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1	COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON
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8	Tuesday, December 1st, 2020
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1	COUNCIL MEMBERS:	
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3	WILLIAM GAUGHAN, PRESIDENT	
4	KYLE DONAHUE, VICE PRESIDENT	
5	MARK MCANDREW	
6	JESSICA ROTHCHILD	
7	THOMAS SCHUSTER	
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9	LORI REED, CITY CLERK	
10	KATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK	
11	KEVIN HAYES, COUNCIL SOLICITOR	
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(Pledge of Allegiance.)

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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.

Let us also take a moment of silence for all those people in our community, country and world who have passed away from the coronavirus pandemic.

This pandemic has turned our world upside down. But we must remain hopeful and strong. We continue to pray for the doctors, nurses, researchers and all medical professionals who seek to heal who help those affected and who put themselves at risk in the process. May they have protection and peace.

Whether we are home or abroad, surrounded by many people suffering from this illness or only a few, let us stick together, endure together, mourn together and in place of our anxiety, let us have hope and peace. Miss Carrera, roll call, please? vou.

> MS. CARRERA: Mr. Schuster.

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1 MR. SCHUSTER: Present. MS. CARRERA: Mr. McAndrew. 2 3 MR. MCANDREW: Present. MS. CARRERA: Dr. Rothchild. 4 DR. ROTHCHILD: 5 Here. MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue. 6 MR. DONAHUE: 7 Here. 8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan. 9 MR. GAUGHAN: Here. Councilman Donahue has a motion to make. 10 11 MR. DONAHUE: I'd like to make a 12 motion to take from the table Resolution No. 80 2020. 13 14 DR. ROTHCHILD: Second. MR. GAUGHAN: There's a motion on 15 16 the floor and a second to take from the table Resolution No. 80 2020. This piece is being 17 18 taken from the table and placed in Seventh 19 Order for a final vote. 20 This is the road maintenance 21 agreement between the City and Lackawanna County for maintenance of the 300 block of 22 23 Center Street. On the question? All those in 24 favor signify by saying.

MR. SCHUSTER:

Aye.

1 MR. MCANDREW: Aye. MR. DONAHUE: Aye. 2 3 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye. MR. GAUGHAN: Aye. Opposed? The 4 5 ayes have it and so moved. Mrs. Reed, please dispense with the reading of the minutes. 6 MS. REED: THIRD ORDER. 7 8 3 - A . CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM 9 DPW DIRECTOR DATED NOVEMBER 20, 2020 REGARDING 10 RESOLUTION NO. 49, 2020 EQUIPMENT TO THE CITY FROM KEYSTONE SANITARY LANDFILL. 11 12 3-B. LACKAWANNA COUNTY COURT OF 13 COMMON PLEAS ORDER DATED NOVEMBER 5, 2020 14 REGARDING CITY OF SCRANTON REQUEST TO INCREASE LOCAL SERVICES TAX FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020. 15 16 3-C. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM 17 OECD EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DATED NOVEMBER 24, 2020 18 REGARDING COVID-19 REIMBURSEMENTS THROUGH 19 LACKAWANNA COUNTY CARES ACT FUNDING. 20 MR. GAUGHAN: Are there any comments 21 on any of the Third Order items? I have one. 22 I did have a question on 3-C, which is the 23 COVID-19 reimbursements through the Lackawanna 24 County CARES Act funding.

I did reach out to the OECD

Director, Eileen Cipriani. I said that I was reading through the November 24th memo that's on our agenda.

And in that memo it stated that the City received the reimbursement from the County in the amount of \$326,203.37. And it is thought that amount covers invoices submitted through the first week of December. I was confused with how this process was working.

So I asked the county review each invoice and inform the City as to what expenses were approved and what were not approved.

Director Cipriani said the following, the attached -- she attached documents which we'll -- I'll share with Council and we'll put in Third Order for next week.

The attached is what we received explaining the payment of \$326,203.37. Eileen Cipriani has asked for a breakdown of what was excluded. But she's not received it as of this time. She said by comparing the vendors they listed, she was able to determine that the county did not fund the Serrenti building cost as well as a message board the police purchased and \$18,000 in IT costs.

And there was a few other expenses that were excluded as well. The county did tell the City that they're eligible for \$500,000 total in reimbursement. And she attached a spreadsheet of all of the City's submissions and the latest memo that's coming to Council that will be in Third Order for next week.

And she also noted that it's important that they find out what the county did not reimburse the City for because the City can then reimburse -- submit those costs rather to FEMA for reimbursement. So will I be waiting for the explanation and the breakdown on that because I think that's important to know.

Anyone else on the Third Order item?

If not, received and filed. Do any Council

members have any announcements at this time?

MR. DONAHUE: I just have a couple.

Just a reminder that garbage pickup is on schedule this week and that it is the blue containers. Next week, the week of December 7th is the last week for the fall leaf pickup and Recycling Program.

1	Just a reminder that leaves must be
2	placed in biodegradable brown paper bags. All
3	collections will be from the curbside of
4	streets and avenues, no collections in courts
5	or alleys, no loose piles, no plastic bags, no
6	household trash in leaf bags.
7	MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. Thank you.
8	Anyone else?
9	MR. MCANDREW: Yeah, I have one.
10	Christmas came early this year to the McAndrew
11	house actually three weeks early. My
12	beautiful daughter Moriah and her husband Nick
13	had a beautiful baby boy today.
14	His name is Cillian Andrew Kich , so
15	first grandchild, very excited here.
16	MR. DONAHUE: Congratulations, Mark.
17	DR. ROTHCHILD: Congratulations.
18	MR. MCANDREW: Thank you.
19	MR. GAUGHAN: Congratulations. Very
20	good news. That's great. Everybody is
21	healthy?
22	MR. MCANDREW: Yes, beautiful.
23	Everybody's great.
24	MR. GAUGHAN: Good. Good news.
25	Very good. And Cillian, that's not Irish, is

it?

MR. GAUGHAN: I figured, westsider, Irish, has to be. Anyone else? We can't top that one.

MR. MCANDREW: You know, it is.

DR. ROTHCHILD: No, I can't. Mine is a little more -- I don't know, depressing maybe. But I just -- I wanted to mention I know in the past I mentioned Lexi Caviston. She passed over the summertime. She was a 23-year-old woman battling brain cancer.

And, you know, I was happy to see from her husband and her family members that a few days ago they had decorated her grave for Christmas with some Christmas decorations. And I thought that was really neat.

And unfortunately, I think it was only maybe a day or so later, those decorations were stolen from the gravesite. And I just think that's a terrible thing for anyone to do. So I know that, you know, like the Scranton Times and the police I think have picked up on it because they're looking for whoever might have stolen the decorations.

So if people look at the story and

like the picture, I know there's like the grinch and a couple other things on there so they could take a look and see if, perhaps, they see them anywhere or have any information on who might have stolen that from the gravesite. And that was from Cathedral cemetery in West Scranton.

MR. DONAHUE: And that -- and that wasn't the only one. There were a couple other graves where decorations were also stolen over at the Cathedral in the last few days too.

DR. ROTHCHILD: Right. Yes, I think the Dougher family as well, Dougher family, so, yeah, it's -- it's a terrible thing people just trying to remember their loved ones and to have things stolen from their gravesites. So if anyone has any information on that, make sure you contact the Scranton Police. And that's all I have. Thank you.

MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. I just have one. I wanted to mention the retirement of Eileen Hurchick. Eileen Hurchick is a member of the clerical union in the City.

She's been employed by the City for 31 years.

And I just wanted to wish her a happy

retirement.

I worked with Eileen a few years ago and -- quite a few years ago. And she was a great employee of the City, dedicated individual and a really kind and caring person. So I just want to wish her the best and wish her family the best and a good, happy and healthy retirement. And that's all I have.

Mrs. Reed?

MS. REED: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS
PARTICIPATION.

MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Mrs. Reed.

At this time, would someone please make a

motion to accept public comment from the

following individuals: Patricia Nestor and

Marie Schumacher.

MR. DONAHUE: So moved.

MR. SCHUSTER: Second.

MR. GAUGHAN: There's been a motion and a second to accept public comment.

Mrs. Reed, would you please read the comments

into the record at this time?

MS. REED: Yes, thank you. The first submission is from Patricia Nestor as follows:

I have lived on the 900 block of Green Ridge Street for over 40 years. The Meadowbrook Creek runs under 920 Green Ridge Street at the abandoned store.

Every year when the weather turns cold, the rats come up from below and seek warmth. Two years ago a rat came up my toilet and my husband had to "take care of it.".

I want to make you aware that the rats on the 900 block Green Ridge Street are very active this year. My tenant hasn't had any in her house but she said she has seen BIG ONES running on the sidewalk across the street.

Yesterday a lady was walking her dog while I was outside and I heard her scream, "Ugh! A rat!".

I don't know what you can do about it. I bought all of my tenants new garbage cans with secure lids so they wouldn't be attracted to the cans.

I just thought you should be aware and maybe have ideas to help.

MS. REED: The second submission is from Marie Schumacher as follows:

0 6A - I thought the approved 2020 Operating Budget called for selling the delinquencies outright but it now appears that is not the case. Also the amount seems puny considering the number and dollar value of these delinquencies.

O Considering the drop in gasoline pumping tells me many people were misusing the cards so now I wonder what the Employee Audit has turned up regarding unpaid taxes and fees by City employees. Taxpayers need to know.

O Concerning unanswered questions, it has been 8 weeks since I noted a large orange sign stating "NO TRUCKS" had appeared on a utility pole at Prospect and River Streets. I asked whether it is only for the 600 block of River Street or all of River Street and how are these signs obtained. What makes this too difficult to answer for two months and counting?

- O Also still waiting to hear if former Police Chief Graziano established a prearrest drug treatment program.
- O Considering universities utilization of virtual classes, is anyone

scheduled for next week. And I believe the main topic of discussion is going to be a HUP test. I'm sure Miss Schumacher will be thrilled about that.

MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. Anyone else on the question? Yeah, two comments; number one, I already answered -- I believe I answered two of these questions on the large orange signs stating no trucks. I'll go back and look. If I didn't, I apologize. But I know I'm almost positive I brought that up before.

And the prearrest drug treatment program, not only did I answer that question, but I also put the whole program, the documentation in Third Order for everyone to take a look at. So that question has been answered. Anyone else on the question? All those in favor signify by saying aye.

MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

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

Councilman

MS. REED: FIFTH ORDER. 5-A.

MR. GAUGHAN: Mr. Schuster, any motions or comments tonight?

MR. GAUGHAN:

MOTIONS.

MR. SCHUSTER: Nothing at this time.

Thank you. any motions or comments at this time? McAndrew,

MR. MCANDREW: I have comments. Ιn caucus I brought up three questions that I posed two weeks ago at the work session -- the budget work session. And then Mrs. Reed actually sent these three questions to administration, Mr. Deeley and the Mayor.

And I'm patiently awaiting the Mr. Deeley said in caucus that I would receive them tonight. One being total comprehension for the proposed 12 new positions also including the amount for the parity increases for some employees.

The second question was, I just want to know who's exempt and who's not exempt from overtime -- not hourly employees, I'm talking about management positions. I haven't got a clear understanding or an answer about because I'm hearing there's a lot of overtime being

accumulated.

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And the final one was with the new fleet manager, who is actually preparing or collecting or gathering the data for the fuel card usage. My understanding that that was one of the reasons why this gentleman was hired.

And it wasn't reflected in the article in the Times which would be two weeks ago about who's handling the data. patient awaiting the answers to these That is all I have. questions. Thank you.

MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Councilman McAndrew. Dr. Rothchild, any motions or comments?

DR. ROTHCHILD: No, none at this time. Thank you.

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

MR. DONAHUE: The only thing I have is to make a motion to table Item 7-B just to get some further information.

> MR. GAUGHAN: Okay.

MR. MCANDREW: Second.

MR. GAUGHAN: There's been a motion to table agenda Item 7-B. Is there a second?

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1 MR. SCHUSTER: Second. MR. GAUGHAN: Second. On the 2 3 question? And, Kyle, do you --MR. DONAHUE: Yeah, we just want to 4 5 table this just to make sure we cover all ends and do our due diligence in terms of the refuse 6 litigation. And Solicitor Hayes set up a call 7 8 tomorrow with Attorney Price to go over some 9 of -- just some of those questions. 10 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. Anyone else on 11 the question? All those in favor of the motion 12 to table agenda Item 7-B 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. MR. DONAHUE: And that's all I have. 19 20 MR. GAUGHAN: Very good. Thank you. 21 The one thing I wanted to mention was, again, I 22 talked about this in caucus was about Nay Aug 23 So I did receive a few calls based on 24 the comments that were made last week about 25 people who were concerned that the pool was not

going to be open for next year.

So I did speak to the Mayor. She's going to respond to our correspondence and our questions and hopefully we can get that resolved. As I mentioned, it was my understanding that there was money put aside in the budget for Nay Aug pool to fix the liner, to make sure that it's ready and operable for next year.

So we asked for a full report on the pool and to give us an understanding of exactly what has to be done. And if they are in need of funding if we put it off this year, the pool's not going to be open next year and eventually it's going to have to be addressed.

So I think it should be done sooner rather than later. The only other thing I have is I -- just like everyone else, I'm really disturbed and concerned about the rise in coronavirus cases locally. And more concerning is the numbers that we're receiving in the increase in hospitalizations just within the last month is very, very disturbing and very distressing.

And, you know, I know this doesn't

have much to do with City Council, but I just want to make sure this is on the record that I cannot for the life of me understand the incompetence and the lack of really any sort of discernable plan from the federal government.

Just as a human being, I just -- I don't understand how since the very beginning everything is just been thrown on the states and the counties and the local government to deal with this. And if anybody is paying attention, our hospitals are in -- not only locally I think we're holding steady for now.

But across the country it is devastating what's going on here. And it just seems like not many people in the federal government are listening or maybe caring. I don't know. It's really -- it's so disturbing to me.

And my concern is locally that obviously we just had Thanksgiving. And we could be headed towards a real disaster here as we look towards Christmas in terms of the major increase in hospitalization. So I'm hoping that that doesn't happen but all the data points to that happening.

So I would just urge people to stay home, if you can. Wear a mask, and just be as safe and careful as you can because this is not getting better any time soon. That's all I have. Thank you. Mrs. Reed? Oh, I'm sorry, Mrs. Reed.

Sorry, before you go, I wanted to mention about this -- I know I brought this up before. I think I even sent an e-mail to Miss Schumacher. The large orange sign, that is not the City's. It could be a contractor that's working in the area. The no truck traffic sign was one that was replaced that was there for years and it was just faded. And I think I did address this weeks ago. Sorry, go ahead, Mrs. Reed.

MS. REED: Thank you. 5-B. FOR
INTRODUCTION - AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF
THE COUNCIL NO. 6, 1976 ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE
(AS AMENDED) IMPOSING A TAX FOR GENERAL REVENUE
PURPOSES ON THE TRANSFER OF REAL PROPERTY
SITUATE WITHIN THE CITY OF SCRANTON;
PRESCRIBING AND REGULATING THE METHOD OF
EVIDENCING THE PAYMENT OF SUCH TAX; CONFERRING
POWERS AND IMPOSING DUTIES UPON CERTAIN

1	PERSONS, AND PROVIDING PENALTIES", BY IMPOSING
2	THE RATE OF THE REALTY TRANSFER TAX AT
3	TWO AND TWO TENTHS PERCENT (2.2%) FOR CALENDAR
4	YEAR 2021 AND THE SAME SHALL REMAIN IN FULL
5	FORCE AND EFFECT ANNUALLY THEREAFTER.
6	MR. GAUGHAN: At this time I'll
7	entertain a motion that Item 5-B be introduced
8	into its proper committee.
9	MR. MCANDREW: Second.
10	MR. GAUGHAN: Oh, we need a so moved
11	first.
12	MR. SCHUSTER: So moved.
13	MR. DONAHUE: So moved.
14	MR. MCANDREW: Sorry.
15	MR. SCHUSTER: Second.
16	MR. GAUGHAN: There we go. That's
17	okay. On the question? All those in favor of
18	introduction signify by saying aye.
19	MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.
20	MR. MCANDREW: Aye.
21	MR. DONAHUE: Aye.
22	DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.
23	MR. GAUGHAN: Aye. Opposed? The
24	ayes have it and so moved.
25	MS. REED: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION -

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AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 148, 1986, ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 98, 1976, AS AMENDED, AND IMPOSING A MERCANTILE LICENSE TAX OF 2 MILLS FOR THE YEAR 1987 AND ANNUALLY THEREAFTER UPON PERSONS ENGAGING IN CERTAIN OCCUPATIONS AND BUSINESSES THEREIN; PROVIDING FOR ITS LEVY AND COLLECTION AND FOR THE ISSUANCE OF MERCANTILE LICENSES; CONFERRING AND IMPOSING POWERS AND DUTIES UPON THE TAX COLLECTOR OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON; AND IMPOSING PENALTIES EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 1987", BY IMPOSING THE MERCANTILE LICENSE TAX AT ONE (1) MILL (.001) FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2021 AND THE SAME SHALL REMAIN IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT ANNUALLY THEREAFTER.

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

MR. DONAHUE: So moved.

MR. SCHUSTER: Second.

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

MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

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MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

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

MS. REED: 5-D. FOR INTRODUCTION -AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 147, 1986, ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE GENERAL REVENUE BY IMPOSING A TAX AT THE RATE OF TWO (2) MILLS UPON THE PRIVILEGE OF OPERATING OR CONDUCTING BUSINESS IN THE CITY OF SCRANTON AS MEASURED BY THE GROSS RECEIPTS THEREFROM: REQUIRING REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT OF THE TAX AS CONDITION TO THE CONDUCTING OF SUCH BUSINESS: PROVIDING FOR THE LEVY AND COLLECTION OF SUCH TAX; PRESCRIBING SUCH REQUIREMENTS FOR RETURNS AND RECORDS; CONFERRING POWERS AND DUTIES UPON THE TAX COLLECTOR; AND IMPOSING PENALTIES", BY IMPOSING THE BUSINESS PRIVILEGE TAX AT THE RATE OF ONE (1) MILL (.001) FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2021 AND THE SAME SHALL REMAIN IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT ANNUALLY THEREAFTER.

MR. GAUGHAN: At this time I'll entertain a motion that Item 5-D be introduced

1	into its proper committee.
2	MR. DONAHUE: So moved.
3	MR. SCHUSTER: Second.
4	MR. GAUGHAN: Was there a second?
5	I'm sorry.
6	MR. SCHUSTER: Second.
7	MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? All
8	those in favor of introduction signify by
9	saying aye.
10	MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.
11	MR. MCANDREW: Aye.
12	MR. DONAHUE: Aye.
13	DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.
14	MR. GAUGHAN: Aye. Opposed? The
15	ayes have it and so moved.
16	MS. REED: 5-E. FOR INTRODUCTION -
17	AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL
18	NO. 11, 1976, ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE (AS
19	AMENDED) ENACTING, IMPOSING A TAX FOR GENERAL
20	REVENUE PURPOSES IN THE AMOUNT OF
21	TWO PERCENT (2%) ON EARNED INCOME AND NET
22	PROFITS ON PERSONS, INDIVIDUALS, ASSOCIATIONS
23	AND BUSINESSES WHO ARE RESIDENTS OF
24	THE CITY OF SCRANTON, OR NON-RESIDENTS OF THE
25	CITY OF SCRANTON, FOR WORK DONE, SERVICES

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PERFORMED OR BUSINESS CONDUCTED WITHIN THE CITY OF SCRANTON, REQUIRING THE FILING OF RETURNS BY TAXPAYERS SUBJECT TO THE TAX; REQUIRING EMPLOYERS TO COLLECT THE TAX AT SOURCE; PROVIDING FOR THE ADMINISTRATION, COLLECTION AND ENFORCEMENT OF THE SAID TAX; AND IMPOSING PENALTIES FOR THE VIOLATIONS", BY RE-ENACTING THE IMPOSITION OF THE WAGE TAX AT TWO AND FOUR TENTHS (2.4%) PERCENT ON EARNED INCOME FOR RESIDENTS AND ONE (1%) PERCENT ON EARNED INCOME FOR NON-RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON, FOR WORK DONE, SERVICES PERFORMED OR BUSINESS CONDUCTED WITHIN THE CITY OF SCRANTON FOR THE YEAR 2021 AND THE SAME SHALL REMAIN IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT ANNUALLY THEREAFTER.

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

MR. DONAHUE: So moved.

MR. SCHUSTER: Second.

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

MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

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1	MR. DONAHUE: Aye.
2	DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.
3	MR. GAUGHAN: Aye. Opposed? The
4	ayes have it and so moved.
5	MS. REED: 5-F. FOR INTRODUCTION -
6	AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL
7	NO. 100, 1976, ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE (AS
8	AMENDED) LEVYING GENERAL AND SPECIAL TAXES FOR
9	THE FISCAL YEAR 1977", BY SETTING THE MILLAGE
10	FOR THE YEAR 2021 AND THE SAME SHALL REMAIN IN
11	FULL FORCE AND EFFECT ANNUALLY THEREAFTER.
12	MR. GAUGHAN: At this time I'll
13	entertain a motion that Item 5-F be introduced
14	into its proper committee.
15	MR. DONAHUE: So moved.
16	DR. ROTHCHILD: Second.
17	MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? All
18	those in favor of introduction signify by
19	saying aye.
20	MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.
21	MR. MCANDREW: Aye.
22	MR. DONAHUE: Aye.
23	DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.
24	MR. GAUGHAN: Aye. Opposed? The
25	ayes have it and so moved.
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A RESOLUTION - RATIFYING AND APPROVING OF THE EXECUTION AND SUBMISSION OF THE GRANT APPLICATION BY THE CITY OF SCRANTON, ON BEHALF OF SCRANTON CULTURAL CENTER AT THE MASONIC TEMPLE TO THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA ACTING THROUGH THE COMMONWEALTH FINANCING AUTHORITY FOR A LOCAL SHARE ACCOUNT GRANT, PURSUANT TO THE PA RACE HORSE DEVELOPMENT AND GAMING ACT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$95,928.00 FOR THE PROJECT TO BE KNOWN AS "COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY, AND SECURITY UPGRADE" LOCATED AT 420 N. WASHINGTON AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, TO ACCEPT THE GRANT, IF

MS. REED: 5-G. FOR INTRODUCTION -

LETTER WITH THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA TO ACCEPT AND UTILIZE THE GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$95,928.00 AWARDED BY THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA FOR SUCH PROJECT.

SUCCESSFUL, AND EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A LOCAL

SHARE ACCOUNT GRANT CONTRACT AND COMMITMENT

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

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MR. DONAHUE: So moved.
DR. ROTHCHILD: So moved.
MR. SCHUSTER: Second.
MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? All
those in favor of introduction signify by
saying aye.
MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.
MR. MCANDREW: Aye.
MR. DONAHUE: Aye.
DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.
MR. GAUGHAN: Aye. Opposed? The
ayes have it and so moved.
MS. REED: SIXTH ORDER. 6-A.
READING BY TITLE - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 37,
2020 - AN ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND
ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT FOR COLLECTION OF
DELINQUENT MUNICIPAL CLAIMS ON BEHALF OF THE
CITY OF SCRANTON WITH PORTNOFF LAW ASSOCIATES,
LTD. AND APPROVING COLLECTION PROCEDURES,
APPOINTMENT OF SOLICITOR, INTEREST ASSESSMENT,
CREDIT CARD AND DEBIT CARD CHARGES, AND FEES
AND COSTS TO BE ADDED TO THE AMOUNT COLLECTED
AS PART OF UNPAID MUNICIPAL CLAIMS FOR
DELINQUENT ACCOUNTS.

1 MR. GAUGHAN: You've heard reading by title of Item 6-A. What is your pleasure? 2 3 MR. DONAHUE: I move that Item 6-A 4 pass reading by title. DR. ROTHCHILD: 5 Second. MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? 6 7 MR. SCHUSTER: On the question, I'd 8 like to make a motion to table this item. 9 MR. GAUGHAN: Oh, I'm sorry, 10 Councilman Donahue is going to make a motion to 11 table after the -- we pass it into Seventh 12 Order. 13 MR. SCHUSTER: I got ya. I thought 14 you guys missed it there. 15 MR. GAUGHAN: No, that's okay. 16 Anyone else on the question? I have a few 17 things. Number one, we will make a motion to 18 table in a second and that really is because we 19 did not receive the disclosure forms that would 20 include the campaign contributions. 21 Usually when we receive a --22 legislation like this, we receive the full RFP. 23 We receive the bidders -- all the bidders forms 24 including disclosures and the whole bid 25 package. And we didn't receive that with this

legislation.

And as last I looked earlier today, we did not receive any of the disclosure forms yet. And even if we did, we wouldn't have enough time to review that. So that's one reason that we'll end up tabling it. We do have them coming in next Tuesday, December 8th, Portnoff, for a caucus to discuss their business model and to discuss the agreement.

There's a few things that stuck out to me, one of which was the term in the agreement. It reoccurs automatically unless either party notifies one another with -- I think within 90 days. I think we should look at -- I don't like that language in there.

I think that should come out and just make the agreement end and it'd have to come back up for discussion before Council rather than automatically renew with the 90 days. That was one thing.

There's a couple other questions
that I'll save for next week on the specifics
within the agreement. The one item that I
talked about in the caucus that I think the
administration should seriously consider and

that I would definitely recommend because I think it's a great idea and I've been saying this now for quite some time is an amnesty period for people.

There are -- there's a lot of money outstanding in delinquencies in the City from 2002 to 2020. It's been proven in the past that it's very hard to get blood from a stone. We're in the middle of a pandemic.

People are hurting financially and to think that we're going to hire a company to aggressively go after people who owe garbage fees and the garbage bill and then all the fees that are added on top of that I just think at this point is unrealistic.

I think a common sense approach would be to offer a period of amnesty for people to waive the fees that have been put on top of the original face value of the garbage bill and have -- give people a chance to come in and pay what they actually owe to the City and get on a payment plan.

And then after that period, then you would aggressively try to recoup that money. I don't know that an amnesty program has ever

been instituted in the City. I would think that the smart way to go about this would be a one-time amnesty, one time deal.

This is it, only time it's ever going to happen and allow people to come forward and to pay those past delinquent garbage fees. One of the biggest -- the other big benefits I see to this is the opportunity for the City to get a -- hopefully a big influx of revenue in the beginning of next year in the first or second quarter.

I did talk to the Mayor earlier today about this. And she was open to taking a look at it and analyzing it. I just think it's -- it makes a lot of sense. I looked at York, the City of York in Pennsylvania recently did it. And they were able -- they actually had people lining up out the door once it was announced to come in and get on a payment plan or to pay off the delinquency.

I don't think it makes sense to have these people who owe this money to go after them and add on the list of fees that we have in front of us, fee upon fee upon fee upon fee. If you can't pay \$300, what makes anyone think

someone is going to be able to pay \$2,000?

It just doesn't make sense. So offer an amnesty period for these people. I think it not only benefits -- it not only benefits the people of the City but it also benefits the City. And it will help us next year I think it terms of revenue.

So before I were to entertain this, I really would like to hear the Mayor's thoughts on this on whether or not this is going to be done next year. And as I mentioned in caucus, this was something that I pushed for last year. And it was talked about and included as an option in the 2020 budget. So that's all I have. Anyone else? Okay. All those in favor signify by saying aye.

MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

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

MR. DONAHUE: I'd like to make a motion to table Item 6-A.

MR. SCHUSTER: Second.

THE COURT: There's a motion on the floor and a second to table Item 6-A of the agreement with Portnoff Law Associates to collect delinquent refuse fees on behalf of the City.

Again, this piece of legislation is being tabled for two reasons, one, until the requested documentation including political contribution disclosures have been provided; and two, a caucus is being held with representatives of the firm which has been scheduled for Tuesday, December 8th, 2020 at 5:45 p.m. Anyone else on the question? All those in favor signify by saying aye.

MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

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

MS. REED: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE - FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 34, 2020 - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 95, 2015, AN ORDINANCE, ENTITLED "AMENDING FILE OF THE

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COUNCIL NO. 79 OF 2015, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 145 OF 2007 ENTITLED 'AN ORDINANCE RENAMING THE EMERGENCY AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES TAX ("EMST") TO LOCAL SERVICE TAX ("LST")' AND BY IMPOSING A WITHHOLDING OF \$52.00 FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2015 AND THE SAME SHALL REMAIN IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT ANNUALLY THEREAFTER BY INCREASING THE LOCAL SERVICES TAX WITHHOLDING FROM \$52.00 TO \$156.00 FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2015, AND PROVIDING FOR AN EXEMPTION FROM TAXATION FOR ANY PERSON WHOSE TOTAL EARNED INCOME AND NET PROFITS FROM ALL SOURCES WITHIN THE MUNICIPALITY IS LESS THAN \$15,600.00 FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2015 UNDER AND PURSUANT TO THE LOCAL TAX ENABLING ACT, ACT 511 OF 1965, P.L. 1257, 53 P.S. § 6924,101 ET. SEQ. AND THE MUNICIPALITIES RECOVERY ACT, ACT 47 OF 1987, P.L. 246,53 P.S. § 11701.101 ET. SEQ. AND THEIR RESPECTIVE AMENDMENTS" EFFECTIVE RETROACTIVE TO JANUARY 1, 2020. THIS TAX ENABLES THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO CONTINUE TO LEVY THE LOCAL SERVICES TAX AT THE FISCAL YEAR 2019 RATE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020 FOR A TOTAL MAXIMUM LOCAL SERVICES RATE OF ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-SIX

(\$156.00) DOLLARS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2020 EFFECTIVE RETROACTIVE TO JANUARY 1, 2020.

MR. GAUGHAN: What is the recommendation of the Chairperson for the Committee on Finance? Oh, you're muted, Tom.

MR. SCHUSTER: As Chairperson for the Committee on Finance, I recommend final passage of 7-A.

MR. DONAHUE: Second.

MR. GAUGHAN: On the question?

MR. DONAHUE: On the question, I just want to point out that this is retroactive. So this is tax enabling legislation for 2020. And, Solicitor Hayes, would you be able to just urge the Law Department to submit the -- to file for 2021 the LST petition?

There's no reason we shouldn't pass this by the end of February. I know, you know, I know at least in my three years it's been, you know, it's been pushed later and later every year. And really that could be filed, you know, quite easily I believe because it's just a repeat of the year before.

ATTY. HAYES: Yes, I'll do that.

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1	MR. DONAHUE: Thank you.
2	ATTY. HAYES: No problem.
3	MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. Anyone
4	else on the question? Roll call, please, Miss
5	Carrera?
6	MS. CARRERA: Mr. Schuster.
7	MR. SCHUSTER: Yes.
8	MS. CARRERA: Mr. McAndrew.
9	MR. MCANDREW: Yes.
10	MS. CARRERA: Dr. Rothchild.
11	DR. ROTHCHILD: Yes.
12	MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.
13	MR. DONAHUE: Yes.
14	MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.
15	MR. GAUGHAN: Yes. I hereby declare
16	Item 7-A legally and lawfully adopted.
17	MS. REED: 7-B, has been tabled.
18	7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE
19	COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY - FOR ADOPTION -
20	RESOLUTION NO. 100, 2020 - RATIFYING AND
21	APPROVING OF THE EXECUTION AND SUBMISSION OF
22	THE GRANT APPLICATION BY THE CITY OF SCRANTON
23	POLICE DEPARTMENT TO THE COMMONWEALTH OF
24	PENNSYLVANIA ACTING THROUGH THE COMMONWEALTH
25	FINANCING AUTHORITY FOR A LOCAL SHARE ACCOUNT

1	GRANT PURSUANT TO THE GAMING FUNDS GRANT
2	PROGRAM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$257,925.00 TO
3	INSTALL A HVAC SYSTEM IN EMERGENCY SERVICES
4	CENTER (FORMERLY SERRENTI ARMORY) LOCATED AT
5	1801 PINE STREET, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, AND
6	AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE
7	CITY OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON,
8	PENNSYLVANIA, TO ACCEPT THE GRANT, IF
9	SUCCESSFUL, AND EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A LOCAL
10	SHARE ACCOUNT GRANT CONTRACT AND COMMITMENT
11	LETTER WITH THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA TO
12	ACCEPT AND UTILIZE THE GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF
13	\$257,925.00 AWARDED BY THE COMMONWEALTH OF
14	PENNSYLVANIA FOR SUCH PROJECT.
15	MR. GAUGHAN: What is the
16	recommendation of the Chairperson for the
17	Committee on Public Safety?
18	MR. MCANDREW: As Chairperson for
19	the Committee on Public Safety, I recommend
20	final passage of 7-C.
21	MR. SCHUSTER: Second.
22	MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? Roll
23	call, please.
24	MS. CARRERA: Mr. Schuster.

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1	MS. CARRERA: Mr. McAndrew.
2	MR. MCANDREW: Yes.
3	MS. CARRERA: Dr. Rothchild.
4	DR. ROTHCHILD: Yes.
5	MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.
6	MR. DONAHUE: Yes.
7	MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.
8	MR. GAUGHAN: Yes. I hereby declare
9	Item 7-C legally and lawfully adopted.
10	MS. REED: 7-D. FOR CONSIDERATION
11	BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE - FOR ADOPTION -
12	RESOLUTION NO. 101, 2020 - AUTHORIZING THE
13	MAYOR AND OTHER CITY OFFICIALS TO MAKE A
14	SOLVENCY PAYMENT TO THE COMMONWEALTH OF
15	PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY
16	BUREAU OF UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION.
17	MR. GAUGHAN: What is the
18	recommendation of the Chairperson for the
19	Committee on Finance?
20	MR. SCHUSTER: As Chairperson for
21	Committee on Finance, I recommend 7-D for final
22	passage.
23	MR. DONAHUE: Second.
24	MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? Roll
25	call, please?

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Schuster. MR. SCHUSTER: Yeah. 2 3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McAndrew. MR. MCANDREW: Yes. 4 5 MS. CARRERA: Dr. Rothchild. DR. ROTHCHILD: Yes. 6 7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue. 8 MR. DONAHUE: Yes. 9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan. 10 Yes. I hereby declare MR. GAUGHAN: 11 Item 7-D legally and lawfully adopted. 12 MS. REED: 7-E. Previously tabled -FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC 13 14 SAFETY FOR ADOPTION -- RESOLUTION NUMBER 80 2020 - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER 15 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER 16 17 INTO A ROAD MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE 18 CITY OF SCRANTON AND LACKAWANNA COUNTY FOR THE PAVING, REPAIR, SNOW PLOWING, SIGNAGE AND ANY 19 20 OTHER THAN MAINTENANCE DUTIES AS NEEDED ONCE 21 THE 300 BLOCK OF CENTER STREET HAS BEEN DESIGNATED ONE WAY. 22 23 MR. DONAHUE: I'd like to make a 24 motion to amend the road maintenance agreement 25 attached and referred hereto as Exhibit A of

Item 7-E as follows:

Insert a sixth whereas clause to read whereas, the City adopted an ordinance filed of the Council NO. 31 2020 as amended which approved the change in the designation of the 300 block in Center Street in the City of Scranton from a two-way street to a one-way street in accordance with the C4 Center Street parking drawing prepared by Lackawanna County Engineer, Frank Summa, P. E., and dated November 4th, 2020.

A copy of the City ordinance as amended is attached hereto as Exhibit B and incorporated herein by reference.

In the now therefore clause section two, one way designation, strike Lackawanna County's memorandum dated September 30th, 2020, which is attached hereto as attachment number one and drawing entitled 2019701 Center Street, a copy of which is attached hereto as attachment number two and insert the Center Street ordinance in Section 8, term of lease, change the commence date from December 1st, 2020 to December 15th, 2020.

MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. There's been a

1 motion to amend. Is there a second? MR. SCHUSTER: Second. 2 3 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. There's a motion on the floor and a second to amend Item 4 5 7-E. On the question? All those in favor signify by saying aye. 6 MR. SCHUSTER: 7 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. 13 What is the recommendation of the 14 Chairperson for the Committee on Public Safety? 15 MR. MCANDREW: As the Chairperson 16 for the Committee on Public Safety, I recommend 17 final passage of Item 7-E as amended. 18 MR. DONAHUE: Second. 19 On the question? MR. GAUGHAN: Ro11 20 call, please. 21 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Schuster. 22 MR. SCHUSTER: Yes. 23 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McAndrew. 24 MR. MCANDREW: Yes. 25 MS. CARRERA: Dr. Rothchild.

DR. ROTHCHILD: Yes.

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MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

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MR. DONAHUE: Yes.

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MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

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MR. GAUGHAN: Yes. I hereby declare

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Item 7-E as amended legally and lawfully

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adopted.

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If there is no further business,

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I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

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MR. DONAHUE: Councilman Gaughan, I

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just want to bring up one thing that I forgot

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to mention in announcements. I saw this came

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out this afternoon from the Scranton Police

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Department regarding the Nay Aug light display.

The exit -- they're trying to set up

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entrance and exit directions. I heard it's,

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you know, I got a few texts over the weekend

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that, you know, the whole set up is great. But

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in order to create a new traffic pattern to

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keep Geisinger Community Medical Center free

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for emergency vehicles, the police department

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is asking that in order to access the light

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show that you use Vine Street to Arthur Avenue

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and then down Arthur Avenue along the park before taking a left onto Mulberry and then

1 turn into the park entrance.

And then when exiting to just use
Olive Street all the way down to Harrison
Avenue and then go whichever way you need to go
there. But again, this is just to help keep
access to Geisinger CMC open to emergency
vehicles.

MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. Thank you.

Thanks for mentioning that. That's important.

Anyone else? Okay. If there is no further business, I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

MR. DONAHUE: Motion to adjourn.

MR. GAUGHAN: This meeting is adjourned. Thanks everyone. See you next week.

$\mathsf{C} \; \mathsf{E} \; \mathsf{R} \; \mathsf{T} \; \mathsf{I} \; \mathsf{F} \; \mathsf{I} \; \mathsf{C} \; \mathsf{A} \; \mathsf{T} \; \mathsf{E}$

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,

Official Court Reporter

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25 the certifying reporter.)