

SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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HELD:

Thursday, December 7, 2017

LOCATION:

Council Chambers

Scranton City Hall

340 North Washington Avenue

Scranton, Pennsylvania

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

JOSEPH WECHSLER, PRESIDENT

PATRICK ROGAN, VICE-PRESIDENT

WAYNE EVANS

WILLIAM GAUGHAN
(Not present)

TIM PERRY

LORI REED, CITY CLERK

KATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

AMIL MINORA, ESQUIRE - SOLICITOR

1 (Pledge of Allegiance recited and
2 moment of reflection observed.)

3 MR. WECHSLER: Roll call, please.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

5 MR. PERRY: Here.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

7 MR. ROGAN: Here.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

9 MR. EVANS: Here.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan. Mr.

11 Wechsler.

12 MR. WECHSLER: Here. Mr. Gaughan,
13 is absent tonight due to an unexpected
14 surgery that he had this week.

15 MR. EVANS: I'd like to make a
16 motion to take from the table File of
17 Council No. 120-2017.

18 MR. ROGAN: Second.

19 MR. WECHSLER: On the question.
20 This legislation pertains to the deed
21 conveying title from RSM properties to the
22 city. The property located at 248-246
23 Wyoming Avenue. This ordinance will be
24 placed in Seventh Order for final vote.
25 Anyone who wishes to speak on this

1 particular piece of legislation may do so
2 during Fourth Order, citizens'
3 participation. All those in favor signify
4 by saying aye.

5 MR. PERRY: Aye.

6 MR. EVANS: Aye.

7 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

8 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The
9 ayes have it and so moved. Dispense with
10 the reading of the minutes.

11 MS. REED: THIRD ORDER. 3-A. TAX
12 ASSESSOR'S REPORT FOR HEARING DATE HELD
13 DECEMBER 6, 2017.

14 MR. WECHSLER: Are there any
15 comments? If not, received and filed.

16 MS. REED: 3-B. SINGLE TAX OFFICE
17 CITY FUNDS DISTRIBUTED COMPARISON REPORT
18 2017-2016 YEAR TO DATE NOVEMBER 30, 2017.

19 MR. WECHSLER: Are there any
20 comments? If not, received and filed.

21 MS. REED: 3-C. STREET LIGHT
22 PETITION APPROVAL FOR INSTALLATION 1800
23 BLOCK CUSICK AVENUE.

24 MR. WECHSLER: Are there any
25 comments? If not, received and filed.

1 MS. REED: 3-D. STREET LIGHT
2 PETITION APPROVAL FOR INSTALLATION 2200
3 BLOCK KELLY AVENUE.

4 MR. WECHSLER: Are there any
5 comments? If not, received and filed. Do
6 any council members have any announcements
7 at this time? Next Thursday, December 14,
8 is expected to be Council's last meet of
9 2017. As has been pass practice for council
10 to recess once the budget has been passed,
11 this year we continued with the meetings to
12 pass all of the taxing legislation and other
13 important pieces for the operation of the
14 city. City council will meet again on
15 January 1 unless a special meeting will be
16 necessary before that date.

17 Also, this evening an executive
18 session was held regarding a matter of
19 litigation.

20 MS. REED: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'
21 PARTICIPATION.

22 MR. WECHSLER: Norma Jefferies.

23 MS. JEFFERIES: Norma Jefferies,
24 Scranton resident, and like I said before, I
25 have been back in town about two years, two

1 and a half years and certain things, you
2 know, it's easy to complain about things,
3 but I only complain so much before I have to
4 pick up the phone and do something or try to
5 do something so one of my things tonight is
6 about the street condition and the street
7 condition in the Hill Section of Scranton.
8 It seems that there is digging and more
9 digging and more digging that continues to
10 go on and usually only takes me five minutes
11 to get to my part-time job, which is on
12 Jefferson Avenue, so it doesn't take me long
13 to get there, I can usually just zip down
14 Gibson Street, but lately it's taking me
15 more -- longer and longer. Now, longer and,
16 longer is maybe more minutes, you know, but
17 it's just the idea that when you turn up the
18 street and then there is a road closure.
19 You go down another one, there is a road
20 closure.

21 So the thing that really got me the
22 other day was on -- I wound up on Olive
23 Street. Now, I don't know if you know where
24 Olive Street over there, I don't drive there
25 because it's cobblestones and if there's any

1 kind of dampness it's going to be slippery.
2 So I said, "Nah, I'm not going that way."

3 So I wound up on Mulberry Street.
4 Well, you know what Mulberry Street is like
5 at 8:30 in the morning so I thought I got to
6 call somebody. So I called the UGI was my
7 first call and what they told me was -- they
8 were very nice, you know, and they told me
9 that they give a report to the
10 municipalities of the work that they are
11 going to be doing and that it should be
12 shared with us. I said, oh, okay.

13 So then I called American Water and
14 asked about information and the lady, I
15 mean, she put me through like a deposition,
16 you know, of everything that she was writing
17 down and what I was saying and where I live,
18 what streets was I talking about and
19 basically I was talking about Prescott
20 Avenue -- no, I don't do Olive Street,
21 Prescott and Gibson and Webster, you know,
22 all of those streets, so she was taking all
23 of this down.

24 So in any case, she told me, she
25 said, "Well, you probably won't get a call

1 back or anything for 72 hours."

2 I said, "Okay."

3 So I put my cell phone on charge and
4 I went about my day and then I came back and
5 my cell phone I missed a call and it was
6 from Tony, who was from American Water, and
7 he left a very detailed message about the
8 conditions of the street in the Hill section
9 and he told me that the work on Pine Street
10 is complete and that the base work is being
11 done and the paving will be done in the
12 spring. With the base work being completed
13 there on Pine Street that it will give and
14 make it capable for the plows to plow the
15 snow in the winter.

16 He also left the message that the
17 work continues on Gibson, Prescott and
18 Webster to at least January or February and
19 the workers do change spots, they don't work
20 in the same spot all of the time he said,
21 that they go back and forth on the streets.
22 So I tried to -- left a message and left me
23 his phone number and told me if I had any
24 other questions to please call him, which I
25 did, I returned the call to American Water

1 and to this gentleman, but it went to his
2 voice mail. So basically I wanted to ask
3 him, I had questions and why is it taking so
4 long especially on Prescott Avenue. I don't
5 live on Prescott, but I have family that
6 lives there and I'm there every day. Not
7 every day, most of the days, so I went back
8 to what the UGI had said that it was on the
9 city website.

10 So I went to the city website it see
11 if there is any information out there so I
12 checked under the city departments, the
13 development and proposed events and links
14 and I did not find anything so I don't know
15 where it goes once they give it to whoever
16 they give it to. So my only question I have
17 do you know about this report and is
18 something that can be shared with the public
19 so that we can know?

20 And, like I said, I'm not a
21 complainer, but if something is annoying me
22 I'm not going to complain to someone else I
23 am going to see what I can do to find out
24 what the situation is and how I can make it
25 go further if they tell me. So they did

1 tell at UGI that they give detailed plans of
2 the work on the city streets and I'm just
3 looking to see where that is tonight.

4 MR. WECHSLER: They do give detailed
5 plans, they go through the pave cut
6 inspector.

7 MS. JEFFERIES: The who inspector?

8 MR. WECHSLER: The pave cut
9 inspector, he receives a copy of all the
10 plans from UGI and the water company and the
11 Sewer Authority, now they are combined, so
12 they go through Mr. Hazzouri and they go
13 through they're shared with DPW and the city
14 engineers. They are not posted -- well, as
15 far as I know they are not posted on the
16 city's website at all.

17 MS. JEFFERIES: Yeah, I didn't see
18 anything at all on that.

19 MR. WECHSLER: But they do
20 coordinate as best they can with the utility
21 projects and our paving, but -- and I dealt
22 with them as well but sometimes the
23 emergency repairs come up or there is
24 reports of different dates and things like
25 that, so that kind of changes their plan so

1 that's kind of one of the reasons why they
2 are in one place and they don't see them
3 until the next day, so they kind of move
4 around.

5 And another problem is as that as
6 they do this work once the asphalt plants
7 close for the winter they really can't even
8 do any paving after that so you are really
9 stuck with the cold patch through the winter
10 and as long as it's warm they are going to
11 continue to do the pipe work.

12 MR. EVANS: I talked about it
13 before, but I think we need to revisit the
14 pave cut ordinance again, put some controls
15 in there, make sure that there is a
16 spreadsheet for everybody to see so we know
17 exactly when the work is being done and
18 where and how and how long it's going to
19 take. I think we need to you talk to the
20 utility companies about doing it differently
21 because what they are doing is doing all of
22 the mains first, going all over the city,
23 coming back and doing he laterals, and by
24 the time they are done with the laterals
25 going into people's houses it's the

1 wintertime and we have to drive over these
2 war zone-type streets for four or five
3 months until the spring time comes and
4 that's unacceptable. So I think it's just a
5 matter of better coordination and better
6 policy that the city has to have, so I think
7 it's time. We sat down there last year with
8 the city engineer and the pave cut inspector
9 and I think it's time to sit down again and
10 really take a hard look at the ordinance and
11 see if we can tidy it up.

12 MR. WECHSLER: Yes, there is a --
13 after the first of the year when council
14 reorganizes all council members have been
15 invited to go back to Pennsylvania American
16 Water to take a look at the proposed
17 projects in the spring so everyone on
18 council can get a good idea of exactly
19 what's happening.

20 MS. JEFFERIES: Okay.

21 MR. PERRY: And maybe there is a
22 feasibility level where if we can have the
23 pave cut inspector if he -- he is the one --
24 he is that the head of this, he gets all of
25 the information from the utilities and maybe

1 that website, what I did read was about the
2 storm water and asking people about the
3 leaves and telling them the affects of the
4 leaves and not letting them go down to the
5 drains. That was quite interesting reading,
6 too, if anyone wants to go out there and
7 read that. That was interesting. That's it
8 for me.

9 MR. WECHSLER: Joan Hodowanitz.

10 MS. HODOWANITZ: Joan Hodowanitz,
11 Scranton resident and taxpayer. I have to
12 agree with Norma, that would be very useful
13 information to be put on the city's website
14 and for those who don't have access to the
15 internet and can't access the website
16 perhaps something could be worked out
17 between the city to feed a weekly report to
18 the Times-Tribune, they can publish that,
19 know, maybe in the classifieds, but that's
20 information that people need to know. I
21 mean, they are trying to get to work, trying
22 to get to school, it doesn't do them any
23 good to be running around in circles, okay.

24 Speaking of the winter, you only
25 have one more session before the holidays

1 are we to assume that the arrangements you
2 have made last year with reference to
3 parking during snow storms will again apply
4 this year?

5 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

6 MS. HODOWANITZ: So that -- will an
7 emergency be declared by the mayor and
8 people can park in the parking garages?

9 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

10 MS. HODOWANITZ: You might want to
11 make sure that that gets republicized either
12 on the website or in the newspaper or
13 something so that people know and the people
14 who aren't familiar with from last year.

15 Where, oh where, is the Knowel's
16 insurance list? Don't all answer at once.

17 MR. EVANS: Don't have it for you.

18 MS. HODOWANITZ: Okay. You know,
19 somebody is going on Santa's naughty list.
20 We will find out who should have gotten that
21 thing done. I know that they got a
22 three-year contract back at the end of
23 March. I'm hoping I don't have to wait
24 three years to see the new list.

25 And, also, I was in the caucus and

1 heard the comments about the Arcadis study,
2 I think it would be useful also if you could
3 give the public a general idea when that
4 thing is going to wind up and the
5 information made available. As I recall,
6 when we passed the contract for Arcadis we
7 were talking about October and November
8 timeframe for completion, you were hoping to
9 have the done before the end of the year and
10 it's understandable you might not make that
11 target, but it would be nice having passed
12 that target date if we could get an update
13 on a projected completion date because I,
14 like many people, would like to know if this
15 is going to impact homeowners and others
16 financially, I would remember know sooner
17 rather than later. Like many people --

18 MR. WECHSLER: I can tell you this,
19 the study release is not imminent.

20 MS. HODOWANITZ: I know it's not
21 going to have that kind of information.

22 MR. WECHSLER: The report is not
23 imminent in being released.

24 MS. HODOWANITZ: So it's way, way --
25 it's right behind the Knowel's insurance

1 list.

2 MR. WECHSLER: I won't be here for
3 it, I can tell you that.

4 MS. HODOWANITZ: I know you won't,
5 but it's behind the insurance list. That's
6 fine.

7 MR. WECHSLER: It's ahead of the
8 insurance list, but it's not imminent.

9 MS. HODOWANITZ: The other thing
10 that would be nice to get updates on is how
11 we are standing on transferring the proceeds
12 of the sewer sale into the pension plans. I
13 know that it's going to be done
14 incrementally and you got the trust set up,
15 many people did not go to the Pension Board
16 meetings which are held monthly, and they
17 are not televised, and there is a time lag
18 before the minutes are publically released,
19 so whoever can kind of keep -- maybe the
20 financial chair, if you could keep kind of
21 an eye on that and say, you know, okay, of
22 the \$22 million \$2 million is gone, and the
23 next \$2 million is gone and whatever so we
24 have a sensing because, you know, the market
25 is hot and, you know, you want to get that

1 12 percent rate of return before the market
2 crashes, which sooner or later it's going to
3 have to go down. Thank you.

4 MR. WECHSLER: Bob Bolus.

5 MR. BOLUS: Good evening, Council.
6 Bob Bolus. On "C" regarding the Scranton
7 Tomorrow, I think we before we hand anybody
8 \$250,000 I think we need to know exactly the
9 form of what plan do they have, how are they
10 going to market the city, at what cost for
11 advertising, etcetera, etcetera, and how
12 much are we going to be paying in wages for
13 their people to do this job? Like, what are
14 they allocating? They should have separate
15 pro forma set up just like a balance sheet,
16 we are going to give you \$250,000, what are
17 you going to give us in return? Rhetoric?
18 We got enough of that around here. How are
19 you going to plan to bring in people to the
20 city? How are going to address businesses
21 coming in here with the school board and how
22 are you going to handle this issue or that
23 issue, and I don't see that in here anywhere
24 along the line exactly what we are paying
25 for. It's like just handing somebody a

1 basket of money and saying, "Here, have
2 fun," and we have no idea of accountability
3 or what they are doing for it.

4 So I think that should be tabled
5 until we have a much better understanding
6 and a plan laid out as to how much wage we
7 are going to pay them out of \$250,000 to do
8 whatever they are going to do, and I would
9 ask council tonight to table that until they
10 come before us here and layout a
11 comprehensive plan that makes sense to us,
12 not just some rhetoric, sending some loose
13 papers ads, some flyers out and blow a
14 quarter of a million bucks, so I think we
15 need to go that route first. Let's do it
16 intelligently and spend our money wisely.
17 You wouldn't go buy a car not knowing
18 anything about it and you sure as heck
19 wouldn't go in a grocery store and pick up a
20 bag of groceries or something out of there
21 without first understanding what it was and
22 what you are paying for, and that's the same
23 issue I have here.

24 If we are going to move the city
25 forward, let's move it forward

1 intelligently, and I'm not taking anything
2 from Scranton Tomorrow or anything on it,
3 but I want to hear what the heck you are
4 going to do for us, and that's what we are
5 paying for you so let's see if we could
6 table that tonight and have a public quorum
7 here, let them explain to us. Let's get
8 some accountability, as Mr. Gaughan would
9 say he wants transparency, his black skunk
10 is here tonight and he is not even here
11 tonight, breaking my hear.

12 MR. WECHSLER: Yeah, did you hear,
13 Mr. Bolus, he had emergency surgery.

14 MR. BOLUS: Pardon?

15 MR. WECHSLER: He had emergency
16 surgery, that's why he is not here.

17 MR. BOLUS: Geez, he could have
18 called me, we could have did that for him.
19 I wish him well, I really do, and it does
20 get some fun in here and sometimes you got
21 to have some humor in here, sometimes it get
22 intense, but I think at the end of the day
23 we can all walk outside, shake hands and say
24 we did a good job or a bad job and that's
25 what makes this the right place to be, we

1 have the comradery with everybody. We all
2 have opinions, good, bad or indifferent.

3 What I'd like to do is on the
4 parking garage here, it's been a big pet
5 peeve, paid four point some million dollars
6 to Basalyga, I want to know where our
7 parking spaces are, and I'm sure the heck
8 they are not going to be on the upstairs,
9 outside in the snow in the upper garage, we
10 paid for park spaces, they should be premium
11 parking spaces allocated to the people of
12 this city that just paid for them, and
13 Basalyga has to be held accountable now.
14 I'm tired of hearing about him, I'm tired of
15 hearing about this and hearing about that at
16 our expense, and then I'm going to drive
17 over and go through a gate and get a ticket
18 to pay the parking space we already paid
19 for. I want to know where my parking space
20 is or anybody else's. So I think we need to
21 have him be held accountable on the parking,
22 enough said.

23 To think back when I talked about
24 doing a casino here in Scranton when I
25 wanted to buy the mall, which we were going

1 to buy the mall, we couldn't get any support
2 to ask the gaming board to at least consider
3 an additional license for the City of
4 Scranton and what's happened. It was like
5 we looked into a crystal ball and they gave
6 without a license, think how Scranton would
7 have grown over what the mall is or whatever
8 it is, we could have made this into one of
9 the greatest financially stable places in
10 the United States with everything we had to
11 offer people coming here to come into a
12 casino in downtown Scranton. And it's just
13 disappointing that we couldn't get the
14 cooperation to have anybody send a letter
15 around to do it.

16 I have been working with the county
17 on PTSD, it's a major issue. I had a
18 clinical psychologist up here from Florida
19 that I brought up that addressed them for
20 over two hours and I think we are moving
21 forward that our citizens in this community
22 in a very short period of time we are going
23 to start seeing the results of the PTSD
24 study to help people here.

25 And last, and I won't take any more

1 time, I want to congratulate actually the
2 mayor for his victory, but more importantly,
3 I had the honor of addressing and
4 representing the City of Scranton and
5 Lackawanna County in Baltimore a couple of
6 week ago at the American Towmen Association
7 convention where I presented on behalf of
8 the city the key to the city and, Wayne, you
9 were there, the honor was that the captain's
10 of industry table that addressed the spirit
11 ride that I was able to address and present
12 this, Scranton was out of 147 cities the
13 only city to present the key to the city to
14 the spirit ride, and the spirit ride
15 understand it is related to the Move Over
16 Law for first responders. And they were
17 taken aback that Scranton was the only place
18 that did it. And now they are pushing every
19 mayor in every city that the spirit ride
20 goes through to follow the example of
21 Scranton, Pennsylvania, Lackawanna County,
22 and we did set another milestone for
23 somebody else to follow you us.

24 And my dinner will be --

25 MR. WECHSLER: I was going to say,

1 you wanted to make the announcement.

2 MR. BOLUS: My dinner will be on
3 Christmas Day, this will be the 24th year
4 I'm doing it, the dinner is open to everyone
5 and anyone who doesn't want to be home alone
6 on Christmas. We do offer rides, we will be
7 delivering two meals to a family and
8 takeouts will not only be available to those
9 that attend the dinner. So bring your
10 family, leave the cooking to us and enjoy
11 the festivities and see what Scranton spirit
12 is really about. I hope I get back next
13 week to do it. If not, I'm going to
14 delegate Mr. Rogan to bring it up again next
15 week if I can't make it back here because of
16 the time frame. And if I can't, gentlemen,
17 Merry Christmas.

18 MR. WECHSLER: Same to you. Thank
19 you, Mr. Bolus.

20 MR. ROGAN: Mr. Bolus, what's the
21 time?

22 MR. EVANS: And the location as
23 well?

24 MR. BOLUS: You can get there at
25 five in the morning and start taking the

1 turkeys out of the oven.

2 MR. ROGAN: You don't want me
3 cooking.

4 MR. BOLUS: We start serving from
5 noon to 6:00 and we will deliver meals.
6 Like I said, two meals to a family, we help
7 our elderly people that are in need to call
8 us. My phone number, I'm sorry, is
9 570-346-7659. Thank you.

10 MR. EVANS: I don't think you
11 mentioned the and location.

12 MS. CARRERA: Location.

13 MR. BOLUS: Oh, it's St. Pat's at
14 All Saints Academy the back of the
15 cafeteria. Thank you.

16 MR. WECHSLER: Dave Dobrzyn.

17 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening, Council.
18 Dave Dobrzyn, resident, finally a local
19 issue. It must be five years in a row, ever
20 time leaves come up we pick the paper, we
21 always pick the paper week. Please,
22 remember next year I can leave the cans out
23 under the Lilac bush or hide them under the
24 evergreens, but I can't store papers without
25 a lot of grief. They are either sitting on

1 my back porch they can even get wet there,
2 and if we have any type of weather before
3 December 5 and our recycle crew gets snagged
4 for downtown snow removal or something then
5 it's sitting there through Christmas and New
6 Year's, so my luck we'll have snow before
7 the Martin Luther King Day and that will
8 really do it. So, please, try and
9 coordinate that bottles and cans. You can
10 put them in a white bag, the white bottles,
11 and mark it with a magic marker "Please
12 recycle" and they take them for me, you
13 know, so even if I have extra, because I
14 usually have at least three barrels a month,
15 probably closer to four if it's a long
16 month.

17 The 500 block at the corner right by
18 Buona Pizza came up I read in the paper and,
19 you know, the thought always occurred to me
20 if that were paved and a couple of meters
21 were put in there it would be a great
22 parking area for people that wanted to shop
23 or visit with Buona Pizza or whatever and
24 something should be done with it, but we
25 really need to get something done with it

1 and not just hand it over to somebody for a
2 couple of bucks and in reality one of the
3 things that started my consternation with
4 the last mayor was the way Buona Pizza was
5 treated. They just -- they were put under
6 eminent domain and it really hurt them, and
7 they spent more on that lot, the city did,
8 than what they offered Buona Pizza for a
9 business that was 40 years old and paid
10 taxes. I remember when my wife and I were
11 teenagers we used to go to the movies and
12 stop over Buona Pizza on Saturday or Sunday
13 night.

14 So, you know, it's really something
15 could be done with the lot, I don't think we
16 need anymore business properties or
17 storefronts on that block, we already have
18 quite a few that aren't filled, so maybe we
19 should see if the Parking Authority wants to
20 do something or if Buona wants to buy it
21 sell it to them and let them run the parking
22 lot, whatever, but it's unsightly, the
23 sidewalks are never clean. I almost went
24 head over heels with my pizza a couple of
25 times walking out of there during the winter

1 and something should be done with it.

2 On signage, if possible, we should
3 explore details that we could just have
4 somebody up on a ladder, slap a decal on the
5 faded signs for city streets and stuff and
6 at least explore whether it could be
7 cheaper.

8 And, once again, on PILOTS, please,
9 you know, I'll try not to be too insulting
10 but, they really need to get together, if
11 they don't want to provide PILOTS, the tax
12 exempts, then start petitioning the state to
13 do something to replace some of the missing
14 property tax because it gets a little --
15 it's a little much on thirty-five hundred.

16 And, by the way, on Hemlock across
17 from Scranton Grinder there must be 20 bags
18 of leaves standing there so is there another
19 weekday by any chance we have?

20 MR. WECHSLER: No, they will have to
21 get picked up with the trash.

22 MR. DOBRZYN: Yeah. Yeah. I mean,
23 it's like 20 bags and even worse yet it's in
24 the low biodegrade leaf bags, you know,
25 shame. Have a good night. Thank you.

1 MR. WECHSLER: Anyone else?

2 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening.

3 Marie Schumacher. I would like to start off
4 tonight by asking people to vote for the PA
5 -- Lackawanna for the PA river of the year.
6 It was covered in the paper, so I'm hoping
7 that boosts the voting because the last I
8 checked, which I believe was last night, we
9 are still in single digit as a percent of
10 the vote and other places were in the 30's.
11 So, I mean, I think the people who work on
12 that river have really done a fantastic job
13 from when I was a kid certainly, and at
14 least it's fishable now, I wouldn't want to
15 eat one out of there, but fishable and
16 hopefully some day it will be swimmable, but
17 we need to -- if not for any other reason
18 but to thank the people and give some light
19 and shed some light on the people who
20 actually work so very hard to accomplish
21 that.

22 Has anybody seen the settlement
23 agreement for the Wyoming Avenue and Linden
24 property?

25 MR. WECHSLER: No, we would not see

1 that. That's for the city solicitor.

2 MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, you could ask
3 for it. You wouldn't vote on something
4 certainly before you knew if that was the
5 total --

6 MR. WECHSLER: It's a lawsuit. It's
7 a lawsuit. We don't vote on lawsuits.

8 MR. EVANS: The settlement agreement
9 wouldn't be provided until at least 48 hours
10 outside of the closing. The settlement --

11 MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, I mean, I
12 don't think you should vote on it until we
13 could see something. If that suffices, just
14 buying that property, but I have a real
15 issue with that because we have got -- they
16 paid a lot more money than what we are
17 paying for that property, plus I don't know
18 where we stand with respect to the
19 remediation that was spoken on last week,
20 how we compete for that, and again, I think
21 we have plenty of parks downtown, but I want
22 to move on.

23 Mr. Wechsler, are you going to give
24 us a rundown on the parking meeting that was
25 held on Monday?

1 MR. WECHSLER: They are going to
2 provide a summary of the meeting and that
3 will be presented to the -- prior to the
4 Parking Authority meeting for public comment
5 so I am not -- the information that was
6 discussed at that meeting is classified
7 because it is a private company, so I am not
8 at liberty to discuss it.

9 MS. SCHUMACHER: When is the next
10 Parking Authority meeting?

11 MR. WECHSLER: I don't know.

12 MS. SCHUMACHER: Who does?

13 MR. EVANS: I'm not sure when the
14 meeting is.

15 MS. SCHUMACHER: Is the office
16 equipped to find out when that is held?

17 MR. EVANS: Sure, we can find out.
18 I'm sure they meet at the same time each
19 month. I'm sure we can find that out.

20 MS. SCHUMACHER: Thank you. Also,
21 what is the policy with respect to the
22 deployment of the vacuum truck?

23 MR. WECHSLER: The vacuum is
24 deployed when it works. It doesn't always
25 work.

1 MS. SCHUMACHER: You know, something
2 needs to be done a whole lot better. This
3 was two weeks. I mean, I thought I was going
4 to have a heart attack dragging my -- I put
5 everything out this morning because I wasn't
6 really sure what they were doing and then
7 dragging the papers back but, I mean, I
8 don't think it's really fair that some
9 people have to bag them, go over and get the
10 bags and come back and bag them and other
11 people just put in the street and let it sit
12 there until somebody comes and maybe they
13 don't even come and --

14 MR. WECHSLER: That's the risk you
15 run. Everyone was told to put their leaves
16 in the bags.

17 MS. SCHUMACHER: I know that, but
18 they went two weeks, right, as well on just
19 leaves? They didn't do any recyclables for
20 two weeks.

21 MR. WECHSLER: Last week lost the
22 papers to collect the leaves.

23 MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, I don't know.
24 Okay, onto the next, there was new positions
25 in the budget that you all approved for next

1 year, are those new positions going to be
2 advertised?

3 MR. EVANS: I would hope so. I
4 mean, some might be internal because there
5 might be some movement within city hall,
6 people that are in similar jobs, but I would
7 imagine they should all be advertised.

8 MS. SCHUMACHER: Has anybody been
9 named to any of the positions yet?

10 MR. EVANS: Not that I'm aware of.

11 MS. SCHUMACHER: Other than the BA.

12 MR. EVANS: Well, the BA, obviously,
13 yeah.

14 MS. SCHUMACHER: Yeah. I think it
15 would be nice if they were advertised for a
16 change. On this on five -- what is it, 6-C,
17 I have a problem with it. I read through
18 that and I'm not sure if this is a project
19 for the City of Scranton or if it's for --
20 may I just finish the thought because I
21 won't go into all of the details, but many
22 of them have a rational when it gives the
23 topic and then it says, "Summary" and then
24 "rational" and I'll just read this one
25 because there is more than one that reads

1 like this. "Viable activity demonstrating
2 the effectiveness and capacity of Scranton
3 Tomorrow. "

4 I mean, you read through them and it
5 sounds more as though the goal of this is to
6 promote Scranton Tomorrow as a viable
7 organization rather than what it's going to
8 do for the city, but more on that next week.
9 Thank you.

10 MR. WECHSLER: Anyone else?

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

12 MOTIONS.

13 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Perry?

14 MR. PERRY: Yes, thank you, Mr.
15 Wechsler. A couple of items tonight, the
16 first item I received a phone call, if we
17 could have Mr. Santoli stop and pay a visit
18 on Maple Avenue, I believe the address is
19 close to 538, there is a tree that is --
20 looks like it's damaged, it's about to fall
21 down and the residents there are worried
22 that another first snowstorm might topple it
23 over on some power lines or some property.

24 And, second, is it -- I don't know
25 if this is possible so let's put the wheels

1 in motion, maybe if we can send something
2 over to Mr. Hazzouri to see if it's possible
3 once he gets the information from UGI and
4 American Water if he can just e-mail a PDF
5 file to IT and then maybe IT could scan that
6 to our website and then at least we will
7 have something, you know, some kind of
8 information out there for the residents to
9 know what street is being worked on and what
10 the actual plan is. Granted, plans do
11 change and we understand that, but maybe if
12 we have something there that's at least a
13 start and see if there is any feasibility in
14 that.

15 And finally, you know, it'd be awful
16 for me not mention today, it's December 7
17 today, you know, every meeting we start off
18 with thanking our servicemen and women of
19 this country and, you know, that's the right
20 thing to do, but on some of these, you know,
21 whether it's Veteran's Day, Memorial Day or
22 December 7, you know, it just makes you
23 think about that a little bit more. We all
24 have military people in our life, whether
25 it's a friend, a family, a father, a

1 grandfather and some of them gave the
2 ultimate sacrifice, and I want to take the
3 next 10 seconds just to thank all of the
4 active and retired military personnel that
5 fight for our great country and their
6 families. Let's not forget about the
7 families that are left behind that are the
8 backbone of our military and they really put
9 up a strong fight sometimes just as strong a
10 the people who get sent overseas.

11 So I just want to thank them for
12 that blanket of freedom that they give all
13 of us that we get to live in every day and
14 their bravery and sacrifice it never goes
15 unnoticed so thank you. That's all.

16 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr. Perry.
17 Mr. Rogan?

18 MR. ROGAN: Yes, just a couple of
19 brief items. We did discuss this little bit
20 in our caucus, city council, our attorney,
21 Attorney Minora, has received the double
22 pension scandal report from the state police
23 so council members will be asked to -- there
24 is going to be some documentation we have to
25 sign before reviewing it, but we do have

1 that report and it's something I'm very
2 anxious to read and over the couple of weeks
3 between the end of this session and swearing
4 in next year I'll be thoroughly examining
5 that report.

6 Again, we will be bound by certain
7 legal restrictions on what we can say. For
8 instance, if there was say a member of the
9 Pension Board who was interviewed by the
10 state police multiple times we couldn't
11 mentions that person's name. We couldn't
12 mention anything within that report naming
13 names, anything of that nature, but what we
14 can do is use that information to try and
15 put reforms in place that will prevent this
16 from happening again. We haven't seen -- as
17 I mentioned, we haven't seen it yet. I have
18 my suspicions on how this transpired, who
19 the people who have committed possibly
20 crimes that, unfortunately, because of
21 statute of limitations they cannot be
22 addressed as crimes, but it's our obligation
23 to make sure that this doesn't happen again.
24 So reviewing those reports are something
25 that I will work on diligently over the next

1 month or so.

2 Mr. Bolus brought up an item tonight
3 that is something that's been reported
4 widely in the papers regarding casinos and
5 mini-casino licenses within the State of
6 Pennsylvania. I know there are some smaller
7 towns that's been reported to have opposed
8 these type of casinos. I think something
9 like this would be great for the city.
10 Drive down to Wilkes-Barre and see the
11 economic development around -- in and around
12 Mohegan Sun, not only for gaming, which
13 people enjoy, but the restaurants, the jobs,
14 so if there was ever an opportunity for
15 either Mt. Airy or Mohegan Sun to open a
16 satellite casino in the City of Scranton is
17 something I would fully support. I know the
18 mall has been always brought up as a site
19 for that and really one floor of Boscov's is
20 big enough for one of these mini-casinos.
21 It's not going to be anything on the scale
22 of what you see on Mt. Airy or at Mohegan
23 Sun, but I think it would be an economic
24 engine for the City of Scranton. So that's
25 something I would support if that was able

1 to happen here in the city.

2 And, finally, I would like to thank
3 Mr. Bolus for, again, hosting his Christmas
4 dinner, the dinner that Mr. Bolus holds at
5 Christmas time and I know Mr. Piccolino does
6 one every year for Thanksgiving, it's really
7 what Scranton is all about, so I want to
8 thank him for doing that for the community
9 for 24 years and, again, as we had
10 mentioned, anyone who doesn't have anyone to
11 be with on Christmas go over to St. Pat's in
12 West Side between 12 and 6 and all are
13 welcome, so I just want to thank him. I'll
14 address agenda items and the DPW contract
15 and some other items as they come up. Thank
16 you.

17 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr. Rogan.
18 Mr. Evans?

19 MR. EVANS: Thank you. I'm going to
20 briefly talk about one of the agenda items
21 tonight, 7-A, which is a reduction in the
22 real estate transfer tax. I think over the
23 years we have all seen the negative impact
24 of raising taxes. Over the decades we've
25 sort of pushed ourselves well beyond the

1 point of efficient returns with any attempt
2 to raise taxes or fees in the city. It's
3 more of an opportunity to achieve a second
4 modest reduction in the real estate transfer
5 tax which becomes more than a reduction and
6 a nuisance tax. In many ways, it is a shift
7 in the philosophy, one that I've espoused on
8 city council ever since I have been sitting
9 in this seat. So while revenue projections
10 for the real estate taxes at the end of the
11 third quarter may be running slightly behind
12 expectations, that is true for almost every
13 tax and fee in that same time frame so it's
14 not unusual, but I still feel the
15 opportunity to reduce this tax and achieve
16 equal or more revenue which is still very
17 achievable from a one-year standpoint is
18 certainly not enough to prove or disprove
19 that theory. But more than that, I think we
20 are trying to send a message that in the
21 simplest terms Scranton is finally trying to
22 be homeowner friendly, that they want to be
23 once again a city of homeowners and that we
24 are working toward that goal by reducing
25 impediments where we can. We want to be

1 known that we are trying to grow with the
2 real estate market, that we cannot continue
3 to deal with policies in the past that have
4 stunted growth for more than a generation.

5 And, yes, we need to do more and
6 find ways to be even -- by this sector
7 anywhere we can because the city with a
8 higher percentage of homeowners is a stable
9 city, a cleaner city, a safer city and there
10 are positive signs in the real estate market
11 that it's happening.

12 According to a report developed by
13 the Greater Scranton Board of Realtors, in
14 the City of Scranton over the last 12 months
15 ending with the third quarter of 2017, new
16 listings were down 8.7 percent. That's a
17 good thing because it's an indication of a
18 stronger market and it begins a same old
19 shift from a buyer's market to a seller's
20 market, and that should bring about an
21 increase in home prices, something we
22 haven't seen in Scranton in quite awhile.

23 Also, there are other signs that the
24 real estate market in Scranton is improving.
25 Pending sales are up 26 percent and closed

1 sales are up 28.1 percent in that same
2 timeframe, so I'm very encouraged by those
3 numbers and the trends that they indicate,
4 so I will continue to support this
5 legislation and any opportunity we may have
6 in the future to reduce or eliminate any tax
7 or any fee that would help grow the city.
8 That's all I have for now. Thanks.

9 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr. Evans.
10 I'd like to congratulate the officials of
11 Lackawanna County and the people who ran the
12 Marketplace at the Globe Store over the
13 weekend, it was a great success. I know my
14 wife took some of my money down there to
15 visit. It worked quite well and I
16 congratulate all of these people again and
17 I'd also like to wish the Marketplace at
18 Steamtown Mall on their prepared opening and
19 hopefully they will have the same success as
20 the organizers of the other event.

21 The other night I had the pleasure,
22 and I'd like to thank James May from PennDOT
23 and also DPW Director Gallagher, Dennis
24 Gallagher. They contacted me to arrange to
25 have the veterans from the South Side VFP

1 being the last people to drive across the
2 Harrison Avenue bridge. These men have
3 given their time for the past 75 years in
4 maintaining the Duffy statute and Duffy Park
5 and I think it was a great honor to be the
6 last ones to cross the bridge.

7 And on Friday morning at 9 a.m. the
8 city actually will take possession of the
9 Harrison Avenue bridge, there will be a
10 ribbon cutting at 9 a.m., and then as the
11 weather turns better the bridge will have
12 some final touches placed on it and the
13 completion of Duffy Park will be probably
14 towards the end of 2018. So it's nice to
15 see that that project is getting completed.

16 Just to follow-up on Councilman
17 Rogan's comments about the casinos, the city
18 has decided not to opt out. They would have
19 to have say they did not want to participate
20 in the small casino program so the city has
21 not elected to opt out, so that will be a
22 possibility in the future of the city of a
23 small casino. Personally, myself, I would
24 welcome a casino if it did not effect the
25 current businesses and restaurants in the

1 city. My big concern about this would be
2 people would stay in the casino and not come
3 out to our bars and restaurants, so I would
4 support it if it was add to our businesses
5 and did not take away from that. That's all
6 I have.

7 MS. REED: 5-B. NO BUSINESS AT THIS
8 TIME.

9 SIXTH ORDER. 6-A. READING BY TITLE
10 - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 134, 2017 - AN
11 ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
12 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO APPROVE THE
13 TRANSFER OF TWO MILLION (\$2,000,000.00)
14 DOLLARS FROM ACCOUNT NO. 01.101031 (FNCB
15 BANK-SEWER CLEARING ACCOUNT) TO ACCOUNT NO.
16 01.100000 (PNC BANK-GENERAL FUND ACCOUNT)
17 FOR THE NECESSARY CAPITAL BUDGET FUNDING FOR
18 2018.

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

21 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-A
22 pass reading by title.

23 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

1 MR. PERRY: Aye.

2 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

3 MR. EVANS: Aye.

4 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The
5 ayes have it and so moved.

6 MS. REED: 6-B. READING BY TITLE -
7 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 135, 2017 - AN
8 ORDINANCE - APPROVING THE TRANSFER OF A
9 RESTAURANT LIQUOR LICENSE OWNED BY CB TB,
10 LLC, D/B/A CORNER BISTRO CURRENTLY IN
11 SAFE KEEPING WITH THE PENNSYLVANIA LIQUOR
12 CONTROL BOARD FORMERLY USED AT 76-78 SOUTH
13 MAIN STREET, CARBONDALE, LACKAWANNA COUNTY,
14 PENNSYLVANIA, 18407 FOR USE AT 429 NORTH
15 MAIN AVENUE, SCRANTON, LACKAWANNA COUNTY,
16 PENNSYLVANIA, 18504 AS REQUIRED BY THE
17 PENNSYLVANIA LIQUOR CONTROL BOARD.

18 MR. WECHSLER: You've heard reading
19 by title of Item 6-B, what is your pleasure?

20 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-B
21 pass reading by title.

22 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

25 MR. PERRY: Aye.

1 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

2 MR. EVANS: Aye.

3 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The
4 ayes have it and so moved.

5 MS. REED: 6-C. READING BY TITLE -
6 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 136, 2017 - AN
7 ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
8 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO ALLOCATE
9 \$250,000 FROM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUNDS
10 ON A MATCHING BASIS TO SCRANTON TOMORROW TO
11 FURTHER THE PROSPECTS OF ECONOMIC
12 REVITALIZATION IN THE DOWNTOWN SECTION OF
13 THE CITY OF SCRANTON.

14 MR. WECHSLER: You've heard reading
15 by title of Item 6-C, what is your pleasure?

16 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-C
17 pass reading by title.

18 MR. EVANS: Second.

19 MR. WECHSLER: On the question? All
20 those in favor signify by saying aye.

21 MR. PERRY: Aye.

22 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

23 MR. EVANS: Aye.

24 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The
25 ayes have it and so moved.

1 MS. REED: 6-D. READING BY TITLE -
2 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 137, 2017 - AN
3 ORDINANCE - ESTABLISHING A "NO PARKING ZONE"
4 ALONG THE NORTHERLY SIDE OF GREEN RIDGE ST
5 (S.R.6011) BEGINNING APPROXIMATELY 150 FEET
6 WEST FROM ITS INTERSECTION WITH PENN
7 AVENUE AND CONTINUING 80 FEET TO ALLOW FOR
8 SIGHT DISTANCE FOR A PROPOSED DRIVEWAY BY
9 MR. GEORGE JENKINS FOR A PROPERTY LOCATED
10 AT 921 GREEN RIDGE ST.

11 MR. WECHSLER: You've heard reading
12 by title of Item 6-D, what is your pleasure?

13 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-D
14 pass reading by title.

15 MR. EVANS: Second.

16 MR. WECHSLER: On the question? All
17 those in favor signify by saying aye.

18 MR. PERRY: Aye.

19 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

20 MR. EVANS: Aye.

21 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The
22 ayes have it and so moved.

23 MS. REED: 6-E. READING BY TITLE -
24 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 138, 2017 - AN
25 ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER

1 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND
2 ENTER INTO A PENSION TRUST AGREEMENT
3 WITH THE COMPOSITE PENSION BOARD TO HOLD
4 APPROXIMATELY \$22,910,531.56 OF THE PROCEEDS
5 FROM THE SALE OF THE ASSETS OF THE SCRANTON
6 SEWER AUTHORITY IN TRUST UNTIL SUCH TIME AS
7 PENSION REFORMS HAVE BEEN ENACTED.

8 MR. WECHSLER: You've heard reading
9 by title of Item 6-E, what is your pleasure?

10 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-E
11 pass reading by title.

12 MR. EVANS: Second.

13 MR. WECHSLER: On the question? All
14 those in favor signify by saying aye.

15 MR. PERRY: Aye.

16 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

17 MR. EVANS: Aye.

18 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The
19 ayes have it and so moved.

20 MS. REED: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR
21 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE -
22 FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 128,
23 2017 - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 6,
24 1976 ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE (AS AMENDED)
25 IMPOSING A TAX FOR GENERAL REVENUE PURPOSES

1 ON THE TRANSFER OF REAL PROPERTY SITUATE
2 WITHIN THE CITY OF SCRANTON; PRESCRIBING
3 AND REGULATING THE METHOD OF EVIDENCING THE
4 PAYMENT OF SUCH TAX; CONFERRING POWERS AND
5 IMPOSING DUTIES UPON CERTAIN PERSONS, AND
6 PROVIDING PENALTIES", BY IMPOSING THE RATE
7 OF THE REALTY TRANSFER TAX AT TWO AND TWO
8 TENTHS PERCENT (2.2%) FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2018
9 AND THE SAME SHALL REMAIN IN FULL FORCE AND
10 EFFECT ANNUALLY THEREAFTER.

11 MR. WECHSLER: What is the
12 recommendation of the Chairperson for the
13 Committee on Finance?

14 MR. EVANS: As Chairperson for the
15 Committee on Finance, I recommend final
16 passage of Item 7-A.

17 MR. ROGAN: Second.

18 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

19 MR. ROGAN: Yes, I'd just like to
20 echo the comments that Councilman Evans
21 mentioned earlier, and this is something
22 that council really has been pushing hard
23 for is the further reduction of the realty
24 transfer tax. I would love to see the day
25 that this tax is completely eliminated. We

1 have a long way to go to get there, but this
2 reduction, again, is going to help
3 homeowners in the city that are looking to
4 sell their homes, and more importantly it's
5 going to help perspective buyers who are
6 going to move into the city for the first
7 time to help grow our tax base, so gladly
8 two years in a row we were able to cut the
9 realty transfer tax, hold the line on
10 property taxes so we have things moving in
11 the right direction.

12 MR. PERRY: Yes, on the question.
13 As modest of a decrease that this might
14 seem, not only does it add up for potential
15 property owners in the city, but what it
16 does I can personally it -- it sets a new
17 goal, a new standard in the city. Whenever
18 we want to roll back a tax, because we all
19 believe, you know, taxes are too high and we
20 pay an awful lot, I don't mind paying taxes
21 for a service, but we always figure we could
22 manage it a little bit better, but the very
23 first thing you are go to hear is well, if
24 you repeal a tax and we bring it down that
25 money, that revenue has to be replaced

1 somewhere and we always state that well, the
2 tax will pay for itself with the bigger pie,
3 we'll get more revenue based on people
4 paying less because more people want to move
5 into the city and I think that this on a
6 small scale proves that point to us because
7 this is not the first time we have reduced
8 this tax this is the second year in a row we
9 have been able to reduce this tax, so I'm
10 hoping that this cascades into other areas
11 of the city finance where we can actually
12 some day take a look and start turning back
13 some of these taxes. Thank you.

14 MR. WECHSLER: Roll call, please.

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

16 MR. PERRY: Yes.

17 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

18 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

19 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

20 MR. EVANS: Yes.

21 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

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

25 MS. REED: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION

1 BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE - FOR ADOPTION -
2 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 129, 2017 - AMENDING
3 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 7, 1976, ENTITLED
4 "AN ORDINANCE (AS AMENDED) IMPOSING A
5 MERCANTILE LICENSE TAX OF 2 MILLS FOR THE
6 YEAR 1976 AND ANNUALLY THEREAFTER UPON
7 PERSONS ENGAGING IN CERTAIN OCCUPATIONS AND
8 BUSINESSES THEREIN; PROVIDING FOR ITS LEVY
9 AND COLLECTION AND FOR THE ISSUANCE OF
10 MERCANTILE LICENSES; CONFERRING AND IMPOSING
11 POWERS AND DUTIES UPON THE TAX COLLECTOR OF
12 THE CITY OF SCRANTON; AND IMPOSING
13 PENALTIES", BY IMPOSING THE MERCANTILE
14 LICENSE TAX AT ONE (1) MILL (.001) FOR
15 CALENDAR YEAR 2018 AND THE SAME SHALL REMAIN
16 IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT ANNUALLY
17 THEREAFTER.

18 MR. WECHSLER: What is the
19 recommendation of the Chairperson for the
20 Committee on Finance?

21 MR. EVANS: As Chairperson for the
22 Committee on Finance, I recommend final
23 passage of Item 7-B.

24 MR. ROGAN: Second.

25 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

1 MR. EVANS: On the question, I'm
2 hopeful, very hopeful that the mercantile
3 tax and the business privilege tax, which is
4 coming in 7-C will finally be eliminated in
5 2019 and replaced by a payroll tax. These
6 two taxes are small business job killers and
7 we have to find a way to move away from
8 these. So hopefully this will be the last
9 year we ever authorize this rate again.

10 MR. WECHSLER: Roll call, please.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

12 MR. PERRY: Yes.

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

14 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

16 MR. EVANS: Yes.

17 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

18 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby
19 declare Item 7-B legally and lawfully
20 adopted.

21 MS. REED: 7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION BY
22 THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE - FOR ADOPTION -
23 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 130, 2017 - AMENDING
24 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 8, 1976, ENTITLED
25 "AN ORDINANCE (AS AMENDED) PROVIDING FOR THE

1 GENERAL REVENUE BY IMPOSING A TAX AT THE
2 RATE OF TWO (2) MILLS UPON THE PRIVILEGE OF
3 OPERATING OR CONDUCTING BUSINESS IN THE CITY
4 OF SCRANTON AS MEASURED BY THE GROSS
5 RECEIPTS THEREFROM; REQUIRING REGISTRATION
6 AND PAYMENT OF THE TAX AS CONDITION TO THE
7 CONDUCTING OF SUCH BUSINESS; PROVIDING FOR
8 THE LEVY AND COLLECTION OF SUCH TAX;
9 PRESCRIBING SUCH REQUIREMENTS FOR RETURNS
10 AND RECORDS; CONFERRING POWERS AND DUTIES
11 UPON THE TAX COLLECTOR; AND IMPOSING
12 PENALTIES", BY IMPOSING THE BUSINESS
13 PRIVILEGE TAX AT THE RATE OF ONE (1) MILL
14 (.001) FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2018 AND THE SAME
15 SHALL REMAIN IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT
16 ANNUALLY THEREAFTER.

17 MR. WECHSLER: What is the
18 recommendation of the Chairperson for the
19 Committee on Finance?

20 MR. EVANS: As Chairperson for the
21 Committee on Finance, I recommend final
22 passage of Item 7-C.

23 MR. ROGAN: Second.

24 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?
25 Roll call, please?

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

2 MR. PERRY: Yes.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

4 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

6 MR. EVANS: Yes.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

8 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby
9 declare Item 7-C legally and lawfully
10 adopted.

11 MS. REED: 7-D. FOR CONSIDERATION
12 BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE - FOR ADOPTION -
13 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 131, 2017 - AMENDING
14 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 11, 1976, ENTITLED
15 "AN ORDINANCE (AS AMENDED) ENACTING,
16 IMPOSING A TAX FOR GENERAL REVENUE PURPOSES
17 IN THE AMOUNT OF TWO PERCENT (2%) ON EARNED
18 INCOME AND NET PROFITS ON PERSONS,
19 INDIVIDUALS, ASSOCIATIONS AND BUSINESSES WHO
20 ARE RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON, OR
21 NON-RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON, FOR
22 WORK DONE, SERVICES PERFORMED OR BUSINESS
23 CONDUCTED WITHIN THE CITY OF SCRANTON,
24 REQUIRING THE FILING OF RETURNS BY TAXPAYERS
25 SUBJECT TO THE TAX; REQUIRING EMPLOYERS TO

1 COLLECT THE TAX AT SOURCE; PROVIDING FOR THE
2 ADMINISTRATION, COLLECTION AND ENFORCEMENT
3 OF THE SAID TAX; AND IMPOSING PENALTIES FOR
4 THE VIOLATIONS", BY RE-ENACTING THE
5 IMPOSITION OF THE WAGE TAX AT TWO AND FOUR
6 TENTHS (2.4%) PERCENT ON EARNED INCOME FOR
7 RESIDENTS AND ONE (1%) PERCENT ON EARNED
8 INCOME FOR NON-RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF
9 SCRANTON, FOR WORK DONE, SERVICES PERFORMED
10 OR BUSINESS CONDUCTED WITHIN THE CITY OF
11 SCRANTON FOR THE YEAR 2018 AND THE SAME
12 SHALL REMAIN IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT
13 ANNUALLY THEREAFTER.

14 MR. WECHSLER: What is the
15 recommendation of the Chairperson for the
16 Committee on Finance?

17 MR. EVANS: As Chairperson for the
18 Committee on Finance, I recommend final
19 passage of Item 7-D.

20 MR. ROGAN: Second.

21 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?
22 Roll call, please?

23 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

24 MR. PERRY: Yes.

25 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

1 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

2 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

3 MR. EVANS: Yes.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

5 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby
6 declare Item 7-D legally and lawfully
7 adopted.

8 MS. REED: 7-E. FOR CONSIDERATION
9 BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE - FOR ADOPTION -
10 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 132, 2017 - AMENDING
11 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 78, 2017, AN
12 ORDINANCE AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.
13 100, 1976, ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE (AS
14 AMENDED) LEVYING GENERAL AND SPECIAL TAXES
15 FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 1977", BY SETTING THE
16 MILLAGE FOR THE YEAR 2018 AND THE SAME SHALL
17 REMAIN IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT ANNUALLY
18 THEREAFTER BY AMENDING SECTION 1 REVERTING
19 BACK TO THE MILLAGE RATES FROM 2016 WHICH
20 ARE .232521 MILLS LEVY ON LAND AND .050564
21 LEVY ON ALL BUILDINGS AND BY ELIMINATING THE
22 DEDICATED MILLAGE FOR DEBT SERVICE CONTAINED
23 IN SECTION 2 AND REPLACING THE DEDICATED
24 MILLAGE FOR DEBT SERVICE WITH A DEDICATED
25 DEBT PERCENTAGE OF 32% OF REAL ESTATE TAX

1 REVENUES COLLECTED ON A CURRENT YEAR BASIS.

2 MR. WECHSLER: What is the
3 recommendation of the Chairperson for the
4 Committee on Finance?

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

8 MR. ROGAN: Second.

9 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?
10 Roll call, please?

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

12 MR. PERRY: Yes.

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

14 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

16 MR. EVANS: Yes.

17 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

18 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby
19 declare Item 7-E legally and lawfully
20 adopted.

21 MS. REED: 7-F. FOR CONSIDERATION
22 BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE - FOR ADOPTION -
23 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 133, 2017 - CREATING
24 AND ESTABLISHING SPECIAL CITY ACCOUNT NO.
25 02.229623 ENTITLED "STREET PAVING" FOR

1 THE RECEIPT AND DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS FROM
2 THE DEFEASANCE OF THE 2012 SERIES A AND B
3 BONDS WITH SEWER SALE PROCEEDS AND
4 DISTRIBUTION OF THE FUNDS FOR PAVING STREETS
5 THROUGHOUT THE CITY OF SCRANTON.

6 MR. WECHSLER: What is the
7 recommendation of the Chairperson for the
8 Committee on Finance.

9 MR. EVANS: As Chairperson for the
10 Committee on Finance, I recommend final
11 passage of Item 7-F.

12 MR. ROGAN: Second.

13 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?
14 Roll call, please?

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

16 MR. PERRY: Yes.

17 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

18 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

19 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

20 MR. EVANS: Yes.

21 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

22 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby
23 declare Item 7-F legally and lawfully
24 adopted.

25 MS. REED: 7-G. FOR CONSIDERATION

1 BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT -
2 FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 211, 2017 -
3 ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE
4 HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURE REVIEW BOARD
5 ("HARB") AND APPROVING THE CERTIFICATE OF
6 APPROPRIATENESS FOR LOCKER GENERAL
7 CONSTRUCTION, P.O. BOX 206, OLYPHANT, PA,
8 18447, TO INSTALL A DIGITAL BILLBOARD, WHICH
9 ROUGHLY MEASURES 8 FEET HIGH BY 23 FEET
10 WIDE, BETWEEN THE SECOND AND THIRD FLOORS
11 AND A PAINTED SIGN ABOVE THE DIGITAL
12 BILLBOARD COMPARABLE TO BITTENBENDER'S
13 SIGNAGE, SITUATED AT 134 FRANKLIN AVENUE,
14 SCRANTON, PA 18503.

15 MR. WECHSLER: What is the
16 recommendation of the Chairperson for the
17 Committee on Community Development?

18 MR. ROGAN: As Chair for the
19 Committee on Community Development, I
20 recommend final passage of Item 7-G.

21 MR. ROGAN: Second.

22 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?
23 Roll call, please?

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

25 MR. PERRY: Yes.

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

2 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

4 MR. EVANS: Yes.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

6 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby
7 declare Item 7-G legally and lawfully
8 adopted.

9 MS. REED: 7-H. FOR CONSIDERATION BY
10 THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION -
11 RESOLUTION NO. 212, 2017 - AUTHORIZING THE
12 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS
13 TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A MASTER
14 LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF
15 SCRANTON, HEREINAFTER DESIGNATED ("LESSOR")
16 AND NEW CINGULAR WIRELESS PCS, LLC, A
17 DELAWARE LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, WITH ITS
18 PRINCIPAL OFFICES AT 575 MOROSGO DRIVE,
19 ATLANTA, GA 30324, HEREINAFTER DESIGNATED
20 ("LESSEE") TO LEASE SPACE TO LESSEE WITH
21 RESPECT TO PARTICULAR SITES AT WHICH LESSEE
22 WISHES TO INSTALL, MAINTAIN, AND OPERATE,
23 SMALL CELL COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT, AS WELL
24 AS ANY AND ALL NECESSARY LEASE SUPPLEMENTS
25 OUTLINED HEREIN.

1 MR. WECHSLER: As Chairperson for
2 the Committee on Rules, I recommend final
3 passage of Item 7-H.

4 MR. ROGAN: Second.

5 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

6 MR. PERRY: Yes, I just have one
7 item on the question here, this is going to
8 generate some revenue for us. What I would
9 like to get with the Business Administrator
10 and maybe set up a special account where we
11 could use some of the funds from this to
12 help pay for our street sign project. I
13 know that's something that's been talked
14 about a lot lately and it's all a question
15 of where is the money going to come from.

16 I know the administration talked
17 about performing a study of just a study
18 based on cost and maybe we can just bypass
19 if this money already hasn't been allocated
20 for some other use, so that's something I
21 would like to get with the new business
22 administrator with and see if we can set
23 something up for 2018.

24 MR. EVANS: Yes, on the question, I
25 would certainly support that because I think

1 it's is a great idea and what's nice about
2 this is it's an annual fee that we are going
3 to be getting so something we could work on
4 annually, and constantly upgrade or street
5 signs so that would be a great idea.

6 MR. WECHSLER: Roll call, please.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

8 MR. PERRY: Yes.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

10 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

12 MR. EVANS: Yes.

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

14 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby
15 declare Item 7-H legally and lawfully
16 adopted.

17 MS. REED: 7-I. FOR CONSIDERATION BY
18 THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION -
19 RESOLUTION NO. 213, 2017 - APPOINTMENT OF
20 CHRISTE A. CASCIANO, SR., 301 NORTON AVENUE,
21 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18504 AS BUSINESS
22 ADMINISTRATOR EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 20, 2017.
23 MR. CASCIANO WILL BE REPLACING DAVID BULZONI
24 WHO RESIGNED AS BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR.

25 MR. WECHSLER: As Chairperson for

1 the Committee on Rules, I recommend final
2 passage of Item 7-I.

3 MR. ROGAN: Second.

4 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?
5 Roll call, please?

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

7 MR. PERRY: Yes.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

9 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

11 MR. EVANS: Yes.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

13 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby
14 declare Item 7-I legally and lawfully
15 adopted.

16 MS. REED: 7-J. FOR CONSIDERATION BY
17 THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION -
18 RESOLUTION NO. 214, 2017 - AUTHORIZING THE
19 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS
20 TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A COLLECTIVE
21 BARGAINING AGREEMENT WITH LOCAL LODGE 2305
22 OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
23 MACHINISTS AND AEROSPACE WORKERS IN
24 ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERMS AND PROVISIONS OF
25 A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING RATIFIED BY

1 THE MEMBERSHIP.

2 MR. WECHSLER: As Chairperson for
3 the Committee on Rules, I recommend final
4 passage of Item 7-J.

5 MR. ROGAN: Second.

6 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

7 MR. ROGAN: Yes, on the question,
8 this item is the Department of Public Works
9 contract, I don't think there has been a
10 councilman in recent city history that's
11 been more critical of the DPW at times than
12 I have, so I spent a long time reviewing
13 this contract and although there are some
14 provisions in there that I wish weren't and
15 there are some other things that I'm not 100
16 percent happy with, overall this is a very
17 fair contract. Again, it's minimal pay
18 increases, 2 percent for our DPW workers.

19 Most importantly in this contract,
20 which I think is a must for all future
21 contracts in the city is random drug testing
22 for DPW employees. This has already been
23 put into place within our fire department
24 and it's been very successful and we in our
25 caucus tonight discussed that a little bit

1 more about how the drug testing would be run
2 and it would be completely done at random,
3 but it's very important, especially with
4 having employees driving heavy equipment
5 throughout the city that we are sure that
6 our work force isn't using drugs, and it is
7 something that needs to be applied to every
8 department in the city not only DPW. So
9 that's something that was put into this
10 contract that is new, that is a big change
11 so that's something that I certainly
12 support.

13 And the other reason why I'm going
14 to support this legislation is over the last
15 four years the DPW in my opinion has
16 improved quite a bit. One of my biggest
17 gripes in the past with the public works,
18 and still a problem sometimes but it has
19 improved quite a bit is when residents
20 contact myself and my colleagues with
21 problems that when we send them to the
22 director or many times an employee they get
23 done, but in the past that wasn't the case.

24 So there are some members of the DPW
25 I do want to thank by name, I know there is

1 a number of other others that work hard
2 every day, but Denny Gallagher, the
3 director, has helped me with numerous
4 citizen's requests during the course of the
5 year. The person that's probably done the
6 most is Larry Wynn, I mentioned him and
7 thanked him a number of time at these
8 meetings so I wanted to thank him. Gene
9 Reed, who is technically the DPW employee, I
10 believe he falls under a different union,
11 but he works at DPW. Bill Slocum and, of
12 course, Tim Gilroy are guys who have helped
13 out with the citizen's request that I had so
14 I want to take the chance to thank all of
15 them for their hard work for our city and I
16 will be voting "yes" on this contract.

17 MR. EVANS: On the question, the
18 city solicitor met with us in caucus prior
19 to our meeting tonight and we had several
20 questions, one related to what impact what
21 the contract have on storm water management
22 if this city decided to retain management as
23 part of the DPW or if the storm authority
24 was created by the city or if a storm water
25 authority was created in a more regional

1 approach.

2 Also, we have concerns -- well, I
3 had concerns about the garbage study being
4 done and if we decided to go with a per bag
5 or hybrid system would there be any
6 restrictions, so we were assured by the city
7 solicitor that there are no restrictions in
8 the contract or any of those issues so that
9 is one of the main reasons I will be voting
10 in the affirmative as well.

11 MR. WECHSLER: I'd like to take this
12 opportunity to congratulate the
13 administration and the union leadership at
14 DPW. I believe this contract was negotiated
15 fairly, give and take on both sides, and I
16 do think it resulted in a fair contract to
17 both the workers and to the taxpayers.

18 Roll call, please.

19 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

20 MR. PERRY: Yes.

21 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

22 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

23 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

24 MR. EVANS: Yes.

25 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

1 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby
2 declare Item 7-J legally and lawfully
3 adopted.

4 MS. REED: 7-K.FOR CONSIDERATION BY
5 THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION -
6 RESOLUTION NO. 215, 2017 (AS AMENDED) -
7 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE
8 CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO
9 A CONTRACT WITH HIGHMARK BLUE CROSS BLUE
10 SHIELD TO PROVIDE MEDICAL CLAIMS
11 ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES TO THE CITY OF
12 SCRANTON FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2018
13 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2020.

14 MR. WECHSLER: As Chairperson for
15 the Committee on Rules, I recommend final
16 passage of Item 7-K, as amended.

17 MR. ROGAN: Second.

18 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?
19 Roll call, please?

20 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

21 MR. PERRY: Yes.

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

23 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

25 MR. EVANS: Yes.

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

2 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby
3 declare Item 7-K, as amended, legally and
4 lawfully adopted.

5 MS. REED: 7-L - PREVIOUSLY TABLED -
6 FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES
7 - FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.
8 120-2017 - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
9 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE THE
10 DEED CONVEYING TITLE FROM RSM PROPERTIES,
11 LLC, A PROPERTY LOCATED AT 248-256 WYOMING
12 AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, TO THE CITY
13 OF SCRANTON AS MORE FULLY DESCRIBED IN
14 EXHIBIT A ATTACHED HERETO, AND MADE A PART
15 HEREOF."

16 MR. WECHSLER: As Chairperson for
17 the Committee on Rules, I recommend final
18 passage of Item 7-L.

19 MR. ROGAN: Second.

20 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

21 MR. PERRY: Yes, I'm sorry, on the
22 question. We tabled this and I'm not
23 against having a park but what I'm for is
24 having as many properties that we have on
25 the city tax rolls for obvious reasons so I

1 know that's something in many causes that we
2 have while we have we kicked this idea and
3 around and the bottom line is this property
4 has been for sale and on the market for over
5 ten years and to say that the market for
6 this property was cold would be an
7 understatement. So there was no way to move
8 this property. If we could, it could have
9 been sold and already on the tax rolls, so
10 now we are left with the options of what are
11 we going to do with it.

12 Now, there was another question of
13 purchasing it first but we have to have
14 title of it to apply for the grants, that's
15 the understanding and that was the
16 explanation that we have for our grants, the
17 county grants have to come together and we
18 cannot apply for them until we own it. So
19 I'm going to be for this project. I think
20 the green space will be beautiful, but I
21 would have rather have a business on that
22 property but it just wasn't going to happen
23 and this is a good Plan B.

24 MR. ROGAN: This is a piece of
25 legislation I struggled with quite a bit

1 because as Councilman Perry mentioned I want
2 to see this developed privately. I do not
3 want to see a park put in this location. On
4 the other side is the background on this
5 piece of property is that this was a large
6 mistake by the Doherty administration when
7 they agreed to remediate this land. Because
8 of that, it resulted in a lawsuit.

9 From talking to the city solicitor,
10 and I want to thank the city solicitor for
11 informing council every step of the way on
12 this, the unfortunate truth on this is that
13 it would cost more to fight it out in Court
14 and to go down that path than to settle the
15 suit by this piece of legislation. I will
16 be voting "yes" for the legislation for that
17 reason and that reason only. I would like
18 the city to try to market the property in
19 the meantime, to try to find a suitable
20 developer that would be interested in the
21 property even if means selling it at a loss
22 to get it keep it on the tax rolls and have
23 that developed, so that is something that I
24 will be discussing with the mayor and his
25 administration but, unfortunately, at this

1 time there really is only one decision and
2 it is to pass this legislation to settle
3 that lawsuit.

4 Again, for those who don't know,
5 Mayor Doherty did agree in writing to
6 remediate this property and the city did not
7 fulfill their duty, that's why there is a
8 lawsuit over this piece of land and that's
9 why we are where we are. I know there is a
10 good amount of support for putting a park
11 there. Again, I don't know if I'm sold on
12 that idea, I would like to see it developed,
13 but the lawsuit does need to be settled, and
14 it's been my longstanding position with many
15 of these items that when it comes to
16 lawsuits the city never comes out on the
17 right side of them so getting this settled I
18 think is the best course of action for the
19 taxpayers and I do want to strongly urge the
20 mayor and the administration to consider
21 using this piece of land as an economic
22 development tool to try and lure our
23 business into the city. Like I said, even
24 if means selling this at a loss.

25 MR. EVANS: On the question, I'm

1 probably going to repeat some of the things
2 my colleagues have said already, but the
3 conditions that lead to the city's purchase
4 of this land basically are as follows: We
5 have (a), a pending lawsuit by the current
6 owners. "(B), we have a property that has
7 been exposed to the real estate market on
8 and off for maybe eight to ten years with no
9 takers. (C), the lack of reassessment make
10 it extremely to develop commercial parcels
11 and build new commercial construction in the
12 city.

13 So my solution is pretty simple,
14 certainly I would prefer this property be
15 developed as a mixed use, a personal project
16 that was stated by my colleagues, but that
17 would always be number one in my eyes, but
18 the reality is the current climate does not
19 allow for that and the market has spoken.

20 After 1,782 days actually on the
21 market and a purchase price that is 35
22 percent less than the purchase price that
23 was paid by the owners, it's time to make a
24 deal. Because of all of that, I feel the
25 alternative for this land be used as a

1 pocket park downtown while part of Scranton
2 Tomorrow has development is a sound solution
3 to a very unique situation so I will be
4 supporting this legislation to purchase this
5 parcel of land at Linden and Wyoming.

6 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I'll also be
7 voting for this legislation. Just to kind
8 of recap what was said, in order for the
9 county to do any remediation at that site
10 that property does have to be in the hands
11 of the city ora a nonprofit. Once the city
12 takes possession of that land, it also opens
13 up an opportunity for some more grants from
14 the state to also develop that area. And I
15 also think, as Councilman Rogan mentioned,
16 this is going to be an opportunity actually
17 for the city and the county to begin discuss
18 what we are going to do with the empty
19 spaces in our current commercial buildings
20 when the county moves into the Globe Store.
21 As everyone is quite aware, there are
22 several offices in the county that take up a
23 lot of office space and buildings throughout
24 the city, and I think although a new office
25 building there may have been a good idea at

1 one time, we going to have come up with some
2 type of idea to start marketing the empty
3 offices that are going to be left behind
4 when the county moves. I know some of them
5 are going to become apartments and maybe
6 some retail space, but we are going to have
7 to concentrate between the city at Scranton
8 Tomorrow, Lackawanna County, and the State
9 to come up with a way to start filling some
10 of our empty spaces that are going to be
11 opening up as we move into next year. Roll
12 call, please.

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

14 MR. PERRY: Yes.

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

16 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

17 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

18 MR. EVANS: Yes.

19 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

20 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby
21 declare Item 7-L legally and lawfully
22 adopted.

23 If there is no further business,
24 I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

25 MR. ROGAN: Motion to adjourn.

MR. WECHSLER: Meeting adjourned.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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2
3 I hereby certify that the proceedings and
4 evidence are contained fully and accurately in the
5 notes of testimony taken by me at the hearing of the
6 above-captioned matter and that the foregoing is a true
7 and correct transcript of the same to the best of my
8 ability.

9
10
11 _____
12 CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR
13 OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER
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