

COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON

HELD:

Tuesday, April 14th, 2020

LOCATION:

VIA ZOOM

Maria McCool, RPR
Official Court Reporter

C O U N C I L M E M B E R S :

WILLIAM GAUGHAN, PRESIDENT

KYLE DONAHUE, VICE PRESIDENT

MARK MCANDREW

JESSICA ROTHCHILD

THOMAS SCHUSTER

LORI REED, CITY CLERK

KATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

KEVIN HAYES, COUNCIL SOLICITOR

(Pledge of Allegiance.)

MR. GAUGHAN: Please remain standing now for a moment of silent reflection for our service men and women throughout the world and also for those who have passed away recently in our community.

Let us also take a special moment of silence tonight for people in our community and throughout the world who are suffering or who have passed away from the coronavirus. Let us think about them and their families at this time that they may find peace.

Like us think now about the doctors, nurses, researchers and all medical professionals and first responders who seek to heal and help those affected and who put themselves at risk in the process.

May they find protection and peace. Whether we are here at home or abroad surrounded by many people suffering from this illness or only a few, let us stick together, endure together, mourn together, persist and prepare together.

And in place of our anxiety, let us

1 continue to hope and find peace. Thank you.

2 Miss Carrera, roll call, please.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Schuster.

4 MR. SCHUSTER: Present.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McAndrew.

6 MR. MCANDREW: Present.

7 MS. CARRERA: Dr. Rothchild.

8 DR. ROTHCHILD: Here.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

10 MR. DONAHUE: Here.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: Here. Thank you, Miss
13 Carrera. Mrs. Reed, please dispense with the
14 reading of the minutes.

15 MS. REED: THIRD ORDER.

16 3-A. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM
17 PENNSYLVANIA AMERICAN WATER DATED
18 APRIL 1, 2020 REGARDING UPDATE ON PROJECTS AND
19 CRITICAL WORK.

20 3-B. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM
21 MAYOR PAIGE G. COGNETTI DATED APRIL 4, 2020
22 REGARDING GREYHOUND BUS SERVICE.

23 3-C. PROCLAMATION ISSUED BY MAYOR
24 PAIGE G. COGNETTI DATED APRIL 6, 2020 WITH
25 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RETAIL STORES.

1 3-D. PROCLAMATION ISSUED BY MAYOR
2 PAIGE G. COGNETTI DATED APRIL 6, 2020 WITH
3 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COMMUNITY AND FAITH-BASED
4 ORGANIZATIONS.

5 3-E. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM
6 THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
7 DATED APRIL 1, 2020 REGARDING LOCAL BRIDGE
8 GROUP REPLACEMENTS.

9 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Mrs. Reed.
10 Are there any comments on any of the Third
11 Order items?

12 MR. SCHUSTER: So I'd just like to
13 say I'm happy to see the continuation of these
14 bridge projects. They're much needed, the
15 improvements of ageing infrastructure in the
16 City. And those original 2003 studies on
17 bridges in PA, several of the bridges were in
18 our area.

19 And I think two of the -- two of the
20 bridges that are on this list here were on that
21 original list. I'm happy to see that work is
22 going to be taking place.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: I agree. Thank you.
24 Anyone else on the question?

25 MR. DONAHUE: Just to sort of extend

1 on what Mr. Schuster said. One of the bridges
2 in this list is the Elm Street bridge which is
3 going to be the permanent solution, you know,
4 to the problems that people are facing in
5 Bellevue on Third Avenue and those other
6 streets over there with truck traffic because
7 that started because of weight restrictions on
8 the Elm Street bridge.

9 So that is going to be the permanent
10 fix. I know we're still trying to figure out a
11 short-term solution. But that will be the
12 permanent fix to that solution -- or to that
13 problem, excuse me.

14 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. Anybody
15 else?

16 DR. ROTHCHILD: I just comment on
17 the Third Order that we received from the
18 Mayor's office for the letter for guidelines
19 for religious organizations. I know that I
20 think it was talked with the recent holidays,
21 Passover and Easter for people to not
22 congregate where they would normally.

23 And I think that places in Scranton
24 did a very good job of avoiding that and
25 holding services online so places can continue

1 to do that to the best of their ability.

2 I understand it's a different --
3 different way and not the -- certainly not the
4 same. But, you know, I think it was important.
5 So thank you.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. Anyone
7 else? If not, received and filed. Do any
8 Council members have any announcements at this
9 time?

10 MR. DONAHUE: Just a reminder that
11 if you haven't filled out your census form to
12 please do so. Census forms were mailed out and
13 a couple reminders were mailed out in the past
14 few weeks. To respond online you could go to
15 my2020censusdotgov.

16 You know, there's a lot money out
17 there for the next ten years. So please take
18 the five minutes and fill out your census form.

19 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. Anyone
20 else have any announcements? Okay. I have a
21 few.

22 First, if there's any groups or
23 organizations offering free services or
24 assistance to someone in need during this
25 national emergency and you'd like to have that

1 information available on ECTV, please e-mail
2 ChrisECTV@gmail.com. The wording of your
3 e-mail is exactly what they will publish on
4 ECTV.

5 If anyone would like to comment on
6 agenda items -- Council agenda items or City
7 business, please send those comments in writing
8 to our City Clerk, Lori Reed by e-mailing
9 Lreed@scrantonpa.gov. Council will accept
10 public comment until the day of our meeting
11 Tuesday at 4:30 p.m.

12 Public comment is reviewed by the
13 Council prior to our meeting and is placed on
14 the official record and in the minutes of our
15 meetings. Council's agenda is being posted for
16 public review the Friday before our Tuesday
17 meeting and our agenda and minutes can be
18 accessed by going to www.scrantonpa.gov and
19 clicking on the City Council page. And that is
20 all I have. Mrs. Reed?

21 MS. REED: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS
22 PARTICIPATION.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. At this
24 time I'd ask if someone could please make a
25 motion to accept public comment from the

1 following individuals to be placed into the
2 record and our official minutes of this
3 meeting. Those citizens are Patti Fowler,
4 Craig Beavers, Marie Schumacher and Fay Franus.

5 MR. SCHUSTER: I'll make a motion to
6 accept those correspondence.

7 MR. DONAHUE: Second.

8 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. There's
9 been a motion. Is there a second?

10 MR. DONAHUE: Second.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? On
12 the question, I just would like to say I have
13 gone through every comment that has been
14 submitted by members of the public. And I did
15 put together a document of any of the questions
16 that were posed to this Council.

17 The questions that were posed that
18 would require information from the
19 administration, I have sent those along to the
20 Mayor and the administration and hopefully we
21 will get an answer to those questions.

22 Now, in saying that, I do know just,
23 you know, the reality of the situation that
24 we're currently in some of these -- the
25 questions that were submitted on stormwater and

1 overtime, they're not going to be maybe high
2 priority at this point.

3 So I do think we need to give a
4 little bit of leeway in terms of a response to
5 those -- some of those questions. But I know
6 that they will be addressed at some point.
7 Anyone else on the question? All those in
8 favor of the motion signify by saying aye.

9 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

10 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

11 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

12 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

13 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye. Opposed? The
14 ayes have it and so moved.

15
16
17 (PUBLIC COMMENT)

18
19 (PATTI FOWLER)

20
21 Will the City itself be doing
22 anything to help in any way the displaced city
23 workers that were furloughed by the Mayor at
24 the beginning of this crisis?

25 Patti Fowler

(CRAIG BEAVERS)

Good afternoon,

I am inquiring about the status of the "Downtown Scranton Connectivity Plan", aka the walkability study from Speck/Barry Isett. I understand that current issues facing our community may require this study to be temporarily sidelined, but I am curious if there has been any progress thus far, or if any further action has been planned.

I believe that this study will be a tremendous benefit to our city. Scranton is a city that is experiencing a new urban renewal, and one important aspect of this is making our city friendly to pedestrians, bicyclists, and other non-automobile transit.

I frequently walk throughout the city for various purposes, including to run errands, for recreation, to save gas, and to simply enjoy our city's streets. Unfortunately, many areas of our city, including downtown, are not very inviting towards pedestrians. Crosswalks are faded, walk signals seemingly never change, sidewalks

1 are cracked or non-existent, etc. These issues
2 discourage residents and visitors alike from
3 experiencing our city, patronizing local
4 businesses, and enjoying our amenities.

5 An important factor that younger
6 people looking for a new city to live in is how
7 walkable the city is, and if they can easily
8 get around without a car. From my experience
9 as a student at Marywood University, many
10 students who would have otherwise stayed in
11 Scranton after graduating left for other cities
12 where they did not need a car, and could
13 instead walk or bike. I strongly believe that
14 our city should make a concerted effort to
15 improve walking, biking, and transit around the
16 city. Not only will it attract new residents,
17 but studies have shown that walkable cities
18 improve the local economy and citizen health.

19 I would greatly appreciate any
20 information you can provide. I am very
21 optimistic about the future of Scranton, and I
22 hope that efforts like this will improve the
23 lives of our citizens and the liveliness of our
24 city.

25 Sincerely,

1 Craig Beavers

2
3 (MARIE SCHUMACHER)

4
5 Acknowledging that Governor Wolf's
6 restrictions on our Civil Rights will impact
7 the City's Revenue I would like to hear the
8 plan for reducing the expected deficit if it
9 exceeds the savings of the Mayor's furloughing
10 of City employees.

11 For the sake of transparency it is
12 critical that you post in Third Order as soon
13 as the accounting is available at the end of
14 each month the Cash Flow Chart for the 2020
15 year-to-date actuals and the comparative 2019
16 Chart.

17 Has the Isett Contract on the
18 Licenses and Permits Department Service
19 Assessment been executed and what is the
20 delivery date of the Assessment?

21 Please explain how expenses for the
22 Serenti Property are budgeted and recorded.

23 What is the delivery date for the
24 HRG Stormwater Report?

25 Please acknowledge receipt of this

1 e-mail when received. Thank you!

2
3 (FAY FRANUS)

4
5 Fay Franus -- I went to the minutes
6 of the march 31st meeting and read all of the
7 comments from people who submitted questions
8 and comments-- I thought there were MANY very
9 good questions asked. Guess what I and
10 everyone else in Scranton will have no clue
11 what the answers were to these questions. Bill
12 Gaughan stated he would e-mail people to reply
13 to their questions. I would like to know did
14 you get those questions answered and what were
15 they/ Since you are silencing us from speaking
16 at the meetings via telephone I think you need
17 to put all of your replies in the minutes of
18 the next meeting and if you can't answer
19 certain questions say which ones and why you
20 can't answer them.

21 Another thing I heard Bill Gaughan
22 stating some questions will be on the back
23 burner-- perhaps but Marie Schumacher asked
24 many questions that certainly can be
25 answered--even the one about the storm water.

1 My very firm point is you all are getting paid
2 there should be no reason every questions asked
3 is not answered. I would like to know the
4 reason any and all of you may have for NOT
5 replying to ANY questions asked of you? This
6 virus does not prevent you to get answers from
7 citizens who pay you to get these answers-- The
8 very ones you are SUPPOSED to be representing.
9 I was a very saddened to see that not one other
10 council person spoke up and stated that
11 THEY felt it would be correct to read aloud the
12 comments and questions people have submitted.
13 Just because Bill Gaughan feels that he does
14 not want to and does not have to does NOT stop
15 YOU from reading the comments aloud for all to
16 hear while the meeting is going on--I also want
17 to know from each one of you exactly how YOU
18 feel about having comments read aloud during
19 the meeting. I definitely want to know how YOU
20 feel about this. I only know how Bill Gaughan
21 feels.

22 By the way did ANY of you bother to
23 get in touch with the Scranton School Board to
24 ask how they were able to have people phone in
25 live while the meeting was taking place-- they

1 also had people use ZOOM to be seen as well if
2 they had the app to do so. You have had a week
3 to do so and I highly doubt any of you were
4 interested enough to make that a possibility
5 for the people to call in live during the
6 meeting on April 14th. Did any of you inquire
7 about this? If not why not.

8 So please go over these comments and
9 make note of EVERY question I put to you and I
10 really would appreciate detailed replies. How
11 you do it is up to you. Just please do NOT
12 lose sight of the fact that you are there to
13 represent us. That seems to have left your
14 thought process.

15 Thank you

16 Fay Franus.

17
18 (END OF PUBLIC COMMENT)

19
20 MR. GAUGHAN: Mrs. Reed?

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

22 MOTIONS.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Mrs. Reed.
24 Councilman Schuster, do you have any motions or
25 comments at this time?

1 MR. SCHUSTER: Nothing at this time,
2 Mr. Gaughan.

3 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. Thank you.
4 Councilman McAndrew, do you have any motions or
5 comments at this time?

6 MR. MCANDREW: I do. I would like
7 to commend the efforts and quick response time
8 of the fire department, police department and
9 the DPW with regards to yesterday's horrific
10 windstorm and their ongoing support they are
11 providing during this pandemoniac. That's all
12 I have. Thank you.

13 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Councilman
14 McAndrew. Dr. Rothchild, do you have any
15 motions or comments at this time?

16 DR. ROTHCHILD: No, I do not. Thank
17 you.

18 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Dr.
19 Rothchild. And, Councilman Donahue, do you
20 have any comments or motions at this time?

21 MR. DONAHUE: I have nothing at this
22 time.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. Thank you. I
24 just have two comments. As I mentioned in the
25 caucus if anyone had missed it, I did ask

1 Mrs. Reed to check in with Arthur Moretti and
2 his firm for an update on the audit of the gas
3 cards in the City.

4 As I stated earlier tonight, I do
5 understand with the crisis going on that that
6 process may have slowed a bit. And I don't
7 know that it was completed yet or where they
8 are in the process. But I thought it was
9 appropriate at this time for Council to check
10 in to see where Mr. Moretti is.

11 So hopefully we will receive a
12 response there. The only other thing I want to
13 say is that I just want to continue to implore
14 people to stay home as much as they possibly
15 can. As Dr. Rothchild mentioned I think as a
16 whole, the City is doing a pretty good job of
17 following the recommendations and the
18 guidelines from the federal government, the
19 state government and our local government.

20 I just hope that people continue to
21 have faith and hope in light of everything
22 that's going on. I just think that today is
23 April 14th. And it was about a month ago when
24 the shutdown started. So the past month has
25 been extremely difficult for myself, my family,

1 all of your families, everyone in the City of
2 Scranton, in the state, in the country and
3 really in the world.

4 And it may not seem like there's
5 light at the end of the tunnel. But there is.
6 And we will get through this together. So I
7 just want to continue to ask people to pay
8 attention to those guidelines. And if we do
9 that, I think the quicker we will resolve this
10 crisis.

11 And my last comment for tonight is I
12 would like to wish my wife Kellie a happy
13 birthday. Today is her birthday. And also
14 wish my daughter Maeve a happy birthday. Her
15 birthday was on April 6th and she is a year
16 old. Thank you. That's all I have.
17 Mrs. Reed?

18 MS. REED: 5-B. No business at this
19 time.

20 SIXTH ORDER. 6-A. No business at
21 this time.

22 SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR
23 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY
24 DEVELOPMENT - FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF THE
25 COUNCIL NO. 4, 2020 - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND

1 OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF
2 SCRANTON TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY ACTIONS TO
3 IMPLEMENT THE CONSOLIDATED SUBMISSION FOR
4 COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
5 PROGRAMS TO BE FUNDED UNDER THE COMMUNITY
6 DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM, HOME
7 INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP (HOME) PROGRAM AND
8 EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANTS (ESG) PROGRAM FOR
9 THE FIVE YEAR CONSOLIDATED PLAN, ANALYSIS OF
10 IMPEDIMENTS TO FAIR HOUSING CHOICE, AND ANNUAL
11 ACTION PLAN FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING JANUARY 1,
12 2020.

13 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Mrs. Reed.
14 What is the recommendation of the Chairperson
15 for the Committee on Community Development?

16 DR. ROTHCHILD: As Chairperson for
17 the Committee on Community Development, I
18 recommend final passage of Item 7-A.

19 MR. SCHUSTER: Second.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. There's
21 been a motion and a second. On the question?

22 DR. ROTHCHILD: Yes, on the
23 question. I spoke earlier with Mrs. Ward and
24 Mr. Preambo and -- regarding this piece of
25 legislation with just some additional questions

1 that I had after taking the time to review it.

2 And I just want to say that I really
3 appreciate the hard work of OECD and all of
4 those involved in putting this together. They
5 want to make sure that as a City we receive as
6 much as we can to help those in need for
7 housing and to identify the most vulnerable
8 communities as well as just what our highest
9 needs and priorities are here in the City
10 because that becomes unique to every place.

11 And I know there was a lot of
12 thought in putting this together. And the
13 Advisory Committee had -- which is composed of
14 community members they also worked hard on
15 reviewing the surveys of our citizens to make
16 sure that their concerns were appropriately
17 addressed in this five-year plan. So I look
18 forward to this.

19 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Dr.
20 Rothchild. Anyone else on the question? I
21 too want to thank the Executive Director,
22 Mary-Pat Ward. I want to thank the Deputy
23 Director, Tom Preambo, the staff of OECD for
24 all the work that they put into this.

25 This as Dr. Rothchild mentioned is a

1 very long process. And it does take a lot of
2 hard work and a lot of input from the
3 community. So I want to thank everyone
4 involved. Anyone else on the question? Okay.
5 Roll call, please. Sorry, Mrs. Carrera, roll
6 call, please? Lori, are you there?

7 MS. REED: Yes, I am. I'll call
8 roll.

9 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. Thank you.

10 MS. REED: Mr. Schuster.

11 MR. SCHUSTER: Yes.

12 MS. REED: Mr. McAndrew.

13 MR. MCANDREW: Yes.

14 MS. REED: Dr. Rothchild.

15 DR. ROTHCHILD: Yes.

16 MS. REED: Mr. Donahue.

17 MR. DONAHUE: Yes.

18 MS. REED: Mr. Gaughan.

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

21 MS. REED: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION
22 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION -
23 RESOLUTION NO. 29, 2020 - APPOINTMENT OF ALLEN
24 LUCAS, 2722 BIRNEY AVENUE, SCRANTON,
25 PENNSYLVANIA, 18505 TO THE POSITION OF

1 FIRE CHIEF AS WELL AS EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
2 COORDINATOR EFFECTIVE MARCH 23, 2020.

3 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Mrs. Reed.
4 As Chairperson for the Committee on Rules, I'll
5 recommend final passage of Item 7-B.

6 DR. ROTHCHILD: Second.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question?

8 MR. DONAHUE: Yes, on the question.
9 I'd like to just first say that, you know,
10 nothing against Al Lucas. I think he's doing a
11 great job under extremely challenging
12 circumstances at the moment.

13 And I am sympathetic to the fact
14 that the Fire Chief's salary being lower than
15 it probably should. I just have a problem with
16 the precedent that we're setting here by the
17 administration increasing the salary while
18 we're furloughing employees without Council's
19 approval.

20 I think when you send down
21 legislation that requires out of budget
22 spending, there should be a detailed
23 explanation to justify that and where the
24 savings are coming from. Otherwise, it's just
25 undermining, you know, the budget process and

1 the role of Council and public both have to
2 play in that process.

3 For that reason, I would just like
4 to table this legislation just until we get
5 some detailed information exactly where in the
6 fire department line items are they pulling
7 this and where were the savings that were
8 expressed to us a couple weeks ago actually
9 coming from?

10 MR. SCHUSTER: I'll give a second on
11 that.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. Well, we're --
13 there was no motion made. So are you making a
14 motion, Kyle?

15 MR. DONAHUE: I believe I did make a
16 motion. If I didn't, I apologize for that. I
17 would like to make a motion to table this
18 legislation just until we get that detailed
19 explanation back.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. Is there a
21 second?

22 MR. SCHUSTER: I'll second.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question of
24 Kyle's motion? On the question, I'm going to
25 be voting against Kyle's motion to table it. I

1 agree with everything that he said. But I
2 don't believe that at this time it makes any
3 sense to table this legislation appointing
4 the --

5 MR. DONAHUE: Bill, I think we lost
6 you. Bill just sent me a text. His computer
7 froze. Just give him one minute.

8 MR. GAUGHAN: Sorry, everybody. I
9 froze there for a second. Let me -- any time
10 it's windy out, it seems like my internet
11 connection goes out a little bit. Let's recap
12 here just so I --

13 MR. DONAHUE: You can start from the
14 beginning.

15 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. So Kyle made a
16 motion to table 7-B. Tom seconded it. And now
17 we're on the question of Kyle's motion. So
18 before I speak, does anyone want to speak on
19 the question of the motion to table the
20 legislation?

21 MR. MCANDREW: Yeah, I mean, I share
22 the same concerns as Kyle. And mine's a
23 procedural problem that I'm having with regards
24 to policy and, you know, and the budget issue.
25 I mean, I'm not going to prolong this any

1 longer. I'll vote no for the motion. But I
2 don't really feel great about the whole
3 process. But I guess we need to move forward.
4 So that's my opinion.

5 MR. GAUGHAN: Anyone else on the
6 question?

7 DR. ROTHCHILD: Yeah, as I said in
8 our caucus, I am prepared to vote on this piece
9 of legislation tonight. You know, I don't
10 agree with tabling it at this time although I
11 still have questions too.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. Anyone else on
13 the question? Thank you.

14 MR. SCHUSTER: With that, I mean,
15 I'd be in favor of tabling it to next week.
16 But to vote it down would be a different story.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. Thanks, Tom.
18 Yeah, on the question, I agree with everything
19 that Councilman Donahue said. As I stated two
20 weeks ago, I don't, you know, agree with
21 keeping the salary at 95,000-some odd dollars.

22 The Fire Chief's position in the
23 budget is 84 -- roughly \$84,000. So I don't
24 agree with that. However, in saying that, I
25 don't agree with tabling this legislation --

1 tabling this appointment because I don't really
2 know what -- I guess I don't understand what
3 the point of that would be that the
4 administration and the Mayor has told us that
5 the unexpended salary is coming from a position
6 that's not filled.

7 We can certainly request and will
8 request more information on that if everybody,
9 you know, if that's what everybody wants to do.
10 But in terms of tabling it when we're in the
11 middle of a crisis and this person is the
12 emergency management coordinator doesn't make
13 much sense. So I'll be voting against it.
14 Anyone else on the question?

15 Okay. Motion's been made. It's
16 been seconded. Everyone has stated their case
17 here. So all those in favor of the motion to
18 table Item 7-B please say aye.

19 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

20 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

21 MR. GAUGHAN: Opposed? No.

22 DR. ROTHCHILD: No.

23 MR. MCANDREW: No.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: So the motion fails
25 three to two. Now we're back on the original

1 legislation Item 7-B. And we're still on the
2 question here with this piece of legislation.
3 Does anyone want to speak to the legislation
4 on the question?

5 MR. DONAHUE: I'm going to be voting
6 against this -- again, not because of Al Lucas
7 in any way. Again, I think he's doing a
8 tremendous job under difficult circumstances.
9 But I just think we need -- as a Council we
10 need to not give up our budgetary authority and
11 our part in that process.

12 So without justification of savings
13 of where that money for that salary increase is
14 going to come from, I can't in good conscience
15 vote for this.

16 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. Anyone
17 else on the question? Okay. The only thing I
18 would add is, I don't believe that we're giving
19 up our authority. The action has already been
20 taken by the administration. So, you know, to
21 vote against this or to table it, I don't think
22 makes any difference. The horse is already out
23 of the barn so-to-speak.

24 They already set the salary at
25 \$95,000. And while I disagree with that I

1 think that the legislative fix here is to
2 entertain legislation prohibiting the Mayor or
3 her administration from raising salaries
4 outside of the budget. I would be in favor of
5 that.

6 But in terms of this legislation
7 again, we're in the middle of a crisis. We
8 need an Emergency Management Coordinator and a
9 Fire Chief. And he already is the Fire Chief.
10 He's acting for a couple months. So I'll be
11 voting for it.

12 MR. DONAHUE: And I think that's
13 important to point out that he already is the
14 Fire Chief and, you know, the Emergency
15 Management Coordinator. And it's not going to
16 affect -- you know, us passing this tonight or
17 not isn't going to affect, you know, his status
18 there and the ability to do his job.

19 I just feel like, you know, if we're
20 going to work together to get through this and
21 we still have challenging times ahead
22 especially with some of the loss revenues, I
23 think we actually just have to -- I think we
24 actually have to work together.

25 It's not just, you know, just going

1 along just to get along sort of thing. I think
2 we actually have to work together. And we have
3 to work these issues out. And, you know, we
4 all have to do it. It's between us five
5 Council members and the administration as a
6 whole, I think that's the only way we get
7 through this is getting through it together.

8 MR. GAUGHAN: I agree. I just
9 don't -- I don't see the point of voting
10 against it or tabling it just because I
11 don't -- it just doesn't -- honestly, it just
12 doesn't make sense to me at this time. So I'll
13 be voting against it -- or voting for it.
14 Anybody else on the question?

15 MR. SCHUSTER: Yeah, I mean, just at
16 this point in time my stance on this is, yeah,
17 I would like to see some kind of justification
18 for it being that we're going to have a slight
19 deficit this year with the budget and not
20 knowing the effects of the situation right now
21 how that's going to play out.

22 MR. GAUGHAN: And so the only thing
23 I would add is, you know, even if we have --
24 again, it should be \$84,000. It's at 95,000.
25 It's the difference of \$11,000. So in terms of

1 120 or 130 million dollar budget, it is a drop
2 in the bucket.

3 Okay. Am I back? Can you see me
4 and hear me? All right. I was going to add
5 something else. But you know what, I'm going
6 to let it go because I'm afraid I'll freeze
7 again. Okay. Anyone else on the question?

8 MR. MCANDREW: Yeah, I mean, my
9 concerns remain. I share concerns with
10 everybody in this room. You know, it's on our
11 plate right now. So please, moving forward so
12 we don't have these conversations again, let's
13 introduce the legislation to prevent this from
14 happening again. Thank you.

15 MR. GAUGHAN: Anyone else on the
16 question?

17 DR. ROTHCHILD: I would like to see
18 additional legislation in the future to prevent
19 this issue from happening again.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. I agree.
21 Okay. Roll call, please.

22 MS. CARRERA: Okay, Bill, I
23 apologize for 7-A because my phone dropped the
24 call right when you asked me to call roll. So
25 I'll do 7-B and then if you go back and we can

1 do 7-A?

2 MR. GAUGHAN: Oh, that's okay. Lori
3 actually -- I figured something happened,
4 Kathy, because Lori -- Lori did the roll call.
5 So we're good with 7-B. And I froze so don't
6 worry about it. It happened to the both of us.

7 MS. CARRERA: Okay. Mr. Schuster.

8 MR. SCHUSTER: No.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McAndrew.

10 MR. MCANDREW: Yes.

11 MS. CARRERA: Dr. Rothchild.

12 DR. ROTHCHILD: Yes.

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

14 MR. DONAHUE: No.

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

16 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes. I hereby declare
17 Item 7-B legally and lawfully adopted. If
18 there is no further business, I'll entertain a
19 motion to adjourn.

20 MR. SCHUSTER: Motion to adjourn.

21 MR. MCANDREW: I'll make the motion.

22 MR. SCHUSTER: Second.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: Sorry guys, froze
24 again. If there is no further business -- I
25 can't imagine what my face probably looks like

1 when I'm frozen on the screen for anyone who's
2 watching.

3 If there's no further -- did I get
4 through the I hereby declare Item 7-B legally
5 and lawfully adopted? Okay. Now if there is
6 further business, I'll entertain a motion to
7 adjourn.

8 MR. DONAHUE: Motion to adjourn.

9 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. This
10 meeting is adjourned. Stay safe. Stay
11 healthy. See you, everybody. Bye-bye.

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 taken by me of the above-cause and that this copy is a correct transcript of the same to the best of my ability.

Maria McCool, RPR
Official Court Reporter

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