

SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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HELD:

Thursday, May 21, 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

JAMIE MARCIANO, 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. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler.

5 MR. WECHSLER: Here.

6 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

7 MR. ROGAN: Here.

8 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Evans.

9 MR. EVANS: Here.

10 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Here.

12 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

13 MR. MCGOFF: Here.

14 MR. ROGAN: I make a motion to take  
15 File of Council No. 97, 2015, from the table  
16 and place it in Seventh Order for final  
17 passage.

18 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

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

21 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

22 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

23 MR. EVANS: Aye.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

25 MR. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The

1           eyes have it and so moved.

2                   MS. REED:  THIRD ORDER.  3-A.  
3           CONTROLLERS REPORT FOR THE MONTH ENDING  
4           APRIL 30, 2015.

5                   MR. MCGOFF:  Are there any comments?  
6           If not, received and filed.

7                   MS. REED:  3-B. LACKAWANNA COUNTY  
8           PLANNING COMMISSION SUBDIVISION AND LAND  
9           DEVELOPMENT EVALUATION REPORTS REVIEWED  
10          APRIL 28, MAY 5 AND MAY 7 2015.

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

13                  Any announcements from council?

14                  MR. WECHSLER:  Yes, Mr. McGoff, I  
15          have one.  In conjunction with Scranton's  
16          150th anniversary yearlong celebration this  
17          Sunday, May 24, at 1:00 p.m. there is a  
18          wreath laying ceremony in honor of the coal  
19          miner's labor strike of 1877.  The ceremony  
20          will take place at the historical marker  
21          located on the corner of the 400 block of  
22          Lackawanna and Washington Avenues.  And part  
23          of this celebration council has prepared the  
24          following proclamation:

25                  WHEREAS, on August 1, 1877, a riot

1 occurred at the site, in which our citizens  
2 fired upon the striking workers; and

3 WHEREAS, in numerous United States  
4 cities, violence caused by labor unrest was  
5 a result of the US depression of 1873 and  
6 the nationwide railroad strike of 1877 which  
7 also included ironworkers and coal miners  
8 and laborers; and

9 WHEREAS, four local men were killed,  
10 Patrick Langan, Charles Dunleavy, Patrick  
11 Lane, and Steven Phillips. Scranton's  
12 Mayor, Robert H. McKune's jaw was broken and  
13 many more were injured. The riot lasted a  
14 mere three minutes from the time the first  
15 shot rang out but the blood of the  
16 workingman will forever stain Lackawanna  
17 Avenue reminding us of the tumultuous labor  
18 upheaval of 1877; and

19 WHEREAS, the period between April  
20 23, 2015 and April 23, 2016, Scranton's  
21 150th Anniversary will be celebrated and  
22 historical projects and programs will be  
23 presented to the community bringing about  
24 awareness and preservation of the City's  
25 history; and

1                   WHEREAS, May 24, 2015 marks the  
2                   remembrance of the workingman who helped  
3                   build this city with their blood, sweat and  
4                   tears.

5                   NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that  
6                   members of the Scranton City Council do  
7                   hereby declare May 24, 2015 as a day  
8                   dedicated to the Coal Miners' and Laborers'  
9                   Strike and the men who lost their lives  
10                  during the riot of 1877.

11                  MR. ROGAN: I have one as well, next  
12                  Thursday, May 28, at 5:30 there will be a  
13                  public caucus in council chambers to discuss  
14                  the vacant and foreclosed property  
15                  registration. That's 5:30 next Thursday.

16                  MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else? I did  
17                  announce last week that today is Red Nose  
18                  Day and I thought it appropriate that --

19                  MS. EVANS: There is always one.

20                  MR. MCGOFF: But you have all  
21                  probably seen the advertisements for Red  
22                  Nose Day, but this week has been a little  
23                  bit tumultuous for me with elections and  
24                  all, and also, things caught up with me at  
25                  my own house and I was out mowing the lawn

1 the other day and basically not paying  
2 attention to what I was doing and the  
3 neighbor's dog happened to run across the  
4 yard right in front of the lawnmower and I  
5 cut off its tail, and in panic I just picked  
6 up the dog and I didn't know what to do, I  
7 picked up the dog tail and I took it to  
8 Wal-Mart right away.

9 MR. WECHSLER: Why do you do that,  
10 Bob?

11 MR. MCGOFF: Because after all  
12 Wal-Mart is the worlds large retailer. I  
13 cannot take credit for that joke, that was  
14 told at a meeting by Jean Suetta a number of  
15 years ago, Jean has now passed away and  
16 thank you, Jean, for that. There are a  
17 number of announcements that I can't see  
18 with it and I can't talk with it either, but  
19 this Monday, May 25, is Memorial Day and  
20 city hall will be closed in observance of  
21 the holiday. For note, DPW will not be  
22 working that day and, therefore, next week  
23 all refuse and recyclable collections will  
24 be delayed by one day. At a meeting with  
25 the mayor this week it was through council's

1 request for a caucus with the mayor and  
2 Mr. Amoroso regarding recovery plans. We  
3 are -- excuse me, we are in the process of  
4 finalizing the date, a date and time to do  
5 that, and we will announce that as soon as  
6 we do have that finalized.

7 There had been requests, early in  
8 the year we received a grant from the state.  
9 Part of the grant was to update the computer  
10 systems. That update is now being completed  
11 and it was this week that the new financial  
12 and information or reporting system has been  
13 completed in the BA's Office. Mr. Rogan did  
14 mention next week's public hearing, and I  
15 did have another announcement, but I know  
16 there are people here from the public  
17 library that will be speaking to that so  
18 they are much more informed than I and I  
19 will let them do that. And this nose is  
20 being taken off.

21 MS. EVANS: Thank God. You were  
22 starting to sound like Rudolph.

23 MR. MCGOFF: I had other jokes, but  
24 my family told me that if I even attempted  
25 to tell some of them that they would never



1 vote for me again so I refrain. I'm sorry?

2 MS. REED: The notice for the public  
3 hearing.

4 MR. MCGOFF: Oh, is that on my list?  
5 I'm sorry. Next Thursday there will be a  
6 public hearing at 6:00 p.m. for the transfer  
7 of a liquor license for use at Bar Pazzo,  
8 131-133 North Washington Avenue. That is  
9 Item 5-B on tonight's agenda. That's  
10 required by the Pennsylvania Liquor Control  
11 Board, and one other thing and I did forget,  
12 it's here in front of me, the legislation  
13 that has been taken off the table a motion  
14 by Councilman Rogan was tabled for a 30-day  
15 public comment period as required by HUD,  
16 that will now be back on the agenda so that  
17 if anyone wishes to speak to that they may  
18 do so during Fourth Order, and that's all.

19 MS. REED: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'  
20 PARTICIPATION.

21 MR. MCGOFF: Justine Yeager.

22 MS. YEAGER: Hi, everyone. So my  
23 name is Christine Yeager, I am the community  
24 outreach and coordinator for the Scranton  
25 Public Library. I am here to tell you about

1           our annual fundraiser, Swingin' on Vine.  
2           It's in its sixth year. We are having this  
3           from 5 to 8 p.m. tomorrow, May 22. It's a  
4           big block party fundraiser. Tickets are \$15  
5           in advance and \$20 at the door. They get  
6           you unlimited food and drinks. This year  
7           the event is sponsored by the Law Office of  
8           Thomas F. Maar, III, and it's going to be a  
9           really great year. We have food from local  
10          restaurants including Subway, Dominoes,  
11          Stirna's, City Cafe, and a special menu from  
12          the Lackawanna College Culinary Arts degree  
13          program, and we have a bunch of raffles,  
14          everything -- gift certificates from Split  
15          Rock resort, Montage Mountain, Daisy  
16          Collectives, Steamtown Hot Yoga, and this is  
17          just a handful. For a full listing of food  
18          and raffle donations as well as sponsors  
19          please visit [LCLShome.org/swingin'onthevine](http://LCLShome.org/swingin'onthevine).

20                       We will also have live music by Paul  
21                       Labelle and the Exact Change and all of the  
22                       proceeds benefit the Scranton Public Library  
23                       and it's branches as well as the children's  
24                       library so that we can continue to keep  
25                       services and materials free for everyone in

1 the county.

2 Tickets can be purchased online at  
3 LCLShome.org/swinginonvine. You can go to  
4 the Albright Memorial Library, Nancy Kay  
5 Holmes branch in Greenridge, and the Library  
6 Express at the Steamtown Mall so get your  
7 summer going right, come party with us  
8 tomorrow night and also I have tickets if  
9 anybody is interested, so it is 21 and  
10 older, so come see us. Have a great time  
11 and thank you for your time.

12 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Justine.  
13 That is a great event and it's for a great  
14 cause and I would encourage anyone who has  
15 the opportunity to please attend tomorrow  
16 evening.

17 Mr. Hetman.

18 MR. HETMAN: Good evening, Council.  
19 Gerard Hetman from Lackawanna County's  
20 Community Relations Department, good to see  
21 you as always. To begin this evening, on  
22 May 8 the Lackawanna County Commissioners  
23 announce their plans to engage county  
24 residents to work out what we refer to as a  
25 big idea as they pertain to improving life

1 in Lackawanna County and three areas of  
2 focus. First being to make the county a  
3 destination plan in terms of regional and  
4 national travel in terms of regional and  
5 national travel in terms of developing  
6 attractions that will bring visitors here  
7 for overnight stays, extended stays and to  
8 make it a travel destination for vacations,  
9 business travel, that type of activity.

10 The second would be an idea that was  
11 actually brought first to our attention  
12 recently at council, possibly organizing a  
13 county fair, and third would be  
14 investigating the feasibility of creating  
15 what's offered referred to as a stem or  
16 steam school, that being an institution that  
17 focuses on the education of primary or  
18 secondary school students regarding science,  
19 technology, engineering, arts, and math. Of  
20 course, that's an idea that will take many  
21 different forms and it's one that along with  
22 the other two have come across the  
23 commissioner's desks and also those in the  
24 departments and county tasked with economic  
25 and community development and commissioners

1 view this as a way to explore those ideas  
2 from the community and to hear about ways  
3 that they may be applicable from residents  
4 with expertise in those areas.

5 Any interested residents can visit  
6 the county website at LackawannaCounty.org  
7 and download an application to serve on one  
8 or more of the big idea committees. Those  
9 committees will be tasked with exploring and  
10 evaluating these concepts. There is no  
11 application deadlines. The application can  
12 be downloaded on our website, as well as I  
13 have paper copies here, and they can be  
14 e-mailed or sent my snail mail or dropped  
15 off at the Commissioners' Office. There is  
16 no deadline to apply. We are looking at  
17 probably about two weeks from now until we  
18 round up the applications that we have and  
19 start to get organized, so we would ask any  
20 interested residents to, you know, apply  
21 ASAP.

22 The second item also relates to the  
23 big idea concept, that would be in  
24 conjunction with the May 31 summer smash  
25 event affiliated with Montage Mountain

1 organized by 98.5 KRZ and featuring the  
2 music of R-5. The commissioners are asking  
3 children in the county send in their own big  
4 idea ideas to improve life in our community.  
5 Youngsters can submit their big idea through  
6 e-mail or video. If they wish to make a  
7 short vine or snippet and describe their  
8 idea by sending it to: Contact at  
9 LackawannaCounty.org by e-mail, and then we  
10 will enter them for a chance to win one of  
11 three four pass of tickets to the R-5  
12 concert. Five big idea suggestions will be  
13 posted on the county website for the  
14 community to vote on and the top three ideas  
15 in that online voting will win tickets to  
16 the concert. Voting will run from Tuesday,  
17 May 26, through Friday, May 29, at noon.  
18 The winner will then be notified and be able  
19 to pick up their tickets at the will call  
20 window at the Pavilion on Montage Mountain  
21 the day of the show. We ask any entrants to  
22 make they include their contact information  
23 when they e-mail any ideas. So, again, any  
24 good idea that a young person may have we  
25 are asking for age 18 and younger to improve

1           life in Lackawanna County is more than  
2           welcome and we'll see what goods ideas we  
3           get.

4                       The other note we do have is our  
5           third annual Lackawanna County job fair will  
6           take place on Thursday, June 18, this year  
7           from 1 to 5 p.m. at PNC Field in Moosic and  
8           the job fair drill this year is very similar  
9           to what we had in the last two years. The  
10          event is free and open to the public.  
11          Candidates of all ages and experience levels  
12          and industry backgrounds are encouraged to  
13          attend and apply. We ask approximately  
14          between 60 and 70 private sector employers  
15          to attend this, it's limited on space, but  
16          we bring in a variety of companies from  
17          across our region and a variety of different  
18          industries and they bring full-time  
19          positions, but also part-time, so anyone who  
20          is looking for supplemental work, possibly a  
21          student or senior citizen retired, also  
22          welcomed. Internships are presented there  
23          by the attending companies and also seasonal  
24          work so we see a variety of different job  
25          opportunities present their for the public.

1                   We ask anyone to come to be prepared  
2                   to interview, to bring resumes, work  
3                   samples, of course, dress appropriately for  
4                   interviews and professional conduct and, of  
5                   course, there is free parking, also. We  
6                   don't have refreshments this year, but  
7                   again, it's open from 1 to 5 p.m. at the PNC  
8                   field in Moosic so we ask anyone to attend  
9                   that would like to attend, and then also  
10                  just a housekeeping note, the county offices  
11                  will be closed on Memorial Day, also. We  
12                  ask everyone, of course, to pay tribute to  
13                  our veterans and those that gave our lives  
14                  to service of our nation. Thank you and  
15                  that's all we have. Thank you.

16                  MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr. Hetman.  
17                  Ron Ellman.

18                  MR. ELLMAN: Hello, Council. Before  
19                  I go on with my weekly attack on council  
20                  allow me, if you would, to read it tonight  
21                  so I don't leave anything out. I know I  
22                  starting off on the wrong foot right off the  
23                  bat, but enough it enough. When is  
24                  something going to be done to help the  
25                  people of this city? You know, like I have



1           said, you people have a buffer. There is  
2           people out here there have been like 5,000  
3           foreclosures here in the last ten years.  
4           Neighborhoods are in decline. The paper  
5           today talks about an influx of the people  
6           coming in, they are not -- they are not the  
7           kind of people that are coming downtown.  
8           They are not people that are going to be  
9           able to vote, they are just not, and this  
10          town is becoming like Hazelton. At least  
11          they had enough sense to try a new mayor.

12                    Amoroso and his plan are just a  
13          complete failure just like it was -- he was  
14          to Newark. You can get on your computers  
15          and see what happened in Newark. He blew  
16          out of there saying I'm sorry, I guess, but  
17          that didn't help matters. You cannot  
18          consider selling everything that's left here  
19          like he wants. I think you ought to give a  
20          lot of credit to Jack Loscombe and  
21          Mrs. Evans for the demise of the SPA. What  
22          were we supposed to do, allow this illegal  
23          building to keep going and good God that  
24          place was a financial rape of the taxpayers  
25          year after year and it had to be shut down

1           somehow, and to blame that for the city's  
2           problems is ridiculous. The city was going  
3           downhill with or without that. That would  
4           have just -- that was just a kick in the  
5           bucket, you know?

6                         If you realize how many quarters  
7           that the SPA brings in here? It's well over  
8           a million and a couple of hundred thousand  
9           dollars a year. That's income. You want to  
10          sell that for a few million dollars? And  
11          for crying out loud, we have talked over and  
12          over and over and again you sell that Sewer  
13          Authority, the rates will skyrocket. People  
14          won't be able to flush a toilet anymore.  
15          You talk to a businessman when they buy  
16          something they are not going to keep the  
17          same rates we got now. They will skyrocket.  
18          Mr. Amoroso was hired I guess to assist our  
19          mayor, but it seems like he has replaced  
20          him. The mayor just doesn't seem to have  
21          any say so anymore. What were Amoroso's  
22          duties? The designated duties were to  
23          handle the pension plan, which he evidently  
24          never opened up a book on, because he didn't  
25          know nothing in the world what was going on

1 with the pension plan, and he is supposed to  
2 address the nonprofits. They have bought --  
3 they owned him lock, stock and barrel. How  
4 could he fight? How could he say anything  
5 to people that are paying him? This is a  
6 direct conflict of interest. I don't care,  
7 there is no way you people can justify  
8 what's going on in this city any longer. He  
9 needs to be sent hiking or that money needs  
10 to be returned.

11 This isn't a personal thing with me  
12 and Amoroso, it's just business as far as  
13 I'm concerned. He is just absolutely just  
14 no -- has no credibility to the people out  
15 there that put you in those seats. You  
16 know, I might be an advocate for the lower  
17 income of the city, but I'm probably one of  
18 them. It's just getting where I can't  
19 afford some luxuries. I have been thinking,  
20 well, I was thinking about buying a later  
21 model car, I don't really need one, but I'd  
22 like to get one rather than spend 600 or 700  
23 dollars for my repairs because of the  
24 potholes, but I'm not going to. And I've  
25 talked to other people that have plans that

1           they just can't fulfill because of the  
2           expenses of home ownership now. I thank you  
3           for allowing me up here. How is the dough  
4           boy?

5                       MR. WECHSLER: The dough boy is  
6           good.

7                       MR. ELLMAN: Still there?

8                       MR. WECHSLER: Yeah.

9                       MR. ELLMAN: That's amazing. Thank  
10          you.

11                      MR. MCGOFF: Joan Hodowanitz. We  
12          have the right list now?

13                      MS. HODOWANITZ: I'm sorry?

14                      MR. MCGOFF: I said we have the  
15          right list now?

16                      MS. HODOWANITZ: Yeah, I'm on the  
17          right list now. Joan Hodowanitz, Scranton  
18          resident. I think Justine has left already,  
19          but I too want to voice my support for the  
20          library swingin' on vine event tomorrow  
21          night. I can't think of a better  
22          organization in this city to support with my  
23          money. The \$15 you are going to get great  
24          food, great drinks, I remember last year  
25          they had to put the desserts inside the

1 library on the first floor because there  
2 wasn't enough room under the tents with the  
3 other food and the drinks, the entire first  
4 floor of the library was nothing but  
5 desserts, virtually all of which involved  
6 chocolate in one form or another. You know,  
7 you could not have just one bite from every  
8 dish that was offered and every dessert, you  
9 would have exploded. If you lived downtown  
10 there is no excuse for not attending because  
11 you don't have to worry about drinking and  
12 driving, if you don't live downtown get  
13 yourself a designated driver, but this is  
14 one of those events where you get bang for  
15 your buck and you serve a worthy cause.

16 Remember, the library does not  
17 charge for its services to the public, with  
18 one exception, if you make a copy on their  
19 Xerox, that's the only time you have to  
20 pay a fee. Everything else is free.

21 That having been said, with regard  
22 to Mr. Amoroso providing an update, if  
23 possible, I would love to see that scheduled  
24 before your August recess if at all  
25 possible.

1 MR. MCGOFF: My understanding is  
2 that they are trying to schedule it as soon  
3 as possible.

4 MS. HODOWANITZ: Good. Good. And  
5 that's -- I am very interested in what's  
6 been said there, but I would really love if  
7 one of these days Mayor Courtright would  
8 schedule a town hall meeting. I would love  
9 to hear his view of things, not just his  
10 state of the city address, but I would like  
11 to see him address the public and take  
12 questions from the public. I think that  
13 would be very useful. I don't know if that  
14 will happen, but I would love to see it. I  
15 would also love to see the city start  
16 posting more documents on its website,  
17 especially documents that have relevance to  
18 the financial status of the city, various  
19 accounting documents, the controller's  
20 report, for example. That could be scanned  
21 and put on the website. A lot of the  
22 background documentation for your weekly  
23 meetings could be put on the website. I  
24 think the city in its current state needs to  
25 establish a sense of transparency in its

1 operations and dealings and one way to do  
2 that is to put as much information as  
3 possible on the city's website, and I know  
4 that IT will put on whatever Mr. Bulzoni  
5 directs them to put on so hopefully Mayor  
6 Courtright and Mr. Bulzoni will consider  
7 increasing the amount of information  
8 available to the public.

9 And I have been watching, and not  
10 yet seen, legislation regarding a contract  
11 for a municipal audit firm. I hope that's  
12 coming soon. You've got to remember that  
13 until that legislation is passed and we  
14 actually hire a firm I don't know what work  
15 is being done upstairs to prepare for the  
16 2014 independent audit.

17 MR. MCGOFF: It is -- I'm sorry, it  
18 is my understanding that that legislation  
19 will be on next week.

20 MS. HODOWANITZ: Good, because I  
21 don't want to be kicking the podium again  
22 every week for a year saying, "What is the  
23 status of the 2014 audit?"

24 I would love to be shocked and see  
25 it come in before Thanksgiving, but I am not

1 holding my breath. And that's all I have  
2 tonight. Thank you.

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

6 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening, Council.  
7 Dave Dobrzyn, resident and taxes paid. Once  
8 again the Transpacific Pact in Washington.  
9 Please call and tell them to can it. The  
10 numbers are for Congress 1 -- 202-224-3121,  
11 and the White House is 1-202-456-1111. If  
12 you are tired of lack of the jobs and lack  
13 of participation in the work force call. If  
14 you tired of the high property estate taxes  
15 call. If you are tired of threats to your  
16 retirement both in private and public call.  
17 And another little tidbit, if you are sick  
18 and tired of environmental threats that are  
19 shoved on you by the World Trade  
20 Organization call. They had a marathon,  
21 half-marathon in Beijing about three or four  
22 months ago, you know how they ran it? With  
23 gas masks, Mr. McGoff, and then the people  
24 had to shower after they ran the marathon  
25 because the pollution is so heavily -- is so



1 heavy that it could be absorbed through  
2 their skin. Well, these are the kinds of  
3 threats that threaten the working class, so  
4 if you are tired of those young kids hanging  
5 out in the parking lot across the street  
6 from your house making noise all night then  
7 they'd be a lot tireder if they had a decent  
8 job to go to and some money in their  
9 pockets.

10 Now, to local issues. In the paper  
11 today there was a lawsuit lodged and two  
12 weeks ago there was a lawsuit awarded  
13 against the city on -- based on the actions  
14 of ordinances, and I have a question for  
15 Mr. Evans, can the city -- did I see in -- I  
16 only saw it once, can the city go in and  
17 correct the problem --

18 MR. EVANS: I doubt it.

19 MR. DOBRZYN: -- on the property.

20 MR. EVANS: Not if it's on private  
21 property.

22 MR. DOBRZYN: No? I thought I saw  
23 something where they could go in and clean  
24 it up and bill the owner of the property.

25 MR. EVANS: There is not a mechanism

1 in place right now that I'm aware of, but we  
2 can check into that for you.

3 MR. DOBRZYN: Because it would seem  
4 to me that the issue that Mrs. Schumacher  
5 brought up last week that that would be a  
6 more logical -- especially if a person's  
7 house gets torn down, and I'll tell you the  
8 city has a horrible, horrible way to  
9 communicate with people. I literally went  
10 four times down to pay my trash bill. It  
11 took me until about 2006. I bought the  
12 house in 2002 and I kept going back to the  
13 same employee, and the one time my address  
14 on the crumpled envelope because the  
15 computers were broke or something and all  
16 kinds of things and she said, "Who did  
17 that?"

18 I said, "You did."

19 You know, so that finally got  
20 straightened out, but all of that time it  
21 was being mailed to 1617 Vine Street, which  
22 was a rental that I rented the first year I  
23 was here. So, you know, they just didn't  
24 address it to my house and to whomever it  
25 may concern and send the bill there, so

1 every year I had to go down there and hoopla  
2 around and find out what the address was and  
3 make sure the right bill was being paid.

4 And, once again, on KOZs we need an  
5 exit analysis. How much did it cost us in  
6 dollars and how much did it award us in  
7 dollars because sometimes they just don't  
8 work out.

9 And I heard kind of like of an  
10 informal way ECTV funding did I see  
11 something happen with that, that they are  
12 awarded some kind of money from Comcast.

13 MR. EVANS: Who? Comcast?

14 MR. DOBRZYN: Yeah. Because I  
15 understand that there is some kind of hang  
16 up with money and I wouldn't want to see  
17 ECTV disappear.

18 And on our Amoroso plan, well, I  
19 don't want to beat up on the guy, but it  
20 doesn't hurt to have second opinions and  
21 keeping in mind that they were hired by the  
22 Chamber of Commerce and a few schools and so  
23 forth, so, you know, it would really be  
24 helpful if the commission wasn't to find  
25 that problem and even though we may be

1                   creating something. Thank you and have a  
2                   good night.

3                   MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr. Dobrzyn.  
4                   Anyone else?

5                   MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening,  
6                   Council, Marie Schumacher. For those of you  
7                   who may have traversed the Harrison Avenue  
8                   bridge and noticed the spring flowers that  
9                   are adorning a section of that, I would like  
10                  to tell you that our attendee Tom  
11                  Ungvarsky's wife was responsible for  
12                  knitting and crocheting quite a few of  
13                  those, so I think it looks very nice.

14                  5-C, I thought we used the BOCA  
15                  Code, why are we doing -- why are doing  
16                  something separate for that? You can  
17                  respond in Fifth Order, but I don't  
18                  understand why we are picking one part out  
19                  and --

20                  MR. GAUGHAN: I will explain that  
21                  legislation.

22                  MS. SCHUMACHER: Thank you, and then  
23                  the 5:30 meeting next week, the so-called  
24                  public hearing, I assume that means that we  
25                  get to comment? Is that --

1 MR. MCGOFF: It's a caucus.

2 MR. ROGAN: Public caucus.

3 MS. SCHUMACHER: Public caucus. It  
4 was stated it was a public hearing, I was  
5 going to say I don't know how we are  
6 expected to comment on something we have  
7 never seen but --

8 MR. ROGAN: It's more for  
9 information purposes.

10 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay, thank you.  
11 And then this one has been bugging me, this  
12 is the fourth week and I have not had the  
13 time to or take the time, for the last  
14 several weeks you have been working on an  
15 ordinance with the sign for 420 North  
16 Washington Avenue, the Assessor's website  
17 says that a building, 416 and 420 North  
18 Washington are owned by the Commonwealth of  
19 Pennsylvania. Where are those buildings? I  
20 have gone up and down twice and I can't see  
21 anything that's 420 Washington Avenue, North  
22 Washington Avenue.

23 MR. EVANS: The legislation pertains  
24 to the Scranton Cultural Center.

25 MS. SCHUMACHER: The Scranton

1 Cultural Center is owned by the Commonwealth  
2 of Pennsylvania?

3 MR. EVANS: I'm not aware of that.

4 MS. SCHUMACHER: That's who the  
5 Assessor's website has the owner so, okay.  
6 That is the Cultural Center. Thank you.  
7 How about my questions from last week that I  
8 do believe I got in as soon as I got home  
9 last week, will I have responses from any of  
10 you? No. I have -- oh, now back to the  
11 list I have asked for the action items from  
12 the revised recovery plan to be given a  
13 status and I suggested at the last meeting  
14 of the month so far I haven't had any  
15 response, but one in particular I'm sure  
16 there is a status on it because it was to  
17 occur not later than 120 days after the  
18 adoption of the plan, which has been some  
19 time ago, so have we met with -- has anybody  
20 from the city met with the Scranton Housing  
21 Authority to determine what other financial  
22 assistance might be provided by the  
23 Authority to the city in addition to the  
24 normal in lieu of tax payments already  
25 committed by the Authority?

1 MR. MCGOFF: I do not know if the  
2 administration has done that.

3 MS. SCHUMACHER: Could we find out?

4 MR. MCGOFF: I'm sure that you could  
5 ask the administration.

6 MS. SCHUMACHER: I will do a  
7 Right-to-Know. Thank you. And, again, how  
8 are we planning to verify the property  
9 exempt from taxation status since you did  
10 not take Mr. Evans up on his offer to go  
11 with the letter, how is the city going  
12 comply with this requirement?

13 MR. EVANS: Well, the administration  
14 hasn't taken me up on my request.

15 MS. SCHUMACHER: They have?

16 MR. EVANS: They have not, but there  
17 are -- we have according to the recovery  
18 plan to do a verification so I'll discuss  
19 that with PEL and see if we can get that  
20 moving. It's definitely part of the plan.

21 MS. SCHUMACHER: So it won't be next  
22 Monday, when is the next meeting with PEL?

23 MR. EVANS: A week Monday. If I  
24 find out anything before that I will let you  
25 know next Thursday.

1 MS. SCHUMACHER: Thank you. And  
2 then the land banks have been talked about  
3 for several months, has anybody in the  
4 administration or you all met with the  
5 county because I understand that was a lynch  
6 pin was the county?

7 MR. GAUGHAN: I had several  
8 meetings, Mr. Evans had several meetings  
9 with the county, I know that the mayor had  
10 met with county officials, we seem to be at  
11 some sort of a standstill now. We did hear  
12 from the mayor that he was going to try to  
13 form an exploratory committee on land  
14 banking, but other than that I have not  
15 heard anything as of yet.

16 MS. SCHUMACHER: Could we -- maybe  
17 could you maybe send a letter this week  
18 to the mayor for a status on that?

19 MR. GAUGHAN: Yeah, I did ask for a  
20 status and that's when he sent back. I  
21 actually have a meeting with the mayor  
22 tomorrow so I'll inquire further on that.

23 MS. SCHUMACHER: Thank you.

24 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else who wishes  
25 to address council?



1 MS. REED: FIFTH ORDER. 5-A.  
2 MOTIONS.

3 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Wechsler?

4 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you,  
5 Mr. McGoff, just a few items this week. On  
6 Saturday I had the honor of marching with  
7 Mr. McGoff in the Armed Forces Day parade.  
8 The weather had hampered the turn out a  
9 little bit, but the people that were at the  
10 parade saw a great tribute to our armed  
11 forces. I think there was over 75  
12 participants of different groups and bands  
13 and things like that and as we walked the  
14 route you could see what a great impact this  
15 parade has on the people that were in  
16 attendance. We saw people very happy to see  
17 the marching and we also saw people that  
18 were touched emotionally thinking about  
19 their loved ones that had either served or  
20 gave the ultimate sacrifice in their life,  
21 so I would like to congratulate the  
22 organizers for the parade.

