

COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON

HELD:

Tuesday, October 20th, 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 for a moment of silent reflection for our service men and women throughout the world and also for those who have passed away in our community, especially Mr. Patrick Greco who was employed for more than 25 years with the City's Department of Public Works and Mr. Howard Hinkley, a member of the Scranton Fire Department for 32 years retiring as a Captain.

Let us also take a special moment tonight of silence again tonight for people in our community, our country and our world who have passed away and who are suffering from the coronavirus. This pandemic has turned our world upside down. But we must remain hopeful and strong.

We continue to pray for the doctors, the nurses, the researchers and all medical professionals who seek to heal and help those affected and who put themselves at risk in the process. May they have protection and peace.

Whether we are home or abroad,

1 surrounded by many people suffering from this
2 illness or only a few, let us stick together,
3 endure together, mourn together and in place of
4 our anxiety, let us have hope and peace.
5 Thank you. Okay, Miss Carrera, roll call,
6 please?

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Schuster.

8 MR. SCHUSTER: Present.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McAndrew.

10 MR. MCANDREW: Present.

11 MS. CARRERA: Dr. Rothchild.

12 DR. ROTHCHILD: Here.

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

14 MR. DONAHUE: Here.

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

16 MR. GAUGHAN: Here. Thank you, Miss
17 Carrera. Councilman Schuster?

18 MR. SCHUSTER: I would like to make
19 a motion that -- I would move that -- I'd like
20 to make the motion to take from the table file
21 of the Council No. 20 for 2020.

22 MR. GAUGHAN: Is there a second?

23 MR. DONAHUE: Second.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question, this
25 piece is being taken from the table and placed

1 in the Seventh Order for a final vote. This
2 ordinance is the capital budget for 2021. As
3 mentioned in the beginning of the meeting, we
4 did receive the last set of answers to the
5 questions that were posed from members of the
6 public.

7 This portion would be on the DPW
8 part of the capital budget. I will take the
9 time to read those into the record in Seventh
10 Order. Anyone else on the question? All
11 those in favor of introduction signify by
12 saying aye.

13 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

14 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

15 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

16 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye. Opposed? The
18 ayes have it and so moved. Mrs. Reed, please
19 dispense with the reading of the minutes.

20 MS. REED: THIRD ORDER.

21 3-A. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM
22 THOMAS J. MCLANE & ASSOCIATES, INC. DATED
23 OCTOBER 13, 2020 REGARDING PARKS ASSESSMENT
24 UPDATE.

25 3-B. CORRECTION TO ATTACHMENT OF

1 ITEM 3-A. ON THE SEPTEMBER 8, 2020 AGENDA
2 REGARDING EMERGENCY DECLARATION RELATED TO THE
3 AUGUST 23, 2020 CYBER-ATTACK.

4 3-C. LACKAWANNA COUNTY FRESH START
5 DIVERSIONARY DRUG TREATMENT PROGRAM MATERIALS
6 RECEIVED OCTOBER 13, 2020.

7 3-D. CONTROLLER'S REPORT FOR MONTH
8 ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2020.

9 3-E. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM
10 OECD EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DATED OCTOBER 15, 2020
11 REGARDING OPEN APPLICATION PERIOD FOR
12 CDBG/HOME/ESG 2021 FUNDING CYCLE.

13 3-F. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM
14 KOHANSKI COMPANY, PC DATED OCTOBER 16, 2020
15 REGARDING CITY OF SCRANTON AUDIT UPDATE.

16 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Mrs. Reed.
17 Are there any comments on any of the Third
18 Order items?

19 DR. ROTHCHILD: I just want to add a
20 comment. I also want to express my
21 disappointment in 3-F that the audit has
22 been -- it seems like extended or they won't be
23 getting back to us as soon as we thought they
24 would by the deadline that was previously
25 given.

1 So, you know, like Mr. Gaughan, I
2 would like some answers as to why it's been
3 extended, what the reason is for the delay and
4 how we might be able to get that completed
5 quicker.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. I agree.
7 Anyone --

8 MR. DONAHUE: I would just -- I'd
9 like to add I agree there. I mean, this is my
10 third year on Council. And it seems like it's
11 just the same thing over and over again.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: Yeah, I think in terms
13 of the communication between the audit company
14 and Council it has been better in my view just
15 because we have been getting regular updates.
16 But I would agree that I think we definitely
17 need the audit completed before we start
18 talking about the budget.

19 And I don't think, you know,
20 mid-December is acceptable. So, Mrs. Reed, if
21 you could follow up with Mr. Deeley and
22 Kohanski to see if there is any way that we can
23 get that completed before the budget, that
24 would be great. Any other comments on Third
25 Order items? If not, received and filed. Do

1 any Council members have any announcements at
2 this time?

3 MR. MCANDREW: I have a quick one.
4 So this Wednesday, October 21st, 2020, the
5 Scranton Police Department will be holding a
6 car seat safety check during the Friends of the
7 Poor Food Giveaway. So this, you know, this is
8 a twofer for some people.

9 It's between 2:30 and 5:30 p.m., at
10 Scranton High, which is, you know, 63 Munchak
11 Way, Scranton, PA. That's all I have.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. Any other
13 announcements? Okay. I have a few. Scranton
14 Tomorrow is scheduled for a public caucus at
15 5:45 p.m., next week October 27th. So they're
16 going to give us their quarterly update.

17 Council is going to reschedule our
18 regular meeting from Tuesday, November 3rd,
19 which is Election Day to Monday, November 2nd
20 at 6:30 p.m.

21 City Hall is going to be closed on
22 Tuesday, November 3rd for the Election Day
23 holiday. We have a caucus scheduled with
24 Hubert Rowland and Grubic for Tuesday, November
25 10th at 5:45 p.m., to discuss the City's

1 approach to stormwater management.

2 And finally, OECD's Executive
3 Director asked that an announcement be made
4 regarding the following:

5 Effective Wednesday, October 21st,
6 2020, applications will be available for the
7 City of Scranton's Community Development Block
8 Grant Program, CDBG, Home Investment
9 Partnership Program and the Emergency Solutions
10 Grant administered by the U.S. Department of
11 Housing and Urban Development.

12 Project activities must be
13 consistent with the needs and objectives
14 identified in the City of Scranton's Five Year
15 Consolidated Plan principally for extremely low
16 and moderate income families.

17 Eligible applicants must be
18 incorporated for profit, nonprofit or public
19 organizations or businesses able to want to
20 take their approved activity within the
21 boundaries of the City of Scranton.

22 Applications are available online at
23 www.scrantonworks.org and must be submitted
24 electronically no later than 5 p.m., on Friday,
25 November 20th.

1 Public Comment on the CDBG Home ESG
2 Programs will be accepted at the November 10th,
3 2020 Council meeting scheduled at 6:30 p.m. To
4 submit comment, e-mail Lreedatscrantonpa.gov or
5 by U.S. mail at Scranton Municipal Building,
6 340 North Washington Avenue, Scranton, PA
7 18503, attention City Clerk's Office no later
8 than 3 p.m., on November 10th, 2020.

9 Public comment will also be received
10 until November 20th, 2020 at
11 www.scrantonworks.org or by e-mailing
12 Scranton311@scrantonpa.gov.

13 MR. GAUGHAN: Mrs. Reed, Fourth
14 Order?

15 MS. REED: Thank you. FOURTH ORDER.
16 CITIZENS PARTICIPATION.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. We're going to
18 start Citizens Participation today a little bit
19 differently. We have Mr. Summa who is -- I
20 hope I'm saying your name right -- who is the
21 County Engineer. And we also have flashback --
22 I'm having flashbacks here, Joe, Joe Wechsler.
23 I don't know if that's a good or a bad thing,
24 right?

25 MR. WECHSLER: All good, Bill.

1 MR. GAUGHAN: They're all good.
2 That's good. We have Joe Wechsler here who is
3 the Purchasing Director for Lackawanna County
4 and actually Joe was instrumental in one piece
5 of legislation that is on our agenda tonight
6 dedicating a portion of Cobb Avenue adjacent to
7 the firehouse for Mr. Tansits.

8 And he also coordinated the event I
9 think it was last weekend or two weekends ago
10 for Mr. Tansits; so that was great along with
11 Mr. Terry Osborne. So thanks again for that,
12 Joe.

13 But you gentlemen are here tonight
14 to talk about the legislation we have on our
15 agenda making Center Street a one way from a
16 two way. So, Mr. Summa and Mr. Wechsler, I'll
17 turn it over to you if you just want to go
18 through the legislation, explain it, and then
19 we'll open it on the floor for questions.
20 Thank you.

21 MR. SUMMA: Joe, do you want me to
22 summarize --

23 MR. WECHSLER: Since you were in
24 charge of the design, I figure I'll just let
25 you do your thing.

1 MR. SUMMA: Sure. Sure. Okay. So
2 for those of you that don't know me, I am Frank
3 Summa with GPI Consulting Engineers on behalf
4 of Lackawanna County. So Lackawanna County is
5 requesting that the City of Scranton make the
6 300 block of Center Street, which is the block
7 between Wyoming Avenue and Penn Avenue a
8 one-way street with the direction of travel
9 being from Penn toward Wyoming.

10 Additionally, the county is
11 requesting that the left turn movements coming
12 from Center Street onto Wyoming be restricted
13 from the hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. With the
14 repurposing of the Globe as now the County
15 Government Center, there is a need for vehicles
16 to be parked on this block of Center Street.

17 Center Street -- it is not wide
18 enough to accommodate two-way traffic safely.
19 There is only 16 feet of travel width
20 between -- designated -- currently designated
21 parking areas and existing obstructions.

22 Additionally, we feel that vehicles
23 entering onto Wyoming Avenue during peak travel
24 hours on Wyoming Avenue if that left turn
25 movement was restricted, it would improve

1 safety conditions.

2 There is -- there is appropriate
3 signage and pay to parking is proposed with
4 this request including do not enter signs at
5 Wyoming Avenue at the Wyoming Avenue end of
6 Center Street, one-way traffic signs at the
7 Penn Avenue end of Center Street, white painted
8 directional arrows on the pavement as well as a
9 no left turn 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. sign at center of
10 Wyoming intersection.

11 Additionally, in combination with
12 this request and proposal, there also is a road
13 maintenance agreement which would state that
14 the county would take over the maintenance
15 associated with this block including paving,
16 repairs, snow plowing, signing or any other
17 maintenance related activities. Questions
18 or -- Joe, anything to add on your end?

19 MR. WECHSLER: Yeah, part of -- part
20 of the reason why we were interested in this
21 legislation is to give us control of that court
22 because of there -- there are parking issues in
23 that court, illegal parking happens in that
24 court every day.

25 As part of this plan, we are

1 requesting that there are four parking spots
2 that the county can control as a municipal
3 government similar to what Scranton City
4 Government has in Dix Court.

5 Those four parking spots would be
6 utilized by either municipal vehicles or
7 perhaps contractors that are there doing
8 business. Prior to this, I watched the meeting
9 with ABM and NDC. As you know, there is no
10 really nonmetered parking on Wyoming Avenue.

11 So we have a few county designated
12 spots in front of the Globe Store. But
13 otherwise Wyoming Avenue is all public metered
14 parking. So we do require some spots in that
15 alley or on Center Street that we could use for
16 municipal vehicles.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. I don't really
18 have any questions, Joe, other than, you know,
19 I'm just looking at this two ways, really. If
20 we don't do anything and we deny this, then the
21 issue still exists. And I do think there is an
22 issue when you come off -- because I took a
23 drive by the other day.

24 When you're coming out, people
25 turning left, that's dangerous. I don't know

1 how you get two cars down there because it's
2 really tight. So if we don't do anything the
3 problem still exists.

4 This I think the county will
5 maintain that section which is good for the
6 City and takes that off of our plate. I'm not
7 seeing any downside here. Does anybody have
8 any questions?

9 MR. MCANDREW: I have a question.
10 So if we give up the maintenance of this
11 street, do we lose fuel tax revenue?

12 ATTY. HAYES: Liquid fuels you
13 mean --

14 MR. MCANDREW: Yes.

15 ATTY. HAYES: I don't believe we do,
16 no. I don't think we would.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: And if we did --

18 MR. SUMMA: And, Joe, maybe our
19 county solicitor can look into that. But from
20 my reading through of the maintenance
21 agreement, that was not included in the
22 standard language of the agreement.

23 So I believe whatever was in place
24 now, that calculation for roads owned by the
25 City has no change with regard to this proposal

1 from the documents I've reviewed.

2 ATTY. HAYES: It's still a City
3 road, Councilman McAndrew. It's just that
4 they're going to maintain it. And as part of
5 that agreement, which is important from a legal
6 standpoint is they -- the county has agreed to
7 indemnify the City for any claims of injury or
8 other claims that could be brought in
9 connection with that roadway.

10 So I don't believe -- my opinion is
11 that that would not reduce our calculation
12 toward the liquid fuel reimbursement because
13 it's still a City road.

14 MR. MCANDREW: Okay.

15 ATTY. HAYES: And I know that there
16 was some questions last week as to whether this
17 is an alley or a court. But, Mr. Summa, is it
18 greater than 20 feet in width, the roadway? Do
19 you know offhand?

20 MR. SUMMA: It is probably slightly
21 greater than 20 feet. The travel way would be
22 16 feet, including obstruction to what is your
23 existing parking areas. So it's really a --
24 you would classify as a 16 foot travelway.

25 ATTY. HAYES: Travelway, okay.

1 MR. SUMMA: Yeah, for its use right
2 now because there is existing parking there
3 happening right now.

4 ATTY. HAYES: Our code defines an
5 alley as any thoroughfare having a right-of-way
6 width of 20 feet or less. But I think that
7 we've been advised that this was already --
8 that this isn't an alley by our City Engineer.
9 Is that correct, Lori?

10 MS. REED: That is correct, Attorney
11 Hayes. It is a street.

12 ATTY. HAYES: It's a street. So the
13 no parking prohibition on for alleys and courts
14 under our City Code would not apply here. That
15 was just an issue, Frank and Joe, that was
16 raised at last week's Council meeting.

17 MR. SUMMA: Okay. Okay.

18 MR. GAUGHAN: Any other questions or
19 concerns?

20 DR. ROTHCHILD: Yeah, I just had a
21 real quick one. I understand, you know, the
22 need for increased safety over at Center
23 Street. I was just wondering if we know of any
24 accidents, like, has there been a rash of
25 accidents in that area along that street as a

1 result of the parking or pedestrian-related
2 accidents, anything like that?

3 MR. WECHSLER: I'm not aware of any.
4 But it is a very congested area. So there
5 is -- there is quite a bit of pedestrian
6 traffic that goes through there. And I think
7 this will kind of alleviate having to be
8 concerned about both ways even though you
9 should. It should take some of the pressure
10 off of looking both ways while you go through
11 that street.

12 DR. ROTHCHILD: Okay, I was just
13 curious. Thank you.

14 MR. SUMMA: Just a reply from me,
15 myself, GPI, and our representation here, I
16 don't have any record of accident history
17 there.

18 ATTY. HAYES: Dr. Rothchild?

19 DR. ROTHCHILD: Yes.

20 ATTY. HAYES: I'm aware, there was
21 one lawsuit that the City was sued where an
22 individual fell in that -- on that roadway on
23 that block on Center Street. I actually
24 defended the case for the City. And it was
25 dismissed on summary judgment. But that was

1 several years ago.

2 DR. ROTHCHILD: Okay. Thanks,
3 Kevin.

4 MR. SCHUSTER: So currently we're
5 talking about four spots remaining after this
6 occurs. How many spots are there at this point
7 in time, do you know?

8 MR. WECHSLER: Legal spots, there's
9 if you were to go it, I think legally, Frank,
10 right, there's only four spots that could be
11 there. But right now, there's probably 15 to
12 20 vehicles in that alley -- in that -- I got
13 to start calling it a street now -- on that
14 street every day that are parked illegally.

15 MR. SCHUSTER: Okay. So at this
16 point about 15 can park there but only four of
17 them would be considered legal and we're going
18 to move it to four legal spots.

19 MR. WECHSLER: Yeah, and the four
20 legal spots would be under the county's
21 control.

22 MR. SCHUSTER: Okay. Thank you.
23 That answers that. How about when it comes to
24 that timeframe 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., looking at a
25 like a traffic pattern -- in regards to traffic

1 pattern, does that become confusing in any
2 other circumstances that you've seen,
3 Mr. Summa?

4 MR. SUMMA: I'm not sure exactly --
5 are you asking if it's confusing for a driver
6 who would be on Center Street trying to
7 navigate left from Wyoming that they would have
8 circle around the block? Is that what you're
9 talking about?

10 MR. SCHUSTER: That's correct. When
11 you were talking about some of the arrows, I
12 think you were talking about painting some of
13 the arrows for left-hand turns, this and that.
14 Being that it's an 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. timeframe,
15 in those hours prior to 8 a.m. or after 5 p.m.,
16 does that become confusing for anyone?

17 MR. SUMMA: No, I wouldn't think so.
18 The arrows I mentioned would just be to
19 designate the proper directional traffic on
20 Center Street. As far as the turning movements
21 at the end of Center Street, it would just be a
22 standard sign that does not allow left-hand
23 turns for a certain timeframe.

24 So a typical driver would just be
25 able to make a right-hand turn and the very

1 next block is Lackawanna which has a stop light
2 and they would navigate to wherever their final
3 destination is. So I don't see that being
4 confusing to a driver.

5 MR. SCHUSTER: Okay. And any other
6 similar circumstance you've seen in the past it
7 hasn't been confusing as well?

8 MR. SUMMA: No, I don't see that. I
9 think the big concern would be cars entering
10 into on Wyoming Avenue when it might be peak
11 hours for Wyoming Avenue. It's just hard to
12 make a left-hand turn. You have a lot of
13 pedestrian traffic during that same timeframe
14 where you have a lot people walking to and from
15 the County Government Center.

16 So it's just that much harder for a
17 driver to make that left-hand maneuver and why
18 not restrict the movement as opposed to
19 potentially allowing a safety issue.

20 MR. SCHUSTER: Okay. All right.
21 Thank you.

22 MR. GAUGHAN: Any other questions?

23 MR. MCANDREW: I have one more. So
24 if there's 15 to 20 people parking there
25 illegally every day, so there is no enforcement

1 probably because we're down an enforcement
2 officer because of a furlough -- or not, I
3 don't know. I'm just -- so what's to stop
4 these people parking in the proposed four
5 designated spots? I mean, if --

6 MR. WECHSLER: Councilman, one of
7 the things is if the county maintains control,
8 we do have sheriffs on site every day at the
9 Government Center. So if the -- if Center
10 Street is under the control of the county, I
11 believe the sheriff departments can patrol
12 there, not issue tickets but can patrol there
13 and advise people that they're parked
14 illegally.

15 MR. MCANDREW: Okay.

16 MR. SUMMA: Also, I mean, the
17 proposal and for the plans that go with it, the
18 proposal also does include for appropriate
19 signage to designate what is legal parking and
20 what is not legal parking. And like Joe
21 mentioned, that monitoring would -- enforcement
22 would fall back on the county.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. Any other
24 questions?

25 MR. DONAHUE: So I do agree there is

1 some issues there. And I'm sure the illegal
2 parking had something -- I believe it's
3 civilian parking that has enforce that because
4 ABM and NDC only enforce where there is meters
5 downtown, I believe.

6 So I believe it's the civilian
7 parking enforcement that's responsible for
8 enforcing that now. Unfortunately we had some
9 layovers there. But still, I understand the
10 whole safety issue with the whole alley. I
11 have a little trouble accepting the four spots.
12 Could you further justify that what's the need
13 there?

14 MR. WECHSLER: Yeah, for the most
15 part, Councilman, these are going to be
16 municipal vehicles that come and go during the
17 course of the day. It may be the Assessors
18 Office. It may be the Sheriff's Department.
19 It may be a director or so that need to have
20 access in and out of that building quickly.

21 So that's why those four spots. I
22 could assure you that none of these spots --
23 none of these vehicles that will be parking in
24 these spots are in any of the ABM system or
25 NDC system. The county is probably one of the

1 largest supporters of that system.

2 We have fleet vehicles that we pay
3 monthly parking rates for. We also have
4 several of our employees also pay the monthly
5 rate to park in the buildings. So to alleviate
6 some of your concern, those four spots
7 currently right now would not be income
8 generating vehicles for the Scranton Parking
9 system.

10 For the most part, they would be
11 vehicles that are tagged with municipal license
12 plates. And for the most part those vehicles
13 are not being ticketed. So they're not getting
14 parking tickets throughout the system. So the
15 four spots are more of convenience.

16 Once again, very similar to what's
17 behind City Hall where municipal employees,
18 directors, have spots reserved in Dix Court,
19 pretty much for the same reason.

20 MR. DONAHUE: Joe, the county does
21 have an agreement with ABM and NDC, a certain
22 number of spots?

23 MR. WECHSLER: There's no particular
24 maximum or minimum, Councilman. But we do
25 have -- like I said, we park fleet vehicles in

1 there. CYS has a lot of vehicles that park in
2 there that are -- those are reimbursed by the
3 state.

4 So there isn't an actual contract
5 for that. But we do have quite a few, like I
6 said, employees and county-owned vehicles that
7 park within the system. We're anxious also to
8 see the completion of the Electric City
9 completion. As people may or may not know,
10 there is an entrance from the Electric City
11 garage onto our second floor of the county
12 building.

13 And actually is the -- that floor
14 actually is the area that has most of the
15 public offices there, Voting Registration,
16 Assessor's Office, Controller's Office,
17 Treasurer's Office.

18 Once that garage is back in shape
19 that people feel comfortable using it, there
20 will be an excellent opportunity for county
21 employees and citizens to access the Government
22 Center in the second floor of the Electric City
23 Garage.

24 MR. DONAHUE: And that's one of the
25 reasons why I asked for the, you know, what's

1 our -- what their occupancy was for monthly
2 parking in that garage because especially
3 because of the further -- or the previous
4 presentation we were just given, you know, that
5 the financial hardships that the parking system
6 is facing given everything going on, you know,
7 that might be another opportunity to, you know,
8 discuss with the county ways to work together
9 there.

10 MR. WECHSLER: Yeah, the one
11 customer that did not leave during the pandemic
12 was Lackawanna County. We paid for our
13 vehicles through the whole -- through the whole
14 month. We have several handicapped employees
15 that parked in the Electric City.

16 And right now they're dispersed
17 either up to the Casey garage or up to the
18 Medallion Garage, which is -- which is a bit of
19 a hardship but, you know, we're dealing with
20 it. But going forward, I would like to see a
21 relationship between the City, NDC, ABM to make
22 use of that second floor access into our
23 building.

24 MR. DONAHUE: One last thing I would
25 ask for, Joe, could you put what you said about

1 what those parking spaces would be used for
2 into writing, just a brief explanation so we
3 can attach it to our resolution then moving
4 forward?

5 MR. WECHSLER: Yeah, we are -- one
6 thing I could say, Councilman, is we're not
7 going to designate them specifically like they
8 are in the City. I think those are just
9 designated specifically to Controller's Office,
10 City Clerk, whatever.

11 We'll provide you with who we expect
12 to use those -- use those spots. But pretty
13 much we're going to -- the parking spots itself
14 will be identified as municipal vehicles,
15 county -- with county medallions because we
16 don't -- because they'll vary during the course
17 of the day.

18 So maybe an assessor will be there,
19 then maybe somebody from CYS might be there or
20 someone from the Veteran's Office. So I will
21 give you list of who we think will park there.
22 But the signs themselves will be specific to
23 the county medallion type of system that we'll
24 design.

25 MR. DONAHUE: All right. Thank you.

1 MR. GAUGHAN: Any other questions?
2 Just a comment -- final comment here. First,
3 thank you, Mr. Summa and Mr. Wechsler, for
4 coming in and explaining that legislation. I
5 think in looking at this, I think it's really
6 important that we support the county as they
7 continue to transition into the Government
8 Center.

9 And I think we have to remember that
10 the county supports our downtown. And, you
11 know, I don't -- I don't see a problem in
12 reciprocating that support. I think it makes
13 that street safer and makes sense to me. So
14 thank you, gentlemen, for coming in. And we
15 appreciate it. And we hope you have a good
16 night and stay safe.

17 MR. WECHSLER: Thanks again.

18 ATTY. HAYES: Thanks, Joe.

19 DR. ROTHCHILD: Thanks --

20 MR. MCANDREW: Thank you.

21 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

22 MR. WECHSLER: I like hitting this
23 delete button.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: You know, Joe, there's
25 a mute button too now we have. We could have

1 used that a couple years ago.

2 MR. WECHSLER: Woulda, shoulda,
3 coulda. Thanks guys.

4 MR. GAUGHAN: Thanks. Thank you.

5 MR. SCHUSTER: Have a good night.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. At this time
7 would someone please make a motion to accept
8 public comment from the following individuals:
9 Marie Schumacher and Fay Franus?

10 MR. DONAHUE: I make a motion to
11 accept public comment.

12 MR. SCHUSTER: Second.

13 MR. GAUGHAN: There's been a motion
14 and a second to accept public comment.
15 Mrs. Reed, can you please read the public
16 comment into the record?

17 MS. REED: Yes. Thank you. The
18 first submission from Marie Schumacher as
19 follows:

20 0 First, clarification rquested at
21 last week's Meeting when I asked how many open
22 court issues against the City are there. How
23 many outstanding lawsuits are there?
24 And while you are at it would you see what is
25 holding up the County Reassessment case someone

1 filed?

2 0 Again, it was disappointing to
3 not find any more answers to Capital Budget
4 questions in Third Order. When do you think the
5 vote on this will be back on the Table? I was
6 raised in a "a stitch in time saves nine" home"
7 so I hope we will not push needed expense out
8 of the 2021 Election Budget that will cost much
9 more in future budgets.

10 0 Back again to last week when the
11 President stated the reason for extending the
12 Act 47 exit was to enact Payroll Prep; however
13 PEL's endorsement of the extension dealt only
14 with finanacial and did not deal directly with
15 Payroll Prep.

16 0 3A provides a tentative project
17 schedule with which I find insensitive and
18 makes me wonder about this Company. Selection
19 of November/December for meeting with
20 neighborhood groups; months when people are
21 likely most busy with two holidays. I would ask
22 also for identification of the "important"
23 neighborhood group" (I believe ALL neighborhood
24 groups should be included and how will these
25 groups be notified? I would suggest sufficient

1 time to give thought to the requested
2 information. Also, is this project likely to be
3 affected by the reduced 2021 budget
4 expenditures?

5 0 3B reports the City can commit
6 its \$25,000.00 share of the cyber-attack
7 expense, without engaging in the competitive
8 bidding process. Is sufficient funding
9 available in the contingency account to cover
10 this and, if not, from what account will this
11 money be transferred?

12 0 3F is most disappointing and not
13 in compliance with City Code. Getting the Audit
14 after the next year's budget is unacceptable
15 and I would like to know how you are going to
16 correct this.

17 0 The Public Notice regarding the
18 2021 Action Plan has me confused. How is the
19 public expected to comment on the programs on
20 November 10 when the program submittal cut off
21 is November 20?

22 0 I learned from today's
23 Times-Tribune that volunteers are being overseen
24 by the City's Licensing, Inspection and Permits
25 Department Deputy Director. Considering the

1 decrepit condition of so much of the City I
2 think a priority reset is in order.

3 May I suggest OECD use some of our
4 Federal funds to prepare a Guideline for
5 Neighborhood Associations who want to clean-up
6 (needs definition) public properties and
7 non-public properties to which they do not have
8 title. We simply don't need to centralize such
9 endeavors but we do need to protect those who
10 choose to do so.

11 0 Finally, as my five minutes will
12 soon be used, I request taxpayers be allowed
13 more than five minutes at the 2021 Budget
14 Hearing.

15 Submitted by Marie Schumacher.

16
17 The next submittal from Fay Franus:
18 Council,

19 I have to agree with city council
20 for wanting to give the fire chief \$84,000.
21 When Captain Lucas was given \$95,8000 to hold
22 the fire chief position that was wrong from the
23 very beginning. Captain Lucas was in a UNION.

24 The Fire Chief is non union . When
25 my brother -in-law Rich Pica was fire chief he

1 NEVER made what he did as a union member of the
2 department. Rightfully so! So I am hoping the
3 Mayor is NOT trying to please the unions to get
4 votes in an election. The unions and the
5 University of Scranton run this city and it
6 needs to stop now!

7 I was told by the Mayor there is a
8 strategy in place by Mary Jo Sheridan and
9 Attorney OBrien. I would like to know EXACTLY
10 what that strategy is. I understand there is an
11 RFP out for someone to start collecting the
12 delinquent garbage FEES. I also understand this
13 company will buy these delinquent fees from the
14 city and then they will go after the properties
15 that are not paid up. That's good BUT NOT GOOD
16 ENOUGH.

17 If this company is only going to put
18 liens on these delinquent properties that is
19 not the way to go. Putting liens on properties
20 has NOT made people pay what they have NOT paid
21 in years. These people do not care about liens.
22 The city has a law that they refuse to follow
23 that I will repeat AGAIN! The administrative
24 code states if a person does NOT pay their
25 garbage fee the DPW does NOT have to pick up

1 their garbage.

2 I know every person who does pay
3 their fee would like all the people in their
4 block to pay theirs. So just passing this off
5 to a company is not helping those who do pay.
6 NOT unless you follow through with this law. NO
7 need for a plastic bag excuse from council,
8 council woman Dempsey and council passed a law
9 saying all garbage cans must have lids.
10 Therefor no health hazard!

11 Also why does the Mayor allow this
12 company who paid Mayor Courtright for their
13 contract to collect delinquent garbage fees to
14 continue to reap the benefits of what they take
15 in? Considering they broke the law why is their
16 contract still in place? That sends a bad
17 message from the Mayor-- Pay to play and you
18 can keep your contract!

19 I also understand you hired a
20 company to take care of the parks and want them
21 to get in touch with IMPORTANT neighborhoods.
22 WOW!! Gee I sure wish I knew who these
23 IMPORTANT people in these important
24 neighborhoods are!

25 Why would you pay a company to do

1 this work when you have the DPW to do this
2 work? Especially when this city is hurting
3 financially. Break that contract and have the
4 DPW do this work.

5 One more thing-your reasoning for
6 extending the exit plan is ridiculous! We never
7 should have had this exit plan extended to
8 start with!! I guess this council and the mayor
9 love being distressed. File bankruptcy -help
10 the people enough of distressed city. Get us out
11 of this distressed status. What you are doing
12 is not getting us out--it is only keeping us
13 in.

14 By the way I read this e-mail
15 back--it took 4 minutes.

16 Submitted from Fay Franus. And that
17 is all the public comment this week.

18
19 (This concludes letters as submitted
20 to Council for public comment.)

21
22 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Mrs. Reed.
23 I would just ask that we submit all of the
24 questions that were posed to the
25 administration. And, Solicitor Hayes, if you

1 just find out how many outstanding lawsuits
2 there are currently against the City. That's a
3 question that Miss Schumacher had posed.

4 The only other comment I want to
5 make because both Miss Schumacher and Miss
6 Franus had mentioned it, is in the Third Order
7 tonight McLane Associates had provided an
8 overview of the Parks Assessment Project, the
9 contract that they got. So they gave us a
10 tentative project schedule.

11 And one of the things that both Miss
12 Schumacher and Miss Franus said identified in
13 there is it said, "City with some support from
14 McLane Associates will interact with important
15 neighborhood groups to compile a list of issues
16 and wishes."

17 I don't think the intent there -- in
18 fact, I know the intent there wasn't to say
19 that they are looking at specific neighborhood
20 groups. They're going to interact with all
21 neighborhood groups so that the word important
22 there I think is being misconstrued. It's not
23 that they're, you know, think one neighborhood
24 group is more important than the other.

25 I know and have been working with

1 McLane Associates now for a while. And they
2 deal with the City. They deal with all
3 neighborhood groups. And they've been at many
4 neighborhood meetings. Those are the only
5 comments I have. Anybody else on the question?
6 All those in favor signify by saying aye.

7 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

8 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

9 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

10 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

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

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

14 MOTIONS.

15 MR. GAUGHAN: Councilman Schuster,
16 any motions or comments?

17 MR. SCHUSTER: No, nothing at this
18 time.

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

21 MR. MCANDREW: I would like to make
22 a motion to table 5-B until we get all the
23 information in Sixth Order, Center Street.

24 MR. DONAHUE: 7-B.

25 MR. MCANDREW: I'm sorry, 7-B. What

1 did I say, 5-B? 7-B, sorry.

2 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. Sorry. Could
3 you restate that, Councilman McAndrew?

4 MR. MCANDREW: I would like to table
5 7-B, please.

6 MR. DONAHUE: Second.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. There's a
8 motion on the floor to table agenda Item 7-B,
9 and there's a second. On the question? Okay.
10 Solicitor Hayes, it's your recommendation that
11 we table this and bring it back next week in
12 order to pass both 7-B and 6-A together as one
13 kind of package.

14 ATTY. HAYES: That's right because
15 the 7-B -- the resolution is only going to take
16 effect if we approve the ordinance which would
17 convert Center Street to a one-way street
18 during the hours indicated or a one-way street.

19 So, yeah, my recommendation is that
20 they be taken up -- separate items at the same
21 meeting. I think the agreement should be --
22 the resolution should be taken up after the
23 ordinance related to Center Street on the same
24 night.

25 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. So then,

1 Mrs. Reed, we'll just set the guide up that way
2 to have 7-B be brought back up after 6-A.

3 MS. REED: Correct, once you finish
4 the motion, yes.

5 MR. GAUGHAN: Anybody else on the
6 question? All those in favor of tabling agenda
7 Item 7-B signify by saying aye.

8 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

9 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

10 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

11 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye. Opposed? The
13 ayes have it and 7-B is tabled. Councilman
14 McAndrew?

15 MR. MCANDREW: That's all I have.
16 Thank you.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. Thank you. Dr.
18 Rothchild, any motions or comments?

19 DR. ROTHCHILD: No, not at this
20 time. Thank you.

21 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. And,
22 Councilman Donahue, any motions or comments?

23 MR. DONAHUE: Not at this time.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. Thank you. I
25 received several calls this weekend regarding

1 an incident with our police department and
2 between -- apparently 15 to 20 trucks and
3 vehicles with Trump campaign flags were going
4 basically to drive through Scranton from what
5 I'm being told. They started downtown.

6 One of the lead cars in this pack
7 had an obscenity that was plastered in very
8 large letters on the windshield. So as you can
9 imagine, I had received several phone calls
10 throughout Saturday.

11 And the calls were not really
12 centered around the fact that there was, you
13 know, vehicles with Trump flags. They were
14 centered around two things, number one, the
15 fact that there was apparently two Scranton
16 Police cars that escorted these vehicles
17 throughout the City from down -- I think down
18 Mulberry Street through downtown, up Pittston
19 Avenue and then up Birney Avenue. And they had
20 their sirens on.

21 And the other issue was the fact
22 that there was -- one of the cars had a large
23 obscenity written across the front of the
24 windshield. So I did call acting Chief
25 Namiotka who was looking into exactly what

1 happened.

2 He did call me back which I
3 appreciated. And he said that that probably
4 should not have happened the fact that there
5 was two police vehicles that escorted this
6 political parade through the City.

7 I did ask -- speak to the Mayor.
8 And she said that they were investigating the
9 incident. So I do have two questions, number
10 one, who in the police department authorized
11 the use of City police vehicles to escort what
12 amounts in my estimation from what I've been
13 told, a political parade throughout the City.

14 And my second question would be, did
15 the group pay for the escort? Did they pay for
16 that police escort through the City? Who
17 requested the escort from that group? To me,
18 it does not seem wise -- like a wise use of
19 taxpayer funds. And I was especially concerned
20 when I received a call from an older gentleman
21 who lives in Minooka who was outside playing
22 with his grandson in his front yard and they
23 were subjected to the obscenity on the front of
24 this vehicle, which is not bad enough.

25 They were confused as to why we had

1 two police vehicles with sirens escorting this
2 parade throughout our City. It lacks common
3 sense. I have to question why we would take
4 two police officers off the streets, two police
5 cars off the streets to escort between 15 and
6 20 pickup trucks and a car with a huge
7 obscenity on it around the City for purely
8 partisan political candidate in a federal
9 election.

10 I don't think it's right whether it
11 was for Donald Trump, Joe Biden, whoever. So
12 again, I received multiple calls from people
13 who were not happy with this. And I do not
14 blame them because I was not happy myself.
15 Again, I was told by the Mayor that there's,
16 you know, they are looking into it.

17 It's I believe an internal
18 investigation. But I would like those two
19 questions answered because I think it's
20 important to find out who actually authorized
21 it, number one, and did they pay for that
22 escort throughout the City.

23 And I also wonder would that be a
24 violation of the Ethics Code or the Hatch Act.
25 I don't know. So we'll have to look into that.

1 Second thing, I received a letter
2 from OECD that was made out to the contract
3 manager of Lackawanna County in regards to the
4 City of Scranton's COVID-19 expenditures. This
5 is going to be in Third Order next week. Due
6 to COVID-19 according to this memo, the City of
7 Scranton had been sending commingled recycling
8 to the Lackawanna County Recycling Center.

9 The September invoice for this
10 amounts to \$3,997.20. So they're adding that
11 onto the amount that was submitted that Council
12 passed back on July 28th, 2020.

13 Also, Council received a memo from
14 the HR Department. I had asked about the local
15 internship program and how this, you know, how
16 that works, how that's been working. I do
17 think that it's a great thing that the City has
18 engaged with the Pennsylvania state and local
19 internship program. It's called the SLIP
20 Program to provide and pay for interns
21 throughout the City.

22 I think that's a good thing. So we
23 were provided -- and this will be in Third
24 Order next week -- an overview of the program.
25 So there was several interns that -- summer

1 interns that worked for the City. This memo
2 details what department these people worked in.

3 They were paid \$10.35 an hour. They
4 worked between 8 to 10 weeks and I think a few
5 hours a day in nine departments with multiple
6 interns being offered permanent employment
7 opportunities.

8 One of the questions that I did have
9 that I had Miss Reed follow up with
10 administration on was, Amber Viola, the HR
11 Director said that three of these interns did
12 not qualify for those program dollars from the
13 state. But they also were paid interns.

14 So I did ask how exactly they were
15 paid. If they were paid from City funds, what
16 account -- what budget account did that come
17 out of it? So we'll be looking forward to the
18 answers to those questions.

19 Also, again, this will be in Third
20 Order next week for public review. We
21 received -- Council received a memo from the HR
22 Department regarding an internal audit of the
23 tax and fee status on all employees beginning
24 December 1st, 2020.

25 So the City's Human Resources

1 Department is going to be conducting this audit
2 to make sure that all City employees are
3 current on any taxes and fees, like the garbage
4 fee, for example.

5 Delinquencies can range from the
6 waste and refuse bill collection, any tax debt
7 owed to the City, rental registration as well
8 as health insurance and workmen's compensation
9 bill delinquencies and any other monies related
10 to the subjection of City collection.

11 This is something that came up a few
12 years ago. I think if I'm not mistaken, the
13 newspaper may have done an analysis and found
14 that there was several City employees that owed
15 significant amounts in garbage fees. And at
16 that time, I did call on the City to take some
17 kind of action to recoup these fees because I
18 don't -- it sends the wrong message if we have
19 a bunch of City employees who are getting paid
20 with City funds and then not paying the garbage
21 fees or any other fees that the City has.

22 So I was glad to see this memo from
23 the HR Department. And hopefully we can
24 collect any outstanding delinquencies.

25 Council also received a memo or a

1 statement from the Mayor, Business
2 Administrator, Carl Deeley and Joe O'Brien the
3 Solicitor. This will be in Third Order next
4 week as well for the public to review.

5 This was a statement that informed
6 Council that the administration has rejected
7 the two proposals received by the City for the
8 collection marking of recyclables. And it
9 explains their intention to issue a second RFP,
10 which I agree with.

11 I'm not going to read through the
12 whole thing. But it gives historical
13 background on -- this whole issue. I do want
14 to read a portion of it though because I think
15 it's important.

16 The City received two bids for the
17 collection of and marketing of recyclables.
18 The two bidders were GFL Environmental and JP
19 Mascaro. The operator -- the current operator
20 did not submit a bid. The City determined that
21 both bids were nonresponsive to the terms of
22 the RFP for the following reasons:

23 Number one, neither GFL or Mascaro
24 accept glass as part of the commingle. Neither
25 GFL or Mascaro accept Christmas trees, leaves,

1 bushes, branches or wood chips. And Mascaro
2 indicated that its bid was void if it would be
3 required to reimburse the City for the extra
4 cost in delivering recyclables to a facility
5 outside of the City.

6 And neither company completed the
7 required disclosure form. So the City is
8 intending to issue a second RFP with the intent
9 of securing services for the collection of
10 recyclables at a reasonable cost. So this is
11 something that we'll continue to keep an eye
12 on.

13 And third thing I wanted to mention
14 was to thank the OECD Director, Eileen
15 Cipriani. We did ask for -- asked for a flow
16 chart of the demolition process in the City.
17 That was an outstanding question. We received
18 that from Director Cipriani. So we'll put that
19 in Third Order if anyone from the public is
20 interested.

21 I've been asking now for quite some
22 time for a breakdown of costs relating to
23 Novembrino Splash Pad Project. Council did
24 receive those figures. And I'll ask that that
25 be put in Third Order as well for next week for

1 public review.

2 I'm very concerned in looking at
3 what was provided. This project has been going
4 on now for quite some time. And in looking at
5 the figures that were provided, we were hit
6 with -- the City was hit with nearly \$150,000
7 worth of change orders -- of change work
8 orders. Fourteen change work orders in total
9 between three contractors.

10 So you can see the different amounts
11 here. I won't go through all of them. But the
12 total base bid from Scartelli Construction was
13 \$835,000. And then there was several change
14 orders that were put in. D & M Construction,
15 \$87,000 was that base bid.

16 Again, there was several change
17 orders put in. And Leber Electric, several
18 change orders put in. So I'm going to take
19 some time to review this documentation. And
20 I'm sure there will be followup questions on
21 that.

22 I want to thank Mr. Trevisani and
23 Mr. Sweet for coming in tonight and giving us
24 an update on the parking system. Obviously,
25 I'm very concerned as I think all of us are

1 that the revenue is down. It's not a surprise.
2 I think it was expected with the pandemic.

3 One of the things that I was glad to
4 hear was that there is no talk at this point of
5 raising rates outside of the rate schedule. I
6 would agree with Mr. Trevisani that would be
7 counterproductive at this point. We're going
8 to have a difficult enough time as a City, you
9 know, getting back on our feet in terms of
10 downtown economic development once hopefully
11 this pandemic subsides.

12 So if, you know, when I did talk to
13 Mr. Trevisani personally, I expressed a view
14 that if we were to raise rates now, that would
15 crush -- I think that would crush small
16 businesses downtown. I just don't think that
17 it can be done. So any sort of effort, any
18 sort of investment that the City can make to
19 help NDC out at this time I think we could do
20 that almost as an economic development
21 incentive for our downtown.

22 So I don't know what that looks
23 like, but I'm hopeful that in the new year,
24 this pandemic turns around and our downtown
25 gets back to where it should be.

1 And the last thing I wanted to
2 mention was as I talked about in the caucus, we
3 did receive documentation from the
4 administration regarding Willis Towers and the
5 other 10 bidders. As Solicitor Hayes
6 mentioned, we're going to review that. The
7 administration had requested that we not make
8 that public yet for reasons that we discussed
9 in the caucus.

10 And the other thing that we're
11 waiting on is the disclosure form. So we're
12 not going to bring that up for a vote tonight.
13 And that's all I have. Mrs. Reed?

14 MS. REED: Thank you. 5-B.
15 CEREMONIOUSLY DEDICATING A PORTION OF COBB
16 AVENUE ADJACENT TO THE ENGINE 10 FIRE STATION
17 LOCATED ON EAST MOUNTAIN ROAD IN HONOR OF
18 CHARLES J. TANSITS, JR.

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

22 MR. DONAHUE: So moved.

23 MR. SCHUSTER: Second.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? On
25 the question, I just want to again say how

1 wonderful I think this legislation is to honor
2 Mr. Tansits, a World War II veteran, someone
3 who just turned 100 years old. He's lived on
4 East Mountain for 95 years of his life. And I
5 think we would consider him kind of the Mayor
6 of East Mountain.

7 So this is a great honor for him, a
8 great honor for a member of our greatest
9 generation. Anyone else on the question? All
10 those in favor of introduction signify by
11 saying aye.

12 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

13 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

14 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

15 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

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

18 MS. REED: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION -
19 A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY
20 (\$250.00) DOLLAR DONATION FROM. RICCARDO'S
21 MARKET, INC. PRESENTED TO THE CITY OF SCRANTON
22 POLICE K-9 UNIT.

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

1 MR. DONAHUE: So moved.

2 MR. SCHUSTER: Second.

3 DR. ROTHCHILD: Second.

4 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? I
5 just want to thank Riccardo's Market for
6 supporting our K-9 Division in the police
7 department. All those in favor of introduction
8 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 MS. REED: 5-D. FOR INTRODUCTION -
16 A RESOLUTION RATIFYING AND APPROVING THE
17 EXECUTION AND SUBMISSION OF THE GRANT
18 APPLICATION BY THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO
19 PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND
20 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR A MULTIMODAL
21 TRANSPORTATION FUND GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF
22 \$306,000.00 TO BE UTILIZED TO IMPLEMENT PHASE
23 II OF THE STREET SIGN PROJECT FOR THE PURCHASE
24 AND INSTALLATION OF 2,036 STREET SIGNS.

25 MR. GAUGHAN: At this time I'll

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

3 MR. DONAHUE: So moved.

4 MR. SCHUSTER: Second.

5 DR. ROTHCHILD: Second.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? On
7 the question, I can't tell you how pleased I am
8 to see this legislation. As I drive throughout
9 the City and as we know the last few years,
10 there are a number -- and we have a number,
11 2036 street signs that are faded that are hard
12 to see that don't -- that there's intersections
13 where there are no street signs, especially up
14 in the Hill Section.

15 If you're not from the Hill Section
16 and you don't know where you're going, it's
17 hard to get around up there because the street
18 signs in a lot of places just don't exist. So
19 I am really, really pleased to see this
20 multimodal grant. And I hope that the City is
21 successful in acquiring it.

22 I think the one message that this
23 will send is, it's these little things like
24 replacing, maintaining street signs, it goes
25 back to the broken windows theory.

1 When you drive through a
2 neighborhood and you see a street sign that's
3 upside down, that's faded, it sends a message
4 that maybe, you know, this isn't the type of
5 neighborhood that you want to live in.

6 These are the little things that we
7 need to continue to keep on doing. And I'm so
8 glad to see that the DPW Director and the Mayor
9 and her administration are being really
10 proactive in this. I also want to thank the
11 members of the DPW, especially our Sign
12 Department.

13 When I say Sign Department, you
14 would think we would have, you know, 20 to 30
15 employees. But we only have two. I think it's
16 now it's Gene Reed and Dave Medicci{sic}.

17 And they're doing an outstanding job
18 with the resources that they have. And a few
19 years ago when the City decided with the push
20 from Council to enter into an agreement with a
21 company to come in and give us really a great
22 database in every neighborhood in the City on
23 the street signs, the stop signs, the children
24 at play signs, that was a great starting point
25 for us.

1 Because now if there's a street sign
2 that's replaced, it goes in the database.
3 There's a record of it. And that way we can
4 track it and 20 to 30 years from now we're not
5 going to be in this position where we're going
6 for a grant to replace, you know, 2000-and some
7 street signs.

8 So there's work to be done. There's
9 work to still be done obviously. But I like
10 the trajectory that we're moving in. Anyone
11 else on the question? All those in favor of
12 introduction signify by saying aye.

13 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

14 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

15 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

16 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye. Opposed? The
18 ayes have it and so moved.

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

20 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 31,
21 2020 - AN ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF
22 SCRANTON TO APPROVE THE DESIGNATION OF THE 300
23 BLOCK OF CENTER STREET AS A ONE-WAY
24 STREET FROM PENN AVENUE TOWARDS WYOMING AVENUE
25 WITH THE SCRANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT TO ENFORCE

1 THE DESIGNATIONS AS REFLECTED IN THE ATTACHED
2 DRAWING, C-4 CENTER STREET PARKING.

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

5 DR. ROTHCHILD: Mr. Chairman, I move
6 that Item 6-A pass reading by title.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: Is there a second?

8 MR. MCANDREW: Second.

9 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? On
10 the question, I'm going to be voting for this
11 in Sixth Order and Seventh Order. I want to
12 thank Mr. Wechsler and Mr. Summa, the county
13 engineer for coming in tonight.

14 To me, this a no-brainer. I know
15 there were questions. I'm glad that they were
16 answered. If we don't do anything and if we
17 vote this down next week, then Center Street
18 remains, you know, in -- I think bad condition,
19 unsafe, dangerous.

20 This provides us with an opportunity
21 to make that area safer for the employees that
22 work down there. And it's also an opportunity
23 to partner once again with the county. And
24 they have partnered with us in the past in
25 terms of the land bank among a number of other

1 things. So I'll be in favor of 6-A and then
2 next week those two pieces in Seventh Order.
3 Anyone else on the question?

4 MR. DONAHUE: Yes, I'm going to vote
5 just to move this out of Sixth Order. But I'm
6 waiting to see what -- the written response we
7 get from Mr. Wechsler regarding what cars will
8 be permitted to park on Center Street.

9 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. Thank you.
10 Anyone else on the question? All those in
11 favor signify by saying aye.

12 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

13 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

14 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

15 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

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

18 MS. REED: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR
19 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC
20 WORKS - FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.
21 30, 2020 - AUTHORIZING TWO (2) R5-1 DO NOT
22 ENTER SIGNS (30X30) TO BE INSTALLED AT THE
23 INTERSECTION OF DEPOT STREET/SHAWNEE AVENUE AND
24 R6-1L HORIZONTAL LEFT ONE-WAY SIGNS TO BE
25 INSTALLED AT THE INTERSECTIONS OF RIVERSIDE

1 DRIVE/CANTON PLACE AND RIVERSIDE DRIVE/DEPOT
2 STREET.

3 MR. GAUGHAN: What is the
4 recommendation of the Chairperson for the
5 Committee on Public Works?

6 MR. DONAHUE: As the Chairperson for
7 the Committee on Public Works, I recommend
8 final passage of Item 7-A.

9 DR. ROTHCHILD: Second.

10 MR. GAUGHAN: Is there a second?

11 MR. MCANDREW: Second. Second.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? Roll
13 call, please.

14 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Schuster.

15 MR. SCHUSTER: Yes.

16 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McAndrew.

17 MR. MCANDREW: Yes.

18 MS. CARRERA: Dr. Rothchild.

19 DR. ROTHCHILD: Yes.

20 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

21 MR. DONAHUE: Yes.

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

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

25 MS. REED: 7-B, previously tabled.

1 7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE
2 COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION -
3 RESOLUTION NO. 81, 2020 - APPOINTMENT OF
4 MATTHEW MEYER, PH.D., 930 TAYLOR AVENUE,
5 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18510 AS A MEMBER OF
6 THE BOARD OF ETHICS EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 20, 2020.
7 DR. MEYER WILL BE REPLACING MARY JO SHERIDAN
8 WHO RESIGNED EFFECTIVE AUGUST 28, 2020. DR.
9 MEYER WILL FILL THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF MARY JO
10 SHERIDAN WHICH IS SCHEDULED TO EXPIRE AUGUST
11 31, 2022.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: As Chairperson for the
13 Committee on Rules, I recommend final passage
14 of Item 7-C.

15 MR. DONAHUE: Second.

16 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? On
17 the question, I want to thank Mr. Meyer or Dr.
18 Meyer for agreeing to be on this board. I
19 think it's so important. And I also want to
20 tell people that if anybody is interested in
21 learning more about the Ethics Board or reading
22 anything related to the Ethics Code, they did
23 update the City of Scranton's website.

24 So if you go to www.scrantonpa.gov,
25 there is a page for the Ethics Board and all

1 the information is on there. And they have
2 updated that, which I appreciate. Anyone else
3 on the question? Roll call, please.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Schuster.

5 MR. SCHUSTER: Yes.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McAndrew.

7 MR. MCANDREW: Yes.

8 MS. CARRERA: Dr. Rothchild.

9 DR. ROTHCHILD: Yes.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

12 MS. CARRERA: Or, I'm sorry, Mr.

13 Donahue.

14 MR. GAUGHAN: Oh, I'm sorry. That's

15 okay.

16 MR. DONAHUE: Yes.

17 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

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

20 MS. REED: 7-D, previously tabled.
21 FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
22 FOR ADOPTION -- FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 20,
23 2020 -- AN ORDINANCE -- APPROVING AND ACCEPTING
24 THE CITY OF SCRANTON CAPITAL BUDGET FOR THE
25 YEAR 2021 PURSUANT TO SECTION 904 OF THE CITY'S

1 HOME RULE CHARTER.

2 MR. GAUGHAN: What's the
3 recommendation of the Chairperson for the
4 Committee on Finance?

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

8 MR. DONAHUE: Second.

9 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? Yes,
10 I'd like to take a minute to read into the
11 record the questions that Council -- or the
12 answers that Council received regarding the DPW
13 portion of the capital budget.

14 I will say that I appreciate the
15 level of detail that was provided this year
16 with the capital budget. You know, it's been a
17 little bit different than in the past. There's
18 been much more detail provided, which I
19 appreciate.

20 All of the questions that were
21 submitted by the public had been answered by
22 the administration. I read those into the
23 record over the last few weeks. And now this
24 is kind of the final part of those questions.

25 So one of the first questions was,

1 are the street signs and stop signs also
2 included in the DPW general operating budget?
3 And the answer to that question is all relevant
4 street signs are included in the general budget
5 as operating expenses under traffic
6 maintenance.

7 The second question was how many
8 riding mowers are being procured in 2021? The
9 administration responded that the goal is to
10 provide two to three new mowers depending on
11 the bids that are received from the supplier.

12 There was a question about the
13 second column of the Keyser Valley/Merrifield
14 line item. And they asked under the DPW
15 Engineering Department, why was that -- the
16 word design included? And the administration
17 respond that was needed to include the intent
18 of the overall scope of the project.

19 The DPW vehicle narrative stated
20 that vehicles were in need of replacement and
21 fleet additions and then it provided a list.
22 But it failed to distinguish between which were
23 replacement and which were additions.

24 The administration responded that
25 the list is identified on the Excel sheet

1 provided and includes additions to the
2 following items: One brush tractor, two double
3 tab pickups, one asphalt roller, and one front
4 end loader.

5 There was also a comment here that
6 there was no estimate for implementing a
7 vehicle GPS system in 2021 despite the fact
8 that a trial will be performed in the fourth
9 quarter of this year. The administration did
10 provide a cost.

11 It is now in the capital budget as
12 \$175,000 for 2021 on line 325. A full review
13 of all options available to the City during the
14 trial will be explored. And just one comment
15 on that. This is something that I pushed for
16 after the whole gas card fiasco a year and a
17 half ago.

18 Every other major City, PennDOT, a
19 lot of other, you know, if you look at the
20 private industry, they all use GPS. And it's
21 really making -- it will make this department I
22 think much more efficient. It will help us
23 save on gas, fuel costs. It will help us be
24 more transparent with the public, especially in
25 terms of, like, what PennDOT does when they

1 have plows out, I think.

2 The goal would be to have people go
3 online and be able to see where the plows are
4 and all that. So this is a really a good
5 program.

6 The flood control section states
7 escrow accounts will be used for funding.
8 Please identify the available escrow accounts
9 and the balance in each and answer why this
10 available funding has not been used to fix the
11 Dewey-Jackson Street issue.

12 The administration responded that
13 the department was not aware of any special
14 issues with this area other than what is being
15 currently addressed.

16 They also asked for a detailed
17 accounting of any money spent within the last
18 five years on upgrading and/or maintaining the
19 Keyser Valley pumping station.

20 The administration responded that
21 \$36,931.36 was spent on maintaining the station
22 in the past five years.

23 The administration also responded
24 that the City will be issuing an RFP in the
25 fourth quater of 2020 to determine how to

1 rebuild the floodplain in the Keyser Valley
2 area and provide an adequate pump station.
3 There's no cost estimates or timelines
4 available at this time.

5 Let's see. The citizen complained
6 that there was no funding for Merrifield Avenue
7 until 2023. The Mayor and DPW are focussed on
8 this issue. The City is issuing an RFP for an
9 engineering study to address flooding in Keyser
10 Valley including Merrifield Avenue. This study
11 is the key to unlocking federal and grant
12 funding to be able to further mitigate flooding
13 in Keyser Valley.

14 And I think that was all. That
15 should answer all the questions that were posed
16 for the capital budget. Anyone else on the
17 question?

18 MR. MCANDREW: Yeah, I'd like to say
19 on the question that I'm glad that all the
20 taxpayer questions provided were answered
21 before final passage because let's face it,
22 they're the ones that are paying for this
23 budget. So I'm glad they at least got that.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: I agree. Thank you.
25 Anyone else on the question? Roll call,

1 please.

2 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Schuster.

3 MR. SCHUSTER: Yes.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McAndrew.

5 MR. MCANDREW: Yes.

6 MS. CARRERA: Dr. Rothchild.

7 DR. ROTHCHILD: Yes.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

9 MR. DONAHUE: Yes.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes. I hereby declare
12 Item 7-D legally and lawfully adopted. If
13 there is no further business, I'll entertain a
14 motion to adjourn.

15 DR. ROTHCHILD: Motion to adjourn.

16 MR. GAUGHAN: This meeting's
17 adjourned. Stay safe everyone. And I'll see
18 everybody next week. Thank you.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I hereby certify that the proceedings and evidence are contained fully and accurately in the notes 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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