

COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON

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HELD:

Tuesday, May 19th, 2020

LOCATION:

VIA ZOOM

Maria McCool, RPR  
Official Court Reporter

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

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- 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

1 (Pledge of Allegiance.)

2  
3 MR. GAUGHAN: Please remain standing  
4 for a moment of silent reflection for our  
5 service men and women throughout the world and  
6 also for all those who have passed away in our  
7 community.

8 As we have been the past few months,  
9 let us take a special moment of silence again  
10 tonight for all of those in our community and  
11 throughout the world who are suffering or who  
12 have passed away from the Coronavirus. Let us  
13 think about them and their families at this  
14 time that they may find peace.

15 Let us think about the doctors,  
16 nurses, researchers and all medical  
17 professionals and first responders who seek to  
18 heal and help those affected and who put  
19 themselves at risk in the process.

20 May they find protection and peace.  
21 Whether we are at home or abroad, surrounded by  
22 many people suffering from this illness or only  
23 a few, let us stick together, endure together,  
24 mourn together, persist and prepare together.  
25 And in place of our anxiety, let us continue to

1 hope and find peace. Thank you. Okay. Miss  
2 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. Please note that there will be a  
14 motion to move Item 6-A to Seventh Order for a  
15 final vote this evening. Mrs. Reed, please  
16 dispense with the reading of the minutes.

17 MS. REED: Thank you. THIRD ORDER.

18 3-A. PROCLAMATION ISSUED BY MAYOR  
19 PAIGE G. COGNETTI DATED MAY 8, 2020 POSTPONING  
20 THE DATE OF THE CITY TREASURER'S SALE FOR THE  
21 COLLECTION OF DELINQUENT TAXES FROM JUNE 1,  
22 2020 UNTIL SEPTEMBER 1, 2020.

23 3-B. CORRESPONDENCE SENT FROM  
24 SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL DATED MAY 12,  
25 2020 TO THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF

1 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION REGARDING KEYSTONE  
2 SANITARY LANDFILL PHASE III SITE DEVELOPMENT  
3 APPLICATION.

4 3-C. PROCLAMATION ISSUED BY MAYOR  
5 PAIGE G. COGNETTI DATED MAY 11, 2020 EXTENDING  
6 THE STATE OF EMERGENCY IN THE CITY OF SCRANTON.

7 3-D. EMERGENCY DECLARATION ISSUED  
8 BY MAYOR PAIGE G. COGNETTI DATED MAY 12, 2020  
9 EXTENDING THE STATE OF EMERGENCY TO JUNE 8,  
10 2020.

11 3-E. CHECK RECEIVED FROM COMCAST IN  
12 THE AMOUNT OF \$260,513.97 FOR QUARTERLY  
13 FRANCHISE FEE.

14 3-F. MINUTES OF THE HISTORICAL  
15 ARCHITECTURE REVIEW BOARD MEETING HELD APRIL  
16 23, 2020.

17 3-G. CONTROLLER'S REPORT FOR MONTH  
18 ENDING APRIL 30, 2020.

19 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Mrs. Reed.  
20 Are there any comments on any of the Third  
21 Order items? I just have one. In terms of  
22 public comment, we did receive questions about  
23 the Controller's report from Mrs. Schumacher.  
24 So we are going to forward that to the  
25 administration.

1                   One was in regards to a street  
2                   lighting lease and one was in regards to CDW  
3                   Government and an expense that was made by the  
4                   IT department. So we'll get an answer on that.  
5                   Any other comments? If not, received and  
6                   filed.

7                   Do any Council members have any  
8                   announcements at this time? Okay. I have two  
9                   announcements tonight.

10                  Similar to the announcement I make  
11                  every week since we started having our meetings  
12                  on Zoom, if anyone would like to comment on  
13                  agenda items or City business, please send  
14                  those comments in writing to our City Clerk,  
15                  Lori Reed by e-mailing [LReed@scrantonpa.gov](mailto:LReed@scrantonpa.gov).

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

22                  Council's agenda is being posted for  
23                  public review the Friday before our Tuesday  
24                  meeting. Our agenda and minutes can be  
25                  accessed by going to [www.scrantonpa.gov](http://www.scrantonpa.gov) and

1 clicking on the City Council page.

2 Also, final announcement, DPW's  
3 going to be off next Monday, May 25th for the  
4 Memorial Day Holiday. Refuse and newspaper  
5 collection will be one day behind next week.  
6 And that's all I have. Mrs. Reed?

7 MS. REED: Thank you, Councilman  
8 Gaughan. Just to double-check back with you,  
9 were all Third Order items received and filed?

10 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, all Third Order  
11 items were received and filed.

12 MS. REED: Thank you. FOURTH ORDER.  
13 CITIZENS PARTICIPATION.

14 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Mrs. Reed.  
15 I would ask now that someone please make a  
16 motion to accept public comment from the  
17 following individuals, Fay Franus and Marie  
18 Schumacher.

19 MR. DONAHUE: So moved.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. On the  
21 question? On the question, Mrs. Franus had  
22 submitted several questions related to the  
23 appointment of Mrs. Cipriani tonight. I had  
24 talked prior to the meeting with Solicitor  
25 Hayes.

1                   And, Solicitor Hayes, you know, if  
2                   you can research her questions -- Mrs. Franus's  
3                   questions and provide a response by next week I  
4                   would appreciate that. Sorry, you were muted.

5                   ATTY. HAYES: No problem.

6                   MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. Thank you. And  
7                   Mrs. Schumacher again as I mentioned in the  
8                   caucus had submitted several questions. So  
9                   we're going to forward those to the proper  
10                  department. I do have one of the answers. I  
11                  just don't have it right in front of me now.  
12                  So I will forward that over to her. And  
13                  hopefully we get some answers.

14                  I do know the administration did  
15                  respond to one of her questions and is working  
16                  on the others. Does anyone have any comment?  
17                  Okay. There's been a motion made. There's  
18                  been on the question. All those in favor of  
19                  the motion, signify by saying aye.

20                  MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

21                  MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

22                  MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

23                  DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

24                  MR. GAUGHAN: Aye. The ayes have it  
25                  and so moved.



1 (Public Comment)

2  
3 (Fay Franus)

4 Council,

5 It is my understanding that a person  
6 who gets a waiver to work in the city if they  
7 live out of the city MUST get this waiver  
8 BEFORE starting work.

9 Did Eileen Ciprianni start work on  
10 May 18, 2020 before getting this waiver?  
11 How long is this waiver for?

12 Does Eileen Ciprianni have 6 months  
13 to move into the city or can she live outside  
14 the city indefinitely?

15 One part of the City Administrative  
16 Code states one SHALL move into the city within  
17 six months or be terminated.

18 Do you feel a person should live in  
19 the city to take this job as head of OECD? If  
20 so Why? If not, why not?

21 How many departments are actually  
22 working and getting paid at City Hall? Are  
23 they there every day?

24 How many people and who are they who  
25 are working from home and getting paid?

1                   How many confidential  
2 assistants/secretaries does the Mayor have  
3 working for her? Who are they?

4                   I paid my garbage TAX bill  
5 yesterday. Six people on my block alone will  
6 not be paying their garbage bill and have not  
7 for at least 10 years. Part of my money is  
8 going towards THEIR payment.

9                   As I have said time and time again  
10 you have a law that states the DPW does NOT  
11 have to pick up anyone's garbage if they do not  
12 pay their garbage bill. Bill Gaughan has  
13 stated that that would be hard to enforce  
14 because of bags all over -- well Council woman  
15 Dempsey alleviated that concern by having a LAW  
16 passed that states every home owner/renter must  
17 have LIDS on their garbage cans.

18                   This way there will be no bags  
19 laying on the sidewalk with garbage in them.  
20 This is yet another law you CHOOSE to not  
21 enforce.

22                   Time and time again you have ignored  
23 the citizens of this city. Why is a great  
24 question to answer--

25                   Today is May 19th, 2020. I have yet

1 to get ONE response from any of you in reply to  
2 my many questions. That is inexcusable on many  
3 levels.

4

5 Fay Franus

6

7 (Marie Schumacher)

8

9 First, the Agenda items,

10 5E First and foremost for years we  
11 have heard how many citizens we taxpayer  
12 educated that would like to return home but  
13 there are no jobs available. Now we have an  
14 open position and you want to fill it with a  
15 non-resident.

16 The University of Scranton has a  
17 Master's program in Human Relations Management  
18 so it possible someone with such a degree might  
19 be interested in this position and be willing  
20 to live in the City.

21 Second, my sixth sense tells me  
22 there is probably more than meets the eye.  
23 What person would give up a job overseeing a  
24 staff of 400 employees and a budget of \$228  
25 million to take the Scranton job? Just doesn't

1 compute.

2 However, if Ms. Cipriani wants this  
3 job let her move to Scranton and pay all the  
4 taxes the residents pay.

5 Finally on Agenda Items, are all the  
6 salaries as budgeted for 2020?

7 Last week Mr. Gaughan commented on  
8 the few employees available to be accessed in  
9 City Hall. How many active (not furloughed)  
10 employees are working 285.

11 Recently it was announced there  
12 would no City pools utilized this year, will  
13 the splash pads be open if completed?

14 And, speaking of splash parks. As I  
15 went through the Controller's Report for April  
16 I noticed that Don Scartelli received  
17 \$102,690. You may recall this is the firm  
18 contracted for the Novembrino splash pad. I  
19 opened the Controller Reports for the first  
20 quarter of 2020 and found the firm had receive  
21 \$327,240 to date.

22 I thought great! The splash pad  
23 must be ready to use so I hopped into the car  
24 and went to see it. All I found were a couple  
25 of old buildings one with new windows but not

1 even a hint of a splash pad. So, what amount  
2 is in the Capital budget for the Novembrino  
3 splash pad?

4 While on the subject of the Capital  
5 budget I would like to request the Capital  
6 budget be added to the Business Administrator's  
7 website along with the Operating Budget and  
8 Auditor Reports.

9 The Controller's Report for April  
10 also revealed the IT Department expended  
11 \$285,627 to CDW Government during the month  
12 (both Operating and Capital Budgets).

13 What is this firm contracted to do,  
14 was it a competitive bid and did this contract  
15 come before City Council for approval?

16 Can anyone explain why \$429,767 was  
17 expended in March for the Street Lighting lease  
18 and in April there was a credit in the same  
19 amount?

20 To wrap up the Controller's April  
21 report, it appears there are several accounts  
22 that will exceed their budget for the year  
23 (such as landfill).

24 Since the Harrison Avenue  
25 replacement bridge opened has the City done any

1 study (such an ARC GIS) to maximize fire  
2 protection more efficiently?

3 I do believe you need to pass a  
4 resolution to send to the Governor asking him  
5 to let us live again. If the long term care  
6 deaths are taken out of the equation we should  
7 be fine even with the ever-changing "goals."  
8 People are finding new ways to shop and if it  
9 doesn't end soon they will not return to the  
10 old ways and even more money will flow out of  
11 the City.

12 I will end noting that kicking the  
13 Stormwater can down the road has resulted in  
14 yet another lawsuit against the City.

15  
16 (End of Public Comment)

17  
18 MR. GAUGHAN: Mrs. Reed?

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

20 MOTIONS.

21 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Mrs. Reed.  
22 Councilman Schuster, do you have any motions or  
23 comments today?

24 MR. SCHUSTER: Yes, I have a couple.  
25 So we talked in caucus a little bit about the

1           ATVs. I don't know if the caucus went public  
2           at this point in time but probably have to  
3           state that again, correct?

4                   MR. GAUGHAN: It was public but you  
5           could state it again.

6                   MR. SCHUSTER: So I did get a call  
7           with some pictures, some video from over on  
8           East Mountain. And one of the sections there,  
9           they use a place at the bottom of Moltke and  
10          East Mountain Road for staging while they are  
11          doing a pipeline and possibly for 81.

12                   And the concrete dividers that keep  
13          vehicles out of that area have been moved to  
14          where cars and ATVs can get in. So we're  
15          exploring some of the options that we can take  
16          there with ATVs in several sections of the  
17          City.

18                   And also we stated about the flood  
19          project in North Scranton or I stated about the  
20          flood project in North Scranton and maybe some  
21          of those ATVs were taking some of the topsoil  
22          off the top of the flood plain or the flood --  
23          the dams there. So that's a possibility.

24                   I also wanted to request that  
25          Council send correspondence to the

1 administration to see if we can get a written  
2 response for a date of -- an end date for the  
3 current HR Director before the new HR Director  
4 takes that position as well as to send a letter  
5 to the Mayor requesting a tax payment from Mrs.  
6 Cipriani.

7 And one other thing, we did get an  
8 e-mail about the polling places, the fire  
9 stations, one of them being the fire station in  
10 North Scranton on West Market Street and the  
11 other one East Mountain fire station. Do we  
12 know or did we get an answer as to whether  
13 those polling stations will be opened on  
14 Election Day?

15 MR. GAUGHAN: You know, Tom, that's  
16 a good question. I was actually going to bring  
17 this up as well. The county has sent -- I  
18 think it came from Don Frederickson. Yeah, he  
19 had sent a letter that is basically saying that  
20 the Mayor has made a decision to close Ward 2-1  
21 and Ward 12-3, the firehouses that you just  
22 mentioned in terms of voting in the  
23 Presidential Primary Election.

24 I don't know how the Mayor is able  
25 to do that to be quite honest with you this



1 close to an election. I think Don Frederickson  
2 is making the same argument here.

3 So that the Board of Elections is  
4 requesting that she reconsider her decision to  
5 close the two City firehouses to the voters on  
6 June 2nd and allow them to serve as polling  
7 places as they have for the past three decades.

8 I would tend to agree with that.  
9 And if you want, I think we can send  
10 correspondence to the Mayor trying to get a,  
11 you know, explanation as to why that was done.

12 MR. SCHUSTER: Yeah, that would be  
13 good.

14 MR. GAUGHAN: Anything else, Mr.  
15 Schuster?

16 MR. SCHUSTER: No. I think that's  
17 all.

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

21 MR. MCANDREW: Yes, I do, mister --  
22 Councilman Gaughan. I apologize. I was unable  
23 to unmute myself during moment of silence. But  
24 two gentlemen from the City passed away last  
25 week, one was Billy Bocchicchio. He worked for

1 the Single Tax Office for 21 years and  
2 Lieutenant James Togher of the Scranton Fire  
3 Department. So please let them know that, you  
4 know, they're in our hearts and prayers.

5 Secondly, also today as Chairman of  
6 the Public Safety Committee, I'd like to say  
7 that I had the great pleasure today at noon to  
8 watch the Scranton Police Department virtual  
9 memorial.

10 It was very moving. It was honoring  
11 our fallen police officers that made the  
12 ultimate sacrifice. The inscription at the  
13 base of moment pretty much summed it all up,  
14 integrity, courage and honor. So great job,  
15 Chief Graziano, the Memorial Committee and the  
16 Scranton Police Department.

17 Secondly, also we discussed in  
18 caucus it's no secret I've been asking for the  
19 billable hours of the acting HR Director for  
20 the past four weeks and the hours prior to the  
21 past four weeks.

22 So what I said in caucus was what is  
23 our recourse because I waited four weeks. And  
24 so if that person -- the acting HR Director  
25 worked 40 hours a week for the past four weeks,

1 not including the prior weeks at \$89 an hour  
2 which is a lot of -- that would be 14 grand or  
3 so which would be a third of budgeted salary  
4 for Miss Viola.

5 So, Solicitor Hayes said the  
6 possibility of a subpoena. I mean, I don't  
7 think I should have to do a Right To Know,  
8 which is -- I mean, I asked, you know, I think  
9 a reasonable question in a reasonable amount of  
10 time.

11 So with that said, please, Solicitor  
12 Hayes, please explore that for me so we can get  
13 this information to the taxpayer. I'm not the  
14 only one asking. There's people coming up to  
15 me in the community, taxpayers asking, you  
16 know, what's going on here. So please do that  
17 for me.

18 ATTY. HAYES: I will.

19 MR. MCANDREW: Thank you. That is  
20 all I have. Thank you.

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

24 DR. ROTHCHILD: Yes, I have one  
25 comment tonight that I wanted to offer. And I

1           just wanted to say thank you to Mrs. Ward for  
2           the work that she's done as OECD Director. I  
3           think that she has done a great job. And I'm  
4           really appreciative for what she's done for the  
5           City and the fact that she will be continuing  
6           to stay with the City as assistant director I  
7           think is great.

8                         We're lucky to have her. So I was  
9           happy to see that. And I just wanted to make  
10          a note of that. And I know that we will be  
11          discussing the residency waiver that's on for  
12          our legislation. And I had just a few comments  
13          about that.

14                        I do believe that from our  
15          conversations and seeing the resume of Miss  
16          Cipriani that she is highly qualified for the  
17          position. And she does have connections that  
18          are unique and that we perhaps have not had and  
19          knowledge of a lot of grants that will be  
20          useful for the City. So I was excited to see  
21          her.

22                        Obviously she does not live in the  
23          City of Scranton. And while that is  
24          problematic, I -- I've been a little confused  
25          in the past on the residency requirement that

1 we have. I feel like maybe it's an outdated  
2 ordinance.

3 I haven't really heard of a lot of  
4 other places, cities, municipalities that have  
5 that same sort of legislation still. And I  
6 would hate to I think lose out on such a great  
7 candidate for the position just because of  
8 that.

9 You know, I don't think that she's  
10 going to put any less effort into her job  
11 because of it. And, you know, I don't think  
12 she would work harder if she lived in the City  
13 of Scranton. So, you know, I think that I will  
14 be supporting her in that position. And I'm  
15 excited to have the opportunity to work with  
16 her. Thank you.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Dr.  
18 Rothchild. Councilman Donahue, do you have any  
19 motions or comments?

20 MR. DONAHUE: Yes, just a couple  
21 quickly. Miss Reed, would you be able to send  
22 the following addresses over to Licensing and  
23 Inspections to go look at? I've gotten some  
24 complaints on both of them. One is 2041-2043  
25 Margaret Ave. And then the other is 1068

1 Cottage Avenue, just some quality of life  
2 issues there.

3 And would we be able to request  
4 another update on the progress of the Serrenti  
5 Center as well? I think we sent that out a  
6 couple weeks ago. I don't think we've gotten  
7 anything back to my knowledge.

8 And then another request is a status  
9 update on the contract with Northeast Revenue  
10 and where the administration is with that. And  
11 could we also request the paving list for this  
12 year and to see when an RFP or an RFQ will go  
13 out for the City's Paving Program? I could put  
14 all this into an e-mail too so we don't miss  
15 anything.

16 MR. GAUGHAN: Kyle, I'm sorry, I  
17 think Mrs. Reed dropped the call for a second.

18 MR. DONAHUE: Okay. I'll put it in  
19 an e-mail just so those requests are in -- and  
20 that's all I have.

21 MS. REED: My call dropped, I'm  
22 sorry. I have 2041-43 Margaret and 1068  
23 Cottage Ave., to the LIPS Department. And I'm  
24 sorry, I wasn't on the call after that.

25 MR. DONAHUE: I was just looking for

1 a status update for the Serrenti Center  
2 project -- progress. And the status update on  
3 the Northeast Revenue contract.

4 MS. REED: Will do.

5 ATTY. HAYES: -- the Northeast  
6 Revenue contract, I have been trying to obtain  
7 information per the request of Councilman  
8 Gaughan so I'll follow up on that issue.

9 MR. DONAHUE: Okay. Thank you. And  
10 that's all I have. Thank you.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. Thank you. I  
12 just have a few comments. I mentioned in the  
13 caucus about a resident reaching out to me  
14 regarding the garbage bills and paying the  
15 garbage bills online.

16 So I just want to state this at the  
17 public meeting in case anyone else is  
18 experiencing the same type of issue. The woman  
19 who reached out to me had paid her garbage bill  
20 online. Two hundred seventy was the discount.  
21 And after she paid it, it was still showing  
22 that she owed \$30. So I reached out to the  
23 City Treasurer.

24 He did state that they had similar  
25 issues to this last year. And he was going to

1 get back to me. So if any Council members get  
2 calls on that or anyone from the public is  
3 watching and that has happened, that is being  
4 looked into.

5 Councilman Schuster mentioned the  
6 ATVs. I too have gotten a lot of calls on this  
7 issue. So in the caucus -- and Councilman  
8 Schuster had requested tonight as well  
9 Solicitor Hayes look into the laws that we have  
10 on the book in regards to ATVs and maybe what  
11 we can do to better enforce them or add more  
12 teeth to them. So we'll take a look at that.

13 ATTY. HAYES: Absolutely.

14 MR. GAUGHAN: The other thing, I had  
15 a conversation today briefly with Mrs. Reed  
16 regarding Third Avenue. Before this whole  
17 pandemic started to occur, I was in constant  
18 contact with the residents of Third Avenue  
19 regarding truck traffic.

20 I received a message today from the  
21 gentleman who was leading the charge over there  
22 in regards to this issue. And it still is a  
23 major issue. And it's a major nuisance to that  
24 neighborhood. So I had asked Mrs. Reed if she  
25 would send correspondence again to the Mayor,



1 the DPW and the City Engineer and to copy the  
2 Police Chief, Carl Graziano on it as well  
3 basically to try to see if we can come up with  
4 some sort of solution and to do an assessment  
5 of that area once again. So hopefully that  
6 will be taken care of.

7 I also got a call in regards to a  
8 gentleman that was attacked by pitbull in the  
9 Hill Section. He had relayed to me really a  
10 horrific story of a dog that is kind of  
11 terrorizing the neighborhood.

12 He requested that Council revisit  
13 the laws that we have on the book. I had sent  
14 him the memo that Solicitor Hayes had provided  
15 to us when Mr. Spindler had requested something  
16 similar. So what he had suggested and what  
17 maybe we'll have a discussion on in the next  
18 few weeks is requiring dangerous dogs to wear  
19 muzzles when they are on a public street.

20 This is something that he is pushing  
21 for. Again, it's not something we're going to  
22 make a decision on tonight or anything. But I  
23 just wanted to let everyone know that he  
24 probably will be reaching out to all of you.

25 So that is an issue that he is

1           stating that several people in the Hill Section  
2           are concerned about as well. In regards to the  
3           poll --

4                       MR. MCANDREW: Excuse me, I received  
5           the same complaint from that gentleman. And I  
6           instructed him to actually, you know, do public  
7           comment in the form of an e-mail so we can  
8           actually get this process started. Sorry.

9                       MR. GAUGHAN: No, that's okay.

10                      MR. SCHUSTER: Sorry, I'm going to  
11           jump in here too. Was that breed specific or  
12           was it just any dangerous dog?

13                      MR. GAUGHAN: I can't even remember  
14           to be honest with you. Yeah, I think it was  
15           pitbulls. But I forgot you weren't on Council  
16           when we had that memo. Tom, I'll forward it to  
17           you so you can take a look at it. But, yeah,  
18           it's definitely an issue so --

19                      MR. SCHUSTER: Okay. Thank you. To  
20           jump back to the ATV piece, the neighbor said  
21           that up there on East Mountain Road that the  
22           concrete barriers are open enough that the  
23           vehicles can get in there.

24                      I don't know if it's in the City's  
25           purview to move those barriers or whose

1 property that is. But that might be a fix to  
2 that situation there just find out whose  
3 property it is to move those.

4 MR. GAUGHAN: Right. That's a good  
5 idea.

6 MR. DONAHUE: I do believe that  
7 property is privately owned. And I don't  
8 know -- I know the barriers that Mr. Schuster  
9 is talking about. And it sort of didn't stop  
10 ATVs. But it stopped, you know, like a jeep or  
11 something from going back that way.

12 But I believe it's privately owned.  
13 And I don't know if the City has something to  
14 do with putting those there in the first place  
15 or if the property owner did that on their own.  
16 So maybe we can look into that too.

17 MR. SCHUSTER: Yeah, some of the  
18 video I had was trucks and like several of them  
19 and like a convoy going back at night with  
20 their headlights on.

21 MR. DONAHUE: Oh, yeah.

22 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. And the last  
23 thing that I had was in regards to the letter  
24 that we received or were copied on today in  
25 regards to changing polling places, one in

1 North Scranton, one on East Mountain in the  
2 firehouses. I actually just received an e-mail  
3 from Stephanie Pisko, the Mayor's Chief of  
4 Staff. They had been in communication with the  
5 Bureau of Elections from the county.

6 And the reason for their request for  
7 those changes was because of the coronavirus.  
8 They did not want people in those firehouses  
9 with employees in them voting. So they  
10 suggested the use of other properties nearby.

11 So I'm not really sure where it's  
12 at. But that was the reasoning, the reasoning  
13 for that. So we'll follow up on that, I guess.

14 MR. SCHUSTER: Yeah, I know some of  
15 the -- there were some changes in some polling  
16 places. I did look at the county site where I  
17 saw that say, for example, the Boys and Girls  
18 Club on Ash Street, I think.

19 I think they were going to be voting  
20 at the county building and several of those  
21 other polling places we have over at the county  
22 building. School Board President, Katie  
23 Gilmartin just sent me -- I'm going to forward  
24 it to you now; but it's from the Department of  
25 State and the school district got that

1           correspondence from the Department of State I  
2           think stating that they had to open for  
3           election day.

4                       So in looking at that it also has  
5           municipal buildings, township buildings, things  
6           of that nature. So it might be just a  
7           possibility those buildings would be open for  
8           that day.

9                       MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. Thank you.  
10          Okay, that's all I have. Mrs. Reed?

11                      MS. REED: Thank you. 5-B. FOR  
12          INTRODUCTION – A RESOLUTION – APPOINTMENT OF  
13          AMBER VIOLA, 1512 ROSS AVENUE, SCRANTON,  
14          PENNSYLVANIA, 18509 TO THE POSITION  
15          OF DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES EFFECTIVE MAY  
16          18, 2020.

17                      MR. GAUGHAN: At this time  
18          I'll entertain a motion that Item 5-B be  
19          introduced into its property committee.

20                      DR. ROTHCHILD: So moved.

21                      MR. DONAHUE: Second.

22                      ATTY. GAUGHAN: Is there a second?

23                      MR. DONAHUE: Second.

24                      ATTY. HAYES: Bill's frozen.

25                      MR. DONAHUE: You there, Bill?

1                   ATTY. HAYES: Bill, you were frozen.  
2                   You got a first and second.

3                   MR. GAUGHAN: Did I froze again --  
4                   freeze again? Hold on. Okay, am I good now?

5                   ATTY. HAYES: Yes.

6                   MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. So we had a --  
7                   somebody seconded that, I'm sorry.

8                   ATTY. HAYES: Yes.

9                   MR. GAUGHAN: Yes. Okay, on the  
10                  question?

11                  DR. ROTHCHILD: Yes, I'm sorry, on  
12                  the question, I'd just like to say that Miss  
13                  Viola had applied for our vacant Council seat  
14                  previously. She clearly has an interest in  
15                  City government. I think that she will be able  
16                  to utilize her skills well in this position.

17                  So I'm happy to see that we found an  
18                  HR Director. I know that it took quite a bit  
19                  of time. And I'm glad we've finally gotten  
20                  here. So I'm just happy to see that we found a  
21                  great person for the position.

22                  MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Dr.  
23                  Rothchild. Anyone else on the question? All  
24                  those in favor of introduction signify by  
25                  saying aye.

1 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

2 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

3 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

4 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

5 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye. Opposed? The  
6 ayes have it and so moved. Mrs. Reed?

7 MS. REED: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
8 A RESOLUTION - APPOINTMENT OF THOMAS A.  
9 PREAMBO, 510 DEAN STREET, SCRANTON,  
10 PENNSYLVANIA, 18509 TO THE POSITION OF DIRECTOR  
11 OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS EFFECTIVE MAY  
12 25, 2020.

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

16 MR. DONAHUE: So moved.

17 DR. ROTHCHILD: Second.

18 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? On  
19 the question, I just want to congratulate  
20 Mr. Preambo on his appointment. And I want to  
21 thank Mr. Gallagher for all the work that he's  
22 done in over the past few years as the DPW  
23 Director. Anyone else on the question? All  
24 those in favor of introduction signify by  
25 saying aye.

1 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

2 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

3 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

4 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

5 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye. Opposed? The  
6 ayes have it and so moved. Mrs. Reed?

7 MS. REED: 5-D. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
8 A RESOLUTION - APPOINTMENT OF EILEEN CIPRIANI,  
9 117 WASHINGTON AVENUE, WEST WYOMING,  
10 PENNSYLVANIA, 18644 TO THE POSITION OF  
11 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON'S  
12 OFFICE OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
13 EFFECTIVE MAY 18, 2020. MS. CIPRIANI WILL BE  
14 REPLACING MARY-PAT WARD WHO WAS SERVING AS  
15 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.

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

19 MR. DONAHUE: So moved.

20 DR. ROTHCHILD: Second.

21 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? On  
22 the question, I'm going to be voting for this  
23 appointment tonight. And I'll also be voting  
24 in the next piece of legislation to grant the  
25 residency waiver for several reasons.



1                   First, in the past I had stated my  
2                   concern with hiring individuals who do not  
3                   reside in the City. I'm taking a different  
4                   position today for the following reasons,  
5                   first, by all accounts the United States may be  
6                   entering into one of the worst recessions since  
7                   the great depression of the 1930s.

8                   The coronavirus pandemic has had an  
9                   absolutely devastating debilitating effect, not  
10                  only on the health of our people but on their  
11                  livelihood and our economy. Just today as Mrs.  
12                  Cipriani stated in the caucus, there was an  
13                  article in the Scranton Times which stated that  
14                  Lackawanna County's website crashed yesterday  
15                  when they offered a digital application for  
16                  business relief grants.

17                  People are desperate for help. At  
18                  no time in the City's history have we needed a  
19                  more qualified, competent and most importantly  
20                  experienced individual to lead our Office of  
21                  Economic and Community Development.

22                  As a City, we all know that we're  
23                  staring down a barrel of unprecedented economic  
24                  challenges. When Lackawanna County moves from  
25                  a red to yellow phase whenever that is, there

1 will most likely be many businesses which have  
2 closed that will not be able to reopen.

3 This presents a challenge in terms  
4 of lost jobs and revenue that the City  
5 receives. For example, Business Privilege and  
6 Mercantile Tax and Earned Income Tax revenue.  
7 We must give the Mayor and her administration  
8 the tools to be able to have a chance at  
9 recovery.

10 We need the best person for the job,  
11 not somebody's cousin, not somebody's brother,  
12 sister or uncle. We need someone who knows how  
13 to work with the business community to come up  
14 with plans and strategies to actually foster  
15 growth.

16 The City is going to need someone in  
17 the important position of OECD Director who has  
18 already built relationships throughout the  
19 state and with the Governor's office and state  
20 legislature, someone who has experience  
21 navigating the grant process.

22 Every municipality in the state will  
23 be competing for the same funding, the same  
24 grants and the same resources. It is crucial.  
25 It is crucial that the City of Scranton is

1 competitive because many times in the past we  
2 have not been.

3 Miss Cipriani's resume is  
4 impressive. The former Deputy Secretary for  
5 Workforce Development for the Pennsylvania  
6 Department of Labor and Industry, former  
7 Director of the State Workers Insurance Fund,  
8 special assistant for strategic initiative for  
9 the Department of Labor and Industry, masters  
10 degree in organizational management and degrees  
11 in leadership development and project  
12 management.

13 She clearly, clearly has the  
14 background qualifications and experience to do  
15 the job. The waiver process was put in place  
16 for these specific situations in which the City  
17 would face unique challenges and I don't think  
18 anyone would disagree with me when I say that  
19 we are in an extremely unique position.

20 And trying to come out on the other  
21 side of the devastation of this coronavirus  
22 pandemic is going to require, not only Council  
23 working together with the OECD Director; but  
24 it's going to require someone who actually has  
25 experience, someone who actually has the

1 qualifications.

2 Over the past six years I've guided  
3 my decisions based on what I think is best for  
4 our City. After reviewing the resume, after  
5 understanding the unique situation we're in,  
6 this is in the best interest of the City.

7 And that's why I'll be voting for  
8 the appointment. And I'll also be voting for  
9 the waiver. Anyone else on the question? All  
10 those in favor of introduction into its proper  
11 committee signify by saying aye.

12 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

13 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

14 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

15 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

16 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye. No? Or Opposed  
17 rather? The ayes have it and so moved.

18 MS. REED: 5-E. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
19 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND  
20 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO WAIVE THE  
21 RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS FOR EILEEN CIPRIANI IN  
22 HER CAPACITY AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE  
23 OFFICE OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
24 FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON.

25 MR. GAUGHAN: At this time I'll

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

3 DR. ROTHCHILD: So moved.

4 MR. GAUGHAN: Is there a second?

5 Okay, motion dies for lack of a second.

6 Mrs. Reed?

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

8 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF THE  
9 COUNCIL NO. 7, 2020 - AN ORDINANCE -  
10 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE  
11 CITY OFFICIALS TO ACCEPT THE DEPARTMENT OF  
12 JUSTICE "BA FY20 CORONAVIRUS EMERGENCY  
13 SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING PROGRAM" A GRANT IN  
14 THE AMOUNT OF \$64,162 AWARDED TO THE CITY OF  
15 SCRANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT TO BE USED FOR THE  
16 PURCHASE OF SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT TO RESPOND  
17 TO, PREVENT, AND PROTECT AGAINST THE  
18 SPREAD OF CORONAVIRUS.

19 MR. GAUGHAN: You've heard reading  
20 by title of Item 6-A. What is your pleasure?

21 MR. DONAHUE: Mr. Chairman, I move  
22 that Item 6-A pass reading by title.

23 MR. MCANDREW: Second.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? All  
25 those in favor signify by saying aye.

1 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

2 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

3 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

4 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

5 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye. Opposed? The  
6 ayes have it and so moved.

7 MR. DONAHUE: I make a motion to  
8 suspend the rules and to move Item 6-A to  
9 Seventh Order for a final vote.

10 MR. MCANDREW: Second.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? Yes,  
12 on the question, I made this request last week  
13 just for the simple fact that this funding  
14 would help our police department. And in terms  
15 of the emergency that we find ourselves in, it  
16 doesn't make sense to delay this for another  
17 week. Anyone else on the question?

18 MR. MCANDREW: Yeah, Billy, as  
19 Chairman of Public Safety I also echo your  
20 comments. I mean, our police force needs every  
21 tool available to battle this pandemic and be  
22 on the front lines. Thank you.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. All those  
24 in favor signify by saying aye.

25 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

1 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

2 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

3 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

4 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye. Opposed? The  
5 eyes have it and so moved.

6 MS. REED: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A.

7 FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE  
8 ON PUBLIC SAFETY - FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION  
9 NO. 30, 2020 - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND  
10 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND  
11 ENTER INTO AN ADDENDUM TO THE COOPERATION  
12 AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN THE CITY  
13 OF SCRANTON ("CITY") AND THE DEPARTMENT OF  
14 MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS ("DMVA") TO  
15 FURTHER AMEND THE COOPERATION AGREEMENT TO  
16 PERMIT THE SCRANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT'S FORCE  
17 ENTRY TACTICAL TEAM TO MOVE ALL EXPLOSIVE ENTRY  
18 TRAINING OPERATIONS AND ACTIVITIES TO THE NEW  
19 LOCATION DEPICTED IN EXHIBIT A-1 AND CEASE TO  
20 USE THE PREVIOUSLY APPROVED AREA OF  
21 THE LEACH RANGE PROPERTY LOCATED IN NEWTON  
22 TOWNSHIP AND SOUTH ABINGTON TOWNSHIP.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: What is the  
24 recommendation of the Chairperson for the  
25 Committee on Public Safety?

1 MR. MCANDREW: As Chairman for the  
2 Committee on Public Safety, I recommend final  
3 passage of Item 7-A.

4 MR. DONAHUE: Second.

5 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? Roll  
6 call, please.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Schuster.

8 MR. SCHUSTER: Yes.

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: Yes.

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

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

18 MS. REED: 7-B - FORMALLY 6-A. FOR  
19 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY  
20 FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 7,  
21 2020 - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER  
22 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO ACCEPT THE  
23 DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE "BA FY20 CORONAVIRUS  
24 EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING PROGRAM" A GRANT  
25 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$64,162 AWARDED TO THE CITY OF



1           SCRANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT TO BE USED FOR THE  
2           PURCHASE OF SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT TO RESPOND  
3           TO, PREVENT, AND PROTECT AGAINST THE SPREAD OF  
4           CORONAVIRUS.

5                       MR. GAUGHAN: What is recommendation  
6           of Chairperson for the Committee on Public  
7           Safety?

8                       MR. MCANDREW: As Chairperson for  
9           the Committee on Public Safety, I recommend  
10          final passage of 7-B.

11                      MR. DONAHUE: Second.

12                      MR. GAUGHAN: On the question?

13                      MR. SCHUSTER: On the question, this  
14          might be slightly off task. But in the  
15          emergency declarations that we received a few  
16          weeks ago, I did ask about in those  
17          declarations it does say that money over  
18          \$21,000 -- it's giving the City the permission  
19          to purchase and procure items, lease things  
20          like that.

21                      And I requested whether we had used  
22          that emergency declaration to purchase anything  
23          at the time. I think the answer was no. Can I  
24          make another request to see if the City has  
25          purchased anything with that proclamation?

1 MR. GAUGHAN: Yeah. Anyone else on  
2 the question? Miss Carrera, roll call, please.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Schuster.

4 MR. SCHUSTER: Yes.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McAndrew.

6 MR. MCANDREW: Yes.

7 MS. CARRERA: Dr. Rothchild.

8 DR. ROTHCHILD: Yes.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

10 MR. DONAHUE: Yes.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes. I hereby declare  
13 Item 7-B legally and lawfully adopted. Before  
14 we adjourn the meeting just so I'm clear  
15 because I don't know if my audio was choppy.  
16 When we voted on the appointment of Mrs.  
17 Cipriani, Solicitor Hayes, that went three to  
18 two in favor of Mrs. Cipriani, correct? You're  
19 muted. I can't hear you.

20 ATTY. HAYES: I'm sorry it was  
21 five-zero.

22 MR. GAUGHAN: Or, five-zero, I'm  
23 sorry. And so my question now is so that's  
24 moving towards next week for a final vote on  
25 the appointment. However, there was no second

1 on the waiver.

2 ATTY. HAYES: That's correct.

3 MR. GAUGHAN: Right, so --

4 ATTY. HAYES: The 5-E would have  
5 failed because there was no second.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Right. So how does  
7 that affect the appointment now if the  
8 appointment goes through next week?

9 ATTY. HAYES: So the appointment can  
10 be effectuated and passed and become effective  
11 after next week's meeting. However, it will be  
12 without a waiver.

13 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay.

14 ATTY. HAYES: A residency waiver.  
15 So in other words, Mrs. Cipriani would be  
16 permitted to serve in that capacity for six  
17 months -- or would be allowed to obtain  
18 residency within six months.

19 MR. GAUGHAN: She would be able to  
20 what? I'm sorry, I missed the last part.

21 ATTY. HAYES: Obtain residency in  
22 the City within six months of her employment.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. All right. If  
24 there is no further business, I'll entertain a  
25 motion to adjourn.

1 MR. MCANDREW: Motion to adjourn.

2 MR. DONAHUE: Motion to adjourn.

3 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. This meeting's  
4 adjourned. Thank you everyone.

5 DR. ROTHCHILD: Good night everyone.

6 MR. DONAHUE: Good night.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

1  
2  
3 I hereby certify that the proceedings and  
4 evidence are contained fully and accurately in the  
5 notes taken by me of the above-cause and that this copy  
6 is a correct transcript of the same to the best of my  
7 ability.

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