

SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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HELD:

Thursday, April 20, 2017

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:

JOSEPH WECHSLER, PRESIDENT

PATRICK ROGAN, VICE-PRESIDENT

WAYNE EVANS

WILLIAM GAUGHAN

TIM PERRY

LORI REED, CITY CLERK

KATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

AMIL MINORA, ESQUIRE - SOLICITOR

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

3 MR. WECHSLER: Roll call, please.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

5 MR. PERRY: Here.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

7 MR. ROGAN: Here.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

9 MR. EVANS: Here.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Here.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

13 MR. WECHSLER: Here. This evening
14 we are requesting to present a proclamation
15 to Lackawanna College, if they would come up
16 to the podium, please.

17 WHEREAS, the COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
18 SCRANTON is desirous of honoring "LACKAWANNA
19 COLLEGE POLICE ACADEMY" on their 40th
20 Anniversary celebration, and;

21 WHEREAS, "the ACADEMY" was
22 originally certified by the Commonwealth of
23 Pennsylvania through the Municipal Police
24 Officers' Education and Training Commission
25 in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania on April 21,

1 1977, and;

2 WHEREAS, Lackawanna is the first and
3 continues to be the only private college in
4 Northeastern Pennsylvania authorized to
5 provide Act 120 training, and;

6 WHEREAS, "the ACADEMY" operates from
7 two locations in Northeastern Pennsylvania;
8 Scranton and Hazleton, and;

9 WHEREAS, thousands of graduating
10 cadets actively serve a police officers
11 throughout the Commonwealth, and as chiefs
12 of police, attorneys, sheriffs, and as
13 agents of state and federal agencies, and;

14 WHEREAS, the "LACKAWANNA COLLEGE
15 POLICE ACADEMY'S" mission is 'HONOR,
16 INTEGRITY AND COURAGE" and their creed is
17 "Mission and Service Before Self."

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that
19 on Thursday, April 20, 2017, Scranton City
20 Council wishes to congratulate "LACKAWANNA
21 COLLEGE POLICE ACADEMY", on the eve of their
22 40th anniversary, for their outstanding
23 accomplishments and extend their best wishes
24 for continued success to their students,
25 faculty and staff.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this
2 Proclamation be made a permanent part of the
3 Record of this Council, as lasting tribute
4 to "LACKAWANNA COLLEGE POLICE ACADEMY".

5 MR. EVANS: I make a motion to
6 suspend the Rules and move Item 6-A to
7 Seventh Order for final passage.

8 MR. ROGAN: Second.

9 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?
10 This ordinance is to correct the address of
11 AV restaurant as 320-322 Penn Avenue. If
12 anyone would like to speak on this
13 particular piece of legislation, they may do
14 so during Fourth Order, Citizens'
15 Participation. All those in favor signify
16 by saying aye.

17 MR. PERRY: Aye.

18 MR. EVANS: Aye.

19 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

20 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

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

23 Dispense with the reading of the
24 minutes.

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

1 BREAKDOWN OF ELIGIBLE SALARIES FOR THE
2 LIQUID FUELS ACCOUNT FOR THE MONTHS OF
3 JANUARY, FEBRUARY, AND MARCH 2017.

4 MR. WECHSLER: Are there any
5 comments? If not, received and filed.

6 MS. REED: 3-B. TAX ASSESSOR'S
7 REPORT FOR HEARING DATE TO BE HELD MAY 3,
8 2017.

9 MR. WECHSLER: Are there any
10 comments? If not, received and filed.

11 MS. REED: 3-C. MINUTES OF THE
12 REGULAR MEETING OF THE LACKAWANNA COUNTY
13 LAND BANK HELD MARCH 10, 2017.

14 MR. WECHSLER: Are there any
15 comments? If not, received and filed.

16 MS. REED: 3-D. MINUTES OF THE
17 SCRANTON FIREFIGHTERS PENSION COMMISSION
18 MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 15, 2017.

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

21 MS. REED: 3-E. MINUTES OF THE
22 NON-UNIFORM MUNICIPAL PENSION BOARD MEETING
23 HELD FEBRUARY 15, 2017.

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

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MS. REED: 3-F. MINUTES OF THE
SCRANTON POLICE PENSION COMMISSION MEETING
HELD FEBRUARY 15, 2017.

MR. WECHSLER: Are there any
comments? If not, received and filed.

Do any council members have any
announcements at this time?

MR. PERRY: I have one announcement
to make. Minooka Lion's Club will dedicate
a new gazebo at the Billy Barrett Park on
Colliery Avenue in Scranton on Saturday,
April 22, which is this Saturday. The
gazebo will be dedicated in memory of Mark
Walsh, an attorney, civic leader, former
school board president who died in 2013 at
the age of 53 after a three-year battle with
leukemia. The dedication will be held at 10
a.m. at the park, which is located at the
2900 block of Colliery Avenue. All are
welcome to come. Thank you.

MR. WECHSLER: Anyone else?

MS. REED: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'
PARTICIPATION.

MR. WECHSLER: Jim Kuchara.

MR. KUCHARA: Council members, at

1 this time I would like to take this time not
2 only for myself but for my senior vice
3 commander, and all of the officers and all
4 of the members of Brigadier General Theodore
5 J. Wint VFW Post 25 to thank each and every
6 one of you and the time that you have given
7 us to say a few words on behalf of the
8 Brigadier General on the subject of naming
9 the Rockwell Avenue bridge after Brigadier
10 General Theodore J. Wint.

11 As you know, it would mean so much
12 just to have his name on that bridge, but
13 bigger than anything it's like you people
14 are going to have the opportunity to -- you
15 will not forget a veteran. We are talking
16 about a veteran who died in the early
17 1900's. He did so much for this country.
18 He was born right here in the City of
19 Scranton and at Arlington Memorial Cemetery
20 with full military honors. He has if not
21 the largest, one of the largest monuments
22 marked his grave in Washington, D.C., at the
23 Arlington Memorial Cemetery. In the
24 Philippians there is a fort named after
25 General Theodore Wint. Yeah, here in

1 Scranton we would like something named after
2 the Brigadier General. He was born right
3 here in Scranton, I think he was educated in
4 Providence High School. If you ask me where
5 that was, I know I would say it was in
6 Providence, but we appreciate everything
7 that you can do for us. It will be a proud
8 day for all of the Scrantonians to come up
9 there and even drive over that bridge. Go
10 up a block there is McLane Park after
11 another very well decorated veteran of
12 foreign wars. In this day and age when you
13 can remember a veteran, especially one
14 that's passed away over 100 years ago, and
15 believe it or not, this is the 100th
16 anniversary of the post that was named after
17 him. Wow, would this be great. Our 100th
18 anniversary for the post as we were just
19 contacted by the state. They are going to
20 come in and have a big ceremony with us, ut,
21 to have this bridge named after him 100
22 years later I think each one of you are not
23 only doing your job but we are actually
24 saying thanks to a Brigadier General that he
25 will never be forgotten and for each one of

1 you to start that process I thank you and my
2 hat goes off to you. Thank you very much.

3 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank than.

4 MR. KUCHARA: Appreciate it.

5 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Joan
6 Hodowanitz.

7 MS. HODOWANITZ: Joan Hodowanitz,
8 Scranton resident and taxpayer. 71 days to
9 June 30, the deadline for the 2016 audit.
10 Curiously enough, I'm in the process of
11 reviewing the 2016 audit for Lackawanna
12 County Library System of seven libraries and
13 amazingly they always get their done within
14 90 days. We will see what tricks they use
15 to get that done.

16 201 days to the general election on
17 November 16 which brings to mind I hope the
18 public is aware, it was a very small article
19 in the Scranton Times-Tribune that on Monday
20 night, April 24, at 6:30 p.m. at the
21 University of Scranton's Leahy Hall, second
22 floor, all you candidates for city council
23 will be attending a debate. I hope you all
24 are showing up. I will be there. I hope
25 other residents come out and attend the

1 debate as well.

2 The city's website is, I think the
3 best word is erratic. You look at the
4 Homepage today there is a lot more
5 information on it, rental registration,
6 garbage fees, etcetera, etcetera, the junior
7 police academy, but when you click on the
8 controller's page you see that the December
9 and February controller reports have been
10 deleted and there is March, which is the
11 most current one. January was never posted.
12 Since these controller reports contain
13 financial information of interested
14 taxpayers, I would like to see someone
15 reminding the administration to put those
16 reports back up and leave them up. They are
17 as important as the audits.

18 Also, there is a page on request for
19 proposals, RFP's for 2015, '16 and '17, but
20 there is one RFP missing and it's the RFP
21 for the third party administrator. I would
22 like to see that posted to the city's
23 website. And I have a question, I read the
24 RFP that the Scranton Times Jim Lockwood was
25 kind enough to link it onto the internet and

1 my question is it's been advertised in the
2 local newspaper where else has it been
3 advertised to find a third party
4 administrator since the mayor's goal is to
5 have a nationally recognized third party
6 administrator does anybody have any idea how
7 we are doing a nationwide search for this
8 individual? I'd like to know. Inquiring
9 minds would like to know.

10 With regard to Item 5-G and 5-H on
11 the Linde Creek project, if you would give a
12 little background information on that for
13 the public during motions, where is Linde
14 creek, what is the story behind that project
15 and how does this relate to the overall
16 storm water management requirements for the
17 city and are we going to see other projects
18 pop up during the course of the year? The
19 Arcadis study is not due until later in the
20 year. I saw that the legislation asks for
21 up to \$30,600 for grant money even though
22 Denny Gallagher's initial estimate is around
23 \$20,000. That may go up. So a little
24 background on who shot John there and why
25 this is coming up with the problem is and if

1 we can be having legislation to fix this
2 problem what about the Youngs and the
3 Kennedys and the all of the other people in
4 the city where homes and properties are
5 being devastated by storm water runoff, what
6 are we going to do about them?

7 Item 5-B, the transfer of \$296,895
8 from the contingency fund to DPW. That will
9 pretty much take more than half of the
10 contingency fund which was \$585,000. I
11 don't necessarily object to this transfer of
12 funds, but does anybody know how we are
13 paying for snow removal yet, where that
14 money is going to come from and what
15 budgets?

16 MR. GAUGHAN: The transfer on the
17 agenda that's what the money that's paying
18 for the storm removal.

19 MS. HODOWANITZ: That's paying for
20 the snow storm?

21 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

22 MS. HODOWANITZ: So we got down to
23 \$296,000. Originally it was over \$300,000.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: Yeah, that's the other
25 question that I had, I wasn't sure where the

1 other money was coming from. I'm assuming
2 that it's just coming from that budget, but
3 I asked the business administrator that
4 question yesterday and that's what he told
5 me.

6 MR. WECHSLER: There was snow
7 removal budgeted for 2017 and we anticipated
8 being in the fall not the spring, but there
9 was money set aside previously.

10 MS. HODOWANITZ: Well, we have a
11 budget for unused salt, maybe we can tap
12 into that. Thank you. I'll be back next
13 week.

14 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

15 MR. WECHSLER: Bill Jackowitz.

16 MR. JACKOWITZ: Good even, Scranton
17 City Council, Kathy, stenographer, Lori,
18 Amil, been a long time. First of all, I'm
19 in favor of naming the bridge after General
20 Wint so I hope you keep that in
21 consideration.

22 Second of all, I'd like to thank and
23 congratulate and commend all of the regular
24 speakers who come to city council on a
25 weekly basis such as Marie, Joan, Andy, Bob,

1 Lee, Les, Ronnie and Dave and Fay so I'd
2 like to commend them all, I hope they keep
3 coming and keep up the good work. I know
4 how difficult it is.

5 Thirdly, I'd like to talk about why
6 are we paying special counsel Kevin Conaboy
7 when we have a city solicitor? Shouldn't
8 that have been the city solicitor's job to
9 do what he did? Second of all, who did
10 the -- who in the city hired Kevin Conaboy?
11 Did you have a -- who was the contractor
12 approved by? Was it approved by city
13 council?

14 And then I'd like to change subject
15 and I'd like to talk about the landlord
16 situation. How much did it cost the
17 taxpayers for these 11,800 letters that were
18 sent out? Could someone please find that
19 out? Why did they rely on 1968 data, they
20 could have got more current data than 1968.
21 All they had to do was go to the Single Tax
22 Office and they could have got data from
23 them and probably would have cut down on the
24 amount of letters that have been sent out.
25 If Patrick Hinton really said council should

1 are known that the administration didn't
2 have -- didn't know how to inventory rental
3 properties then I don't think he's qualified
4 for the job if he actually said that. That
5 was a quote from the paper. People have to
6 realize that when you are hired or appointed
7 to a position within city government they
8 have the responsibilities just like everyone
9 else and this rental agreement thing has
10 been going on for at least 15 years, I'm not
11 sure how long it's been, but it's been going
12 on forever and I think we should have a
13 handle on it by now because this is
14 ridiculous to send out 11,800 letters to
15 people who don't deserve the harassment.

16 And the main thing right now is
17 8,877 days since the city has been
18 distressed. I think that's long enough and
19 the two instances that I just talked about
20 may be part of the reason why the city is
21 still distressed because we are spending
22 money that we don't have and we are spending
23 money on things that we don't need to be
24 spending the money on and we don't need so
25 many solicitors and consultants and advisors

1 and everything else. That's why we hire
2 people, and I have been told many times by
3 this city council and city councils in the
4 past that we hired the best and qualified
5 people for the jobs. So if we are hiring
6 the best and qualified people for the jobs
7 we don't need all of these assistants to be
8 helping them out, and that's all I have.
9 Thank you.

10 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Les
11 Spindler.

12 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening,
13 Council. Les Spindler, city resident and
14 homeowner and taxpayer. First off, I was
15 glad to hear what they are doing for former
16 city council solicitor Mark Walsh. I ready
17 it in the paper last week. I was happy to
18 see that. I knew Mark since he was a young
19 child. My family had a grocery store in the
20 Hill section. He lived about a block and a
21 half away. He and his family used to come
22 and shop there and I have know Mark, as I
23 said, for countless years, since he was a
24 child. He was a great man, came from a
25 great family and I'm glad to see he is being

1 honored this way. He is sorely missed. I
2 think of Mark all the time when I come into
3 these chambers. Like I said, he was a great
4 man and he is missed by everyone.

5 Moving on, I spoke about this two
6 weeks, ago nobody had an answer for me about
7 this ridiculous ordinance about the
8 recycling fines. That ordinance should be
9 taken off the books. There is no way for
10 that ordinance to be enforced. Nobody had
11 an answer for me two weeks ago who is going
12 to enforce it. The only people that could
13 possibly enforce it are the people dumping
14 the things in the truck and there is no way
15 they are going to be able to do that. It's
16 a ridiculous -- you know what, I have been
17 coming to these meetings for 15 years,
18 that's got to be the most stupid piece of
19 legislation ever passed by council. It's
20 ridiculous. There is no way to enforce it
21 and I want to hear if anybody can argue with
22 me about that. There is no disagreement
23 with that. It's ridiculous. There is no
24 way to enforce it. It should be taken off
25 the books. It was just to harass people to

1 make them put out recyclables and it's just
2 ridiculous legislation.

3 And here's another piece of
4 ridiculous legislation, this rental
5 registration. I live on one side of my
6 rental property, I shouldn't be getting this
7 in the mail. It's incompetence by people in
8 city, that the LIPS inspector is
9 incompetent -- the LIPS director, not
10 inspector, people shouldn't be getting this.
11 It's a waste of money, it's a waste of
12 postage, paper. They don't know who is
13 eligible to get these notices and who isn't?
14 It's incompetence. No wonder this city is
15 falling apart. We hire people that don't
16 know what they are doing and they harass
17 people by sending us stuff like this and you
18 know what I'm tired of it. Something has
19 got to be done in this city to turn this
20 city around. We got to hire the right
21 people. People shouldn't be getting these
22 letters in the mail when they aren't
23 supposed to. I don't know when it's going
24 to stop but something has got to be done.
25 That's all I have for right now.

1 MR. WECHSLER: Fay Franus.

2 MS. FRANUS: Fay Franus, Scranton.

3 I noticed when Mr. Jackowitz asked a couple
4 of questions, like three of them in a row,
5 nobody answered him and you could have. You
6 asked about the billing to the lawyer and
7 why didn't they have the city lawyer. I
8 just think that when a question is asked of
9 you, you should answer the questions.
10 That's why you are there.

11 Okay, I'd like to read something
12 from the city code in regards to the garbage
13 fee. Just to make this clear once and for
14 all. "All fees shall be deposited in a
15 special city interest bearing account to be
16 established by the business administrator.
17 This account will be used to reimburse the
18 general city operating fund for costs
19 incurred directly for the deposit --" "the
20 disposal of refuge --" note the use of the
21 past tense -- "incurred already." In other
22 words, the work was already done. "Since
23 the ordinance specifies a special account be
24 interest bearing, there would be no interest
25 earned if the funds were transferred into

1 operating fund prior to need as the amount
2 in the special account would be zero."

3 Okay, so when the city -- the city
4 prepares a bill, an invoice, to the city
5 special account, special interest account of
6 the garbage fee, and that money from that
7 special interest account goes back to the
8 business administrator and they pay the
9 bill. Only as a bill is given to them then
10 they pay it. All of the money from the
11 garbage fee should not be going to the
12 general fund all at once or a large amount
13 only to cover a bill that the business
14 administrator sends an invoice in for. For
15 example for gas, for tipping fees, for truck
16 repairs, for payrolls, all individual.

17 Mr. Evans, could you please get me
18 the account number of the special interest
19 account --

20 MR. EVANS: Sure.

21 MS. FRANUS: -- for the garbage fee
22 and could you also find how much interest it
23 made in 2015 and '16.

24 MR. EVANS: Start over again.

25 MS. FRANUS: Pardon me?

1 MR. EVANS: What's the second part
2 again?

3 MS. FRANUS: How much interest these
4 accounts, this special account, has gotten
5 in 2015 and 2016. Now, just to make this
6 easier to I understand, I have a checking
7 account and say, for example, that I put
8 \$1,000 in there a month. Then I got bills.
9 I write a check out and I pay that bill, my
10 Visa card, whatever is may be, one at a
11 time. As I get the bill, I pay it. I don't
12 take any money out of that account until I
13 get a bill for it so there is no reason for
14 this special account to put any more money
15 into the general fund other than what is
16 asked of the business administrator, "Pay
17 that bill."

18 And you were telling me and the rest
19 of the people in this city that the
20 paperwork was all messed up that's why they
21 don't have it right and that's why you are
22 doing a study. Well, to me that's totally
23 incompetent. Mr. Evans, as the Finance
24 Chair I have been asking you almost two
25 years now get me the information on how

1 money is going in and how much money is
2 going out and you have never, ever given me
3 an answer. I always get the run around and
4 then you come with the excuse that there is
5 no -- the paperwork is wrong, but if you had
6 gone to the business administrator and you
7 would says, "Where is the special account?
8 Let me see the invoices that are going in
9 and how much money is coming out."

10 You could have gotten that
11 information in ten minutes, but to this day
12 you still have not gotten that information.

13 MR. EVANS: No, the answer was that
14 the money goes into a specific account, the
15 money is received from the garbage fee and
16 it goes into a special account and then
17 transferred to the general fund. That's the
18 answer I was given.

19 MS. FRANUS: Well --

20 MR. EVANS: I know you disagree with
21 that, Fay, I know you disagree with it, but
22 that was the answer I was given by the
23 business administrator.

24 MS. FRANUS: Yeah, but what accounts
25 were they going into the general fund, not

1 just the general fund. They had to go --
2 like, when he sent an invoice what was that
3 invoice for? Specifically it was for gas or
4 whatever. There is a special accounts --
5 what accounts were they going into? I never
6 got that information and that's what we need
7 to know.

8 And Bill Courtright is behind this
9 completely because you people, all of you,
10 would be given me this information if you
11 wanted to because you could have gotten this
12 information for me in a heartbeat and nobody
13 could tell me different, so the reason you
14 are not, in my opinion and many others, you
15 wanted all of that money in the general
16 fund. All of the \$300 that the people were
17 paying you wanted all of that money to the
18 general fund and this was no accountability
19 as to where it was going and how it was
20 going out because you wanted to pay other
21 bills with it, but Billy Courtright likes it
22 that way because this way he doesn't have to
23 raise taxes because if this money was
24 accounted for there wouldn't be extra money
25 in there to pay the bills like he is doing

1 and it would be a tax he'd have to give, and
2 it really is a tax because we are paying
3 for. We are paying \$300. We are paying
4 more than is what is going out so that is
5 definitely tax and we could have claimed it
6 on our income tax and I think that every
7 person in this city should demand a refund
8 of all of the money that they are paying
9 over.

10 The \$300 is way too much for the
11 last two or three years and we deserve a
12 refund for everything that we pay over the
13 amount that was paid out the paid for the
14 garbage fees. Billy Courtright just doesn't
15 want to raise taxes. He has raised them 87
16 percent in the last two years and there is
17 no taxes this year because he is running for
18 election so everybody needs to know if you
19 want this man to stay in office you are
20 going to be taxed right out of your homes.

21 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Anyone
22 else?

23 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.
24 Lee Morgan. You know, Fay said a lot of
25 things here tonight, but I think every one

1 of you has a defense to be real honest with
2 you, I don't think you are confident and I
3 don't think you have any idea what you are
4 doing and you wear nice suits but other than
5 that I really honestly believe you are
6 clueless.

7 And I feel sorry for the people that
8 have the yard signs in their yards right now
9 because somebody came on knocked on their
10 door and said, "Hey, I'm supporting this
11 guy, can we put a sign in your yard?"

12 And, you know, we are naming a
13 bridge after a General who has been dead 100
14 years, and I'm not so much against that, but
15 we have forgot about every Scrantonian
16 that's still alive. That's a problem. And
17 we have forgotten about them for a quarter
18 of a century.

19 But, you know, first of all, I'd
20 also like to add that, you know, I'm looking
21 for people to call my cell phone
22 570-604-1212. I would really be interested
23 in people that would be willing to run for
24 public office as independents after the
25 primary because to be honest with you some

1 people might think it's a waste of time but
2 it really isn't. I think there is no real
3 support for the candidates that are running,
4 just machines propelling them forward, and
5 I'd like to say to the city employees that
6 the Scranton Sewer Authority was sold and
7 almost none of money went in your pensions
8 and if you are a state employee, I don't
9 know, it's my understanding that you are
10 probably only going to get 25 to 50 percent
11 of your pension in retirement because you
12 elected people like the people that
13 represent us in Scranton and it's going to
14 be a bloody mess.

15 And, you know, the truth of the
16 matter should be told that we need an
17 elected mayor and council. We need a
18 part-time mayor in this city not a full-time
19 mayor and we need to start taking grant
20 monies and going into neighborhoods and
21 giving low interest, 1 or 2 percent loans to
22 all of the homes that the city has condemned
23 over a period of the time to begin to try to
24 restructure our neighborhoods and save them
25 from the incompetence that's just

1 overwhelmed us, and I feel sorry for the
2 residents who are going to go into Court and
3 file -- and fight this 511 tax because I
4 have watched Judge Gibbons in action and I'm
5 not impressed by him, not even a little bit
6 when a judge says that he doesn't care about
7 case law or statutes because he is a judge.
8 Well, that's how they are supposed to
9 determine what they are going to do so, I
10 mean, I could use a lot of fancy words and
11 try to, you know -- I just try to keep it
12 simple so that everybody can understand
13 that. You know, politics is touching
14 everything and, you know, when you take a
15 look at the way the city is run like with
16 the garbage fees and all of the other
17 silliness that's gone on here for 25 years
18 of my life, just the 25 year waste. It's
19 more than troubling because the people they
20 elect are so arrogant and so unconcerned
21 about the average person that it's mind
22 boggling, and when you watch the grant money
23 and the money that the city possesses and
24 where it goes and how it's spent nobody
25 cares, and the city employees they keep

1 backing one failed person after another and
2 if they don't wake up this year they never
3 will. They will be like all of the people
4 in the neighborhoods comatose, okay, because
5 their pension is underwater, and all of the
6 money that should have went from the
7 Scranton Sewer Authority sale into their
8 pension just didn't seem to make it there.

9 And tenants and people who come into
10 Scranton they get their first combined water
11 and sewer bill, I had one person living in
12 one of my houses here for one person for one
13 month with one shower, washing a couple of
14 dishes and a couple loads of laundry he
15 said, "Lee, I gotta move out of here. I'm
16 paying \$113 a month for water and sewage."

17 Somebody is out of their mind, and
18 the city with \$9 an hour jobs and with a
19 council who has no idea what that agreement
20 said or a mayor and millions of dollars
21 missing and you banter around all of the
22 money, you know, that you paid the bond off
23 and you had a little extra money, we are
24 going to do some paving. Did you ever think
25 maybe you should have bought some equipment

1 to take care of the storm water system, but
2 it never entered your mind because you are
3 just drunk with power and arrogance and have
4 no concern for the general public or the
5 people that you are asking to reelect you.
6 It's beyond pathetic and people in this city
7 they have to pick some people to run as
8 independents and start taking this machine
9 apart or they are going to be the slaves
10 they have been for the last 80 years and
11 have nothing. Look at our neighborhoods.
12 Thank you.

13 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you.

14 MS. SCHUMACHER: Marie Schumacher.
15 I'd like to start with two weeks ago I was
16 asking about the resumes that Mr. Rogan was
17 so concerned about back in the last
18 administration --

19 MR. ROGAN: Still concerned.

20 MS. SCHUMACHER: -- and then learned
21 that some of them were, so when I went back
22 to my seat Joan said, "If you are so
23 concerned, why don't you see what you can
24 find on the internet."

25 So I went home and I did that and I

1 found that Jennifer Davis, in fact, has
2 business experience as an architectural
3 designer, and that Paul Marks is a realtor
4 at Wayne Evans Realty, but I could find
5 nothing on Katherine M. Kearney. Can
6 anybody tell me which of the nine positions
7 on that board that she is filling?

8 MR. EVANS: I think she is filling
9 the citizen enlargement issue and she was
10 the former director of the Elm Street
11 program and she is currently I think
12 assistant director for the American Wine
13 Society.

14 MS. SCHUMACHER: Does she bring
15 samples?

16 MR. EVANS: Maybe.

17 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. Moving onto
18 some other sort of old business. The sewer
19 sale, you were supposed to get the
20 information from Mr. Shrive on the
21 itemization of that \$12 million, has that
22 been received and is it available?

23 MR. GAUGHAN: We have not received
24 that yet, no.

25 MR. WECHSLER: He referred back to

1 the original information that he provided us
2 in January, I believe.

3 MR. EVANS: Which, of course, isn't
4 satisfactory to us.

5 MR. WECHSLER: They sent us a
6 spreadsheet. When we questioned them again
7 he referred back to that same spreadsheet.

8 MS. SCHUMACHER: Maybe you could
9 come to their meeting, the Scranton Sewer
10 Authority meeting tomorrow afternoon at 4:00
11 and see what you can wrestle out of him.
12 What about the scrub list of properties and
13 equipment that are being insured by
14 Knowell's? Has that been done and do we
15 have a list to look at?

16 MR. EVANS: It's been worked on. I
17 haven't seen the finished product yet.

18 MS. SCHUMACHER: Oh, I thought it
19 was supposed to have been done by the first
20 of this month.

21 MR. EVANS: I haven't seen any
22 results yet so we'll check on it.

23 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay, we'll just
24 have to keep bringing it back, bringing it
25 back. What about Muni Services, is there

1 any of you up there that are willing to find
2 out why we approved Muni Services for a
3 three-year contract well over a year ago now
4 and they have done nothing? Probably
5 because we still haven't asked why.

6 MR. EVANS: My understanding of Muni
7 Services is that open.gov, which does the
8 same thing --

9 MS. SCHUMACHER: It did what?

10 MR. EVANS: Open.gov is basically
11 the same thing as Muni Services. The state
12 has come in and said that they will pay for
13 open.gov so I don't think we are paying Muni
14 Services. I think we basically put that
15 contract aside so I'll verify that, but I
16 don't think we are doing anything with Muni
17 Services at this point.

18 MS. SCHUMACHER: Open.gov. That's a
19 Pennsylvania website?

20 MR. EVANS: Yeah.

21 MS. SCHUMACHER: And they are
22 putting our information on that website?

23 MR. EVANS: Well, we are in the
24 process of getting that done, yeah. We
25 actually were supposed to have a conference

1 call this past Monday but it was cancelled
2 so I'm having it again next Monday with
3 open.gov to find out where they're at so
4 I'll let you know next Thursday.

5 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay, thank you.
6 Also, I want to thank the -- a big thank you
7 to the DPW for coming up to East Mountain
8 and doing the worst of the worst craters
9 that have been up there, they are still --
10 I'm sure they ran out of asphalt because
11 it's that bad, but especially around
12 Mountain Lake Road and where you had to --
13 it was brought back the days back at the
14 Rocky Glenn on the dodgers(sic) when you had
15 to go on that road, but especially just
16 above Dirby avenue where it meets East Elm
17 Street was just nonnegotiable until they
18 arrived yesterday morning so I do thank them
19 for that.

20 Now, back at that meeting on the
21 10th of March for the -- to discuss the
22 distribution of the assets from the Sewer
23 Authority sale, finally the RFP has come out
24 for the third party administrator, and I
25 will probably talk about that a little bit

1 next week, but also stated at that meeting
2 was that sooner rather than later the trust
3 agreement that they were proposing was going
4 to come before you. Do you know when it is
5 coming?

6 MR. WECHSLER: I believe the third
7 party administrator has to be decided on
8 first. It all goes together.

9 MS. SCHUMACHER: I'm sorry, I
10 couldn't hear with the coughing.

11 MR. WECHSLER: The third party
12 administrator that's all part of that so
13 that all has to come together first.

14 MS. SCHUMACHER: What do mean come
15 together? If the RFP is out there, how many
16 are interested?

17 MR. WECHSLER: If no one responds to
18 the third party administrator RFQ what are
19 we going to do?

20 MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, may I just
21 say that way that I read it and what the
22 mayor said it was going to be I'm sure at
23 least one person will be responding.

24 MR. WECHSLER: We don't know that
25 for sure. I don't know that for sure.

1 MS. SCHUMACHER: I'll bet on it.

2 Thank you.

3 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,
4 citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians, I
5 know a lot of notices went out to so-called
6 renters, but you've got to realize we have
7 an elderly population in Scranton and the
8 most prudent thing to do is when you hit a
9 certain age is transfer your property or
10 sell your property to your son or daughter
11 or whoever. If you are still living in the
12 city at the house that you turned over to
13 your son or daughter, and your daughter or
14 son lives in the city, too, who is the
15 renter? You are living in your original
16 home.

17 MR. EVANS: You are exempt.

18 MR. SBARAGLIA: And that's what
19 happened.

20 MR. EVANS: Well, that's proof of
21 mailing, but there is an exemption for that
22 so we are not going to charge you a rental
23 fee.

24 MR. SBARAGLIA: No, I understand
25 that.

1 MR. EVANS: But, yeah, you're right,
2 they still get a letter.

3 MR. SBARAGLIA: But this is what
4 exactly happens in Scranton and then have
5 you a lot of people that are in that boat.
6 They are not renters, they are just living
7 in the same house until they drop dead like
8 everybody really wants to do they want to
9 die in their own home when you hit a certain
10 age. Me, too, but whether I will or not I
11 don't know. It's just a sad thing that that
12 isn't looked at when they sent out the
13 notices, but if she sent out the notice just
14 to find out information, which maybe they
15 did, well, they are claiming that's what
16 they did. They get replies back and they
17 know who is or isn't or whatever, okay, I
18 can see that, but you should have put -- I
19 didn't get a notice, so I didn't know. I
20 own two houses in Scranton, too. No one is
21 in the one and I live in the other, but I
22 would never consider renting my house in
23 Scranton. You got to be crazy.

24 Certain things happen and certain
25 things are going to happen and I realize,

1 people don't realize when you pay your sewer
2 bill and -- not your sewer, but your garbage
3 fee. Now, that DPW has been running for
4 three months so a large chunk is naturally
5 going to be taken because somebody had to
6 pay them three months so if that was it then
7 partially when you pay the \$300 a good chunk
8 of it is going to go right into the DPW or
9 whoever is administrator or whatever with
10 that, so I don't really blame a lot of, it
11 but there is still should be some money in
12 that special fund.

13 See, that's the problem really to
14 get into the money that the city, like Trump
15 would say it's a very complicated matter and
16 I can understand why, but that's the only
17 way you can look at things. Actually, you
18 are three or four months before they get the
19 money and that money four months is owed to
20 whatever you are collecting and doing with
21 the tipping fees and so forth and so on. I
22 don't know exactly how we used to do it all
23 under your tax base for some reason or
24 other. When it really came out it was for
25 the tipping fee they said help with the

1 tipping fee because we lost our dump. As
2 you know, we had two dumps, one at the
3 Cathedral and one up on Snake Road and I
4 think there was a couple other before then.
5 In fact, we know that because you know we
6 are paying to cut the grass on the dump up
7 there off of Snake Road, but if you look at
8 things and realize what's going on and to
9 see people of the city fighting that 511
10 that's oppression. You are fighting
11 oppression. They are saying you're
12 oppressive. That's the only way you can
13 describe that lawsuit. You are fighting
14 oppression. Of course, I have been telling
15 you that for the last four years almost that
16 you are the most oppressive council that
17 ever sat there, but that's besides the
18 point. That's my opinion, probably an
19 accurate one, too, and people are fighting.

20 Now, we all know even if they won it
21 will be appealed like with the police and
22 firemen and you people will all be dead and
23 I'll probably be dead, too, before that case
24 is ever settled. That's why nobody is
25 really worrying about it because they know

1 they can appeal it, appeal it and appeal it,
2 but still the basic facts are there. They
3 are fighting oppression and all of you heard
4 the story of Ireland and you know when
5 oppression, at least your family knows or
6 grandmothers know what oppression actually
7 is. Okay, bye.

8 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

9 MR. WECHSLER: Anyone else?

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

11 MOTIONS.

12 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Perry?

13 MR. PERRY: Yes, I have a couple of
14 things tonight, thank you very much. I'll
15 talk a little bit on my opinion on the
16 garbage fee since it was brought up by a
17 couple of speakers today and it is ongoing,
18 very much a sour point in the city.

19 Personally, I believe the \$300 fee is too
20 high. Do I have anything to base that on?
21 I don't until our study is finished. When
22 our study is finished we will have a better
23 understanding on the DPW's role in refuge.

24 Now, with that being said, I would
25 like to see a reduction in the garbage fee

1 for next year. Are we going to have time to
2 evaluation the ongoing inspection that's
3 been done and then be able to put that into
4 the budget? I hope so. That's my goal, I
5 know this body's is over time, but to be
6 realistic I wouldn't see that going down too
7 much on a flat fee. You know, is \$250 the
8 right number? I mean, we are just pulling
9 numbers out of the sky. Off the top of my
10 head, I would be more inclined to go with a
11 hybrid system which would be a low flat fee
12 and then a more of a per bag system. That
13 would really help out the elderly, the
14 person that lives by themselves. They could
15 pay 50, 75 up front and then, you know, per
16 bag. If you have one bag a week you are
17 going to be on easy street, and if you are,
18 you know, a family of six like when I was
19 growing up, you know, then that's what's
20 going to carry the most bulk because that's
21 what goes to the dump more often, the more
22 bags going out.

23 That's just my opinion on it but,
24 unfortunately, there is not much we can do
25 and there is nothing we can write into the

1 budget until we have those findings from the
2 study and that's kind of where we are, or at
3 least where this body is right now with our
4 garbage fees. I don't think anybody up here
5 is satisfied with the as is policy. I'm
6 pretty sure on that.

7 Some of the things that have been
8 going on, Mr. Srebro wasn't here today, but
9 he has been having issues we all know in the
10 Keyser section of the city. I have been
11 speaking to him probably three or four times
12 over the last couple of weeks and he has
13 given me some very positive updates on
14 what's going on over there. He had a 13
15 foot drainage pipe outside of his house that
16 burst from the last heavy rainstorm which
17 happened mid to late March after the snow
18 storm. DPW was on scene, they dug up that
19 13-foot section and replaced it. It was
20 actually going to get more follow-up
21 attention today and as far as that 36-inch
22 drainage base pipe DPW was and there and
23 cleared up everything they had. I think 100
24 yards is what they got it to. They haven't
25 finished it, because the pipe actually runs

1 about 300 yards. It's very, very long and
2 they need to get different types of the
3 equipment on there. Mr. Srebro did say that
4 water is draining, it is going through, it's
5 obviously not as good it should be, but it's
6 not at that critical level as is his
7 drainage pipe outside of his house so he was
8 very happy for me to pass that on and,
9 again, it's kudos to our DPW getting some
10 things done.

11 We'll stay on the DPW topic a little
12 bit, I know there was a single issue outside
13 up on Dorothy Street which I been trying to
14 follow up on, stay closely involved.

15 Director Gallagher made a PA One Call to
16 mark any kind of underground utilities that
17 might be there before they start digging.
18 Pennsylvania was up there, they marked
19 everything that needs to be marked and DPW
20 is going to report to that site tomorrow
21 morning to start work on getting things
22 taken care of.

23 I have two requests to make, Mrs.
24 Reed, one is to Chief Graziano. Over the
25 last week there was two accidents on a

1 stretch of Birney Avenue that I know is --
2 we have been talking about to ad nauseam in
3 the Minooka section and the speeding is just
4 rampant, it' just nonstop and I was at a
5 South Side meeting three weeks ago, and
6 someone brought it to my attention, I lived
7 there my whole life and never realized if
8 you go from on Smith's Diner on Cherry
9 Street all the way to Davis Street there is
10 absolutely not one stop sign, crosswalk or
11 streetlight, there is nothing there to slow
12 down any traffic. It's just a clear shot.
13 It's about two, two and a half miles of just
14 open highway road and that's just -- it's
15 just too much and I think the speed goes
16 from 25 miles an hour on the two-way and it
17 turns into 35 miles an hour on the one-way
18 and I'll tell you right now no one abides by
19 that. So I'm going to make a special
20 request to have a speed indicator put in
21 somewhere where it turns from 25 into 35
22 somewhere around that Harrington's Beer
23 Distributor somewhere in there if we are
24 having trouble. Not only do we have people
25 just flying, but we have two sides of the

1 street parking so there is -- I mean, it's
2 just it's -- just having no one getting
3 seriously injured is an absolute miracle and
4 I don't want to wait until that what happens
5 before we do something about it. So if we
6 can make that request, please, to have a
7 speed indicator put up somewhere along that
8 stretch. I think that would be best suited
9 where Cedar Avenue runs into Birney and
10 that's where the two -- the 25 or 35 miles
11 per hour speed limit changes.

12 And also, finally, there is one of
13 our new LED lights out on the corner of
14 Kirst Court and Kane Street. I'll get the
15 numbers for you after the meeting, the pole
16 numbers, but I know that's been out for
17 quite sometime, probably for going on the
18 better part of three weeks now so I know
19 that the residents on that area are
20 concerned that with the new LED system that
21 this isn't -- you know, hopefully this is
22 just a one off and we get that taken care of
23 and fixed sooner rather than later. And
24 actually that's all I have for today. Thank
25 you.

1 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr. Perry.
2 Mr. Rogan?

3 MR. ROGAN: Yes, thank you. First,
4 I'd like to welcome Bill Jackowitz back to
5 our meetings, nice to have you back,
6 appreciate seeing you again. A couple of
7 items tonight. I first want to start off by
8 thanking the Scranton Police Department and
9 the neighbors in my neighborhood of West
10 Scranton. Not sure if anybody saw on the
11 news, there was a vandalism spree in a
12 couple blocks of Sumner Avenue. I woke up
13 to a picture from a close friend who had a
14 sign in his yard that was vandalized. We
15 started talking and by the time police
16 reports were filed by myself and many of the
17 people in that neighborhood the perpetrator
18 was already caught, so it was a great job by
19 the neighbors using their cameras that they
20 had on their house and the police department
21 to track down this individual and there was
22 a number of homes, cars, sidewalks, that
23 were tagged with spray paint in my
24 neighborhood in West Side, so I'm really
25 want to get a big shout out to the police

1 department and especially to the neighbors
2 for looking at their cameras and looking out
3 for one another and that's something that is
4 becoming more prevalent with having the
5 cameras on the houses and that really helps
6 in a situation like this to catch somebody
7 before they can go out and go on a spree
8 like this again.

9 Secondly, I do want to mention I'm
10 proud to vote "yes" for the renaming of the
11 Rockwell Avenue bridge for General Wint and
12 each time we have a chance to honor a
13 veteran, something I love to do, it was a
14 fight to keep the Colonel Duffy bridge named
15 after Colonel Duffy, which we were
16 successful with and we will name the new
17 Rockwell Avenue for General Wint so I'll be
18 very proud to cast a "yes" vote for that
19 legislation.

20 Now, onto some items that aren't
21 quite as positive. The rental registration,
22 I know Councilman Gaughan talked about this
23 in the newspaper and there was a letter sent
24 out as well, yes, council passed this
25 legislation and our intent was never to have

1 a letter sent out to all of these
2 properties. I had a number of calls from
3 residents, and I'm very happy that they
4 called me because with the exemptions that
5 were added a lot of people didn't understand
6 and especially some people they get a bill
7 in the mail from the city, they didn't read
8 the fine print and I'm fearful that a lot of
9 people just got that bill and wrote a check
10 to the city when they didn't have to, so I
11 do want to reiterate a couple of the
12 exemptions that are in the legislation. If
13 you own a two-unit property, a multi-unit
14 and you live in on of the units as Mr.
15 Spindler does and you receive that notice
16 you do not have to pay a registration fee.
17 Send it back to the city. Write that it is
18 owner occupied and send it back. It was
19 never the intention to charge a rental
20 registration fee to anyone for the property
21 that they live in.

22 Secondly, if you rent to a family
23 member you are also exempt. This was
24 something I have been fighting on for over
25 three years because family and friends of

1 mine on East Mountain kept getting these
2 bills over and over again and they are not
3 even renting it, they are letting their
4 family stay there for free and they are
5 getting these bills, so there is a family
6 exemption. So if you own a rental property
7 and you rent it to a family member you are
8 exempt.

9 If you have a rental property or
10 property and you don't rent it, it's
11 currently vacant, you are also exempt. My
12 biggest fear, and I understand that the
13 county data is 50 years old, it's garbage.
14 At that point in time it was accurate but
15 the amount of properties that have changed
16 hands and changed use through those years I
17 would guess to say it's the majority of the
18 properties in the city are 50 years probably
19 changed hands. There has to be a better way
20 to do it.

21 Now, I do see in our mail today that
22 proposals are going to be opened on May 24,
23 the City of Scranton rental registration
24 database compilation and management program.
25 I guess my question would be why this wasn't

1 done prior to the bills being sent out.
2 Maybe it's this -- I could be wrong this
3 could be more of an ongoing management, but
4 my biggest fear especially with many people
5 when you get a bill in the mail, if I get a
6 bill in the mail from the city you write a
7 check and you pay it, and I'm certain a lot
8 of people are going to think this is new law
9 or this is a new fee and send in checks so I
10 really want to reiterate all of those
11 exemptions and if you meet any of them, you
12 know, don't send the check just send a note
13 with it that you are exempt for this reason.
14 And if you have any questions contact any
15 one of us or our office, we will be glad to
16 help anyway we can. The last thing we want
17 to see is somebody paying this fee that
18 isn't supposed to.

19 The whole purpose of rental
20 registration was to crack down on
21 out-of-town landlords not people who rent
22 out a home they live in or rent to a family
23 member within the city, so the law -- the
24 purpose of the law it's still needed, you
25 know, there are a lot of out-of-town

1 landlords in the city that do not keep up on
2 their properties and for those people that's
3 exactly why this was enacted. So anyone
4 that received a letter in error or if you
5 have a property that's not a rental property
6 certainly send that back stating it's not a
7 rental and it will be addressed, but I do
8 want to reiterate all of those exemptions
9 and I'm hoping that the city can come up and
10 the administration can come up with another
11 way to send out these notices in the future.

12 Next, onto another hot topic tonight
13 the garbage fee. I won't talk on it too
14 much because I think everybody knows my
15 position on this issue, but I agree the \$300
16 garbage fee is excessive and it's
17 particularly unfair to senior citizens and
18 people who live alone or even a couple. My
19 wife and I put out maybe one or two bags a
20 week at most because we do a lot of
21 recycling. There is a number of people who
22 live alone, a lot of widows that put out not
23 even a full bag of garbage, a small white
24 bag or even sometimes a small bag from
25 Gerrity's, and it's certainly not fair that

1 person is paying the same \$300 that the
2 large family is down the street so there
3 needs to be a system made that's equitable
4 and fair. If that means a large family has
5 to pay for that's fair. If you generate
6 more garbage, you should be paying more of a
7 fee. He individual who lives alone cannot
8 continue to be punished under this system.
9 And that is all for now thank you.

10 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr. Rogan.
11 Mr. Evans?

12 MR. EVANS: Thank you. I've got
13 quite a few things to talk about tonight.
14 While we are waiting on the evaluation
15 currently being done by the county to
16 determine if they would move forward with
17 the much needed reassessment, I thought it
18 would be the occasion to offer some
19 information about things that are happening
20 around the state on this subject.

21 An interesting article on Philly.com
22 several weeks ago, discussed two families in
23 Delaware County who recently appealed their
24 assessments to the Delaware Court. The
25 Delaware County judge ruled that because the

1 inequities in assessed value in that County
2 were so great, they ordered the county to do
3 a total reassessment of the 200,000
4 properties for the first time in 20 years,
5 so Delaware County is under Court mandated
6 order to reassess, and accordingly, they are
7 moving forward and ahead with the
8 reassessment.

9 This has been since been commented
10 on by the Scranton Times editorial board and
11 went on to say, "A half century after
12 Lackawanna County's most recent assessment
13 two current majority commissioners resist
14 reassessment for the fear of political
15 fallout. The Delaware County case
16 demonstrates that a Court could and perhaps
17 should take it out of the hands for their
18 failure to comply with the state
19 constitution."

20 I have taken the position for over
21 two years that if the county ultimately
22 refuses to do a reassessment, the city and
23 maybe any other responsible governing
24 bodies, effected school district and any
25 other entities should join together to force

1 the reassessment through the Courts, and
2 based on this recent information from
3 Delaware County maybe even the individual
4 property owners who understand an
5 reassessment will bring equity and fairness
6 to our property taxes should join the
7 effort.

8 While I don't expect the county to
9 move ahead on their own to do a
10 reassessment, I think it may be finally time
11 for them to release their evaluation and
12 then we can decide who will have the final
13 word.

14 I'd like to talk a little bit about
15 pave cuts. We recently were notified by the
16 city's pave cut inspector that the utility
17 work on the 500 block to the 800 blocks of
18 Birch Street and the 200 and 300 blocks of
19 Crown Avenue in South Scranton has been
20 completed. This is effectively means that
21 the months and months of poor road
22 conditions as well as many other issues that
23 have virtually impacted residents will be
24 coming to an end and the roads are finally
25 paved curb to curb, but this points to a

1 larger failure. It is my personal opinion
2 that the current pave cut ordinance has
3 failed residents citywide by allowing for
4 the utility companies to dictate how long
5 and how the work is done when installing new
6 underground facilities. It is my
7 understanding that most work is completed in
8 the following manner: Utility companies
9 first put all of the main lines or pipes for
10 the work to be done on effective streets and
11 they continue to move around the city
12 completing their mains first. When all of
13 that work is done and the roads have been
14 dug up and a mess for months already, they
15 return to the second phase of the work which
16 is to put in lateral line or pipes to the
17 individual properties. Only when that is
18 completed can the roads be then properly
19 restored and paved curb to curb.

20 The problem I have with that
21 scenario is it allows for streets to be dug
22 up for months and months with no utility
23 work being done while crews shift to another
24 part of the city. I would suggest that the
25 city require that all jobs be done by

1 utilities could be completed all at all
2 once. For example, the main lines and
3 laterals in the 200 and 300 block of Crown
4 could have been completed and done and the
5 road can be paved and fully restored and
6 move onto the next location.

7 So that's all I have on that, but I
8 hope we can somehow we view the pave cut
9 ordinance again. I know it's relatively
10 new, but I think there are deficiencies that
11 we need to address that we all know as we
12 drive around the city.

13 Two things that came up last week
14 that caused a little angst in certain
15 circles, they were already talked about
16 tonight a little bit, the bills for the
17 rental registration were finally released.
18 As can be expected, the phone calls started
19 shortly thereafter. The primary problem is
20 that numerous homeowners got bills for their
21 own single family homes clearly, to get a
22 notification to register their home as a
23 rental property. Data is an interesting
24 thing. The old business axiom which says
25 garbage in equals garbage out most certainly

1 applies. The city in an effort to finally
2 get a handle on rental properties enlisted
3 the information from the Lackawanna County
4 Assessor's Office. What they didn't know,
5 but should have known is that much of that
6 information is 47 years old and has not been
7 updated since the last reassessment garbage
8 in, garbage out.

9 I had suggested for nearly 20 years
10 that the data gathering component of this
11 process be done by a third party company who
12 has the tools, data basis, and knowledge to
13 get this information right. When this
14 legislation was approved by calls for that
15 to continue so I'm a little baffled at the
16 position taken by the Licensing and
17 Inspection Department that somehow this
18 became city council's part. I am confident
19 that if the administration has sent us an
20 RFP for a responsible third party to help
21 with identification it would have been met
22 by a 5 to 0 vet for approval by this
23 council. This has always been our position.

24 Additionally, a reminder to all,
25 city council legislates, the administration

1 implements. With that said, I do not
2 believe it was for lack of effort from those
3 in LIPS to perform their duties, it is
4 because of a lack of access to the data and
5 a knowledge of how to find it and for some
6 reason a failure to seek out the data or
7 those who have the access to that data.

8 Another thing that I find troubling
9 is when the last reassessment was stopped in
10 2009, 21st Century, the company that was
11 charged with doing the job had completed all
12 the field work for the City of Scranton. I
13 have told city officials repeatedly, this
14 administration and the last, that since 2009
15 that this information should have been
16 available from the county either through the
17 Assessment Office or their IT Department.
18 This is the most current and comprehensive
19 data available today. Even at eight years
20 old, it is extremely valuable, yet somehow
21 it goes unused, unaccessed and even
22 unrequested. That's stops today. I would
23 ask that we send a formal request to the
24 Lackawanna County Commissioners requesting
25 access to that information. It was bought

1 and paid for by all of the taxpayers of the
2 City of Scranton and Lackawanna County and
3 finally it should be at least put to some
4 positive use.

5 The second thing, of course, is we
6 released the refuse bills. By all accounts
7 the 10 percent discount be paid you get if
8 you pay the entire amount in the first
9 payment has received positive feedback. I
10 would expect a dramatic increase in
11 collections over the previous years of paid
12 refuse bills when the first reportings comes
13 in. While if there is some legitimately
14 acquired information being provided some
15 property owners as to their qualifications
16 for the discount, that seems to be resolved
17 and corrected to my knowledge.

18 And, finally, at the commissioners'
19 meeting yesterday or I think it was last
20 week because we didn't meet, there was some
21 comments made by a county commissioner
22 against a proposed bike grant. Again,
23 leaving my scratching my head. Apparently
24 we don't travel in the same circles because
25 the statement that they don't know anyone

1 who rides a bike is astounding. For the
2 record, I ride a bike. I'm not sure it has
3 any bearing on the argument, but I thought
4 it would be worth mentioning.

5 MR. WECHSLER: Training wheels.

6 MR. EVANS: I still have training
7 wheels, but I would like to explain in some
8 detail as to why I concur with the other two
9 commissioners on this issue and take this
10 opportunity to link this argument to the
11 bigger issue of walkability. For years I
12 have talked about and have been interested
13 in the concept of a walkable community,
14 especially as it relates to Scranton, and
15 more specifically, the downtown. Bikes
16 through the use of bike paths and bike lanes
17 that connect the downtown to other points of
18 interest are a large part of a city's
19 walkability quotient. It defines partially
20 what kind of city we want to be. We want a
21 city that thrives economically, a city that
22 it's citizens are not just safe but healthy.
23 The kind of city that will be sustainable
24 for generations to come. This is what
25 walkable cities do and bikes are a big part

1 of that concept. Walkable cities are also,
2 in fact, bikable cities because bicycles
3 thrive in environments best which support
4 pedestrians. Walkable cities across the
5 country make investments in bicycling and I
6 think we should, too.

7 So back to walkability for a minute,
8 here are some interesting numbers and facts
9 related to a walkable city. Christopher
10 Weinberger, Brookings's Institute economist
11 knows that approximately 77 million
12 Americans, one-quarter of the nation's
13 population, are on the leading edge of baby
14 boomers now approaching 65 years old. This
15 large group is finding that suburban houses
16 are too big, their child rearing days are
17 ending and all of those empty rooms have to
18 be heated, cooled, cleaned, as well as the
19 unused backyard being maintained. Freedom
20 for many of this generation means living in
21 a walkable, accessible community, with
22 convenient transient, biking and good public
23 services like libraries, cultural activities
24 and health care, maybe places like Scranton,
25 Pennsylvania. Specifically places like

1 downtown Scranton, Pennsylvania, and then
2 there are the millennials who find urban
3 living is simply more appealing to them as
4 well as the creative class and a new dynamic
5 of 101 million new households expected to
6 take shape between now and the year 2025
7 where approximately 88 percent are projected
8 to be childless. The new adults only
9 household won't care about the quality of
10 the schools or the size of the backyards,
11 but they will care about a walkable, bikable
12 city.

13 Developers should be ecstatic over
14 these kind of numbers, yet we have some
15 railing against a bike study. How short
16 sided can they be? The current and future
17 demographics are telling us we have a once
18 in a lifetime opportunity to be the kind of
19 the city that empty nesters, millennials
20 and adult only households would flock to,
21 we'll start downtown and hopefully grow in
22 the neighborhoods. Only through this type
23 of growth can we change the discussion from
24 distressed to economic vitality.

25 We have a good solid start on what

1 is happening in the downtown but we need to
2 go beyond that. We have to have a real
3 conversation on how we get all of the way
4 through there to a truly walkable city,
5 bikes and all. The bike study is a good
6 start, but a truly walkable city is the
7 finish line, so if anyone is interested in
8 learning more about this concept or would
9 like to be involved in moving Scranton
10 forward to a walkable city and doing what we
11 have to do to make that happen, please call
12 our city council office and leave your name
13 and number and I will get back you as soon
14 as I can. I think it's a conversation that
15 is important to the future economic growth
16 of our city. Opportunity is knocking, it's
17 up to us to answer the door. And that's all
18 I have for tonight. Thank you.

19 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you.

20 Mr. Gaughan?

21 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, thank you. I
22 have quite a few citizens' request. First,
23 I would like to ask that we find out how
24 many tickets have been written so far in
25 2017 from the civilian parking enforcement

1 program, how much money has been collected
2 so far, and I'd also like to know if the
3 civilian parking enforcement programs if
4 they are assigned routes throughout the city
5 and how that program operates. I know at
6 one point we were receiving monthly reports
7 and I'd like to start receiving those again,
8 I'm not sure why they tapered off.

9 Second, citizens' requests. Hilltop
10 Housing Development, the neighbors are
11 living a nightmare up in that area, they've
12 had to call security for the past few weeks,
13 profanity-laced music late in the evening
14 among a number of other different issues so
15 we are going to get in contact with the
16 chief of the police and try to care of that
17 issue. This is a recurring theme in that
18 area. I know they had contacted us last
19 summer about it and obviously it has not
20 been taken care of yet.

21 There is a pretty large problem on
22 Mineral Avenue with truck traffic that I
23 would like investigated by the Licensing and
24 Inspections Department, the Police
25 Department, and the city engineer. I

1 actually took a ride up after I was
2 contacted by a couple that lives at the top
3 of Mineral Avenue and I stood outside for
4 about 25 minutes and in that time span 15 to
5 20 trucks had to travel up and down that
6 street. There are, first of all, the street
7 is in horrible condition. There were
8 several pave cuts that were done from
9 utility companies that were not done
10 correctly, the street is a mess. The dirt
11 that's kicked up from these trucks goes on
12 the car windows, on their house windows,
13 they can't sit outside on the porch and the
14 gentleman had sent me an e-mail but you have
15 to go up there and experience it in order to
16 truly understand how bad this problem is.

17 So, again, I would like this to be
18 fully investigated by the city
19 administration. They are dumping material
20 on the land at the top of Mineral Avenue.
21 So, again, I would like that to be
22 investigated as soon as possible.

23 Residents in Greenridge are still
24 wondering about the status of 1120 Columbia
25 Street. This is a blighted property. I

1 requested that I think two weeks ago so I
2 would like to send another request on that.
3 Received a request to patch Rachel Place in
4 West Scranton between South Hyde Park Avenue
5 and South Sumner Avenue. 732 North Irving
6 Avenue in the Hill Section. There was a
7 tree that was partially cut down back in
8 February and the DPW never came back and
9 finished it so we did send something out to
10 ask them if they would go back and take care
11 of that.

12 I have been trying to get the issue
13 on the 1100 block of St. Ann's Street taken
14 care of with a very dangerous tree that
15 needs to come down. I am worried that
16 someone is going to get seriously injured on
17 this block from this tree so if we can send
18 another request to the DPW asking that they
19 take care of that issue.

20 Also, the 1400 block of Dartmouth
21 Street. Curbs are in terrible shape over
22 there, they are having major water runoff
23 issues so I could ask the DPW could come out
24 and build those curbs up with asphalt.
25 There is also another issue in the 1400

1 block of Dartmouth that we sent the
2 Licensing and Inspection Department on the
3 vacant home where the roof is falling apart.
4 There is also an issues with water runoff at
5 the top of the Crane Street and Eagen Avenue
6 in Minooka, so we sent that to DPW.

7 Residents are continuing to contact
8 me about a damaged fence that is bent over a
9 10 foot span which really is rendering the
10 fence useless a safety bear. The fence runs
11 along Third Avenue near the Lackawanna
12 County Heritage Valley trail right outside
13 of the South Side Complex. So Mrs. Reed did
14 a little investigation into that and we did
15 find out that the track of land is actually
16 the property of the Scranton Redevelopment
17 Authority. We had assumed that it was part
18 of the University of Scranton's problem
19 since they purchased that property, but we
20 found out that the SRA owns that small tract
21 of land. So we did send a letter to the SRA
22 on April 5 and we are awaiting a response
23 from them. I do hope that something is done
24 quickly. My fear is with the people that
25 are walking in that area, a lot of people

1 walk their pets and somebody is going to get
2 seriously injured.

3 Another issue in regards to the
4 garbage bills that went out. A gentleman
5 had contacted me, he came down to city hall
6 last week and he went to pay his garbage
7 bill so he wrote out a check for \$270
8 because he was supposed to get the 10
9 percent discount and he was told by someone
10 in the Treasurer's Office that that didn't
11 apply to him because he lives in a double
12 home. The other side of his home is vacant,
13 nobody lives there, and this person in the
14 Treasurer's Office told him that the city is
15 doing him a favor by not charging him \$300
16 for a garbage bill on that vacant side. So
17 he was not able to get the 10 percent
18 discount, which is totally ridiculous. Not
19 only that, that what the gentlemen told him
20 was wrong the second thing is this man is
21 elderly and he is a veteran and he was
22 treated like garbage from what he told me.

23 So I did send a letter to the
24 Treasurer's Office asking for that gentleman
25 to get a discount, a \$30 discount sent to

1 his house and I would also like a letter of
2 apology sent to him for how he was treated.

3 On the rental registration, as
4 everybody has mentioned tonight I was
5 inundated with phone calls about this issue
6 and I just want to take a second to read two
7 quotes that were in the newspaper from our
8 Licensing and Inspections Director Pat
9 Hinton. The first thing he said it was the
10 only thing that could really be done. The
11 second quote was, "It's pretty amazing to
12 make such a bold and ignorant statement like
13 that," and he is referring to when I called
14 the Licensing and Inspection snafu
15 incompetent. Mr. Hinton goes to know to say
16 that council, they are the ones that drafted
17 this piece of legislation. They didn't say
18 anything about how the city would identify
19 the properties.

20 First of all, what is bold and what
21 is ignorant is the actions that were taken
22 by Director Hinton and the city
23 administration. The definition of
24 incompetence is the inability to do
25 something successful. It also means

1 ineptitude and the lack of proficiency, and
2 I can't think of a better word to describe
3 the situation. Look, I understand that
4 people make mistakes, it happens, but this
5 issue has happened before back in 2015. The
6 city did something very similar, so it seems
7 to me that Mr. Hinton and the mayor are
8 throwing darts in the dartboard and waiting
9 to see what sticks.

10 I also think that Mr. Hinton and the
11 administration need a lesson in the way the
12 government works. The legislative branch,
13 which is city council, passes the laws. The
14 executive branch, which would be the
15 administration, enforces and implements the
16 laws. This not rocket science. I received
17 numerous phone calls, numerous e-mails over
18 the past few days regarding this issue.
19 People are angry, they are confused. They
20 try call city hall and nobody answers. I
21 try to call city hall, nobody answers. Left
22 a message for Mr. Hinton, I still have not
23 received a phone call back.

24 My other question is why should the
25 burden be on the homeowner to prove that the

1 single family home that they have lived in
2 for the last 50 years is, in fact, a single
3 family home? When a cop pulls you over he
4 doesn't ask you if you were speeding, he
5 doesn't ask you how fast you were going.
6 The burden of proof is on the officer. The
7 bottom line here is that there was an
8 unbelievable flagrant level of laziness and
9 incompetence on the part of Mr. Hinton and
10 the city and it is time that they get their
11 act together. I have seen enough in the
12 past 3 1/2 years to know that this is
13 ridiculous, and everybody wants to blame
14 everybody else but the bottom line is there
15 is a job to do, you get paid to do it, get
16 it done. I'm, quite frankly, sick of the
17 excuses and the only people that get the
18 short end of the stick are the taxpayers and
19 the homeowners in this city.

20 The last issue I would like to talk
21 about tonight is the Scranton Sewer
22 Authority, sale of the Scranton Sewer
23 Authority. I have been asking for the past
24 month or so for invoices related to legal
25 work done on the sale and I was provided

1 those invoices last week. Unfortunately,
2 most of the documents, actually all of the
3 documents have information that has been
4 redacted. For example, special counsel for
5 the city for the Sewer Authority
6 transaction, Ned Abrahamsen, was paid
7 \$200,000, but there is no detail of what
8 work was done. In a letter sent to me April
9 6 by Attorney Shrive he stated that special
10 counsel attended and participated in
11 numerous meetings, conference calls,
12 reviewed a large amount of the documents and
13 performed all other tasks as necessary to
14 ensure that the City of Scranton's interests
15 were protected. I'm simply asking for a
16 detailed accounting on an invoice. The same
17 thing goes with Attorney Cummings, Attorney
18 Walker and all of the other attorneys that
19 are involved in this deal. The invoices
20 have been redacted. This is the sale,
21 again, I'll remind people, this is the sale
22 of a public asset involving public ratepayer
23 money. Where is the transparency in this
24 deal? It is obviously lacking. I believe
25 that these documents should not be redacted

1 and I will be making an appeal to the Office
2 of Open Records tomorrow. I have asked that
3 the attorney/client privilege be waived and
4 that has not been done yet. I don't
5 understand what the big secret is. If you
6 got paid \$200,000, \$300,000, you should be
7 able to show us what you did and the
8 document should not be whited out so that
9 you can't tell what was performed.

10 The other question that I have been
11 asking and some other councilmen have been
12 asking for the past months or what happened
13 to the \$12 million that was expended during
14 the sewer sale transaction. Mr. Shrive did
15 provide a spreadsheet but, again, it's hard
16 to tell what capital improvement projects
17 were mandated and where that money was
18 exactly spent so we asked for a detailed
19 breakdown of that \$12 million and I would
20 like to see that immediately. Again, these
21 documents should not be hard to provide.
22 And that is all I have for this week. Thank
23 you.

24 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you,
25 Mr. Gaughan. In regards to the rental

1 registration we all commented on how poor
2 the rollout was, as Mr. Rogan said we have
3 been informed by the business administrator
4 that we are trying to come up with a plan to
5 hire a third party to investigate the
6 situation. Unfortunately, we relied on the
7 county records, as Mr. Evans stated, but I
8 think even for this third party that would
9 be the starting point for this study anyway.
10 I give the senior citizens more credit in
11 the city. I don't think people blindly pay
12 bills. Maybe some do, but I give people a
13 little bit more credit than that. In
14 regards to the actual data, the bills came
15 out and received, and it's difficult to give
16 out praise in this situation, but I would
17 like to thank Tom Oleski who works in the
18 office. They were the first line of
19 questioning where that was hit. Mr. Oleski
20 contacted me very early in the morning so
21 that we could start getting the information
22 out as Councilman Rogan and stated about
23 some of the restrictions and for compliance
24 and Mr. Oleski did try to get that out. As
25 Mr. Gaughan stated, their office was

1 inundated with calls. I believe Mr. Oleski
2 told me they had 67 calls within the first
3 hour when their office opened on Monday and
4 I think at that time there was only he and
5 another person in the office so that's why
6 some of the calls weren't returned.

7 I also want to thank our office
8 staff on Monday they also -- when the phones
9 weren't answered in LIPS those calls usually
10 matriculate down to city council and our
11 staff handled it quite well. We did try to
12 get the information out as quickly as
13 possible in telling people what to do. I
14 spoke to the mayor on Monday. He assured me
15 that that will be no repercussions for
16 anyone who got a bill and is not responsible
17 to pay it. They are going to collect the
18 bills, it's going to be part of the data
19 collection and so the next time that this
20 gets mailed out we should be in better
21 shape.

22 But referring back to Mr. Evans'
23 comments, overall the city has to do a
24 better job in terms of improving our data
25 basis and our technology. It is 2017 and a

1 lot of this information should be able to be
2 complied. I just look at the fact that
3 everybody gets a water bill. There is no
4 one -- there is no one that doesn't get a
5 water bill so if we could come up with some
6 way we can start commingling and interacting
7 utility bills and tax bills and rental
8 registration and garbage bills, you know,
9 there may be some constitutional issues
10 involved with that, but, like I said, nobody
11 gets away without paying a water bill or
12 electric bill so it has to be some way to
13 merge the data basis.

14 While we were away the weekend after
15 we had our last meeting, there was the huge
16 waterline break in Dunmore, and I would like
17 to thank the Pennsylvania American Water
18 Company for the fact that they had a great
19 notification system. I got several e-mails,
20 several texts to let us know there was a
21 problem, and I'd like to congratulate also
22 the neighborhood associations who allowed,
23 especially Councilman Rogan and myself, to
24 post updates on information that we were
25 gathering as they became available to us. I

1 was in contact with the water company on a
2 regular basis especially with issues
3 regarding pumping stations on East Mountain
4 and in Oakmont. Sunday morning calls and
5 the people who were responding to me were
6 very courteous and wanted to get the
7 information to us as quickly as possible.

8 Also, the week before we went off I
9 attended the Greenridge neighborhood meeting
10 and talked to Mr. Young about his situation
11 over there. We did send a letter to
12 Attorney Price seeking an update on --
13 Mr. Young informed us that the city has been
14 informed that they are responsible for this
15 fix. I haven't seen a letter from Judge
16 Gibbons or from anyone to confirm that to me
17 so we are looking to get that from Attorney
18 Price. We did have an issue that, once
19 again, we are dealing with the water company
20 now and some sewer issues, there was a
21 problem in Tripps Park. We contacted the
22 water company. They were quick to respond
23 and so far the relationship that I have with
24 them is very open to cooperating with us and
25 getting problems corrected.

1 In terms of the garbage fee, this is
2 a thing that is really going to have to go
3 hand in hand with recycling. As has been
4 discussed here, there has to be some type of
5 formula for a base fee and some type of per
6 bag fee but the per bag fee kind of has to
7 go hand in hand with the improvement in
8 recycling. One thing that we don't want to
9 give us up is right now as a city resident
10 you can put anything out for garbage and
11 they take it. When they go to a per bag fee
12 there may be a situation where that doesn't
13 happen, so we all want to see a change in
14 the fee, but there is some realities to it
15 that the fee might effect some dumping in
16 our area and also may effect on how people
17 get rid of their garbage, so it is something
18 that we continue to work on.

19 Following up on what Mr. Evans said,
20 we are trying to change what our downtown is
21 like. The downtown really is quickly
22 changing from a retail business type
23 section. The downtown is actually becoming
24 more of a residential neighborhood and I do
25 encourage and thank the two county

1 commissioners who proposed the bicycle lanes
2 in the city. I think it's something that
3 would make us move along to make us a more
4 walkable and more friendly city.

5 The last item that have is referring
6 back to an editorial that was in the
7 Scranton Times on Sunday talking about a
8 proposed plan to draw water from the
9 Lackawanna river. This is a plan that's in
10 it's infancy. We are all very proud of the
11 work that's been done on the Lackawanna
12 County river restoring it to a more natural
13 condition and especially the growth of our
14 native trout in the fishing stream so there
15 is some information available online. If
16 you do want to make any comments about this
17 proposal for the Lackawanna river you should
18 contact the Federal Energy Regulatory
19 Commission. I do believe that it's
20 important for us to find out as much as we
21 can about this plan to use the river for
22 power generation. This is something that's
23 upstream from us, but I do think it's
24 something that we should take an active
25 interest in just to make sure that no damage

1 is done to our river, and that's all I have
2 this evening.

3 MS. REED: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION -
4 AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL
5 NO. 65, 2016, AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED "GENERAL
6 CITY OPERATING BUDGET 2017" BY TRANSFERRING
7 \$296,895.00 FROM ACCOUNT NO.
8 01.401.13090.4299 (NON DEPARTMENTAL
9 EXPENDITURES - CONTINGENCY) TO ACCOUNT NO.
10 01.080.00083.4260 (DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC
11 WORKS BUREAU OF HIGHWAYS - RENTAL VEHICLES &
12 EQUIPMENT) TO PROVIDE SUFFICIENT FUNDING FOR
13 THE RENTAL VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT ACCOUNT
14 THROUGH THE 2017 BUDGET PERIOD.

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

18 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

19 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

23 MR. PERRY: Aye.

24 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

25 MR. EVANS: Aye.

1 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

2 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The
3 ayes have it and so moved.

4 MS. REED: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION -
5 AN ORDINANCE - CLOSING AND VACATING A
6 PORTION OF AN UNNAMED ALLEYWAY BETWEEN SOUTH
7 MAIN AVENUE AND HALSEY COURT IN THE 1200
8 BLOCK OF SOUTH MAIN AVENUE.

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

12 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

13 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

17 MR. PERRY: Aye.

18 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

19 MR. EVANS: Aye.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

23 MS. REED: 5-D. FOR INTRODUCTION -
24 AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL
25 NO. 63, 2016, AN ORDINANCE, AS AMENDED,

1 ENTITLED "AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.
2 155, 1999, AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED "PROVIDING
3 FOR THE LICENSING AND REGULATING OF
4 CONTRACTORS DOING BUSINESS IN THE CITY OF
5 SCRANTON INCLUDING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE
6 GRANTING OF PERMITS AND FEES FOR SAME;
7 PROVIDING PENALTIES AND RIGHTS OF APPEAL" BY
8 ADDING AND DELETING DEFINITIONS, UPDATING
9 THE DEPARTMENT NAME AND DIRECTOR'S TITLE,
10 UPDATING APPLICATION FORMS, THE REQUIREMENTS
11 FOR CONTRACTORS LICENSE, LICENSE FEES,
12 ISSUANCE OF PERMITS, CONFORMANCE TO CODE,
13 REVOCATION, SUSPENSION, DENIAL, PROHIBITED
14 ACTS, STOP WORK, CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY
15 AND TEMPORARY CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY,
16 PERMIT FEES, INSPECTIONS, FINES FOR
17 VIOLATIONS AND APPEALS PROCEDURE AND
18 DELETION OF SECTIONS 17 AND 22 IN THEIR
19 ENTIRETY", BY ADDING UNDER SECTION 1,
20 DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATIONS, THE
21 DEFINITION FOR SPECIALTY CONTRACTOR'S
22 LICENSE; ADDING THE LETTER L, UNDER NUMBER 3
23 IN SECTION 2, CONTRACTORS LICENSE, ADDING
24 SPECIALTY CONTRACTOR; UNDER SECTION 3,
25 APPLICATION FOR LICENSE, ADDING M.

1 REQUIREMENTS FOR A SPECIALTY CONTRACTOR; AND
2 UNDER SECTION 6, LICENSE FEES, ADDING THE
3 FEES FOR MASONRY CONTRACTOR LICENSE,
4 RESIDENTIAL CONTRACTOR LICENSE, AND
5 SPECIALTY CONTRACTOR LICENSE.

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

9 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

10 MR. EVANS: Second.

11 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

12 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question,
13 this was discussed back in caucus and I did
14 ask that Mr. Hinton attend our caucus next
15 week to provide further clarification on
16 this ordinance and to answer some questions
17 that we have. Thank you.

18 MR. WECHSLER: Just on that issue, I
19 would think if we have any questions for
20 Mr. Hinton we should try to get them
21 together before the caucus, if we can.

22 All those in favor of introduction
23 signify by saying aye.

24 MR. PERRY: Aye.

25 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

1 MR. EVANS: Aye.

2 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

3 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The
4 ayes have it and so moved.

5 MS. REED: 5-E. FOR INTRODUCTION -
6 A RESOLUTION - NAMING THE RECENTLY INSTALLED
7 ROCKWELL AVENUE BRIDGE IN THE NORTH SCRANTON
8 SECTION OF THE CITY IN HONOR OF GENERAL
9 THEODORE J. WINT.

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

13 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

14 MR. EVANS: Second.

15 MR. WECHSLER: On the question? On
16 the question, this is one of the good things
17 that we get to do as a council. We have a
18 lot of bad news that we work with, but this
19 actually is an outstanding project for the
20 city and for Scranton. All those in favor
21 of introduction signify by saying aye.

22 MR. PERRY: Aye.

23 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

24 MR. EVANS: Aye.

25 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

3 MS. REED: 5-F. FOR INTRODUCTION -
4 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
5 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE
6 AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH MAIN POOL AND
7 CHEMICAL COMPANY, INC. FOR SEASONAL
8 CHEMICALS FOR SWIMMING POOLS EXCLUDING NAY
9 AUG POOL FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2017.

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

13 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

14 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

18 MR. PERRY: Aye.

19 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

20 MR. EVANS: Aye.

21 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

24 MS. REED: 5-G. FOR INTRODUCTION - A
25 RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER

1 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND
2 ENTER INTO A GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE
3 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, DEPARTMENT OF
4 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ("DEP") FLOOD
5 PROTECTION GRANT PROGRAM TO ACCEPT GRANT
6 FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF UP TO \$30,600.00 FOR
7 REHABILITATION ASSISTANCE FOR DAMAGE FROM
8 RAIN FALL TO LINDY CREEK IN 2016.

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

12 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

13 MR. EVANS: Second.

14 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

15 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.
16 Just to try to answer Ms. Hodowanitz's
17 question, during the August 1 storm there
18 was there significant damage to the Lindy
19 Creek project and the Army Corp at this
20 point is offering to fund 80 percent of the
21 rehabilitation efforts and not to exceed
22 \$154,000. On top of that, the city would
23 have provided 20 percent match, so the DEP
24 flood protection grant program is going to
25 cover that other 20 percent, which would

1 have been the city's match, up to a max of
2 \$30,600. Now, as to where on Lindy Creek
3 exactly the damage occurred I'm not sure
4 about that, but I will find out tomorrow or
5 early next week and hopefully we will have
6 that answer before final passage. Thank
7 you.

8 MR. WECHSLER: All those in favor of
9 introduction signify by saying aye.

10 MR. PERRY: Aye.

11 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

12 MR. EVANS: Aye.

13 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

16 MS. REED: 5-H. FOR INTRODUCTION -
17 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
18 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE
19 AND ENTER INTO A COOPERATION AGREEMENT
20 BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND
21 THE CITY OF SCRANTON FOR REHABILITATION OF
22 NON-FEDERAL FLOOD CONTROL WORK IN SCRANTON,
23 PENNSYLVANIA ON LINDY CREEK.

24 MR. WECHSLER: At this time, I'll
25 entertain a motion that Item 5-H be

1 introduced into its proper committee.

2 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

3 MR. EVANS: Second.

4 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

5 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question,
6 I forgot to mention this, but these two
7 pieces of legislation are one in the same as
8 the grant. The scope of the work for this
9 project is they are going to repair the high
10 water damage to the flood protection
11 project, notably replacing riprap at the
12 project's debris basin that was subject to
13 erosion and removing sediment and debris
14 that's deposited into the project's concrete
15 flood reduction chamber. Thank you.

16 MR. WECHSLER: All those in favor of
17 introduction signify by saying aye.

18 MR. PERRY: Aye.

19 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

20 MR. EVANS: Aye.

21 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

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

25 READING BY TITLE FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 95,

1 2017 – AN ORDINANCE – AMENDING FILE OF THE
2 COUNCIL NO. 81, 2017, AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED
3 “APPROVING THE TRANSFER OF A RESTAURANT
4 LIQUOR LICENSE CURRENTLY OWNED BY ANOTHER
5 TIME RESTAURANT, LLC T/A AV RESTAURANT,
6 MOOSIC BOROUGH, LICENSE NO. R-10827 TO
7 ANOTHER TIME RESTAURANT, LLC T/A AV
8 RESTAURANT FOR USE AT 320 PENN AVENUE,
9 SCRANTON, LACKAWANNA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA AS
10 REQUIRED BY THE PENNSYLVANIA LIQUOR CONTROL
11 BOARD” BY CORRECTING THE ADDRESS 320 PENN
12 AVENUE TO READ 320-322 PENN AVENUE,
13 SCRANTON, LACKAWANNA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA.

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

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

18 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

21 MR. PERRY: Aye.

22 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

23 MR. EVANS: Aye.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

25 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed?

1 MS. REED: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR
2 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY
3 DEVELOPMENT – FOR ADOPTION – RESOLUTION NO.
4 141, 2017 – A RESOLUTION – ACCEPTING THE
5 RECOMMENDATION OF THE HISTORICAL
6 ARCHITECTURE REVIEW BOARD (“HARB”) AND
7 APPROVING THE CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS
8 FOR A+ SIGNS, 112 HARPER STREET, DUNMORE,
9 PA, FOR INSTALLATION OF A RADIUS MARQUEE
10 STYLE AWNING MEASURING 48” HIGH BY 36”
11 PROJECTION AND 212” WIDE, PURPLE IN COLOR
12 WITH GOLD LETTERING, READING “OPULENCE,
13 GIVING MODERN LIFE TO CLASSIC STYLE”, AT 320
14 SPRUCE STREET, SCRANTON, PA.

15 MR. WECHSLER: What is the
16 recommendation of the Chairperson for the
17 Committee on Community Development?

18 MR. ROGAN: As Chair for the
19 Committee on Community Development, I
20 recommend final passage of Item 7-A.

21 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

25 MR. PERRY: Yes.

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

2 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

4 MR. EVANS: Yes.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

8 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby
9 declare Item 7-A legally and lawfully
10 adopted.

11 MS. REED: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION
12 BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
13 FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 141, 2017 -
14 ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE
15 HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURE REVIEW BOARD
16 ("HARB") AND APPROVING THE CERTIFICATE OF
17 APPROPRIATENESS FOR POCONO SIGN COMPANY,
18 1979 SCRANTON CARBONDALE HIGHWAY, BLAKELY,
19 PA, FOR INSTALLATION OF AN AWNING PANEL
20 MEASURING 10" HIGH BY 84" WIDE AND A BOARD
21 SIGN MEASURING 36" HIGH BY 120" WIDE,
22 WHITE IN COLOR WITH AN ORANGE BORDER AND
23 ORANGE AND BLACK LETTERING, READING "TEQUILA
24 MODERN MEXICAN CUISINE" ON BOTH AWNING PANEL
25 AND SIGN BOARD WITH THE ADDITION OF "414

1 SPRUCE STREET, SCRANTON, PA, 18503,
2 570-341-0205, TEQUILAGRILLPA.COM" ON THE
3 BOARD SIGN.

4 MR. WECHSLER: What is the
5 recommendation of the Chairperson for the
6 Committee on Community Development?

7 MR. ROGAN: As Chair for the
8 Committee on Community Development, I
9 recommend final passage of Item 7-B.

10 MR. EVANS: Second.

11 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?
12 Roll call, please?

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

14 MR. PERRY: Yes.

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

16 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

17 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

18 MR. EVANS: Yes.

19 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

21 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

22 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby
23 declare Item 7-B legally and lawfully
24 adopted.

25 MS. REED: 7-C - FORMERLY 6-A - FOR

1 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES -
2 FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 95,
3 2017 - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 81,
4 2017, AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED "APPROVING THE
5 TRANSFER OF A RESTAURANT LIQUOR LICENSE
6 CURRENTLY OWNED BY ANOTHER TIME RESTAURANT,
7 LLC T/A AV RESTAURANT, MOOSIC BOROUGH,
8 LICENSE NO. R-10827 TO ANOTHER TIME
9 RESTAURANT, LLC T/A AV RESTAURANT FOR USE AT
10 320 PENN AVENUE, SCRANTON, LACKAWANNA
11 COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA AS REQUIRED BY THE
12 PENNSYLVANIA LIQUOR CONTROL BOARD" BY
13 CORRECTING THE ADDRESS 320 PENN AVENUE TO
14 READ 320-322 PENN AVENUE, SCRANTON,
15 LACKAWANNA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA.

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

19 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

23 MR. PERRY: Yes.

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

25 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

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MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

MR. EVANS: Yes.

MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

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

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

MR. ROGAN: Motion to adjourn.

MR. WECHSLER: Meeting 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.

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER