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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Thursday, October 22, 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  
(Not present)

PATRICK ROGAN, VICE-PRESIDENT

WAYNE EVANS

JOSEPH WECHSLER

WILLIAM GAUGHAN

LORI REED, CITY CLERK

JAMIE MARCIANO, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

AMIL MINORA, SOLICITOR

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

3 MR. ROGAN: 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. ROGAN: I will now turn the  
14 meeting over to Councilman Wechsler for a  
15 brief presentation for a proclamation.

16 MR. WECHSLER: Tonight we are  
17 fortunate to have representatives here from  
18 the First Catholic Slovak Union, I'd like to  
19 ask the representative to please come  
20 forward so we can present them with this  
21 proclamation.

22 WHEREAS, in 1882 Stephen Furdek left  
23 his native Slovakia for America where he was  
24 ordained a Roman Catholic priest. Eight  
25 years later, Father Furdek met with twelve

1 men in Cleveland, Ohio and formed the First  
2 Catholic Slovak Union; and

3 WHEREAS, THE First Catholic Slovak  
4 Union, which also goes by the name of  
5 Jednota, meaning union or fraternity, is a  
6 "union" of hundreds of branches throughout  
7 the United States and Canada. Although  
8 founded by men, today 40 % of the membership  
9 is female; and

10 WHEREAS, this year - 2015 - marks  
11 the 125th anniversary of the founding of the  
12 First Catholic Slovak Union; and

13 WHEREAS, the main purposes of the  
14 First Catholic Slovak Union/Jednota were to  
15 improve the moral, mental and social  
16 conditions of its members and to uphold,  
17 preserve intact, and perpetuate the  
18 doctrines of the Holy Roman Catholic Faith;  
19 and

20 WHEREAS, since its founding, the  
21 First Catholic Slovak Union has supported  
22 Slovak families by maintaining a "Poor Fund"  
23 to care for widows and orphans. It was  
24 instrumental in helping to found the  
25 religious order of nuns, known as the

1 Sisters of Saint Cyril and Methodius, and  
2 WHEREAS, for many years the First  
3 Catholic Slovak Union has awarded college  
4 scholarships to deserving members and  
5 currently grants 75 scholarships annually.

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY  
7 THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON, we, the  
8 members of the Council of the City of  
9 Scranton do hereby declare Sunday, October  
10 25, 2015 as "First Catholic Slovak Union  
11 Day," and acknowledge this great  
12 organization as the driving force for  
13 fraternalism and service to people of Slovak  
14 descent.

15 MR. GAUGHAN: I'd make a motion to  
16 appoint Councilman Rogan a temporary  
17 Chairperson for the Committee on Rules.

18 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

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

21 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

22 MR. EVANS: Aye.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

1 MR. GAUGHAN: I'd like to make a  
2 motion to appoint Councilman Evans as  
3 temporary Chairperson for the Committee on  
4 Community Development.

5 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

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

8 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

9 MR. EVANS: Aye.

10 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

11 MR. ROGAN: Aye. The ayes have it  
12 and so moved.

13 Councilman Evans, any motions?

14 MR. EVANS: I'd like to make a  
15 motion to take from the table File of  
16 Council No. 118-2015, as amended.

17 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

18 MR. ROGAN: On the question? This  
19 piece is being taken from the table and  
20 placed into Seventh Order for a final vote  
21 and it is the OECD action plan for the Year  
22 2016. Anyone who wishes to speak to this  
23 particular piece of legislation may do so  
24 during citizens' participation.

25 All those in favor signify by saying

1 aye.

2 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

3 MR. EVANS: Aye.

4 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

5 MR. ROGAN: Aye. Opposed? The ayes  
6 have it and so moved.

7 MR. EVANS: I would like to make a  
8 motion to take from the table File of  
9 Council No. 120-2015.

10 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

11 MR. ROGAN: On the question? This  
12 piece is being taken from the table AND  
13 placed into Seventh Order regarding the  
14 transfer of \$265,000 of CDBG funds from the  
15 Novembrino Pool and Pine Ridge swimming  
16 activities to the 2015 paving program.  
17 Again, anyone wishes to speak on this  
18 legislation may do so during citizens'  
19 participation and the Novembrino swim  
20 complex funding is being refunded using  
21 current year dollars. All those in favor  
22 signify by saying aye.

23 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

24 MR. EVANS: Aye.

25 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

1 MR. ROGAN: Aye. Opposed? The ayes  
2 have it and so moved.

3 MR. EVANS: I would like to make a  
4 motion to take from the table Resolution No.  
5 200-2015.

6 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

7 MR. ROGAN: On the question? This  
8 piece is also being taken from the table and  
9 placed into Seventh Order for final vote.  
10 It is the settlement agreement between the  
11 City of Scranton and Teamsters Local 229.  
12 Anyone who wishes to speak on this piece of  
13 legislation may do so during citizens'  
14 participation.

15 All those in favor signify by saying  
16 aye.

17 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

18 MR. EVANS: Aye.

19 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

20 MR. ROGAN: Aye. Opposed? The ayes  
21 have it and so moved.

22 Please dispense with the reading of  
23 the minutes.

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

25 LACKAWANNA COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION



1 SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT EVALUATION  
2 REPORT REVIEWED SEPTEMBER 30, 2015.

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

5 MS. REED: 3-B. CONTROLLER'S REPORT  
6 FOR THE MONTH ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2015.

7 MR. ROGAN: Are there any comments?  
8 If not, received and filed.

9 MS. REED: 3-C. TAX ASSESSOR'S  
10 RESULTS REPORT FOR HEARING DATE HELD OCTOBER  
11 2, 2015.

12 MR. ROGAN: Are there any comments?  
13 If not, received and filed.

14 Do any council members have  
15 announcements at this time?

16 MR. WECHSLER: Yes, Mr. Rogan, I  
17 have two. On Wednesday, October 28 and  
18 Thursday, October 29, the Victor Alfieri  
19 Society will hold their fall spaghetti  
20 dinner. Serving will be from 5 to 8:30.  
21 Pickups are available from four to five and  
22 containers will be supplied.

23 Also, on November 1, an East  
24 Mountain tradition will continue, the Lowell  
25 Memorial Roast Beef dinner will be held on

1 Sunday, November 1, at Holy Name of Jesus  
2 Worship Center for the Lowell memorial  
3 dinner. The dinners will e served from 12  
4 to 4. Takeouts are available starting at 11  
5 a.m. Thank you.

6 MR. ROGAN: Anyone else? I have a  
7 few. There was an executive session held  
8 this evening prior to the meeting briefly  
9 discussing potential litigation. That's the  
10 first one.

11 The second one St. Cats and Dogs at  
12 the Nay Aug Zoo is presenting their second  
13 annual pasta dinner at St. Mary's Center,  
14 320 Mifflin Avenue. This will be Sunday,  
15 November 1, 2015, from 2 to 6 p.m. Ticket's  
16 are \$15 for adults and \$5 for children 12  
17 and under. Tickets will be available at the  
18 door or they can be reserved by sending  
19 checks to St. Cats and Dogs care of 1900  
20 East Gibson Street, Scranton, PA, 18510, and  
21 they can also be picked up at Mrs. Dee's in  
22 South Scranton, who was great food so if you  
23 are buying tickets there grab a hoagie as  
24 well. And St. Cats, for those don't know,  
25 is a great organization that is a trap and

1           neuter and release program to try to cut  
2           down on the amount of stray cats within the  
3           city.

4                         Secondly, and this is a notice,  
5           notice of public hearing for the 2015 to  
6           2019 analysis of impediments to fair housing  
7           choice. Notice is hereby given to the City  
8           of Scranton that a public hearing will be  
9           held on Tuesday, October 27, at 6:00 p.m. in  
10          city council chambers located on the second  
11          floor of Scranton City Hall, 340 North  
12          Washington Avenue, Scranton, PA, 18503. The  
13          purpose of this evening is to gather  
14          information regarding 2015 to 2019 analysis  
15          of impediments to fair housing choice within  
16          the city. This must be submitted by the  
17          City to the US Department of Housing and  
18          Urban Development to receive the CDBG  
19          funding, HOME funding, as well as ESG  
20          funding. As a federal grantee, the city is  
21          required to affirmatively further the fair  
22          housing and must conduct a fair housing  
23          analysis, which identifies any impediments  
24          to fair housing choice and what steps will  
25          be taken to affirmatively further fair

1 housing.

2 The City of Scranton will focus on  
3 the status and interaction of six  
4 fundamental conditions within the region.  
5 The sale of rental or dwellings, public or  
6 private. The provision of housing brokerage  
7 services. The provision of financial  
8 assistance for dwellings. Public policy and  
9 actions effecting and approval of sites and  
10 other building requirements, the  
11 administrative policies concerning community  
12 development and housing activities which  
13 effect opportunities and minority households  
14 and select housing inside or outside of  
15 areas of minority concentration and where  
16 there is a determination of unlawful  
17 segregation or other housing discrimination  
18 by a Court or finding of non-compliance from  
19 HUD.

