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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL

HELD:

THURSDAY, JULY 24, 2014

TIME:

6:30 P.M.

LOCATION:

Council Chambers

Scranton City Hall

340 North Washington Avenue

Scranton, Pennsylvania

AMELIA NICOL, RPR
COURT REPORTER

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CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

ROBERT MCGOFF, PRESIDENT

PATRICK ROGAN, VICE-PRESIDENT

WILLIAM GAUGHAN

JOSEPH WECHSLER

AMIL MINORA, SOLICITOR

LORI REED, CITY CLERK

KATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

1 MR. MCGOFF: Everyone please rise
2 for the Pledge of Allegiance.

3 (Pledge of Allegiance.)

4 MR. MCGOFF: Please stay standing
5 for a moment of silent reflection for
6 our servicemen and women throughout
7 the world and especially for all those
8 who have passed away during the week
9 including Enos Slocum, a long time
10 employee of the Department of Public
11 Works.

12 (Moment of Silent Reflection.)

13 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. Roll
14 call, please.

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

16 MR. WECHSLER: Here.

17 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

18 MR. ROGAN: Here.

19 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: Here.

21 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

22 MR. MCGOFF: Here.

23 MR. ROGAN: I make a motion to
24 nominate a person to fill the position
25 vacated by Councilman Jack Loscombe

1 for the remainder of his office which
2 will expire at 12 o'clock noon on
3 January 4th, 2016.

4 MR. MCGOFF: A motion has been
5 made to fill the position vacated by
6 Councilman Loscombe. Is there a
7 second?

8 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

9 MR. MCGOFF: On the question?

10 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the
11 question. I am voting no for the
12 appointment of Mr. Evans. This vote
13 is not because I believe Mr. Evans is
14 unqualified. I think he will make a
15 good councilman. I am voting no
16 because the voters of Scranton elected
17 a Democratic candidate, Jack Loscombe,
18 to serve in that seat. The remaining
19 18 months of Mr. Loscombe's term
20 should be assumed by a Democratic, not
21 a Republican. If it was the other way
22 around and a Republican councilman was
23 elected and had resigned, then I would
24 argue that a Republican should be
25 appointed to serve the remainder of

1 the term and for those reasons I
2 cannot vote for this appointment.

3 MR. MCGOFF: This particular
4 motion is to simply place the
5 nomination on the agenda. All those
6 in favor signify by saying aye.

7 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

8 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

9 MR. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed?

10 MR. GAUGHAN: No.

11 MR. MCGOFF: The ayes have it and
12 so moved.

13 MR. ROGAN: I make a motion to
14 nominate Wayne Evans to fill the
15 unexpired term of Councilman Jack
16 Loscombe which will expire at 12 noon
17 on January 4th, 2016.

18 MR. MCGOFF: Is there a second?

19 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

20 MR. MCGOFF: On the question.

21 MR. ROGAN: Yes. After you, Mr.
22 Wechsler.

23 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. McGoff, I am
24 voting for Mr. Evans for this
25 position. I know Mr. Evans for quite

1 a long time. I have worked with him
2 on several different community and
3 neighborhood projects. We did have an
4 impressive list of candidates that
5 came and presented their case on
6 Saturday. Looking over them all Mr.
7 Evans had the best resume of what we
8 were looking for in a council person.

9 During this process we received
10 several calls for several different
11 candidates some in favor, some against
12 some of the people that we were
13 talking about. Many of the calls that
14 we were received did not take offense
15 to Mr. Evans as a candidate but took
16 offense to him as a Republican. I,
17 myself, am a Democrat. I've been a
18 Democrat my whole life. The only
19 other Republican I ever supported was
20 Brian Reap and Brian was an excellent
21 councilman. In this case I believe
22 that we have to rise above party
23 politics. In this case we need to be
24 Scrantonians and I believe at this
25 time Mr. Evans represents the best

1 candidate to help us solve our
2 problems in the city. Thank you.

3 MR. ROGAN: I would concur with
4 what Councilman Wechsler had to say
5 and this pick was not a pick of one
6 member of council or two or three. It
7 was a consensus pick. We went through
8 a process where we ranked candidates.
9 We had them one through seven most of
10 us, we went through and whittled down
11 the list. Some of the people that I
12 had No. 1 and 2 may have been
13 eliminated prior to the final vote and
14 as we kept moving down the line, we
15 were left with a few candidates and of
16 those remaining few Mr. Evans by far
17 had the most impressive resume. He's
18 very active in the community. I think
19 he will do a great job on the City
20 Council as many of the applicants
21 would have but at the end of the day
22 this decision had to be about the
23 person, not about the party. I wasn't
24 elected by the Democratic party or the
25 Republican party. I was elected by

1 the people of Scranton as we all were
2 and that's what we're here to serve.

3 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Gaughan,
4 anything else?

5 MR. GAUGHAN: No.

6 MR. MCGOFF: I, too, would like
7 to comment, not so much on the
8 candidates but we attempted to use a
9 process to chose a candidate, a
10 process which eliminated politics from
11 this process and I am very
12 disappointed with the actions of party
13 officials, some elected officials,
14 some other people who attempted to
15 cajole and intimidate members of
16 council and actually threatened
17 members of council to sway their vote.
18 This was not a political process.
19 This was an appointment and people who
20 did that I believe acted unethically
21 and should be ashamed of their actions
22 in this process. Roll call, pleas.

23 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

24 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

25 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

1 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

2 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

3 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: No, wait. What

7 were we voting, the appointment?

8 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

9 MR. GAUGHAN: Oh, no. I'm sorry.

10 No.

11 MR. MCGOFF: You're good.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

13 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I hereby

14 declare this motion passed and that

15 Mr. Wayne Evans has been appointed as

16 the new member of Scranton City

17 Council to fill the unexpired term of

18 Jack Loscombe.

19 I would like at this point in

20 time to take a brief recess, a minute

21 or two, so that we may contact Mr.

22 Evans and make him aware of the

23 appointment.

24 MR. ROGAN: Motion to recess.

25 MR. MCGOFF: All in favor?

1 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

2 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

3 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

4 Mr. MCGOFF: We'll take a brief
5 recess.

6 (Brief recess taken.)

7 MR. MCGOFF: When Mrs. Reed
8 returns, we'll continue.

9 I'd like to call the meeting back
10 to order.

11 MS. REED: 3RD ORDER, 3A.
12 CONTROLLER'S REPORT FOR THE MONTH
13 ENDING JUNE 30, 2014.

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

16 MS. REED: 3B. TAX ASSESSOR'S
17 REPORT FOR THE HEARING DATE HELD
18 JULY 9, 2014.

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

21 MS. REED: 3C. MINUTES OF THE
22 SCRANTON FIREFIGHTERS PENSION
23 COMMISSION MEETINGS HELD MAY 28 AND
24 JUNE 25, 2014.

25 MR. MCGOFF: Are there any

1 comments? If not, received and filed.

2 MS. REED: 3D. AGENDA FOR CITY
3 PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING HELD ON
4 JULY 23, 2014.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Are there any
6 comments? If not, received and filed.

7 MS. REED: Just to note for 3D,
8 Mr. McGoff.

9 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

10 MS. REED: The meeting was
11 cancelled last night due to lack of a
12 quorum.

13 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

14 MS. REED: 3E. MINUTES OF THE
15 COMPOSITE PENSION BOARD MEETING HELD
16 JUNE 25, 2014.

17 MR. MCGOFF: Are there any
18 comments? If not, received and filed.

19 Are there any clerk's notes?

20 MS. REED: Nothing, Mr. McGoff.

21 MR. MCGOFF: Any announcements
22 from members of council?

23 MR. ROGAN: Yes. Just one. The
24 Office of Economic and Community
25 Development will conduct the second

1 public hearing to obtain citizen's
2 views on housing and nonhousing
3 community development needs in the
4 City of Scranton and development of
5 proposed activities to those in need.
6 The meeting will take place on
7 Wednesday, July 30th, 2014, at 6 p.m.
8 at Scranton City Council Chambers.
9 Those wishing to apply for assistance
10 may obtain applications at OECD or
11 on-line at www.scrantonpa.gov. All
12 applications must be received by OECD
13 by August 8th.

14 MR. GAUGHAN: I have two. My
15 thoughts and prayers go out to Theresa
16 Osborne and her family. Theresa was
17 involved in a serious car accident
18 this week and I wish her a quick
19 recovery.

20 The second annual Arts on the
21 Square event will once again take
22 place around Courthouse Square in
23 downtown Scranton this Saturday, July
24 26th from noon to 8 p.m. This year's
25 free event will feature more than 100

1 vendors and eight live band
2 performances and that is all I have.

3 MR. MCGOFF: A couple of items.
4 First of all, council did hold a
5 executive meeting on Tuesday evening
6 as was reported in the paper. We
7 initially thought that we could meet
8 to discuss candidates for the council
9 position. When it was brought up that
10 this may be a violation of the
11 Sunshine Act, we declined doing that,
12 but we did meet with our solicitor and
13 the solicitor just briefly gave us
14 some information about the Act 205 but
15 there was no discussion of any
16 legislation at that meeting.

17 Also on tonight's agenda there
18 are two new items dealing with the
19 LHVA. These items deal with easements
20 from the city. They deal with city
21 owned properties and because of the
22 timely nature of these two pieces of
23 legislation, if they are passed, if
24 they are introduced this evening, we
25 are going to look to move them from

1 6th to 7th order at our next meeting
2 so that they can -- so that there's no
3 possibility of losing the grant money
4 that's involved.

5 And lastly if depending on the
6 length of the meeting if some of you
7 would like to go over to the
8 courthouse, tonight is the showing of
9 the -- the outdoor showing of
10 Despicable Me 2. I'm told that
11 Dispicable Me 2 is the life story of
12 Mr. Rogan but I'm not sure. But it's
13 the Movie on the Square. It starts at
14 approximately 9 o'clock. There are
15 children's activities that start at 8
16 o'clock and that is all I have.

17 MS. REED: 4th ORDER. CITIZENS
18 PARTICIPATION.

19 MR. MCGOFF: First speaker is
20 Bill Jackowitz.

21 MR. JACKOWITZ: Good evening,
22 Scranton City Council, Kathy, Amil,
23 Lori and council stenographer. First
24 of all, I'd like to congratulate Wayne
25 Evans on his selection. I didn't know

1 he was a Republican but it doesn't
2 really matter, Republican, Democrat,
3 Independent, as long as he represents
4 the people the way we expect him to
5 represent us, I have no problem with
6 it. Okay. I'd like to kind of put
7 this on a different light tonight.
8 I'm not even going to talk about city
9 government or politics or anything.
10 I'm going to talk about the show and
11 the dinner that the Dante Club will be
12 having this weekend, the Dante Club,
13 1916 Prospect Avenue, will be having a
14 roast beef dinner and a comedy, a
15 musical show Friday night, tomorrow
16 night and Saturday night. The roast
17 beef dinner starts at 6:30, the comedy
18 and musical show will be starting at 8
19 o'clock. It's all local talent. The
20 Miller Sisters will be providing the
21 music and from I'm being told they're
22 very good. They're all local, born
23 and raised in Scranton. The comedians
24 will be local, born and raised in
25 Scranton. The price of admission is

1 \$15. You can pay at the door or you
2 can get your tickets in advance.
3 Again, I think it would be a fun time
4 for the citizens of Scranton and
5 surrounding areas to come out and
6 relax a little bit, enjoy themselves
7 and maybe forget about politics and
8 everything else that is going in the
9 city and in the country. So like I
10 said, I invite everyone to come out to
11 Dante Club, 1916 Prospect Avenue for a
12 roast beef dinner and entertainment.
13 It's \$15 for the dinner and the show.
14 So I hope to see a lot of people out
15 there. It's Friday night and Saturday
16 night. The doors open at 5:30. The
17 dinner starts at 6:30 and the show
18 will start at 8 o'clock. So I hope to
19 see everybody. I hope to see people
20 come out, enjoy themselves, have a
21 good time and put all of the politics
22 and arguing and fighting behind them,
23 having a cool adult beverage, have
24 something good to eat, have a few
25 laughs with the comedians, have a good

1 dinner and enjoy yourself.

2 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr.
3 Jackowitz. John Drobnicki.

4 MR. DROBNICKI: Oh, I'm new to
5 this city. I bought a home here five
6 years ago --

7 MR. MCGOFF: Please just state
8 your name for the record.

9 MR. DROBNICKI: John Drobnicki.
10 All right. I bought a home here five
11 years ago and I see a lot of the
12 bickering going on and I know the city
13 is distressed and I see people looking
14 for big money and raises with, you
15 know, the police, the firemen,
16 whatever. I used to make a good
17 living and I know a lot of people when
18 I grew up, they used to have packing
19 houses in the area, we had big
20 factories, we all worked overtime, we
21 were union. I worked for a Fortune
22 500 company. They've taken my income
23 from \$19 an hour down to 8.50. All
24 right. I have to pay people the wages
25 of the city what I earn today. And

1 there's a lot of people in my same,
2 you know, category. And I bought a
3 home here. I dumped more money in my
4 home though I paid for it, Made my
5 place look nice. And I'm not
6 satisfied with the taxes I'm paying.
7 But for people to come out and say,
8 hey, you know, we need more money, we
9 need bigger pensions and they want to
10 put this demand on us taxpayers, we
11 don't have this money anymore to give
12 them. We're working for a quarter,
13 less than a half what we used to make
14 before. And if these people put this
15 demand on, you got to tell him, hey,
16 look it, John, you know, he used to
17 make a good buck. He didn't mind
18 paying this money before. But we
19 don't have it anymore. People have
20 got to start learning to cut back. I
21 don't want to take anybody's pay away
22 from them, but, geez, they don't need
23 to get anymore money, you know.

24 And second thing is I live on
25 Ferdinand and Sweeney, I don't know if

1 you can address that but I would like
2 to see a stop sign there because it's
3 a hill where people are flying down.
4 And it's putting cinders and things
5 all over the homes and it's getting
6 dangerous to take that right-hand turn
7 on Sweeney and one of these days
8 there's going to be an accident. I
9 know it's hard to police it because
10 the amount of police you have and
11 everything else. But if it's possible
12 if somebody could look at that, put a
13 stop sign on the corner of Sweeney
14 there. This way at least the traffic
15 can slow down and stop and stop some
16 of the -- maybe a possible accident in
17 that area. So that's all I have to
18 say here. I don't condemn people
19 doing anything. I'm just looking to
20 put a light on things for everybody.

21 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr.
22 Drobnicki.

23 MR. DROBNICKI: Right.

24 MR. MCGOFF: Doug Miller. Mr.
25 Morgan, you're next on the list if you

1 would like to speak we can --

2 MR. MILLER: Good evening,
3 council. Doug Miller of Scranton.
4 I'd just like to address a few issues
5 here this evening. You know, first
6 it's obviously in regards to the
7 proposed commuter tax or Act 205 tax,
8 as we can see, there are a quite a few
9 people here this evening and a lot of
10 people concerned about the potential
11 tax. You know, as we stated
12 previously more or less a punishment
13 on those who had absolutely nothing to
14 do with the fiscal mismanagement
15 caused by failed leadership,
16 incompetent people on councils in the
17 past and past administrations and, you
18 know, just the sort of repeat of what
19 I said last week. In the past, in
20 2012 I did support a commuter tax that
21 was to benefit services that we
22 provide daily. However, today it's an
23 awful lot has changed. The
24 circumstances are much different in
25 terms of the pension crisis. We're

1 now asking people outside of the city
2 to contribute toward a failed pension
3 plan that we caused. We caused it to
4 be a position it is in today, not
5 people from outside the community.
6 You know, it was stated in the paper
7 today by Mr. McGoff that he doesn't
8 represent Jane from Dickson City. He
9 will make decisions that are in the
10 best interest of the residents of this
11 city. Well, you know, I definitely
12 take issue with that statement
13 because, you know, Jane from Dickson
14 City and many others out there didn't
15 cause these problems. You did, your
16 failed leadership and the failed
17 leadership of many others. That's the
18 reality of the situation and now we
19 want to put it on the backs of people
20 like Jane from Dickson City who don't
21 have the ability to cast a vote in
22 this community. And, yes, it is
23 taxation without representation, and
24 we can talk about the fact that the
25 state legislature approved it. Well,

1 that's nice. They approve a lot of
2 laws that end up being flawed. We
3 want to talk about taxation without
4 representation, let's talk about the
5 garbage fee. Who passed that?
6 Council. That's a taxation without
7 representation. How do we justify
8 that fee? It's illegal. It shouldn't
9 exist. It's to collect funds to pay
10 the tipping fee at the landfill that
11 we don't even pay. So what sense does
12 that make, gentlemen. I mean, you're
13 out of your minds. So these poor
14 people that we have here tonight and
15 many others that, you know, quite
16 frankly are probably intimidated by
17 coming forward are being punished
18 because of your incompetent and
19 incapable of solving your own
20 problems. You know, we hear today the
21 front page headline the mayor is mum
22 on Plan B. Well, the last time I
23 checked a little common sense will
24 tell you, you have to have a Plan A
25 before you have a Plan B. We don't

1 even know what Plan A is. It's not
2 the Henry the liquidator plan because
3 that's only suicide. Selling the
4 Sewer Authority so rates can
5 skyrocket. We don't even know what
6 it's worth. It's worth billions.
7 They want to sell it for what, 20
8 million I believe the discussion is.
9 We want to sell parking garages that
10 we don't even know what they're valued
11 at, we're pulling figures out of the
12 sky, 22 million and still 30 million
13 on them? That's common sense,
14 gentlemen. No, it's not. And we
15 haven't had it around here for a long
16 time and it's really sad. Our
17 solution is always let's put it on the
18 shoulders of other people. Well,
19 you've continued to put the screws to
20 the people that live here and now you
21 want to put the screws to people that
22 commute here and earn a living. They
23 don't have to come here. In fact,
24 they can go anywhere else they want in
25 Northeastern Pennsylvania but they

1 chose to come here to earn a living.
2 What do you want to do with them? You
3 want to slap them right across the
4 face and say, no, we're punishing you
5 because we're incompetent and we're
6 inept and we can't solve our own
7 problems. We can't take advantage of
8 the assets we have to generate revenue
9 to this city so we're going to put it
10 on you.

11 You know, one of the things I
12 brought forward and it's been
13 discussed is taking advantage of a
14 money making opportunity we have right
15 here in downtown Scranton and that's
16 with the Steamtown Mall. And
17 discussion has taken place on
18 converting that into a casino and
19 resort. It's not a pipe dream. It's
20 a reality making thing that can
21 generate millions and millions of
22 dollars into this city. Nothing is a
23 pipe dream if you're willing to roll
24 your sleeves up and actually do the
25 work. And, you know, let me just say

1 a wagon can't move unless somebody is
2 willing to get behind it and push it.
3 And if somebody doesn't get behind it,
4 that wagon doesn't move. Today we
5 have the chance to get behind
6 something and push it and make it a
7 reality. And we can do that with the
8 Mall at Steamtown if we actually put
9 some creativity forth and actually
10 take politics out of our
11 decisionmaking for once even though I
12 know that's probably a hard thing to
13 do. But if we actually think of
14 people for a change, we can probably
15 turn this community around. But
16 consistently putting it on the
17 shoulders of those who had nothing to
18 do with it is not the answer,
19 gentlemen. And it's really
20 discouraging that we lack that common
21 sense. And we have the inability to
22 solve our own problems that we need
23 other people to come in from out of
24 town o show us how to run the city.
25 And tonight I have with me as I

1 promised last week a petition that I'm
2 going to present and it's already been
3 made available in social media for
4 those to sign and it states that we,
5 the undersigned support Bob Bolus in
6 spearheading the development of the
7 Steamtown Mall in Scranton into the
8 Steamtown Casino and Resort and we
9 encourage all our legislators to
10 propose legislation to create a casino
11 and resort license for the Steamtown
12 Mall site in an effort to save the
13 city. This is what happens when you
14 use creativity. And I know, Mr.
15 Rogan, last week you stated that, you
16 know, this was something that could
17 come in fruition that you would be on
18 support of it and I would just like to
19 ask tonight if anybody on this council
20 would be willing to be the first to
21 sign the petition to get the ball
22 moving.

23 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr.
24 Miller.

25 MR. MILLER: Is there anybody

1 that would be willing to sign it
2 tonight, gentlemen? The silence
3 speaks volumes.

4 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. Lee
5 Morgan.

6 MR. MORGAN: Good evening,
7 council. You know what tonight, you
8 know, I applaud Mr. Evans. I wish him
9 well. But, you know, I think that we
10 need to start facing some realities on
11 what's happened to the pension and
12 it's only my opinion that maybe a
13 receiver should be named for the City
14 of Scranton. We're way beyond the
15 ability to recover in this city. The
16 pension plan is going to collapse
17 quite possibly soon from what the
18 Scranton Times basically had to say
19 about it. And all these fees and, you
20 know, over 20 years -- well, Mr.
21 Doherty's plan was first. I read
22 that. That was at the library. That
23 wasn't a recovery plan and nothing
24 that really has come here has been a
25 recovery plan. I'm not going to take

1 cheap shots at people who serve before
2 and because I think that's counter
3 productive to say that about people
4 but, you know, we really need a plan
5 here. And the commuter tax is
6 definitely wrong. I think Mr. Gaughan
7 got it pretty much right last week.
8 You know, the truth of the matter is
9 the mercantile tax, the wage tax, they
10 have to go away. We have to tell the
11 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania that this
12 city is bankrupt due to their
13 mismanagement of PEL and their plans
14 for us and, you know, all these tax
15 increases that have hit the
16 neighborhoods, they need to repealed
17 to a major extent. And will that
18 leave the budget short? Yes, it will.
19 It's time for the council to come up
20 with a plan to cut positions in the
21 city further than they've been cut
22 before. Because to be quite bluntly
23 honest with you, we can't afford to
24 pay our employees. We can't afford to
25 save the city. You know, I have a

1 subpoena going back here from 2005
2 that Janet Evans signed in '05. Okay?
3 You know, maybe at that time if a
4 number of subpoenas were served on
5 city government in various ways, there
6 would have been something to solve
7 but, you know, selling the Sewer
8 Authority and selling parking garages,
9 that's another one time fix, then the
10 city will be left with nothing. The
11 residents have no money to pay these
12 taxes because we don't have a wage
13 base that will give them the income
14 necessary to pay it. We have senior
15 citizens reverse mortgaging their
16 homes, we have blight in all the
17 neighborhoods. Somebody came up with
18 a great idea that we should attack all
19 rental properties and that was our
20 problem. That was another misguided
21 vision of our elected officials. You
22 know, we're good at blaming everybody
23 else about the problems we have in our
24 city and we have been for 80 plus
25 years, a city driven by politics with

1 reality a very distant second. And
2 the truth of the matter is I don't
3 think the city is ever going to wake
4 up until all the employers decide to
5 start moving out of here. I do know
6 that there are residents leaving
7 because I work with a couple and
8 they're making really good money.
9 Some of them are making up to 1,500
10 bucks a week and they're just tired of
11 paying this wage tax. They're just
12 not going to do it. They're going to
13 take their money and they're going to
14 leave. And the only people that this
15 council and this administration --
16 well, not this administration -- this
17 government has done is trap all the
18 poor seniors trapped in their homes
19 which is their major investment and
20 we're extorting them. We're telling
21 them, well, look it, you do without
22 this week and this and you do without
23 that but just make sure you pay your
24 taxes. And some of them have told me
25 blatantly they aren't going to pay

1 because they can't. But, yes, and
2 still this council and the mayor, I
3 assume, is going to do another round
4 of property tax increases and what we
5 really need to do is cut city
6 government down in the confines of
7 what the community can afford. And
8 it's going to be really tough because
9 a lot of city employees, they're not
10 making a lot of money. It's really --
11 a lot of the city employees are
12 really -- they're not making any
13 money. They may perceive that they
14 are but if you're making 30 grand,
15 you're wasting your time. You're
16 going to work for nothing. And we
17 have an elected government in this
18 city that should have been trying to
19 create or recreate Scranton by
20 creating jobs but it just hasn't
21 happened because there's been a lack
22 of vision but maybe this council will
23 see SAPA for what it can and maybe
24 they're propel that forward. But as
25 far as everything else, look it, we've

1 got to cut taxes, we've got to get rid
2 of the mercantile tax, we've got to do
3 something to cut the wage tax. Look
4 it, people just won't live where they
5 work and then what do you think is
6 going to happen? I mean, the seniors,
7 who is going to come in and buy their
8 properties? There's properties
9 scattered throughout this whole city
10 for sale, and nobody is looking at
11 them. So when these properties become
12 vacant and they're eyesores and
13 they're vandalized, look at the
14 projects that have come through here.
15 Scranton Lace was on fire again.
16 They're cutting all the scrap out of
17 it they can to sell. Was that really
18 a great plan? I don't know, some of
19 the people around there want them to
20 tear that building down now. And
21 there's a lot of people around the
22 former North Scranton, they want that
23 building torn down. And look at it,
24 yeah, the front looks okay but there's
25 no windows anywhere else. Thank you.

1 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr.
2 Morgan. Matthew Ford.

3 MR. FORD: Thank you, council
4 members and attendees for being here
5 today. I appreciate the opportunity
6 to speak. Matthew Ford from
7 Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. I am a
8 commuter. I first want to address
9 something I was unaware of for today.

10 Mr. McGoff, I'm quite appalled at
11 your remarks towards Jane in Dickson
12 City. Quite frankly with that type of
13 attitude, Matt in Wilkes-Barre doesn't
14 care about the City of Scranton. And
15 when Matt in Wilkes-Barre is up at
16 work and he has to get a meal, he's
17 going to go to Old Forge. I got a
18 haircut in Scranton today. Well, if
19 you don't care about me, I don't care
20 about your city and I'll take my
21 business elsewhere. And I think it's
22 quite shortsighted and possibly that's
23 the problem is that we're so focused
24 on the now that we're not worried
25 about the future and possibly how you

1 guys got yourselves into this mess.
2 Now, the city is budgeted 4.2 million
3 in 2002 for their pension and they now
4 want to raise the taxes, it's going to
5 levy five million dollars of commuter
6 funds over the next -- each year for
7 the next, you know, considerable
8 future which means that you guys want
9 the commuters to pay more than you're
10 willing to donate yourselves to that
11 particular pension fund and I think
12 that's very shameful of you.

13 Now, the last time I was here Mr.
14 Gaughan raised very interesting
15 questions regarding this tax
16 especially regarding what the state
17 legislature is planning on doing
18 regarding Act 205 and basically it's
19 looking more and more like based on
20 the news reports that that bill is
21 going to go through and they're going
22 to require a raise on the city workers
23 as well who do live in Scranton. Now,
24 a couple notes to that, first, I find
25 it absolutely atrocious that Mr.

1 Gaughan was the only one who was aware
2 of that and Mr. Rogan and Wechsler
3 last time was here said they were
4 unaware of that. I remind you,
5 gentlemen, it is your job to be
6 educated about the topics that you are
7 deciding and it is in your job
8 description to actually investigate
9 those. It's not on somebody else to
10 come and tell you what's going on with
11 these issues. It's your job to be the
12 authority. I also think that it's
13 absolutely insane that we're
14 discussing pushing this legislation
15 through when it's going to raise five
16 million a year and you have a 90
17 million budget shortfall in your
18 pension which means it's going to take
19 at least 20 years for this to actually
20 help the budget and you guys are
21 saying that, hey, we need to get this
22 done within the next three weeks.
23 Now, what's going to happen in the
24 next three weeks is somehow going to
25 magically fix this budget that it

1 can't be taken deliberately like
2 you're supposed to investigate it and
3 actually take pause to find out how
4 the citizens of this city are going to
5 be affected by law as well as non
6 residents. I find it absolutely
7 horrendous that the decision is being
8 made and rushed and I think that you
9 guys should all take a step back and
10 really discuss how this plan is going
11 to be enacted. Perhaps the problem is
12 just this and the fact that the
13 decision is not being made on the
14 facts and people aren't investigating
15 the matter. They're just doing what
16 they're told. Mr. Amoroso has no
17 financial involvement in this city
18 other than getting paid. He doesn't
19 have any interest in getting the city
20 fixed. He's going to get paid either
21 way. It's on you guys. He's not
22 going to be the one to tell you what
23 plan is going to work and what's going
24 to fix. It's on you guys to be
25 creative, to take initiative to come

1 up with new ideas that are going to
2 change. You guys have been raising
3 taxes for years. It has not helped.
4 There's statistical evidence of this.
5 You guys have also raised your
6 government spending over the past
7 three years. What realistic steps are
8 you taking to get the budget in
9 control. It goes far beyond five
10 million dollars a year that you're
11 going to raise with this. And like I
12 said, the only thing that you're going
13 to do is further isolate Scranton.
14 Scranton needs an infusion of business
15 from outside communities that come and
16 spend their money here which results
17 in your citizens making more money,
18 paying more taxes. And if you
19 continue to impose laws upon those
20 outside of your city limits, those
21 people are going to have less
22 incentive to come to your city when
23 they have an opportunity to do
24 business. Thank you.

25 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Ford, may I ask

1 you question?

2 MR. FORD: Absolutely, sir.

3 MR. MCGOFF: Do you work in the
4 City of Scranton?

5 MR. FORD: Yes, sir. I work over
6 on Keyser Avenue.

7 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. Kind of
8 a follow-up. Being a resident of
9 Wilkes-Barre, you are not going to be
10 subject to the Act 205 tax, correct?

11 MR. FORD: I was unaware of that.
12 That being the case, my involvement
13 today I would hope that it goes
14 farther than personal interest and
15 that I feel that community involvement
16 is the cornerstone in building a
17 strong community and I'm here to speak
18 on others' behalf as well as mine.

19 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

20 MR. ROGAN: I would just like to
21 make a brief comment as well regarding
22 much of what was in the newspaper
23 regarding the state legislature if
24 they decided to make a change. As the
25 law currently states if the City of

1 Scranton were to enact a 205 tax, it
2 would only be implemented on
3 commuters. There would not be any
4 additional tax on the residents of
5 Scranton. In order for there to be an
6 additional tax on the residents of
7 Scranton City Council would have to
8 approve it. If the legislature were
9 to change the law to put it in the
10 equal provision where the .75 would
11 have to be levied on both the city and
12 both commuters, the simple solution is
13 reduce your existing wage tax by .75
14 percent in the city and you have two
15 wage taxes and what that would do is
16 would keep the level of stayed for the
17 residents of Scranton. I'll comment
18 more on it under motions but I know a
19 lot of people from the city who have
20 been concerned about it have voiced
21 that opinion, whether it would be
22 applied to them if Senator Blake has
23 his way and pushes another tax on
24 Scranton residents.

25 MR. GAUGHAN: My only question

1 would be how you would be able to do
2 that procedurally. I would like --
3 see, that's another question and that
4 opens the door for -- well, how would
5 you just be able to lower your own
6 wage tax? I mean --

7 MR. ROGAN: We have that
8 opportunity every year.

9 MR. GAUGHAN: Well, I would like
10 to see what the procedure would be for
11 that.

12 MR. ROGAN: We vote in January
13 every year --

14 MR. GAUGHAN: Again, I would like
15 to see the procedure for that because
16 to me that opens up a lot of
17 questions.

18 MR. ROGAN: You voted on the tax
19 rates in January.

20 MR. MCGOFF: Okay. Thank you. I
21 Irene Clark. Thank you. Mayor
22 Lawler.

23 MS. LAWLER: Hello. And thank
24 you so much for this invitation to
25 come before you. It speaks volumes of

1 your leadership which tells me as an
2 individual and as a sitting council
3 how fair minded and how respectful you
4 are of the commuters that might be
5 impacted with this and also that
6 you're trying very much to be
7 transparent so I'm here, and I thank
8 you for that and I know that you're
9 leading a difficult, difficult --
10 Mayor Lawler.

11 MR. MCGOFF: Your name for the
12 record.

13 MS. LAWLER: Patty Lawler, Clarks
14 Summit Borough.

15 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

16 MS. LAWLER: Sorry. You can't
17 teach an old dog new tricks. I think
18 it's because I'm in this beautiful
19 facility, this beautiful chambers that
20 I forgot to do that. But at any rate
21 I want you to know it doesn't bypass
22 me how difficult it is for you to lead
23 during these very, very difficult
24 times. This is no picnic for you but
25 I feel each of you have been elected

1 and decided to run for this office at
2 this very time because councils are
3 going to come and go. It will be this
4 council that is going to be asked to
5 save the City of Scranton. It will be
6 this council that will be remembered
7 in history as the council that saved
8 the City of Scranton. No one will
9 spend the five minutes or three
10 minutes talking about what went wrong in
11 Scranton, what didn't go wrong in
12 Scranton but the commuter does read
13 papers and the press hasn't been over
14 the year very favorable. Two things
15 just jump out to me is for 20 plus
16 years we have been called a distressed
17 city, 20 plus years. After three
18 years you say to yourself, something
19 isn't working here. Let's go back to
20 the big drawing. We don't want to be
21 distress forever. I'm not going to
22 take Hazleton as my template and
23 Allentown. Then we look at the
24 balloon of the pensions. After the
25 first 100 million, I think I'd say,

1 Hey, wait a minute, wait a minute,
2 people. Down the road we're never
3 going to be able to do it. So these
4 things bring me to the commuter tax.
5 The commuter tax to the commuter seems
6 punitive to them. First off, they
7 don't understand it. They think
8 they're the last elephant in the
9 parade to come up with a couple bucks
10 for Scranton. They don't see that
11 they're directly being the reason that
12 you need a commuter tax so they feel
13 distant franchised all around and I
14 don't know really when we do the
15 commuter tax and I offer this
16 respectfully to you how successful it
17 will be. It's easy to always levy a
18 tax but collecting the tax in my
19 experience is very, very difficult. I
20 am unaware of what your tax base is in
21 the City of Scranton. I have a
22 feeling probably your earned income
23 taxes is pretty weak and I have a
24 feeling that your working on that as
25 we speak. The repercussion of the

1 commuter tax, I think a lot of
2 Scranton may be the mercantile tax,
3 the high wage tax, the property tax,
4 the school tax. It's driven people
5 out of Scranton. One more tax, do I
6 think is what we need, I don't know.
7 Is it what I want to inflict on my
8 commuters? Not really. 5.5 million
9 it seems to me a stretch. I have an
10 alternative and it sounds bazaar but
11 it's creative. Instead of having a
12 tax that is submitted to these
13 commuters and again it's punitive and
14 it's bringing a lot of negative.
15 Scranton needs more than ever before
16 positive, what if we do a campaign,
17 save Scranton, not just the commuters,
18 everyone. My commuters in the City of
19 Clarks Summit, we do have a disparity
20 in our wages. Of course, we have some
21 that are very wealthy. The taxes, the
22 taxes are paying. But I'm here for my
23 families, new families that are
24 starting out and they really are just
25 making \$30,000. Fifty dollars, okay.

1 Let's all get along, we'll pay \$50. A
2 150, a little difficult for the family
3 that is coming into Scranton to work
4 either at the university part-time or
5 at the hospitals or at the libraries
6 or whatever, \$30,000 is a lot. But if
7 we have campaign, like a capital gains
8 campaign, it opens, it broadens it,
9 not only is it the commuter, let them
10 given willfully what they have to
11 give.

12 Could I ask just for a couple
13 more minutes? Thank you. Let me just
14 say we would broaden this. We broaden
15 it to the senior people that live
16 outside this Scranton area. We knew
17 what Scranton was long ago. We are
18 devastated where Scranton is today, my
19 generation. We remember when West
20 Side was Hyde Park. We remember when
21 East Market Street was the place to
22 start going to see Christmas lights.
23 That's what we grew up with. We
24 didn't see slum landlords, we didn't
25 see real estate signs all over, people

1 going to the urban sprawl. I welcome
2 them. But we remember Scranton and I
3 think if we do a capital gains
4 fundraiser, Save Scranton, buy a
5 sticker, give what you can, you will
6 be surprised where a punitive action
7 is going to be difficult. It is a
8 suggestion. Whenever I have a
9 complaint, I try to give a suggestion.

10 I just want to say in closing,
11 why am I here. I struggled with
12 coming but I know if I was sitting
13 where you are and you're standing, you
14 would be standing where I am because
15 you love your people, you represent
16 them well and you would be asking for
17 the consideration for them. Many of
18 them were afraid to come because they
19 were afraid of repercussion at their
20 jobs. And also I couldn't live with
21 myself if I didn't take your
22 invitation from the paper seriously
23 that you wanted to hear from me, from
24 my borough. So I thank you. The
25 other thing is I love Scranton. So I

1 want you to save Scranton. You will
2 be remembered in history. I know
3 you'll do the right thing. I thank
4 you for the extra time. God bless the
5 sitting council and God bless all
6 taxpayers inside and outside the
7 limits. Thank you for your time.

8 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mayor
9 Lawler. Thank you. Joan Hodowantiz.

10 MS. HODOWANTIZ: Joan Hodowantiz,
11 Scranton resident. You know, I was
12 expecting tonight to see torches and
13 pitch forks. So you may be a little
14 luckier than you imagine. But I like
15 many residents was really surprised by
16 the stories in the paper this morning.

17 First of all, the mayor being mum
18 on tax Plan B. And I'm going to quote
19 him, "I don't know that will happen;
20 and if it happens, if they do pass the
21 law, I don't know exactly how it will
22 affect us," the mayor said. "It
23 hasn't happened yet so we went
24 forward. We'll have to see what
25 happens if it passes. I'm hoping it

1 doesn't but I'll deal with it when it
2 happens if it happens." That's does
3 not feel me with the sense of
4 confidence. I've got to tell you I'm
5 also concerned that I don't think that
6 Mr. Amoroso had the benefit of this
7 actuarial analysis on the pension
8 funds when he did his study and made
9 his recommendations. I think he even
10 mentioned that he didn't have this
11 information. The bottom line in my
12 mind is I think, Mr. Gaughan, you hit
13 the nail on the head last week when
14 you said, "We need to see the mayor's
15 entire plan, not the piecemeal, here's
16 the commuter tax, here's this tax,
17 here's that tax." We need to see him
18 layouts the entire plan. He needs to
19 be able to answer questions like what
20 if. What if the state passes this new
21 law? How are you going to handle it?
22 Are you going to do, you know, let's
23 just wiggle our side down .75 percent
24 and it will be a wash. I don't know
25 whether or not you can do that and get

1 away with it. Let's assume you can.
2 I still want to see the entire plan
3 for the city. I want him to address
4 the state of the pensions, okay. This
5 is going to be a three-year commuter
6 tax, a 20-year commuter tax or a never
7 ending commuter tax. I know I'm
8 probably singing to the choir in many
9 respects and you can't do this for me
10 but I hope that the mayor listens to
11 these council meetings on cable TV, if
12 not, maybe he'll read the paper the
13 next morning and I really wish that he
14 would take the time to have a meeting
15 with the general public. And since
16 he's proposing a commuter tax, he
17 needs to include the people from the
18 surrounding communities. He needs to
19 present his plan, not Mr. Amoroso's,
20 his plan. He needs to defend it, he
21 needs to explain it and he needs to
22 answer the what if questions. He owes
23 that to the residents of the city and
24 the surrounding communities. And I
25 understand, you know, why he's

1 hesitant to do that. He has been in
2 office now for over six months. He
3 should have an idea of what he wants
4 to do. He has the benefit of Mr.
5 Amoroso's recommendations. If he
6 cannot tell us the way forward now,
7 maybe he should resign. Thank you.

8 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

9 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mrs.
10 Hodowantiz. Sheila O'Brien.

11 MS. O'BRIEN: Hi. I'm Sheila
12 O'Brien. I live in Dunmore and I work
13 in Scranton and I oppose the commuter
14 tax mainly because at my job I don't
15 have a pension plan. One is not
16 provided for me. So I don't think
17 that I should be taxed to pay for
18 someone else's pension plan. Pension
19 plans are -- payment to pension plans
20 are the responsibility of the
21 employer, not the commuters. So
22 that's really all I have to say.
23 Thank you for the opportunity to speak
24 and I oppose the plan. Thank you.

25 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Miss

1 O'Brien. Mary Grace.

2 MS. GRACE: Good evening. I want
3 to say that I appreciate the
4 opportunity to come here this to speak
5 to you. I have lived in the Scranton
6 area since 1985. I moved here from
7 New York State and for a long time I
8 was proud of Scranton and was proud to
9 say that I lived in this area. I have
10 not lived in the City of Scranton
11 except for when I first moved to
12 Scranton to go to Marywood back in
13 1985. And two times since I've lived
14 here I have worked in Scranton and not
15 lived in Scranton. I'm not currently
16 working but I do feel that it is
17 unfair for people who work in Scranton
18 who do not live in the city limits to
19 have to pay a tax that provides them
20 for nothing other than to say that
21 they work in Scranton. And I think
22 it's important that this city be safe
23 from the distress that it's in but the
24 plans that have been offered to this
25 point from my view don't seem to be

1 working so I really would encourage
2 you people on City Council and the
3 mayor to also come up with some kind
4 of plan besides continual taxation to
5 solve a longstanding problem. Thanks.

6 MR. MCGOFF: Would you just
7 please state your name for the --

8 MS. GRACE: Oh, I'm sorry. I
9 didn't say my name. My name is Mary
10 Grace.

11 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. Anyone
12 else who wishes to address council?

13 MR. SPARAGLIA: Andy Sparaglia,
14 citizen from Scranton, fellow
15 Scrantonians. This problem with the
16 pensions started with -- well, I
17 shouldn't say -- it was a little
18 before Mayor Doherty but Mayor Doherty
19 is the main reason why we're in
20 trouble now. He had a buyout plan
21 when he took office and a lot of the
22 employees took it. And then he
23 retired other employees to replace the
24 employees who took the buyout. That
25 all added costs to the pension plan.

1 The way that the pension plan is
2 actuated and governed is crazy. We
3 had members of City Council given a
4 pension even though it was in
5 violation but who cares about
6 violations. We don't care about
7 anything but taking care of the people
8 who take care of us, meaning the
9 politicians. That is why we're in
10 trouble with the pension, some of the
11 reasons. A lot of the reasons is you
12 allow people to buy time. They don't
13 work for the -- like me I had to work
14 until I was 55 to get even a full
15 pension but I went up to 62. But they
16 don't. The way the pension is
17 formulated cannot stand. It really
18 can't. We can't afford it. It's
19 either massive layoffs with the
20 firemen and police after the
21 three-year contract expires or
22 reformulate the plan. And you have no
23 intention of reformulating the plan
24 and I doubt you're going to get it
25 done. As far as the commuter tax, if

1 I was outside the area and had to pay
2 the tax, I would ask for
3 representation on that board. And if
4 they were smart, they would file with
5 the court system to have that
6 representation to the board. If
7 you're asking us to pay, then we want
8 something to say on that board and I
9 believe they should do it. And
10 another thing with this commuter tax,
11 it's mainly a right to work tax and I
12 would file with the federal just like
13 a poll tax. No one should have to pay
14 to work and that's what this is, a
15 right to work tax and it's happening.
16 You're going to vote it and I have no
17 question about it. It's going to
18 happen whether the state the changes
19 the law which it's probably going to
20 happen and I don't know if you're
21 going to reduce what happened if you
22 tried to reduce the wage tax, whether
23 we're often called back to court
24 hearing after hearing after hearing.
25 The main thing is we're living above

1 our means. And that's the basic
2 thing. We're spending more than we're
3 taking in and I don't know how you're
4 going to change this. It's pretty
5 tough. KOZ's does not work because it
6 was never formulated to work. It was
7 more formulated to give a gift out
8 which they did. The only person that
9 really did what they're supposed to do
10 was out at the Ice Box. I don't like
11 what happened with the 198 year lease
12 for the old parking garage. I wasn't
13 happy with that. But that's how these
14 politics work in the city. We give a
15 way a 198 year leases for a dollar a
16 year but this is how we do it. Now
17 there's a -- how much we got from
18 that -- I guess it's a gas station
19 there, a convenient store, how much we
20 get back in taxes, I don't know.
21 Somebody said we can get back the
22 improvements but I don't really know
23 because we own the property. We don't
24 own the buildings on the property but
25 we do own the property and that's the

1 way it goes. That's why the city is
2 in trouble. That's why you're looking
3 for other people to pay for your
4 mistakes. You have to stand up and
5 say, I made the mistakes. Some of
6 you's have been on council for four
7 years, four and a half years, others
8 have been for seven or eight and this
9 is what you did, nothing. All you did
10 was whatever the mayor wanted, you
11 said yes. We don't need bubble head
12 councils. We need somebody who is
13 going to fight for the people of
14 Scranton. One man at the meeting,
15 they were talking about the decorum.
16 Right, decorum should be. Nobody
17 should be up there and screamed at. I
18 believe in that. But I do believe you
19 should fight for what you believe in.
20 Mr. Loscombe at least fought for what
21 he believed in. I thought he made a
22 big mistake. I thought he should have
23 resigned in January or before and then
24 the council that was there appoint the
25 guy to fill the seat but he didn't. I

1 don't know why he did it. I think he
2 made a big mistake when he did that.
3 Otherwise, the last council would have
4 appointed the member. But that's the
5 way it goes. Unfortunately he didn't
6 do it. Thank you.

7 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else who
8 wishes to address council?

9 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening,
10 council. Marie Schumacher. First
11 tonight I would like to thank OECD
12 Solicitor Hickey for taking the time
13 to go over the loan portfolio with me
14 and I congratulate them on finally
15 taking some action on many of the
16 loans that require the action and then
17 I would like to thank the Times for
18 two things, No. 1, for revealing the
19 planned secret meeting for Tuesday
20 night. I absolutely could not believe
21 that that happened. I just think that
22 anybody would come and seat --

23 MR. MCGOFF: Excuse me. It was
24 not a secret meeting.

25 MS. SCHUMACHER: It was a secret

1 to most people. There was no legal
2 notice that a meeting was occurring
3 of -- anyway I don't want to take my
4 time. I have a lot. And also today's
5 encouraging news that we may get a
6 receiver if our MMO is not met as I
7 believe the time is now to cut our
8 losses and admit defeat. Mr. Amoroso
9 said we're going to be somewhere
10 between 12 and 14 million I believe it
11 was short this year. The five million
12 that you're planning on voting on
13 tonight and I'll get back to that
14 later leaves seven million dollars or
15 seven to nine million. Where are thee
16 seven to nine million dollars coming
17 from? I would like to see that whole
18 thing before you vote on anyone item
19 in that portfolio.

20 Next, I'd like to know who's
21 responsible for administering city
22 contracts. I believe that you're
23 adding insult to injury when you
24 overlook shotty workmanship and then
25 tax the people to have those same --

1 that same shotty work repaired. East
2 Mountain Road is a perfect example.
3 It was very shortly after that the
4 road was opened that the joint between
5 the two lanes started to deteriorate.
6 Experts tell me it was because the
7 temperatures probably were not high
8 enough to properly knit those two
9 lanes. Now -- so we paid for that and
10 we're going to pay again hopefully
11 because hopefully it will get fixed.
12 It gets worse every single day. We've
13 had incorrect repairs made on it that
14 are just going to wash out again and
15 it's just wrong that we have to pay
16 twice.

17 Now, back to 205 that's on the
18 agenda again tonight, I'm guessing
19 that nobody took the time to read the
20 article that I provided to each of you
21 that was written by the first receiver
22 of the City of Harrisburg because he
23 provides very cogent reasons for not
24 proceeding piecemeal as you are
25 planning to do tonight and finalize

1 next week I'm quite certain.

2 I believe also that we need to
3 revise the Home Rule Charter. I would
4 ask that you will have the ability to
5 put that on the ballot would do that.
6 And one of the items that should be in
7 that is that if we lose a council
8 person, that the council's appointee
9 is only good until the next election,
10 be it primary or general and let the
11 voters decide who is fifth council
12 person should be.

13 Also another subject is trash. I
14 have personally witnessed a car drive
15 up to a empty lot and unload bag after
16 bag of garbage, I would say 12 to 15
17 bags of garbage. Now, what percent is
18 paid so far this year I would really
19 like to know that. I think it's
20 wrong. We are being abused by the
21 current system and I would venture to
22 guess that probably less than 70
23 percent of the people will be paying
24 for a 100 percent, plus those people
25 who want to come and dump trash from,

1 I assume, outside of the area or maybe
2 commercial people but that don't want
3 to pay it for themselves but it's not
4 proper.

5 The agenda tonight, the agenda
6 for the City Planning Commission Lori
7 Reed told us tonight that it was
8 cancelled. I believe this is the
9 second consecutive month that that was
10 cancelled for lack of a quorum. I
11 think some investigation needs to be
12 made into why that is happening. If
13 people are appointed that don't want
14 to serve, then they should resign and
15 let some other people come or perhaps
16 it's just that they don't want to
17 address the SAPA issue so they're
18 avoiding having a meetings. I don't
19 know what it is.

20 And then I'll finish with I do
21 notice that kiss another one goodbye.
22 The Adams Plaza was \$56,000 assessment
23 for their land and another 10,000 for
24 the improvements is going to go over
25 to the nonprofits and we, again, will

1 get to absorb those costs and all the
2 mercantile costs that five floors
3 would have provided. So again I hope
4 you knot pass 205. Thank you.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

6 MR. DOBZYN: Good evening,
7 council. Dave Dobzyn, resident of
8 Scranton, all taxes paid, all fees
9 paid. Why are we fighting tonight?
10 We have an opinion of mercenaries.
11 These think tanks are mercenaries.
12 You go to whatever think tank you want
13 to arrive at the conclusion you need
14 to arrive at. And that's a fact.
15 There's very few, only a handful of
16 think tanks that aren't mercenary.
17 They come up with their opinion and
18 their opinion is balk. Back during
19 the Republican debate I witnessed
20 Romney went ballistic with Newt
21 Greenwich over the Heritage Foundation
22 which Newt Greenwich was big on and
23 Newt said, "I don't know who came up
24 with this idea about required health
25 insurance." And Romney woke up and he

1 snapped back and I was on the floor,
2 "You did." It was hilarious, it was
3 truer than life. You couldn't make it
4 up.

5 Now, on this commuter tax
6 business our last several elections
7 have been waged on money from outside
8 sources, outside the City of Scranton.
9 Why do people outside the City of
10 Scranton care about who's mayor in
11 Scranton especially when the guy that
12 gets elected gives stuff away for a
13 dollar a year. It befuddling. Well,
14 there's an incentive there. So I
15 would appreciate if the people that
16 are here tonight and are still here go
17 back to your local businesses and
18 concerns and tell them, stop donating
19 money to Scranton's reelection
20 campaigns. It's not proper.

21 On Act 205 I feel it's necessary
22 for this reason that we have 33
23 percent of non tax exempt properties
24 not paying and they benefit their
25 federal courts, their county courts,

1 their state courts, there's hospitals,
2 there's schools, there's this, there's
3 that and that next thing. And they
4 benefit society at large. So what's
5 the solution. Get together, take the
6 state to the Supreme Court, the state
7 constitution and get it overturned
8 that they cannot require year in and
9 year out an eight million dollar, ten
10 million dollar hole in our budget from
11 property taxes that benefit everybody
12 and we turn around and get stuck
13 holding the bag. I can't have it
14 myself.

15 Now, last week I got jumped about
16 reverse mortgages out in the hall.
17 And I'm not saying that elderly people
18 should get a reverse mortgage and pour
19 it all into taxes. You don't have to
20 pay your taxes at all. But if there's
21 somebody out there that's scrimping by
22 and not putting food on the table and
23 they do have the ability to get a
24 reverse mortgage and pay up their
25 taxes eventually somebody is going to

1 come at you after all these taxes and
2 fees and then it's too late, your
3 credit rating is ruined and there's a
4 lot of trouble. Don't let your house
5 go for a few thousand dollars worth of
6 back taxes when you can, in fact, draw
7 the money out and maybe even go on
8 that vacation you always wanted to go
9 on, who knows, pay the grandson that
10 cuts your grass for a couple bucks for
11 a change. We have -- are on this
12 property now tax exempt. Intermodal
13 transportation system, two businesses
14 affected and one has been moved to
15 Dunmore or is in the process of moving
16 to Dunmore. The other one will be
17 across the street, it's a bus company.
18 They'll be across the street for a
19 free government funded lunch. And by
20 the way, we don't have any intermodal
21 transportation. I mean, we've been
22 hearing that for 35 years, another
23 pipe dream.

24 And a house next to the county
25 jail is going to be taken for a

1 parking lot. And now we have Adams
2 Plaza in the paper this morning. So
3 there's a whole city block gone off
4 the tax rolls. We really need to go
5 to federal court but that 75
6 hundredths might be necessary. As
7 wrong as it is it's at least getting
8 attention.

9 And by the way don't plan on the
10 PUC bailing you out if the sell the
11 sewer plant. We have 350 of various
12 concerns selling somebody else's
13 electric delivery in generation and
14 it's buildup with print -- legalize
15 print, fine print, and your electric
16 bill if you go with these people can
17 inflate 600 percent. How about that,
18 isn't that wonderful. Gee, thanks,
19 Mr. Ridge. Have a good night.

20 MS. RUANE: Good evening. My
21 name is Kathy Ruane. I lived in
22 Scranton. I was born and raised in
23 Scranton. I lived here for 35 years.
24 I live in Archbald now. I love
25 Scranton but I don't think that I

1 should pay for someone else's
2 retirement. I'm asking you to put
3 yourself into the shoes of the
4 commuter who commute to the city
5 everyday. That reduction in pay is
6 going to reduce what I can put into my
7 retirement. You have to think of the
8 people that you're affecting. I mean,
9 that's pretty all I have to say.
10 Thank you for taking the time to
11 listen to me. Thank you.

12 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Ms.
13 Ruane. Anyone else who wishes to
14 speak?

15 MR. PRECIADO: Hello. Thank you
16 for the opportunity to come and talk
17 like a citizen. I live in Nicholson.
18 I don't live in Scranton, but I have a
19 job here in Scranton. I'm against the
20 commuter tax because I don't even have
21 a pension plan. And, I mean, I know
22 you we use the streets and come and
23 drive her but I shop over here, too.
24 I pay taxes on anything I buy,
25 whatever they're charging, you know.

1 And so I'm against the commuter tax
2 and thank you.

3 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. Did you
4 get a name? Sir, excuse me. Sir,
5 would you just state your name for the
6 stenographer, please.

7 MR. PRECIADO: George Preciado.
8 I only make \$17,000 a year so and to
9 pay -- I don't know how tax I would
10 have to pay but I make like about 600
11 a month with the job that I have. I
12 don't know how much. I don't make
13 \$50,000.

14 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

15 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you very
16 much.

17 MR. ELLMAN: Hello, council. I'm
18 sort of frustrated and disappointed in
19 my council but our mayor support of
20 Mr. Amoroso's repugnant plan, I don't
21 know what plan B and C is going to be.
22 But I talked to a real estate man last
23 week and he figured that probably half
24 the houses in this city are 75 years
25 old or older. He said you can't

1 even -- they're getting hard to sell
2 at any price. My house taxes have
3 doubled in 20 years. Now you want to
4 go 90 percent in four years and that's
5 not going to be enough and you guys
6 know it. You're going to have to go
7 more than that. How are you going to
8 expect people to live in this city
9 triple what they were taxes like that?
10 My insurance in \$1,600 a year on my
11 house. Last week I spent 250 on a
12 plumber. You forget all these things.
13 I've got a bar bill. There's other
14 things in life besides taxes for you
15 guys. And here Mr. Amoroso -- if you
16 sold the Sewer Authority, like I said,
17 you can imagine those rates would
18 skyrocket. It would be private and
19 they're in there for business to make
20 money. There's no way to sell it and
21 have people being able to afford it.
22 There's people now that you expect to
23 suffer and they're worried about
24 things. Right now they don't care
25 about things ten or 20 years from now.

1 Look at the city right now that we
2 live in. You know, I sat here for two
3 or three years and told you how my
4 neighborhood is declining and
5 declining and declining. It's full of
6 undesirables everywhere. There's --
7 don't know if they're illegal.
8 There's people just renting rooms all
9 over North Main Avenue. There's cars
10 parked in the sidewalk because they
11 have nowhere to go. The place is
12 really getting trashy. And you guys
13 treat this Mr. Amoroso like a God. It
14 just doesn't -- he has insane rubbish
15 is what he's trying to solve down your
16 throats with this plan. If Frank
17 Joyce had advocated this last year,
18 you would have ran him out of town on
19 a rail. You just -- the people are
20 defenseless to do anything about it.
21 You don't try to do anything else
22 except raises taxes because that's the
23 easiest thing to do. Mr. Amoroso, he
24 didn't lift a finger to keep Hessler
25 here. He could have been saved if you

1 ask me. I've known that man for 25
2 years. There's no reason they had to
3 move out of here. They could have
4 done something to keep him here. Look
5 at this ice cream charade been going
6 on for years beating us out of taxes.
7 The Goodwill, year after year they
8 tell us a bunch of blatant lies
9 instead of giving their property up so
10 some reputable person could have it.
11 You know, it just goes on and on and
12 on. I ask why you can't rewrite the
13 Pure Charity Act. Maybe that would
14 have stopped something like when, you
15 know, in less than a month Lackawanna
16 College has taken 3.7 million dollars
17 worth of property. Mr. Volk told us
18 he's going to grow 40 percent and he
19 is at the taxpayers' expense and
20 nothing is being done about any of
21 this except you take the easiest way
22 out, raise taxes. You're very
23 disappointing, you know. There's got
24 to be something, you know, there's got
25 to be some kind of solution to these

1 problems besides raise taxes. How are
2 we going to make up three points? I
3 ask you how you're going to make up
4 one point, that 1,200,000, nobody said
5 nothing, now it's 3.7. How are we
6 going to make it up? You're 90
7 percent -- taxes wouldn't make a dent
8 in what's going to happen in what,
9 three more years. You're going to sit
10 there and tell the people in three
11 years we need another 50, 60 percent
12 increase over 90 that's over what the
13 county's done. You're going to have a
14 ghost town because people cannot
15 afford rents, they can't afford to
16 live here no more with the way things
17 are going. And I'm not scolding you.
18 I told you weeks ago. I support you
19 guys. The people out here, we need
20 you to help us, not turn your backs on
21 us. Thank you.

22 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. Anyone
23 else who wishes to address council?
24 Mrs. Reed.

25 MS. REED: 5TH ORDER, 5A,

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MOTIONS.

MR. MCGOFF: Councilman Wechsler.

MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr. McGoff. I'd like to say that we have been diligently researching Act 205. There is a lot of things that we don't know. We are in the beginning of the process and we are doing a lot of research and implementation on it and the one thing that I mentioned last week and I do believe that is true is the fact that we started to look at Act 205 has brought focus on Act 247 in the state house since these two things are kind of running simultaneously for approval, we have to consider Act 205 because it's on the table for us right now. Act 47 is still in committee. We don't know when it's going to get out of committee. For this tax to be -- if this tax, Act 205 passes there are some administrative issues that have to be done prior to it being enacted and collected. These things have to

1 happen by December the 1st. It would
2 be unexcusable for us not to pursue
3 this tax. The state has given this to
4 us as an option. We have to pursue
5 this option for the City of Scranton
6 and the residents of Scranton. It
7 would be irresponsible for us not to
8 pursue this. If Act 207 passes and it
9 can work in conjunction with Act 205
10 and replace Act 205, we do have to
11 talk about it when that happens but it
12 has not happened yet. So like I said,
13 I am voting to move it ahead tonight
14 again. We'll do more research on it
15 next week and we will go from there.
16 But like I said, it is irresponsible
17 for us not to act on this. We can't
18 wait for the mayor. I have a
19 responsibility as a council person. I
20 cannot have the mayor come here to
21 council, I can't have him have a
22 public meeting, I can't have him
23 present his plan to the people. I can
24 only do what I'm responsible for. And
25 I'm working on what I'm responsible

1 for. And that is all I have tonight,
2 Mr. McGoff.

3 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.
4 Councilman Rogan.

5 MR. ROGAN: Yes. One brief issue
6 before -- a few comments regarding the
7 205 tax. We mentioned very briefly in
8 the caucus about the issues that were
9 going on in the Keyser Valley area
10 because of the construction. I was
11 notified today by a resident that
12 because of the truck traffic taking
13 detours through the neighborhoods
14 instead of being on Keyser Ave where
15 they traditionally would be that a
16 mirror was knocked off, completely off
17 a car because of a big rig going down
18 a residential neighborhood. With my
19 colleague's permission, can we please
20 send a letter to Chief Graziano asking
21 that this issue in that area is --
22 extra patrols are put in that area to
23 watch for truck traffic and I'll give
24 you some streets, you know, after the
25 meeting.

1 MS. REED: Of course.

2 MR. ROGAN: Regarding the 205 tax
3 and it's an issue, I think, we've all
4 struggled with and looked at quite a
5 bit over the last few weeks. What it
6 came down for me regarding making a
7 final decision is the 205 tax will
8 bring in approximately five million
9 dollars of revenue into the city. If
10 the 205 tax is not implemented, the
11 city will still need to find that
12 money to fund the pension. If it is
13 not implemented, it means that there
14 will be more property tax increases on
15 the residents of Scranton. We all
16 know that the taxes are too high in
17 the city as they are. We need to look
18 at other options. As Councilman
19 Wechsler mentioned and as Councilman
20 McGoff mentioned in the newspaper, the
21 State of Pennsylvania has given
22 Scranton and other cities, I believe
23 there are 40 other cities that use the
24 205 tax, this tool, we need to pursue
25 it. It's the right thing to do for

1 the residents of Scranton. I
2 understand the commuters are upset. I
3 would be, too, if I lived outside the
4 city and worked in the city. But try
5 to put yourself in our shoes as well
6 where the residents have endured tax
7 increase after tax increase and at the
8 end of the day I know much of argument
9 is, well, the 205 goes directly to the
10 pension which it does. But if that
11 money wasn't going into the pension,
12 it would be more dollars from the
13 general funding that would be going to
14 fund the pension which would make it
15 even more difficult for us to do
16 things like the service that the
17 commuters use and the Scranton
18 residents use. That's why I agree
19 with Councilman Wechsler and
20 Councilman McGoff that it would be
21 foolish for us not to move forward
22 with the 205 tax unless there was
23 another viable alternative on the
24 table that would bring in five million
25 dollars without raising taxes on

1 Scranton residents. Over the last two
2 weeks I'm sure we have all heard from
3 residents and nonresidents regarding
4 this tax and by and large the
5 residents of Scranton strongly support
6 this tax because they understand it's
7 less tax that they will have to pay at
8 end of the year. And as it was
9 mentioned by Councilman McGoff in the
10 newspaper, we were elected by the
11 residents of Scranton to do a job.
12 We're responsible for the residents of
13 Scranton. That's why I will be voting
14 to support this week and again next
15 week the 205 tax. I know there are
16 many issues that will be brought up
17 regarding implementation. I know when
18 we talked to our solicitor and we met
19 as a council to talk about the 205
20 implementation a little bit, we are
21 going to request Business Bulzoni and
22 Attorney Jason Shrive come to our
23 caucus next week to address some of
24 the implementation issues and assuming
25 all of those issues are addressed at

1 next week's caucus or prior, I will be
2 voting yes to lessen the burden on
3 Scranton's residents by implementing
4 the 205. Thank you.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Councilman Gaughan.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes. Thank you
7 very much. A few comments. First, I
8 received a call from neighbors on Oak
9 Avenue in Minooka who complained of
10 dangerous potholes on their street
11 that they would like filled when
12 possible. City council has forwarded
13 that request to DPW. A concerned
14 resident had contacted me regarding
15 businesses on Main Avenue in West
16 Scranton who are putting objects on
17 the sidewalk making foot traffic
18 difficult. The resident also had a
19 concern about a couch and piles of
20 garbage on a porch on Swetland Street.
21 Council has forward these concerns to
22 Chief Graziano of the Police
23 Department.

24 Last week we passed legislation
25 along the permit parking in the 900

1 block of Prescott Avenue. There were
2 some questions as to what the next
3 step was in this process. Residents
4 from the block need to come to DPW
5 Headquarters at 101 West Popular
6 Street. They must bring proof that
7 they reside in the permitted parking
8 area, along with their owner's card
9 for their vehicle and their driver's
10 license. They are allowed two
11 residential and one visitor permit per
12 household. The cost for the
13 residential is five dollars per permit
14 and the two dollars for the visitor.

15 And finally the street sweeper is
16 scheduled to be in West Scranton next
17 week, July 28th through August 1st,
18 from Washburn Street to Elm Street,
19 including all streets and avenues.

20 And at this time I'd like to make
21 a motion that we table Item 6A.

22 MR. MCGOFF: Is there a second?
23 There is no second to the motion.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. Thank you.
25 I again asked my colleagues to table

1 this legislation concerning the
2 commuter tax. After the information I
3 provided last week, it would be
4 foolish to push this religious through
5 City Council. We've heard from
6 Senator Blake who explained in the
7 paper as I did last week that it's
8 likely legislation will be passed from
9 the general assembly that would
10 require Scranton to levy the proposed
11 commuter tax against its own
12 residents. I will not vote to raise
13 the wage tax 33 percent on the
14 residents of this city. At this point
15 an increase in our wage tax would be
16 crippling to our residents. As I
17 stated last week, it's premature to
18 entertain this commuter tax to fund
19 the pensions until we know how
20 negotiations are progressing between
21 the mayor and the bargaining units or
22 if they have begun. The mayor should
23 sit down with the police and fire
24 union and negotiate immediately. We
25 need to know what savings can be found

1 before we shove a tax through City
2 Council that will burden commuters and
3 residents in order to fund the
4 pension. I feel very strongly that we
5 should not consider a tax increase in
6 the absence of a full budget proposal.
7 There are many moving pieces to every
8 budget and those components should not
9 be presented piecemeal to City
10 Council. I still don't understand the
11 rush. There are many unanswered
12 questions, and I would hope my
13 colleagues would make the right
14 decision next week and vote no on this
15 legislation. Thank you.

16 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. First of
17 all, I neglected before, I had
18 something that I was supposed to
19 announce and I don't have the
20 information with me. But the South
21 Side Farmers' Market is open on
22 Saturdays at the Scranton Iron
23 Furnaces. People are encouraged to go
24 there. There are a number of vendors
25 with various products. I'm not sure

1 what the hours of operation are but
2 I'm pretty sure it's somewhere in the
3 morning hours to early afternoon that
4 it's open.

5 Two items that, first of all, I
6 will address Act 205 and some of the
7 comments that were made. As far as
8 the idea of representation, I know
9 people that have, you know, used the
10 term, taxation without representation
11 for Act 205. It should be noted Act
12 205 is not something that was enacted
13 by the City of Scranton. It was voted
14 on and signed by your representatives
15 at the state level. Your state
16 representatives, your state senator,
17 your governor implemented this act.
18 They felt that it offered a remedy to
19 distressed cities, to distressed
20 municipalities in dealing with their
21 pension issues. As Mr. Rogan stated,
22 we are simply using a tool that was
23 given to us. It is being used and I
24 believe somewhere around 40
25 municipalities throughout the

1 Commonwealth. This is not something
2 unique to the city but simply a tool
3 that we feel or people felt was a
4 possible remedy. And, yes, I did
5 state that I represented the city, the
6 residents of the City of Scranton.
7 That was not to denigrate anyone --
8 any of the commuters. I understand
9 the arguments the commuters may have.
10 But I do not represent someone from
11 Dickson City or Archbald or
12 Wilkes-Barre. I represent the
13 citizens of the City of Scranton and
14 it was my responsibility as an elected
15 official in the City of Scranton to
16 represent what I feel are their best
17 interests. And that was all I meant
18 by that statement. It was not meant
19 to denigrate in any way anyone from
20 outside the City of Scranton.

21 As far as the other legislation
22 at the state level, we can't wait for
23 the state to act. We need to act on
24 our own. We can't rely on the state
25 to do what we think they will -- we

1 can't allow ourselves to think that
2 the state legislature will act in the
3 best interest of the City of Scranton.
4 Simply put, there is precedent that
5 they will not. And so I think it's
6 incumbent upon us to act on our own
7 behalf and not wait for proposed help
8 from the state.

9 As far as the payment of the Act
10 205 or an increase in the Act 05 or
11 the EIT tax, it should be noted and it
12 was a question that I asked of one of
13 the speakers. Anyone who already pays
14 the EIT tax in their own municipality
15 that is equal to or better than what
16 the tax would be in Scranton does not
17 pay the commuter tax, does not pay
18 this increase. Okay? So there are a
19 number of communities, outlying
20 communities that are exempt. A number
21 of commuters will be exempt from
22 payment of this tax. So it is not
23 every community that is going to be
24 affected.

25 And as far as it being piecemeal,

1 that's a second thing I would like to
2 address. We were presented a few
3 weeks ago with the plan, with
4 recommendations from Mr. Amoroso. The
5 mayor sat at that table and said that
6 this was his plan, that this was going
7 to be his plan for recovery for the
8 City of Scranton. He later went on or
9 addressed the public via a news report
10 or a press conference that this was
11 his plan and wanted it to be referred
12 to as his plan. What we were
13 presented is a rather comprehensive
14 idea or ideas for fiscal
15 responsibility in the city. We cannot
16 vote on this in its entirety. If we
17 were to do that, that would be in my
18 eyes totally irresponsible. This --
19 that would give the administration
20 carte blanche to implement any of
21 these recommendations in any way they
22 wanted. Each of the proposals in
23 whether you want to call it the
24 Amoroso plan or the administration
25 plan, each of these must be dealt with

1 individually. That is our
2 responsibility. Each aspect must be
3 considered individually as its
4 presented to council. What we have
5 been given is the first step in this
6 plan. It is the only thing that we
7 are considering at this point. We
8 can't look at every aspect of the plan
9 at this time. We are simply dealing
10 with the first step in implementing
11 a -- if you want to call it a recovery
12 plan for the City of Scranton. And
13 that's all. Thank you.

14 MS. REED: 5B. FOR INTRODUCTION
15 - AN ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR
16 AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS
17 TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO AN EASEMENT
18 AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF
19 SCRANTON AND LACKAWANNA HERITAGE
20 VALLEY AUTHORITY FOR A SECTION OF THE
21 LACKAWANNA RIVER HERITAGE TRAIL FOR
22 VARIOUS PROPERTIES ALONG NAY AUG
23 AVENUE.

24 MR. MCGOFF: At this time I'll
25 entertain a motion that Item 5B be

1 introduced into its proper committee.

2 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

3 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

4 MR. MCGOFF: On the question?

5 All those in favor signify by saying
6 aye.

7 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

8 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

9 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

10 MR. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? Ayes
11 have it and so move.

12 MS. REED: 5C FOR INTRODUCTION -
13 AN ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR
14 AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS
15 TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO AN EASEMENT
16 AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF
17 SCRANTON AND LACKAWANNA HERITAGE
18 VALLEY AUTHORITY FOR A SECTION OF THE
19 LACKAWANNA RIVER HERITAGE TRAIL
20 SITUATE IN SOUTH SCRANTON.

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

24 MR. ROGAN: So move.

25 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

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

4 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

5 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

7 MR. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? Ayes
8 have it and so move.

9 MS. REED: 5D FOR INTRODUCTION -
10 A RESOLUTION - RE-APPOINTING STEVEN
11 KOCHIS, 531 HICKORY STREET, SCRANTON,
12 PENNSYLVANIA, 18505, AS A MEMBER OF
13 THE BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS FOR
14 THE CITY OF SCRANTON. MR. KOCHIS'
15 TERM EXPIRED ON JULY 16, 2014, AND HIS
16 NEW TERM WILL EXPIRE ON JULY 15,
17 2019.

18 MR. MCGOFF: At this time I'll
19 entertain a motion that Item 5D be
20 introduced into its proper committee.

21 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

22 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

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

1 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

2 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

3 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

4 MR. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? Ayes
5 have it and so move.

6 MS. REED: 6TH ORDER, 6A. READING
7 BY TITLE - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 36,
8 2014 - AN ORDINANCE - AN ORDINANCE TO
9 PROVIDE REVENUE FUNDING FOR
10 THE SEVERELY DISTRESSED PENSION(S) OF
11 THE CITY OF SCRANTON BY ADOPTING AND
12 IMPOSING AN ADDITIONAL
13 SEVENTY-FIVE HUNDREDTHS (.75%) OF A
14 PERCENT TAX UPON EARNED INCOME
15 RECEIVED AND NET PROFITS EARNED BY
16 NONRESIDENTS FOR WORK DONE, SERVICES
17 PERFORMED, BUSINESS CONDUCTED AND
18 INCOME EARNED WITHIN THE CITY OF
19 SCRANTON, REQUIRING THE FILING OF
20 RETURNS BY TAXPAYERS SUBJECT TO THE
21 TAX; REQUIRING EMPLOYERS TO COLLECT
22 THE TAX AT SOURCE; PROVIDING FOR THE
23 ADMINISTRATION, COLLECTING AND
24 ENFORCEMENT OF THE SAID TAX; SAID
25 REVENUE TO BE SPECIFICALLY RESTRICTED

1 TO FUNDING OF THE SEVERELY DISTRESSED
2 PENSION(S) OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON,
3 UNDER AND PURSUANT TO THE MUNICIPAL
4 PENSION PLAN FUNDING STANDARD AND
5 RECOVERY ACT, ACT 205 OF DECEMBER
6 18, 1984 (P.L.1005, NO. 205), AND ITS
7 AMENDMENTS, SPECIFICALLY 53 PA. C.S.A.
8 §895.101 ET SEQ. THIS TAX IS
9 EXPECTED TO GENERATE APPROXIMATELY
10 FIVE-MILLION (\$5,000,000.00) DOLLARS
11 IN ANNUAL REVENUE.

12 MR. MCGOFF: You've heard reading
13 by title of Item 6A. What is your
14 pleasure?

15 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6A
16 pass reading by title.

17 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

18 MR. MCGOFF: On the question?

19 MR. ROGAN: Yes, on the question.
20 Just to address a couple of the items
21 that were brought up by Councilman
22 Gaughan. At this time if this law is
23 enacted, there is no additional tax to
24 be levied on the citizens of Scranton.

25 MR. GAUGHAN: How do you know

1 that?

2 MR. ROGAN: As the state law
3 currently stands there is no
4 additional tax.

5 MR. GAUGHAN: Right. But what if
6 the state law Act 47 is passed?

7 MR. ROGAN: We can't sit here and
8 say what if.

9 MR. GAUGHAN: I talked to Senator
10 Eichelberger, I talked to Senator
11 Blake. They said this thing is going
12 to pass. So then what do we do? Do
13 we have to repeal it? This is what
14 I'm saying to you. There are many
15 unanswered questions. What is the
16 rush? What is the difference between
17 introducing this now and introducing
18 this around budget time?

19 MR. ROGAN: Well, your question
20 today is what is the rush but two
21 months ago you were yelling where is
22 the plan and chastising the mayor and
23 the Chamber of Commerce --

24 MR. GAUGHAN: This isn't a plan.
25 This is a component of the plan. This

1 is a sliver of the plan.

2 MR. ROGAN: It's a very large
3 part of the plan. It's a five million
4 dollar part and if it doesn't pass, it
5 means more tax increases on the
6 residents of Scranton. A vote against
7 this tax is a vote for a five million
8 dollar tax increase on the residents
9 of Scranton.

10 MR. GAUGHAN: I strongly
11 disagree, strongly.

12 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else?

13 (No response.)

14 MR. MCGOFF: All those in favor
15 signify by saying aye?

16 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

17 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

18 MR. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed?

19 MR. GAUGHAN: No.

20 MR. MCGOFF: Ayes have it and so
21 moved.

22 MS. REED: 6B. READING BY TITLE -
23 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 37, 2014 - AN
24 ORDINANCE - AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY
25 OF SCRANTON ADOPTING THE 2009 EDITION

1 OF THE INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY
2 MAINTENANCE CODE, REGULATING AND
3 GOVERNING THE CONDITIONS AND
4 MAINTENANCE OF ALL PROPERTY, BUILDINGS
5 AND STRUCTURES, BY PROVIDING THE
6 STANDARDS FOR SUPPLIED UTILITIES AND
7 FACILITIES AND OTHER PHYSICAL THINGS
8 AND CONDITIONS ESSENTIAL TO ENSURE
9 THAT STRUCTURES ARE SAFE, SANITARY AND
10 FIT FOR OCCUPATION AND USE; AND THE
11 CONDEMNATION OF BUILDINGS AND
12 STRUCTURES UNFIT FOR HUMAN OCCUPANCY
13 AND USE, AND THE DEMOLITION OF SUCH
14 EXISTING STRUCTURES IN THE CITY OF
15 SCRANTON; PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE
16 OF PERMITS AND COLLECTION OF FEES
17 THEREFORE; REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 2,
18 2000 OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON AND ALL
19 OTHER ORDINANCES AND PARTS OF
20 ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT THEREWITH.

21 MR. MCGOFF: You've heard reading
22 by title of Item 6B. What is your
23 pleasure?

24 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6B
25 pass reading by title.

1 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

2 MR. MCGOFF: On the question?

3 All those in favor signify by saying
4 aye.

5 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

6 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

8 MR. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? Ayes
9 have it and so moved.

10 MS. REED: 6C. READING BY TITLE -
11 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 38, 2014 - AN
12 ORDINANCE - CREATING AND ESTABLISHING
13 SPECIAL CITY ACCOUNT NO. 02.229611
14 ENTITLED "TEAMSTERS LOCAL #229
15 REPUBLIC PARKING EMPLOYEES HEALTHCARE
16 CONTRIBUTIONS" FOR THE RECEIPT AND
17 DISBURSEMENT OF THOSE FUNDS
18 RECEIVED UNDER THE CURRENT COLLECTIVE
19 BARGAINING AGREEMENT.

20 MR. MCGOFF: You've heard reading
21 by title of Item 6C. What is your
22 pleasure?

23 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6C
24 pass reading by title.

25 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

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MR. MCGOFF: On the question?
All those in favor signify by saying
aye.

MR. ROGAN: Aye.

MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

MR. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? Ayes
have it and so moved.

MS. REED: 7th ORDER. NO
BUSINESS AT THIS TIME.

MR. MCGOFF: If there's no
further business, I will entertain a
motion to adjourn.

MR. ROGAN: Motion to adjourn.

MR. MCGOFF: This meeting is
adjourned.

(Proceedings concluded at 8:16
p.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

Amelia Nicol, RPR
Court Reporter