have to grapple with

1 that 800 pound gorilla. Thank you.

2 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mrs.
3 Hodowanitz. Ron Ellman?

4 MR. ELLMAN: Thank you, Council.
5 Before I get everyone made at me like usual
6 I'd like to say I was very pleased with the
7 way the snow was removed from the streets.
8 I didn't see any problems. In fact, you can
9 see all of the thousands of potholes trying
10 to dodge your way around town. I don't know
11 how to say this, I respect the police and
12 the fire department, but I'm just one of the
13 many people that are just so disappointed in
14 you three allowing these contracts like that
15 to go by. I have talked to some people that
16 are much more knowledgeable and know about
17 these matters that say this is a abomination
18 for the city people that have are involved
19 this these contracts and all. You know,
20 what's happened here is it's like a used car
21 salesmen working a pencil on some poor guy
22 that doesn't know nothing about buying a
23 car. They have worked a pencil on this
24 council. They have just sold you a bill of
25 sale that's ten or 20 years from now it's

1 just going to be a bad effect on this city
2 and you guys know it. You have talked about
3 the effects in years from now. I don't
4 think you realize the severity of the plight
5 of this city and so many taxpayers out
6 there. Well, I've had enough of that. I'm
7 not going to get you real mad at me about
8 that.

9 Let me get something else off my
10 chest, I'm like Joan back there, I have been
11 wondering six, seven months when you are
12 going to tell this Mr. Bulzoni he is
13 supposed to live in this city. He has had
14 over a year to find -- there's thousands of
15 empty houses and apartments here thanks to
16 council on the mayor. He hasn't made any
17 effort whatsoever to be here. I think it's
18 time to fire him. This is a law on our
19 books. There is no excuse for you people
20 allowing him to abuse this law like that.
21 He has known. In a year and a couple of the
22 months he hasn't moved here he has no
23 intentions of moving here. You know what we
24 have here is an example of a law for you
25 people and another law for us at out here.

1 Enough is enough of what's going on in this
2 city. Like I said, we got two levels here,
3 you guys are in your level and I'm on this
4 level. When I talk to people at the grocery
5 store and the Taurus Club and all. There is
6 just so many people that can't afford things
7 now that used to have it, you know, they
8 have retired, they are not making the money
9 they make ten years ago, I'm certainly not.
10 You just out of touch with too many people,
11 you know, of the city.

12 I do have a good report though, last
13 year I blew out two tires, well, I damaged
14 two tires, bent the rim and lost a center
15 cap then I had my wheel alignment in
16 Sheridan's shop, Bobby Sheridan's shop.
17 This year I haven't lost a tire or a rim
18 just one center cap. I guess that's a
19 positive report for our mayor.

20 And I had such hopes for Bill. I
21 like him and he has just -- he has failed.
22 A whole year there is just nothing has
23 happened for this city to help this city,
24 over a year. The only thing come up is this
25 brain dead stupidity of the Amoroso report

1 raise taxes and sell everything. You guys
2 have just got to pull a rabbit out of the
3 hat. You got to do something for the people
4 out there that are paying for everything.
5 If you could just listen to one person that
6 has talked to me about how hard it is for
7 them to get by now maybe you would think
8 more about the people that are paying your
9 way while you sit in those seats, the people
10 that you put you in those seats. Thank you.

11 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr. Ellman.
12 Anyone else who wishes to address council?

13 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening. Dave
14 Dobrzyn, resident, taxes paid so far. Once
15 again I was on the computer today and I went
16 under new laws, there was little up title
17 there and there was a line about two and a
18 half inches long, nothing. Nothing.
19 Nothing on any new ordinances or whatever
20 and how did you expect people to obey the
21 ordinance or comply with them when they have
22 no way of finding ut other than jump through
23 hoops and run down the library and what if
24 everybody lined up all at once at the
25 library, wouldn't that be a silly situation,

1 so I'm requesting that we get with it on the
2 IT Department and start getting these
3 things. I'm not against per se the quality
4 of life, I thought that was a good idea
5 putting all of these things in the one
6 heading instead of having to jump around and
7 find this out and find that out and it's a
8 great idea, but you have to know about it to
9 comply with it and a lot of people are
10 asking me questions and I don't know until I
11 get down to the library, which is something
12 I shouldn't have to do seeing as the fees I
13 pay to Comcast also go the city in the form
14 of a tax, so please consider in the near
15 future.

16 And on 7-A if anybody could explain
17 to me what is a third party inspection?

18 MR. MCGOFF: There's a company
19 that's contracted to do inspections that's
20 outside -- it's not the -- it's not LIPS
21 itself that is doing it. It's, as I said, a
22 third party that we contract.

23 MR. DOBRZYN: Does it involve the
24 homeowner?

25 MR. MCGOFF: I'm sorry?

1 MR. DOBRZYN: Would it involve the
2 homeowner?

3 MR. EVANS: No, these are the
4 inspections that are done based on building
5 permits so.

6 MR. DOBRZYN: Building permit.

7 MR. EVANS: If you get a building
8 permit and they follow up on that to make
9 sure the work was done properly.

10 MR. DOBRZYN: All right, because I
11 just hope that the city would work with
12 people. For instance, we put a lovely porch
13 on our house when I first bought it and it's
14 still standing ten or 12 years later and
15 it's a whole heck of a lot cheaper than what
16 I got from other contractors. I walked up
17 and looked up along my chimney after the
18 roof was installed and I could see the sky.
19 I mean, we replaced the roof but we didn't
20 fix the leak obviously. So, you know, you
21 can always haggle later, but sometimes
22 things are best done for yourself.

23 Like I said, a few weeks ago I had
24 my car inspected, the guy slapped the brake
25 drum brake on in kind of heavy-handed manner

1 and on the way home my wheel started
2 scratching and I pulled it off and I found
3 that he knocked the brake spring loose so
4 there I'm having the car inspected and
5 paying good money and to get it inspected
6 and, you know, there is no hard feelings but
7 I had to run out and buy a brake spring
8 because it got all eaten up, luckily it
9 didn't damage anything else.

10 The subject came out on the county
11 fair and I don't want to be facetious, but
12 please, no tax increases of 38 percent or 50
13 percent to finance a county fair and no
14 further tax exempt land within Scranton
15 boundaries, so I would really appreciate
16 that because we are contributing an awful
17 lot of tax exempt and it's not just
18 nonprofits. It's county buildings and the
19 whole enchilada.

20 City services, I'm still concerned
21 about the Sewer Authority and I hope -- I
22 hope that any deal that comes through is
23 keeping the people in mind and that they are
24 not -- we just don't have a corporation
25 sopping up money out of people's pockets

1 happened to the 5:30 caucus tonight on the
2 revised recovery plan that was announced
3 last week?

4 MR. MCGOFF: Because of the police
5 contract that was passed and the proposed
6 contract with the fire union there would be
7 perhaps revisions needed for the recovery
8 plan and, therefore, a presentation of it
9 would be premature.