20 Any interested parties or  
21 organizations are encouraged to attend this  
22 public hearing to discuss potential barriers  
23 to fair housing choice and to provide  
24 suggestions on actions that the community  
25 can take to address these barriers. If

1 residents are unable to attend, they can  
2 submit written comments to Ms. Linda Aebli,  
3 executive director of the Office of Economic  
4 and Community Development at city hall.

5 As part of the planning process, the  
6 city is conducting a resident survey to  
7 identify fair housing issues. This  
8 confidential survey is available on-line at  
9 [www.Scrantonpa.gov](http://www.Scrantonpa.gov) and in paper form at the  
10 Office of Community and Economic  
11 Development.

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

14 MS. HODOWANITZ: Joan Hodowanitz,  
15 city resident and taxpayer. I want to start  
16 with complimenting the League of Women  
17 Voters for hosting two debates on Tuesday  
18 night, one for county commissioners and one  
19 for city council. Even the county  
20 commissioner issues were important to city  
21 residents and I would also recommend that  
22 everyone that is a qualified voter take time  
23 on November 3 to actually go out and vote.  
24 That is your right and it's a civic duty.

25 The 2014 audit, it was mentioned a

1 week or so ago that Rainey and Rainey had  
2 completed 90 percent of the audit  
3 preparation which doesn't really tell us how  
4 far along SB & Company is in the preparation  
5 of the actual independent audit, do we have  
6 any idea where we stand right now? Okay. I  
7 ask largely because the audit should be one  
8 of the key tools when preparing the next  
9 year's operating budget, and if memory  
10 serves that draft budget was due to the  
11 council not later than November 15, which  
12 more likely will be November 12 since that's  
13 a Thursday.

14 At any rate, there is still some  
15 outstanding issues other than the audit,  
16 which impact on the preparation of the that  
17 budget. The first one is the status of the  
18 monetization of the Parking Authority. I  
19 saw in this week's newspaper that incumbency  
20 certificates have been granted, but I seem  
21 to recall that we were trying to get this  
22 parking authority action pretty much  
23 completed by the end of the year, is that  
24 still our goal?

25 MR. ROGAN: That is still the goal.

1 I had a conference call, and I believe  
2 Councilmen Wechsler did as well, with Bill  
3 Conaboy, who's handling a lot of legal  
4 issues in the transaction and they are still  
5 hoping to have this passed through council  
6 before the end of the year.

7 MS. HODOWANITZ: Okay. As you may  
8 recall, in April of 2014 we hired a company  
9 called PFM to assist with this action and  
10 there was no budget for them in the Year  
11 2014 so apparently they agreed to defer all  
12 of their fees until 2015 and their fees  
13 ranged from anywhere between \$225 or \$300  
14 per hour. Have we got any idea how many  
15 billable hours they are going to sock us  
16 for? That's a lot of money. Okay. I  
17 wouldn't be surprised to see anything other  
18 than six figures come in on that bill when  
19 it happens.

20 Then there is the status of the  
21 Sewer Authority and where we are going with  
22 that, the status of the Greenridge goop or  
23 the creature that lives below Dunmore. The  
24 status of obtaining a bond to pay the \$24  
25 million court award, the status of the

1 double pensions and how that's going to be  
2 resolved. The MMO that's due at the end of  
3 the year. The status of the rental  
4 registration lawsuit. The status of the  
5 union retirees lawsuit for their COLA, which  
6 would have been effective January 1 of this  
7 year, and probably a number of other  
8 lawsuits of which we are not aware. All  
9 those actions will effect the numbers that  
10 are projected as revenues and expenditures  
11 for next year and whether or not they are  
12 guesses, shots in the dark or realistic  
13 numbers.

14 And I bring that up because there  
15 are two milestones that we are going to hit  
16 next year, the State Auditor General will  
17 again audit our municipal pensions, and the  
18 coordinator -- the revised recovery plan  
19 coordinator is going to have to recommend  
20 what to do with the city sometime next year.  
21 Four choices, either we come out of  
22 distressed status, the city should be  
23 disincorporated, the secretary should  
24 request determination of fiscal emergency,  
25 read in receivership, or we devise a



1 three-year exit plan, let's hope B and C are  
2 not one of the choices selected.

3 And I remind all of the citizens  
4 that next Wednesday morning are all of the  
5 pension board meetings, and I believe at 11  
6 will be the consolidated pension board  
7 meeting at which perhaps we get some more  
8 information on the status of the remaining  
9 double pensions. Thank you.

10 MR. ROGAN: Les Spindler is our next  
11 speaker.

12 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening. Les  
13 Spindler, city resident and homeowner and  
14 taxpayer. I have to shake my head, for  
15 weeks I have been coming here asking for  
16 hero fighter John Rivers to get a  
17 proclamation. I come in tonight, and I have  
18 nothing against these people here tonight to  
19 get a proclamation, but I didn't hear  
20 anything about them running into a burning  
21 building and saving four firefighters lives  
22 and they get a proclamation. John Rivers  
23 has still yet to get a proclamation. The  
24 man is a hero, he saved four firefighters.  
25 If it wasn't for him they wouldn't be with

1 us anymore and it's fallen on deaf ears.  
2 That's all I have to say about that.

3 Two weeks ago when I was here a  
4 woman came up and spoke about businesses in  
5 the University of Scranton maybe being  
6 taxable. I brought this issue up many years  
7 ago in front of the previous city council,  
8 Councilman Rogan, I don't know if you  
9 remember that or not, but I think you were  
10 on council, and nothing was done. I think  
11 it's a legitimate question. I think these  
12 are taxable businesses, they are  
13 non-nonprofits, they are for profit  
14 businesses, and they should be able to be  
15 taxed.

16 MR. ROGAN: Mr. Spindler, we did  
17 look into it. What needs to happen is there  
18 needs to be a change on the state level on  
19 how nonprofits are determined. I agree, I  
20 have been saying for years that there are  
21 components of the University that should be  
22 tax free, the classrooms, things of that  
23 nature, but Chick-fil-A and Subway are for  
24 profit business and they should be taxed and  
25 council -- -

1 MR. SPINDLER: They have nothing to  
2 do with the University, they are for profit  
3 businesses. They should be able to be  
4 taxed.

5 Okay, moving on, you know, it's only  
6 been approximately three short months since  
7 John Basalyga bought the Steamtown Mall and  
8 I was really happy to read in yesterday's  
9 paper and the hearing the news I think he is  
10 moving ahead tremendously in three short  
11 months. I knew about What the Fork  
12 restaurant moving in and yesterday I just  
13 learned about a gym is going into the mall  
14 and now the theatre is going to have a major  
15 upgrade, which that sounds tremendous to me.  
16 It's going to be something really different  
17 for this area with the bar and restaurant in  
18 there and reclining leather seats. I think  
19 this guy is doing a tremendous job and I  
20 think he is going to bring this mall back to  
21 life. Hopefully get some retail shops in  
22 there now, that's what we need, but he is  
23 doing a tremendous job and I wish him all  
24 the best.

25 Lastly, this will be the last

1 meeting I attend before election day, I want  
2 to urge everyone that can get out there and  
3 vote, it's very important. The voter  
4 turnout the last number of elections has  
5 been terrible, it doesn't take much to get  
6 out and vote, so I hope everyone gets out  
7 and votes and votes for honest, truthful  
8 people not for people that don't tell us the  
9 truth, we don't need on council that aren't  
10 truthful, so everybody that watches these  
11 meetings and comes up to me and I hope they  
12 listen and just vote for the right people on  
13 election day. Thank you for your time.

14 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. Ron Ellman.

15 MR. ELLMAN: Hello, Council.

16 Unfortunately for us council doesn't listen  
17 to the people and you never have.  
18 Unfortunately for us again, a quarter, maybe  
19 a third, of the people of Scranton are  
20 retired or low income. These are property  
21 owners that the people that are in rental  
22 units. I realize that your past performance  
23 is a guide to the future, but so far what  
24 have you done to make the city better?  
25 Nobody seems to come up with an answer to

1           that. Council, the mayor, this whole  
2           administration, you are more worried about  
3           what's going on at the mall or Lackawanna  
4           College than you are the city. Just a  
5           couple of weeks ago, two, three weeks ago  
6           Lackawanna College you were supporting these  
7           people after all of the millions of dollars  
8           they have stolen from the people in taxes at  
9           this last piece of the property they have,  
10          this is just senseless. They just -- the  
11          reason we are in trouble is partly because  
12          of them and the University and some of these  
13          other phonies, nobody has done a thing to  
14          help the people of this city with all of  
15          these phony nonprofits.

16                 Just think of the millions of  
17          dollars, and then some of them brag they got  
18          this benefit and that benefit like keystone  
19          does. You know, what have they given us?  
20          Amoroso, that's a curse. That man is a  
21          curse on this city. If you ever get out  
22          there and talk to the people you'd know what  
23          I'm talking about. It's a shame. If Al  
24          Capone paid a cop not to oppose him it would  
25          be called bribery. Here, Lackawanna College

1 gives him \$60,000 not to oppose them and  
2 nobody seems to care. You don't think it's  
3 conflict of interest? You don't see nothing  
4 wrong in it. That's shameful. Somebody  
5 needs to get on the computer and tell the  
6 truth what's going on in this city to the  
7 whole state.

8 And now I'll come to my latest  
9 asinine gross act of stupidity you are  
10 engaged in reassignment. Reassessment.  
11 Whose house hasn't gone up four or five  
12 times in taxes the past 50 years? I have  
13 talked to, I don't know, eight, ten people.  
14 Every one of them taxes are two, three times  
15 what they were 15, 20 years ago, and here  
16 you talk about reassessment. You ought to  
17 be ashamed of yourselves.

18 MR. ROGAN: The point of  
19 reassessment, and you are right, that taxes,  
20 unfortunately, have gone up, what  
21 reassessment would do is make it fair. At  
22 the current time you may be paying hundreds  
23 more in taxes on your land and your property  
24 than somebody who owns a parcel that's  
25 exactly the same size and exactly the same

1 condition.

2 MR. ELLMAN: Nobody's taxes would go  
3 down, you know what will happen, they will  
4 be 10,000 people downtown protesting as soon  
5 as it's over with. They have already  
6 reassessed my house when, in '06 or  
7 something? I held the tape for some girl to  
8 measure how long my house was and  
9 everything.

10 MR. ROGAN: They never finished it.  
11 They started the reassessment and never  
12 finished.

13 MR. ELLMAN: I never heard nothing  
14 about it, but I don't know how many houses  
15 they did, but it's been reassessed once.

16 MR. ROGAN: No, it hasn't. It  
17 hasn't about reassessed in 50 years.

18 MR. ELLMAN: Just a month ago in  
19 this very room when we are talking about  
20 taxes or going to go up maybe a couple of  
21 hundred dollars and you talk about  
22 reassessment? That's as needless as a  
23 doorknob, you know, that doesn't make sense.  
24 I'll tell you what, you guys were nice guys  
25 until you got up there. Sitting up there

1 just seems to change people, like they say  
2 what is it, all power corrupts? That's what  
3 happened to you people. You are not one of  
4 no more. You are not one of the city no  
5 more. You just up there in that ivory  
6 tower. Thank you.

7 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. Is there  
8 anyone else who would like to address  
9 council?

10 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,  
11 citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians,  
12 he has a point, you have been reassessed in  
13 the City of Scranton every time you raise  
14 taxes. That isn't reassessment. It's not  
15 one from the county, but if it was from the  
16 county I'd go and say lower it like everyone  
17 else did. The reason we are in trouble is  
18 you let people lower their taxes. It had  
19 nothing to do. They assessed at the county.  
20 Millions of dollars were lost, a lot of  
21 properties were taken over by nonprofits and  
22 so forth and so on so don't cry about  
23 reassessment. Get your business in order  
24 and you don't.

25 You said we got a lot of money from



1 the people who weren't paying their refuse  
2 tax, I think paper said you collected around  
3 \$200,000 or something like that, which was a  
4 plus, but how much of that did we actually  
5 get? Because they are out on contracts,  
6 contracts take money, they don't do it for  
7 free and never do we get the actual money  
8 that poured in the city minus the fee caused  
9 by the contractors.

10 And as far as you got to do  
11 something with that \$3 million, you cannot  
12 left that city there, that \$3 million is an  
13 sore. Everybody says you cannot protect the  
14 family you got to protect the city, and you  
15 don't do it, all you are interested in is  
16 family? I feel sorry for them, true, but I  
17 always feel sorry for everyone else that had  
18 to pay up from even that \$150 fee or the  
19 \$300 fee. I feel sorry for them, but you  
20 ain't out there doing anything for them  
21 except thinking about how to raise it more.

22 You are the worst council that ever  
23 came before the city. Even Evans, I think  
24 she cried when she did it, you sat there  
25 with a straight face and did it. You voted

1           for me, I'll suffer, and that's the reason  
2           we are suffering. You ask why the Legion of  
3           Doom don't come here because the doom is  
4           here. We don't have to tell you anymore  
5           about the Legion of Doom, everything we said  
6           happened. You sat by and watched it happen,  
7           Mr. McGoff takes more of the blame, he is  
8           not here so I'm not going to really talk  
9           about him. My mother always said never talk  
10          about people if they are not there, but if  
11          he was here to his face I would have talked  
12          more in-depth about what happened, why we  
13          got to the point we are. It wasn't done  
14          overnight, it was step by step. It was like  
15          somebody seeing an abyss and you couldn't  
16          avoid it.

17                 The mayor was interested in getting  
18                 out of the city, he wanted a higher job and  
19                 that's what started us down this lie, and  
20                 council agreed with him. We always knew  
21                 that the parking garage would never pay for  
22                 itself, but then you took on a debt. Now  
23                 you are cry they want to give it to a  
24                 nonprofit. We talked a lot about  
25                 nonprofits, you want to create another

1            nonprofit. Why are you thinking of saying  
2            that runs the parking garage should be a  
3            nonprofit? What are they doing for the city  
4            that makes it a nonprofit or for anybody?  
5            They are in business to make money and they  
6            are going to make money, depending on how  
7            this contract goes. I see it going under  
8            emergency certificate. That's how you are  
9            going to write it down, it's going to come  
10           up in the last day in December and you are  
11           going to say to us like tonight, put it on  
12           an emergency certificate. This is what you  
13           do to avoid really people looking at what's  
14           there. We stand to lose millions of dollars  
15           in parking revenue that you have no way of  
16           making up instead of slapping higher on the  
17           fine and other people that park.

18                            I don't know, I haven't seen the  
19           contract, but I'm against even a contract  
20           with a nonprofit. That's ridiculous. You  
21           should be out there looking for somebody  
22           that's going to pay at least your mercantile  
23           and business privilege tax that everyone  
24           else has to pay as a business. Why do you  
25           think they should be exempt is beyond me,

1 but that's the ways you work and then  
2 that's why people don't trust you because  
3 you don't make sense. You don't make common  
4 sense. They look at what's happening in the  
5 city and say how could these people look for  
6 a nonprofit to run the parking garages?  
7 Well, we had a nonprofit running the parking  
8 garages called a Parking Authority. I don't  
9 understand it. Well, I'm not going to try.  
10 I know what's happening and the Legion of  
11 Doom was right.

12 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. Is there  
13 anyone else who would like to address  
14 council?

15 MR. BANHOFF: Marty Banhoff, a  
16 resident of Scranton, well, the Minooka  
17 section right up from Billy's mom and dad.  
18 First of all, I'd like to get a pat on the  
19 back to whoever is responsible for finally  
20 paving some of those roads back there. I  
21 have lived back there for 37 years and I  
22 never remember hem being paved before.

23 Okay, much for the nice side. I  
24 have a couple of questions, what about the  
25 rental inspections that got put on hold when

1           that gentleman, I forget his name, that  
2           owned 65 rentals, you know, buildings  
3           that -- I mean, I think that was budgeted  
4           money for those inspections, and another one  
5           now paying, the Pennsylvania Natural Gas is  
6           complaining about they don't want to pay the  
7           money for the pave cuts.

8                       MR. ROGAN: The first part I can  
9           answer the question on the rental  
10          registration, right now everything is on  
11          hold pending the lawsuit that was filed, but  
12          to your point if the lawsuit isn't in the  
13          City's favor, which most people think it  
14          won't be, it will create a hole in this  
15          year's budget and moving forward we need to  
16          come up with a plan, Councilmen Evans and I,  
17          have been working on this and pushing for it  
18          for well over a year now to have a fee that  
19          is reasonable for the inspection. The  
20          current fees are much higher than the actual  
21          cost of the program and that's the basis of  
22          the lawsuit.

23                      MR. BANHOFF: Now here is my biggest  
24          peeve, what about dog licenses. You know,  
25          it used to be in 2009 I believe it was,

1 right, we got our dog, well, it was actually  
2 my mother-in-law's dog, she passed away, we  
3 kept the dog, right, it was \$9. Chris  
4 Doherty upped it to \$20, I was mad, but I  
5 paid it. Unfortunately, you know, we had to  
6 have the dog put down last year, then this  
7 year after I was pretty much being over  
8 wanting another dog I had some medical  
9 problems and my wife and daughter got me  
10 another dog and now it's \$35 for a dog  
11 license and instead of it running from May 1  
12 until April 30, you guys all voted on it,  
13 now it's \$35 and it goes until the end of  
14 the year. So that's what, maybe about 125  
15 percent increase? It doesn't cost that much  
16 for me to go and prove that my dog had my  
17 shots, whereas you are saying, you know, it  
18 doesn't cost that much for these people to  
19 have their apartments or whatever or houses  
20 inspected, I think there is something wrong  
21 there, and maybe we can get on Facebook and  
22 get a bunch of people and say, you know  
23 what, let's file a lawsuit over the dog  
24 licenses. You know, I'm just, you know, mad  
25 over the dog licenses. That's my biggest

1 thing. I mean, every year our taxes,  
2 everything goes up, I tried to park in the  
3 Parking Authority garage to come to the  
4 meeting, hopefully people, security doesn't  
5 tow my truck away because I don't have a  
6 debit card, I couldn't pay to get in there.  
7 I mean, we have to start facing reality  
8 here. You can't just keep crucifying all of  
9 us for, you know, throwing -- I'm trying not  
10 to say bad words, you know what I mean. The  
11 dog licenses, that's a big thing with me and  
12 I will go on Facebook, I'll get a bunch of  
13 people and we'll file a lawsuit just like  
14 the with the apartment house did, you know?  
15 It's ridiculous. Thank you.

16 MR. ROGAN: Is there anyone else who  
17 would like to address council?

18 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.  
19 Well, the last speaker, look it, I just  
20 think you can just keep right on crucifying  
21 us because after 20 plus years there is no  
22 resistance and there is just no excuse where  
23 the city is and nothing is going to change  
24 until the state comes in here and puts you  
25 guys out of business and maybe puts us into

1 receivership, and I hope that does happen to  
2 be honest with you, but I think that people  
3 should very closely listen to what Joan said  
4 today and Andy, because I don't have to  
5 repeat any of this stuff twice. This city  
6 is just out of it's mind to be honest with  
7 you, you know. And, Mr. Evans, you know,  
8 during the debate you brought forward the  
9 same tired plan of selling off the Sewer  
10 Authority and monetizing it but, you know,  
11 just kind of abbreviated the whole thing,  
12 what about all of the comments that Joan  
13 made here at the podium about all that  
14 money, where is all that money coming from  
15 after the Sewer Authority has been  
16 monetized, all right?

17 And where is the 20 plus million  
18 dollars we owe our employees so when that  
19 money comes from the parking garages what do  
20 we do after that? You know the only thing  
21 we are going to do after that, we are going  
22 to crucify every single person like we have  
23 done in this city for decades and play make  
24 believe council, okay, that has no clue  
25 what's going on and doesn't care because



1           hey, the suits look good, the camera is on.  
2           You know, you can put a spin on everything  
3           you want to put on it.

4                     You know, I had somebody called me  
5           this week that was upset, but I don't know,  
6           I think, Mr. Rogan, you are the only one  
7           that can answer this, and I don't know if  
8           it's true or false, but this person was  
9           under the belief that you had bought a house  
10          in Clarks Summit and --

11                    MR. ROGAN: That's absolutely  
12          untrue.

13                    MR. MORGAN: -- I dont' know if  
14          that's true or not.

15                    MR. ROGAN: I have two properties in  
16          Scranton now.

17                    MR. MORGAN: And I said I couldn't  
18          answer that question, but you could. But,  
19          you know, like I said here months before,  
20          Mrs. Gatelli might have had it right because  
21          she had a police officer stand here and  
22          evidently she felt threatened, and I can see  
23          why because the time is going to come when  
24          you are going to sheriff sales somebody  
25          house and, look it, bad things can happen

1 and I hope they don't, but, I mean, if I was  
2 60 or 70 years old and half out of my mind  
3 already and I came in and went out of my  
4 mind and there wasn't a cop here I don't  
5 know what I would do because it's come to  
6 the point now where you want to sell every  
7 single asset every single person has. They  
8 are up borrowing money to pay their property  
9 taxes. It's ridiculous, okay? And you look  
10 at how the city is run, this isn't how you  
11 run a city. We kept hiring people even  
12 though can't pay. It's just make belief.

13 Lok it, I really think this city  
14 needs to cut the budget. You have to stop  
15 worrying about maybe protecting employees  
16 and maybe the first people we should lay off  
17 are the administration and just go in there  
18 with a knife and start cutting. Cut the  
19 budget by 30 percent. Come up with whatever  
20 it takes to do it. Don't sell off the --  
21 don't monetize the Sewer Authority because  
22 the truth be told later on the company  
23 that's going to run it is going to make a  
24 profit. The Scranton Sewer Authority, as  
25 far as I know doesn't have to make a profit

1 does it, Mr. Evans?

2 MR. EVANS: No.

3 MR. MORGAN: So the person who is  
4 going to privatize it that's a private  
5 business, do you think they are going to  
6 make a profit?

7 MR. EVANS: Absolutely.

8 MR. MORGAN: Okay, so that's  
9 probably not a good idea then, is it,  
10 because what you are doing is you are  
11 robbing from the same people you represent,  
12 and the thing to do is cut the budget. The  
13 same thing with the parking garages, the  
14 Commonwealth, the people of the city put up  
15 the money for it, city government couldn't  
16 manage it. I mean, am I wrong there? Did I  
17 say something that wasn't correct? I mean,  
18 you couldn't run it so now somebody has to  
19 come in and they are going to run it and  
20 they are going to make money off it, and you  
21 pick anything else, the parking meters,  
22 everything. People are coming in and they  
23 are running it and they are making money,  
24 and then the bills that come just send them  
25 to the people that live here and their

1 houses are leveraged to the point where,  
2 hey, don't worry, don't take a loan to pay  
3 your taxes, and you sit here and you watch  
4 this council function. You know, the suits  
5 look good but where is the thought and where  
6 is the train of thought to turn this city  
7 around? It's population keeps declining and  
8 we keep playing the same charades. Oh, I'm  
9 on the mayor's team or I was on the last  
10 mayor's team. Well, the question I have is  
11 who is on our team because we don't have  
12 anybody. We are paving streets with no  
13 curbs. Don't make any sense to me, you  
14 know, but maybe I'm wrong.

15 Okay, we are just -- how can anybody  
16 sit in those seats that you are in, and you  
17 asked to be there except you, Mr. Evans, you  
18 were appointed, you may be elected, we'll  
19 see, but you ran I guess under the idea that  
20 you were going to do something for the  
21 residents, but everything seems to be shift  
22 money here, shift money there, bring  
23 everything up on council, ram it through,  
24 let's come up with another plan, but there  
25 is never a plan with an end plan. It's

1 always go back to the taxpayers for more  
2 money and they are broke. Thank you.

3 MR. ROGAN: Thank you.

4 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening. Dave  
5 Dobrzyn, resident. A few weeks ago I  
6 mentioned council and the possible letter  
7 endorsement for Steamtown to get their funds  
8 replenished. They have been locked up, and  
9 a little note, one of the council people  
10 mentioned that somebody from Steamtown  
11 should come over and that isn't possible  
12 they will lose their jobs, they are not  
13 allowed to do comments so, Joe, I think you  
14 were over there, you mentioned it, if you --  
15 please, consider just a letter to Congress,  
16 to our representatives to get that because a  
17 lot of these plans get altered after the  
18 institution is already here and then the  
19 results aren't the same, we don't have the  
20 hotel state, we don't have the restaurants,  
21 so then on top of it we wind up losing tax  
22 money.

23 On candidates, last week I mentioned  
24 tax brakes not justified when taxes are  
25 raised on the majority. Mainly, I was

1 talking about non-incumbent idea on cutting  
2 taxes, people that are running, if you are  
3 out there please listen because my taxes are  
4 raised every year, if that's the way it has  
5 to be that's the way it has to be, but I  
6 don't know want somebody else having some  
7 kind of preferential tax cut.

8 On reassessment, once again, it's  
9 supposed to be tax neutral and if I'm not  
10 mistaken, and I read an opinion by  
11 Mr. Amoroso so that they can get another 35  
12 percent more that way and that's not the way  
13 it's supposed to be, and he is seriously  
14 mistaken if he thinks that he is going to  
15 raise taxes 35 percent in any given year and  
16 not at least be given a prebus ticket out of  
17 town. I'm ready to pass on that because  
18 myself and we can maybe round up some money  
19 to give him a bus ticket back to New Jersey.

20 The winter is coming, and the  
21 bridges and areas around the entrance points  
22 to central city, the sidewalks, something  
23 has to be done with them. They are a total  
24 risk and people are going to start getting  
25 killed there, too, just like they are killed

1 on Wyoming and Lackawanna Avenue, and I'd  
2 also like to remind the administration that  
3 every Friday swiping up our recycling crew  
4 to clear the downtown is not acceptable,  
5 they have to spread the pain or otherwise  
6 you poor people are going to have a group of  
7 other people ripping from my neighborhood  
8 because we had literally hundreds of pounds  
9 of recycling that was never picked up all  
10 winter, and we throw it in the trash, you'd  
11 find it. If you put it out even during the  
12 spring, we had a wet spring, and you  
13 couldn't put papers out then with all of the  
14 cardboard boxes and stuff I had it packed  
15 in.

16 And on the Parking Authority, years  
17 back Andy mentioned about over a quarter of  
18 million dollars being handed out to a hotel  
19 interest and free parking, and I also wonder  
20 if these freebies still exist because with  
21 them being bankrupt there is no reason  
22 whatsoever for them to do so, so it would be  
23 interesting to find out if these freebies  
24 exist and it's time to pull the carpet.

25 On the Sewer Authority, I think it

1 will be a disaster, the Parking Authority is  
2 a mess but the Sewer Authority has a AAA  
3 bond rating, as I read in the Scranton Times  
4 and so there is no real trouble down there  
5 other than the trouble we make for it, and  
6 as far as the PUC regulating it it's totally  
7 ineffective. I'll cite Roseland, I'll cite  
8 Water Regulations, we pay for the mall and  
9 I'll also cite the current electric bills,  
10 we have \$350 under deregulation. 350  
11 entities proclaiming to be able to sell  
12 electricity in Pennsylvania and if you are  
13 stupid enough to buy into it you might find  
14 your rates up three or 400 percent in the  
15 middle of January when there is not much you  
16 can do about it. Thank you and have a good  
17 night.

18 MR. ROGAN: Thank you.

19 MS. UNGVARSKY: Good evening, city  
20 council. I'm Tom Ungvarsky. Last week we  
21 had a visitor from Boston visit us. She had  
22 left Scranton about 40 years ago. We took  
23 her for a ride downtown and walked around.  
24 She asked, "Where are all of the people?"

25 She remembers when people were



1 walking the streets downtown and they would  
2 be standing out in front of the Globe Store  
3 and out in front of the Scranton Dry, now  
4 there is no one there.

5 In three weeks you are going to be  
6 getting the year's budget. Last year was  
7 the first year that you had a chance to have  
8 some input on it. I don't believe city  
9 council came up with anything. I hope this  
10 year city council can come up with some  
11 recommendations for the new budget.  
12 Perhaps, the population wouldn't be quite as  
13 angry with you should you cut their taxes or  
14 cut the expenses of the city by as much as  
15 you raised our taxes.

16 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

17 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening,  
18 Council, Marie Schumacher. The city  
19 increased the 2015 contingency budget by  
20 \$400,000 to compensate for the potential  
21 reduced SAFER grant. However, the city did  
22 receive a SAFER grant and I would like to  
23 know if the \$400,000 in contingency budget  
24 will then be used to pay a part of the  
25 contract award interest that's been

1           accruing. May I have a yes or no answer  
2           from any member who knows the answer?

3                       Now, if a member of the clerical  
4           union losses their job because of the  
5           downsizing or outsourcing, and they have not  
6           fulfilled all of the requirements for their  
7           pension at what point will they be eligible  
8           to begin collecting their earned pension?  
9           If anyone can provide a concise answer  
10          please do so, otherwise, I will ask it at  
11          the Pension Board meeting next Wednesday.

12                      MR. ROGAN: If they didn't meet the  
13          requirement they wouldn't receive the  
14          pension they would receive their  
15          contributions back in a check.

16                      MS. SCHUMACHER: Thank you. Now, I  
17          asked that because in the January 26, 2015,  
18          article in the Times-Tribune it was reported  
19          that when Mr. Courtright entered office in  
20          2014 he faced monumental problems including  
21          a severely distressed pension system and the  
22          arbitration and backpay award remaining  
23          unpaid and growing at which time that stood  
24          around \$23 million. Supported during his  
25          election campaign by the unions,

1 Mr. Courtright brought in an outside  
2 consultant, Henry Amoroso, whose  
3 recommendations including seeking  
4 concessions from the police, the Fire  
5 Department and DPW and the clerical unions.  
6 Mr. Courtright decided to negotiate with  
7 each union one at a time starting with the  
8 police and then moving on. To date, there  
9 has been no mention of the clerical union,  
10 although the current contract expires at the  
11 end of this year, and I find this curious, I  
12 have heard rumors that the city is currently  
13 negotiating with the current third party to  
14 outsource all or part of the LIPS Department  
15 to them. Is this true, and if so when was  
16 this opportunity advertised, and is it going  
17 to be all of LIPS or is only going to be  
18 components?

19 MR. GAUGHAN: I haven't -- I don't  
20 know.

21 MS. SCHUMACHER: Mr. Evans, are you  
22 aware of anything of that nature?

23 MR. EVANS: I hear the rumors like  
24 everybody else does, but I don't know  
25 anything. I know there is an RFP being

1 proposed for the rental registration  
2 inspection part of that, but that's all I  
3 know about the third party inspector.

4 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. Mr. Rogan?

5 MR. ROGAN: I am under the same  
6 impression as Councilmen Evans that the  
7 rental registration inspection will be  
8 outsourced.

9 MR. SCHUMACHER: What would be, the  
10 inspections would be outsourced did you say?

11 MR. ROGAN: Correct.

12 MR. EVANS: For the rental  
13 registration portion.

14 MS. SCHUMACHER: Oh, okay.  
15 Mr. Wechsler?

16 MR. WECHSLER: I haven't heard  
17 anything about it.

18 MS. SCHUMACHER: Again, I will ask  
19 what Ms. Boyle's credentials are to perform  
20 the position of assistant business  
21 administrator. Also, I would like to know  
22 what position Rebecca McMullen filled and  
23 was it advertised?

24 MR. GAUGHAN: She is the finance  
25 manager and I'm not positive if it was



1 year be -- in the 2016 budget be a tax or  
2 will it be a fee even though it can't be  
3 just a fee, it can't be justified or do we  
4 have to do another lawsuit along with the  
5 dog fee and the rental fee?

6 MR. EVANS: I'm not sure how they  
7 are going to be. We haven't seen the budget  
8 yet so I'm not sure how they going to  
9 specify that.

10 MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, you know it's  
11 coming if it's not. And then if I may  
12 finish with the last one, are you still  
13 considering the rain tax also known as the  
14 storm water authority for 2016?

15 MR. EVANS: I'm not sure. Well, we  
16 are going to talk about the matrix a little  
17 bit later, I don't know if you got a copy of  
18 that, so we'll talk about that.

19 MS. SCHUMACHER: No, I don't, but  
20 Gaughan said he would make it available to  
21 me. Okay, I'll sit down and listen. Thank  
22 you.

23 MR. ROGAN: Is there anyone else who  
24 would like to address council?

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

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MOTIONS.

MR. ROGAN: Mr. Wechsler, do you have any motions or comments?

MR. WECHSLER: Just a few things, Mr. Rogan. Last week a resident talked about coming up with a plan for safety improvements in downtown Scranton so this week I contacted Leslie Collins from Scranton Tomorrow who is going to try to put together a group of people from PennDOT and also a member of the University of Scranton who actually teaches incoming students how to handle the traffic in the city, so Ms. Collins is working on that to put something together where we could do a presentation to familiarize with the most dangerous streets in the city and also a little bit of a class on how to obey the street signage and the crossing instructions, so that's something that we are trying to put together for later on this month.

This week I began working on a request from the city in regards with the personnel department, the fire chief and police department chief to get a gauge on

1 the overtime for the third quarter this  
2 year, so we will be working on getting that  
3 answered in a few weeks.

4 This evening in my correspondence I  
5 did get some information back from the  
6 Lackawanna County Emergency Management group  
7 about the response to the Sandone fire. I  
8 just received it tonight, I'll be reviewing  
9 it and commenting on it later on next week  
10 probably.

11 As several speakers mentioned  
12 tonight, I am very encouraged, also, by the  
13 good news at the Mall at Steamtown. I was  
14 down there yesterday and it's quite  
15 noticeable on the improvements, just the  
16 appearance of it is quite inviting. I'm  
17 most encouraged by speaking to people who  
18 are employed by Boscov's and some of the  
19 other stores who are very optimistic about  
20 the improvements that Mr. Basalyga is making  
21 there and it seems like they have all been  
22 brought into that.

23 I'd also, just one other comment, I  
24 did receive a call from a constituent  
25 regarding a DPW -- a repair job up on Beach



1 Street and Wintermantle Avenue to place a  
2 drainage culvert and that resident was  
3 inquiring when the final paving on that was  
4 going to be done. I do have a call in to  
5 Director Gallagher to get an answer on that  
6 and hopefully I'll have something on that  
7 tomorrow. And that's all I have right now.  
8 Thank you.

9 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. Mr. Evans,  
10 any motions or comments?

11 MR. EVANS: A couple of things. I'd  
12 like to touch on what Councilman Wechsler  
13 said about the mall, I was at the theatre  
14 announcement and it's going to be -- I think  
15 it's a great benchmark and I think it's  
16 going to be a major positive, but what I  
17 really like what's happening is What the  
18 Fork is going to be facing Lackawanna Avenue  
19 on the street, the bridge is going to be  
20 opened up for the gym and the theatre on  
21 Lackawanna Avenue will be reopened again, so  
22 what's happening is we are trying to get  
23 something that should have happened before  
24 more activity on the street and create a  
25 connection to the downtown that wasn't there

1 before. Everybody would go inside of the  
2 mall, there was not enough stores on the  
3 street side so I think that's a very big  
4 positive that they are focusing on that  
5 first.

6 A lot of talk tonight about the  
7 taxing of properties, I will ask that I  
8 asked for this to be put into the recovery  
9 plan, verification of property exempt as  
10 taxable or nontaxable properties. We  
11 received a matrix tonight from PEL they  
12 basically said at this point it's not been  
13 undertaken for 2015, but they are having  
14 discussions with the coordinator to the  
15 design and nature of this survey. I urge  
16 PEL and the administration to get together  
17 and get this thing done. It's not that  
18 complicated. You send a survey to the  
19 property owner, they can either justify the  
20 tax exemption or they can't. It's that  
21 simple.

22 On Monday I attended the community  
23 event for Jimmy Hughes at Stirna's in North  
24 Scranton with a few of my other council  
25 colleagues that are here tonight and I have

1 to tell you the outpouring of love and  
2 affection for this man from North Scranton  
3 and their community was touching and  
4 impressive. Every city and every  
5 neighborhood should have a Jimmy Hughes and  
6 North Scranton is lucky to have him and  
7 certainly it showed on Monday night, so  
8 kudos to Jimmy and to all of North Scranton  
9 coming out for this amazing individual.

10 At the PEL meeting I did press for  
11 the matrix and Councilmen Gaughan received  
12 that, I'm sure he will talk about it a  
13 little more tonight. These are the  
14 beginning stages of the matrix, but while  
15 speaking about PEL at the meeting on Monday  
16 we had a special guest there Council  
17 President Bob McGoff sat in for the most of  
18 the meeting. While I've seen Bob on a  
19 regular basis, it was great to see him back  
20 in his element at city hall. As always, he  
21 was here, informed and engaged in every  
22 discussion, so I just want to comment on  
23 that. It was a welcome surprise and it was  
24 great to see Bob again at that table.  
25 That's all I have tonight.

1 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. Mr. Gaughan,  
2 do you have any motions or comments?

3 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, thank you. I  
4 attended the Weston field Bull's Head  
5 neighborhood meeting this week, a few  
6 citizens' requests. A citizen would like  
7 red flashers or reflectors placed on stop  
8 signs at the corner of North Sumner and  
9 Court Street and if possible stop signs in  
10 that area made to be replaced because they  
11 are severely faded and they are several  
12 faded street signs in that area that need to  
13 be replaced, and I have noticed driving  
14 throughout the city that there are several  
15 street signs that are faded so I will get  
16 those addresses to the DPW director.

17 Citizens would also like  
18 neighborhood watch signs posted in the  
19 Weston field area and I will list the  
20 streets that I will give to Chief Graziano.  
21 I met with a gentleman on East Mountain who  
22 had several concerns about water runoff on  
23 Brook Street, Wintermantle Avenue is  
24 eroding, and there are utility cuts on  
25 Moosic Street that need to be repaired among

1 others things, and I will speak to the DPW  
2 director this week to try and rectify these  
3 issues.

4 We received a letter from PennDOT  
5 explaining that funding was recently secured  
6 for safety improvements at the following  
7 inspections: Pittston Avenue and Elm  
8 Street, main Avenue and Shift's driveway,  
9 Johnson Technical Institute driveway, and  
10 Meridian Avenue and Luzerne Street. The  
11 scope of the work will be limited to  
12 replacement of incandescent signal heads to  
13 LED signal head a back plates and upgrading  
14 pedestrian signal heads to LED and countdown  
15 pedestrian signal plates. This will  
16 increase safety by providing better  
17 visibility of the signaling equipment to  
18 motorists and also reduce energy costs and  
19 there is no cost to the city.

20 I received a call this week about  
21 traffic issues in the Tripp Park area at  
22 Dorothy Street and Everett Avenue.  
23 Mr. Rogan I know has also received the  
24 letter. Residents would like a stop sign at  
25 this location. There is serious traffic

1 issues during school hours. We have  
2 forwarded this request to Chief Graziano and  
3 our city engineer for review.

4 Yesterday, I was up walking around  
5 Nay Aug Park and I noticed that several  
6 signs near the Kanjorsky bridge have been  
7 tagged with graffiti and this is simply  
8 unacceptable. It takes away from the beauty  
9 of the park and the invites more criminal  
10 activity, so I will be asking DPW to take  
11 care of this situation up at Nay Aug Park.

12 We did receive a status update on  
13 items in the recovery plan that Mr. Cross  
14 e-mailed me this morning. It's quite a  
15 lengthy list and I'm still reviewing it so I  
16 will update everyone, I'm sure Mr. Evans  
17 will, also, at next week's meeting, but if  
18 anyone would like a copy please let me know  
19 and I'll make that available.

20 We did receive a letter from the  
21 Scranton Sewer Authority's executive  
22 director Gene Barrett from a request two  
23 weeks ago for more information about the  
24 odor in Greenridge, and we are still  
25 awaiting information from DEP. I appreciate

1 the letter that Mr. Barrett wrote to  
2 council, and it's quite lengthy so I'll only  
3 read two parts that I think are important.

4 In the letter Mr. Barrett writes,  
5 "In cooperation with DEP for the last week  
6 or so the Scranton Sewer Authority has been  
7 conducting an inspection of all industrial  
8 commercial facilities that utilize the  
9 subject line. Enclosed is a sample of the  
10 inspection report along with the entities  
11 being inspected. In cooperation with DEP,  
12 the Scranton Sewer Authority is making every  
13 effort possible to determine the source of  
14 the odor issue. All of our sample and tests  
15 are undertaken by an outside third party  
16 independent laboratory. As I understand it,  
17 the DEP has taken it's own material testing  
18 laboratory in Harrisburg.

19 The Scranton Sewer Authority system  
20 consists of 350 miles of collection lines  
21 both combined, sanitary and storm water, and  
22 separate sanitary lines in over 7,000 catch  
23 basins and manholes. Absent someone being  
24 caught in the act, it is virtually  
25 impossible for the Scranton Sewer Authority

1 to prevent the illegal discharge of  
2 environmentally harmful material into our  
3 system.

4 On behalf of the Board of Directors  
5 and our 32,000 ratepayers, I can assure you  
6 we are making a very concerted effort to  
7 determine the source of the odor."

8 So I appreciate Mr. Barrett's  
9 response to our inquiry and we are awaiting  
10 the DEP for their response. And that is all  
11 I have this week. Thank you.

12 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. Just a few  
13 very brief items tonight. The first one was  
14 touched on by some of my colleagues, another  
15 great development in downtown at the mall.  
16 By all accounts John Basalyga has done an  
17 amazing job since purchasing that property.  
18 I know I'm looking forward to dinner and a  
19 movie all at once in the same place, which  
20 is a nice idea, and I know it's been very  
21 successful in other cities across the  
22 country. So, again, I hope -- we have been  
23 saying this a lot that Mr. Basalyga has been  
24 doing an amazing job and I hope we continue  
25 to say it because the investment he made in



1 the city is huge and we hope to see the mall  
2 come back to life and so far he was done an  
3 excellent job by bringing in a number of  
4 businesses, and as Councilmen Evans noted,  
5 visible businesses to people driving down  
6 Lackawanna Avenue to make that area look  
7 more vibrant and it will be more vibrant so  
8 that is some very good news.

9 And, secondly, Councilmen Gaughan  
10 touched upon the traffic problems at Isaac  
11 Tripp School in my neighborhood, West  
12 Scranton. I'm glad to see, and I want to  
13 thank our staff for sending this letter out  
14 right away to the chief as soon as it went  
15 in. There is also another issue to look at,  
16 there is an access road to the school that  
17 currently isn't sanctioned to be used by the  
18 general public. A few parents did contact  
19 me this week about possibly opening that up  
20 to make traffic flow a little bit better so  
21 we will be looking into a number of options  
22 to make traffic not only move better but  
23 also be as safe as possible, again, in that  
24 West Scranton neighborhood because it is one  
25 of the largest schools in the city,

1 elementary, and the traffic is crazy. If  
2 you there on the times school is getting in  
3 and school is getting out so it is a very  
4 busy intersection. And that is all I have  
5 for tonight.

6 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Rogan, I'm not  
7 sure if Mr. Gaughan was going to get into  
8 the Sewer Authority letter so can I just  
9 make one comment on it?

10 MR. ROGAN: Sure.

11 MR. WECHSLER: I agree with what  
12 Dr. Barrett said about the extent of the  
13 Sewer Authority, but this was not somebody  
14 dumping a pale into one of the storm drains.  
15 This was a major violation of the Sewer  
16 Authority and the regulations involved with  
17 it, so I don't think saying that unless  
18 somebody gets caught I don't think that  
19 that's an acceptable answer. This was a  
20 large spill with a huge smell, so it's not  
21 just something random that just happened.  
22 So like we talked about before, if it didn't  
23 have a smell we wouldn't even know it  
24 happened. So, like I said, while I  
25 appreciate Director Barrett's comments, but,

1 I don't think that's an acceptable answer.

2 MR. GAUGHAN: I mean, there is more  
3 to the letter, I just didn't want to read  
4 the whole thing because it's really lengthy,  
5 but I would agree with you that the whole  
6 situation is unacceptable, especially for  
7 the people of Greenridge and really the City  
8 of Scranton and it goes back to the larger  
9 issue of the landfill and I would hope that  
10 we could come to some kind of an agreement  
11 in the future and that these type of things  
12 don't happen ever again.

13 MR. ROGAN: And on that issue, I  
14 wasn't going to comment but since it was  
15 brought back up, I know for myself I was  
16 always under the impression that that line  
17 was primarily actually only from the  
18 landfill. I didn't realize how many other  
19 businesses, commercial businesses do look  
20 into that line along the way. So it's  
21 definitely a major issue for the residents  
22 of Greenridge and throughout the city as a  
23 whole so hopefully there will be an answer.

24 To me, it seems like it should be  
25 easy to find out where it came from if

1           it's --

2                   MR. EVANS: I agree.

3                   MR. ROGAN: -- you know, if there is  
4           tar going down the pipe and you could look  
5           into the pipe and you could see where it  
6           came from so hopefully we will get an answer  
7           sooner rather than later to find out where  
8           that discharge did, indeed, come from.

9                   MR. WECHSLER: The Sewer Authority  
10          has the ability to put a monitor next to  
11          every downspout. They could monitor ever  
12          person that puts things into that line.  
13          Like I said, it's a starting point, that  
14          letter is a starting point.

15                  MR. ROGAN: Yeah.

16                  MS. REED: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION - A  
17          RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER  
18          APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND  
19          ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH KEYSER VALLEY  
20          AUTO WRECKERS, INC. TO PROVIDE TOWING  
21          SERVICES FOR CITY OWNED VEHICLES FOR THE  
22          PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2016 THROUGH DECEMBER 31,  
23          2016.

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

1 introduced into its proper committee.

2 MR. WECHSLER: So moved.

3 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

7 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

8 MR. EVANS: Aye.

9 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

12 MS. REED: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION - A  
13 RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER  
14 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND  
15 ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH SANDONE TIRE TO  
16 PROVIDE NEW TIRES FOR CITY OWNED VEHICLES  
17 FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2016 THROUGH  
18 DECEMBER 31, 2016.

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

22 MR. WECHSLER: So moved.

23 MR. EVANS: Second.

24 MR. ROGAN: On the question? All  
25 those in favor of introduction signify by

1 saying aye.

2 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

3 MR. EVANS: Aye.

4 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

5 MR. ROGAN: Aye. Opposed? The ayes  
6 have it and so moved.

7 MS. REED: 5-D. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
8 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND  
9 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE  
10 AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH SANDONE TIRE  
11 TO PROVIDE RETREAD TIRES FOR CITY OWNED  
12 VEHICLES FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2016  
13 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2016.

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

17 MR. WECHSLER: So moved.

18 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

22 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

23 MR. EVANS: Aye.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

25 MR. ROGAN: Aye. Opposed? The ayes

1 have it and so moved.

2 MS. REED: 5-E. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
3 A RESOLUTION - APPOINTMENT OF REV. KATHRYN  
4 SIMMONS, 635 ADAMS AVENUE, SCRANTON,  
5 PENNSYLVANIA, 18510 AS A MEMBER OF THE HUMAN  
6 RELATIONS COMMISSION, EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 14,  
7 2015. REV. SIMMONS IS BEING APPOINTED TO A  
8 THREE (3) YEAR TERM THAT WILL EXPIRE ON  
9 OCTOBER 14, 2018.

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

13 MR. WECHSLER: So moved.

14 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

18 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

19 MR. EVANS: Aye.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

21 MR. ROGAN: Aye. Opposed? The ayes  
22 have it and so moved.

23 MS. REED: 5-F. FOR INTRODUCTION - A  
24 RESOLUTION - APPOINTMENT OF RABBI MOSHE  
25 SAKS, 520 CLAY AVENUE, APARTMENT 100,

1 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18510 AS A MEMBER OF  
2 THE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION, EFFECTIVE  
3 OCTOBER 14, 2015. RABBI SAKS IS BEING  
4 APPOINTED TO A THREE (3) YEAR TERM THAT WILL  
5 EXPIRE ON OCTOBER 14, 2018.

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

9 MR. WECHSLER: So moved.

10 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

14 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

15 MR. EVANS: Aye.

16 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

17 MR. ROGAN: Aye. Opposed? The ayes  
18 have it and so moved.

19 MS. REED: 5-G. FOR INTRODUCTION - A  
20 RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER  
21 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND  
22 ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT SETTING FORTH THE  
23 TERMS AND CONDITIONS BY AND BETWEEN THE CITY  
24 OF SCRANTON AND TOYOTA OF SCRANTON TO ACCEPT  
25 THE DONATION OF A NEW 2015 TOYOTA TACOMA



1 TRUCK TO BE USED BY THE CITY OF SCRANTON  
2 FIRE DEPARTMENT AS AN ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF  
3 VEHICLE.

4 MR. ROGAN: At this time I'll  
5 entertain a motion that Item 5-G be  
6 introduced into its proper committee.

7 MR. WECHSLER: So moved.

8 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

12 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

13 MR. EVANS: Aye.

14 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

15 MR. ROGAN: Aye. Opposed? The ayes  
16 have it and so moved.

17 MS. REED: 5-H. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
18 A RESOLUTION - ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATION  
19 OF THE HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURE REVIEW BOARD  
20 ("HARB") AND APPROVING THE CERTIFICATE OF  
21 APPROPRIATENESS FOR 402 NORTH WASHINGTON,  
22 LLC, 124 NORTH MAIN AVENUE, SCRANTON,  
23 PENNSYLVANIA 18504 FOR THE FOLLOWING  
24 ALTERATIONS AND REPAIRS: REPAIR OF ORIGINAL  
25 WINDOWS, REPAIR/REPLACEMENT OF DOUBLE HUNG

1 ARCH TOP WINDOWS WITH INSULATED GLASS,  
2 INSTALLATION OF NEW PAINTED WOOD FAÇADE WITH  
3 RAISED PANEL DETAIL AND MOLDING, PAINT WOOD  
4 AND GLASS DOORS AND INSTALL NEW INSULATED  
5 GLASS AT 324-326 PENN AVENUE, SCRANTON,  
6 PENNSYLVANIA.

7 MR. ROGAN: At this time I'll  
8 entertain a motion that Item 5-H be  
9 introduced into its proper committee.

10 MR. WECHSLER: So moved.

11 MR. EVANS: Second.

12 MR. ROGAN: On the question? All  
13 those in favor of introduction signify by  
14 saying aye.

15 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

16 MR. EVANS: Aye.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

18 MR. ROGAN: Aye. Opposed? The ayes  
19 have it and so moved.

20 MS. REED: SIXTH ORDER. 6-A. NO  
21 BUSINESS AT THIS TIME.

22 SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR  
23 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC  
24 WORKS- FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF THE COUNCIL  
25 NO. 123, 2015 - CLOSING AND VACATING A

1 PORTION OF JONES COURT, BETWEEN BEECH STREET  
2 AND MAPLE STREET.

3 MR. ROGAN: What is the  
4 recommendation of the Chair for the  
5 Committee on Public Works?

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

9 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

10 MR. ROGAN: On the question? Roll  
11 call, please?

12 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler.

13 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

14 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Evans.

15 MR. EVANS: Yes.

16 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

18 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

19 MR. ROGAN: Yes. I hereby declare  
20 Item 7-A legally and lawfully adopted.

21 MS. REED: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION  
22 BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY- FOR  
23 ADOPTION - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 124, 2015  
24 - AMENDING FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 92, 1994 (AS  
25 AMENDED) ENTITLED "ESTABLISHING A

1 RESIDENTIAL PARKING PERMIT PILOT PROGRAM FOR  
2 CERTAIN ELIGIBLE RESIDENTIAL AREAS AS  
3 DEFINED HEREIN; PROVIDING FOR CERTAIN POWERS  
4 AND DUTIES FOR THE ADMINISTRATOR OF SAID  
5 PROGRAM WHO SHALL BE DESIGNATED BY THE  
6 MAYOR; AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION  
7 OF THE SAID ORDINANCE", BY DELETING THE 700  
8 BLOCK OF MONROE AVENUE FROM THE STREETS  
9 DESIGNATED AS ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE  
10 PERMIT PARKING PROGRAM AND THAT PERMIT  
11 PARKING SIGNS BE REMOVED FROM THE 700 BLOCK  
12 OF MONROE AVENUE.

13 MR. ROGAN: What is the  
14 recommendation of the Chair for the  
15 Committee on Public Safety?

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

19 MR. EVANS: Second.

20 MR. ROGAN: On the question? Roll  
21 call, please?

22 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler.

23 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

24 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Evans.

25 MR. EVANS: Yes.

1 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan.

2 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

3 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

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

6 MS. REED: 7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION  
7 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES- FOR ADOPTION -  
8 RESOLUTION NO. 201, 2015 APPOINTMENT OF  
9 PEDRO L. ANÉS, 900 JAMES AVENUE, SUITE 5216,  
10 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, AS A MEMBER OF THE  
11 HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION, EFFECTIVE  
12 SEPTEMBER 16, 2015. MR. ANES IS BEING  
13 APPOINTED TO A THREE (3) YEAR TERM THAT WILL  
14 EXPIRE ON SEPTEMBER 16, 2018.

15 MR. ROGAN: As temporary Chair for  
16 the Committee on Rules, I recommend final  
17 passage of Item 7-C.

18 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

19 MR. ROGAN: On the question? Roll  
20 call, please?

21 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler.

22 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

23 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Evans.

24 MR. EVANS: Yes.

25 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan.

1 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

2 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

3 MR. ROGAN: Yes. I hereby declare  
4 Item 7-C legally and lawfully adopted.

5 MS. REED: 7-D. FOR CONSIDERATION  
6 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES- FOR ADOPTION -  
7 RESOLUTION NO. 202, 2015 - APPOINTMENT OF  
8 LISA J. STANVITCH, 1813 SWETLAND STREET,  
9 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18504 AS A MEMBER OF  
10 THE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION, EFFECTIVE  
11 SEPTEMBER 23, 2015. MS. STANVITCH IS BEING  
12 APPOINTED TO A THREE (3) YEAR TERM THAT WILL  
13 EXPIRE ON SEPTEMBER 23, 2018.

14 MR. ROGAN: As temporary Chair for  
15 the Committee on Rules, I recommend final  
16 passage of Item 7-D.

17 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

18 MR. ROGAN: On the question? Roll  
19 call, please?

20 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler.

21 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

22 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Evans.

23 MR. EVANS: Yes.

24 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan.

25 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

1 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

2 MR. ROGAN: Yes. I hereby declare  
3 Item 7-D legally and lawfully adopted.

4 MS. REED: 7-E. FOR CONSIDERATION  
5 BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS- FOR  
6 ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 203, 2015  
7 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE  
8 CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A  
9 CONTRACT WITH D.G. NICHOLAS COMPANY TO  
10 PROVIDE THE CITY BULK OIL DELIVERED FOR THE  
11 PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2016 THROUGH DECEMBER 31,  
12 2016.

13 MR. ROGAN: What is the  
14 recommendation of the Chair for the  
15 Committee on Public Works?

16 MR. GAUGHAN: As Chairperson for the  
17 Committee on Public Works, I recommend final  
18 passage of Item 7-E.

19 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

20 MR. ROGAN: On the question? Roll  
21 call, please?

22 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler.

23 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

24 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Evans.

25 MR. EVANS: Yes.

1 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan.

2 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

3 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

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

6 MS. REED: 7-F. FOR CONSIDERATION BY  
7 THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS - FOR ADOPTION  
8 - RESOLUTION NO. 204, 2015 - AUTHORIZING THE  
9 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS  
10 TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH  
11 KEYSTONE QUARRY, INC. TO PROVIDE THE CITY  
12 2000 TON (MORE OR LESS) ANTI-SKID SAND FOR  
13 THE PERIOD OCTOBER 25, 2015 THROUGH APRIL  
14 30, 2016.

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

18 MR. GAUGHAN: As Chairperson for the  
19 Committee on Public Works, I recommend final  
20 passage of Item 7-F.

21 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

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

24 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler.

25 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.



1 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Evans.

2 MR. EVANS: Yes.

3 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan.

4 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

5 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

6 MR. ROGAN: Yes. I hereby declare

7 Item 7-F legally and lawfully adopted.

8 MS. REED: 7-G - PREVIOUSLY TABLED -  
9 FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON  
10 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - FOR ADOPTION - FILE  
11 OF THE COUNCIL NO. 118-2015 - AS AMENDED -  
12 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE  
13 OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO TAKE  
14 ALL NECESSARY ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE  
15 CONSOLIDATED SUBMISSION FOR COMMUNITY  
16 PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS TO BE  
17 FUNDED UNDER THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK  
18 GRANT PROGRAM (CDBG), HOME INVESTMENT  
19 PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM (HOME) AND EMERGENCY  
20 SOLUTIONS GRANT PROGRAM (ESG) for the period  
21 beginning January 1, 2016.

22 MR. EVANS: I make a motion to amend  
23 Item 7-G per the following: In the 2016  
24 HOME funding allocations move \$30,000 from  
25 housing rehabilitation program thereby

1           reducing that proposed from \$225,000 to  
2           \$195,000 and transferring \$30,000 to the  
3           homebuyer program.

4                   MR. ROGAN: A motion has been made,  
5           is there a second?

6                   MR. WECHSLER: Second.

7                   MR. ROGAN: On the question? Again,  
8           Councilman Evans and myself worked on this  
9           over the last week, and Ms. Aebli did send a  
10          letter to council stating the reason why  
11          this program wasn't funded is because there  
12          already is -- there is over \$100,000 in  
13          funding from previous years in the program,  
14          it was our hope by proposing this amendment  
15          that this would give further incentive to  
16          the Office of Economic and Community  
17          Development to push the First Time  
18          Homebuyer's Program, and since the paper is  
19          here we are hopeful they will help us by  
20          letting people know that the program is out  
21          there to provide assistance for first time  
22          homebuyers within the City of Scranton and  
23          certain guidelines. We would also hope to  
24          so those funds used for community outreach,  
25          possibly advertisements to let the community

1 know that this program does exist because as  
2 a city the only way we are going to recover  
3 and grow is by growing our tax base and  
4 attracting more homeowners into the City of  
5 Scranton.

6 MR. EVANS: I couldn't agree more,  
7 home ownership is far too important for it  
8 not to be a major priority of the city and I  
9 think that city council by doubling down on  
10 homeowners is sending a message that that's  
11 how important we believe it is, too.

12 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Rogan, I'd just  
13 like to add my comment, I am planning on  
14 voting for this amendment, but I would like  
15 to make it a priority for this council and  
16 the administration to monitor the progress.  
17 If the amount of money that we've added this  
18 year is not consumed by next year I think we  
19 also have to take a look at why it didn't  
20 happen, but I think this is something that  
21 has to be looked almost on a monthly basis  
22 to see the success.

23 MR. ROGAN: Absolutely. One of the  
24 other things that we mentioned as it has  
25 been some of the other programs is possibly

1 if the city isn't capable of running a  
2 successful first time homebuyer's program is  
3 having one of the other nonprofits in the  
4 area run it. Neighbor Works NEPA is one  
5 that comes to mind and they do great work  
6 for consulting homebuyers and working with  
7 those who have been in distress with their  
8 mortgages, so this program one way or  
9 another has to get off the ground whether  
10 it's through city hall or whether it's  
11 through another entity, it is far too  
12 important to just let it go by the wayside.

13 MR. EVANS: Absolutely.

14 MR. ROGAN: All those in favor of  
15 the amendment signify by saying aye.

16 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

17 MR. EVANS: Aye.

18 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

19 MR. ROGAN: Aye. Opposed? The ayes  
20 have it and so moved. What is the  
21 recommendation of the temporary Chair for  
22 the Committee on Community Development?

23 MR. EVANS: As temporary Chairperson  
24 for the Committee on Community Development,  
25 I recommend final passage of Item 7-G, as

1 amended.

2 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

3 MR. ROGAN: On the question? Roll  
4 call, please?

5 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler.

6 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

7 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Evans.

8 MR. EVANS: Yes.

9 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan.

10 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

11 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

12 MR. ROGAN: Yes. I hereby declare  
13 Item 7-G, as amended, legally and lawfully  
14 adopted.

15 MS. REED: 7-H - PREVIOUSLY TABLED -  
16 FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON  
17 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - FOR ADOPTION - FILE  
18 OF THE COUNCIL NO. 120-2015 -- AMENDING FILE  
19 OF THE COUNCIL NO. 47-2013 AND FILE OF THE  
20 COUNCIL NO. 44-2014 - ENTITLED AN ORDINANCE  
21 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE  
22 OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO TAKE  
23 ALL NECESSARY ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE  
24 CONSOLIDATED SUBMISSION FOR COMMUNITY  
25 PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS TO BE

1 FUNDED UNDER THE COMMUNITY BLOCK (CDBG),  
2 HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM (HOME)  
3 AND EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT PROGRAM (ESG)  
4 BY AMENDING BOTH THE 2014 AND 2015 ACTION  
5 PLAN TO ACCEPT, RECEIVE AND DISPERSE GRANT  
6 FUNDS FOR BOTH THE NOVEMBRINO POOL ACTIVITY  
7 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$220,000 AND THE PINERIDGE  
8 SWIMMING COMPLEX IN THE AMOUNT OF \$45,000  
9 THAT TOTALS \$265,000 UNDER THE COMMUNITY  
10 DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM ADMINISTERED  
11 BY THE US DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN  
12 DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSFERRING THESE FUNDS TO  
13 THE 2015 ACTIVITY ENTITLED "RECONSTRUCTION  
14 OF CITY STREETS TO INCLUDE HANDICAPPED CURB  
15 CUTS."

16 MR. ROGAN: What is the  
17 recommendation of the temporary Chair for  
18 the Committee on Community Development?

19 MR. EVANS: As temporary Chairperson  
20 for the Committee on Community Development,  
21 I recommend final passage of Item 7-H.

22 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

23 MR. ROGAN: On the question? Roll  
24 call, please?

25 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler.

1 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

2 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Evans.

3 MR. EVANS: Yes.

4 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan.

5 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

6 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

7 MR. ROGAN: Yes. I hereby declare  
8 Item 7-H legally and lawfully adopted.

9 MS. REED: 7-I - PREVIOUSLY TABLED -  
10 FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES  
11 - FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 200-2015 -  
12 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE  
13 OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER IN TO A  
14 SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN THE CITY  
15 OF SCRANTON AND TEAMSTER'S LOCAL 229.

16 MR. ROGAN: As temporary Chair for  
17 the Committee on Rules, I recommend final  
18 passage of Item 7-I.

19 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

20 MR. ROGAN: On the question? Roll  
21 call, please?

22 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler.

23 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

24 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Evans.

25 MR. EVANS: Yes.

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MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan.

MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

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

MR. ROGAN: If there is no business,  
I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

MR. WECHSLER: Motion to adjourn.

MR. ROGAN: Meeting adjourned.



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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

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CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR  
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER