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2	SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING	
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6	HELD:	
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8	Monday, July 23, 2018	
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10	LOCATION:	
11	Council Chambers	
12	Scranton City Hall	
13	340 North Washington Avenue	
14	Scranton, Pennsylvania	
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24	CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER	
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CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

PATRICK ROGAN, PRESIDENT (Not present)

TIM PERRY, VICE PRESIDENT

WAYNE EVANS

WILLIAM GAUGHAN

KYLE DONAHUE

LORI REED, CITY CLERK

KATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

AMIL MINORA, ESQUIRE - SOLICITOR

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1	(Pledge of Allegiance recited and
2	moment of reflection observed.)
3	MR. PERRY: Please dispense with the
4	reading of the minutes or, I'm sorry,
5	roll call, please.
6	MS. DAVIDSON: Mr. Perry.
7	MR. PERRY: Here.
8	MS. DAVIDSON: Mr. Donahue.
9	MR. DONAHUE: Here.
10	MS. DAVIDSON: Mr. Evans.
11	MR. EVANS: Here.
12	MS. DAVIDSON: Mr. Gaughan.
13	MR. GAUGHAN: Here.
14	MS. DAVIDSON: Mr. Rogan.
15	MR. PERRY: Now, please, dispense
16	wit the reading of the minutes.
17	MS. REED: THIRD ORDER. 3-A.
18	BREAKDOWN OF ELIGIBLE SALARIES FOR THE
19	LIQUID FUELS ACCOUNT FOR THE MONTHS OF
20	APRIL, MAY AND JUNE, 2018.
21	MR. PERRY: Are there any comments?
22	If not, please receive and file.
23	MS. REED: 3-B. TAX ASSESSOR'S
24	REPORT FOR HEARING DATE TO BE HELD AUGUST 1,
25	2018.

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1	MR. PERRY: Any comments? If not,
2	please receive and file.
3	MS. REED: 3-C. CONTROLLER'S REPORT
4	FOR MONTH ENDING JUNE 30, 2018.
5	MR. PERRY: Any comments? If not,
6	please receive and file.
7	MS. REED: 3-D. MINUTES OF THE
8	NON-UNIFORM MUNICIPAL PENSION BOARD MEETING
9	HELD JUNE 20, 2018.
10	MR. PERRY: Any comments? If not,
11	please receive and file.
12	MS. REED: 3-E. MINUTES OF THE
13	SCRANTON POLICE PENSION COMMISSION MEETING
14	HELD JUNE 20, 2018.
15	MR. PERRY: Any comments? If not,
16	please receive and file.
17	MS. REED: 3-F. AGENDA FOR THE
18	NON-UNIFORM MUNICIPAL PENSION BOARD MEETING
19	HELD JULY 18, 2018.
20	MR. PERRY: Any comments? If not,
21	received and file. Do any council members
22	have any announcement at this time?
23	MR. DONAHUE: Yes, I have a few.
24	Friends of Connors Park will hold their
25	annual craft fair this Saturday, July 28,

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from 11 to 4 at the park at 515 Orchard Street. All proceeds benefit park improvements.

And, also, the annual Bob McGoff 5-K Run/One-Mile Fun Walk will take place on Sunday, August 26, at 9 a.m. starting at Connors Park. That's all I have.

MR. GAUGHAN: And I just wanted to mentioned, Mr. Perry mentioned in the beginning of the meeting about Nicole Pettinato and I just wanted to also send my condolences out. You know, I worked -- I think everyone on council worked very closely with Nicole over the last few years as she was the president of the Hill Neighborhood Association and it's very rare to find somebody who gives that type of commitment and that type of energy to a position like that and gave her time outside of her regular job and, you know, her regular family duties. So I just want to, again, send my condolences out to her family and she will be missed and I'm hoping that somebody in the Hill Neighborhood Association will step up, you know, to try

and do what Nicole did and put all of their commitment and time towards changing that neighborhood, to continue changing that neighborhood. Thank you.

MR. EVANS: I would certainly echo those comments. When we lost Ozzie it was a big step for Nicole to step into that position and she did a phenomenal job. The Hill Section was very happy to have her and she will absolutely be missed. As a former president of a neighborhood association, I know how much time and energy goes into that position, a volunteer position, of course, that you don't get paid for but you get a lot of self-worth and self-reward for the actions you take, so my condolences to Nicole's family and her dear friends.

MR. PERRY: I have one announcement to make, National Night Out will be held on Tuesday, August 7, this year at Scranton High School from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. This is a great event held nationally each year on the first Tuesday in August to promote police and community partnership. There will be police and fire demonstrations and lots of

activities for kids, including free food.

And anybody who has ever been at any of these events know how fantastic it is. The police and fire are so gracious with their time. There is fire trucks there to get in and climb on and police cruisers, it's a great time to partner up with your local safety employees and just promote goodwill between everybody. Every year they put on a great show so please attend if you could. Thank you. Fourth Order. Citizens' participation.

(The following speakers offered public comment as follows: Ron Ellman spoke on matters of general concern. Joan Hodowanitz spoke on city business and matters of general concern. Marie Schumacher spoke on city business. Dave Dobrzyn spoke on matters of general concern.)

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

MR. PERRY: Mr. Donahue, any motions or comments today?

MR. DONAHUE: Yes, I just have a

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couple of issues to pass along from a couple of neighborhood meetings I attended last I will be passing along a couple of issues to Chief Graziano. And, also, Mrs. Reed, would you be able to send a letter to LIPS regarding issues at the following properties: A house on the 500 block of Morgan Court, which is in the rear of South Irving Avenue. The building is condemned and the neighbors have concerns about the structural integrity of the house. the old Garcia's Market on the 800 block of Pittston Avenue, the property is overgrown and there is also a big crack in the front A house on the 300 block of Cedar Avenue across from the Old Sun Hotel, I will get you that exact address later. Apparently, the occupants are just throwing trash in the yard and just leaving it there and not bringing it to the curb and it's just sitting there. And, also, 305 Willow Street is condemned but apparently there is still people living in the house. that's all I have.

MR. PERRY: Thank you, Mr. Donahue.

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Mr. Evans, any motions or comments today?

MR. EVANS: Yes, thank you. of all, in the year of a reassessment you must be revenue neutral to all of the taxing bodies so you don't raise taxes because of reassessment and the \$13 million dollar amount that was quoted on the question is a bogus number made up by people that don't even understand reassessment so my estimate is probably more like 5 or 7 million dollars but it's still the responsibility of the county, so while we're on the subject I'll just talk about reassessment for the rest of my time in motions because I know Mr. Ellman will enjoy that. For nearly four years as an elected official, I have advocated for countywide reassessment. I stated my case many times during city council meetings and most any other opportunity I might have to extol the many positive reasons for reassessment for our citizens and our city. I went so far as to be the first elected official to suggest that if the county did not act on their own then the city should sue Lackawanna County to force a

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reassessment, so I was grateful to find support from my colleagues as well as some members of the administration. But let it be known for the record that we were ready and willing to move on that front, but along the way more than several months ago opportunity seemed be your unfolding and we hit the pause button o let it play itself out and play itself out it did.

On July 16, 2018, at approximately 3:15 p.m. a court docket was filed and the rest, as they say, just may be history. So first I'd like to thank Mr. Scotch, Ms. Holmes and Mr. Monroe, who are the plaintiffs in the case, suing Lackawanna County to force that entity to conduct a countywide property tax reassessment. Thank you for stepping up, thank you that it's something the commissioners not named Notarianni have failed to do. Thank you for the Community Justice Project for providing the talents of lead attorneys Mario Mather, Donald Driscoll and Kevin Quizberry. confident that they will provide proof beyond a shadow of a doubt that Lackawanna

County has severely and repeatedly violated the Pennsylvania's Constitution Uniformity Clause as well as the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment of the US Constitution. This violation of the 14th Amendment is very interesting and let me explain why by telling you a little bit about the Community Justice Project. First let me read one line from their mission statement. "Our mission is to protect the civil rights of low income people."

Let me repeat that, "Our mission is to protect the civil rights of low income people in Pennsylvania."

This organization's primary purpose, as their mission statement clearly says, is to protect the rights of low income people and because they have that they decided that a countywide reassessment is away to further that mission. There is no doubt that they know what I and others have been saying and have known for quite awhile that tax inequity hurts the poor. Tax inequity hurts our seniors, and that tax fairness is ultimately good for everyone. This, by the

way, is in total contrast to the nonsense, the scare tactics and the false narrative that have been part of the political spin invoked by two commissioners who have shown by their actions that they are only in fear of reassessment because they are in fear of their jobs. So I would urge those two commissioners to not wait one dime of taxpayers' money defending an indefensible position. They should finally agree that this is their responsibility. They should finally agree that they will now accept accountability.

Furthermore, I would say to the
County, the blueprint for success in this
lawsuit for the plaintiffs has already been
established in existing case law. You
cannot win. Every expert in reassessment
across the state knows that Lackawanna
County is the poster child for tax inequity
so I urge you to do the right thing.
Finally do what you were elected to do.
After all, it has always been part of your
job description to ensure tax fairness for
all. Reassessment for the City of Scranton

would be a game changer in both fairness and in future growth. So as this trial begins it promises to be quite a show, but I plan on having a front row seat every step of the way unless, of course, at least two people in the commissioners' office finally come to their senses. In the meantime, I won't hold my breath. That's all I have for today.

MR. PERRY: Thank you, Mr. Evans. Mr. Gaughan, any motions or comments?

MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, thank you. First, I just want to ask Mrs. Reed if we can ask the administration for a follow-up on Al Young's property on Wyoming Avenue. had a chance to speak with the Youngs in the last two weeks and the amount of money that they've had to spend now in legal fees is astronomical and not something that I think a family in the City of Scranton can afford when they did not create this problem, the hole that's in their backyard. It seems that the city is hung up on the hold harmless part of the agreement and there is a disconnect there, but if we can get an update on that I would appreciate it because

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there is a lack of communication between both parties and I am seriously concerned about that.

Second, I believe it was asked last week about Mrs. Hodowanitz asked about the paving project, the city's paving project, we did receive a memorandum from the business administrator so the project is being awarded to American Asphalt for a total bid of one point eight three nine million dollars. The project funding will be derived from three sources, as was mentioned last week, the Public Works Roadway improvement budget in the 2018 budget is \$875,000. The city received funds remaining from the defeasement of the 2012 and 2013 bonds via transfer from the paying agent at the time M & T Bank. The total amount was \$710,780.82. Those funds were assigned by city council through ordinance 133 of 2017 for roadway improvements through the creation of a special city's account specifically for that purpose; and then the third component, and I think it was asked about last week, the city's 2018 liquid

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fuels allocation was \$2,307,505.30. Dollars specifically assigned include \$413,345 for the street lighting lease, \$244,988.88 for the Pennsylvania infrastructure bank loan, The remaining \$1,649,172.30 would PIB loan. be allocated to the general fund for eligible expenditures which would include an offset for the \$875,000 roadway improvement project. So of this remaining amount approximately \$254.074.68 will be assigned to complete the roadway project funding This amount will factor in any sources. interest accrual from the special cities account, so if anybody wants a copy of this to take a look at I have that.

Regarding the much discussed laborer contract the past few weeks, we did receive something, a document from Mr. Abrahamsen as a follow-up to our correspondence dated July 16, 2018, we just received this Friday. I haven't had a chance to go through everything. I appreciate the follow-up correspondence though. I will be asking -- Councilman Donahue and I are meeting with the city solicitor tomorrow evening and I am

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going to ask that this contract be rebid for a number of different reasons, but the biggest reason is back in 2014, as I mentioned last weak, the city issued an RFP. Fast forward to 2018 and really the only difference in the RFP was a line that was added giving preference to firms who know and understand the unique culture of Scranton's labor unions, and I really don't think that that was fair and that may be the reason that we only receive two bidders for this contract. So I am going to ask that it be rebid in the interest of getting more firms to bid on that contract and hopefully the law department will go along with that and I'm sure we will be discussing that next week.

This was also brought up last week, but I just want to say it's becoming harder and harder for me and I think other members of council to ignore complaints that we get about the Licensing and Inspections

Department, specifically, that they do not return phone calls. The director of Licensing and Inspections Mr. Hinton, does

this isn't anyone attacking Mr. Hinton but this is a fact, and Councilman Donahue can attest and other attest when we go to neighborhood meetings this is literally the number one complaint. So I do want to read into the record a letter that I sent to Mayor Courtright just to let him know that I continually receive when attending neighborhood group meetings the fact that will the Licensing and Inspections

Department does not return phone calls, in particular, the department director.

not return phone calls to people. You know,

I was just stopped before the meeting by a gentleman, who is a contractor for 50 years, and he gave me his card and he is having trouble pulling permits and getting return phone calls, so I would hope, and I think it's unique that the legislative branch of government would get involved in this way, but I would hope the mayor takes these concerns from this council seriously and starts to address this because everywhere I go I hear it at least once or twice a week from different people.

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Mr. Srebro last week mentioned the North Keyser Avenue and North/South Road intersection, there was issues there. John Pocius, who is our city engineer, his office went out and did a site visit. I just want to read a section of the letter that he sent to the city solicitor. He says, "Our office is very familiar with this intersection and performed a site recognizance visit on Saturday, June 20, 2018. North/South Road intersects North Keyser Avenue at a severe Our office ran auto turn for screw. passenger car, city bus and WB-67 tractor trailer. Only the passenger car is able to make a left-hand turn but only by encroaching on the right shoulder of North/South Road. The city bus and WB-67 tractor trailer cannot negotiate a left turn.

Therefore, based on the information currently available to us, and also upon our professional engineering experience and knowledge, it is our opinion with a reasonable degree of engineering judgment that the following recommendations be

implemented."

And they are asking that the city install a "No Left turn" sign below the existing stop sign and that is going to require approval of ordinance by city council, so we should be seeing this hopefully very soon, but I wanted to make Mr. Srebro aware that they were looking into that issue. And that's all I have this week. Thank you.

Thank you, Mr. Gaughan. MR. PERRY: And very briefly, I had some complaints on a stop sign that is not exactly where it should be. I don't know if was weather or wind or what happened to it but that needs to put back upright, it's kind of at an That's at the corner of Pittston angle. Avenue and Kane Street. Also, I'm aware there is many accidents in that area. is a one-way street that butts up against a two-way street, so between that and that Kane Street is the very first crossing intersection and a lot of times there are cars coming up the wrong way, they miss where the two-way turns into a one-way. So

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if we could send a message out to Officer
Mitchell, maybe do a traffic study, is there
something that we can do to make that
transition from two-way to one-way more
apparent. I know it's -- I don't know want
to say an ongoing issue it's just the way
that was the street was engineered and
developed and built a long time ago but
there has got to be a better way to secure
that area for drivers on both sides. And
that's all I have for today. Thank you.

MS. REED: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION - A
RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO APPLY
FOR AND EXECUTE A GRANT FOR THE
REDEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE CAPITAL PROGRAM
(RACP) THROUGH THE COMMONWEALTH OF
PENNSYLVANIA'S OFFICE OF THE BUDGET
IN THE AMOUNT OF EIGHT HUNDRED THOUSAND(
\$800,000.00) DOLLARS; ACCEPTING AND
DISBURSING THE GRANT; AND COORDINATE THE USE
OF THE GRANT FUNDS WITH SCRANTON-SAMTER, LP,
FOR THE PROJECT TO BE NAMED THE "SAMTER
REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT".

MR. PERRY: At this time, I'll

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entertain a motion that Item 5-B be introduced into its proper committee.

MR. EVANS: So moved.

MR. DONAHUE: Second.

MR. PERRY: On the question?

MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.

I just want to read what this project will entail from the backup legislation. This \$800,000 will go towards the rehab of the former five-story department store building into 24 one and two bedroom apartments with modern layouts and amenities. Downtown require people to live in them to succeed bringing 24 new units to the 100 block of Penn Avenue needs more than 30 people living in this building and walking in and out on a In addition, the return of regular basis. ground floor retail to this marquee corner will translate into even more people on the street, job creation and tax revenues.

I think this is a great project. I think it's a great reinvestment into the 100 block of Penn Avenue and I think this adds to the already growing chorus of people and businesses that are moving into this area,

and as the backup says I think this will translate into a catalyst for this block of Penn Avenue and even further into downtown and it's a great addition as well. If we remember from few weeks ago, the money that we received from the state for the 300 block of Adams Avenue the Scranton Counseling Center is moving over to Cherry Street in South Scranton so I think this is good news. Thank you.

MR. PERRY: Thank you very much.

All those in favor of introduction signify
by saying aye.

MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

MR. EVANS: Aye.

MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

MR. PERRY: Aye. Opposed? The ayes have it and so moved.

MS. REED: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION — A
RESOLUTION — APPOINTMENT OF PRITESHA
PATEL, 678 ADAMS AVENUE, SCRANTON,
PENNSYLVANIA, 18510 AS THE ALTERNATE NO. 1
MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS FOR
THE CITY OF SCRANTON. MS. PATEL WILL FILL
THE ALTERNATE NO. 1 POSITION THAT WAS

1	VACATED BY PAUL MARCKS WHEN HE BECAME A
2	REGULAR MEMBER OF THE BOARD. MS. PATEL WILL
3	FILL THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF MR. MARCKS WHICH
4	EXPIRES ON JULY 1, 2020.
5	MR. PERRY: At this time, I'll
6	entertain a motion that Item 5-C be
7	introduced into its proper committee.
8	MR. EVANS: So moved.
9	MR. DONAHUE: Second.
10	MR. PERRY: On the question? On the
11	question, I just wanted to submit for the
12	record that Ms. Patel has submitted a
13	resume, a letter of interest, and was vetted
14	by our Treasury Department and she is clear
15	of any fees or taxes that she owes the city.
16	All those in favor of introduction
17	signify by saying aye.
18	MR. DONAHUE: Aye.
19	MR. EVANS: Aye.
20	MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.
21	MR. PERRY: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
22	have it and so moved.
23	MS. REED: SIXTH ORDER. 6-A.
24	READING BY TITLE - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.
25	26, 2018 – AN ORDINANCE - GRANTING A

1	TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION AND PERMANENT
2	MAINTENANCE EASEMENT AGREEMENT ON PROPERTY
3	OWNED BY THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO SCRANTON
4	LACKAWANNA INDUSTRIAL BUILDING COMPANY FOR
5	THE INSTALLATION OF SIDEWALKS AT THE MOUNT
6	PLEASANT CORPORATE CENTER ALONG MOUNT
7	PLEASANT DRIVE AS MORE FULLY DESCRIBED IN
8	EXHIBIT "A".
9	MR. PERRY: You've heard reading by
10	title of Item 6-A, what is your pleasure?
11	MR. EVANS: I move that Item 6-A
12	pass reading by title.
13	MR. DONAHUE: Second.
14	MR. PERRY: On the question? All
15	those in favor signify by saying aye.
16	MR. DONAHUE: Aye.
17	MR. EVANS: Aye.
18	MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.
19	MR. PERRY: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
20	have it and so moved.
21	MS. REED: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR
22	CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE -
23	FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 64 2018 -
24	AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE
	II

CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A

GRANT AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN THE CITY OF SCRANTON (HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS THE "CITY" AND/OR "GRANTOR") AND SCRANTON LACKAWANNA INDUSTRIAL BUILDING COMPANY, (HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS THE "GRANTEE/SUB-RECIPIENT") IN THE AMOUNT OF FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$50,000.00) FOR THE INSTALLATION OF SIDEWALKS AT THE MOUNT PLEASANT CORPORATE CENTER LOCATED ALONG MOUNT PLEASANT DRIVE.

MR. PERRY: What is the recommendation for the Chairperson for the Committee on Finance?

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

MR. DONAHUE: Second.

MR. PERRY: On the question?

MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question,
Mrs. Schumacher had a question last week
about this and I did go back and look into
the 2018 budget and I just want to read the
narrative from Boards, Commissions and
Nonprofits. It says, "The Scranton Plan
contribution reinstates a financial to the

1 plan suspended by the City. The budget includes the \$10,000 annual contribution and 2 3 \$50,000 as a matching component for the 4 Chamber of Commerce to install sidewalks at 5 the Mt. Pleasant Development Site. disbursement will occur only based on an 6 7 actual project match, and I did -- was in 8 conversation with Mr. Bulzoni and he said 9 that SLIBCO will undertake the project and 10 Geisinger will provide up to \$20,000. 11 SLIBCO will handle the design, legal 12 advertising and maintenance costs. 13 you. 14 MR. PERRY: Thank you. Anyone else 15 on the question? Roll call, please. 16 MS. DAVIDSON: Mr. Donahue. 17 MR. DONAHUE: Yes. 18 MS. DAVIDSON: Mr. Evans. 19 MR. EVANS: Yes. 20 MS. DAVIDSON: Mr. Gaughan. 21 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes. MS. DAVIDSON: Mr. Perry. 22 23 MR. PERRY: Yes. I hereby declare 24 Item 7-A legally and lawfully adopted.

there is no further business, I'll entertain

CERTIFICATE

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