10 MS. SCHUMACHER: It would have been
11 nice -- I think Mr. Lockwood is fairly
12 accessible by e-mail if not by phone
13 certainly if that had been noted and we
14 didn't find out until, like, I didn't find
15 out until I called because of some confusion
16 as to whether there was a caucus at five or
17 5:30. I think once something has been
18 officially announced a little blurb in the
19 paper would be thoughtful.

20 5-D, I think this is an extremely
21 bad precedent if you do it. How do you do
22 it for one person and then not do it for
23 another person? I don't think a waiver
24 should be given. I think the man was aware
25 before he came, he has been well taken care

1 of and now he would even deny us I guess our
2 paltry 2.4 percent of his wages, generous
3 wages I might add that he will retain so we
4 have just given him another salary increase
5 of -- well, actually, 3.4 percent because he
6 would also have to pay 1 percent to the
7 city. I think that's wrong. I don't know,
8 is the waiver with backup, I didn't get down
9 here in time, does the backup say that as a
10 condition of getting this waiver he will pay
11 his wage taxes?

12 MR. MCGOFF: That is not in there.

13 MS. SCHUMACHER: That is not this
14 there.

15 MR. MCGOFF: No.

16 MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, I guess I
17 would like to suggest (a) that you not
18 approve because I do think it's a terrible
19 precedent and (b) if you do, because you
20 tend to do whatever the mayor wants pretty
21 much, that a condition be put in that he has
22 to pay his 3.4 percent wage tax to the city.

23 MR. MCGOFF: That has been
24 discussed.

25 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay, it should be

1 in there, I think. And again, I was hoping
2 to talk on the revised recovery plan tonight
3 so one thing we desperately need, as we are
4 going through tonight and I believe
5 Mr. Judge said something about the city had
6 the authority to do that or if they do that,
7 we need a matrix of all of these things that
8 are pluses and minuses and we need a regular
9 status report, monthly status report on how
10 those are bearing out so we can see because,
11 and I would like to know by next week, too,
12 what the annual amount is. The police
13 contract was, oh, we're going to save \$6
14 million or \$5 million or \$4 million, but
15 that was over seven years. This is going to
16 have to be incorporated into a budget so you
17 must know what the savings are by year and
18 the expenses for that matter. The
19 offsetting, we need to see that and we need
20 that matrix, just a good example are the
21 drug tests. Yeah, okay, so it's in the
22 contract but if nobody in the administration
23 requests that they be done or follows up
24 then, oh, well, just like so much that goes
25 on here or does not, fails to go on, oh,

1 well. We need that matrix and we need -- I
2 want to see the updates on that on a regular
3 basis. The overtime, the sick time that's
4 being taken, see how we are tracking.

5 Then how much -- I would also like
6 to know how much this is going to contribute
7 to our achieving a balanced budget without
8 any -- a balance structural budget? Does
9 anybody have an answer to that now? Okay.

10 MR. ROGAN: I will take a crack at
11 it. Well, obviously, we would realize
12 savings every year with new hires, so what
13 would have to be done in the budgetary
14 process is there would have to be --

15 MS. SCHUMACHER: I'm not talking
16 budgetary process --

17 MR. ROGAN: You asked about the
18 structural deficit in the budget.

19 MR. SCHUMACHER: When you were going
20 to achieve -- yeah, how much it would and
21 are we adding 13 new members to the Fire
22 Department or is that only if a SAFER grant
23 is --

24 MR. EVANS: That's correct. Only if
25 the grant is --

1 MS. SCHUMACHER: I'm sorry.

2 MR. EVANS: Only if the grant is
3 approved.

4 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay, because I
5 remember when Mayor Doherty got raked over
6 the coals because he didn't accept -- he
7 rejected that portion of the SAFER grant
8 that was available and, you know,
9 Mr. Loscombe and other people, oh, there is
10 30 people or 40 people I think they even
11 said eligible to retire and really that's a
12 big mistake. Well, it would have been a big
13 mistake to hire 13 or 14 people and have to
14 lay them off so it was a good decision on
15 Mr. Doherty's part. Thank you.

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

18 MS. SCHUMACHER: Could I get one
19 more quick question?

20 MR. MCGOFF: I'm sorry?

21 MS. SCHUMACHER: Could I get one
22 more quick question?

23 MR. MCGOFF: Sure.

24 MS. SCHUMACHER: One more quick
25 question, on the payment of health care for

1 up to ten years to retirement age, does the
2 spouse -- if the spouse is a younger woman,
3 since they are all men, if the spouse is
4 younger than the employee do they get it
5 until they're 65 or did they only get it
6 until the employee reaches age 65?

7 MR. MCGOFF: I'd have to look at the
8 --

9 MS. SCHUMACHER: I would like to
10 know, and if it's not I would like to see
11 the ages of the current spouses anyway.
12 Thank you.

13 MR. ROGAN: We discussed that a
14 little bit on Tuesday night during our
15 caucus, I believe it was said that once the
16 employee reaches age 65 the benefit
17 terminates, but we could check to make sure.

18 MS. SCHUMACHER: Thank you.

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

20 MOTIONS.

21 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Wechsler.

22 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you,
23 Mr. President. I received a citizen's
24 complaint about issues on Snook Street.
25 There have been several break-ins and

1 actually the neighbors assisted in an arrest
2 up there. There were also some quality of
3 life issues that have been ongoing for many
4 years that we have had some progress on, but
5 actually I'm hoping that the new quality of
6 life ordinance will help alleviate these
7 problems.

8 As was mentioned tonight in the
9 caucus, and we've heard this a couple of
10 different times, the type of pension plan
11 that the city can offer because we're a
12 class 2A city is that we are required to
13 offer a defined benefit plan, so at this
14 time even if the bargaining units decided to
15 go to type of other plan it's not allowed by
16 state law, so that is where the problem lies
17 is that we do need statewide pension reform
18 and perhaps we do want to start to take a
19 look at our classification as a city because
20 there have been several instances so far
21 this year that we have not been allowed to
22 participate in certain programs or have been
23 penalized because of our single status, and
24 the rest of my comments I will keep until
25 motions.

1 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Rogan?

2 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. I guess I'll
3 make the majority of my comments now. I
4 would like to agree with what Councilman
5 Wechsler mentioned regarding the Class 2A
6 status, that has been a hindrance for the
7 city to achieve many items that we would
8 like to receive. We did send a letter to
9 Senator Blake regarding the city
10 revitalization and improvement zone program,
11 requesting that that legislation be changed
12 to allow Class 2A cities.

13 Another item that effects class 2A
14 cities differently is the commuter tax which
15 has been widely discussed in this chamber
16 for probably 20 years and the list goes on
17 and on of items that really ask effect us
18 because we are still considered a Class 2A
19 city even though the population for the last
20 two census does not show that we meet that
21 criteria.

22 But onto some of the agenda items
23 for tonight, a few comments regarding the
24 fire contracts and a few regarding the
25 waiver for Mr. Bulzoni, the proposed waiver

1 for Mr. Bulzoni. First regarding the fire
2 contract, again, I would like to thank the
3 administration and the union for coming
4 tonight, and prior to tonight's meeting we
5 were provided with a good packet of
6 information that really outlined the cost
7 and the benefits of this plan in a
8 streamline manner. Through reading through
9 it some items are similar to the police
10 contract, some are different. I voted for
11 the police contract, I believe it was a good
12 deal for the city, this fire contract is an
13 even better deal because of the some of the
14 items that were taken from the police, and
15 one of the most important items that was
16 changed was regarding disability pensions, a
17 wellness program to ensure that when people
18 are getting hired that they are healthy and
19 not going on disability two years later.

20 Additionally, and I know that the
21 Scranton Times documented this in a multiple
22 series regarding former city employees who
23 are on disability pensions but working other
24 positions. With this new agreement there
25 would be changes to that where that wouldn't

1 be happening anymore. Also, the increases
2 in the pensions, that would change as well
3 on the disability end. So I think there are
4 items that were sorely needed in regard to
5 the disability pensions and the problems we
6 have had with that in the city.

7 May of my comments are similar to
8 what we saw in the police, obviously the
9 salary savings are much greater than what
10 would happen in the past b y going to
11 arbitration. Just for background, and I did
12 this for the police so I think it would be
13 fair to do it regarding the fire contract as
14 well, this contract calls for approximately
15 2 percent raises and those are split
16 midyear, and a lot of these raises in past
17 were split midyear to achieve a little bit
18 of savings for the city. The added costs
19 are \$1.9 million over the life of the
20 contract. The savings based on 3 percent
21 are 3.4 million, and the 3 percent in
22 historical context for the City of Scranton
23 is a very, very, very conservative number.

24 I'm going to read off some of the
25 awards that were given to the fire union

1 through arbitration, and this is the first
2 arbitration under the previous
3 administration. December 31, 2005, a 5.5
4 percent raise was awarded to the city's
5 firefighters. The very next day on January
6 1, 2006, a 3.5 percent raise was awarded so
7 that's a total of 9 percent raise in two
8 days through the arbitration process. On
9 January 1, 2007, a raise of 4 percent was
10 given out. January 1, 2008, and now we are
11 into the second arbitration, the one we are
12 still left holding a \$20 plus million dollar
13 bill because of, which was actually \$40
14 million plus that half was given back,
15 January 1, 2008, 8 percent raise. January
16 1, 2009, 3 percent. July 1, 2009, 3
17 percent, 6 percent total pay increase in
18 2009. January 1, 2010, 3 percent. July 1,
19 2010, 3 percent. 6 percent total for the
20 year 2010. January 1, 2011, 3 percent.
21 July 1, 2011, 3 percent. Again the total of
22 6 percent. January 1, 2012, 3 percent pay
23 increase. July 1, 2012, another 3 percent
24 pay increase. 6 percent for 2012. 2013,
25 January 1, a 3.2 percent pay increase. July

1 1, 3.2 percent pay increase. 6.4 percent
2 total pay increase for 2013. January 1,
3 2014, 3.2 percent, and July 1, 2014, 3.2
4 percent. Again, a total of 6.4 percent pay
5 increase through the arbitration process in
6 just one year.

7 So you can see what can result by
8 not negotiating a contract in good faith.
9 The cost are astronomical, and this totaling
10 up is well over 50 percent just in the
11 second arbitration alone, not even counting
12 the 9 percent raise that firefighters
13 received in two days because of the failing
14 to negotiate in good faith. So that's the
15 cost of rolling the dice and waiting until
16 in contract expires and not negotiating.

17 If we chose that path this very well
18 be the result. It may not be quite as bad,
19 but one thing that is for sure during that
20 period of time we will not receive \$1.5
21 million in increased pension contributions
22 from city firefighters, we will not have a
23 reduction in overtime from city
24 firefighters, there will not be position
25 eliminations, and when I say position

1 eliminations I'm not speaking of less
2 firefighters out there fighting fires, these
3 are higher ranks that are being eliminated,
4 so the firefighters would remain at a lower
5 rank which would save approximately \$232,000
6 through the life of the contract on the low
7 case end, on the high estimate would be
8 \$132,800 per year.

9 One additional cost that will be
10 \$65,000, which I believe is money well
11 spent, is the EMT changes for certification
12 for the firefighters. It's a very small
13 cost but it's something that will certainly
14 come in handy when, you know, if you have a
15 fire or an incident at your home.

16 And the final item is the
17 restructuring of the salaries. That would
18 not only save money every year, but it will
19 also increase the chances of obtaining a
20 SAFER grant, which really build up the city
21 a few years under Mayor Doherty. It
22 reopened fire houses, we were able to keep
23 the level of protection somewhat consistent
24 because of that grant. By applying these
25 changes, that grant will be approximately

1 \$700,000 less than allocation and that will
2 certainly increase our chance of getting the
3 grant for those firefighters and that will
4 help us keep our firehouses open, which is
5 the most important thing in this whole
6 debate.

7 So because of those reasons and
8 because of the all of the information being
9 outlined in such an easy format, I will be
10 voting "yes" on that item tonight.

11 Regarding the waiver for
12 Mr. Bulzoni, that is something that I will
13 be considering or I will vote to introduce
14 it this week but it's something I do want to
15 think about. I know that we had some
16 discussions about possible changes that we
17 will talk more about in the future, but one
18 thing I do want to look into a little bit
19 and some people have mentioned, well, this
20 will set a precedent. I believe, and I'm
21 going to check into it, that former DPW
22 Director George Parker did not live in the
23 City of Scranton under Mayor Doherty. Now,
24 I do know that he did not go through this
25 process, which should happen, but I will be

1 checking into that to see if that is, in
2 fact, the case. And there are a few others
3 that were brought up, city employees that
4 did not live in the city under previous
5 administrations, so I will be checking into
6 those items. And that is all for tonight.
7 Thank you.

8 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Evans.

9 MR. EVANS: I just have some brief
10 comments. First of all, I'd like to touch
11 on what Councilman Wechsler said about
12 pension reform for new hires. I'm a little
13 concerned because I have been talking about
14 this for six months and I only found in the
15 last week that this is something that needs
16 state approval. I'm not sure who missed
17 this or why no one told me this or why we
18 haven't had the discussion before so I would
19 hope that in the near future we can create
20 some kind of an opportunity to have a long
21 discussion with our state senator and our
22 state reps because it's something that we
23 need to put on the front burner, and soon.

24 A comment on the Amoroso plan and
25 the direct recovery plans since we had some

1 discussion on that earlier. If we have a
2 plan and we say we are a supporter of that
3 plan than we need to follow that plan. It
4 really isn't much more complicated than
5 that. It's when we change the plan that or
6 we veer off the plan or we ignore the plan
7 that we find ourselves getting in trouble
8 and, of course, past history has shown
9 that's happens.