23 This week I was contacted by a few  
24 residents with some constituent concerns.  
25 One was on Oswald Avenue and the other was

1           on Davis Street so we will be working on  
2           those with Ms. Reed and the proper  
3           authorities.

4                       I've also been in contact with the  
5           Treasurer's office trying to get a handle on  
6           the amount of delinquent garbage fees that  
7           exist in the city. A few months ago I met  
8           with the NRS, Northeast Revenue, and they  
9           were planning to do a mailing for all of the  
10          delinquent tax or garbage fee people. To  
11          date, that mailing has not happened. The  
12          plans right now are for that to go out some  
13          time in June, but speaking with them there  
14          is a tremendous amount of delinquent garbage  
15          fees out there and I'm trying to get a  
16          determination on the dollar values that are  
17          out there. It seems to me like it's a huge  
18          amount of money and we have to start working  
19          on finding a way to collect that money. It  
20          would be quite helpful to the situation that  
21          we are in in our city.

22                      Finally, a few months ago Michelle  
23          Dempsey was here with a vision of some  
24          different ideas for some landmarks in  
25          Scranton. One of the ideas that we were

1 interested in seeing what we could pursue  
2 was turning the Harrison Avenue bridge into  
3 a pedestrian-type of a park. We contacted  
4 PennDOT and, unfortunately, it seems unless  
5 we want to pursue it a different way PennDOT  
6 does not recommend that that bridge be  
7 maintained as a pedestrian park, and  
8 they went onto explain to us why, I'll just  
9 read briefly in the summary, but they said,  
10 "If the City of Scranton elects to pursue  
11 this concept, the City will have to take  
12 ownership, make the necessary repairs and  
13 maintain the structure. Coordination and  
14 approval by the Public Utility Commission  
15 will also need to be performed as the  
16 railroad underneath is a stakeholder in what  
17 happens with this existing bridge. The  
18 Department of Transportation understands  
19 your desire to keep this historic and  
20 symbolic bridge, but it doesn't seem  
21 feasible based on the current condition and  
22 cost. A significant amount of money would  
23 be needed for rehabilitation and the bridge  
24 would continue to cost the city over the  
25 years as it will have to be inspected in

1           accordance with national bridge inspection  
2           standards and maintained."

3                   I think the concept of this idea is  
4           very good and there are going to be a lot of  
5           ideas that come out and as we work on this  
6           to see which ones are feasible and which  
7           ones are not. I think we can still keep  
8           this idea on the burner, but I think perhaps  
9           we should start looking at other avenues and  
10          putting our efforts in there so that was the  
11          opinion that the state had on the bridge.  
12          And that's all have tonight, Mr. McGoff.

13                   MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Rogan?

14                   MR. ROGAN: Yes, a number of items  
15          tonight. I'd like to first start off by  
16          congratulating the election winners,  
17          Councilman McGoff.

18                   MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

19                   MR. ROGAN: For his election. Tim  
20          Perry also for city council, and our city  
21          controller Roseann Novembrino. On the  
22          county level I am very pleased that it  
23          appears we will have two commissioners from  
24          the City of Scranton. For five years myself  
25          and I know members of the public and members

1 of council have been pleading with the  
2 commissioners to do a reassessment  
3 countywide. It's been far too long and  
4 every time the Pennsylvania Economy League  
5 comes in or any outside advisors a  
6 reassessment is part of every single  
7 recovery plan that is put forward for the  
8 city because it's taxes need to be fair.  
9 Twenty some years ago, 30 years ago the  
10 values aren't the same as they were now and  
11 so many of them are inaccurate. We see  
12 every week we get reports from the Tax  
13 Assessor's Office where people file to have  
14 their taxes assessment reduced and it seems  
15 to be a race to the bottom. The tax  
16 assessments need to be fair and now with new  
17 incoming majority commissioners I think that  
18 now is the time to have those items moved  
19 forward.

20 Also, I know a land bank is another  
21 item that the county commissioners will be  
22 heavily involved in and very hopeful that  
23 with the change in leadership that the  
24 Mr. O'Brien maybe from the private sector  
25 and Mr. Wansacz being defeated at the polls

1           that we will now see movement on those  
2           issues.

3                         Secondly the North Scranton Junior  
4           High School project is moving along as  
5           scheduled. Anyone who drives by that area  
6           sees a flurry of action on that project. I  
7           actually saw just the other day on Facebook  
8           pictures of -- I guess before pictures from  
9           inside of the building, and it's a very nice  
10          building and I'm really looking forward to  
11          that project being completed and going  
12          through and touring it when it's done.

13                        Next, while voting on election day a  
14          resident contacted me and stopped me on the  
15          300 block of North Sumner Avenue. This is  
16          an ongoing problem for actually four years.  
17          There was a chimney repair that was done on  
18          a house, and I will provide the address,  
19          Mrs. Reed, there was a chimney repair that  
20          was done on a house and scaffolding was put  
21          up to make that repair. That was four years  
22          ago and the scaffolding is still standing  
23          and the wood is visibly gray, a number of  
24          the neighbors from that block mentioned it  
25          to me. When I was out looking at it the

1 gentleman next door came out and made a  
2 point to say how many years it was. So if  
3 we could let Pat Hinton and his office know  
4 about that issue.

5 One of the speakers brought up the  
6 Housing Authority, and this was on authority  
7 another matter, but on Earth Day, and I  
8 apologize for this being a little bit  
9 delayed, a resident who lives in the Housing  
10 Authority contacted me and they were upset  
11 because they are unable to recycle so I  
12 think if we could contact the Housing  
13 Authority and ask what their current  
14 recycling policy is and what changes can be  
15 made to promote recycling for those that  
16 live in Housing Authority developments.

17 Next, the Item 7-A regarding the  
18 sale of the delinquent real estate taxes I  
19 will be voting against this legislation. I  
20 do appreciate the thought being put forward  
21 and the more conservative approach than was  
22 taken when this happened under the Doherty  
23 administration, but I'm still not completely  
24 sold on the process. Obviously, last time  
25 it didn't work out for the city and if

1 the goal is to have a little bit more money  
2 up front the thought of taking out a little  
3 bit a larger tax anticipation note at the  
4 end of the year I think the interest rate  
5 would be more favorable on that than the 6  
6 percent that we would be paying regarding  
7 this sale.

8 Finally, I was very upset to read an  
9 article in the newspaper featuring Al Boscov  
10 talking about the mall. Mr. Boscov  
11 criticized and even poked fun at many of the  
12 great ideas that have been put forward by  
13 the residents of Scranton to rehab that  
14 building. Obviously the current formula  
15 that Mr. Boscov has the leading role in  
16 isn't working. I was just at the mall last  
17 Tuesday and it is, unfortunately, a ghost  
18 town. There are very few stores remaining  
19 and something needs to be done. I firmly  
20 believe that Mr. Boscov's store should have  
21 a place in whatever development occurs at  
22 the mall. His store is very successful. We  
23 certainly don't want to chase him out of  
24 town because it's a store that people like,  
25 but the overall mall concept is not working



1 in downtown Scranton.

2 The idea of a hybrid -- having, you  
3 know, a farmer's market, a market place  
4 mixed in with retail is very appealing to a  
5 lot of people that I talk to. It's picking  
6 up traction on Facebook, it's picking up  
7 traction in the newspaper, and I know  
8 numerous people I talk to embrace that idea.  
9 It's worked other places. Obviously, we  
10 don't have, you know, the population that  
11 Philadelphia has with the Reading terminal  
12 station, which is great. It's a great  
13 place, you can eat anything you want there.  
14 You can go there and buy anything you want.  
15 That could certain be done on a smaller  
16 scale in the City of Scranton. And by  
17 increasing foot traffic into the mall the  
18 retail component, which could be Mr. Boscov,  
19 maybe another anchor store, will see  
20 increased would revenue because there is  
21 more people that will be walking through the  
22 door.

23 I believe that was the thought  
24 behind putting the Single Tax Office in the  
25 mall was that when people would come to pay

1           their taxes they would go and spend money in  
2           the stores in the mall. Again, with the  
3           change at the county commissioner level I  
4           hope that the idea of consolidating county  
5           offices in that building will be scraped.  
6           That building needs to remain commercial  
7           space and it's prime commercial space in the  
8           city. We just need a different vision in  
9           order to bring that that property back to  
10          what it once was. That's all for tonight.  
11          Thank you.

12                   MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Evans?

13                   MR. EVANS: Thank you. On a lighter  
14           note, I would like to touch on something  
15           that Marie briefly discussed. If anyone was  
16           traveling last Saturday morning between the  
17           Hill Section and South Side, they were  
18           treated to something very different  
19           happening on the old Harrison Avenue bridge.  
20           Myself and some dedicated volunteers were  
21           yarn bombing the rusty metal fence on the  
22           south side of the bridge with crocheted  
23           flowers. We knew we are onto something  
24           special because as the display started to  
25           take shape every car or pedestrian would

1 stop and offer support and say, "Great job.  
2 It looks terrific." Something you don't see  
3 every day in our city. Even cars entering  
4 the city on the expressway below were  
5 blowing horns and recognizing that something  
6 interesting was happening above them, so it  
7 was a great morning. And then it just took  
8 off on Facebook that people came by and  
9 posted pictures of the flowered fence on  
10 their personal pages. The best comment I  
11 heard was, and this was repeated often, I  
12 drive by the flowers and they bring a smile  
13 to my face. For that reason alone we are  
14 proud of our little project on the Harrison  
15 Avenue bridge. But, most importantly, I  
16 want to publically recognize those involved  
17 in the project, the dedicated women who  
18 spent the winter knitting and crocheting  
19 flowers or Ellen Muzzi, Cathy Ungvarsky,  
20 Susie Connors, Jessica Batton, and Sandy  
21 Batton. Of course, the crew that installed  
22 the flowers were myself, Nancy Evans, Ellen  
23 Muzzi, Susie Connors, Mayor Jim Connors,  
24 Donny O'Boyle, Adam Davis and Ann Chamber.  
25 Also, the Greater Scranton Board of Realtors

1 was kind enough to pay for all of the  
2 materials that were needed for the project  
3 so for better or worse all of are us are now  
4 called yarn bombers. So I would say stay  
5 tuned because there may be another yarn  
6 bomber in a neighborhood near you.

7 Also last week President McGoff  
8 mentioned a request for a meeting in the  
9 form of a public cause, which we talked  
10 earlier, with Henry Amoroso and his staff as  
11 well as the mayor and some of his staff to  
12 get a handle on what the status is of  
13 several important issues facing the city as  
14 well as several mandated items in the  
15 recovery plan. City council has been  
16 extremely proactive trying to move forward  
17 numerous initiatives so I fully support that  
18 request.

19 City council and the administration  
20 need to put bench marks and create timelines  
21 for the completion of many of the  
22 initiatives within the recovery plan and  
23 other important legislation that may be  
24 outside of the plan. It's a sound business  
25 practice and one we should embrace and

1 adopt.

2 Also, last week Councilman Wechsler  
3 mentioned that there was several bills  
4 presented in Harrisburg that could  
5 dramatically effect the city and its  
6 taxpayers. HB-504 addresses property tax  
7 reform, something very important to our  
8 property taxpayers. For the record, State  
9 Representative Flynn and Farina voted "no"  
10 against this property tax reform. On the  
11 state Senate side their was a bill presented  
12 addressing pension reform for municipalities  
13 specifically, again, very important to the  
14 City of Scranton. For the record, our state  
15 senator voted no against this pension reform  
16 bill. However, I am still encouraged  
17 because the conversation and a dialogue has  
18 begun, so let's hope somehow those in  
19 Harrisburg can find a way to put aside  
20 partisan politics and begin to work to  
21 tackle those large issues that we so  
22 desperately need addressed. That is all I  
23 have at this time. Thank you.

24 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Gaughan?

25 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, thank you.

1 First, the street sweeper is scheduled to be  
2 in the North Scranton area from May 26 to  
3 May 29, Foster Street to Wood Street. I  
4 have a meeting scheduled with Mayor  
5 Courtright this Friday to discuss a number  
6 of different items including the land bank  
7 Mrs. Schumacher brought up and I will update  
8 everyone on that next week.

9 As Mr. McGoff of had mentioned, we  
10 did receive a response from Mayor Courtright  
11 on a potential caucus with Henry Amoroso an  
12 Dave Bulzoni, our business administrator,  
13 addressing some of the issues that were  
14 brought up tonight so I would like to thank  
15 the mayor for that response and look forward  
16 to that public caucus. I think it would be  
17 very informative.

18 I received a complaint about a  
19 boarding house in the Weston Field area that  
20 our office will forward to the Licensing and  
21 Inspections Department. There were some  
22 issues with parking in the Hill Section that  
23 I was made aware of and our office was in  
24 contact with Chief Graziano who immediately  
25 addressed the situation.

1 I did receive a letter from a  
2 resident about an empty overgrown lot on  
3 Parker Street and Brick Street. Our office  
4 will forward that complaint to the  
5 appropriate department. Also, received a  
6 complaint about excessive speeding on Sloan  
7 Street so we'll make Chief Graziano aware  
8 about that.

9 It was brought up at a neighborhood  
10 meeting I was at about where residents go to  
11 complain about a streetlight that's been out  
12 or a report a streetlight that's been out.  
13 When Joyce Electric had the contact with the  
14 city you used to be able to go on the  
15 website and report it directly to Joyce  
16 Electric. The new company, Metchulat, they  
17 are in the process of working with the city  
18 of getting that up on the city's website so  
19 that if a resident notices a streetlight  
20 that's out they get the pole number and they  
21 can report it directly to them on the  
22 website.

23 And I would just like to say that I  
24 hope everyone enjoys their Memorial Day and  
25 I'd like to thank all of those men and women

1           who have served and are serving in the  
2           military. And that is all I have for this  
3           week. Thank you.

4                   MR. MCGOFF: Just a few brief  
5           comments. First of all, as far as the red  
6           nose was concerned, I don't mean to make  
7           light of what we do here, but the Red Nose  
8           Day was, you know, an event that seemed to  
9           gain some impetus. I'm told that it has  
10          been around for a number of years, but I  
11          believe it was Walgreen's that kind of took  
12          up the Red Nose Day concept and a number of  
13          other I'll say celebrities and the idea was  
14          to raise money for childhood poverty through  
15          humor and I guess there are a number of  
16          television programs and other things that  
17          were doing that to raise money, so a good  
18          cause and maybe it is something that will,  
19          you know, remain with us, you know, through  
20          the years. I'm told that the red noses sold  
21          out of Walgreen's almost nationwide. That  
22          this past week was almost impossible to find  
23          a red nose so --

24                   MR. EVANS: For the record, I did  
25          try to buy a red nose yesterday and couldn't



1 buy one at Walgreen's.

2 MR. MCGOFF: So, again, well, your  
3 opportunity to tell a joke was lost, but  
4 again, a good cause and a little bit of  
5 humor to a great cause.

6 Just to mention somebody brought up  
7 the Scranton Parking Authority debt, just  
8 for information's sake the payments on the  
9 SPA debt increased by about \$800,000 per  
10 year following the forced default of the  
11 SPA, so and plus the credit rating of the  
12 city was pretty much destroyed because of  
13 that, so there may have been other ways in  
14 which we could have addressed that problem.

15 An ongoing problem and, again it's  
16 been spoken about by almost everyone on  
17 council is the parking -- wrong side of the  
18 street parking. I don't even know how to  
19 phrase it, but tickets are being given to  
20 people that parking in the wrong direction  
21 on the street and this past week just  
22 received another series of phone calls  
23 concerning it maybe because the people  
24 giving out those say citations were now in  
25 South Side as opposed to, you know, West

1           Scranton where the problems existed before.  
2           I think that is something that we really  
3           need to look into, some of the complaints  
4           are extremely legitimate especially elderly  
5           people who are faced with some difficult  
6           problems as far as parking is concerned, and  
7           I think all of the council is concerned with  
8           that and we have spoken with our solicitor  
9           and it just seems there doesn't -- it  
10          doesn't seem to be an easy way around it,  
11          but in the coming weeks hopefully we can do  
12          something that will alleviate this stress on  
13          the citizens of Scranton.

14                   And lastly, I would like to  
15          reiterate what Mr. Rogan said concerning  
16          Boscov's. I shop at Boscov's, it's a great  
17          store, but I'll say that I believe that  
18          Mr. Boscov could have is a great  
19          businessman. He, you know, put together a  
20          series of stores that are very successful  
21          throughout the State of Pennsylvania and the  
22          northeast, however, I don't think Mr. Boscov  
23          has been very good for the City of Scranton.  
24          I think as this the mall goes to auction,  
25          and it would appear that Mr. Boscov is doing

1 everything he can to purchase the mall, he  
2 needs to be willing to consider options. As  
3 Mr. Rogan said, he cannot persist in the  
4 mall structure as it is. I hope that with  
5 enough lobbying Mr. Boscov will give up some  
6 of his obstinacies to change and that the  
7 mall in whatever nature it's reconstituted  
8 does contain a Boscov's store, but yet  
9 allows for greater use of that space. And  
10 I'm done.

11 MS. REED: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
12 AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL  
13 NO. 85, 2015, AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED  
14 "APPROVING THE TRANSFER OF A RESTAURANT  
15 LIQUOR LICENSE CURRENTLY OWNED BY KOSMART  
16 ENTERPRISES, INC. D/B/A PIZZA HUT OF DUNMORE  
17 LICENSE NO. R-14852 TO BAR PAZZO, INC. FOR  
18 USE AT 131-133 NORTH WASHINGTON AVENUE,  
19 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA.

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

23 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

24 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

25 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? I'm

1                   sorry?

2                   MS. REED: I need to finish,  
3                   Mr. McGoff?

4                   MR. MCGOFF: Oh, I thought you were  
5                   done, I'm sorry.

6                   MS. REED: Excuse me. AS REQUIRED  
7                   BY THE PENNSYLVANIA LIQUOR CONTROL BOARD" BY  
8                   MAKING A CORRECTION TO THE LIQUOR LICENSE  
9                   NUMBER, REFERENCING LACKAWANNA COUNTY IN  
10                  ADDRESSES AND CONFIRMING THAT THE ORDINANCE  
11                  WAS ADOPTED BY A PUBLIC MEETING TO READ AS  
12                  FOLLOWS: APPROVING THE TRANSFER OF A  
13                  RESTAURANT LIQUOR LICENSE CURRENTLY OWNED BY  
14                  KOSMART ENTERPRISES, INC. D/B/A PIZZA HUT OF  
15                  DUNMORE LICENSE NO. R-13458 TO BAR PAZZO,  
16                  INC. FOR USE AT 131-133 NORTH WASHINGTON  
17                  AVENUE, SCRANTON, LACKAWANNA COUNTY,  
18                  PENNSYLVANIA AS REQUIRED BY THE PENNSYLVANIA  
19                  LIQUOR CONTROL BOARD.

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

23                  MR. ROGAN: So moved.

24                  MR. WECHSLER: Second.

25                  MR. MCGOFF: On the question? I'm

1                   sorry, Mrs. Reed, I thought you read faster.

2                   MS. REED: I'll try.

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

5                   MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

6                   MR. ROGAN: Aye.

7                   MR. EVANS: Aye.

8                   MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

11                   MS. REED: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
12 AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING THE ADMINISTRATIVE  
13 CODE OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON CHAPTER 412  
14 STREETS AND SIDEWALKS, SECTION III GOVERNING  
15 EXCAVATIONS BY MAKING ADDITIONS, DELETIONS,  
16 RELETTERING AND CHANGING THE NAME OF THE  
17 DEPARTMENT IN PORTIONS OF SECTION 111  
18 RELATING TO EXCAVATIONS IN ORDER TO BRING  
19 THE CODE UP TO DATE.

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

23                   MR. ROGAN: So moved.

24                   MR. WECHSLER: Second.

25                   MR. MCGOFF: On the question?

1 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question, since  
2 I have been on city council now for almost  
3 two years and chairperson for the Committee  
4 on Public Works, there has been one  
5 recurring issue that has been raised by  
6 residents and that is pave cuts. All you  
7 need to do is drive on our city streets to  
8 experience an enormous amount of bumpy,  
9 uneven pave cuts that drive city motorists  
10 crazy. It has not been uncommon in the past  
11 to drive down a newly paved city street one  
12 week and the next week find the street has  
13 been dug up by a utility company.

14 For months now there has been  
15 legislation in the works to addresses the  
16 issue of pave cuts by amending our streets  
17 and sidewalks ordinance and tonight we will  
18 vote to introduce it and hopefully alleviate  
19 this problem. Amending this ordinance will  
20 do a few things, which I'd like to take a  
21 minute or two to explain.

22 First, the ordinance provides for an  
23 additional inspection fee based on the  
24 amount of work being done on a city street.  
25 Upon completion of the street paving project

1 by any entity, such as a utility company,  
2 the city will not allow the street to be  
3 excavated for any reason for five years  
4 except for emergency situations, this  
5 includes any and all activities defined as  
6 upgrades, improvements and/or maintenance to  
7 utility system. It also provides for the  
8 requirement of anyone excavating the city  
9 streets such as a utility company to replace  
10 any and all pavement markings such as  
11 traffic patterns and crosswalks that are  
12 preexisting, and this was not required in  
13 the previous ordinance.

14 Most importantly, this ordinance  
15 mandates improved and expanded requirements  
16 to restore the road surface in an effort to  
17 eliminate the negative effects of multiple  
18 pave cuts. If the utility company tears the  
19 street up, they have to restore the road  
20 curb to curb and ten feet beyond the  
21 farthest point of the pave cut edge in any  
22 direction. This will hopefully eliminate  
23 multiple unsightly uneven pave cuts that dot  
24 our city streets.

25 Also, within the legislation it says

1           that if any street or court with a surface  
2           area older than five years that has more  
3           than 10 percent of the surface area of any  
4           one city block, any one city block limits  
5           following excavation, the road surface shall  
6           have the same restoration requirements that  
7           I just mentioned. If two pave cuts are made  
8           less than 100 feet apart, the entire area  
9           between the two pave cuts, including the two  
10          pave cuts, shall be milled and resurfaced as  
11          described above for a width of one-half the  
12          street or court nearest curb to center line.  
13          If the repair excavation crosses the center  
14          line off the street or court, then the mill  
15          and resurfacing shall be for the full width  
16          of the street or court curb to curb for the  
17          entire length of the work area.

18                   The ordinance also provides for  
19                   increased documentation by city employees in  
20                   an effort to track all activity that is  
21                   occurring on city streets in order to  
22                   maintain a high level of accountability and  
23                   compliance and this will come in the form of  
24                   a work order inspection tracking ticket.

25                   I'm confident that this legislation



1 will address the city's aging infrastructure  
2 and maintain the integrity of newly paved  
3 and older streets and finally solve the  
4 problem of those annoying and pesky pave  
5 cuts. And that is all I have thank you.

6 MR. EVANS: On the question, there  
7 is lot of great things, I worked on the  
8 previous one when I was actually worked for  
9 you the utility company so I was just  
10 wondering were the utility companies  
11 contacted during the drafting of this?

12 MR. GAUGHAN: I believe that they  
13 were, yes. I think they were, and I know  
14 that DPW Director Gallagher has been in  
15 touch with the utility companies.

16 MR. EVANS: The other thing I had a  
17 question, you mentioned that the inspection  
18 fees are going up, can we get a copy of the  
19 last ordinance, the previous ordinance so we  
20 can compare those fees to the current  
21 fees --

22 MR. GAUGHAN: Sure.

23 MR. EVANS: -- to make sure that we  
24 are not -- I tend to not like large fee  
25 increases if that's something that we are

1           dealing with here. Maybe if it's minor it's  
2           justified but certainly it might be worth  
3           looking at, but I'd like to compare the  
4           previous ordinance with that.

5                     MR. GAUGHAN: Sure.

6                     MR. EVANS: Thanks.

7                     MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else? All those  
8           in favor of introduction signify by saying  
9           aye.

10                    MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

11                    MR. ROGAN: Aye.

12                    MR. EVANS: Aye.

13                    MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

14                    MR. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The  
15           eyes have it and so moved.

16                    MS. REED: 5-D. FOR INTRODUCTION - A  
17           RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER  
18           APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND  
19           ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT SETTING FORTH THE  
20           TERMS AND CONDITIONS BY AND BETWEEN THE CITY  
21           OF SCRANTON AND TOYOTA OF SCRANTON, INC. TO  
22           ACCEPT THE DONATION OF A NEW TOYOTA CAMRY TO  
23           BE USED BY THE SCRANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT AS  
24           A SUPERVISOR'S CAR.

25                    MR. MCGOFF: At this time I'll

1 entertain a motion that Item 5-D 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 MR. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The  
13 ayes have it and so moved.

14 MS. REED: SIXTH ORDER. 6-A.

15 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.  
16 99, 2015 - AN ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE  
17 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS  
18 TO ENTER INTO A LEASE AGREEMENT WITH THE  
19 LACKAWANNA RIVER CORRIDOR ASSOCIATION, THE  
20 LACKAWANNA VALLEY CONSERVANCY, AND THE  
21 LACKAWANNA VALLEY CHAPTER OF TROUT UNLIMITED  
22 KNOWN AS SWEENEY'S BEACH LOCATED ON THE EAST  
23 BANK OF THE LACKAWANNA RIVER APPROXIMATELY  
24 1000 FEET DOWNSTREAM FROM THE POPLAR STREET  
25 BRIDGE SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA FOR A TEN (10)

1 YEAR PERIOD WITH FOUR (4) CONSECUTIVE FIVE  
2 (5) YEAR RENEWAL TERMS AT TENANT'S OPTION.

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

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

7 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

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

10 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

11 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

12 MR. EVANS: Aye.

13 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

16 MS. REED: 6-B. READING BY TITLE -  
17 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 100, 2015 - AN  
18 ORDINANCE - APPROVING THE TRANSFER OF A  
19 RESTAURANT LIQUOR LICENSE CURRENTLY OWNED BY  
20 KOSMART ENTERPRISES, INC. NO. R-14852 TO  
21 16TH WARD, LLC. FOR USE AT 306 PENN AVENUE,  
22 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA AS REQUIRED BY THE  
23 PENNSYLVANIA LIQUOR CONTROL BOARD.

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

1 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-B  
2 pass reading by title.

3 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

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

6 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

7 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

8 MR. EVANS: Aye.

9 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

12 MS. REED: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR  
13 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE-  
14 FOR ADOPTION RESOLUTION NO. 146, 2015 -  
15 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE  
16 CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A  
17 CONTRACT WITH PUBLIC ASSET MANAGEMENT FOR  
18 THE SALE OF OUTSTANDING CITY REAL ESTATE TAX  
19 LIENS.

20 MR. MCGOFF: What is the  
21 recommendation of the Chair for the  
22 Committee on Finance?

23 MR. EVANS: As Chairperson for the  
24 Committee on Finance, I recommend final  
25 passage of Item 7-A.

1 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

2 MR. MCGOFF: On the question?

3 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.

4 I will be voting "yes" for this legislation.

5 I do believe that this is a creative method

6 to finance current year expenses with future

7 revenues, and I would just note that nothing

8 will change in the collection process with

9 the Single Tax Office and/or Northeast

10 Revenue Services so the citizen that pays

11 their taxes or delinquent taxes will not see

12 any change in that process. Thank you.

13 MR. EVANS: On the question, I

14 certainly understand Councilman Rogan's

15 concerns because he lived through a

16 situation where it didn't work out quiet as

17 well, but I do appreciate the

18 administrations what I perceive as

19 ultra-conservative approach to this

20 particular item so I will, again, be voting

21 "yes".

22 MR. ROGAN: Just to reiterate, my

23 objection isn't with, you know, and I agree

24 with what my colleague said as far as this

25 being a much more conservative approach and

1           being done in a different way, but my  
2           concern is that I just believe we could  
3           receive a better rate by going with a larger  
4           TAN at the beginning of the year.

5                     MR. MCGOFF:  Anyone else?  Roll  
6           call, please?

7                     MS. MARCIANO:  Mr. Wechsler.

8                     MR. WECHSLER:  Yes.

9                     MS. MARCIANO:  Mr. Rogan.

10                    MR. ROGAN:  No.

11                    MS. MARCIANO:  Mr. Evans.

12                    MR. EVANS:  Yes.

13                    MS. MARCIANO:  Mr. Gaughan.

14                    MR. GAUGHAN:  Yes.

15                    MS. MARCIANO:  Mr. McGoff.

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

18                    MS. REED:  7-B, PREVIOUSLY TABLED -  
19           FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON  
20           COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - FOR ADOPTION - FILE  
21           OF THE COUNCIL NO. 97, 2015, AMENDING FILE  
22           OF THE COUNCIL NO. 47, 2013, ENTITLED, "AN  
23           ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER  
24           APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF  
25           SCRANTON TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY ACTIONS TO

1           IMPLEMENT THE CONSOLIDATED SUBMISSION FOR  
2           COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS  
3           TO BE FUNDED UNDER THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
4           BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM, HOME INVESTMENT  
5           PARTNERSHIP (HOME) PROGRAM AND EMERGENCY  
6           SOLUTIONS GRANT (ESG) PROGRAM", BY ACCEPTING  
7           AND DISBURSING A PERSONAL CONTRIBUTION FROM  
8           BOSCOV'S DEPARTMENT STORE TO PAY AN OVERDUE  
9           SECTION 108 LOAN OWED BY STEAMTOWN MALL  
10          PARTNERS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$715,173.00 AND  
11          TRANSFERRING THESE FUNDS TO PROJECT 14-04  
12          RE-CONSTRUCTION OF CITY STREETS TO INCLUDE  
13          HANDICAPPED CURB CUTS.

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

17                   MR. EVANS: As Chairperson for the  
18                   Committee on Community Development, I  
19                   recommend final passage of Item 7-B.

20                   MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

23                   MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler.

24                   MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

25                   MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.



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MR. ROGAN: Yes.

MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Evans.

MR. EVANS: Yes.

MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan.

MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

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

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

MR. ROGAN: Motion to adjourn.

MR. MCGOFF: Meeting is adjourned.

C E R T I F I C A T E

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

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CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR  
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER