

1 SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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HELD:

Wednesday, July 15, 2015

LOCATION:

Council Chambers

Scranton City Hall

340 North Washington Avenue

Scranton, Pennsylvania

Elizabeth V. Kedrick, RPR - Official Court Reporter

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CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

PATRICK ROGAN, VICE-PRESIDENT

WAYNE EVANS

JOSEPH WECHSLER

WILLIAM GAUGHAN

LORI REED, CITY CLERK

KATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

AMIL MINORA, SOLICITOR

1 MR. ROGAN: I'd call the meeting to
2 order.

3 (Pledge of Allegiance recited.)

4 MR. ROGAN: Please remain standing
5 for a moment of silent prayer for our
6 service men and women and especially for
7 Officer John Wilding who lost his life this
8 past week fighting to keep us safe.

9 (Moment of silence observed.)

10 MR. ROGAN: Roll call, please?

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler?

12 MR. WECHSLER: Here.

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan?

14 MR. ROGAN: Here.

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans?

16 MR. EVANS: Here.

17 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan?

18 MR. GAUGHAN: Here.

19 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff?

20 MR. GAUGHAN: I'd like to make a
21 motion to table Item 7B.

22 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

23 MR. ROGAN: On the question?

24 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.

25 Now, it was discussed back in caucus with

1 our solicitor that we need another week so
2 that the solicitor can review this
3 legislation for on-demand storage
4 containers. There's a question about
5 whether or not we have to amend the Zoning
6 Ordinance. So we will take another week,
7 have our solicitor review it and we should
8 be ready to vote on it for final passage
9 next week.

10 MR. ROGAN: Anyone else on the
11 question? All those in favor signify by
12 saying aye?

13 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

14 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

15 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

16 MR. EVANS: Aye.

17 MR. ROGAN: No's? The ayes have it
18 and so moved. Please dispense with the
19 reading of the minutes.

20 MS. REED: THIRD ORDER. 3-A. TAX
21 ASSESSOR'S RESULTS REPORTS FOR HEARING DATES
22 HELD JUNE 17 AND JUNE 24, 2015.

23 MR. ROGAN: Are there any comments?
24 If not, received and filed.

25 MS. REED: 3-B. BREAKDOWN OF THE

1 ELIGIBLE SALARIES FOR THE LIQUID FUELS
2 ACCOUNT FOR THE MONTHS OF APRIL, MAY AND
3 JUNE 2015.

4 MR. ROGAN: Are there any comments?
5 In not, received and filed.

6 MS. REED: 3-C. TAX ASSESSOR'S
7 REPORT FOR HEARING DATE TO BE HELD JULY 29,
8 2015.

9 MR. ROGAN: Are there any comments?
10 If not, received and filed.

11 MS. REED: 3-D. MINUTES OF THE
12 REGULAR MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF SCRANTON
13 HOUSING AUTHORITY HELD JUNE 1, 2015.

14 MR. ROGAN: Are there any comments?
15 If not, received and filed. Do any Council
16 members have announcements?

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

18 MR. ROGAN: Go ahead.

19 MR. GAUGHAN: Scranton Tomorrow is
20 hosting a Drive-in Downtown Movie Series; a
21 fun, free, family oriented event with
22 hundreds of attendees per movie. This has
23 been held for the past couple of years. It
24 will begin tomorrow, July 16th, with the
25 showing of Annie. Activities begin at 7:30.

1 Movie starts at dusk. And please bring a
2 lawn chair or a blanket. Also, Scranton
3 Neighborhood Summit presents a Picnic in the
4 Park Saturday, July 18th, 12 to 3 p.m., Nay
5 Aug Park. There's free food; hot dogs,
6 hamburgers, attractions, free swimming for
7 everyone, music and free document shredding
8 from 12 to 2 p.m. Thank you.

9 MR. EVANS: If I may, a SAPA
10 Committee meeting will be held Tuesday, July
11 21st at 7 p.m. at the Dunmore Community
12 Center at 1414 Monroe Avenue in Dunmore and
13 is open to the public.

14 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. City Hall
15 will be closed on Friday, July 17th to honor
16 Officer John Wilding. His funeral will be
17 at 10 a.m. at the Cathedral Church on
18 Wyoming Avenue. Expect road closures in
19 that area. And secondly, Council did meet
20 in a brief executive session prior to the
21 meeting to discuss a matter involving
22 litigation.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: And Mr. Rogan, just
24 note that although City Hall will be closed
25 on Friday, the DPW will still be picking up

1 garbage.

2 MR. ROGAN: Thank you.

3 MS. REED: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS
4 PARTICIPATION.

5 MR. ROGAN: The first speaker on the
6 list is Joseph Schimes.

7 MR. SCHIMES: Good evening, thank
8 you for your indulgence. If I may approach,
9 counsellor? I brought some things for the
10 Councilmen to look at. And I'll let you see
11 them first, so you can assure them there's
12 nothing there that's of any consequence. No
13 subpoenas or anything like that.

14 MR. MINORA: Okay.

15 MR. SCHIMES: Thank you. The single
16 page handout that I just gave you, the
17 purpose for it is so that you can note the
18 third paragraph down listed as composition.
19 That specific paragraph details who is
20 required to sit on the Pension Board of the
21 Non-Uniform Pension for the city. You will
22 note that the Mayor and President of City
23 Council are required to sit on that Pension
24 Board. With all of what's going on
25 currently with the pensions, someone might

1 want to start paying attention to the fact
2 that the Mayor and City Council President
3 rarely, if ever, attend, let alone
4 participate. Subsequently, there's been
5 several lawsuits filed; several of which the
6 city has lost in part because of that fact.
7 Now, for the benefit of the public, the
8 union and the non-uniform pension fund are
9 two separate entities. One has nothing to
10 do with the other. The union that's being
11 referred to in some instances is the IAM
12 Union which represents the clerical workers
13 has nothing to do with the pension. The
14 pension was founded in 1922. The union
15 didn't come into being in City Hall until
16 1972, some 50 years later. So just want to
17 clear some of that up. You do, in fact,
18 have remedies for this current situation
19 with this financial disaster that you're in
20 because of this pension issue, particularly
21 the non-uniform pension. I can't speak to
22 the police and fire issues, I have no
23 knowledge of them. But the non-uniform
24 pension, that money may, in fact, be
25 recovered. But it's going to have to be up

1 to you guys and your solicitor to work that
2 out. Gentlemen, I thank you for your
3 indulgence.

4 MR. ROGAN: Thank you for your time.

5 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

6 MR. ROGAN: Joan Hodowanitz.

7 MS. HODOWANITZ: Joan Hodowanitz, a
8 resident and taxpayer. The Library Express
9 is going to have a special blow out book
10 sale Saturday, July 18th and Saturday, July
11 25th, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the former Disney
12 store on the second floor of the Steamtown
13 Mall. Paperback books will sell for one
14 dollar, hardcover books for three dollars.
15 And you can fill a bag like this for only
16 \$20. There are 35 books in this bag. With
17 regard to 6A and 6B, the ordinance that
18 would raise the threshold for bidding on
19 city contracts. I have a problem with this.
20 According to a story in yesterday's paper,
21 these ordinances would reverse a 2010
22 decision that lowered the threshold in an
23 effort to reduce costs by increasing
24 competition while simultaneously increasing
25 transparency. The Courtright administration

1 believes that a higher threshold will cut
2 advertising costs and expedite the
3 procurement process. Did the city
4 experience any cost savings under the 2010
5 ordinances? If not, how much money can we
6 expect to save with these changes? I
7 support measures that save the taxpayer
8 money, but not at the expense of
9 transparency and public disclosure. And
10 speaking of contracts, I take issue with Mr.
11 Amoroso's assertion that he can maintain his
12 independence from the non-profits that pay
13 his salary; specifically Allied Services,
14 the Geisinger Foundation and Lackawanna
15 College. These organizations have their own
16 agendas. Those agendas are not necessarily
17 compatible with the agendas of this city or
18 its taxpayers. If we must avail ourselves
19 of Mr. Amoroso's services, an assumption to
20 which I do not subscribe, then he should be
21 hired by the city and accountable to city
22 officials, not the Chamber of Commerce and
23 not non-profit organizations. Remember,
24 city officials in theory answer to the
25 taxpayer. The Chamber of Commerce and

1 non-profits do not. Next, I am not
2 convinced by Mr. Amoroso's claim that the
3 city is hitting it's 2015 revenue and
4 expenditure projections. For example, we
5 have yet to receive even one bill from the
6 PFM Financial Services even though they were
7 hired in March of 2014. We don't even know
8 whether we'll be able to meet our December
9 31st MM0 obligation to the pension funds. I
10 know spin when I hear it. And I heard it
11 last week. And finally, if the sale and/or
12 lease back of the Scranton Sewer Authority
13 is still part of our road to recovery, what
14 happens if Dunmore refuses to play ball? Do
15 we have a Plan B for that scenario? And
16 I'll step back to hear your answers, if any,
17 during the course of the meeting. Thank
18 you.

19 MR. ROGAN: Just one that I could
20 give you now because we discussed it earlier
21 today. Regarding Dunmore, they do have one
22 vote on the board and it would require a
23 vote of the board to pass. And Dunmore does
24 receive a certain percentage of any sale or
25 lease. So Dunmore would have a vote on the

1 board, but they do not have a veto.

2 MS. HODOWANITZ: Okay, thank you.

3 MR. ROGAN: Les Spindler?

4 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening,
5 Council, Les Spindler; city resident,
6 homeowner, taxpayer. First off, my thoughts
7 and prayers go out to the Wilding family.
8 It's an awful tragedy. And I hope the
9 criminals responsible for his death are
10 prosecuted to the fullest extent. And I
11 hope DA Jarbola brings murder charges
12 against these people. They shouldn't see
13 the light of day again. Okay, first of all,
14 I haven't been here for a few weeks. I was
15 a little disappointed that the meeting two
16 weeks ago was changed because of the 4th of
17 July. Well, the 4th was on a Saturday. The
18 meeting would have been Thursday. Why was
19 the meeting changed to Wednesday? I
20 couldn't attend Wednesday. It's ridiculous.
21 It's like going back to years ago when the
22 meetings were changed for any reason at all.
23 That's just my opinion. One thing, I
24 haven't been here since Mr. Boscov was here
25 to speak. And I have an issue with some

1 Council people up here that said he
2 purposely devalued the mall so he can get it
3 at a better deal. And I agree with what he
4 said, people that think that, that's really
5 stupid. Why would he do that? He'd
6 be--that would be like cutting off your nose
7 to spite your face. If he purposely
8 devalued the mall which he couldn't do
9 anyway, he doesn't run the mall. So making
10 comments like that is really stupid. If he
11 devalued the mall, he'd be chasing customers
12 out to not shop in his store. So that's
13 just ridiculous comments by whoever made
14 them. Next thing, I wanted to bring this up
15 two weeks ago. But as I said, the meeting
16 was changed. "City Seeking Fresh Ideas."
17 This is Councilman Evans. I think when I
18 saw that, I think it was pretty laughable.
19 I've been coming to these meeting for 13 and
20 a half years. Myself, some people here,
21 many people that don't attend anymore
22 because we've been coming with ideas for 13
23 and a half years and it's fallen on deaf
24 ears. Now, all of a sudden you want to hear
25 ideas from the community? I said, I find it

1 laughable. We had ideas for 13 and a half
2 years that I've been coming here. And
3 nobody--and a lot of them are good ideas.
4 And they were just talked upon. Now, we
5 want good ideas from the people? I--

6 MR. EVANS: Would you like me to
7 comment on that?

8 MR. SPINDLER: Well, after I'm done.

9 MR. EVANS: Alright.

10 MR. SPINDLER: The next thing, 7B.
11 And I won't be able to attend next week, so
12 I'm going to speak about it now even though
13 it's tabled. I don't think it should be
14 tabled. I think it should be taken off the
15 agenda. We have a city that's millions of
16 dollars in debt and we have legislation
17 about storage containers? Don't we have
18 more important things to worry about than
19 worry about people who have storage
20 containers on their property? I think this
21 is one thing and one thing only. It's a
22 vendetta against Mr. Bolus. And I think
23 it's wrong. We have much more important
24 stuff to worry about. And I don't think it
25 should ever be on the agenda. That's all I

1 have tonight. Thank you.

2 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. Bob Bolus?

3 MR. EVANS: If I may while Mr. Bolus
4 is coming up to the podium, in my remarks
5 about the idea sessions, I specifically said
6 in those remarks that we need to do a better
7 job--a much better job of listening. And
8 that includes on Thursday nights, Thursday
9 evenings. So I do recognize that there are
10 plenty of ideas that come forth every week
11 and we have to do a better job of listening
12 to the ideas that come forth at the podium.
13 That's all I have. Thank you.

14 MR. BOLUS: I didn't understand what
15 you said, I'm sorry.

16 MR. EVANS: That's alright.

17 MR. ROGAN: Mr. Bolus?

18 MR. BOLUS: Good evening, Council,
19 Bob Bolus, Scranton. It's nice to see we
20 have some residents here from East Mountain
21 tonight which makes it even that much more
22 interesting, that is, to the issues that are
23 going on. My issue is the containers. I
24 brought it up last week with what the legal
25 use and illegal use was. I've gone through

1 hell because of certain neighbors up there.
2 I removed, I complied with a court order, I
3 reinstated my containers. They're a legal
4 use, grandfathered in and I resent anymore
5 comments and negativity and harassment by
6 certain individuals. I'm going to get down
7 to some of the comments that I did not
8 appreciate last week. And I didn't hear it,
9 Mr. Wechsler, said you've been making a lot
10 of comments about good neighbors and bad
11 neighbors. You said something about the
12 fact and I saw it on the review that I must
13 have thought I was a bad neighbor. Well,
14 let me set you straight once and for all
15 what a good neighbor and bad neighbor is,
16 what I've done to this community. But
17 you're not even in the position to question
18 who I am or what I am. First of all, let me
19 tell you a little about myself. And I never
20 wanted to come in for praise from anywhere
21 else, but you need to be put in your place
22 once and for all about failure to tell who
23 is a good neighbor and a bad neighbor. That
24 may come out in a court hearing in the
25 future where you'll be compelled to tell

1 that, including your neighbors. I received
2 a proclamation from the Pennsylvania House
3 of Representatives. I was awarded a Hero's
4 Medal by the American (sic) Association and
5 was given this proclamation by the House of
6 Representatives for saving over 7 lives of
7 victims on the interstates. I received a
8 proclamation from the City of Scranton for
9 feeding over 3,000 people over the last 20
10 years. And my last, it was over 3,000
11 people on Christmas Day which I fund and I
12 sponsor individually. I want the kids to
13 play free at Holy Cross Hall. When I bought
14 the Holy Cross Church, I paid \$35,000. It
15 was going to be torn down, I saved it. The
16 kids play free there, yet the city assessed
17 me at a \$500,000 value and there's \$50,000
18 in taxes I have to fight over right now.
19 But the kids still play free at that
20 facility because I refuse to throw them out
21 and put them out on the street. I have a
22 mission to Iwo Jima. I was part of a
23 documentary several weeks ago out in
24 Illinois where a Japanese film crew who came
25 from Japan to film the historic flag raising

1 issues in the family and myself on the
2 mission to Iwo Jima to recover Sergeant
3 Genaust's remains from Iwo Jima. He filmed
4 the flag raising on Mount Suribachi. A
5 mission I'm funding myself. And I've been
6 offered and asked and given permission by
7 the Emperor of Japan personally to come back
8 to Iwo Jima and continue the search. I
9 allowed the students from Scranton Knights
10 Lacrosse when they got thrown out of the
11 University's property to come to my facility
12 in Jessup and they played free along with
13 other groups that played free on my
14 facilities. Because I won't charge kids
15 because I believe in the culture in the
16 city. I just recently received a
17 certificate of appreciation from the Florida
18 Highway Patrol for preventing a tragedy on
19 I-75 for my heroic actions in preventing a
20 catastrophe when a drunken wrong-way driver
21 came down I-75 by Bradenton, Florida in the
22 passing lane and I put myself at risk and
23 stopped that vehicle from a potential
24 tragedy. When it came time to bring the
25 Steamtown trains, I brought the first

1 locomotive into Steamtown from New Hope,
2 Pennsylvania. Then, I moved the museum from
3 Bellows Falls to Scranton free with my
4 transportation operations. Never asked
5 anybody for praise. Never asked anybody for
6 a damn dime. When I was on East Mountain, I
7 used to be a director with some of the
8 people that are here and when Wechsler was
9 on the board. We used to have a dirt bike
10 up there. We used to have a fishing derby
11 which I was cosponsor on it. And we don't
12 have the derby anymore and the kids don't
13 fish there. That's the leadership of East
14 Mountain. When East Mountain Lake was
15 drained to look for the rifle to the guy
16 that killed the young lady on East Mountain,
17 I offered to cut the stumps at our expense
18 and bring the lake back to the pristine
19 condition it was years ago. It was
20 challenged by East Mountain. When you sit
21 here and you start talking about who's
22 credible and who isn't, the issues you make,
23 the comments you make: I donated many, many
24 containers such as those at my home during
25 the last flood up and down this whole

1 valley, Bloomsburg and everywhere, free,
2 they were delivered free. I don't ask
3 anybody for a dime. And they were numerous.
4 They were in Nanticoke, Montrose, Berwick,
5 Bloomsburg. And yes, Mr. Wechsler, I do
6 consider myself a good neighbor. In
7 response to your comments last week that I
8 thought I was a bad neighbor, I never
9 employed a whole family of illegal
10 immigrants as you did. I considered you a
11 bad neighbor because you took jobs from
12 people in the city. Don't tell me about
13 electronics, here's the whole thing about 50
14 grand that cost your company. It's about
15 what you didn't do. It's about your
16 comments about who's a good neighbor and a
17 bad neighbor. And I have to right to sit
18 here. You're a public official. And I can
19 challenge you--

20 MR. ROGAN: Mr. Bolus, thank you.
21 Your time is up.

22 MR. BOLUS: And I understand Mr.
23 Wechsler don't like it. But right now, I
24 really don't care what he likes.

25 MR. ROGAN: Mr. Bolus, your time is

1 up.

2 MR. BOLUS: I understand that. And
3 I'll be glad to sit down in a second. When
4 you consider the fact, Mr. Wechsler--and he
5 can smirk because down the road that smirk
6 is going to get at issue. What we have with
7 you calling neighbors bad neighbors, we have
8 the pot calling the kettle black. And this
9 isn't over by any stretch of imagination.
10 My containers are going to stay where they
11 are and it will take a legal challenge to do
12 it. It will take people like this over this
13 who want to discredit me like Ms. Dunleavy
14 and--

15 MR. ROGAN: Mr. Bolus, please don't
16 attack residents. You can attack us, but
17 please don't attack the residents.

18 MR. BOLUS: This is a city issue.
19 And one final thing about good neighbors,
20 when I asked you guys to pen a letter to put
21 a casino in Scranton, none of you did it.
22 And you were the guys at fault that are
23 allowing the city to go down the toilet
24 where it is. Thank you.

25 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. Doug Miller?

1 MR. MILLER: Good evening, Council,
2 Doug Miller, Scranton. Now, just in regards
3 to the legislation on the storage
4 containers, just real briefly because I find
5 it--I kind of get a kick out of the whole
6 thing. I feel it's a complete waste of time
7 with all the issues that we have going on in
8 the city that's basically bankrupt. To
9 think of the fact that we are even
10 considering it is a joke. But you can pass
11 all the legislation you want, anybody that
12 has an ounce of knowledge with the way city
13 government works and ordinances work, it
14 really doesn't matter what your opinion is.
15 Ultimately, a Judge will determine what's
16 legal and what's not. So we'll wait and see
17 if this is challenged by what a Judge says.
18 Because this comes down to what a Judge
19 says, not you. And that's fact. You know,
20 in regards to last week, the caucus with the
21 Mayor and Mr. Amoroso, you know, just came
22 out with more just baffling thoughts
23 wondering where we really are. The only
24 thing we heard from Mr. Amoroso was
25 liquidating assets, the few remaining assets

1 we have left at this point; the Sewer
2 Authority, the parking garages. But the
3 thing that really gets me is that everything
4 always resorts back to the same old recipe.
5 And that's raising taxes. And that's once
6 again what we heard from Mr. Courtright who
7 claimed he was going to get us back on
8 track, had all the answers and what we were
9 going to get from the Messiah and Mr.
10 Amoroso. And if that's really the solution
11 of where we are, well then we are headed for
12 a bankruptcy and that's where we need to be.
13 Because if you continue to put the screws to
14 the same people year after year and expect
15 them to keep paying and paying something
16 they don't have is just completely
17 ludicrous. And I don't know when you people
18 are going to finally get that. Whether it's
19 Council, the administration. It's
20 commonsense. Any of you that paid an ounce
21 of attention in the last 10 years, 12 years
22 should have figured that out by now. You
23 ran for office. You claimed to know what
24 was going on. You claim to have solutions.
25 And we elected you, not Mr. Amoroso. So

1 quite frankly, I really am not interested in
2 his plan because at this point it's a
3 failure. There's not one promising aspect
4 of that plan whatsoever. It's not a plan.
5 As I said before, it's a suicide mission.
6 And that's where we're headed. And is that
7 ultimately where we want to take this city?
8 Is that the fate? Is that the legacy that
9 you people want to leave? That you failed
10 and let us down. You're good at the sound
11 bites, but you lack a lot of ability to put
12 solutions together to turn this city around.
13 And that's what we need. We don't need
14 political parasites continuing to pull this
15 city down. And that's what we put up with
16 for a long time. And that leads me to the
17 next thing on the agenda, 6-A, in regards to
18 the lowering--or now we want to raise the
19 threshold for bidding in the city. And what
20 this comes down to is just more of the same
21 pay to play politics that's just destroyed
22 this city. You know, I believe it was a few
23 years ago, it was Mrs. Evans and the
24 supermajority Council that lowered that
25 threshold to \$10,000 to level the playing

1 field to make things more transparent and
2 accountable and it allowed people to have
3 their fair share and to take away the blank
4 checkbooks and get rid of the good old boy
5 club. And what we're doing here with this
6 is we're just--we're bringing that back,
7 that same mentality back. Mr. Rogan, you
8 were part of it. You were all for lowering
9 the threshold. And boy oh boy my do the
10 times change. And you're really starting to
11 show your true colors.

12 MR. ROGAN: I haven't said whether I
13 support or oppose that legislation. But I
14 will address it, since you mentioned it.
15 When we did lower the bidding threshold, I
16 do like and I still do like the idea of
17 having more bidders. That creates
18 competition and that lowers prices. On the
19 other side of the coin is advertising costs.
20 The Scranton Times was the biggest
21 benefactor of that legislation. Now,
22 Councilman Wechsler made a suggestion last
23 week that I think gives us the best of both
24 worlds. By putting all of those bids online
25 and advertised on the city website basically

1 free of cost other than the cost that our IT
2 Department incurs by putting them online and
3 then them having above this threshold in the
4 newspaper, I think that is a good compromise
5 to save money on both the advertising and
6 keep it open and honest.

7 MR. MILLER: Yeah, my thoughts on it
8 as far as the advertising because that seems
9 to be the argument being made to pass this
10 legislation is the progress in the city for
11 years is, you know, we've been paying these
12 fees for a very long time as far as
13 advertising is concerned. So quite frankly,
14 to me, that's not the issue. Essentially,
15 my concern is what we're doing is we're
16 going back to the old ways of the way we
17 handle business in the city. And that's
18 basically going back to no bid contracts
19 because we owe favors to political
20 contributors and we can certainly twist it
21 however we want. This is the reality. I
22 mean, anybody has said, you know, you may
23 think you are fooling people, but you
24 certainly aren't fooling me. Because I know
25 why this was initially reversed in the first

1 place was to do away with this and we're
2 going back. And I'm not interested in the
3 advertising fees because we've been paying
4 them for a long time. This is taking care
5 of the elite few. This is the good old boy
6 club. I guess the political contributors
7 need to get their money back. And it's just
8 pathetic where we are. And this is our
9 leadership. This is what we have. Yep, we
10 should be really proud of ourselves.

11 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. Ron Ellman?

12 MR. ELLMAN: Got a new face down
13 there. Ronny Ellman. Hello, Council.
14 First, I'd like to say, that great sadness
15 about losing an officer. As tight as I am,
16 I wrote a little check today. And I hope
17 each one of you did the same. I imagine you
18 did. Last week, you mentioned that there
19 were subjects that Council had no power to
20 act in. It appears to me that Council needs
21 to rephrase that, that there are subjects
22 that you have no interest to act in. You
23 can relate to these antiquated city codes.
24 But when it comes to something that you
25 want, it can be done immediately. Like hire

1 Mr. Bulzoni. Or now we're into the pods.
2 To me, most of these pods are--they're
3 people who are trying to clean up an
4 apartment where someone's left a dwelling
5 and probably left the city. This is almost
6 a necessity. And I certainly agree with Mr.
7 Bolus. It's just one more way you people
8 found to rape property owners. This is
9 shameful. Mr. Amoroso was hired, one of his
10 jobs is to go to the universities, these
11 phony non-profits, he hasn't touched them.
12 But here, you're worried about \$50 on a pod
13 or whatever the amount is. This is
14 shameful. What was it, 639 foreclosures?
15 Four or 5,000 in the past 8 or 10 years?
16 And nobody's worried about them, those
17 people. You're worried about a pod paying,
18 getting the \$50 or \$100. I think you five
19 people got an allegiance to the people that
20 put you in those seats, not to this useless
21 worthless administration that hasn't done a
22 thing for the people of this city except
23 infest us with people like Cross and Amoroso
24 and Bulzoni. It's a good thing that Cross
25 works for Obama. He's just--20 something

1 years, who would hire someone and keep them
2 20 something years without one minute
3 positive type of thing? And Amoroso, a year
4 and a half, he sits right there last week
5 bragging. He hasn't done a thing for the
6 city in a year and a half. What do you call
7 it when you get \$60,000 for the people
8 you're supposed to go ask for money?
9 He--this could only happen in Scranton. You
10 know, it wouldn't happen in Denver. You
11 don't have it happening in anywhere. Every
12 time there's something in Scranton, all
13 these adversities just fall on us and nobody
14 cares. You know, it's a shame. It's like I
15 said week after week after week, you people
16 just aren't in touch with the people of this
17 city. And I'm surprised at you. You're
18 trying to sell houses here. And you're part
19 of this event chasing us out, chasing people
20 out. There's no quality of life. And
21 nobody cares about that. Nobody cares about
22 diminishing home values. You're worried
23 about charging for pods. You ought to
24 listen to Mr. Bolus because he seems to have
25 a --on this subject, he's right. Thank you.

1 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

2 MR. ROGAN: Thank you, is there
3 anyone else who would like to address
4 Council?

5 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,
6 citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians, I
7 would too like to add my condolences to that
8 police officer's family. It was tragic.
9 Let's talk about C and D. There are two lots
10 being sold. I hope they're not the lots
11 between the Taurus Club and Stirna's
12 Restaurant that are being sold for this
13 ridiculous price. Because people park
14 there. I don't know if that's the lots, but
15 from what the address is, it sounds like it
16 is. And I don't know if we offered Taurus
17 Club the right to buy that property for
18 these ridiculous prices before they're sold.
19 I hope it's not that. But there was also a
20 building there somewhere right around there
21 that we tore down. I wonder if we put a
22 lien against the property and we tore it
23 down, if that's the spot? Does anyone know
24 if it's actually the spot between the Taurus
25 Club and Stirna's Restaurant? A box in

1 there? No answer.

2 MR. GAUGHAN: I believe it is.

3 MR. SBARAGLIA: I believe it is too.

4 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay.

5 MR. SBARAGLIA: But this is the way
6 the city goes. I have never believed in my
7 life that we would sink so low as to offer
8 them parking spots. Some of them are public
9 parking spots too. For a ridiculous price.
10 So we're bad. This is the way the city
11 goes, worse, worse and worse. People have
12 no confidence in you at all. I have never
13 heard anybody speak decent of these people
14 on Council or even the Mayor. And I know
15 the Mayor's family very well. But they
16 don't speak highly of him. And I can see
17 why. What has he done? He has done nothing
18 and will continue to do nothing. Now, the
19 threshold, Mr. Rogan, you know why they
20 changed them, the bidding process. You were
21 there when you got all them bills that
22 weren't paid, piles and piles of bills that
23 weren't paid because nobody knew them
24 contracts were given out. So we're going
25 back to the same way. Why don't just loop

1 the city open? Say, everything in the city
2 is up for grabs. We might have more respect
3 for you.

4 MR. ROGAN: We're not going back to
5 the same way. We're actually moving further
6 by looking to do it on the internet which is
7 something that was never done before.

8 MR. GAUGHAN: And if we just add--

9 MR. SBARAGLIA: Listen, the Mayor
10 has the right to give out contracts, are you
11 asserting the property of the Mayor, the
12 duties of the Mayor?

13 MR. ROGAN: No, this legislation
14 came from the administration.

15 MR. SBARAGLIA: Yeah, but you're
16 wanting to change it.

17 MR. ROGAN: When City Council began
18 reviewing it, we talked about it last week
19 in caucus in front of a Times reporter and
20 members of the public. Councilman
21 Wechsler--we all had reservations. And
22 Councilman Wechsler brought up an excellent
23 idea which was to put those bids on the
24 internet. Which certainly isn't a step back
25 to the way things were. It's a step

1 forward. The internet is more accessible
2 than the Scranton Times where anybody can go
3 online and access what is--what services the
4 city is in need of.

5 MR. SBARAGLIA: Are you telling me
6 that the city--that the Council has the
7 right to give out them contracts and the
8 Mayor doesn't?

9 MR. ROGAN: No, the Council isn't
10 acting on--the Council does not give out
11 contracts, the administration does.

12 MR. SBARAGLIA: Okay, so they're
13 non-bidding contracts up to that price. I
14 don't care what you do on the internet, if
15 the Mayor has the power to give out them
16 contracts and you can't stop him, then
17 they're going to be given out. So it's no
18 different than the way--you realize that it
19 was Mayor Doherty that changed it. He's the
20 one that changed it from the original to
21 what it was that you took back to where it
22 was that you want to bring back up again.
23 So we're going back to the Doherty
24 administration. And the only direction we
25 have from the Doherty administration is

1 down, down, down.

2 MR. GAUGHAN: It should just be
3 noted that these--what we're raising the
4 threshold to is in line with Labor and
5 Industry and every other Municipality that
6 is similarly situated near the City of
7 Scranton. So we're not exceeding what the
8 state says is allowed.

9 MR. ROGAN: And I would just add
10 there's definitely nobody on this board here
11 that was a bigger critic of the former
12 administration than myself. Regarding this
13 issue, Council tried to do something at the
14 time to increase competition. That's the
15 reason why the threshold for advertisement
16 was raised. We could still obtain that
17 competition by advertising online without
18 paying the Scranton Times for all these ads.
19 That's the balance that can be struck to
20 save money on both ends, by having the
21 increased competition and saving on the
22 advertising. That's why we're looking at
23 not doing that. In it's current form
24 without an amendment requiring online
25 advertisements for the ones that are

1 changed, I wouldn't support it. But that
2 idea was brought up, it's a good idea and it
3 makes a lot of sense. And it's moving
4 forward. It's certainly not moving back.
5 Because we did not have the internet 30, 40
6 years ago. Mr. Morgan?

7 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.
8 Mr. Rogan, with all due respect to you,
9 whatever criticism you take today, don't
10 worry because you still have a pretty suit
11 on and everything will be okay.

12 MR. ROGAN: It is a nice suit, isn't
13 it?

14 MR. MORGAN: Yes, it is.

15 MR. ROGAN: That's my best one.

16 MR. MORGAN: It's a shame though
17 that Councilmen have such a low regard for
18 the residents here. And I think that
19 Councilmen should really tone down the way
20 they dress to be honest with you. Because
21 me personally speaking, I'm not impressed by
22 someone by how they dress. I care more
23 about how they think and what they do. And
24 this Council over an extended period of time
25 has done nothing. It's had the power of

1 subpoena. It's had the power of
2 investigation. The pensions are under
3 water. Mr. Amoroso has come in. I really
4 think that the greatest thing that could
5 happen to the city is what's happening to
6 the Mayor of Harrisburg, but I'd like it to
7 go further than that. I'd like the Federal
8 Government, the State Government or somebody
9 in the government to come forward and take a
10 look at every vote that was ever taken in
11 Council. Because Council, with all due
12 respect to you Mr. Gaughan, you're the only
13 one that said anything about the lots being
14 sold. But, you know, too often we come here
15 and we have no idea what you're even talking
16 about. You have no idea what you're
17 passing. You have no idea what's on the
18 agenda, have no idea what the back up is.
19 And you know the sad and pathetic part of it
20 is now. Because look at, I've come here a
21 couple of decades. And I've watched it all
22 happen. And I've watched the city fall
23 apart. And I've watched all the slogans
24 people ran for. And you know, I never
25 disrespect people. Because I think the most

1 important thing you can do is you can
2 disagree with somebody, but you always have
3 to respect them, you don't talk bad about
4 people behind their back. You say what you
5 have to say to them up front, right to their
6 face. And, you know, the city government
7 has been such a failure for so long.
8 Because with all the power, the Home Rule
9 Charter and all the abilities they have and
10 with all the administrations that came in,
11 the pension fund was looted. The Council
12 did that by removing Melon Bank and putting
13 someone else there to administer the fund.
14 And not only that, you know, look at the
15 city? Hundreds of millions of dollars
16 dumped into the downtown. But you know the
17 one question I have? And it's not a
18 criticism of any one individual, but what
19 are the super voters in this city thinking?
20 Because they're going out in lock step and
21 voting for fantasy. And the neighborhood
22 leaders, why aren't they educating the
23 people in the city on what the city's real
24 fiscal situation is? You know, America has
25 become the United States of Greece. Because

1 our financial situation is much worse than
2 Greece's. Much worse. And you know?
3 You've got old people and children not being
4 able to feed themselves. We've got
5 problems. We just don't want to face them.
6 And you know, I mean, I studied a lot more
7 about city government than just Council.
8 Look at the rats nest that Family Court is.
9 And they took a guardian out. And they
10 put--that had capabilities. And had a
11 psychology degree and was a gifted lawyer
12 that the state came and investigated her and
13 said the program worked quite well. And
14 then, they put a woman in there, the gender
15 doesn't matter that much, who has no idea
16 how to even run the program. And we've got
17 hundreds of children falling through the
18 cracks in the court. And what's the court
19 doing? You know, Trish Corbett. You know,
20 the former Assistant District Attorney. The
21 people we elect. Look at, the problem we
22 have here only as it were Council, the whole
23 government is in a free fall. Nobody ever
24 addresses the hard issues. We all go off
25 over fluff. And it's such a pathetic thing.

1 And the residents of our country, I really
2 don't know what they're thinking. Today
3 they're talking about all the former
4 military people committing suicide every
5 day, 22 people a day. And we're fighting
6 wars in the middle of the desert that we
7 started ourself and have no ability at all
8 to stabilize anything. It's all make
9 believe, all make believe. But the pathetic
10 thing is that Mr. Amoroso has a plan to sell
11 assets that belong to the residents. The
12 Sewer Authority has to be worth a billion
13 dollars minimum. Because of all the
14 connections that come to it. And we did the
15 sewer deal once before and it didn't work.
16 And now, we're going to sell the parking
17 garages? But Council has no idea how much
18 they cost either. Because I've asked. And
19 ignorance is not a reason to support
20 something, okay. All the money that was
21 invested in those garages and those are
22 assets that belong to the residents. It's
23 time to move onto bankruptcy. You've never
24 used your ability to subpoena. You've never
25 investigated anything. You just look at

1 putting your suits on. Thank you.

2 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. Is there
3 anyone else that would like to address
4 Council?

5 MR. HARTMAN: Hello, Council, Todd
6 Hartman, resident of Scranton, taxpayer,
7 also President of the East Mountain
8 Neighborhood Association. I'm here to talk
9 about some pods. Pods are not what my good
10 neighbor has. My good neighbor has Conex's.
11 Conex's are construction containers that
12 hold equipment, things like that. They're
13 also things that you see that go on ships,
14 those big things, those big carriers that
15 they put on ships and send them across the
16 ocean. That's what these are. I built a
17 house in this community five years ago,
18 okay. And for five years, I've been looking
19 at trailers. I spent my own money,
20 thousands of dollars, to have a court order
21 to have them removed from the side of my
22 property, which I ate. Numerous times in
23 court with my good neighbor, numerous times,
24 five times. I'm sure it won't be the last.
25 I'm here to ask you for the good of the

1 community, for the good of East Mountain,
2 for the good of South Side, West Side, North
3 Scranton; these are not pods. They should
4 have a timeframe on them, charge
5 accordingly. Whether you charge or you
6 don't charge, that doesn't bother me. But
7 they are not pods. If you'd like to come up
8 and look at them, all you have to do is come
9 up to Mountain Lake, walk along the back of
10 it and you will see them. And as far as the
11 fishing derby, yes, we do still run that,
12 Robert. Evidently, you're just not invited.
13 But, please, Mr. Evans sells real estate in
14 this community. I put in my home almost a
15 quarter of a million dollars. I'm going to
16 have a hard enough time selling because of
17 the taxes up there. And our taxes up there
18 range from 4 to \$8,000. Not 2, not \$1,000.
19 4 to 8. I'm not here to complain about my
20 taxes. Everybody deserves a fair chance,
21 whatever they pay in taxes. But these
22 things don't belong in our community or they
23 should have a timeframe to be removed. I'm
24 asking for the last 5 years to have these
25 things removed. Please remove them. Or I

1 have to take other matters into my hands to
2 have them removed. And it's sad that it is
3 an R1 Zone up there and this occurs. Thank
4 you.

5 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

6 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. Is there
7 anyone else who would like to address
8 Council?

9 MS. DUNLEAVY: Good evening,
10 gentlemen. My name is Mary Dunleavy. I am
11 a resident of the City of Scranton and the
12 Secretary of East Mountain Residents
13 Association and former member of the
14 Zoning--or Zoning Board. The reason why I
15 am here this evening is to applaud you guys
16 for tabling that motion regarding the pods.
17 I am in full support of the pods. And back
18 in 2009 right before I think I resigned from
19 the Zoning Board, the issue of pods was just
20 starting at that time. We were recognizing
21 that pods were becoming more prevalent in
22 the city and that they were going to become
23 a problem. And there were no zoning laws
24 regarding that. And Mr. Wechsler and I were
25 on the Zoning Board together. And we were

1 starting to recognize that legislation
2 needed to be put in place regarding these
3 things. Over the course of the last six
4 years, it has become more apparent that it
5 has become a growing problem in the city.
6 This is not a silly issue. It's a quality
7 of life issue. As neighbors, there are
8 people in our neighborhoods that are
9 actually very good neighbors. They would
10 like to know how long could they have these
11 storage containers on their property. I had
12 an episode in my own neighborhood where
13 somebody had it on their property for well
14 over a year. One of the neighbors spoke to
15 them. They were totally unaware that there
16 was an issue and that they weren't allowed
17 to have them on their property for forever.
18 And they immediately removed them. So,
19 legislation, I believe for the City of
20 Scranton does need to be put in place. It
21 is my opinion that it needs to be put in
22 place. I applaud you guys for taking the
23 time to make sure the T's are crossed and
24 I's are dotted and I hope that you will
25 follow through on this. It's a quality of

1 life issue. Many areas across the country
2 have already dealt with this. So, this is
3 not a new issue. This is a progressive
4 issue. And like I said, many states across
5 the country already have legislation in
6 place. How about let's come up to the 21st
7 Century and let's do that here in Scranton.
8 I appreciate all of your time.

9 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

10 MR. EVANS: Thank you.

11 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. Anyone else
12 who cares to address Council?

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

14 MOTIONS.

15 MR. ROGAN: Councilman Wechsler, do
16 you any motions or comments?

17 MR. WECHSLER: Yes, this week I
18 think there's really only one important
19 issue. I was fortunate enough to meet
20 Officer Wilding at the West Scranton Crime
21 Watch meeting. He was very excited about
22 beginning the enforcement of the new quality
23 of life ordinance. He was the perfect
24 example of a public servant. He represents
25 the best spirit of Scranton. His sacrifice

1 will not be forgotten as a City who strives
2 for improvement in his memory. And that's
3 all I have this evening. Thank you.

4 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. Councilman
5 Evans?

6 MR. EVANS: Thank you. I'm going to
7 skip my usual diatribe of entering form and
8 facts, et cetera. And I want to talk a
9 little bit about Officer Wilding as well.
10 Sometimes words are hard to come by, mostly
11 because our city remains heartbroken over
12 the loss of Police Officer John Wilding.
13 But, if I may, I would like to read words
14 that are far more meaningful than any that I
15 might have been able to form myself about
16 these recent events. They were rewritten
17 and expressed by EMS Jeff Kowalczyk shortly
18 after Officer Wilding's passing. "End of
19 watch 7/12/2015. This shouldn't be. There
20 shouldn't be Scranton Police badges in
21 John's name in thousands of social media
22 posts. The officers down Memorial Page
23 shouldn't have to know John Wilding. My
24 friends shouldn't have to be dealing with
25 the worst call they've ever had to complete.

1 The great men and women of the Scranton
2 Police Department shouldn't be feeling like
3 they've lost a piece of themselves. John's
4 wife and beautiful children shouldn't have
5 to be having the conversations they are
6 having this past weekend. John should be
7 walking the beat and sharing that smile and
8 his wave on a beautiful night like this. We
9 should all be just trucking through another
10 shift with our minds on our plans for an
11 upcoming night's off. We should all be able
12 to go back to thinking we are invincible,
13 that things like this don't happen to those
14 of us that give so much. To think that
15 great kind hearted souls like John's could
16 ever leave us so early. Faith is hard to
17 come by today. Not a lot of hope to be had.
18 The air seems different. The breeze a bit
19 lighter. And the sun just a bit dimmer.
20 It's hard to smile and ever harder to answer
21 the question of why do we do this for a
22 living? Why, so many whys. But no matter
23 who you ask or how loud you say it, there's
24 never an answer. The coming days will be
25 hard, nights being harder no doubt. The

1 goodbyes that will have to be said can
2 already be felt like a lump in the back of
3 the throat. History has taught us though
4 that in the end, we will find that there
5 will be no shortage of love and support.
6 Our thoughts will eventually provide some
7 warmth instead of hurt, laughs instead of
8 tears and eventually peace instead of anger.
9 Peace from all of our fond memories of a
10 short, but noble life. Memories of a
11 friend, a brother, a son, a husband and a
12 father. Most of all, memories of a hero who
13 will live forever in our minds and our
14 hearts. Fly high, brother." Thank you very
15 much to EMS John Kowalczyk for those
16 heartfelt words. And to the family of
17 Officer Wilding, God Bless. That's all I
18 have tonight. Thank you.

19 MR. ROGAN: Thank you, Councilman
20 Evans. Councilman Gaughan?

21 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, thank you. It
22 has been a difficult week for the City of
23 Scranton. We lost a dedicated,
24 compassionate, hardworking Police Officer,
25 John Wilding. I would like to send my

1 condolences to the family of Officer
2 Wilding. This is a difficult time for them
3 and they definitely need our prayers. I
4 can't even begin to imagine the pain and
5 void that his wife and children are feeling
6 and the void that all of us here in the City
7 of Scranton are feeling. I would also like
8 to send my condolences to the Scranton
9 Police Department. They are grieving over
10 the loss of one of their fellow officers and
11 they need our prayers and our full support.
12 We should never forget the difficult job
13 that our police officers have and should
14 always be thankful that they put their lives
15 on the line to protect us in our city.
16 Thank you.

17 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. This past
18 May when Police Departments all across the
19 country were receiving undue bad press, I
20 felt compelled to send this letter to
21 Scranton Police Chief Carl Graziano. At the
22 time, I was ready to thank all of the
23 Scranton Police Department for putting their
24 lives on the line to protect the residents
25 of Scranton daily. Little did I know that

1 just two month later, Scranton would
2 tragically lose Officer John Wilding while
3 fighting to keep us safe. Officer Wilding
4 gave the ultimate sacrifice in order to
5 protect the city. He put the duty of his
6 position above all else. It is quite
7 troubling to see that these actions were
8 from three juveniles which led to the
9 untimely passing of one of Scranton's
10 finest. I trust that the legal system will
11 punish these reckless thugs for their
12 actions which left a young woman a widow,
13 two children fatherless and a community in
14 mourning. I did reach out to Chief Graziano
15 to extend my condolences as well and to
16 ensure him that if there's anything that
17 City Council can do to prevent tragedies
18 like this from occurring in the future, to
19 contact us. Again, my condolences to the
20 entire Police Department and especially
21 Officer Wilding's family. That is all.

22 MS. REED: 5B. FOR INTRODUCTION - AN
23 ORDINANCE APPROVING AND ACCEPTING THE
24 UPDATED CITY OF SCRANTON CAPITAL BUDGET FOR
25 THE YEAR 2016 THE THIRD-YEAR REVISION AND

1 EXTENSION OF THE 2013 FIVE-YEAR PLAN.

2 MR. ROGAN: At this time, I'll
3 entertain a motion for Item 5-B to be
4 introduced into its proper committee.

5 MR. WECHSLER: So moved.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Second.

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

10 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

11 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

12 MR. EVANS: Aye.

13 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

16 MS. REED: 5C. FOR INTRODUCTION - AN
17 ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
18 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND
19 ENTER INTO A CABLE FRANCHISE AGREEMENT
20 BETWEEN THE CITY AND COMCAST OF
21 COLORADO/PENNSYLVANIA/WEST VIRGINIA, LLC.

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

25 MR. WECHSLER: So moved.

1 MR. EVANS: Second.

2 MR. ROGAN: On the question?

3 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.

4 We did receive a comparison of key
5 provisions of the current and proposed
6 franchise agreements from Comcast. And from
7 what I can see, it looks very favorable.
8 And that's all I have.

9 MR. WECHSLER: On the question, Mr.
10 Rogan, one thing we had mentioned earlier
11 this year is the fact that Comcast is
12 closing its Scranton Office. I would like
13 to see if there's some provision that
14 possibly an office could be required to be
15 located in the City of Scranton.

16 MR. GAUGHAN: Councilman Wechsler, I
17 do know that they have different locations
18 where you can still go and pay your bill.
19 And I mentioned that a few weeks ago, but
20 it's a good suggestion.

21 MR. WECHSLER: I know from my own
22 experience, I made use of it quite often
23 even with equipment problems. And it would
24 be easier for some of our seniors to get
25 down either into downtown or somewhere else

1 in the city to conduct their business with
2 Comcast.

3 MR. ROGAN: Excellent points. I
4 frequent--when Comcast was open, I was a
5 frequent customer there because my remote
6 would always break on me and my box. I
7 would always be down there. I will
8 continue--I will review this contract in a
9 little more detail. One thing that I am
10 disappointed in and I would like to see in a
11 franchise agreement is a discount rate for
12 senior citizens in the City of Scranton.
13 Many senior citizens and older, non-senior
14 citizens as well, their Comcast cable bill
15 is their most expensive bill every month.
16 It's higher than property taxes. It's
17 higher than water. It's higher than sewer.
18 It's often times even higher than heat, if
19 you're on a budget plan. The rates that
20 Comcast receives are quite high. And
21 especially the seniors need some relief from
22 that.

23 MR. EVANS: On the question as well,
24 I do feel like the proposed agreement
25 certainly is more favorable than the current

1 agreement, but I would like to take a look
2 at it over the next couple of weeks some
3 other contracts with other municipalities to
4 see how we benchmark against those as well.

5 MR. ROGAN: All those in favor of
6 introduction, signify by saying aye?

7 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

8 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

9 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

10 MR. EVANS: Aye.

11 MR. ROGAN: Opposed? The ayes have
12 it and so moved.

13 MS. REED: 5-D. FOR INTRODUCTION -
14 AN ORDINANCE - SALE OF TAX DELINQUENT
15 PROPERTY MORE COMMONLY KNOWN AS 114 WEST
16 MARKET STREET, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, TAX
17 MAP NO. 13412-080-006 TO JAMES GAVIN AND
18 CATHERINE GAVIN, 2301 HOLLISTER AVENUE,
19 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18508, FOR THE
20 CONSIDERATION OF \$1,500.00.

21 MR. ROGAN: At this time, I'll
22 entertain a motion that Item 5D be
23 introduced into its proper committee.

24 MR. WECHSLER: So moved.

25 MR. EVANS: Second.

1 MR. ROGAN: On the question?

2 MR. EVANS: On the question, one
3 comment I'd like to make because a speaker
4 brought this up. These are tax delinquent
5 properties. Anybody can buy a tax
6 delinquent property through the Pittsburgh
7 Plan. So I'm not sure why there is an issue
8 with this at all. Secondly, no one has been
9 more invested and a cheerleader for the City
10 of Scranton than the Gavin family. So
11 that's all I have at this point.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: I would agree.

13 MR. ROGAN: All those in favor
14 signify by saying aye?

15 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

16 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

18 MR. EVANS: Aye.

19 MR. ROGAN: Opposed? The ayes have
20 it and so moved.

21 MS. REED: 5-E. FOR INTRODUCTION -
22 AN ORDINANCE - SALE OF TAX DELINQUENT
23 PROPERTY MORE COMMONLY KNOWN AS 116 WEST
24 MARKET STREET, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, TAX
25 MAP NO. 13412-080-003 TO JAMES GAVIN AND

1 CATHERINE GAVIN, 2301 HOLLISTER AVENUE,
2 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18508, FOR THE
3 CONSIDERATION OF \$2,300.00.

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

7 MR. WECHSLER: So moved.

8 MR. EVANS: Second.

9 MR. ROGAN: On the question? All
10 those in favor signify by saying aye?

11 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

12 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

13 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

14 MR. EVANS: Aye.

15 MR. ROGAN: The ayes have it and so
16 moved.

17 MS. REED: 5-F. FOR INTRODUCTION -
18 A RESOLUTION - ADOPTING THE LACKAWANNA
19 COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN 2015 UPDATE
20 FOR THE COUNTY OF LACKAWANNA AS THE HAZARD
21 MITIGATION PLAN FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON.

22 MR. ROGAN: At this time, I'll
23 entertain a motion that Item 5-F be
24 introduced into its proper committee.

25 MR. WECHSLER: So moved.

1 MR. GAUGHAN: Second.

2 MR. ROGAN: On the question? All
3 those in favor signify by saying aye?

4 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

5 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

7 MR. EVANS: Aye.

8 MR. ROGAN: Opposed? The ayes have
9 it, so moved.

10 MS. REED: 5-G. FOR INTRODUCTION - A
11 RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
12 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO ENTER INTO AN
13 AMENDED AND RESTATED COOPERATION AGREEMENT
14 WITH GOODWILL INDUSTRIES OF NORTHEASTERN
15 PENNSYLVANIA, INC. BY ADDING 1539 NORTH MAIN
16 LP AS A PARTY TO THE COOPERATION AGREEMENT.

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

20 MR. WECHSLER: So moved.

21 MR. GAUGHAN: Second.

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

24 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

25 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

1 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

2 MR. EVANS: Aye.

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

5 MS. REED: 5-H. FOR INTRODUCTION - A
6 RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
7 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS FOR THE CITY OF
8 SCRANTON TO ENTER INTO A LOAN TO GRANT
9 AGREEMENT AND MAKE A LOAN/GRANT FROM THE
10 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM,
11 PROJECT NO. 150.35 IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO
12 EXCEED \$39,000.00 TO SCRANTON AUTO SERVICE,
13 INC. TO ASSIST AN ELIGIBLE PROJECT.

14 MR. ROGAN: At this time, I'll
15 entertain a motion that Item 5-H be
16 introduced into its proper committee.

17 MR. WECHSLER: So moved.

18 MR. EVANS: Second.

19 MR. ROGAN: On the question? All
20 those in favor of introduction signify by
21 saying aye?

22 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

23 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

25 MR. EVANS: Aye.

1 MR. ROGAN: Opposed? The ayes have
2 it and so moved.

3 MS. REED: 5-I. FOR INTRODUCTION - A
4 RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
5 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND
6 ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH JOYCE HATALA
7 ASSOCIATES TO ASSIST THE CITY OF SCRANTON
8 WITH OUR RECYCLING PROGRAM FOR A PERIOD OF
9 EIGHTEEN (18) MONTHS FOR THE TOTAL SUM OF
10 \$5,000.00.

11 MR. ROGAN: At this time, I'll
12 entertain a motion that Item 5-I be
13 introduced into its proper committee.

14 MR. WECHSLER: So moved.

15 MR. EVANS: Second.

16 MR. ROGAN: On the question? All
17 those in favor of introduction signify by
18 saying aye?

19 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

20 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

21 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

22 MR. EVANS: Aye.

23 MR. ROGAN: Opposed? The ayes have
24 it and so moved.

25 MS. REED: 5-J. FOR INTRODUCTION - A

1 RESOLUTION - ACCEPTING A DONATION OF FIVE
2 THOUSAND (\$5,000.00) DOLLARS FROM GEISINGER
3 HEALTH SYSTEM PRESENTED TO THE CITY OF
4 SCRANTON TO COVER THE COST OF FIREWORKS AT
5 NAY AUG PARK.

6 MR. ROGAN: At this time, I'll
7 entertain a motion that Item 5-J be
8 introduced into its proper committee?

9 MR. WECHSLER: So moved.

10 MR. EVANS: Second.

11 MR. ROGAN: On the question? These
12 are--this was the fireworks display that was
13 originally scheduled for July, but there was
14 obviously for the last month it's rained
15 almost everyday unfortunately and it has
16 been rescheduled. All those in favor
17 signify by saying aye?

18 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

19 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

21 MR. EVANS: Aye.

22 MR. ROGAN: Opposed? The ayes have
23 it and so moved.

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

25 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.

1 108, 2015 - AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF
2 THE COUNCIL NO. 14, 2010, ENTITLED AN
3 ORDINANCE "AMENDING THE ADMINISTRATIVE CODE
4 OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA,
5 SECTION 6-14 CONTRACTS, SUBSECTION (A) TO
6 REDUCE THE AMOUNT ABOVE WHICH COMPETITIVE
7 BIDDING IS REQUIRED FROM \$20,000.00 TO
8 \$10,000.00 AND TO REDUCE THE AMOUNT ABOVE
9 WHICH QUOTES MUST BE OBTAINED FROM \$5,000.00
10 TO \$4,000.00" TO INCREASE THE AMOUNT ABOVE
11 WHICH COMPETITIVE BIDDING IS REQUIRED FROM
12 \$10,000.00 TO \$19,400.00 AND TO INCREASE THE
13 AMOUNT FROM WHICH QUOTES MUST BE OBTAINED
14 FROM \$4,000.00 TO \$10,500.00 TO BE IN LINE
15 WITH COMMONWEALTH STANDARDS AND OTHER
16 SIMILARLY SITUATED MUNICIPALITIES WITH
17 REGARD TO BIDDING THRESHOLD.

18 MR. ROGAN: We've heard reading by
19 title of Item 6-A. What is your pleasure?

20 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Chairman, I move
21 Item 6-A pass reading by title.

22 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

25 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

1 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

2 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

3 MR. EVANS: Aye.

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

6 MS. REED: 6-B. READING BY TITLE -
7 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 109, 2015 - AN
8 ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.
9 41, 2010, AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED "AMENDING
10 THE ADMINISTRATIVE CODE OF THE CITY OF
11 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, SECTION 6-14
12 CONTRACTS, SUBSECTION (C) TO PUBLICLY BID
13 FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES" TO INCREASE THE
14 COST OF THE BIDDING THRESHOLD FROM
15 \$10,000.00 TO \$25,000.00 IN ORDER TO PROVIDE
16 FOR MORE EFFECTIVE DELIVERY OF MUNICIPAL
17 SERVICES AND TO CHANGE PROPOSALS TO
18 QUALIFICATIONS.

19 MR. ROGAN: We've heard the reading
20 by title of Item 6-B. What is your
21 pleasure?

22 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Chairman, I move
23 that Item 6-B pass reading by title.

24 MR. EVANS: Second.

25 MR. ROGAN: On the question?

1 MR. WECHSLER: Yes, Mr. Rogan, as we
2 discussed this evening, there's still some
3 work that needs to be done on both of these
4 parts of legislation. And we are waiting to
5 hear back from business administrator
6 Bulzoni, on some information. And also need
7 to determine the logistics of getting these
8 bids and solicitations on the city website.
9 So there is some more work before we can
10 take the final poll.

11 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. And as a
12 follow-up as I stated when some citizens
13 brought this issue up; in this current form,
14 I would not vote for either of these
15 proposals. And I do think the city in an
16 effort to be more transparent needs to--and
17 in many other issues as well--needs to use
18 the internet. It's something that every--if
19 you look at other city's websites and I know
20 my colleagues have mentioned this before,
21 they have great websites. You can go on
22 there and find out anything about the city.
23 Scranton has some basic information and
24 that's about it. So this is an area where
25 technology could save us money. It could

1 save us the money on bidding. But at the
2 same time, these issues could still be out
3 there so contractors could know exactly
4 where to go without having to go and buy a
5 newspaper and without the city having to
6 spend money on advertisements in the
7 newspapers. So I think by having a
8 combination of what the administration
9 proposed and along with Councilman
10 Wechsler's idea of putting this on the
11 city's website, we can continue to remain
12 transparent while saving money at the same
13 time.

14 MR. EVANS: On the question as well,
15 I know that our solicitor is looking into
16 the language of how we amend the ordinance
17 and I would urge that the word mandatory
18 must be included if we're going to advertise
19 now on the website.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: You would still have
21 to advertise it in the newspaper, correct,
22 Solicitor Minora? Because I think in the
23 administrative code, it says that you have
24 to advertise in the newspaper, am I right?

25 MR. MINORA: About?

1 MR. GAUGHAN: Once you go beyond the
2 threshold.

3 MR. MINORA: Yes, yes.

4 MR. ROGAN: That's a good point.
5 Everything beyond the threshold, nothing
6 would change. It would still be advertised
7 in the newspaper as it always will. This is
8 more for the lower dollar amount projects in
9 the city. Anything else on the question?
10 All those in favor signify by saying aye?

11 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

12 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

13 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

14 MR. EVANS: Aye.

15 MR. ROGAN: Opposed? The ayes have
16 it and so moved.

17 MS. REED: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR
18 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC
19 SAFETY - FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF THE COUNCIL
20 NO. 106, 2015 - CREATING THE POSITION OF
21 POLICE CHAPLAIN WITHIN THE SCRANTON POLICE
22 DEPARTMENT.

23 MR. WECHSLER: I make a motion to
24 amend Item 7-A to the following: In Section
25 2; qualifications, delete the first two

1 sentences in the paragraph and insert the
2 following: "Any person or persons appointed
3 as Chaplain shall have undergone background
4 investigations."

5 MR. ROGAN: Is there a second?

6 MR. EVANS: Second.

7 MR. ROGAN: On the question? All
8 those in favor of the motion to amend Item
9 7-A signify by saying aye?

10 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

11 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

13 MR. EVANS: Aye.

14 MR. ROGAN: Opposed? The ayes have
15 it and it's so moved. What is the
16 recommendation of the chairpersons of the
17 Committee on Public Safety?

18 MR. WECHSLER: As chairperson for
19 the Committee on Public Safety, I recommend
20 final passage of Item 7-A as amended.

21 MR. EVANS: Second.

22 MR. ROGAN: On the question? Roll
23 call?

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler?

25 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans?

2 MR. EVANS: Yes.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan?

4 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan?

6 MR. ROGAN: Yes. I hereby declare
7 Item 7-A as amended legally and lawfully
8 adopted.

9 MS. REED: 7-B, this item has been
10 tabled.

11 MR. ROGAN: If there is no further
12 business, I'll entertain a motion to
13 adjourn?

14 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

15 MR. ROGAN: This meeting is
16 adjourned.

17 (WHEREUPON, the proceedings
18 concluded.)

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COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
COUNTY OF LACKAWANNA

I, Elizabeth V Kedrick, Notary Public, in and for the County of Wayne, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby certify:

That said minutes were taken down by me and thereafter transcribed into typewriting, and I hereby certify the foregoing testimony is a full, true and correct transcription of my shorthand notes so taken.

I further certify that I am neither counsel for nor related to any party to said action, nor in anyway interested in the outcome thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed my seal this ____ day of _____, 2015.

Elizabeth V Kedrick,
Notary Public,
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania,
Honesdale Borough, Wayne County
My commission expires 11/14/15

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