10 On Mr. Bulzoni's waiver, I'm not a
11 fan of waiver requests mostly because I have
12 always felt that we have and we should have
13 a rich enough talent pool of the candidates
14 for any position already within our city
15 boundaries and that any employee that comes
16 from the outside of the city should want to
17 live in the city that they are wishing to
18 serve. However, I am struggling a bit
19 because Mr. Bulzoni is an exceptional
20 business administrator, so hopefully by next
21 week we can come up with some amendments and
22 have some more discussion on this because I
23 think there is some ways to do this without
24 a full waiver. And that's all I have for
25 tonight.

1 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Gaughan.

2 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, thank you. I
3 received a lot of phone calls and concerns
4 and complaints about the snow removal on the
5 downtown from this past snowstorm, and I
6 will just say that over the past year on
7 several occasions I have met with the mayor
8 about alternate side of the street parking
9 and banning parking completely during and
10 after the snowstorm to possibly make it
11 easier for the DPW to clean up downtown and
12 remove snow, multiple discussions. I'm not
13 sure what else to do. It's just time to
14 implement something that works or helps the
15 situation because there are business people
16 downtown who are very upset and very angry
17 about the situation.

18 I would like to at this time make a
19 motion that we table Agenda Item 5-F, the
20 memorandum of understanding between the city
21 and the fire department until we have
22 adopted the 2015 revised recovery plan.

23 MR. EVANS: Why not. I'll second
24 that.

25 MR. MCGOFF: On the question?

1 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question, I'm
2 making this motion tonight as I did last
3 week during the police contract debate
4 because I feel it would be extremely
5 irresponsible for council to pass a contract
6 which includes an extension until 2021 in
7 advance of the revised recovery plan. As I
8 mentioned last week, the revised recovery
9 plan states that the workforce provisions
10 shall only be applicable to collective
11 bargain agreements or arbitration
12 settlements executed after the adoption
13 after the revised recovery plan. Passing
14 this contract essentially means we
15 circumvent the recovery plan work force
16 mandates. We are guaranteeing that the
17 tools the recovery plan affords us will be
18 thrown out the window.

19 I would urge my colleagues to take
20 my serious concerns into consideration and
21 table this legislation until after we have
22 adopted the 2015 revised recovery plan and
23 had a public caucus with PEL. Thank you.

24 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else on the
25 question? All those in favor of tabling

1 signify by saying aye.

2 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

3 MR. EVANS: Aye.

4 MS. MCGOFF: Opposed?

5 MR. WECHSLER: No.

6 MR. ROGAN: No.

7 MR. MCGOFF: The motion is defeated.

8 MR. GAUGHAN: One final comment, you
9 know, I appreciate Mr. Bulzoni and Mr. Judge
10 and Mr. Lucas coming to our caucus tonight.
11 One thing that I will never understand is
12 the absence of Mayor Courtright. For
13 someone who touts the savings of the police
14 contract and the savings in this fire
15 contract, for him not to show up at a public
16 caucus is disappointing, frustrating, and
17 quite frankly embarrassing. You know, as
18 the leader of our city he should be here and
19 as someone who was a former city councilman
20 who always asked that the mayor show up to
21 council meetings I don't understand what the
22 fear is with coming and sitting in front of
23 us and answering simple questions or at
24 least giving his opinion and his take in
25 front of this council and at the very least

1 affording us that respect. And that's is
2 all I have until motions -- or until agenda
3 items. Thank you.

4 MR. MCGOFF: Just to piggyback on
5 what Councilman Gaughan has just said,
6 members of the administration were I'll say
7 invited to attend the caucus. It was
8 determined Mr. Bulzoni would be the one that
9 would represent the administration. I will
10 also say that I'm disappointed in the fact
11 that this -- the invitation to the caucus
12 was put on the shoulders of Mr. Bulzoni and
13 that the mayor and the solicitor, who was
14 primarily -- and also the union or the labor
15 attorney were not present. Although the
16 information provided was I believe, you
17 know, good, I think that the people that
18 negotiated the contract or the memorandum of
19 understanding and, you know, people that
20 have sent this to us for approval should
21 have been here. With that said, we move on,
22 they weren't.

23 As far as the contract are
24 concerned, I know that a number of people
25 have commented on the contracts, and I don't

1 mean to get into an argument with the
2 newspaper on this, but if you relied on the
3 newspaper, solely the newspaper for
4 information regarding the police contract I
5 believe that you are misinformed. I do not
6 believe that the newspaper provided a
7 balanced review of that contract. They
8 highlighted -- continually highlighted the
9 expenditures in the contract. They in some
10 cases I believe overestimated what those
11 costs would be and yet failed to delineate
12 in any way the savings in the contract.

13 I believe that it appears that the
14 purpose of the newspaper is simply to
15 discredit the mayor and the administration
16 and not present a balanced view. I believe
17 that what they are doing is shaping the news
18 rather than reporting it, and when you do
19 that all it is propaganda. I believe that
20 the newspaper has a responsibility to
21 present a balanced review of what is
22 presented and I don't think they have done
23 that.

24 Now, granted the information
25 concerning the FOP contract was poorly

1 disseminated. I believe part of it was my
2 fault. Perhaps we should have not -- we
3 probably should have had a caucus as we did
4 tonight where that information was
5 presented. I failed to do that and I will
6 take responsibility for that. I believe
7 that we did tonight and the caucus should be
8 reported and should be reported fairly as it
9 was presented. Numbers do not
10 necessarily -- I don't think that you should
11 look only at the numbers that are contained
12 in the contract. I think, as Mr. Rogan has
13 mentioned, we should also look at the public
14 safety issues that are part of these
15 contracts and I don't think that those
16 things have been fairly reported.

17 A political cartoon that appeared in
18 the Times few days ago said, "Do the Math."
19 Well, I challenge the newspaper to do the
20 math. If you are going to do the math and
21 you are going to come out with an accurate
22 assessment you need to include all of the
23 numbers, not just the ones that are
24 appropriate to your position.

25 As far as the city audit, as I said,

1 I would provide an answer to a question that
2 was asked earlier, we received in our mail
3 dated February 4, "Separate sealed proposal
4 will be received by the city controller in
5 our office until March 6, 2015, at 10 a.m.
6 at which time that will be read aloud in
7 council chambers by the Business
8 Administrator for the following: City of
9 Scranton's independent post audit for the
10 years 12-31-2013, 12-31-2014, as per
11 specifications. Mandatory pre-proposal
12 conference will be held on February 18,
13 2015, at 10 a.m. All bidders are required to
14 have a representative at this conference so
15 that there is an RFP out for the audit for
16 future years. And that's all.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Could I make one
18 addition?

19 MR. MCGOFF: Sure.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: Just a comment on your
21 comment, Mr. McGoff, about the newspaper.
22 You know, I think that the administration
23 has a responsibility to the public and I
24 don't think they fulfilled this
25 responsibility with the police contract and

1 I think it's -- you know, the purpose of the
2 newspaper and the media is to inform the
3 public. I mean, my God, council -- the
4 councilmen up here had a hard time getting
5 information. So, you know, I mean, the
6 enemy of success is doubt and, you know, I
7 think with both of these contracts there
8 seems to be that doubt and a little bit of
9 secrecy and nobody, you know, the financial
10 analysis and the cost savings analysis is
11 confidential. I mean, it just -- you know,
12 I'm not defending the newspaper here, but at
13 some point you've got to hold the
14 administration's feet to the fire and
15 realize that that their sole responsibility
16 really is to the public, and my
17 responsibility is to my constituency, which
18 is the public. It's not good enough for me
19 to just to get the information, go home and
20 look at it and say, "Oh, okay, well, it
21 looks pretty good, I'll vote on it."

22 I have to answer to the people of in
23 city and that's important to me.

24 MR. ROGAN: Just on that, I don't
25 want to keep going back and forth on this,

1 but regarding some of the numbers being
2 confidential, that was asked and answered on
3 Tuesday night and we are told that those
4 numbers could be given out to the public,
5 and I believe the reason why they were
6 marked confidential when they were initially
7 given us to because it was prior to the
8 union vote per labor laws.

9 MR. GAUGHAN: Right, I understand
10 that and I do, but I would just -- I wanted
11 to see a document that's not marked
12 "confidential." I mean, we are public
13 officials. I understand your point,
14 Mr. Rogan, and I would just saying that, you
15 know, I think if we are looking at this in
16 council chambers, and I appreciate the
17 document and the work that was done, I think
18 that, you know, I would like to see, and I
19 did and request from the administration an
20 executive summary that accompanied
21 financially analysis and the cost savings
22 analysis that gives some sort of authorship
23 to the document because no one's name is
24 provided on it. You know, to me that
25 doesn't really make much sense. I realize

1 there was collaboration, but at some pint
2 you would like to see someone take ownership
3 of the document officially in some capacity.

4 MR. ROGAN: That was also asked and
5 answered at our caucus on Tuesday and again
6 tonight.

7 MR. WECHSLER: I would just like to
8 make a comment that I'm a bit offended, we
9 all went home and did our homework. None of
10 just accepted theses numbers as given. I
11 know I asked several questions and went to
12 several meetings and asked a lot of
13 different questions and the fact that I'm
14 satisfied with what I was given doesn't make
15 it wrong.

16 MR. GAUGHAN: I don't think I said
17 that at all. Not to belabor the point, but
18 --

19 MR. WECHSLER: Not to interrupt, but
20 you did say that we just accepted the
21 numbers. Well, that's not the case. We did
22 our homework and the fact that I accepted
23 the information after it was verified that
24 it was acceptable. That doesn't make it
25 wrong.

1 MR. GAUGHAN: I didn't say that at
2 all, but you can spin it any way you want.

3 MR. MCGOFF: Let me just finish
4 this, we all have an obligation as elected
5 members of council to do our due diligence
6 in voting on any legislation, and
7 disagreement will occur. Our due diligence
8 may produce different results and that's
9 fine and that's the way the process is
10 supposed to work. My point was in saying
11 this that, yes, I agree, dissemination of
12 information for the police contract was done
13 poorly, I said that, and I said part of it
14 was my fault, however, that information was
15 disseminated and was available to everyone.
16 At some point in time, that became available
17 to everyone. All I was saying was I do not
18 feel that that was fairly presented by the
19 newspaper to the public. I felt that we
20 tried to do that in our meetings and I do
21 not feel that it was done by the newspaper.

22 All I'm asking is that as we go
23 forward with this contract proposal that a
24 more balanced view, since we received
25 voluminous information this evening, that

1 this be reported in an appropriate manner.
2 That was all. And that was all.

3 MS. REED: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION -
4 AN ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE REMOVAL OF
5 THE EXISTING "NO PARKING" SIGNS LOCATED IN
6 THE 500 AND 600 BLOCKS OF ADAMS AVENUE
7 (S.R.3023) AND REPLACING THOSE SIGNS WITH
8 NEW R7-302 NO PARKING SYMBOL/ARROW SIGNS AT
9 ADEQUATE INTERVALS ALONG THE WESTERLY SIDE
10 AND EASTERLY SIDE OF THE 500 AND 600 BLOCKS
11 OF ADAMS AVENUE (S.R.3023) FROM THE
12 INTERSECTION AT VINE STREET TO THE
13 INTERSECTIONS WITH NORTH WASHINGTON AVENUE.

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

17 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

18 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

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

22 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

23 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

24 MR. EVANS: Aye.

25 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

3 MS. REED: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION - A
4 RESOLUTION - APPROVING THE FINANCING BY THE
5 SCRANTON-LACKAWANNA HEALTH AND WELFARE
6 AUTHORITY OF CERTAIN CAPITAL PROJECTS FOR
7 THE BENEFIT OF ALLIED HEALTH CARE SERVICES,
8 INC., A PENNSYLVANIA NOT-FOR-PROFIT CORPORA
9 TION; DECLARING THAT IT IS DESIRABLE FOR THE
10 HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE OF THE PEOPLE OF
11 THE CITY OF SCRANTON, LACKAWANNA COUNTY,
12 PENNSYLVANIA, AND THE AREA SERVED BY ALLIED
13 HEALTH CARE SERVICES, INC. TO HAVE THE
14 PROJECTS PROVIDED BY AND FINANCED THROUGH
15 THE AUTHORITY; DESIGNATING THE MAYOR OF THE
16 CITY, OR, IN HIS ABSENCE, THE PRESIDENT OR
17 VICE PRESIDENT OF THE CITY COUNCIL, AS THE
18 PERSON TO ACT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY COUNCIL
19 AS THE "APPLICABLE ELECTED REPRESENTATIVE"
20 WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE
21 CODE OF 1986, AS AMENDED; AUTHORIZING SUCH
22 MAYOR OF THE CITY OR THE PRESIDENT OR VICE
23 PRESIDENT OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY TO
24 TAKE CERTAIN ACTIONS ON BEHALF OF THE CITY
25 COUNCIL OF THE CITY AS SUCH "APPLICABLE

1 ELECTED REPRESENTATIVE"; AND AUTHORIZING
2 OTHER NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE ACTION.

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

6 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

7 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

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

11 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

12 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

13 MR. EVANS: Aye.

14 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

17 MS. REED: 5-D. FOR INTRODUCTION - A
18 RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
19 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO WAIVE THE
20 RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS FOR DAVID BULZONI,
21 CITY OF SCRANTON BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR.

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

25 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

1 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

2 MR. MCGOFF: On the question?

3 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.

4 I will be voting against this legislation
5 tonight. I have great respect for
6 Mr. Bulzoni and the job that he does as
7 business administrator, however, at the end
8 of the day the rules are the rules. The
9 business administrator should live in the
10 City of Scranton. Mr. Bulzoni said he would
11 move into the city within six months of
12 being appointed and that hasn't happened and
13 I think, quite frankly, that granting a
14 waiver sets an awful precedent for the city
15 moving forward. The business
16 administrator's position is it a crucial one
17 in which decisions and recommendations are
18 made to increase taxes and fees on the
19 people of Scranton. I strongly believe that
20 Mr. Bulzoni, as business administrator,
21 should live in Scranton and pay the same
22 taxes and fees that our citizens pay. Thank
23 you.

24 MR. WECHSLER: On the question,
25 Mr. McGoff, I wanted people to know that

1 Mr. Bulzoni did make an attempt to sell his
2 home and move into the city and that did not
3 happen, which is unfortunate, but I do
4 believe that the mayor has some
5 responsibility in this. The job that Mr.
6 Bulzoni was doing is quite significant. He
7 is involved in several of the financial
8 corrections and plans that we are making and
9 I believe the administration should have
10 realized this problem back in June I think
11 when it came up because that was when the
12 six months expired and I think if we had
13 this question a few months ago it wouldn't
14 be under such a light as it tonight.

15 And in terms of precedent,
16 Councilman Rogan is correct there have been
17 past administrative people who have been
18 granted this waiver. I'm sure that -- Path
19 said it went through council but I know that
20 George Parker was allowed to be the DPW
21 director and not live in the city. That's
22 all.

23 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else?

24 MR. ROGAN: I would just make a
25 final comment that we have had discussions

1 about possible alterations to make this more
2 agreeable. Obviously, we would all prefer
3 the business administrator to live in the
4 city as we all do and as all of our city
5 employees do. I do think that -- I am glad
6 to see that this is being done through the
7 proper channels through a vote of council
8 not just being granted on an okay basis as
9 it was in the past, but I do think it's
10 something that we need to take a close look
11 at.

12 MR. EVANS: I think what we struggle
13 with is the fact that we are not monitoring
14 these city wages. We did not know Mr.
15 Bulzoni did not move in the city until we
16 saw this legislation so, you know, now it's
17 expected to come to concur and say either
18 get a waiver or you are unemployed, so it's
19 something that we really have to balance and
20 I think hopefully we can come up with some
21 solutions that will make a little more
22 palatable for all of us.

23 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else? All those
24 in favor of introduction signify by saying
25 aye.

1 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

2 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

3 MR. EVANS: Aye.

4 MS. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed?

5 MR. GAUGHAN: No.

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

8 MS. REED: 5-E. FOR INTRODUCTION -
9 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
10 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE
11 AND ENTER INTO A MEMBERSHIP AGREEMENT WITH
12 PENNSYLVANIA ONE CALL SYSTEM, INC. (POCS) IN
13 ORDER TO IDENTIFY ALL UNDERGROUND FACILITIES
14 THAT ARE OWNED BY THE CITY AND LOCATE THE
15 SAME ON MAPPING.

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

19 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

20 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

21 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? I
22 personally would like them to identify
23 underground facilities, I didn't know that
24 we had any, but it would be interesting.

25 All those in favor of introduction

1 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-F. FOR INTRODUCTION - A
9 RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
10 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND
11 ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BY
12 AND BETWEEN THE CITY OF SCRANTON AND LOCAL
13 UNION NO. 60 OF THE INTERNATIONAL
14 ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS, AFL-CIO.

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

18 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

19 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

20 MR. MCGOFF: On the question?

21 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.

22 I will be voting against this legislation
23 tonight for reasons that are very similar to
24 my dissent on the police contract a week
25 ago. I still don't understand the manner in

1 which all of this is being done in advance
2 of the revised recovery plan. I think,
3 quite frankly, that it's reckless and
4 short-sided. The language in the recovery
5 plan explicitly states that the workforce
6 mandates and other tools that help the city
7 will only be applicable to contracts that
8 are passed after the adoption of the
9 recovery plan. We are basically insuring
10 that we safeguard the police and fire unions
11 from any requirements that are included in
12 our own recovery plan.

13 I'm also extremely concerned about
14 the extension of the contract until 2021.
15 The next few years are going to be very
16 difficult as we are on the road towards
17 either exiting Act 47 and distressed status
18 or facing receivership and possible
19 bankruptcy. Extending the contract until
20 2021 ties the hands the city's in my two
21 ways. First, we eliminate the possibility
22 of the city to renegotiate the police
23 contract in 2017 at a very critical juncture
24 when preparing the three-year exit plan
25 depending on whether or not the state even

1 grants us a three-year extension on the Act
2 47 deadline.

3 Second, this extended contract would
4 still be in effect for an additional year if
5 we were approved by the state for the
6 extension after the final deadline in 2020.
7 This means that both the city and the state
8 will be bound to this contract for a full
9 year after our Act 47 status expire. We
10 will have no option to negotiate further
11 fiscal relief until 2021.

12 It's pretty clear to me that both
13 the police and the fire contracts are an end
14 run around Act 47 and the revised recovery
15 plan. We have essentially negotiated away
16 the ability for the city to make future
17 decisions about cost savings if need be. I
18 believe it's our job as public servants to
19 be aware that the important decisions that
20 we make today will have an effect on the
21 future of our city. It's easy to think
22 about the effect of the decision we may have
23 on the city tomorrow, next week, or even
24 next year. It's important that we think
25 about the effect that the decision we make

1 will have in the next five or ten years or
2 even longer. The effect it will have on
3 future administrations and future councils
4 and the effect that it will have on the
5 taxpayers of Scranton. It's my firm belief
6 that extending contracts until 2021,
7 contradicting our own recovery plan in many
8 instances, and giving out raises and other
9 perks is not the way to do business as a
10 financially distressed city. Thank you.

11 MR. EVANS: On the question, my
12 comments will be short, I will say that I am
13 impressed by union negotiated terms of this
14 MOU, particularly as a relates to disability
15 pension language, reemployment examinations,
16 annual physicals and drug screening and all
17 the wellness program, drug and alcohol
18 testing, light duty and rank elimination.
19 The union leadership and the city bargaining
20 unit should be congratulated on all of those
21 items.

22 With that said, while there has been
23 some movement on the legacy items that I
24 posed in the FOP contract, there has not
25 been enough change in retiree health care,

1 additional vacation time and sick days along
2 with the extended term of this contract to
3 move the doubt for me from a no to a yes.
4 As I have previously stated, it was less of
5 a concern with tweaking certain sections
6 than my stated goal of removing certain
7 sections altogether. It is still my opinion
8 that we are trading short-term gain for bad
9 long-term fiscal policy, a pattern the city
10 seems to have repeated many times before.

11 While I may not go as far to suggest
12 it feels like groundhog day as one of my
13 previous councilman has previously stated
14 there is certainly a feeling of déjà vu.
15 That's all I have for now.

16 MR. WECHSLER: On the question, I
17 will be voting for introduction for the MOU
18 and the reason being is for some of the
19 reasons that Councilman Evans just
20 mentioned. There has been some revisions to
21 pension contributions, disability,
22 flexibility and staffing. Those are several
23 of the key points that were in the very
24 original recovery plan that was voted on by
25 the citizens of Scranton by an overwhelming

1 majority that, unfortunately, the Supreme
2 Court did not allow us to follow. In that
3 case those benefits originally cost us \$40
4 million and right now they are still costing
5 us \$22 million that we have not paid yet.
6 We are getting these improvements that we
7 have been seeking for many years and now
8 they are agreed upon by both the
9 administration and the union.

10 The union took a very active role in
11 improving what they saw as problems within
12 their own department, people abusing sick
13 time, people abusing disability and other
14 matters like that. I'm also very excited
15 that if it works out this way that the
16 retirees will allow for the hiring of new
17 firefighters. These new firefighters will
18 come in at half the existing grade and for
19 several years before they make their new
20 grade.

21 It is also very important for me
22 that we maintain the staffing level that
23 keeps the neighborhood firehouses opens. As
24 everyone knows, I'm from East Mountain where
25 Engine 10 is an integral part of our

1 community. A few years ago an incident in
2 our neighborhood where two lives were nearly
3 lost was caused by a firehouse being closed.
4 I don't think anyone that I have ever spoken
5 to has asked for firehouses to be closed and
6 there is no way really for us to maintain
7 those firehouses without increasing our
8 minimum -- the amount of firefighters that
9 we have on hand. If we are able to get the
10 SAFER grant those actual new hires will be
11 for the first two years very little cost to
12 the city. And I think it's very important
13 that in the city our size and the age of our
14 buildings that we have a reliable
15 professional firefighting force. Thank you.

16 MR. MCGOFF: I would just like to
17 address a couple of things. First of all,
18 as far as the revised recovery plan is
19 concerned I think the key word there is
20 revised. We are looking at the mandates
21 that were contained in the draft proposal of
22 the revised recovery plan are things that
23 can be revised, that's the whole idea, and
24 they have been in the past. What these,
25 mandates are supposed to do is provide

1 guidelines for recovery. If the contract
2 that we have been -- which we have been
3 presented, how about that for proper
4 English, if they have accomplished the same
5 goals as the mandates in the proposal then
6 there is no reason why revision can't be
7 done, and it is my belief that what we are
8 doing with these contracts, yes, are we
9 extending them beyond what the revised
10 recovery plan would be, yes, but I believe
11 that what we are doing is that we can help
12 achieve recovery through these contracts
13 along with enhancing public safety.

14 I think these contacts achieve both
15 of those goals and those are goals that I
16 think are important to the city.

17 MR. ROGAN: I made the majority of
18 my comments on this under motions, but just
19 a few brief points. Many, and Mr. McGoff is
20 right, the newspaper really pushed this idea
21 that this is only a short-term savings.
22 While the savings are \$6.5 million in this
23 deal are great, the larger savings is by
24 avoiding arbitration, and I don't think
25 there is anyone out there that could say the

1 union would have received -- the city would
2 have received a better deal by going to
3 arbitration than going through this process,
4 that's simply not true. Because of that
5 process, as Councilman Wechsler mentioned,
6 we still have a \$22 million bill owed to the
7 city's police and firefighters and that's
8 growing by over \$100,000 in interest every
9 month, and that was because of the failure
10 of previous administrations to negotiate a
11 good faith, and not to put all of the blame
12 on the former mayor but he was lead down
13 that path by the Pennsylvania Economy:
14 League and by DCED.

15 That is -- arbitration is my biggest
16 concern. The city has time and time again
17 lost and lost bad at arbitration. By
18 extending this contract out that is avoided.
19 I know Councilman Gaughan mentioned that in
20 2017 that this can't be renegotiated, it
21 certainly can, but it would take exactly
22 what's going on right now. Right now there
23 is a contract in place for another three
24 years. This didn't have to take place. It
25 was a pledge by the administration to reopen

1 contracts and try to receive cost saving
2 measures for the city. Neither side was
3 under any obligation to negotiate a contract
4 at this point. We couldn't have waited
5 until the contract's sunset, but this
6 administration chose a different path than
7 the previous one. Now, which path do you
8 prefer to chose is certainly up to you, but
9 I believe the path of negotiating good faith
10 will obviously achieve better results than
11 heading to arbitration, and that's all.

12 MR. EVANS: One brief comment, I
13 think we are seeing some changes on the
14 arbitration front across the state so I'm
15 not so sure the arbitration boogiemans is
16 something we should be afraid of all of the
17 time.

18 Secondly, my biggest concern as I
19 said before are the long-term effects. We
20 are adding to our legacy costs. Retiree
21 health care is not free. There will be 60
22 firemen in this part of this contract and
23 there will be 99 policemen that will be part
24 of that that will eligible for retiree
25 health care benefits. It's not going to go

1 away. The can is being kicked down the road
2 again and it will start in 2020 and it will
3 not end until all 150 or more are off the
4 books, and then it starts again because new
5 hires will also have retiree health care.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: And I would just
7 comment that with the arbitration process I
8 understand the point, but at some point --
9 at some, you know, point you have to say to
10 yourself how much can the city afford, how
11 much can we pay? You know, Mr. Rogan went
12 through the raises before that were given
13 because of the arbitration awards and we are
14 giving raises again now. You know, the \$22
15 million is still the big elephant in the
16 room. How do we afford that? Who is going
17 to pay that bill? I don't know. It's just,
18 you know, I agree with Mr. Evans in the fact
19 that there has been a shift in the
20 arbitration awards that I think people are
21 starting to take into account what cities
22 and their taxpayers can afford, so that's
23 all I have. Thank you.

24 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else?

25 MR. ROGAN: Just one brief comment,

1 I hate to belabor this point and disagree
2 with my friend Councilman Evans, but in the
3 current police contract through the years
4 this contract has been approved there are
5 seven police officers eligible for health
6 care. Under the current fire contract,
7 there is one. Now, when this contract
8 expires it will then be up to the mayor, the
9 council at that time to negotiate that part
10 out, and some may say, well, that's never
11 happen, but it already did happen once, and
12 I believe Mr. Councilman Wechsler brought
13 this up last month.

14 MR. WECHSLER: It has.

15 MR. EVANS: In a Court case it
16 happened once and the judge ruled in our
17 favor, ironically enough, and now we are
18 putting him back in. So I agree with what
19 you said, it's all true, but the reality is
20 that once that is in the contracts it will
21 never be taken out again because the next
22 time a contract is up 99 people that are
23 going to be voting for that contract are the
24 ones that will be eligible for retiree
25 health care benefits in the FOP. Half of

1 their --half of the fire department will be
2 eligible. That means half the people
3 potentially voting on the next contract will
4 be voting to take out retiree health care
5 benefits. I don't see that happening, so
6 call it human nature, call it a hunch, but I
7 just think that once we put it in there it's
8 in there forever.

9 MR. GAUGHAN: And just to further
10 clarify, I mean, it does say in regards to
11 health care in the current recovery plan
12 that we are under and in the revised one,
13 the draft that the 2015 revised recovery
14 plan shall not provide any retiree health
15 care benefits to any current or future city
16 employee that retires from city employment
17 from the period 2015 to 2018 and
18 indefinitely thereafter unless modified in
19 the subsequent revised recovery plan. It
20 says the same thing in the 2012 recovery
21 plan. So, essentially, we are violating our
22 own recovery plan.

23 MR. MCGOFF: No.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

25 MR. MCGOFF: No. Under the recovery

1 plan we are allowed to -- the city can
2 negotiate contracts, and those contracts can
3 supercede what's in the recovery plan.

4 MR. GAUGHAN: Right, but from the
5 city's perspective why wouldn't I just --
6 maybe I'm missing something, why would you
7 do that to yourself if it's, you know, like
8 Mr. Evans said the Court case came down, it
9 was taken out, and then, you know, it says
10 it in both recovery plans and we are putting
11 it back in. I mean, that's just I guess a
12 point of confusion on my part.

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

16 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

17 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

18 MS. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed?

19 MR. EVANS: No.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: No.

21 MR. MCGOFF: The ayes have it and so
22 moved.

23 MS. REED: 5-G. FOR INTRODUCTION - A
24 RESOLUTION - REPEALING RESOLUTION NO. 29,
25 2014 (AS AMENDED) APPOINTMENT OF TIMOTHY

1 PERRY, 2325 BIRNEY AVENUE, SCRANTON,
2 PENNSYLVANIA, 18505 AS A MEMBER OF THE BOARD
3 OF THE SCRANTON REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY.
4 MR. PERRY WILL BE REPLACING PETER RIEBE
5 WHOSE TERM EXPIRED ON FEBRUARY 4, 2010. MR.
6 PERRY'S TERM WILL EXPIRE ON FEBRUARY 4,
7 2015. THERE WAS A DISCREPANCY AS TO THE
8 LIMIT OF MR. RIEBE'S TERM AND LITIGATION WAS
9 FILED.

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

13 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

14 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

15 MR. MCGOFF: On the question?

16 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question,
17 I would just like to thank Mr. Riebe for his
18 service to that board.

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

21 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

22 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

23 MR. EVANS: Aye.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

25 MS. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The

1 ayes have it and so moved.

2 MS. REED: 5-H. FOR INTRODUCTION - A
3 RESOLUTION - APPOINTMENT OF TIMOTHY PERRY,
4 2325 BIRNEY AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA,
5 18505 AS A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF THE
6 SCRANTON REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY. MR. PERRY
7 WILL BE REPLACING PETER RIEBE WHOSE TERM
8 EXPIRED ON FEBRUARY 4, 2015. MR. PERRY'S
9 TERM WILL EXPIRE ON FEBRUARY 4, 2020.

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

13 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

14 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

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

18 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

19 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

20 MR. EVANS: Aye.

21 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

24 MS. REED: SIXTH ORDER. 6-A.
25 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.

1 80, 2015 - AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF
2 THE COUNCIL NO. 58, 2014, AN ORDINANCE
3 ENTITLED "GENERAL CITY OPERATING BUDGET
4 2015" BY CREATING A NEW EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
5 NO. 01.401.15333.4299 ENTITLED
6 NON-DEPARTMENTAL EXPENDITURES OPR TSF TO
7 DEBT SVC LANDMARK RESERVE ACCOUNT AND
8 TRANSFERRING FUNDS FROM ACCOUNT NO.
9 01.401.15319.4299 NON-DEPARTMENTAL
10 EXPENDITURES OPER TSF TO DEBT SVC SCRANTON
11 PARKING AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE FOR MONTHLY
12 DEBT SERVICE PAYMENTS TO LANDMARK BANK.

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

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

17 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

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

20 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

21 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

22 MR. EVANS: Aye.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

1 MS. REED: 6-B. READING BY TITLE -
2 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 81, 2015 - AN
3 ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
4 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND
5 ENTER INTO A LEASE AGREEMENT WITH NORTHEAST
6 INSPECTION CONSULTANTS ("NEIC") FOR THE
7 FORMER SUPPLY ROOM IN THE LICENSING,
8 INSPECTIONS AND PERMITS DEPARTMENT (LIPS),
9 FOURTH FLOOR, CITY HALL TO BE USED FOR
10 THIRD-PARTY INSPECTIONS.

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

13 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-B
14 pass reading by title.

15 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

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

18 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

19 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

20 MR. EVANS: Aye.

21 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

22 MR. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The
23 ayes have it and so moved.

24 MS. REED: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR
25 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY

1 DEVELOPMENT - FOR ADOPTION RESOLUTION NO.
2 119, 2015 - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
3 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND
4 ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH NORTHEAST
5 INSPECTION CONSULTANTS (NEIC) TO PROVIDE
6 THIRD PARTY UCC ENFORCEMENT FOR THE CITY OF
7 SCRANTON FOR A PERIOD OF THREE (3) YEARS
8 FROM FEBRUARY 6, 2015 THROUGH FEBRUARY 6,
9 2018.

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

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

16 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

17 MR. MCGOFF: On the question?

18 MR. EVANS: On the question, my
19 understanding is NEIC is already in place
20 and is under contract right now and from
21 what I understand by all accounts they do a
22 very, very good job for the city so I'll be
23 voting yes on this.

24 MR. MCGOFF: Roll call, please.

25 Roll call, please?

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

2 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

4 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

6 MR. EVANS: Yes.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

8 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

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

12 MS. REED: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION BY
13 THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS - FOR ADOPTION
14 RESOLUTION NO. 120, 2015 - AUTHORIZING THE
15 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS
16 TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A RIGHT-OF-WAY
17 AGREEMENT WITH PPL ELECTRIC UTILITIES
18 CORPORATION ("PPL") IN ORDER TO ROUTE POWER
19 TO THE COLTS INTERMODAL TRANSPORTATION
20 CENTER ALONG LACKAWANNA AVENUE AND CLIFF
21 STREET IN THE CITY OF SCRANTON.

22 MR. MCGOFF: What is the
23 recommendation of the Chair for the
24 Committee on Public Works?

25 MR. GAUGHAN: As Chairperson for the

1 Committee on Public Works, I recommend final
2 passage of Item 7-B.

3 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

7 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

9 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

11 MR. EVANS: Yes.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

13 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

14 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

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

17 MS. REED: 7-C - PREVIOUSLY TABLED -
18 FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON
19 FINANCE - FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF THE COUNCIL
20 NUMBER 73, 2015 - AMENDING FILE OF THE
21 COUNCIL NUMBER 119-76 ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE
22 (AS AMENDED) LEVYING GENERAL LEVYING GENERAL
23 AND SPECIAL TAXES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 1977
24 BY SETTING THE MILLAGE FOR THE YEAR 2015 AND
25 THE SAME SHALL REMAIN IN FULL FORCE AND

1 EFFECT ANNUALLY THEREAFTER."

2 MR. MCGOFF: What is the
3 recommendation of the Chair for the
4 Committee on Finance?

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

8 MR. ROGAN: Second.

9 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? Roll
10 call, please?

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

12 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

14 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

16 MR. EVANS: Yes.

17 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

18 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

19 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

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

22 If there is no further business,
23 motion to adjourn.

24 MR. ROGAN: Motion to adjourn.

25 MR. MCGOFF: Meeting adjourned.

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

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER