

COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON

HELD:

Tuesday, May 12th, 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: If everyone would please remain standing for a moment of silent reflection for our service men and women throughout the world and also for all those who have passed away in our community.

Let us take a special moment of silence tonight as we have for the last few weeks 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.

Let 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 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 together and prepare together.

1 And in place of our anxiety, let us
2 continue to hope and find peace.

3 MR. MCANDREW: Billy, can we include
4 Kevin Shaughnessy in our moment of silence who
5 passed away the other day?

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Sure. Thank you. Oh,
7 Miss Carrera, roll call, please. Sorry, I was
8 on mute.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Schuster.

10 MR. SCHUSTER: Present.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McAndrew.

12 MR. MCANDREW: Present.

13 MS. CARRERA: Dr. Rothchild.

14 DR. ROTHCHILD: Here.

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue. Mr.

16 Donahue?

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Sorry, Kyle, can't
18 hear you.

19 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: Here. And just for
21 the record, Kyle Donahue is also here. For
22 some reason, we couldn't hear him there. Thank
23 you, Miss Carrera. Mrs. Reed?

24 MR. DONAHUE: Can you hear me now?

25 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, we can hear you

1 now. Mrs. Reed, could you please dispense with
2 the reading of the minutes?

3 MS. REED: Thank you. THIRD ORDER.
4 3-A. No business at this time.

5 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Mrs. Reed.
6 Do any Council members have any announcements
7 at this time?

8 MR. MCANDREW: I have one.
9 Tomorrow, Wednesday, May 13th from 2:30 to 5:30
10 at the Career Technology Center of Lackawanna
11 County, 3201 Rockwell Avenue, the Friends Of
12 The Poor, Family to Family Food Basket Program
13 and the Weinberg Food Bank will be hosting a
14 COVID-19 emergency drive-thru food give away.

15 All attendees must remain in their
16 vehicles and food bags will be placed directly
17 in their vehicles. Thank you.

18 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Councilman
19 McAndrew. Does anyone else have any
20 announcements?

21 DR. ROTHCHILD: I just wanted to
22 remind residents I think I mentioned this at a
23 previous meeting that the election has been
24 moved. And it's moved to June 2nd. But you
25 could vote through mail-in ballot. So you

1 could apply online for that.

2 Mail-in ballot, and it's really
3 easy. And it comes, you know, right to your
4 home. And you fill it out there and just send
5 it back. And then you're done. And you've
6 done your part and voted in the primary. So I
7 just encourage as many people as possible to do
8 that.

9 And also don't forget to complete
10 your census. I believe the census deadline
11 has been extended. So there is more time to do
12 that. If it's something that you pushed off,
13 you should have received something in the mail
14 in order to be counted for the census and that
15 you just go online and it takes two minutes.
16 And it's really easy to do and very important
17 to be counted.

18 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. Anyone
19 else? Any announcements? Okay. I have a few.
20 First, on a very happy note, I would like to
21 announce that the Gaughan Family has another
22 addition, Mary Elizabeth Gaughan was born
23 Saturday, May 9th, 8 pounds, 10 ounces.

24 We're almost close to having our own
25 baseball team over here in North Scranton. So

1 we're thrilled and everyone is healthy and
2 happy. So that's great.

3 MR. DONAHUE: Congratulations.

4 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. Thank you
5 very much.

6 DR. ROTHCHILD: Congratulations.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. Also if
8 there are any groups or organizations that are
9 offering free services or assistance to someone
10 in need during the pandemic and you'd like to
11 have that information available on ECTV, you
12 can always e-mail ChrisECTV@gmail.com. The
13 wording of your e-mail is exactly what ECTV
14 will publish.

15 Also, as I mentioned last week,
16 really great event, the Scranton Municipal
17 Recreation Authority is going to sponsor
18 another free lunch at Nay Aug Park. It's going
19 to take place Saturday, May 16th, 1 p.m.
20 They're going to be serving 300 lunches.

21 Those lunches will be distributed
22 first come, first serve. This is a takeout
23 event. It will be held at the maintenance
24 building across from the pool at Nay Aug.

25 On the menu, hamburg, hot dog,

1 chips, cookies, and a drink. And as we know,
2 there are many people who are having
3 difficulties financially. So if anyone would
4 like a meal, that's going to be held May 16th.

5 And Representative Marty Flynn will
6 provide pizza vouchers for the event while
7 supplies last. All are welcome.

8 And finally, if anyone would like to
9 comment on agenda items or general City
10 business, please send those comments in writing
11 to our City Clerk, Lori Reed by e-mailing
12 LReed@scrantonpa.gov.

13 Council will accept public comment
14 until the day of our meeting Tuesday at 4:30
15 p.m. Public comment is reviewed by the Council
16 prior to our meeting and is placed on the
17 official record and in the minutes of our
18 meeting.

19 Our agenda is being posted for
20 public review the Friday before our Tuesday
21 meeting. Our agenda and minutes can be
22 accessed by going to www.scrantonpa.gov and
23 clicking on the City Council page. That's all
24 I have. Mrs. Reed?

25 MS. REED: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS

1 PARTICIPATION.

2 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Mrs. Reed.
3 Will someone please make a motion to accept
4 public comment from the following individuals
5 Bev de Barros, Fay Franus and Marie Schumacher?

6 MR. DONAHUE: So moved.

7 DR. ROTHCHILD: Second.

8 MR. GAUGHAN: There's a motion and a
9 second. On the question? On the question, I
10 just want to state again Miss Schumacher had
11 submitted several questions as she had the last
12 few weeks.

13 So again, taking these questions and
14 getting them to the appropriate departments and
15 the administration. And I have personally
16 contacted Miss Schumacher with answers to some
17 stormwater questions.

18 I know Councilman Donahue responded
19 to some questions last week. So we are
20 following up on those requests. Miss Franus
21 had a few question as well. So we did send
22 those questions to the administration. And we
23 are going to be awaiting a response on that.

24 Anyone else on the question? Okay,
25 and just before we take a vote here, public

1 comment is always placed into our official
2 record and our official minutes. If you would
3 like to view the public comment and the
4 questions, you can go to www.scrantonpa.gov and
5 you can go to Council's web page and you'll be
6 able to see everything transcribed as if we
7 were in City Hall at one of our regular Council
8 meetings prior to the pandemic.

9 We have a motion, a second. We
10 performed on the question. All those in favor
11 of the motion signify by saying aye.

12 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

13 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

14 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

15 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

16 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye. The ayes have it
17 and so moved.

18
19 (Public Comment)

20 (Beverly de Barros)

21
22 Re: 43 furloughed city employees.

23
24 We, taxpayers, cannot afford to pay
25 wages to anyone who is not earning them.

1 There is an option that would employ
2 these people and benefit all of us.

3 14 teams could methodically, block
4 by block, manually clean the curbs and grids of
5 the storm drains of the streets.

6 This would require only gloves,
7 shovels, brooms and bags to collect the debris
8 and litter.

9 Given the existing conditions, this
10 work is essential.

11 Some in the group will emerge as
12 natural leaders to organize and supervise this
13 most important task.

14 The volunteer groups who clean up
15 along the highways are model for this endeavor.

16 In addition to earning their pay,
17 the participants will enjoy the satisfaction of
18 the visible results.

19 All honest work is dignified and to
20 be respected and appreciated.

21 If you have read and considered
22 this, I thank you.

23 Bev

24
25 (Fay Franus)

1 Council,

2 You know I am beyond annoyed,
3 frustrated--why you ask? Because I have yet
4 gotten one answer from any of my questions
5 since the beginning of these viral meetings.

6 Do you honestly believe I really
7 just asked for no reason? You are really not
8 performing your duties. Again I must stress
9 YET AGAIN, if you catch my drift-- there is no
10 reason you as council members can not get
11 replies to questions. Yes you answered "A FEW"
12 of Marie's questions-that is not nearly enough!
13 Have any of you followed u with whether the DPW
14 is keeping track of all gas card usages?

15 Also a very important question --one
16 I have yet to get answered in years but you
17 surely can get this answer if you ask for this
18 information--here is what I want to know-- The
19 garbage fee money coming in and the money going
20 out to run the DPW-- is any of that money
21 coming in being used for any other bills in the
22 city other than DPW expenses--ARE THEY AT DPW
23 keeping track of what come s in and who goes
24 out? Are they finally keeping records-- years
25 back they told me they lost the paperwork but

1 since then they were told they must keep
2 records ARE THEY?

3 Do you know from last year exactly
4 how much came in and how much went out. We
5 have a right to know since we are paying, not
6 only for ourselves, but for all of those who do
7 not.

8 Emerson and I may soon start
9 picketing City Hall because you are not doing
10 your job. I am very serious. People have to
11 know what is happening\\\ in this city.

12
13 Fay Franus

14
15 (Marie Schumacher)

16
17 First, Joan Hodowanitz asked that I
18 remind you that Section 313 of the Home Rule
19 Charter which required you to publish the
20 summary of the fiscal affairs in the local
21 newspapers by May 31 of each year.

22 Now, I would request that all
23 Authorities be required to post on the City's
24 website an Agenda for each meeting 24 hours
25 before the Meeting.

1 I would like to know if HRG has made
2 the initial presentation to the City and, if
3 so, the date.

4 Please provide an update on the
5 actions of the partnership the City has with
6 Neighborhoodworks Northeastern Pennsylvania.
7 How many grants have been disbursed and in what
8 zip codes.

9 Last week Mr. Donahue tied the
10 non-OECD paving program to the current budget
11 situation which I would like explained. If I
12 understand correctly, most of the costs are
13 paid by the liquid fuels transfer program which
14 has tight requirements for how this money may
15 be disbursed with the paving program being one
16 of the allowable projects so what is the hold
17 up on identifying the streets and putting out
18 an RFP?

19 Also, last week someone, I believe
20 Mr. McAndrew stated you have received the
21 departments from which furloughed employees had
22 worked. Would you please share this
23 information with the taxpayers?

24 When will the joint City & Single
25 Tax Office be issued for data analytics and

1 collections services with the Scranton School
2 District?

3 Finally, it has been over a month
4 since the first round of Fourth Order inputs
5 were received with the lack of responses blamed
6 on the Administration. Almost all of the
7 questions I have asked are things that are in
8 the budget and I can't understand why Council
9 doesn't stay abreast of these items such that
10 an answer could be provided within a couple of
11 days.

12
13 (End of Public Comment)

14
15 MR. GAUGHAN: Mrs. Reed?

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

17 Motions.

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

21 MR. SCHUSTER: Yes, I do have a few
22 comments. So the Council did get some
23 correspondence from Kohanski and Company
24 regarding the 2019 financial statement audit.

25 They gave us a little timeline of

1 events over the month of April. So as of April
2 5th, they began uploading information to Rainey
3 and Rainey. On the 20th, they had a virtual
4 meeting with Pat Sheridan and Rebecca McMullin
5 and Tom Rainey.

6 They discussed the challenges of
7 preparing and conducting this audit remotely
8 during this time. And they decided that due to
9 the volume of information, they were going to
10 do it section by section and be notified when
11 sections of the audit were ready to begin
12 working on it.

13 So as of -- let's see, May 6th, they
14 determined that the following sections were
15 ready including long-term liabilities,
16 long-term debt, compensated absences and
17 accrued interest and the debt service fund.

18 As of April 29th, Kohanski and
19 Company requested some census data from Thomas
20 Anderson, which the Council was aware of and
21 they expect their deadline for completion to be
22 September 30th of 2020 for that audit.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you for the
24 update, Councilman Schuster. Councilman
25 McAndrew, do you have any motions or comments

1 at this time?

2 MR. SCHUSTER: Excuse me, I just
3 have one more.

4 MR. GAUGHAN: Oh, I'm sorry.

5 MR. SCHUSTER: No, that's all right.
6 So I was glad to hear that two of our County
7 Commissioners spoke about how they felt that
8 the local government should be, you know, in
9 communication with the Governor to decide
10 what's best for their particular areas.

11 And I really want to state that I
12 agree with Commission Notariani and Chermak
13 that we need to have an open dialog with the
14 Governor for our area at this time. I think
15 we're in a specific situation here.

16 It's a unique situation where we
17 have a district who's in recovery. And we have
18 a City that's looking to exit Act 47. And with
19 that being said, I don't think we have -- we
20 can't afford to lose any money at this point in
21 time, especially millions of dollars.

22 So I'm glad to hear that these
23 people are speaking up and trying to get some
24 dialogue with the Governor. And I'd like to
25 see that dialogue continue.

1 I know Luzerne County is having a
2 meeting tonight as to how they're going. But,
3 I mean, my major concern is our small
4 businesses in Scranton. Like I was saying, we
5 don't have the opportunity to lose anything.
6 And some of the numbers I've seen on small
7 businesses are quite concerning.

8 And I think the administration feels
9 the same way. Maybe I'd like to encourage
10 anybody who has a small business to write into
11 public comment. Maybe we can get some of that
12 on the record and maybe that could help us to
13 move forward.

14 Also with this task force, I hope
15 that the task force on reopening is -- they're
16 utilizing that to speak with the Governor and
17 get that moving forward. Thank you.

18 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Councilman
19 Schuster. Councilman McAndrew, any motions or
20 comments?

21 MR. MCANDREW: Yes, I have a few.
22 So I know the City pools won't be opening this
23 year. But it's been brought to my attention if
24 Mrs. Reed can send a letter to OECD and ask
25 when the cameras are going to be put up at the

1 splash pad because I guess there's some new
2 graffiti and some vandalism going on.

3 So if she could please look into
4 that for me because I know we had a timeline.
5 But I'm not sure where we're at with the
6 cameras. Maybe this will help prevent that.

7 Also, at Capouse Avenue Tires, which
8 is a garage. It has tires, I guess. A couple
9 citizens reached out to me. And I guess it was
10 reported to the LIPS Department that there are
11 dozens of used tires out front of the building
12 near the street which, you know, now that it's
13 going to get warm and, you know, with moister,
14 there will be mosquito problems.

15 So if Mrs. Reed could also reach out
16 to the LIPS Department and see where we're at
17 with that complaint.

18 Also, we discussed this -- Solicitor
19 Hayes brought this up in our caucus. This is
20 the third week that I'm going to request for
21 the amount of hours -- I know it's forthcoming,
22 but it's three weeks. So I'm throwing it out
23 there again that the amount of hours we paid,
24 which was \$89 an hour to the acting HR
25 Director, so I'm still waiting to hear about

1 those hours.

2 Also, a followup, there's -- I guess
3 a couple complaints were sent to the LIPS
4 Department. There's a three-stall garage
5 that's being rented on 324 Crown Avenue. So
6 it's a rented garage. But my understanding is
7 someone is actually using that as a service
8 garage if Mrs. Reed could follow up with that.

9 A guess a couple complaints have
10 been, you know, sent to LIPS Department. I
11 just want to find out where we're at with that.
12 And also, another concerned citizen brought up
13 to me now that it's nice out people are out
14 walking.

15 My understanding that all the catch
16 water basins from Taylor Hill to North Scranton
17 are blocked with debris. So, Mrs. Reed, if you
18 could please reach out to DPW and see if they
19 can address that? That is all I have. Thank
20 you.

21 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Councilman
22 McAndrew. Dr. Rothchild, do you have any
23 motions or comments at this time?

24 DR. ROTHCHILD: Yeah, I just have
25 one comment. And it's in reference to what

1 Councilman Schuster brought up regarding our
2 small businesses. And I actually meant to
3 bring it up in announcements too.

4 But there are a lot of businesses
5 that are opening back up again, like food
6 businesses that are doing curbside pickup. So
7 I just want to make people aware that places
8 that might not have been opened a few weeks ago
9 are opening now.

10 Maybe they have a capacity now or
11 they've gotten the supplies so that they can
12 have takeout orders usually for businesses that
13 don't do that. And I've been trying to support
14 them as much as possible, not just because I'm
15 tired of cooking.

16 But, you know, if you're able to,
17 then that's a great way to be able to give back
18 to our community. And our small businesses are
19 part of what makes Scranton so great. You
20 know, a lot of family businesses that have been
21 around for a long time, and I would hate to see
22 any of them close and not reopen because of
23 what's going on right now with the coronavirus.

24 But I just encourage people to try
25 to be as patient as possible. I think what

1 I've read and seen that, you know, we're just
2 trying to make sure that we're not having --
3 we're no longer having an increase in deaths
4 and having that lowered before we're able to
5 reopen to keep everyone safe. So I just wanted
6 to comment on that. Thank you.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Dr.
8 Rothchild. And, Councilman Donahue, do you
9 have any motions or comments?

10 MR. DONAHUE: Just one quick comment
11 and then I have a motion. Miss Reed, would you
12 be able to add the Pittston Avenue catch basins
13 to Mr. McAndrew's request as well? It's
14 basically the same thing from Moosic Street all
15 the way to --

16 MS. REED: Sure. Thank you.

17 MR. DONAHUE: Thank you. I'd also
18 like to make a motion to have Miss Reed forward
19 this letter to attorney -- that Attorney Hayes
20 put together for us to the Pennsylvania
21 Department of Environmental Protection
22 regarding the Keystone Sanitary Landfill's
23 permit application -- expansion permit
24 application.

25 MR. GAUGHAN: There's a motion. Is

1 there a second?

2 MR. SCHUSTER: I'll second.

3 MR. MCANDREW: I'll second.

4 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? On
5 the question, I did talk to Dr. Rothchild in
6 the time between the caucus and the regular
7 meeting. And she did have time to purview the
8 letter. So I do appreciate that.

9 You know, I -- my comments last
10 week, I'll reiterate those very briefly that I
11 think that this is really one of the most
12 important issues that our region has faced in
13 terms of health and safety in a very long time.

14 I think it is the issue in terms of
15 something that one of our agencies in the State
16 of Pennsylvania has control over. And that
17 agency is supposed to serve the people, not
18 anyone else.

19 And in the letter -- I'm not going
20 to read the whole thing. But I do want to read
21 one section from this letter that was drafted
22 by Attorney Hayes that states that it was in
23 the -- that spirit that your agency's
24 predecessor agency, the Department of
25 Environmental Resources was created in 1970.

1 Around that same time, the
2 Commonwealth adopted a new Constitution which
3 including Section 27 which provided:

4 The people have a right to clean
5 air, pure water and to the preservation of the
6 natural, scenic, historic and aesthetic values
7 of the environment. Pennsylvania's public
8 natural resources are the common property of
9 all the people including generations yet to
10 come.

11 As trustees of these resources, the
12 Commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them
13 for the benefit of all the people.

14 Again, as I mentioned last week, to
15 think that my children, their children,
16 generations from now you're going to be looking
17 in this City -- from our City and in this
18 valley at a garbage dump that's as high as the
19 Empire State Building is -- it's unconscionable
20 to all of us, all of Council.

21 And that's one of the reasons why
22 we're sending this letter. I think this is
23 probably kind of our last gasp here for a
24 chance at stopping this thing.

25 The Friends of Lackawanna have done

1 an outstanding job and the team of people that
2 they have in putting forth arguments in
3 fighting the battle here.

4 I would ask that anyone in the
5 public provide comment against this because it
6 is going to have overreaching impact on us
7 whether we know it or not today generations
8 from now. And I think that the health, safety,
9 and welfare of our people are very important.

10 And again, we're trying to clean up
11 the image, not only of Scranton but of the
12 area. And to have a garbage dump basically be
13 the thing that sticks out is not right. The
14 days of taking everyone else's garbage should
15 be over.

16 And for those who use the argument,
17 where are you going to put the garbage? I
18 would challenge you to look at other cities,
19 other areas throughout our country who have
20 used technology to move in different ways of
21 disposing of their garbage that are more safe
22 than what's going on now.

23 So I think we should really be
24 thinking not only about right now but 10, 20,
25 30 years from now. I support the motion. And

1 I support the letter. And thank you to
2 Attorney Hayes for drafting it. Anyone else on
3 the question?

4 MR. DONAHUE: I'd just like to thank
5 Attorney Hayes for also drafting this letter.
6 You know, I think it hits, you know, where
7 we're coming from right on the head. So thank
8 you, Attorney Hayes.

9 ATTY. HAYES: You're welcome.

10 DR. ROTHCHILD: Yeah, I agree. I
11 would also like to say thank you. But I'm also
12 just really happy that our Council's all in
13 agreement about this. And I think that's
14 powerful.

15 And I really hope that this letter
16 adds some value to the conversation and that
17 DEP will take it into consideration because we
18 really are concerned about the effects this
19 will have on our City and for the future to
20 come for our children, our grandchildren.

21 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. Anyone
22 else on the question?

23 MR. MCANDREW: Great job, Solicitor
24 Hayes.

25 ATTY. HAYES: Thanks, Mark. Thank

1 you, Councilman.

2 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. Thank you. All
3 those in favor of the motion signify by saying
4 aye.

5 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

6 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

7 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

8 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

9 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye. Opposed? The
10 ayes have it and so moved. Councilman Donahue,
11 anything else?

12 MR. DONAHUE: That's all I have.

13 MR. GAUGHAN: That's all you have.

14 MR. DONAHUE: That's all I have.

15 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. I just
16 have a few comments. One, I spoke to a family
17 in the 3000 of Colliery Avenue, some quality
18 of life issues that are going on there. So I
19 was in contact with Mrs. Reed today and that is
20 going to be sent to the appropriate department.

21 The last thing that I have is -- or
22 two, two things. Councilman McAndrew mentioned
23 at the beginning of the meeting when you know
24 we state that we think about all the people
25 that have passed in our community. And Kevin

1 Shaughnessy was the Director of Buildings and
2 Grounds and was a well-respected person in our
3 community.

4 And I know has a young daughter and
5 our hearts and prayers go out to his family.
6 And that's a big loss for the county because he
7 did a really great job in that role over the
8 last few years.

9 Also, I just want to say in terms of
10 the emergency that we're going through right
11 now as we all know the position that we're in,
12 what I've seen in Northeastern Pennsylvania is
13 that our citizens are really, really resilient.
14 And I think that they've done -- for the most
15 part we've done a really outstanding job in
16 fighting this pandemic.

17 The one concern that I have though
18 is with the weather getting nice towards the
19 end of this week it's going to be 75. Next
20 week I think it's going to be in the 80s.
21 People are itching to get out. But I just want
22 to remind everyone that this is not over by a
23 long shot.

24 And we need to continue to follow
25 Governor Wolf's orders. We need to continue to

1 follow the CDC guidelines. My biggest concerns
2 is our hospitals being overwhelmed. That's
3 what we don't want to see. The doctors and
4 nurses and medical personnel, those people who
5 are putting their lives on the line every day
6 they have done such a heroic job.

7 But if we give up now and we say,
8 well, you know, it's been a couple months it's
9 time to move on; it's time to get out. While I
10 understand the frustration in terms of small
11 businesses and everything else, it's just
12 devastating what's gone on.

13 After what I saw today watching Dr.
14 Fouche testify in front of the Senate, we need
15 to be very cautious in reopening. We need to
16 be very cautious in the actions that we take.
17 I'm glad to see that there is a task force in
18 Lackawanna County.

19 I just don't think that we should
20 start taking any of this lightly. And as he
21 said today, if we are too aggressive, if we
22 move too quickly there's going to be more death
23 and there's going to be more suffering. And
24 that's something that we don't want to see.

25 One of the arguments that I've seen

1 that I just -- I just don't agree with at all
2 is there's -- there are people out there who
3 are saying, well, it's only people that are in
4 nursing homes that are dying from this disease.

5 That's not true. The majority of
6 people are dying in nursing homes. That is a
7 tragedy beyond belief. But this virus does not
8 discriminate against old and young, against
9 black and white, against whether you're rich or
10 poor.

11 And the argument that, you know, it
12 just affects older people, well, if it was your
13 grandmother or your grandfather and then they
14 were sick, I think your opinion would be
15 different. We need to make sure that we
16 protect all of our people.

17 And if one person that died from
18 this, I think it would be a tragedy. So again,
19 I know that Council doesn't play a major role
20 in some of the things that are going on. It's
21 more at the state level. But we need to be
22 very, very, very cautious and listen to the
23 experts. Listen to the scientists. Don't
24 listen to the Monday morning quarterbacks who
25 don't have medical degrees. And that's all I

1 have. Mrs. Reed?

2 MS. REED: Thank you. 5-B. FOR
3 INTRODUCTION – AN ORDINANCE – AUTHORIZING THE
4 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO
5 ACCEPT THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE “BA FY20
6 CORONAVIRUS EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING
7 PROGRAM” A GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$64,162
8 AWARDED TO THE CITY OF SCRANTON POLICE
9 DEPARTMENT TO BE USED FOR THE PURCHASE OF
10 SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT TO RESPOND TO, PREVENT,
11 AND PROTECT AGAINST THE SPREAD OF CORONAVIRUS.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Mrs. Reed.
13 At this time I'll entertain a motion that Item
14 5-B be introduced into its proper committee.

15 MR. DONAHUE: So moved.

16 MR. MCANDREW: Second.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: There's been a motion.
18 It's been seconded. On the question? On the
19 question, I mentioned this in the caucus. What
20 I'd like to do and I believe everyone was in
21 agreement.

22 It would be next week because of the
23 urgency and the importance of getting this
24 funding where it needs to go for supplies
25 during this crisis, I would like to suspend the

1 rules next week and move this piece of
2 legislation from Sixth to Seventh Order so
3 final passage would be next week. Anyone else
4 on the question? All those in favor of
5 introduction signify by saying aye.

6 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

7 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

8 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

9 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

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

12 MS. REED: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION -
13 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
14 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND
15 ENTER INTO AN ADDENDUM TO THE COOPERATION
16 AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN THE CITY OF SCRANTON
17 ("CITY") AND THE DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND
18 VETERANS AFFAIRS ("DMVA") TO FURTHER AMEND THE
19 COOPERATION AGREEMENT TO PERMIT THE SCRANTON
20 POLICE DEPARTMENT'S FORCE ENTRY TACTICAL TEAM
21 TO MOVE ALL EXPLOSIVE ENTRY TRAINING
22 OPERATIONS AND ACTIVITIES TO THE NEW LOCATION
23 DEPICTED IN EXHIBIT A-1 AND CEASE TO USE THE
24 PREVIOUSLY APPROVED AREA OF THE LEACH RANGE
25 PROPERTY LOCATED IN NEWTON TOWNSHIP AND SOUTH

1 ABINGTON TOWNSHIP.

2 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Mrs. Reed.
3 At this time I'll entertain a motion that Item
4 5-C be introduced into its proper committee.

5 MR. DONAHUE: So moved.

6 DR. ROTHCHILD: Second.

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

10 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

11 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

12 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

13 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

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

16 MS. REED: SIXTH ORDER. 6-A. No
17 business at this time.

18 SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. No business at
19 this time.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Mrs. Reed.
21 If there's no further business, I'll entertain
22 a motion to adjourn.

23 MR. DONAHUE: Motion to adjourn.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you everyone.

25 This meeting is adjourn. Stay safe, stay

1 healthy.

2 DR. ROTHCHILD: Thank you.

3 MR. MCANDREW: Thanks. Bye-bye.

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

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

(The foregoing certificate of this transcript does not apply to any reproduction of the same by any means unless under the direct control and/or supervision of the certifying reporter.)