

1
2 SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING
3
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5
6 HELD:
7

8 Monday, November 19, 2018
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10 LOCATION:
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12 Council Chambers
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14 Scranton City Hall
15

16 340 North Washington Avenue
17

18 Scranton, Pennsylvania
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CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

PATRICK ROGAN, PRESIDENT

TIM PERRY, VICE PRESIDENT

WAYNE EVANS

WILLIAM GAUGHAN

KYLE DONAHUE

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. ROGAN: Roll call, please.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

5 MR. PERRY: Here.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

7 MR. DONAHUE: Here.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

9 MR. EVANS: Here.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Here.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

13 MR. ROGAN: Here. We are going to
14 do a proclamation so if our guests want to
15 come up front with us.

16 WHEREAS, in 2018, the American
17 Cancer Society estimates that 55,400 people
18 in the United States will be diagnosed with
19 pancreatic cancer, one of the deadliest
20 cancers, and 44,330 people will die from the
21 disease; and.

22 WHEREAS, that's more than 152
23 people, our mothers, daughters, fathers,
24 sons, wives, husbands, sisters, brothers,
25 colleagues and friends who will hear the

1 dreaded news EVERY SINGLE DAY; and

2 WHEREAS, the average lifetime risk
3 of pancreatic cancer for men is about 1 in
4 63, and for women, the lifetime risk is
5 about 1 in 65; and

6 WHEREAS, pancreatic cancer takes
7 91% of its victims within five years and
8 kills more people than breast cancer in the
9 United States; and

10 WHEREAS, the disease is the third
11 leading cause of cancer-related death and it
12 is projected to become the second leading
13 cause by 2020; and

14 WHEREAS, the Pancreatic Cancer
15 Action Network is the national organization
16 serving the pancreatic cancer community in
17 Scranton and nationwide through a
18 comprehensive approach that includes public
19 policy, research funding, patient services,
20 and public awareness and education related
21 to developing effective treatments and a
22 cure for pancreatic cancer; and

23 WHEREAS, the Pancreatic Cancer
24 Action Network and its affiliates support
25 those patients currently battling pancreatic

1 cancer, as well as to those who have lost
2 their lives to this disease, and are
3 committed to nothing less than a cure; and

4 WHEREAS, to double survival by
5 2020, we must advocate for increases in
6 federal funding for cancer research to
7 enable pancreatic cancer patients to receive
8 better treatments and outcomes; and

9 WHEREAS, the good health and
10 well-being of the residents of the City of
11 Scranton are enhanced as a direct result of
12 increased awareness about pancreatic cancer
13 and research into early detection, causes,
14 and effective treatments.

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT
16 RESOLVED, that Scranton City Council wishes
17 to designate Monday, November 19, 2018⁷ as
18 "WORLD PANCREATIC CANCER DAY" in the City of
19 Scranton

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that
21 this Proclamation be made a permanent part
22 of the Minutes of this Council.

23 Would anyone like to say anything?

24 MS. CONNORS: I just want to say
25 thank you for the Proclamation and,

1 unfortunately, as Mr. Rogan said, pancreatic
2 cancer is now going to be the second leading
3 of cancer deaths in this country. My
4 sister-in-law, former mayor Jim Connors'
5 sister passed away in 1994. There have not
6 been many strides made since that time. I
7 think Tim Perry, your grandfather, if I'm
8 not mistaken, also died from pancreatic
9 cancer so, unfortunately, what we need is
10 more research to find early detection tools
11 and I want to thank all of you again for
12 recognizing this dreaded disease and
13 hopefully when we come back next year we
14 will have made some strides in finding not
15 only earlier detection but a cure because,
16 as you said, there is only 9 percent survive
17 after two years, so it is one of the
18 deadliest cancers that is out there. Thank
19 you.

20 MR. ROGAN: Would anyone else like
21 to say a few words? Mayor?

22 MR. CONNORS: No, she is doing well.

23 MR. ROGAN: Thank you everyone.

24 Please dispense with the reading of
25 the minutes.

1 MS. REED: THIRD ORDER. 3-A. CHECK
2 RECEIVED NOVEMBER 5, 2018 FROM COMCAST IN
3 THE AMOUNT OF \$253,543.09 FOR QUARTERLY
4 FRANCHISE FEE.

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

7 MS. REED: 3-B. TAX ASSESSOR'S
8 REPORT FOR HEARING DATE HELD NOVEMBER 14,
9 2018.

10 MR. ROGAN: Are there any comments?
11 If not, received and filed.

12 MS. REED: 3-C. MINUTES OF THE
13 CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION MEETING HELD
14 SEPTEMBER
15 6, 2018.

16 MR. ROGAN: Are there any comments?
17 If not, received and filed.

18 MS. REED: 3-D. MINUTES OF THE
19 REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE LACKAWANNA COUNTY
20 LAND BANK HELD SEPTEMBER 14 AND OCTOBER 12,
21 2018.

22 MR. ROGAN: Are there any comments?
23 If not, received and filed.

24 MS. REED: 3-E. CHECK RECEIVED IN
25 THE AMOUNT OF \$500.00 FROM HARRISON HOUSE

1 PERSONAL CARE HOME, WHICH IS PAYMENT IN LIEU
2 OF TAXES.

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

5 MS. REED: 3-F. MINUTES OF THE
6 REGULAR MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF SCRANTON
7 HOUSING AUTHORITY HELD OCTOBER 1, 2018.

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

10 MS. REED: 3-G. TAX ASSESSOR'S
11 RESULTS REPORT FOR HEARING DATE HELD OCTOBER
12 30, 2018.

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

15 MS. REED: 3-H. CONTROLLER'S REPORT
16 FOR MONTH ENDING OCTOBER 31, 2018.

17 MR. ROGAN: Are there any comments?
18 If not, received and filed. Do any council
19 members have announcements at this time?

20 MR. EVANS: I have one. This year
21 small business Saturday falls on November
22 24. The annual holiday shopping tradition
23 that gives communities everywhere out in
24 support of their favorite small business
25 that make our -- businesses that make our

1 community vibrant and unique. We celebrate
2 small business Saturday, a shopping holiday
3 that's meant to boost awareness and support
4 of businesses both local and small because
5 when they thrive we all thrive and local
6 money stays local. Spending \$100 at a local
7 business results in \$68 that stays in the
8 community compared to \$43 for national and
9 franchise businesses so please consider
10 supporting small businesses this Saturday
11 and all throughout the holiday season.

12 This Sunday, November 25, from 11
13 a.m. to 4 p.m. the Buy Local Holiday
14 Marketplace will be held at the Scranton
15 Cultural Center where you will find some of
16 the areas artisans, crafters and local
17 businesses. The marketplace features
18 approximately 120 vendors and offers five
19 floors of shopping. Admission is \$2 and the
20 first 1,000 shoppers receive a free reusable
21 shopping bag courtesy of FNCB Bank. Food
22 and drinks will be available for purchase
23 that day. So please take some time and
24 visit the local shops and small businesses.
25 It's very, very important that we all do our

1 part. That's all I have.

2 MR. ROGAN: Anyone else? I have a
3 few. This Thursday, November 22, is
4 Thanksgiving. We would like to wish
5 everyone a happy holiday. City hall will be
6 closed Thursday and Friday in observance of
7 the holiday. DPW will only be off on
8 Thursday. Refuse and blue recycling will be
9 just one day behind for the remainder of the
10 week.

11 Next Monday, November 26, we will
12 hold a public hearing in council chambers at
13 5:15 for the operating budget, and the week
14 of December 10 to the 14 DPW will be
15 collecting leaves and not newspaper this
16 week. The city is encouraging everyone to
17 bag their leaves. Please do not rake them
18 to the curb. As I mentioned at a few
19 meetings, free leaf bags are available at
20 any fire station in the city and also at the
21 DPW headquarters at 1010 Poplar Street.
22 Again, the leaves will be collected the week
23 of December 10.

24 And, finally, the owner of Buona's,
25 Giovanni Piccolino, asked me to announce

1 that he will once again this year be hosting
2 a free Thanksgiving luncheon. All are
3 welcome between 12 and 2 p.m. at Buona's
4 downtown on Lackawanna Avenue and we would
5 like to thank Mr. Piccolino for his
6 continued generosity in our city.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: I have one as well.
8 The Lackawanna County Commissioners agreed
9 to participate in the Phillip Morris U.S.A.
10 initiative that is providing 10,000 free
11 litter stands to collect cigarette butts in
12 communities nationwide. Interested
13 municipalities may participate through the
14 county for an opportunity to obtain a stand
15 at no cost to place at your municipality's
16 heaviest smoking area, then it goes through
17 the requirements.

18 So, Mrs. Reed, if we could forward
19 this to the mayor's office and the DPW
20 director to see if they will sign up for
21 this. I think it's a great idea, a great
22 program and then we'll have to -- or the
23 administration will have to figure out where
24 our heaviest smoking areas are maybe
25 downtown. That's all. Thank you.

1 MS. REED: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'
2 PARTICIPATION.

3 (The following speakers offered
4 public comment: Lee Morgan spoke on matters
5 of general concern. Dave Dobrzyn spoke on
6 city business. Norma Jefferies spoke on
7 city business. Marie Schumacher spoke on
8 agenda items and city business.)

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

11 MR. ROGAN: Mr. Perry, do you have
12 any motions or comments?

13 MR. PERRY: Yeah, just quickly, just
14 a follow-up with Mrs. Jefferies and her
15 issue. Mrs. Reed, if we could send
16 something out to Chief Graziano to take a
17 special patrol and special interest into the
18 Hill Section, particularly Clay, Olive,
19 Vine, Quincy areas for anybody parked in an
20 area that is just not going to let anybody
21 see past the "No Parking" sign, and then
22 maybe we can do a follow-up to DPW to see
23 about any kind of "No Parking" markers on
24 the street itself. I know that we have
25 other people that take care of it, but the

1 city street is the city's responsibilities
2 so let's see if there is a need there for
3 maybe some repainting as well just to make
4 sure it's clear, and I'm sure there is the
5 proper signage is up already, but it
6 wouldn't hurt.

7 Other than that, the only other
8 thing I have to talk about is Thanksgiving
9 is coming up so everybody have a safe and
10 happy one. Enjoy your friends, enjoy your
11 family, that's what this time of year is all
12 about, and as Councilman Evans brought up,
13 this Saturday is shop small Saturday. We
14 want to stay local, keep everything in the
15 area, keep things, you know, as he
16 mentioned, when you go to a big box store
17 you might get a little bit better price, you
18 might get a little more variety, but you are
19 never going to get that service that we are
20 you used to getting when you go to your
21 neighborhood store. It's just night and day
22 so, again, support our local business,
23 support our local economy, you spend here
24 the money stays here, and that's what
25 generates -- that's what community is all

1 about.

2 So, again, guys, Happy Thanksgiving
3 and be happy, stay safe. Thank you.

4 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. Mr. Donahue,
5 any motions or comments?

6 MR. DONAHUE: Yes. First off, I'm
7 in the process of reviewing the budget so
8 I'll have more on that in the upcoming
9 weeks.

10 Mrs. Reed, we sent that letter to
11 the County Director of Assessments back in
12 September and we still haven't gotten a
13 response and I was just reminded that when I
14 looked -- was looking at the Tax Assessor's
15 report for the hearing date that theirs
16 wasn't changed, that they still haven't
17 responded to that so would you be able to
18 send another letter, please?

19 And that's all I have for this week.

20 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. Mr. Evans,
21 any motions or comments?

22 MR. EVANS: Yeah, briefly. First of
23 all, Happy Thanksgiving to everyone. I hope
24 you have a great holiday. Today marks the
25 three year anniversary of the passing of Bob

1 McGoff, former city council president, so I
2 hope Bob's memory can continue to serve as a
3 reminder for all of us to always strive for
4 a little more civility, to always strive to
5 be a better human being, and to always
6 strive to do the very best we all can for
7 the citizens of Scranton. Three years ago
8 on this very night, in fact, during our
9 council meeting that evening we learned that
10 our friend and colleague, Bob McGoff, had
11 lost his battle to cancer. I have had the
12 honor each year on the solemn anniversary to
13 take a brief moment from the evening's
14 business and read Bob's own words of wisdom
15 on the topic of cancer that he spoke during
16 a city council meeting.

17 Bob said, "Just one thing I would
18 like to mention, I would like to just say
19 that I know all of us have been effected in
20 some way by this insidious disease, and I
21 would encourage anyone that knows someone
22 who is fighting this or dealing with
23 treatment involved with cancer to be a
24 friend. One of the things that happens to
25 cancer patients and those under treatment,

1 depression is a very significant aspect of
2 it, and I believe it or not simply sitting
3 down and talking with people, watching a
4 television show with them, bringing dinner
5 and having something to eat with them goes a
6 long way to helping people deal with that.
7 And I would encourage that if you know
8 someone, please be a friend and be part of
9 the helping process."

10 Bob McGoff is someone who understood
11 the importance of even the smallest gesture.
12 Someone we will always have great respect
13 and his words are worth mentioning once
14 again in his honor and his memory, and that
15 is all I have for now. Thank you.

16 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. Mr. Gaughan,
17 any motions or comments?

18 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, thank you. First
19 of all, I just want to echo what Mr. Rogan
20 said at the beginning of the meeting about
21 Director Gallagher's mother who had passed
22 away. My thoughts and prayers go out to him
23 and his family. Also, Judge Conaboy who was
24 a respected judge in the community and a
25 respected human being in the community and a

1 great person also passed away in the last
2 two weeks so I want to send my thoughts and
3 prayers out to his family as well.

4 And as Councilman Evans mentioned,
5 today is the three-year anniversary of our
6 colleague and our friend's passing, Bob
7 McGoff, and I think every time we step into
8 the City Clerk's Office we think about him
9 and all he meant to the city and to this
10 council so our thoughts are with him and his
11 family tonight as well.

12 I received a frantic message from a
13 resident on East Mountain, Froud Avenue,
14 Mrs. Reed, I think I did give it to
15 Mrs. Reed already, they are having runoff
16 issues on Froud Avenue, and Mrs. Schumacher
17 is laughing because she knows this isn't a
18 new problem, and I think we have said this
19 before, but when it rains and there is
20 runoff, especially when it gets cold and
21 it's icy, they literally are trapped. They
22 cannot leave their homes.

23 So, Mrs. Reed, I don't know if you
24 sent it already, but if we could just draft
25 a letter to the DPW director and the city

1 administration and make them aware of this
2 again and hopefully they can go out and they
3 can do something to alleviate this problem.

4 Also, council received a letter
5 about a tree that is about to fall on a home
6 at 2622 Lafayette Street, the rear of Byron
7 Lane in-between Lafayette and Brigg Street.
8 So, Mrs. Reed, I do have a copy of that
9 letter if we could forward that to the
10 appropriate department and copy Mr. Santoli
11 on that I would appreciate it.

12 Also, last thing I want to mention
13 tonight I think two or three years ago
14 worked along with my colleagues with the
15 American Lung Association to institute a
16 program called the Young Lungs Program and
17 we got free signage that we put up
18 throughout the parks trying to prevent
19 people from smoking in our city parks, from
20 leaving cigarette butts all over the place
21 and it ended up being I think so far a huge
22 success.

23 So I recently met again with the
24 American Lung Association. I'm sure some of
25 you have seen the recent articles in the

1 news about vaping, which has become a major
2 epidemic. Just reading an article earlier
3 today, this is from Saturday, November 17,
4 the new numbers on vaping are staggering.
5 Vaping has increased nearly 80 percent among
6 high schoolers and 50 percent among middle
7 schoolers since last year. There is health
8 experts that say behavior changes are key to
9 look for as more and more children and young
10 adults become addicted to nicotine causing
11 psychological changes to their brain so it's
12 a huge epidemic not only in the country but
13 I think in the City of Scranton.

14 Also, when I met with the American
15 Lung Association one of the things they had
16 presented to me, and I believe there is a
17 young person that came up months and months
18 ago and presented this to council, there is
19 something called the Tobacco Resistance Unit
20 youth, and these are local high school
21 students who actually completed 81 separated
22 tobacco retail assessments in the City of
23 Scranton. The Tobacco Resistance Unit Youth
24 is a movement throughout Pennsylvania to
25 help youth ages 12 to 18 stay tobacco and

1 nicotine free and their goal is to prevent
2 and stop youth tobacco use through education
3 and they came up with this program, this
4 point of sale program that collect different
5 data from establishments throughout the City
6 of Scranton, so in reviewing the report
7 there was some really shocking statistics,
8 and I won't go through all of them but I'll
9 just highlight some of the major ones.

10 Only 14 percent of tobacco retailers
11 in the city displayed a graphic health
12 warning sign. 12 percent of tobacco
13 retailers displayed quit line signage in
14 their establishments. 71 percent of
15 retailers in the City of Scranton advertise
16 cigarillos or little cigars for less than
17 \$1. There is a frequency of tobacco
18 products within 12 inches of toys, candy,
19 gum, slushy machines or ice cream so they
20 are trying to obviously target -- tobacco
21 companies are trying to target are young
22 people. They have spent \$9.1 billion,
23 according to this report, on marketing in
24 2016.

25 The report also says that low income

1 neighborhoods have lower tobacco prices and
2 higher retail densities and youth are 60
3 percent more likely to have tried smoking
4 and 30 percent more likely to be susceptible
5 to future smoking if they have been more
6 frequently exposed to tobacco promotion.

7 So, again, I won't go through all of
8 the details in this report, but it was very
9 interesting to see what goes on at tobacco
10 retail establishments in the City of
11 Scranton. So the reason I bring this up is
12 because in meeting with the American Lung
13 Association there is actually something that
14 council and the administration can do to
15 combat this issue. One of those things is
16 that -- one of the issues that was pointed
17 out in the report is that about 30 retail
18 establishments are located within 1,000 feet
19 of schools.

20 So one of the things that I would
21 like council to consider in the next couple
22 of the weeks and into the new year is
23 changing our language in our zoning laws so
24 one of the things that I have here is
25 restricting retailers within 1,000 feet of

1 schools so all tobacco retail
2 establishments, a place of business where
3 tobacco or e-cigarette or vaporizer are
4 available for sale to the general public,
5 tobacco retail establishments shall include,
6 but are not limited to, convenient stores,
7 grocery stores, gas stations, tobacco shops,
8 vape shops. No such business shall be
9 permitted within 1,000 feet of a public or
10 private school established for academic
11 education of children or minors under the
12 age to buy tobacco products.

13 So I would like my colleagues to
14 consider this over the next few weeks and
15 into the new year because if you read this
16 report it's pretty clear, and the U.S.
17 Surgeon General concluded that tobacco
18 advertising and promotions directly cause
19 both the initiation and progression of
20 tobacco use among youth, and the other
21 really concerning thing to me is the lack of
22 signage in these establishments, and I think
23 that that is something that the city can
24 directly influence, so we can use a
25 comprehensive definition of tobacco product

1 in our licensing laws to ensure that point
2 of sale policies apply to emerging products
3 so new products, and we can enact policies
4 that restrict where, when and how tobacco
5 can be advertised, content neutral signage
6 limits the total amount of storefront
7 signage regardless of content.

8 So there is a few other things in
9 here that I would like my colleagues to
10 consider. I think it's something that the
11 city needs to do because I think this issue
12 is only going to get worse, so something to
13 consider over the next few weeks. Thank
14 you.

15 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. Just a
16 couple of comments, I do have comments on a
17 number of agenda items, we have a very
18 lengthy agenda tonight and many positive
19 items that we are going to be voting on, but
20 I do want to take a minute just to mention
21 when I came into the meeting tonight I
22 received this folder right here from the VFW
23 and it says, "Veterans of Foreign Wars of
24 the United States presented to Friends of
25 the Doughboy." And it was presented to me

1 for help with the Doughboy statute, and I
2 have say it's truly an honor to receive
3 this, but I do want to thank former council
4 president Joe Wechsler, who really got the
5 ball rolling on this project and, of course,
6 the proclamation was dated for Veteran's Day
7 on the 11th, and the doughboy statute for
8 those who don't know was put to honor
9 veterans in casualty of the World War I. It
10 was first dedicated back in 1940. The
11 original doughboy statute is actually made
12 out of zinc, which is not a very durable
13 metal. The new statute is made out of
14 bronze, so hopefully that new statute will
15 be there to honor our great veterans from
16 World War I for hundreds and hundreds of
17 years.

18 I'd just like to echo my colleagues.
19 I'd like to wish everyone a happy and very
20 safe Thanksgiving holiday. As I mentioned,
21 I will have a lot to say on agenda items as
22 they come up. That's all.

23 MS. REED: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION -
24 AN ORDINANCE - APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE
25 EXPENSES OF THE CITY GOVERNMENT FOR THE

1 PERIOD COMMENCING ON THE FIRST DAY OF
2 JANUARY, 2019 TO AND INCLUDING DECEMBER 31,
3 2019 BY THE ADOPTION OF THE GENERAL CITY
4 OPERATING BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2019.

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

8 MR. PERRY: So moved.

9 MR. EVANS: Second.

10 MR. ROGAN: On the question?

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.
12 I have done an initial review of the 2019
13 budget and do have several concerns. I am
14 going to put all of my concerns and
15 questions into writing to Mr. Bulzoni, and I
16 would like to go through some of the things
17 that, you know, are concerning to me after
18 looking at the budget.

19 So some areas are revenues, health
20 insurance expense, salaries and wages,
21 supplies and expenses and the pension
22 expense.

23 So in taking a look at some of the
24 line items, the first one that I have a
25 question on is the proceeds 2019 bond

1 issuance. The budget narrative included
2 with the document indicates that the \$1,000
3 that's in the line item is a placeholder for
4 prospective 2019 refunding and capital
5 improvement debt initiative. So as we know
6 the city has produced a 2019 balanced
7 budget. There are a number of budget
8 capital expenditures in most departments so
9 I would like to the administration to please
10 explain if the city is planning to finance
11 additional capital improvements through
12 public financing.

13 The second has to do with the
14 non-resident wage tax. The budget indicates
15 that the city did not collect any
16 non-resident wage taxes for the nine months
17 ending September 30, 2018. This seems like
18 an error to me and I'm asking whether it's
19 combined with the wage tax so I would like
20 to if the administration would please
21 provide the amount of the non-resident wage
22 tax collected for the nine months ending
23 September 30, 2018, and where it was
24 recorded, and I'd like the administration to
25 produce the city's budget worksheet

1 calculations.

2 Also, I did have an initial concern,
3 we talked about it in the caucus, with the
4 real estate transfer tax. The budget
5 anticipates an increase in property sales
6 where we budgeted in 2018 \$3,375,000. We
7 have only collected \$2,224,686 so I don't
8 know if we are going to hit that mark but it
9 does seem kind of low as of September 30.

10 Also, the current wage tax, wage tax
11 collections should be consistent with each
12 month except for those months that have
13 three payrolls. Looking back at the 2016
14 audit, the wage taxes were \$26 million that
15 we collected. I'd like the administration
16 to please provide an explanation of why 2018
17 wage tax collections for the nine months
18 ending September 30, 2018, are lagging
19 behind historical trends. We budgeted
20 \$27,387,219. We have only collected
21 \$18,499,053 as of September 30. In the 2019
22 budget, it's increasing to \$28,587,533 so I
23 have questions about that and I'd like the
24 administration to provide the city's budget
25 worksheet calculations.

1 I'd also like the administration to
2 provide an explanation on why the 2018 local
3 service tax collections for the nine months
4 ending September 30, 2018, are lagging
5 behind historical trends. Please produce
6 the city's budget worksheet calculations on
7 this. We budgeted \$4,910,000, we've only
8 collected \$2,495,117 so I have questions on
9 that.

10 The amusement tax, 2018 budget
11 \$385,000 we have not collected anything. I
12 think I remember from last year that this
13 does come in late but I'd like an
14 explanation on that. We have also budgeted
15 the same amount in 2019.

16 Also, in looking at the revenues,
17 something I asked about it last year, under
18 pave cuts for UGI, the city budget would
19 \$195,000, we have not collected anything as
20 of September 30, 2018. The 2019 budget we
21 are budgeting \$90,000. Now, I believe that
22 the city is involved in a lawsuit with UGI
23 over the recent changes to the pave cut
24 ordinance but I just want wonder why we
25 continue to budget for this when we are not

1 getting anything.

2 Also, it seems to me in looking at
3 the pave cut line items that we are not
4 collecting as much maybe as we should be, so
5 I am going to have additional questions
6 about that.

7 I'm also concerned about the health
8 insurance. I could be wrong on this, but it
9 looks like we are, you know, it looks like
10 we are understating the cost of health
11 insurance. I have here we may be
12 understating it by \$1,308,232 so we have a
13 reduction in police health care, and by the
14 way this is good thing, but I'm just
15 questioning where they are coming up with
16 these figures from, \$157,610.77. Fire, the
17 health care budgeted for 2019 is reduced by
18 \$1,049,710.05, and DPW is \$755,726.91, so
19 that totals almost \$2 million in budgeted
20 expenses for health care from 2018 to 2019.

21 So, again, it seems like an
22 understatement so I would like additional
23 clarification on how they came up with those
24 numbers.

25 Also, if we are looking at the

1 addition of positions in this budget, first
2 one is in Licensing and Inspections so we
3 are hiring a confidential secretary for
4 zoning and planning for \$30,000 so I would
5 like the administration to please provide
6 the name of the department personnel who
7 performed secretarial services in 2018. In
8 reviewing the budget, the Department of
9 Human Resources does not have a confidential
10 secretary and I'm asking why Licensing and
11 Inspections needs one.

12 Also, traffic sign maintenance
13 position in the DPW budget, so I would like
14 to know the number of 2017 and 2018 traffic
15 sign maintenance projects, just an
16 explanation of why this new position is
17 necessary for the efficient department
18 operations. It's unclear, also, in looking
19 at the budget what the new salary is going
20 to be for this position, I believe the
21 person is now part-time and then moving into
22 full-time so an explanation on that.

23 Also, if we are talking about new
24 positions, the Department of Public Works
25 Parks and Recreation assistant for \$30,000.

1 I'd like the administration to please
2 provide why this new position is necessary
3 for the efficient department operation. I
4 don't know, just my initial review I think
5 that's a waste of money.

6 Also, in looking at the professional
7 services account in the Department of
8 Business Administration, the city continues
9 to rely on outside consultants. The city
10 budgeted \$250,000 for 2018, however, for the
11 nine months ending in September we have
12 incurred \$418,906 in professional services
13 so we are way over budget so I'd like the
14 administration to explain why the city is
15 over budget for 2018, then we are increasing
16 our professional services for the 2019
17 budget to \$500,000 so what is the reasoning
18 for that?

19 Also, in the Department of
20 Licensing, Inspections and Permits, under
21 building demolition, apparently the city is
22 expecting to accelerate the demolition of
23 properties in 2019. 2018 we budgeted
24 \$65,000, we have only spent \$10,252 as of
25 September 30 and we are bumping that up to

1 \$150,000 in the 2019 budget so I'd like to
2 understand the rationale behind that because
3 it's my understanding that we have a lot of
4 money in the OECD budget left over for
5 demolition so I would like to know what the
6 rationale there is.

7 For discussion purposes, the
8 electrical costs were annualized and then
9 projected and I believe they are understated
10 by \$128,081. Now, I do know that there have
11 been energy improvements in city hall. I
12 would like to know what they are
13 specifically and what other actions the city
14 is going to take to reduce the electrical
15 costs from historical levels.

16 In the Law Department, one of my
17 concerns the city budget would a significant
18 increase in professional services again. We
19 budgeted \$195,000 in 2018, we are budgeting
20 \$255,000 in 2019. So please explain the
21 basis for the increase in the city's use of
22 outside legal counsel because we are
23 hiring -- we hired an assistant city
24 solicitor last year, I believe. We are
25 hiring another assistant city solicitor this

1 year for \$35,000, we are hiring a tax office
2 solicitor for \$25,000, and a project manager
3 for \$35,000 to assist in drafting RFPs to
4 assist with project monitoring and
5 development, yet professional services are
6 increasing 24 percent so I'd like an
7 explanation on that. Because it would --
8 you know, I would assume that you if you are
9 hiring more people in the Law Department
10 your professional services budget should go
11 down and I can tell you already I don't
12 agree with the project manager for \$35,000
13 in assisting and drafting RFPs. That should
14 be the job of the city solicitor.

15 Also, what is the basis for and how
16 did the city determine the 2019 budget
17 amount for flood protection systems
18 maintenance. We went from \$5,000 in 2018,
19 we only spent \$25,216 as of September 30 of
20 this year. 2019, \$1,973,900. Now, there is
21 a mention of the Keyser Valley pumping
22 station so if that is it and that's why we
23 are spending all of this money how did they
24 arrive at this figure so I would like the
25 administration to produce the city's budget

1 worksheet calculations on that.

2 Also, gas, oil, and lube for the DPW
3 they budgeted \$325,000, we are at \$323,309
4 so I have questions on that.

5 Please explain why action the city
6 will take to reduce vehicle costs from
7 historical levels. As everybody knows, the
8 Attorney General's Office opened an audit of
9 the school district's vehicles cost so I
10 would like to know what action, if any, has
11 the city taken to assure issues identified
12 by the AG and the school district are not
13 present in the city's purchasing of gas,
14 oil, lubricants and tires.

15 Non-departmental expenditures under
16 Court awards, we go from \$350,000 in 2018 up
17 to \$725,000 in 2019 so I would like the
18 administration to explain what city
19 department is expected to be responsible for
20 the anticipated Court awards.

21 The city is proposing to use the
22 proceeds from a private placement for a lump
23 sum deposit into the pension plans, which
24 was voted on two weeks ago. The private
25 placements will be secured by funds

1 distributed by the Scranton Sewer authority.
2 The budget narrative does not address the
3 private placement borrowing in 2018 or 2019
4 unless I missed it. My question is has the
5 net interest costs associated with the
6 private placement been included in the 2019
7 budget?

8 I'd also like to know will the city
9 have sufficient cash on hand to make the
10 2018 MMO payment, and if the city is somehow
11 unsuccessful in obtaining a loan to fund the
12 pension plan will it create a 2019 deficit
13 and if so that what would the projected
14 deficit be.

15 Also, several other things here, the
16 Pennsylvania Economy League has sent us a
17 letter that I actually just received today.
18 Some of the things I'm concerned about the
19 total expenditures proposed by the city in
20 2019 are \$98,758,137. The exit plans
21 projections are \$91,859,095 for a difference
22 of roughly \$7 million or 7 1/2 percent so
23 that's concerning.

24 They mentioned notable variations
25 from the exit plan, capital expenditures are

1 up 106.7 percent. Departmental expenditures
2 are up almost 30 percent. Non-departmental
3 expenditures are up 40.3 percent, and debt
4 service is up to 20.8 percent.

5 PEL mentions that the city has
6 reviewed these variances with the
7 coordinator and has satisfactorily explained
8 the necessity for the increases in these
9 2019 budget items. I would like an
10 explanation as to why they are so high above
11 the exit plan.

12 Also, with some of the salary
13 increases, there are a number of employees
14 who are receiving salary increases, \$12,500
15 increase for the fire chief, which I believe
16 is excessive. I do see that the fire chief
17 will be taking on an additional role with
18 the emergency management coordinator so I
19 would like a job description for that, what
20 additional responsibilities that will be.

21 Also, we no longer have the SAFER
22 Grant I believe for the fire department so I
23 would like to know what the effect on the
24 budget -- what effect that will have on the
25 budget and how we are absorbing those costs.

1 I'd like to also know from the
2 administration how many outstanding bills do
3 we think we are going to have at the end of
4 the year how many might roll over into next
5 year. I'd like to get a statement of the
6 cash flows. I do believe, and Ms.
7 Schumacher has asked for this, this should
8 be on a monthly basis, a monthly financial
9 statement. It will give us an idea of what
10 the demands are for cash and see what the
11 liabilities are on a monthly basis. So
12 overall I have concerns that we may be
13 overstating revenues. We are spending a lot
14 in non-departmental expenditures so
15 hopefully when Mr. Bulzoni comes, and I will
16 provide this to him in writing so he can
17 respond, I would like a response in writing
18 so we can have a discussion when he comes in
19 in two weeks.

20 Also, not that I was expecting it
21 for various reasons, but there is no mention
22 of any of the lawsuits in the budget. We
23 have talked about Plan B for a number of
24 months, but if any one of these lawsuits we
25 were to lose such as Act 511 or refuse,

1 which we are relying on these funds, what is
2 the -- is there an alternative, what is the
3 alternative? What does a budget without
4 those revenues look like and what would be
5 our plan because it's my understanding at
6 least for the Act 511 that that ruling could
7 be coming down soon. And I think that's all
8 I have for this agenda item.

9 Oh, the other thing I have, too, I'm
10 sorry, excuse me, one more thing, I'm also
11 concerned about overtime. So the total
12 overtime for 2018 was budgeted at
13 \$1,058,701.30. As of September, the end of
14 September of this year, we have accrued
15 \$1,345,853.86 so we are over budget by
16 almost \$300,000. 2019 we see an increase of
17 overtime that we are budgeting \$1,402,750,
18 that's a 32 percent increase from 2018 so
19 why is that?

20 Now, I understand that some of this
21 overtime gets reimbursed, but I would
22 actually like to see that sectioned out so
23 we know what's being reimbursed and we are
24 actually responsible for. Police overtime
25 we are over budget right now as of end of

1 the September by \$176,064.77. That's 44
2 percent over budget and fire overtime we are
3 over budget by \$156,057, 56 percent. So we
4 are seeing in the police overtime a 62 1/2
5 percent increase in what we are budgeting
6 between 2018 and 2019, and a 27 percent
7 increase from 2018-2019 in overtime costs.

8 There is also a small item, and I
9 may have asked about this a few months ago,
10 there is a line item, "Personnel cost
11 adjustment." 2018 we did not budget
12 anything for this, and I don't know what
13 this is, year-to-date we have spent
14 \$2456.63. 2019 we budgeted \$7,500 so I'd
15 like to ask what this line item is for.
16 Thank you.

17 MR. ROGAN: Very briefly on the
18 budget, the budget is obviously for those
19 who don't have a copy at home it's 135 page
20 document so I'm certainly not going to go
21 through it all, but I want to hit on a
22 couple of big points and every year around
23 budget time when we run into people at the
24 supermarket or in the community they always
25 wonder how it affects them. That's most

1 important. Obviously, just like your budget
2 at home every year some items get more
3 expensive, hopefully some items go down in
4 cost, for instance, now we go to the gas
5 station and gas is finally going down which
6 I know is a nice break when that happens,
7 but just like your budget at home things
8 fluctuate through the course of the year.

9 But some of the key points, and I'm
10 not going to read the whole budget message
11 from Mr. Bulzoni, but there is one paragraph
12 that I want to read and comment about. It
13 says, "In effect, the 2019 budget continues
14 to pivot from crises to recovery. The
15 ability to sustain positive momentum will be
16 critical. Broad economic development
17 initiatives such as LERTA expansion and
18 Opportunity Zone funding initiatives would
19 have a measured impact on the city's
20 continued improvement."

21 And this paragraph I think is the
22 most important part in this whole budget
23 message that for the first time, as long as
24 I have been on council, the city has
25 transitioned from being reactive to all of

1 the number of different problems that have
2 happened through the years, to finally being
3 proactive. Trying to grow our tax base,
4 trying to put initiatives into place that
5 are going to bring people into the City of
6 Scranton. That really is the key takeaway
7 for this budget and not only just the budget
8 but we are going to be voting on some other
9 economic development legislation tonight
10 that's key to the city's recovery.

11 But the bottom line for taxpayers is
12 this is the third year in a row with no tax
13 increase. Three years ago when it was
14 mentioned there was no tax increase some
15 that like to criticize said, "Well, it's
16 only because it's two years before an
17 election, people want to get reelected."

18 The next year was an election year,
19 some said, "Well, it's an election year
20 that's why the taxes didn't go up. Wait
21 until next year they are going to go up
22 double."

23 Well, there is no election this year
24 and this is the third year with no tax
25 increase and no fee increase in our budget.

1 Not to mention your taxes and fees not going
2 up, but your services also aren't being cut
3 so there is two part to the equation here.
4 There are some new positions. There are
5 some raises that are being given out that
6 are long overdue. My position on raises has
7 always been if the city is in a financial
8 shape where we are raising taxes on
9 residents there shouldn't be pay increases
10 for city employees. When we are in a
11 position where our budget is much more
12 stable like it has been the last three years
13 I certainly think the employees that work
14 for the city that contribute to our success
15 need to be rewarded as well in a reasonable
16 manner.

17 Again, the continued services are a
18 huge component of trying to drive this
19 economic development and bring the residents
20 into the city that we have continued to talk
21 about. It cannot be done on one side of a
22 ledger and it hasn't happened overnight.
23 The last few years have been much more
24 stable for the city but this couldn't have
25 been done without a number of initiatives

1 that were taken on by some members of this
2 council, members of the previous council
3 that have not always been political popular.
4 It's not always popular to take on some of
5 these issues, but this budget is a result of
6 all of these items that we have taken.

7 Again, it's not one little thing or
8 one piece of legislation that changes the
9 direction of the city, but little by little
10 we have crawled out of the hole and we are
11 in much better shape. It's a 135-page
12 document, are there going to be things in
13 there council members disagree with? Of
14 course. Just on my review, and I haven't
15 finished reviewing the whole document yet,
16 there are things that if I was the mayor I
17 would not have put in the budget, but on the
18 whole bottom line for the resident is your
19 costs aren't going up, your services aren't
20 going down, and we are going to continue to
21 invest in infrastructure within the city.

22 So at first glance I think it's a
23 great budget, and as Mr. Bulzoni mentioned
24 in his budget statement that it really is a
25 year of pivoting from being reactive to

1 being proactive, so I'm looking forward to
2 our public hearing next week, hearing from
3 the residents and especially looking forward
4 from hearing from Mr. Bulzoni. I know I
5 have a number of questions as well that I
6 will discuss with him, but at first glance
7 it looks like a great budget to do the
8 city's recovery.

9 Is there anyone else on the
10 question?

11 MR. EVANS: On the question, I'm
12 going to come back to we talked about this
13 in the caucus, the real estate transfer tax,
14 it appears that it's not performing to the
15 level we thought it was, but that's not
16 actually true, the numbers that we are
17 looking year-to-date it says September, but
18 I talked to the BA and it more likely end of
19 August numbers. So if you take the numbers
20 that we have it is actually right on target
21 to meet our projection or even exceed our
22 projection for the second year in a row, so
23 it's sort of proof of concept where you can
24 actually lower a tax and get the same amount
25 of revenue or more. I know it's something

1 foreign to a lot of people, because we have
2 never done it before, we lowered the tax and
3 achieved positive results. So we really
4 have to look at that again, and I'm going to
5 take a hard look at License and Permits
6 because they are exceeding expectations with
7 revenue and what that tells me is yeah, the
8 economy is doing better, you have more
9 building permits, but it's also telling me
10 that we have fees in there that are way, way
11 too high and we have certain things that we
12 are doing that we don't even need to do
13 anymore, so I'm going to take a good hard
14 look at that as well because I think it's
15 time to roll back some of those fees and
16 fines that are within that department, but I
17 am confident the real estate transfer tax
18 will again out perform as it did last year,
19 in fact, you know, I would like the roll is
20 back a little bit more this year, I'm not
21 sure if we will go there or not, but I would
22 have no problem with reducing that again.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: Just one additional
24 comment, sorry, I think it would be helpful
25 since we received the budget in November

1 that when we -- and maybe there is a reason
2 for this, but it would make more sense to me
3 that when we receive the budget we receive
4 the year-to-date figures in November, or if
5 not November then at least the end of
6 October. That would make a lot more sense,
7 maybe a month makes a difference, but we are
8 receiving the figures at the end of the
9 September, and as Mr. Evans said, maybe they
10 have changed so I would like to see that
11 since it is November, so I know I requested
12 that last year and we did not receive that
13 but, again, I would like to request this
14 year, I think that would make much more
15 sense and maybe there is a reason that they
16 can't do that, but I would like to request
17 that. Thank you.

18 MR. PERRY: Yeah, I agree,
19 Mr. Gaughan, about the update. It's always
20 best to judge any kind of -- especially a
21 profit and loss statement on the most
22 accurate and up-to-date information. I
23 think the issue is it's just third quarter
24 results and that's kind of why the cut off
25 was September. I would like to get the

1 first half for the first period of quarter
2 four, but it just seems like the quarter --
3 the third quarter is the cut off. Yeah,
4 there are a couple of issues that I have and
5 basically it's just with further explanation
6 on bullet points within here, I won't rattle
7 them all off, but there is just some things
8 that are line items without explanations to
9 them and I'm sure once we ask the questions
10 and we can vet Mr. Bulzoni on what those
11 line items mean, what it pertains to and
12 where the city's expectation is going with
13 that that would clear it up.

14 And, Mr. Evans, you kind of talked
15 about what I want to talk about as well. I
16 know you championed the idea of that License
17 and Permit Department and cleaning that up,
18 page 19 of our backup is dedicated to just
19 pretty much just fees that, I mean, don't
20 really move the needle for the city and I
21 think it would streamline the office. I
22 mean, we have a pinball license listed on
23 our budget that made zero dollars. Now,
24 come on, do we need that? Absolutely not.

25 MR. EVANS: No, we are still

1 carrying I think it was 17 different fees
2 that make less than \$10,000.

3 MR. PERRY: So, yeah, there is
4 just -- again, that just needs to be cleaned
5 up. I think the department I think would
6 thank us for it as well if we can get time
7 with them and maybe whether it was Director
8 Hinton or someone else in that office maybe
9 we could just get, you know, half of these
10 eliminated or just lump them together in one
11 easy accessible one, but, I mean, there is
12 just too much going on here, but those are
13 the only comments I have right now on the
14 introduction of the budget.

15 MR. ROGAN: Anything else? All
16 those in favor signify by saying aye.

17 MR. PERRY: Aye.

18 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

19 MR. EVANS: Aye.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

23 MS. REED: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION -
24 AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL
25 NO. 6, 1976 ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE (AS

1 AMENDED) IMPOSING A TAX FOR GENERAL REVENUE
2 PURPOSES ON THE TRANSFER OF REAL PROPERTY
3 SITUATE WITHIN THE CITY OF SCRANTON;
4 PRESCRIBING AND REGULATING THE METHOD OF
5 EVIDENCING THE PAYMENT OF SUCH TAX;
6 CONFERRING POWERS AND IMPOSING THE DUTIES
7 UPON CERTAIN PERSONS, AND PROVIDING
8 PENALTIES", BY IMPOSING THE RATE OF THE
9 REALTY TRANSFER TAX AT TWO AND TWO TENTHS
10 PERCENT (2.2%) FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2019 AND
11 THE SAME SHALL REMAIN IN FULL FORCE AND
12 EFFECT ANNUALLY THEREAFTER.

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

16 MR. PERRY: So moved.

17 MR. EVANS: Second.

18 MR. ROGAN: On the question? I'd
19 just like to echo what Councilman Evans
20 mentioned, this is a perfect case study of
21 reducing a tax rate but generating the same
22 or more amount of revenue. I would
23 certainly be in agreement if we wanted to
24 look at taking that down another tenth or
25 two-tenths of a percent since the economy

1 continues to grow in our city and I
2 definitely think it's something we should
3 take a look at.

4 MR. PERRY: Yeah, on the question,
5 again, that was one of our very first things
6 that we did as a council as far as reducing
7 taxes was we kind of put our toe in the
8 water of could we actually reduce this rate
9 and still get the same amount of line item,
10 and as Mr. Evans said we actually got more,
11 so, you know, it's a good format to use for
12 other things in the city. I would like a
13 good hard discussion on lowering the wage
14 tax by 10 percent, too, you know, just to
15 get the ball moving because there is value
16 in it and this is a system that works and,
17 you know, I don't want to be a city that's
18 going backwards or I don't want to be a city
19 that's stagnant. We are in good financial
20 footing right now and I think we need to
21 open our doors and show people that we are a
22 changed city and that we are actually moving
23 forward with this, and if this is any
24 indication of lowering taxes can produce
25 more revenue then I think we need to take

1 this philosophy and use it on other parts
2 which I would like to be the wage tax.

3 MR. EVANS: I couldn't agree more
4 and I think if we can get, as Councilman
5 Gaughan mentioned, some of the updated
6 information as far as year-to-date between
7 now and the time we meet with Mr. Bulzoni I
8 think that will go a long way to solidifying
9 our position as far as what the revenue
10 truly is and how much we can, you know, move
11 forward on some of these ideas.

12 MR. ROGAN: Anything else? All
13 those in favor signify by saying aye.

14 MR. PERRY: Aye.

15 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

16 MR. EVANS: Aye.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

20 MS. REED: 5-D. FOR INTRODUCTION -
21 AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL
22 NO. 7, 1976, ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE (AS
23 AMENDED) IMPOSING A MERCANTILE LICENSE TAX
24 OF 2 MILLS FOR THE YEAR 1976 AND ANNUALLY
25 THEREAFTER UPON PERSONS ENGAGING IN CERTAIN

1 OCCUPATIONS AND BUSINESSES THEREIN;
2 PROVIDING FOR ITS LEVY AND COLLECTION AND
3 FOR THE ISSUANCE OF MERCANTILE LICENSES;
4 CONFERRING AND IMPOSING POWERS AND DUTIES
5 UPON THE TAX COLLECTOR OF THE CITY OF
6 SCRANTON; AND IMPOSING PENALTIES", BY
7 IMPOSING THE MERCANTILE LICENSE TAX AT ONE
8 (1) MILL (.001) FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2019 AND
9 THE SAME SHALL REMAIN IN FULL FORCE AND
10 EFFECT ANNUALLY THEREAFTER.

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

14 MR. PERRY: So moved.

15 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

18 MR. PERRY: Aye.

19 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

20 MR. EVANS: Aye.

21 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

24 MS. REED: 5-E. FOR INTRODUCTION -
25 AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL

1 NO. 8, 1976, ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE (AS
2 AMENDED) PROVIDING FOR THE GENERAL REVENUE
3 BY IMPOSING A TAX AT THE RATE OF TWO (2)
4 MILLS UPON THE PRIVILEGE OF OPERATING OR
5 CONDUCTING BUSINESS IN THE CITY OF SCRANTON
6 AS MEASURED BY THE GROSS RECEIPTS
7 THEREFROM; REQUIRING REGISTRATION AND
8 PAYMENT OF THE TAX AS CONDITION TO THE
9 CONDUCTING OF SUCH BUSINESS; PROVIDING FOR
10 THE LEVY AND COLLECTION OF SUCH TAX;
11 PRESCRIBING SUCH REQUIREMENTS FOR RETURNS
12 AND RECORDS; CONFERRING POWERS AND DUTIES
13 UPON THE TAX COLLECTOR; AND IMPOSING
14 PENALTIES", BY IMPOSING THE BUSINESS
15 PRIVILEGE TAX AT THE RATE OF ONE (1) MILL
16 (.001) FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2019 AND THE SAME
17 SHALL REMAIN IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT
18 ANNUALLY THEREAFTER.

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

22 MR. PERRY: So moved.

23 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

1 saying aye.

2 MR. PERRY: Aye.

3 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

4 MR. EVANS: Aye.

5 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

8 MS. REED: 5-F. FOR INTRODUCTION -
9 AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL
10 NO. 11, 1976, ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE (AS
11 AMENDED) ENACTING, IMPOSING A TAX FOR
12 GENERAL REVENUE PURPOSES IN THE AMOUNT OF
13 TWO PERCENT (2%) ON EARNED INCOME AND NET
14 PROFITS ON PERSONS, INDIVIDUALS,
15 ASSOCIATIONS AND BUSINESSES WHO ARE
16 RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON, OR
17 NON-RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON,
18 FOR WORK DONE, SERVICES PERFORMED OR
19 BUSINESS CONDUCTED WITHIN THE CITY OF
20 SCRANTON, REQUIRING THE FILING OF RETURNS BY
21 TAXPAYERS SUBJECT TO THE TAX; REQUIRING
22 EMPLOYERS TO COLLECT THE TAX AT SOURCE;
23 PROVIDING FOR THE ADMINISTRATION, COLLECTION
24 AND ENFORCEMENT OF THE SAID TAX; AND
25 IMPOSING PENALTIES FOR THE VIOLATIONS", BY

1 RE-ENACTING THE IMPOSITION OF THE WAGE TAX
2 AT TWO AND FOUR TENTHS (2.4%) PERCENT ON
3 EARNED INCOME FOR RESIDENTS AND ONE (1%)
4 PERCENT ON EARNED INCOME FOR NON-RESIDENTS
5 OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON, FOR WORK DONE,
6 SERVICES PERFORMED OR BUSINESS CONDUCTED
7 WITHIN THE CITY OF SCRANTON FOR THE YEAR
8 2019 AND THE SAME SHALL REMAIN IN FULL FORCE
9 AND EFFECT ANNUALLY THEREAFTER.

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

13 MR. PERRY: So moved.

14 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

17 MR. PERRY: Aye.

18 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

19 MR. EVANS: Aye.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

23 MS. REED: 5-G. FOR INTRODUCTION -
24 AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL
25 NO. 78, 2017, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING FILE OF

1 THE COUNCIL NO. 100, 1976, ENTITLED "AN
2 ORDINANCE (AS AMENDED) LEVYING GENERAL
3 AND SPECIAL TAXES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 1977",
4 BY SETTING THE MILLAGE FOR THE YEAR 2019 AND
5 THE SAME SHALL REMAIN IN FULL FORCE AND
6 EFFECT ANNUALLY THEREAFTER" BY AMENDING
7 SECTION 1 REVERTING BACK TO THE MILLAGE
8 RATES FROM 2016 WHICH ARE .232521
9 MILLS LEVY ON LAND AND .050564 MILLS LEVY ON
10 ALL BUILDINGS AND BY ELIMINATING THE
11 DEDICATED MILLAGE FOR DEBT SERVICE CONTAINED
12 IN SECTION 2 AND REPLACING THE DEDICATED
13 MILLAGE FOR DEBT SERVICE WITH A DEDICATED
14 DEBT PERCENTAGE OF 32% OF REAL ESTATE
15 TAX REVENUES COLLECTED ON A CURRENT YEAR
16 BASIS.

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

20 MR. PERRY: So moved.

21 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

24 MR. PERRY: Aye.

25 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

1 MR. EVANS: Aye.

2 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

5 MS. REED: 5-H. FOR INTRODUCTION -
6 AN ORDINANCE - CREATING AND ESTABLISHING
7 SPECIAL CITY ACCOUNT NO. 02.229636 ENTITLED
8 "SSA PENSION" FOR RECEIVING FUNDS FROM THAT
9 PART OF THE SALE OF THE SCRANTON SEWER
10 AUTHORITY PROCEEDS USED FOR THE PENSION
11 OBLIGATION NOTE (TAXABLE SERIES OF 2018) AND
12 THE DISBURSEMENT OF PAYMENTS ON THE PENSION
13 OBLIGATION NOTE (TAXABLE SERIES OF 2018).

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

17 MR. PERRY: So moved.

18 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

21 MR. PERRY: Aye.

22 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

23 MR. EVANS: Aye.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

25 MR. ROGAN: Aye. Opposed? The ayes

1 have it and so moved.

2 MS. REED: 5-I. FOR INTRODUCTION -
3 AN ORDINANCE - CREATING AND ESTABLISHING
4 SPECIAL CITY ACCOUNT NO. 02.229637 ENTITLED
5 "SSA FUNDS" FOR RECEIVING THE REMAINING
6 BALANCE OF FUNDS FROM THE SALE OF THE
7 SCRANTON SEWER AUTHORITY FOR DISBURSING FOR
8 FUTURE CITY PROJECTS.

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

12 MR. PERRY: So moved.

13 MR. EVANS: Second.

14 MR. ROGAN: On the question.

15 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question,
16 I'd like to know what the remaining balance
17 is of the funds from the sale and I would
18 like the city to give us a document that
19 identifies future city projects that the
20 money is going to be used for. We did
21 receive this, geez, I think maybe a year and
22 a half to two years ago, I don't know if
23 that's changed, so if we could get an
24 updated copy I would appreciate that before
25 final vote.

1 MR. ROGAN: Anyone else? All those
2 in favor signify by saying aye.

3 MR. PERRY: Aye.

4 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

5 MR. EVANS: Aye.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

7 MR. ROGAN: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
8 have it and so moved.

9 MS. REED: 5-J. FOR INTRODUCTION –
10 AN ORDINANCE – AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL
11 NO. 138, 2017 AN ORDINANCE “AUTHORIZING THE
12 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS
13 TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A PENSION TRUST
14 AGREEMENT WITH THE COMPOSITE PENSION BOARD
15 TO HOLD APPROXIMATELY \$22,910,531.56 OF THE
16 PROCEEDS FROM THE SALE OF THE ASSETS OF THE
17 SCRANTON SEWER AUTHORITY IN TRUST UNTIL SUCH
18 TIME AS PENSION REFORMS HAVE BEEN ENACTED”
19 BY PERMITTING THE CITY TO TRANSFER FUNDS
20 REQUIRED PURSUANT TO THE ORIGINAL TRUST
21 AGREEMENT TO THE COMPOSITE PENSION BOARD
22 THROUGH THE ISSUANCE OF NONELECTORAL DEBT IN
23 A PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF APPROXIMATELY
24 \$22,910,531.56.

25 MR. ROGAN: At this time, I'll

1 entertain a motion that Item 5-J be
2 introduced into its proper committee.

3 MR. PERRY: So moved.

4 MR. EVANS: Second.

5 MR. ROGAN: On the question?

6 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question, I
7 can't remember if we received this
8 information, I didn't get a chance to go
9 back and look two weeks ago when we voted on
10 the pension note, but could we please get a
11 copy of documentation on how much of these
12 funds will going into the pension
13 contribution account and the discount rate
14 reduction sub-account and then whatever the
15 balance remaining in for the pension
16 liability. Thank you.

17 MR. ROGAN: Anyone else? All those
18 in favor signify by saying aye.

19 MR. PERRY: Aye.

20 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

21 MR. EVANS: Aye.

22 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

25 MS. REED: 5-K. FOR INTRODUCTION -

1 AN ORDINANCE - CREATING AND ESTABLISHING
2 SPECIAL CITY ACCOUNT NO. 02.229638 ENTITLED
3 "STREET LIGHTING LEASE RESERVE FUNDS" FOR
4 THE RECEIPT AND DISBURSEMENT OF STREET
5 LIGHTING LEASE RESERVE FUNDS.

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

9 MR. PERRY: So moved.

10 MR. EVANS: Second.

11 MR. ROGAN: On the question?

12 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question,
13 I'd like to know how much money we are
14 expecting from the street lighting lease
15 reserve. Thank you.

16 MR. ROGAN: Anyone else? All those
17 in favor signify by saying aye.

18 MR. PERRY: Aye.

19 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

20 MR. EVANS: Aye.

21 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

24 MS. REED: 5-L. FOR INTRODUCTION -
25 AN ORDINANCE - CREATING AND ESTABLISHING

1 SPECIAL CITY ACCOUNT NO. 02.229639 ENTITLED
2 "HIGHMARK HEALTHCARE RESERVE" FOR THE
3 RECEIPT OF HIGHMARK HEALTHCARE FUNDS AND
4 DISBURSEMENT OF THESE FUNDS FOR CITY OF
5 SCRANTON HEALTHCARE COSTS.

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

9 MR. PERRY: So moved.

10 MR. EVANS: Second.

11 MR. ROGAN: On the question?

12 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, again on the
13 question, I'd just like a little background
14 on why this account is being created. I
15 know it's for the purpose of receiving these
16 funds from Highmark Health Care, how much
17 money are we expecting and what specific
18 costs are we covering? Thank you.

19 MR. ROGAN: Anyone else? All those
20 in favor signify by saying aye.

21 MR. PERRY: Aye.

22 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

23 MR. EVANS: Aye.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

25 MR. ROGAN: Aye. Opposed? The ayes

1 have it and so moved.

2 MS. REED: 5-M. FOR INTRODUCTION -
3 AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL
4 NO. 21, 2016 AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED "DEFINING
5 AND AUTHORIZING TAX EXEMPTIONS FROM REAL
6 PROPERTY TAX IN ORDER TO IMPROVE
7 DETERIORATING REAL PROPERTY IN CERTAIN AREAS
8 IN THE CITY OF SCRANTON, ESTABLISHING AN
9 EXEMPTION SCHEDULE AND PROCEDURES FOR
10 OBTAINING EXEMPTIONS, AND PROVIDING FOR
11 NON-PERMISSIBLE EXEMPTIONS AND LIMITING
12 AMENDMENT THERETO" TO EXPAND THE ELIGIBLE
13 AREAS, INCREASE THE DURATION OF EACH
14 EXEMPTION, AND TO LIFT THE CAP ON EACH
15 EXEMPTION.

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

19 MR. PERRY: So moved.

20 MR. EVANS: Second.

21 MR. ROGAN: On the question?

22 MR. EVANS: On the question, I'm
23 going to jump right into this, over two
24 years ago we amended and drafted legislation
25 to create a three-year tax abatement for new

1 construction. We thought then it had the
2 potential to create growth and spur
3 development, it did not. It simply wasn't
4 enough. So hopefully we will begin the
5 process tonight of moving this legislation
6 forward. Legislation that I would call, at
7 least for the City of Scranton, old and
8 dramatic. Legislation that is intended to
9 change the way we do business. We want
10 developers looking to build. We want
11 investors looking for sound long-term
12 investments. We want home builders and we
13 want young families looking to build new
14 homes and we want young professionals and
15 empty nesters searching for condos and
16 townhouses. We want everyone to fully
17 understand because of this legislation that
18 we are open for business.

19 This legislation that will provide
20 for a full ten-year tax abatement citywide,
21 an abatement that we hope will provide
22 incentives for growth in every corner of our
23 city, in each and every neighborhood and, of
24 course, in the downtown, and this is a tax
25 abatement that is not watered down like many

1 others with a graduated reduction in years
2 six through ten, it is a full ten-year tax
3 abatement on all taxable improvements.

4 In addition, like the previous
5 legislation, there is an abatement for new
6 condos and townhouses as well as apartment to
7 condominium conversions and I that sector
8 could explode because of this legislation.
9 I think the opportunity for rapid and
10 sustained growth is both real and ready to
11 happen.

12 In Bethlehem, a short distance down
13 the turnpike, a similar LERTA created over
14 4,000 full-time jobs and is bringing in over
15 \$9 million in new tax revenue. In
16 Philadelphia, because of their program, the
17 tax base grew by 11 percent and the city is
18 realizing an additional \$48.1 million in
19 annual real estate tax revenues from expired
20 abatements. By 2026, they should be
21 realizing another \$169.4 million in annual
22 real estate revenue, and because of their
23 abatement home building in Philly has
24 increased by 367 percent.

25 Our policy in the past as it relates

1 to LERTA has always been to pick winners and
2 losers based on individual projects. It's
3 time for the entire city that they all get a
4 chance at being winners.

5 Finally, there is one thing that we
6 all know to well, our assessed real estate
7 valuations are flat or declining. That
8 means there is no growth. Zero. Certainly
9 the lack of reassessment impacts that, but
10 we can't continue to wait for others to act
11 or for lawsuits to play out. We have to
12 change those numbers. We have to be able
13 and willing to invest in our future. We
14 have to write a new ending to our story and
15 hopefully maybe that just begins tonight.
16 So that's all I have on this piece of
17 legislation for now.

18 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question,
19 there is no question that the city has
20 financial problems and other problems over
21 the last few years so in looking at this
22 legislation, you know, I look at it one of
23 two ways, you know, we can vote this down
24 and then there is still no development or
25 little development and we remain stuck it

1 neutral with all of the issues that have
2 been talked about here over the last five
3 years or we can vote for this and expand our
4 tax base hopefully and give the city a shot
5 in the arm.

6 I think that, you know, there has
7 been a few people that have carried the city
8 over the last few decades, our elderly,
9 working class, and they have carried the
10 burden by paying property taxes so by giving
11 people a chance with this legislation I
12 think that we can expand the tax base and we
13 can pull everybody up hopefully, so I'll be
14 voting for it. Thank you.

15 MR. PERRY: Yeah, on the question,
16 2016 we did a similar LERTA for three years
17 which really didn't move the needle for us
18 and this 10-year letter what I think is --
19 other than extending it out for a ten-year
20 period we are going to have, you know, in
21 consortship with the chamber we are going to
22 have the full support of the Scranton
23 Chamber of Commerce helping us advertise and
24 promote in. This is something that we
25 didn't have last time with the three-year

1 LERTA. As Mr. Evans said in caucus, this is
2 something that kind of didn't leave the
3 halls of city hall. If you didn't come here
4 looking for it you really had a hard time
5 finding it. That won't be the case this
6 time. While I think we could have some
7 success with this in the residential
8 section, I'm really hoping for more of a
9 commercial influx with this and I think that
10 ten years is the way to go. It's not going
11 to cost the city one penny and it's
12 something that, you know, I can't wait to
13 keep track of and watch and watch new
14 development happen in the city. I'm really
15 excited.

16 MR. ROGAN: I would agree with the
17 comments of my colleagues wholeheartedly.
18 There are a couple more comments to add,
19 obviously the focus on a LERTA is new
20 development, businesses, building new homes,
21 but it also can be used by the average
22 homeowner who already owns a home that maybe
23 wanted to put an addition on or maybe wants
24 to put a garage.

25 Currently, if you put an addition on

1 your home or a garage your tax bill will go
2 up. Under the LERTA, your taxes will remain
3 the same assessment for ten years before
4 that additional mark hits so it's not only
5 for strictly for new construction but it
6 also does have an impact for those who have
7 lived in the city for a long time. A lot of
8 times people asks, "Well, how does it help
9 everyone?"

10 And there is a number of reasons why
11 it does, and my colleagues hit on this, we
12 need growth in the City of Scranton. We
13 finally have gotten past a number of
14 financial hurdles and we are finally in a
15 position where investors are beginning to
16 look at the city once again.

17 I want to thank the Scranton Chamber
18 of commerce for coming in and giving this
19 presentation to us. It's really opened our
20 eyes that, you know, there is a great
21 opportunity here in the City of Scranton.
22 The idea of having a ten-year tax abatement
23 complied with opportunities zones that were
24 part of the Trump tax cuts really gives
25 Scranton an unique opportunity to attract

1 businesses into our city. The opportunity
2 zones are in the city but they are also
3 outside of the city, I believe they go all
4 the way up to Archbald, where the LERTA is
5 Scranton specific and when you combine the
6 two of them together that really is a great
7 economic development tool for developers.

8 I do want to issue a plea to the
9 school board and to our county
10 commissioners, although city council is
11 going to support this legislation, the city
12 cannot do it alone. We do need cooperation
13 from the school board and from the county.
14 When the three-year version of this passed I
15 believe all three passing bodies passed it
16 unanimously, we are hoping for the same, but
17 without our school board and our county
18 commissioners coming on board it really
19 waters down what is a great tool, so in our
20 caucus we can discuss sending a letter to
21 the school board, and I know Councilman
22 Donahue and Councilman Gaughan are going to
23 have their shared services committee meeting
24 where it will be discussed as well, so I do
25 want to thank a sincere thank you to the

1 Chamber of Commerce, you know, getting that
2 to us and something we wanted to act on
3 quickly because this really will have huge
4 results for the city.

5 Anyone else? All those in favor
6 signify by saying aye.

7 MR. PERRY: Aye.

8 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

9 MR. EVANS: Aye.

10 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

13 MS. REED: 5-N. FOR INTRODUCTION -
14 AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL
15 NO. 22, 2016 AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED "DEFINING
16 AND AUTHORIZING TAX EXEMPTIONS FROM REAL
17 PROPERTY TAX IN ORDER TO STIMULATE
18 RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL AND OTHER BUSINESS
19 ACTIVITY IN CERTAIN AREAS IN THE CITY OF
20 SCRANTON, ESTABLISHING AN EXEMPTION
21 SCHEDULE AND PROCEDURES FOR OBTAINING
22 EXEMPTIONS, PROVIDING FOR NON-PERMISSIBLE
23 EXEMPTIONS AND LIMITING AMENDMENT THERETO"
24 IN ORDER TO EXPAND THE ELIGIBLE AREAS,
25 INCREASE THE DURATION OF EACH EXEMPTION, AND

1 TO LIFT THE CAP ON EACH EXEMPTION.

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

5 MR. PERRY: So moved.

6 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

10 MR. PERRY: Aye.

11 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

12 MR. EVANS: Aye.

13 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

16 MS. REED: 5-0. FOR INTRODUCTION -
17 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
18 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE
19 AND ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
20 BY AND BETWEEN THE CITY OF SCRANTON AND
21 LOCAL UNION NO. 60 OF THE INTERNATIONAL
22 ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS, AFL-CIO.

23 MR. ROGAN: At this time, I'll
24 entertain a motion that Item 5-0 be
25 introduced into its proper committee.

1 MR. PERRY: So moved.

2 MR. EVANS: Second.

3 MR. ROGAN: On the question?

4 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question,
5 I asked in the caucus if we can invite the
6 HR, Human Resources Director, Daniel
7 Kennedy, and labor counsel for the city, Ned
8 Abrahamsen, into a caucus next week
9 hopefully to discuss this legislation and
10 5-P as well, the Single Tax Office
11 memorandum of understanding.

12 I have several questions on 5-0.
13 The first one is how was the panel of
14 physicians arrived at. The second question
15 I have is in the legislation number three,
16 Part B, I want to pull that up really
17 quickly, I'd like to know what the cost is
18 to the city. Just give me one minute here.
19 "The city and the pension board shall split
20 the costs of the disability pension
21 application process including, but not
22 limited to, the fees of the examining
23 physicians and the third party administrator
24 at this time being Voc Rehab."

25 So do we have an idea of how much

1 this is going to cost the city on average?

2 Also, there is it a section in here
3 that I don't understand, and I'll need
4 clarification on, "Number five, sick time
5 reimbursement. The city will restore to all
6 employees who donate leave to Caroline
7 Jansack all hours donated whether used or
8 not. In addition, the donation of such
9 leave, whether used or not, will not be held
10 against employees for sick day bonus
11 eligibility. In addition, Jansack will have
12 her sick leave bank credited for all time
13 used. The above is not intended to
14 establish a precedent or practice between
15 the parties."

16 So I'd like to be given a little
17 background on what that is, why that was
18 included, is this a violation of the
19 workforce cost containment provisions
20 located in our recovery plan. Also, and how
21 much will this cost the city, if anything.
22 Like, in other words, if an individual
23 within the fire department who donated their
24 leave was now at the end when they retire to
25 cash that out.

1 Number six, EMT/EMR paramedic nurse
2 certification. I would like a copy of
3 Section 8 of the second extension agreement
4 that's noted in this documentation. It
5 says, "Section 8 of the second extension
6 agreement will be modified to provide that
7 EMT/EMR paramedic nurse certification money
8 shall be calculated and made part of the
9 hourly wage effective January 1, 2019. For
10 those who are already in the certification
11 cycle, such payments will be paid under the
12 current system but prorated as soon as it is
13 practicable the city and the union shall
14 meet to discuss revision of Section 8 of the
15 second extension agreement."

16 So, again, I'd like clarification
17 and background and why this was included,
18 what the implications are for the 2019
19 budget, are they already baked in because
20 they are going to be -- the certification
21 monies are going to be made part of the
22 hourly wage effective January 1, 2019.

23 MR. ROGAN: Anyone else? All those
24 in favor signify by saying aye.

25 MR. PERRY: Aye.

1 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

2 MR. EVANS: Aye.

3 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

6 MS. REED: 5-P. FOR INTRODUCTION -
7 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
8 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE
9 AND ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
10 BETWEEN LOCAL LODGE 2462 AND THE CITY OF
11 SCRANTON AND THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE CITY
12 OF SCRANTON REGARDING THE SINGLE TAX OFFICE
13 COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT.

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

17 MR. PERRY: So moved.

18 MR. EVANS: Second.

19 MR. ROGAN: On the question?

20 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question,
21 I just want to make sure hopefully we can
22 get Mrs. Kennedy and Mr. Abrahamsen in next
23 week that all of these provisions in the MOU
24 do not violate any of the workforce cost
25 containment provisions located in our

1 recovery plan. Thank you.

2 MR. ROGAN: Anyone else? All those
3 in favor signify by saying aye.

4 MR. PERRY: Aye.

5 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

6 MR. EVANS: Aye.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

8 MR. ROGAN: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
9 have it and so moved.

10 Ms. Reed: 5-Q. FOR INTRODUCTION – A
11 RESOLUTION – AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
12 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS FOR THE
13 CITY OF SCRANTON TO ENTER INTO A LOAN TO
14 GRANT AGREEMENT AND MAKE A LOAN/GRANT FROM
15 THE CITY OF SCRANTON'S BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY
16 LOAN TO GRANT PROGRAM, PROJECT NO. 150.45 IN
17 AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$140,000.00 TO
18 RIZZO-FRYZEL DENTAL GROUP, PLLC, DBA
19 (ELECTRIC CITY DENTISTRY) TO ASSIST AN
20 ELIGIBLE PROJECT.

21 MR. ROGAN: At this time, I'll
22 entertain a motion that Item 5-Q be
23 introduced into its proper committee.

24 MR. PERRY: So moved.

25 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

3 MR. PERRY: Aye.

4 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

5 MR. EVANS: Aye.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

7 MR. ROGAN: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
8 have it and so moved.

9 MS. REED: 5-R. FOR INTRODUCTION -
10 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
11 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE
12 AND ENTER INTO A MULTI-BRIDGE ("BRIDGE
13 BUNDLING") PROJECTS AGREEMENT BY AND
14 BETWEEN THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
15 ACTING THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF
16 TRANSPORTATION ("DEPARTMENT") AND THE CITY
17 OF SCRANTON ("CITY OF SCRANTON") FOR
18 COMMONWEALTH'S PERFORMANCE OF CITY OF
19 SCRANTON-OWNED BRIDGE PROJECTS.

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

23 MR. PERRY: So moved.

24 MR. EVANS: Second.

25 MR. ROGAN: On the question?

1 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question,
2 Mr. Pocius, our city engineer, came to one
3 of our caucuses months ago to discuss this
4 legislation and at this time would have been
5 upcoming that we would vote on. So the
6 total project cost to replace the bridge
7 over West Lackawanna Avenue that goes over
8 the railroad, Elm Street bridge over the
9 Lackawanna River, North Main Avenue bridge
10 over Leggett's Creek, and the Parker Street
11 bridge over the Lackawanna River is going to
12 cost \$23,400. The state is going to pay 95
13 percent of the total cost so this is
14 actually a really good deal for the city
15 because, obviously, we would not be able to
16 afford taking care of all of these
17 deteriorating bridges. The city is required
18 to provide the remaining 5 percent as a cost
19 of \$1,170,000.

20 So the city is going to have the
21 state assume all responsibility for the
22 design and construction of this project.
23 What I would like to know, and Mr. Pocius
24 may have mentioned this months ago but I
25 can't remember exactly what he said at this

1 time, I'd like to know when they think this
2 might start. I think he said it was going
3 to be -- we are a few years away from this
4 even being a reality but I would like maybe
5 there's an update on that. So, Mrs. Reed,
6 if we can ask Mr. Pocius that question, and
7 I'd also like to ask the business
8 administrator and the administration if we
9 are going to put up \$1,170,000 are we
10 starting to prepare for that. In other
11 words, I think I read in the budget that
12 there may be a fund balance next year or a
13 surplus and I think I read also in the
14 recovery plan that one of the
15 recommendations was if we have a surplus to
16 have a fund balance policy, which I don't
17 think we have yet, so maybe we should start,
18 you know, squirreling away this money now in
19 preparation to pay this because it is very
20 important. Thank you.

21 MR. ROGAN: Anyone else? All those
22 in favor signify by saying aye.

23 MR. PERRY: Aye.

24 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

25 MR. EVANS: Aye.

1 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

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

5 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.
6 37, 2018 - AN ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE
7 TRANSFER OF A VACANT PARCEL OF PROPERTY
8 OWNED BY THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO THE
9 LACKAWANNA COUNTY LAND BANK IN ACCORDANCE
10 WITH THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
11 AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN THE LAND BANK,
12 LACKAWANNA COUNTY, CITY OF SCRANTON AND
13 SCRANTON SCHOOL DISTRICT, PROPERTY MORE
14 COMMONLY KNOWN AS 2935-2937 PITTSTON AVENUE,
15 SCRANTON, PA 18505.

16 MR. ROGAN: You've heard reading by
17 title of Item 6-A, what is your pleasure?

18 MR. PERRY: I move that Item 6-A
19 pass reading by title.

20 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

23 MR. PERRY: Aye.

24 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

25 MR. EVANS: Aye.

1 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

4 MS. REED: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR
5 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE -
6 FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 36,
7 2018 - AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF A TAX AND
8 REVENUE ANTICIPATION NOTE, SERIES OF 2019 IN
9 THE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED
10 \$12,750,000; PROVIDING FOR THE DATED DATE,
11 INTEREST RATE, MATURITY DATE, REDEMPTION
12 PROVISIONS, PAYMENT AND PLACE OF PAYMENT IN
13 RESPECT OF THE NOTE; ACCEPTING THE PROPOSAL
14 ATTACHED HERETO AS EXHIBIT "B" FROM THE
15 FINANCIAL INSTITUTION NAMED THEREIN FOR THE
16 PURCHASE OF THE NOTE; NAMING A SINKING FUND
17 DEPOSITARY/PAYING AGENT; AUTHORIZING THE
18 PROPER OFFICERS OF THE CITY TO EXECUTE AND
19 DELIVER THE NOTE AND CERTAIN OTHER DOCUMENTS
20 AND CERTIFICATES IN CONNECTION THEREWITH;
21 AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE PREPARATION,
22 CERTIFICATION AND FILING OF THE NECESSARY
23 DOCUMENTS WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY
24 AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH
25 OF PENNSYLVANIA; SETTING FORTH A FORM OF THE

1 NOTE.

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

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

8 MR. PERRY: Second.

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

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

12 MR. PERRY: Yes.

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

14 MR. DONAHUE: Yes.

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

16 MR. EVANS: Yes.

17 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

18 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

19 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

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

22 MS. REED: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION
23 BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS - FOR
24 ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 85, 2018 -
25 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE

1 CITY OFFICIALS TO ACCEPT AND EXECUTE THE
2 PENNSYLVANIA STATE CLEAN DIESEL GRANT
3 PROGRAM (DERA) GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF
4 \$128,723.00 TO REPLACE TWO (2) STREET
5 SWEEPERS WITH NEW CLEAN DIESEL STREET
6 SWEEPERS.

7 MR. ROGAN: What is the
8 recommendation of the Chairperson for the
9 Committee on Public Works?

10 MR. GAUGHAN: As Chairperson for the
11 Committee on Public Works, I recommend final
12 passage of Item 7-B.

13 MR. PERRY: Second.

14 MR. ROGAN: On the question?

15 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question,
16 and I don't know if I mentioned this last
17 week, but we were awarded \$128,723 and the
18 match here that the city is going to put up
19 is \$386,169. Thank you.

20 MR. ROGAN: Anyone else? Roll call,
21 please?

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

23 MR. PERRY: Yes.

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

25 MR. DONAHUE: Yes.

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

2 MR. EVANS: Yes.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

4 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

6 MR. ROGAN: Yes. I hereby declare

7 Item 7-B legally and lawfully adopted.

8 If there is no further business,

9 I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

10 MR. PERRY: Motion to adjourn.

11 MR. ROGAN: Meeting adjourned.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER