

SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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HELD:

Thursday, June 18, 2015

LOCATION:

Council Chambers

Scranton City Hall

340 North Washington Avenue

Scranton, Pennsylvania

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

ROBERT MCGOFF, PRESIDENT

PATRICK ROGAN, VICE-PRESIDENT

WAYNE EVANS

JOSEPH WECHSLER

WILLIAM GAUGHAN

LORI REED, CITY CLERK

JAMIE MARCIANO, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

AMIL MINORA, SOLICITOR

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

3 MR. MCGOFF: Roll call, please.

4 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler.

5 MR. WECHSLER: Here.

6 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

7 MR. ROGAN: Here.

8 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Evans.

9 MR. EVANS: Here.

10 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Here.

12 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

13 MR. MCGOFF: Here. Dispense with the
14 reading of the minutes and prior to Third
15 Order, I would just like to announce that
16 council met in executive session for
17 probably about five minutes prior to caucus
18 this evening and there was concerning an
19 ongoing litigation with the city.

20 MS. REED: THIRD ORDER. 3-A. TAX
21 ASSESSOR'S REPORT FOR HEARING DATE TO BE
22 HELD JUNE 24, 2015.

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

25 MS. REED: 3-B. CONTROLLER'S REPORT

1 FOR THE MONTH ENDING MAY 31, 2015.

2 MR. MCGOFF: Are there any comments?
3 If not, received and filed. I have a couple
4 of announcements I'd like to make and,
5 first, a very happy congratulations to the
6 McCarthy family. Joe McCarthy is a Scranton
7 firefighter. Rob and Joe McCarthy, a
8 Scranton firefighter, and his wife, Joann
9 works for the Scranton School District and
10 their daughter Morgan and especially for
11 sons Joe and Jake. Joe is a Scranton Hight
12 School graduate now attending the University
13 of Virginia. He was picked by the Tampa Bay
14 Rays as 148th overall selection in the major
15 league baseball draft this past week. He is
16 now in Omaha playing with the University of
17 Virginia in the college world series.

18 At the same time, younger brother
19 Jake was chosen in the 23rd round of the
20 major league baseball draft by the Pirates
21 and also chosen by the newspaper as the
22 2014-15 male athlete of the year. If you
23 didn't see the picture in the paper, I did
24 bring it along picture of Jake and also the
25 female athlete of the year, Cassidy Jenkins.

1 Beautiful picture and I think if this is the
2 face of the America youth I am very
3 optimistic about our fewer.

4 One other announcement, maybe two
5 announcements, the council meeting of
6 Thursday, July 2, is going to be rescheduled
7 to Wednesday, July 1, at 6:30. Caucus will
8 be held at 6:00 as usual. This is being done
9 because city hall is closed on Friday as
10 part of the July 4 celebration and our staff
11 needs time after the meeting to kind of
12 coordinate some things that happen during
13 the meeting, so the meeting of July 2 is
14 rescheduled to Wednesday, July 1.

15 Also, I would like to wish a sacred
16 and peaceful month for all of the Islamic
17 worshipers. This is the beginning of
18 Ramadan, which is the most sacred month of
19 the Islamic calendar.

20 And that is all for my
21 announcements, anyone else?

22 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, I have one. As
23 part of the Scranton Notre Dame Club's God
24 Country Notre Dame initiative the club is
25 organizing the fundraiser for the American

1 Legion in Minooka. The Minooka Legion needs
2 funds to repair the flagpole in the Minooka
3 Cemetery and help with operational expenses
4 for their club.

5 They are holding the event on the
6 anniversary of the Berlin airlift. Friday,
7 June 26, which is next Friday, at the
8 Minooka Legion on Birney Avenue from 6 to 8
9 p.m. Cost to get in the door is \$15. There
10 will a DJ, draft beer, wine and soda, food,
11 50/50 raffles and a chance to win two
12 tickets to the Notre Dame Texas game out in
13 South Bend Indiana. You can sponsor the
14 event. If you would like to a make check
15 out and sponsor the event checks can be made
16 payable to the "Scranton Notre Dame Club."
17 Please put "Flagpole fundraiser" in the memo
18 line and for more information you can
19 contact Sean O'Shea at
20 S.O.Shea3312@gmail.com and
21 JohnGilhocken@gmail.com.

22 And, also, please don't forget that
23 tonight, Friday and Saturday, is Mary Mother
24 of God parish's in North Scranton block
25 party so please try to make it out to that.

1 And that's all I have. Thank you.

2 MR. ROGAN: I have one as well. In
3 honor of Scranton's 150th anniversary a
4 scholarship contest will be held. It is
5 organized by the Century Club of Scranton
6 and sponsored by the Greater Scranton Board
7 of Realtors, the Greater Scranton Chamber of
8 Commerce and a collaborative project with
9 Scranton Tomorrow.

10 Two enter, students would write a an
11 essay entitled, "The vision of Scranton
12 Tomorrow" which would be between 500 and
13 1,000 words. Entries must include a
14 complete application. For the application
15 and instructions people can visit
16 www.Scrantontomorrow.org. Applicants must
17 be residents of Scranton between 17 and 25
18 years old, must be enrolled in a college or
19 University or certificate program for 2015
20 and 2016. Two winners, one male and one
21 female, will be announced at the award
22 ceremony at the Century Club in Scranton in
23 July. Winners will each receive a \$1,000
24 scholarship award. And that is all.

25 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else?

1 MS. REED: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'
2 PARTICIPATION.

3 MR. MCGOFF: Bill Jackowitz.

4 MR. JACKOWITZ: Good evening,
5 Scranton City Council, Jamie, stenographer,
6 Lori, Amil. 8,451 days we have been
7 distressed. After listening to that caucus
8 today, I haven't heard so much double talk
9 since the last time Mr. Boscov was here. A
10 lot of double talk going on, I didn't think
11 a lot of the questions were answered
12 completely. Working together, we have heard
13 many times through council about how the
14 administration and city council is working
15 together, then how did we get a convicted
16 felon hired at DPW and how did a letter get
17 to Mr. Boscov that city council didn't know
18 anything about if everybody is working
19 together and cooperating with each other?

20 If someone could answer those
21 questions during Fifth Order I would
22 appreciate it. The rental registration,
23 it's been 15 years in progress now and we
24 still haven't gotten it off the ground yet.
25 Again, we have been distressed for 8,451

1 days. Is it going to 8,451 days to get the
2 rental registration off the ground and work
3 properly? I think blight in the city, I
4 think it's actually gotten worse instead of
5 getting better, I have been driving around
6 the city all week and some parts of the city
7 is really terrible so I think we need to
8 really concentrate a little bit harder on
9 that if we can.

10 Experience does not matter. That
11 was said by Councilwoman Gatelli one time.
12 Well, it also appears that maybe a convicted
13 felon or felony record doesn't matter either
14 in the City of Scranton in order to get a
15 job.

16 Roseann Novembrino, she has been in
17 office for 28 years now. She has been on
18 the Pension Board and yet she has never been
19 brought in here to be asked any questions as
20 to what happened because she would be the
21 one who would have most of the answers
22 because she has been in office for 28 years
23 and the entire time -- the entire 8,451 days
24 that the city has been distressed so I
25 understand there is an investigation going

1 on, but she should have been brought in a
2 long time ago because she is on the Pension
3 Board and she should have answers as to why
4 some votes were taken, what votes were
5 taken, what she did, so on and so forth
6 because I believe she is still on the
7 Pension Board.

8 Let Boscov's go as far as I'm
9 concerned, it doesn't really sound like he
10 was being very straightforward our upfront.
11 I agree with one thing that Mr. Boscov said,
12 he said maybe you don't believe in it and
13 you think it's going to fail then why do it.
14 I agree with that wholeheartedly. We have
15 plenty of examples of that here in Scranton,
16 like the budgets that have been passed in
17 previous years which we knew were going to
18 fail but yet they passed anyway. Three
19 recovery plans which we knew were going to
20 fail, but they passed anyway, so the City of
21 Scranton has a lot of experience in that
22 and most of the people in the city believe
23 that they were going to fail, but the
24 residents and the citizens did not have the
25 vote, council and the mayor were the ones

1 who made the votes on that and they failed.
2 Thank you.

3 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. Before the
4 next speaker, I just had one other
5 announcement that I forgot to make earlier,
6 I was told that the pool at Connell Park may
7 not open this Saturday, they were redoing
8 the surface of the pool and it needed some
9 warm, dry days for it be finished and
10 because of the rain in the past couple of
11 days or past weeks it may not have dried
12 completely, so that pool may not open
13 Saturday, I'm not sure, I haven't heard.

14 And, I'm sorry, Mrs. Hodowanitz.

15 MS. HODOWANTIZ: Joan Hodowanitz,
16 Scranton resident and taxpayer. I was both
17 amazed and disappointed that neither the
18 mayor nor Mrs. Aebli attended the caucus
19 tonight. Were they extended an invitation?
20 Did they know about it?

21 MR. MCGOFF: They knew about it, I
22 don't know that it was necessarily an
23 invitation was made in any way.

24 MS. HODOWANITZ: That speaks a lot
25 about the mayor. Speaking of the mayor, has

1 he given you a date when he will appear in
2 caucus?

3 MR. MCGOFF: In speaking to the mayor
4 on Monday, a tentative date of July 9, I
5 believe, he and Mr. Amoroso were to be here.

6 MS. HODOWANITZ: Well, in addition
7 to Mr. Amoroso I think the mayor has a
8 little bit of explaining to do about his
9 conversations and correspondence with
10 Mr. Boscov. I, too, was a little bit
11 confused about what I heard tonight, but
12 we'll see.

13 With regard to SB and Company, our
14 independent auditor for 2014, does anybody
15 know what deadline the city has given them?

16 MR. MCGOFF: I'm sorry, what was the
17 question?

18 MS. HODOWANITZ: What's the deadline
19 for the 2014 independent audit?

20 MR. MCGOFF: I'm not sure that one
21 has been established.

22 MS. HODOWANITZ: Okay. I'll give
23 you one deadline, the Home Rule Charter says
24 it was due on May 31, we are now 18 days
25 late. Is there a reason why we are not

1 seeing any updates? I recall that
2 Mr. Rossi, if he did nothing else right, he
3 would give an update which went into the
4 council's background papers about every two
5 weeks starting in January. Have we received
6 anything from this new company? Has anybody
7 asked? Is that put in the engagement
8 letter?

9 MR. MCGOFF: I know that they have
10 been engaged as has been the BA's Office,
11 I'm not sure as to what has been
12 accomplished and what has not been
13 accomplished.

14 MS. HODOWANITZ: Well, I will be
15 your usual irritant and ask the question
16 every week from now on until I see an audit.
17 April of 2014 council passed a resolution
18 authorizing a contract with PFM group in
19 Harrisburg for professional, advisory
20 services from March 9, 2014, through March
21 8, 2018. According to an article in the
22 paper, on April 17, 2014, their services
23 were to include analysis of our existing
24 debt structure and recommendations on
25 financing alternatives, recommendations on

1 current and future debt obligations,
2 assistance for the City's Act 47
3 coordinator, help improving the City's
4 relationship with the banking community, and
5 assistance in the sale and/or lease of city
6 assets. Their fees ranged from \$225 to \$300
7 per billable hour. The fees for 2014 were
8 to be deferred until 2015. I had been
9 checking with the Controller's Office but I
10 have been unable to find any invoices for
11 PFM. This is because they have not provided
12 any services or they have just not billed us
13 yet. If the bill is pending, how much do we
14 owe them for 2014 and up to now in 2015?
15 Exactly what services, if any, did they
16 perform for us? If you could answer that in
17 Fifth Order.

18 If not, I will leave these questions
19 so that you can reply next week. I will tell
20 you that I'm getting very frustrated asking
21 questions and never hearing a response.
22 Since it's on my computer, I will start
23 printing them off every week and asking them
24 again and again and again. Thank you.

25 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

1 MR. MCGOFF: Prior to our next
2 speaker, many of the questions that are
3 asked, as I said last week, are things that
4 council does not have answers to. They are
5 things that we do not handle. These
6 questions are things that would be better
7 asked of the particular departments that
8 handle those particular items. It's as
9 simple as that. All of us, or most of us,
10 work and have jobs, 9 to 5 jobs. It's very
11 difficult for many of us to acquire those
12 answers as it is for the staff in our office
13 to acquire them on top of the work that they
14 do. So if you're frustrated in getting
15 answers from council that may be the reason
16 why. Gerard Hetman.

17 MR. HETMAN: Gerard Hetman. Good
18 evening, Council. Gerard Hetman from
19 Lackawanna County's Community Relation's
20 Department, good to see you as always. To
21 begin this evening, in cooperation with the
22 Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, the
23 Lackawanna County Area Agency on Aging is
24 distributing it's farmers market nutritional
25 vouchers for the 2015 season. Senior

1 residents of Lackawanna County are eligible
2 to obtain up to four vouchers valued at \$5
3 each to be redeemed for fresh produce at
4 local farmers market under this program.
5 Distribution takes place at each of the
6 senior centers, the adult daytime activities
7 centers around the county, and they begin at
8 9 a.m. on the dates for each center and
9 continues until the supply of vouchers for
10 that center is exhausted. Dates for the
11 senior centers in the City of Scranton or as
12 follows:

13 Thursday, July 16, for the West Side
14 Senior Center. Monday, July 20, for the
15 South Side Senior Center. Wednesday, July
16 22, for the Jewish Community Center Center,
17 and Friday, July 24, for the downtown senior
18 center. We should note that residents in
19 the County can go to any distribution site
20 in the county to get their vouchers. They
21 don't have to go to the center nearest to
22 them or to the one that they normally visit.
23 There are other dates that are available on
24 County's website at LackawannaCounty.org for
25 time's sake we won't read them all now, but

1 we can go to another senior outside the city
2 if someone finds that more convenient.

3 Those who qualify are Lackawanna
4 County residents who be 60 years of age or
5 older by December 31 and whose annual
6 household income does not exceed \$21,775 for
7 a single person, \$29,471 for a couple, or
8 \$37,167 for a three-person household. Proof
9 of age in the form of a driver's license or
10 birth certificate must be provided along
11 with proof of Lackawanna County residency in
12 the form of a utility bill or a driver's
13 license. Seniors who are unable to visit
14 the site may appoint a proxy to pick up
15 their vouchers for them. Proxy forms are
16 required and can be obtained by visiting the
17 Area Agency on Aging in the County's
18 administration building, visiting your local
19 senior, or on-line at LackawannaCounty.org.
20 If anyone has any questions about the
21 program they can contact Lackawanna County
22 Area Aging on Aging at 570-963-6740. Again,
23 it's 570-963-6740.

24 Then there is two event series that
25 the County Parks would like to mention for

1 this summer. The first are entitled are fit
2 and fun days. This is an evolution of the
3 last year family fun days series. It's a
4 partnership between Lackawanna County, the
5 Wright Center for graduate medical
6 education, Geisinger Community Medical
7 Center and other community partners focused
8 on individual's health and wellness. It
9 will feature various events and activities
10 including guided walks of the trail systems
11 in the county parks, yoga, tai-chi, Zumba
12 and other dance activities and information
13 from the Wright Center and Geisinger on
14 tobacco sensation, oral health, nutrition
15 and exercise and other wellness topics.

16 The dates for the fit and fun days
17 are, which run from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. each
18 day that they are held are June 27 at McDade
19 Park, July 11 at Covington Park, July 25 at
20 Aylesworth Park, and August 8 and the Merli
21 Sarnwoski Park.

22 And lastly, our Art in the Parks
23 series which these are Tuesdays in the month
24 of July and we have free art activities in
25 the parks for children and accompanying

1 adults. The dates for those, and they are
2 10 a.m. to noon each day they are held, July
3 7 at Merli Sarnowski Park, July 14,
4 Covington Park, July 21, Ayelsworth Park and
5 July 28 at McDade Park. So, again, we have
6 two series of event that we'd like to talk
7 about and see good attendance at this time
8 of the year.

9 And just lastly, just a comment that
10 on behalf of the commissioners the County is
11 looking forward to working with the City of
12 Scranton, the mayor and council, on the land
13 bank project. As we saw probably in media
14 reports, commissioners had their second
15 meeting with the land bank ordinance
16 yesterday morning at the regular meeting.
17 Of course, the city does have it's
18 representation on the board. I know that
19 was key to several members of council and
20 something that was expressed that would be
21 positive for the city and for the area. So,
22 again, the commissioners look forward to
23 working with the administration on council
24 on making the land bank project a success
25 for the City of Scranton and Lackawanna

1 County. That's all I have for this evening.
2 Are there any questions from council? Thank
3 you guys.

4 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr. Hetman.
5 Clarence Banks.

6 MR. WECHSLER: He was here for the
7 mall.

8 MR. MCGOFF: Ron Ellman.

9 MR. ELLMAN: Thank you, Council. I
10 want to commend you on your positive actions
11 last week about Mr. Courtright's letter and
12 I want to commend our mayor for reversing
13 himself believe it or not. I don't see
14 nothing wrong in that. That means to me
15 that he thought the situation over and saw
16 he was wrong the first time. You know, Mr.
17 Clinton used to do it and get away and I
18 don't see why Mr. Courtright can't.

19 I'd just, you know, ready to forget
20 all of this Boscov nonsense that we heard.
21 The mall is coming up, they said the first
22 bid would be around \$700,000 in the paper
23 the other day. I'd like to know why some
24 people that are knowledgeable and got the
25 abilities like this council does and this

1 city has why we we can't bid on that mall
2 ourselves?

3 Mr. McGoff, you know, last week I
4 didn't know you were so knowledgeable about
5 the first Scranton Plan. They raised I
6 think \$3,200,000 I think 50 years ago. I
7 don't know what that is equal to now,
8 probably what, 15, 20 million dollars, I
9 don't know. They raised all of that money
10 here in the city privately. There is not a
11 reason in this world that this council
12 instead of -- instead of helping anybody,
13 not just Mr. Boscov, we could have that
14 mall. You people are in the best position
15 of anybody to get loans and grants and so
16 forth, and I don't care what anybody says a
17 market place in that mall would be very
18 successful. I have been several times since
19 the wintertime when I mentioned this to you,
20 I have been to Allentown, that mall is
21 packed every weekend. It's only open I
22 think Friday and Saturday, maybe it's
23 Thursday and Pottstown is the same way.
24 There is only 25,000 people in the area of
25 Pottstown, that mall is packed and it's big.

1 You know, you could have a bowling
2 alley. There could be a gas station
3 outside. There is all kinds of uses.
4 Mr. Boscov he just thinks of shoe stores and
5 maybe men's clothing stores, he is a
6 dinosaur like me, you know, except he might
7 be great at merchandising, but it's a
8 different world. He is in the 50's and
9 60's. This is 2015.

10 And I think if you people
11 investigated it like you have got the
12 ability to do this city could own that mall.
13 We out to have all the grants and loans
14 instead of helping everybody else get them.

15 You know, when he was sitting here
16 he said himself this isn't the most
17 important thing they got going. I don't
18 even know why there was a meeting today.
19 Let him go to the bank if he wants money.
20 Maybe if he paid some of that money back,
21 there was 639 people that were in
22 foreclosure, maybe just one of them could
23 have made his house notes or whatever.

24 He sits here and brags how
25 successful it is here and in Wilkes-Barre,

1 Sunday I was told that he is upside down in
2 Wilkes-Barre just like he is with us. He is
3 a taker, he is not a giver. I don't care
4 how successful he says he is. He just -- he
5 doesn't have any ties to this city. These
6 people that got out to support the
7 marketplace they are local people, they have
8 got ties to this city. They are voters and
9 paying taxes. They are the youth that you
10 want for the future in this city.

11 Mr. Bulzoni he has no ties to the
12 city. Nothing. Mr. Cross doesn't have any
13 ties to the city. If he had an honest job
14 and worked for somebody like Donald Trump or
15 somebody they would probably fire him the
16 first 15 minutes. 20 years and not one
17 positive event for the city and Amoroso he
18 just got a brain dead stupidity of a plan,
19 raise taxes and sell everything. It's time
20 we bought something and keep we got and not
21 sell it.

22 Mr. McGoff, please think about this,
23 and you are so knowledgeable of this you
24 could do something for the city, something
25 great if you ask me. Thank you.

1 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr. Ellman.
2 Andy Sbaraglia.

3 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,
4 Citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians, I
5 guess Boscov stood up taking I know now, but
6 I'm more concerned with the mall partners.
7 How did Boscov acquire the Sampter's
8 building, the Oppenheim building, and the
9 garage that used to belong to down the
10 street there, used to be a Nissan in there?
11 Them three properties were originally part
12 of the mall. How did Boscov acquire them
13 from the partners? Obviously, they sold it
14 within themselves. I wish somebody would
15 look into that to find out how he acquired
16 it.

17 Now a long time ago, I asked for the
18 mall assessment, and the mall at that time
19 was assessed at \$400,000, which to me was
20 ridiculous. Now, Mr. Boscov quoted I think
21 300 and some thousand in tax and real estate
22 tax, I believe, I assume that was on
23 Sampter's, Oppenheim, and the garage, but I
24 have no other way of knowing but, of course,
25 I'm not a sitting up there or I would know.

1 Now, we do know that Mr. Boscov --
2 or the mall partners, let's say the mall
3 partners, so I don't get him confused with
4 that, sold the leases for like \$22 million
5 awhile back. That's the leases that he
6 referred to. True, he had to deal with the
7 leases, he sold them to someone else and
8 that was there. No one ever really kept
9 track of what he was doing with the mall
10 partners other than coming and asking for
11 money. I want to ask when Mr. Boscov was
12 going bankrupt with the stores and you
13 loaned him or the mall partners, I don't
14 know which, I asked that question, where was
15 the loan made, to the mall partners or to
16 Mr. Boscov separately? No one can answer
17 that questions and you should have answered
18 it because we all know that mall is going
19 into receivership because there is no way.
20 I watched them things being done. They were
21 brought up when them properties were spun
22 off by Mr. Boscov, I shouldn't say
23 Mr. Boscov, but the mall partners. I keep
24 referring to that because he was -- he was
25 the mall partners, but anyway, these things

1 void, and don't give me no pep talk, there
2 is no pep talk. The city is bankrupt and
3 the only way the city can get out of
4 bankruptcy is come to terms with the people
5 who work for the city. You are the reason
6 why the city is in trouble, the worker's.
7 The people who are hired to protect us is
8 the ones that put us where we are and there
9 is it no question about it. It's just a
10 sorry state of a fact. Affairs that nobody
11 really looked at the total picture why they
12 did things.

13 I'm sorry, I don't think -- I think
14 we are going to get that 20 percent tax hike
15 this coming year and there is no way out of
16 it. Thank you.

17 MR. MCGOFF: Prior to the next
18 speaker, just a clarification on something
19 that was just mentioned, first of all, when
20 Mr. Boscov talked about the \$300,000 in
21 taxes, he was talking about taxes on the
22 store and when we are talking about loans
23 the loans were made to Steamtown Mall
24 Partners as was the extension on the loans.
25 There was never a separate loan to Mr.

1 Boscov. I think he was pretty clear on that
2 when he spoke, which means that when
3 Steamtown Mall Partners goes bankrupt we
4 have no way of -- when they default and go
5 bankrupt we have no way of collecting on
6 that and that is why it was sometimes
7 difficult because Mr. Boscov did go back and
8 forth on talking about the Mall Partners and
9 Boscov's itself. Sometimes it was difficult
10 to discern which he was talking about which
11 leads to some of the confusion I would say
12 that, you know, people may have and some of
13 the confusion that we had with, you know,
14 what he was saying, but, thank you.

15 Next speaker is Lee Morgan.

16 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.
17 Lee Morgan. You know, I just hope that --
18 well, the first thing I have here is we are
19 talking about there was a brief discussion
20 here today become office workers in the city
21 and they all went to Moosic because their
22 companies didn't want to pay the taxes to be
23 here anymore and when you walk around this
24 city and you see the overwhelming amount of
25 blight in the city and the overwhelming

1 amount of properties put up for sale in
2 desperation to see whatever they can get for
3 it, I don't know, I just think that it's a
4 very troubling thing and I think after a
5 couple of decades you would think that the
6 city would have come up with a plan to come
7 out of the situation it finds itself in.

8 And, you know, truthfully I think
9 the residents of the city just tread so
10 lightly when they walk that they don't
11 realize that other people are walking on top
12 of them. You know, I think Mr. Boscov made
13 a couple of points here tonight that I think
14 a few people might have missed. A
15 congressman wanted this mall and a governor.
16 This was a political mall filled with
17 political money, and it wasn't made in the
18 best interest of the residents of this city
19 or anybody else because everybody knew in
20 the 1980's that there was 27 square foot of
21 mall space for every person in this country
22 and that mall space was already
23 overdeveloped. A lot of people made a lot
24 of money, a lot of connected people made a
25 lot of money, but the ordinary, every day

1 people in this city they didn't make
2 anything and that's the sad state of
3 affairs.

4 And when Mr. Boscov talks about the
5 way the downtown looked prior to the mall he
6 is absolutely correct. The downtown looked
7 like Berlin in 1945 after the bombings. It
8 was just a horrendous, disgusting mess and
9 when you take a look at the \$25 million that
10 was invested on the other side of Lackawanna
11 Avenue that money will never come back to
12 the city because it will never raise enough
13 tax revenue to make it possible. This city
14 has been so theoretically and politically
15 looted that it's beyond belief. And we look
16 to the same failed Democratic and Republican
17 party that's going to come and allegedly
18 save us when the people are that throwing us
19 in the water without a boat and without a
20 life jacket on. I mean, it's just
21 ridiculous.

22 And I find it very troubling and
23 when we start talking about who owes what to
24 who, it's obvious that Mr. Boscov doesn't
25 owe anybody \$18 million, and I know that,

1 Mr. Rogan, you tried to make a point, but I
2 don't know if it's your age or your lack of
3 understanding of things, but I think that
4 Mr. Boscov definitely tried to give you some
5 good information that you didn't really want
6 to hear and, you know, grandstanding and
7 politics is a beautiful thing but --

8 MR. ROGAN: Mr. Morgan, Mr. Boscov
9 was here for his own interest.

10 MR. MORGAN: You are absolutely
11 right, he was, I agree.

12 MR. ROGAN: The four of us up --

13 MR. MORGAN: I agree --

14 MR. ROGAN: -- try to save the city
15 as much money as we can.

16 MR. MORGAN: City money, this wasn't
17 city money invested in the mall.

18 MR. ROGAN: They were federal
19 dollars.

20 MR. MORGAN: You're right, they
21 were, and a lot of federal money has come
22 into this city and it's been wasted. Maybe
23 you should take some time and go look at the
24 South Side Sports Complex. That was built
25 with 108 funds. It was illegal to sell

1 that.

2 MR. ROGAN: We're talking about the
3 mall and we agree on that issue.

4 MR. MORGAN: Okay, well, we can agree
5 --

6 MR. ROGAN: We're talking about the
7 mall. Weren't we supposed to -- you're
8 criticizing me for asking Mr. Boscov for
9 payment of that money, what are we supposed
10 to do, say it's okay?

11 MR. MORGAN: He wasn't personally on
12 the hook to pay that money. He wasn't
13 personally on the hook to pay that much. I
14 would think if I was a councilman -- -

15 MR. ROGAN: He was the principal in
16 Steamtown Mall Associates, he even admitted
17 it.

18 MR. MORGAN: He owned 18 percent and
19 he explained in the business they all took a
20 beating.

21 MR. ROGAN: So we should just --

22 MR. MORGAN: They all lost money.

23 MR. ROGAN: So we should just let it
24 go and take it out of our city coffers?

25 MR. MORGAN: That's not what I'm

1 saying to you, I'm saying --

2 MR. ROGAN: That is what you're
3 saying because you told us not to pursue it.

4 MR. MORGAN: No I didn't tell you not
5 to pursue anything, I told you he wasn't
6 obligated to pay that money. There is a
7 bankruptcy, that has been discharged, okay?
8 When the city had the right and the
9 obligation to make smart decisions in the
10 beginning, and it's something that the city
11 has failed to do, okay, they backed the
12 hotel in the city and then they gave away
13 all their options to collect it and they
14 were left with beds and bed linens and they
15 had nothing to collect, and what I'm saying
16 to you is that this city has made a lot of
17 very unintelligent choices on what to fund,
18 how to fund them and how to protect
19 themselves if something happened.

20 MR. ROGAN: And I'm not disagreeing.

21 MR. MORGAN: Well, there is nothing
22 to disagree with.

23 MR. ROGAN: Then why are you
24 criticizing myself for making --

25 MR. MORGAN: I think if I was a

1 councilman -- here's what I'd worry about if
2 I was a councilman in this city, I would
3 worry about the blight in all of the
4 neighborhoods, I'd get my head around the
5 budget and cutting it by 30 percent like I
6 asked you to, I'd wonder whether people can
7 pay their bills in the city under the burden
8 of taxation they face and I'd stop worrying
9 about grandstanding and politics because
10 that's lead us to a road of utter
11 destruction. That's where we are in this
12 city. The city is just collapsing around
13 you and you are talking about selling
14 parking garages and the Sewer Authority off.

15 After that's done, what's left of
16 our city, that's the question I have and I
17 thank for your time.

18 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr. Morgan.

19 MR. ROGAN: Just as a point of
20 reference, the Section 108 loans, and we
21 went through this last year, Mr. Morgan
22 brought up blight as an issue, the funds
23 that Mr. Boscov and Steamtwon Mall Partners
24 stick the city for, part of the funds that
25 will be cut out of that are for blight

1 removal, they are going to the Boys and
2 Girls Club, they go to the little leagues,
3 they go to the organizations that help
4 people in Scranton. So it's not just money
5 going into a black hole in the city coffers,
6 this is program money that is used to
7 throughout the city and there were a number
8 of organizations that didn't receive those
9 funds last year because of this default by
10 the Mall Associates, in which Mr. Boscov
11 was one of the principals of. That was the
12 point that myself and I know many of my
13 colleagues and the mayor through his letter
14 were trying to make.

15 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Quinn.

16 MR. QUINN: Ozzie Quinn, president
17 of the Hill Neighborhood Association. I'm
18 here for another reason, but in a way I feel
19 vindicated, but I don't want to feel good
20 about it because I was the Chairman of the
21 Scranton Redevelopment Authority when the
22 properties were being acquired and I was
23 arguing back and forth and I was the only
24 one at that time and I was ostracized. I
25 was an obstructionist. If you go back and

1 look at it, you know, because of the fact
2 that all they wanted to do was they thought
3 the mall was just going to be the jewel and
4 that's going to save everything and they
5 want to pour all of that money in there.
6 They didn't care where it came from and
7 anybody that argued was, you know, but
8 that's just a little side note, you know,
9 because I know what has been going for a
10 long time.

11 All right, why I'm here tonight, I
12 appreciate being here tonight because of the
13 fact that the city is in debt no doubt about
14 it, but when they are so much in debt that
15 they cannot buy chlorine for Nay Aug Park to
16 go swimming that's as low as you can go,
17 okay? I don't know if you can't buy
18 chlorine then you might as well go bankrupt,
19 file bankruptcy, all right?

20 Now, we have a situation where last
21 year we raised \$18,600, Allied Services gave
22 \$10,000, and we raised \$8,600 and that was
23 before, a week before -- not a week before,
24 but we knew for months we had to raise that
25 money, not like just what happened, okay?

1 That \$5,000 that Allied Services gave to
2 you, you have a resolution tonight, that
3 money according to the Recreation Director
4 or Chairman told me today that's open to
5 anybody. It doesn't matter what income or
6 whatever. Last year it was all low income,
7 so I don't know how much that \$5,000 is
8 going to go, but I'm very worried because I
9 met with the mayor on May 12 and I was told
10 that there was \$10,000 he was getting and
11 that was going to go for, you know, swimming
12 for low income.

13 Now, I was there when he told Kay to
14 call Weston Field that when we start the
15 swimming you are going to have show that you
16 have an Access card or reduced lunch or
17 something like. Man, I took it all in. I
18 even went back to our membership and told
19 them I feel good about that, all right?

20 I was at a membership meeting again,
21 the acting chairman of the Bureau of the
22 Recreation Authority stood before us and
23 said this is the first time the membership,
24 telling the membership that we are able to
25 give free swimming. Today he denied that.

1 He said, "I was talking about kids under
2 12."

3 Talk about being lied to. Come on.
4 All right, now, here we are, we are going to
5 try to raise some money, all right, and it's
6 going be tough because we only learned in
7 the last week that the mayor didn't have
8 money, he said he was going to do this and
9 he said he was going to do that, well, we
10 are not getting it, okay? So, I do know and
11 I told the mayor this, okay, that there is
12 UDAG money RE-RE accounts, right, all the
13 UDAG comes into the city, UDAG, a
14 redevelopment action grant is misnomer, it's
15 an urban development -- actually, it's a
16 loan, and I guess you all know that, but the
17 fact is that these people have to pay it
18 back, it goes back into the account, and
19 stash money for the mayor. He can do
20 whatever he wants. Whatever he wants and he
21 has done it. Santa Clauses they have done,
22 Santa Claus parades, First Night, dog walks,
23 anything you want to do with it.

24 So I'm asking the council tonight
25 you are going to approve \$5,000 from Allied

1 Services, and that's good for Allied
2 Services to do that for the city, but I'm
3 asking the council and Mr. Rogan, you are
4 the community development chairman, do you
5 know how much is in that UDAG account?

6 MR. ROGAN: It's a very small
7 amount, the last time I remember it was less
8 than \$10,000, but we actually did discuss
9 this a little bit last week and I am
10 checking into it.

11 MR. QUINN: You discussed it with
12 who?

13 MR. ROGAN: We all discussed it
14 regarding some other issues with some
15 findings in OECD.

16 MR. QUINN: Well, you know what,
17 when I called OECD they said there is enough
18 money in the UDAG account for swimming.
19 That was before I went in and saw the mayor,
20 okay? And you are talking about money going
21 out last year and what not, you know, but
22 not one single cent went for low income
23 swimmers.

24 Now, it's really ashamed when kids
25 can't go swimming, okay, that, you know,

1 something about this here free swimming,
2 okay? I mean, we are going to try to raise
3 it, but when you don't have money for
4 chlorine and you are talking about millions
5 and millions and millions, I don't know
6 what's going on here in the city. I really
7 don't, okay? Thank you very much.

8 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr. Quinn.

9 THE COURT: Anyone else who wishes to
10 address council?

11 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good afternoon.

12 Marie Schumacher, evening, one of those.
13 I'd like to go back to April when I started
14 asking about the revised recovery plan and
15 the mandates that were in it, I read some of
16 them, there were mandates for 2015 and there
17 is a section that are mandates for
18 2015/2016, and this is verbatim, and I would
19 like to request, and it goes along with --
20 well, "I would like to request that we get a
21 monthly report maybe on the last Thursday of
22 each month on the status of those mandates."

23 I followed that up with more
24 information on the recovery plan and then I
25 asked for the items that that were supposed

1 to be addressed in the revenue section of
2 the budget and in the expenditure section of
3 the budget throughout this year, and I
4 looked at the budget, the annual budget, as
5 a microcosm of the recovery plan. It's the
6 first year of the recovery plan, so I see no
7 difference between those two items, but then
8 after I'd asked on the 14th of May I believe
9 I had asked for the revenue items from this
10 year's budget that had been promised for
11 status. And quoting -- Mr. McGoff, quoting
12 you, you said, "In speaking with Mr. Evans
13 the other day we talked about the idea that
14 there should be, from now until the end of
15 the year, there should be something. Some
16 plan for addressing the issues that are in
17 the recovery plan or in the Amoroso plan.
18 There should be a timeline of some sort so
19 that we can look at it. Now, we don't need
20 to provide everything, but there should be a
21 timeline. We are addressing the parking
22 issue. You know, we are addressing, you
23 know, the LST, where it's going and all of
24 these things we should have before us so
25 that we can accomplish what is in the

1 recovery plan, what is in the Amoroso plan
2 and perhaps the caucus with the mayor and
3 with Mr. Amoroso and Mr. Bulzoni we can work
4 out something of that nature so that we can
5 all be aware of where the city is going and
6 the progress that it may be making. That's
7 it."

8 So in essence, Mr. McGoff, you
9 agreed that we need to know that
10 information, yet you told me last week that
11 council doesn't have the answers and you
12 tell Joan tonight that council doesn't have
13 the answers --

14 MR. MCGOFF: Mrs. --

15 MRS. SCHUMACHER: Now, maybe -- let
16 me finish. Thank you.

17 MR. MCGOFF: May I respond since you
18 are questioning what I said?

19 MS. SCHUMACHER: If it's not charged
20 against my time, yes.

21 MR. MCGOFF: You presented council
22 with a three-page list of questions.

23 MS. SCHUMACHER: Yes.

24 MR. MCGOFF: That's very difficult to
25 take care of. Many of the questions --

1 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay, if I could --

2 MR. MCGOFF: Many of the questions
3 that you asked are for your own personal
4 edification, they have nothing to do with
5 what council needs or wants. As far as my
6 comments about a timeline or something to
7 update the recovery plan, that is why we are
8 having a caucus with Mr. Amoroso and the
9 mayor. So I stand by everything that I say.

10 MS. SCHUMACHER: We can agree to
11 disagree on that, but I tell you that the
12 budget, whether those -- the questions were
13 legitimate from the budget from either
14 savings through the expenditure side or
15 increasing revenues through the revenue
16 side. Now, I have no problem doing a
17 Right-to-Know, ask the business
18 administrator and he can tell you, but there
19 are things that are covered by the
20 Right-to-Know law and there there are things
21 that are not. When I ask for the status, I
22 mean, here we are. We are in the sixth
23 month of the year. A status report I think
24 is something that you owe we, the taxpayers,
25 you are elected by you -- by the taxpayers

1 and you each have administrative departments
2 for which you have charge, so you keep
3 telling us what a wonderful relationship you
4 have with these administrators now for this
5 year and last, so I would think it would be
6 appropriate for you people to ask those
7 questions. They don't have to answer us and
8 I, frankly, don't think we should be taking
9 their time.

10 MR. MCGOFF: And I think we have been
11 very open and made every attempt to answer
12 questions that are pertinent to the
13 legislation that is before us, and to the
14 recovery plan and to the budget.

15 MS. SCHUMACHER: Yeah.

16 MR. MCGOFF: By problem is that when
17 I get three pages worth of questions that is
18 going to take a very -- that's going to take
19 a lot of time away from the duties that we
20 have and yet they add nothing to what we are
21 doing.

22 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. That's where
23 we agree to disagree because I believe they
24 do have pertinent -- whether or not we are
25 going to meet the budget for this year, how

1 much we are going to be taxed for next year
2 and whether or not we are meeting our
3 revised recovery plan. So we can definitely
4 agree to disagree, but I do think that it's
5 owed to we, the taxpayers. Thank you.

6 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mrs.
7 Schumacher.

8 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening, Council.
9 Dave Dobrzyn, resident, taxpayer. Once
10 again, on the Transpacific pack please call
11 Congress and tell them to can if. We have
12 enough joblessness. 1-202-224-3121 for call
13 senators and representatives in Washington.
14 And 1-202-456-1111 for the White House.

15 And, by the way, I found out
16 recently that the State Department
17 negotiates trade packs, who was in the state
18 department? A current person that's
19 announced her bid for the presidency, good
20 luck at getting me to vote for you. I will
21 be voting for somebody else. Bernie Sanders
22 hopefully and if you are tired of no jobs
23 and you tired of the high property taxes,
24 tired of bankrupt city governments, tired of
25 threats to your retirement, tired of being a

1 public employee and begging for raises that
2 you are never going to get or have to fight
3 for and put up an estate for. Tired of 50
4 percent of the pollution in California is
5 compliments of China, give it a call. You
6 can't go wrong.

7 Now, a few weeks ago there was an
8 incident, and I'm not commenting on the way
9 an employee gets hired, but an employee with
10 a criminal record, anyone, and this is my
11 opinion only, anyone completing their
12 sentence and taxable should have full rights
13 and benefits of all Americans, within
14 reason. In other words, Reverend Keiker's
15 wife got a shotgun and shot him while he
16 slept, well, I don't think she needs her
17 second amendment rights, but as far as when
18 you're out in society it's time that we stop
19 the cycle of crime by at least allowing
20 people to earn a living in both.

21 Parking garages, I might just
22 comment quickly that I was at a concert
23 awhile back and they couldn't bill me on
24 their new swipe machines for the credit
25 card, they had to let me go for free.

1 Smart.

2 And, again, I would like to
3 entertain, we have five taxing bodies in
4 Pennsylvania, maybe the tea party is right,
5 we have too many governments.

6 Now, on Lackawanna Avenue an
7 eastbound lane at Lackawanna and Washington
8 there used to be a turn arrow painted on the
9 pave in the right-hand lane and now there is
10 a straight white line, and I noticed that if
11 you try to obey what you know to be the
12 traffic pattern you have somebody coming up
13 along your right-hand side that just went
14 straight through, so if we could ever get a
15 sign on the turn signal post that gives a
16 right-hand turn only. It's very confusing
17 and I've almost been sideswiped or tail
18 ended or even with my turn signal on I get
19 people actually speeding up to cut me off so
20 I'd love to know which way to turn.

21 And I'd also like to mention once
22 again, there is no responsible way to
23 monetize the Sewer plant without doubling
24 the bills and that is more money that's just
25 going to go to a corporate pocket. Once

1 again, the Chamber of Commerce it's time for
2 a second opinion because they are still
3 building malls up the valley and here we are
4 with all of this and the Taylor mall is
5 going bankrupt, the Pittston mall is going
6 bankrupt, some day Wallymart will buy them
7 up for a pittance and we will be the ones
8 out. The Montage Mall is having empty
9 spaces, and it's really ashamed because we're
10 overbuilding commercial properties and
11 storefronts like Mr. Morgan says 27 feet of
12 space in the 80's, well, probably now we
13 have 100 square feet of space for every
14 person and there is no money in our society
15 with these trade packs and also with
16 mechanization of many of these jobs and then
17 on top of it we have undocumented aliens
18 knocking back the wage rates a dollar an
19 hour at the very least, so until the public
20 has the money all I get when I go to a mall
21 and I have money to spend is annoyed, you
22 know? I'd just as soon find something else
23 to do so we need a second opinion on Amoroso
24 and a lot of the Chamber of Commerce
25 opinions on our city because they are just

1 not with the current trend for what's going
2 on.

3 And, finally, I would like to file
4 suit against the PA to compensate for 35
5 percent tax exempt burdens imposed upon
6 Scranton, and some day I hope to rejuvenate
7 the taxpayers and take that on since Ozzie
8 left. Thank you and have a great evening.

9 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. Anyone else?

10 MS. REED: FIFTH ORDER. 5-A. MOTIONS.

11 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Wechsler?

12 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr.
13 McGoff. Usually when we have a caucus we
14 come out of the caucus much more informed
15 than when we went in. I'd have to say that
16 tonight is not the case. The issues that
17 were discussed, a lot of the questions that
18 came up remain unanswered so I believe as we
19 go forward as a council and the
20 administration as a business community we
21 are going to have to get some straight
22 answers to this money that they keep
23 referring to as not paid back.

24 There is no denying that money has
25 been lost, we understand that, but there is

1 no sense for the city to be chasing after
2 \$18 million if it's gone as a result of a
3 bankruptcy settlement so I think what we
4 have to do is get down to the true facts of
5 what money really exists. There is no
6 denying that the 108 loans, the payments on
7 that are coming out of our COM-D money,
8 there is no denying that, and as Mr. -- I
9 get a little nervous when Mr. Boscov refers
10 to it as a donation. I don't think it's a
11 donation, I think it's an obligation that he
12 pays that to the city because it does take
13 money away from the deserving programs that
14 money goes to so going forward I would like
15 to say I would like to see a discourse on
16 this money so we can talk about real
17 numbers.

18 I also disagree with Mr. Boscov when
19 he says that bringing office space to the
20 mall is not an attractive alternative. I
21 think having 400 or so medical personnel
22 working in downtown Scranton would add much
23 more foot traffic at the mall and having
24 that as a truly just retail mall, as
25 Mr. Evans mentioned during the caucus, I

1 think that has proven to be a recipe for
2 failure. The mall as it stands probably
3 does have a life as some sort of smaller
4 retail store with Boscov as the anchor, so
5 I'm little concerned that if Mr. Boscov
6 purchases the mall, sticks to his solely
7 retail operation are we going to have wait
8 10 years for that to fail as well before we
9 can get into something positive for the
10 city.

11 Just a couple of other items, we
12 have been sending requests for potholes to
13 be repaired by DPW, they are making progress
14 on the list, but it was quite extensive and
15 they are still following up on that.

16 I have been in contact with Pat
17 Hinton about some blight issues and his
18 staff has been handling those as well.

19 This week Mr. Gaughan and I attended
20 an impromptu meeting of the East Mountain
21 Residents Association. A few issues were
22 discussed, I think Mr. Gaughan will talk
23 about that in his motions.

24 On a sad note, I would like to offer
25 my condolences to the Mike Lallo family.

1 Mike Lallo was an East Mountain resident
2 who, unfortunately, passed away yesterday at
3 the age of 56 years old. Mike was very
4 active in scouting, he was a businessman and
5 number one he was a great family man, and
6 the people of East Mountain and especially
7 the scouting community are going to miss
8 Mike very much. And that's all I have
9 tonight, Mr. McGoff.

10 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Rogan?

11 MR. ROGAN: One brief item and then
12 I'm going to talk about our caucus a little
13 bit. A little bit of a strange request, but
14 I'm sure this is something that Councilman
15 Wechsler is familiar with, it's in his
16 neighborhood. A resident contact me, she
17 lists on Yesu Drive on East Mountain and her
18 address is often confused with a
19 neighbororing Yesu Lane, and there is only
20 one home on Yesi Lane, which is now up for
21 sale because the owner is currently in a
22 nursing home, and she would like to see if
23 this one block street with one home on it
24 can become part of the adjoining Short lane.
25 This would end the confusion for emergency

1 vehicles and anyone attempting to find homes
2 in this area.

3 So, Mrs. Reed, I do have this
4 request, I know it would have go to the DPW,
5 but I also think it has to go to the County
6 911 Center as well to see if this is
7 something that we could get taken care of
8 and the post office as well so I do have
9 this and anything we can do to try and get
10 this straightened out.

11 Regarding the caucus, boy, I could
12 talk all night on this, but I won't. I had
13 a list of other questions that I planned on
14 asking Mr. Boscov, but I know myself and I
15 think all five of us every question we asked
16 we got the same answer, that Boscov
17 Department Store doesn't own the mall and
18 that -- it was the same answer over and over
19 again. And I think that Mr. Boscov was
20 being somewhat disingenuous regarding the
21 relationship between him and the mall when
22 he was one of the driving forces behind that
23 mall and in the waning days of the Steamtown
24 Mall Partners, Mr. Boscov was the face of
25 that partnership and there is no question

1 about that. Whenever there was talk of
2 bringing a new anchor store or doing
3 something to revitalize the mall under the
4 old ownership it was Mr. Boscov that
5 people was turning to. He took that
6 leadership role and now that things didn't
7 work out the way we wanted to he is pretty
8 much claiming that I had nothing to do with
9 the mall, I only had something to do with
10 Boscov store.

11 And there is no question that
12 Boscov's store is a successful store, I
13 think the vast majority of residents in the
14 city shop there. I shop there, my family
15 shops there, it's a great store, but the
16 mall, Mr. Boscov had his hands in as well,
17 as well as Sampter's building and the
18 Oppenheim building and they were also loans
19 that were due on those buildings as well,
20 but my phone died on me when I was pulling
21 up the document, it was I believe \$1 million
22 plus interest for one of the buildings and
23 \$749,000 plus interest for the others, and
24 those are owned by Mr. Boscov from the Mall
25 Associates, and it's a very complicated

1 situation and I think in tonight's caucus
2 Mr. Boscov -- they say if you can't dazzle
3 them with brilliance, baffle them with, you
4 know, and I think that's what Mr. Boscov was
5 aiming for, because we didn't get any
6 answers to any of the questions that we have
7 had, and he is willing to make a donation
8 the Section 108, but the other loans were
9 still payable to the city. For instance,
10 the UDAG, that's the money that I believe
11 Mr. Quinn brought up, when that money gets
12 repaid twice that's when it can be used for
13 other items.

14 And I was wrong, I did check on
15 that, double check on that balance it's
16 closer to \$100,000 not \$10,000, so I did
17 have that wrong initially.

18 Mr. Boscov kept saying, "Well, it's
19 not the city's dollars, it's not the city's
20 dollars," and he is right in that the city
21 didn't write the check to Steamtown Mall
22 Partners a/k/a Al Boscov and his partners
23 right out of the city coffers, but these
24 were economic development funds that were
25 given to the City of Scranton and then the

1 City of Scranton gave them to Steamtown Mall
2 Partners and Al Boscov for redevelopment.
3 Those funds can have been used for an
4 assortment of other projects throughout the
5 city. They didn't have to be used for his
6 project. And the way these loans are
7 structured is many times the money comes
8 back. With the 108 they come back, it gets
9 repaid to HUD. If they are not paid, it
10 comes off of our line of credit, which is
11 what we use for numerous programs. Paving
12 in low to moderate income areas,
13 neighborhood police patrols, little leagues,
14 parks programs, and the list goes on and on
15 and we see every year when we do our CDBG
16 allotment all of the good programs that are
17 funded through that allotment and when the
18 Section 108 loans are not paid it's a huge
19 hit.

20 On the larger issue of what's going
21 on with that property, although Mr. Boscov
22 claims he is not intentionally devaluing the
23 mall I do not believe that. I believe that
24 the Mall Partners previous debt was just for
25 round numbers was well in excess of \$100

1 million and now you could buy it for
2 \$700,000? Why would he not buy it at that
3 bargain basement price. That would be like
4 the five of us up here owning a piece of
5 property for \$100,000, defaulting on all of
6 the debt and then one of us buying it for
7 \$70,000. It's the same type of thing that
8 will happen if Mr. Boscov buys it for
9 \$700,000, \$1 million, free and clear with
10 all of the other debts washed, with the
11 banks out, the city out, and him left with
12 the property for maybe only \$700,000.

13 And you put that into perspective,
14 look at the price of a house in the City of
15 Scranton, you could buy a nice house 70, 80
16 thousand dollars, compare that to the size
17 of the mall, just to put it into perspective
18 how good of a deal Mr. Boscov could be
19 getting if he does, indeed, purchase that
20 property for \$700,000 or a \$1 million. If
21 he does purchase it, I wish him the best, I
22 hope that his plans work, but just judging
23 by my research and that of others of malls
24 throughout America that it doesn't work in
25 this old strictly retail sense.

1 There have been a lot of good ideas
2 with mixed views used that have been brought
3 up and I think Mr. Boscov is being foolish
4 for not exploring those. I understand that
5 his bread and butter is in retail, but by
6 bringing in people and having a marketplace,
7 by having other events they are going to go
8 in there and shop with the other stores. If
9 you walk through that mall now, you have
10 pretty much one successful store in that
11 mall, which is Boscov's, and the rest of the
12 mall is a ghost town.

13 So I guess we'll see what happens
14 with the sale. If Mr. Boscov wins the bid
15 I am hopeful that there is another developer
16 out there that will bid against Mr. Boscov
17 have and hopefully develop it into something
18 more modern and something that could be used
19 in many other facets, but still have a
20 retail component, still have a Boscov store,
21 have another anchor store. I guess we'll
22 have to wait and see what happens, but I am
23 hopeful that through this process something
24 good will happen, but I am concerned
25 regarding the debt that is owed to the city.

1 And is that all for tonight. Thank you.

2 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Evans?

3 MS. EVANS: Thank you. I'm not going
4 to comment further on the caucus, I have
5 already Boscoved today. On land banks,
6 again, I'm very happy this concept is moving
7 forward. I would like to know that while
8 everyone involved is now giving them high
9 five's, it was this council, and
10 particularly Councilman Gaughan, who beat
11 the drum for land banks for the past 18
12 months and kept this issue very much in the
13 forefront.

14 I have a couple of comments and
15 requests for, Mrs. Reed, so sorry. Can we
16 contact the mayor's office to get an update
17 on any discussions on the monetization of
18 the Sewer Authority, and also can we find
19 out if there is an agreement between the
20 City of Scranton and Geisinger CMC that
21 allows for employees and construction
22 workers from CMC to completely use three,
23 sometimes four lots in the Nay Aug Park
24 every day.

25 And, finally, can we send a letter

1 to the mayor asking that he join other
2 mayors from across the state and this city
3 council and publically support House Bill
4 316, a pension reform bill, that addresses
5 municipal pension reform. And that's all I
6 have.

7 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Gaughan.

8 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. A few
9 things. The street sweeper is scheduled to
10 be in the Bunker Hill section of East
11 Scranton from June 22 until June 26, wheeler
12 Avenue to Matthew Avenue.

13 I received a letter today from a
14 woman on the 1400 block of Fig Street about
15 the awful condition of the street. We did a
16 few months ago send a letter to the DPW
17 asking that they patch the potholes and
18 possibly put the street on the paving list
19 so we will resend that and see if there is a
20 way that we can get this street on the
21 paving list in the future. That's very
22 important to the residents of that block.

23 Mrs. Schumacher had asked me a few
24 weeks ago about the flood control employees
25 and their duties, the equipment that was

1 purchased from the 2015 Governor Rendell
2 grant, we did send a request to DPW Director
3 Gallagher on June 5, we haven't heard a
4 response yet, but I'm hoping within the next
5 week we will hear something on that.

6 As Mr. Wechsler mentioned, we were
7 up on East Mountain for a neighborhood
8 meeting. Mr. Rogan mentioned last week
9 about the gypsy caterpillar problem. I did
10 witness it firsthand and it is a major,
11 major issue up on East Mountain and I'm sure
12 in other parts of the city. We did send a
13 letter to the County asking that they
14 contact the state to spray to get rid of
15 these gypsy moth caterpillars. The only
16 problem is, as you might have read in the
17 Scranton Times, it's too late to spray this
18 year so they'll need to prepare for next
19 year.

20 If you do have this problem in your
21 backyard or your front yard, you can call
22 Mike Chisdak who works for the County
23 Commissioner in the Parks and Recreation
24 Department. His number is 963-6850. If you
25 get a message leave your phone number, name

1 and address he will return your call.
2 Sometime in August apparently he will come
3 to your address to count the egg masses,
4 give the report to the state and hopefully
5 this will enable Scranton and Lackawanna
6 County to have the area sprayed via a
7 flyover. So, again, it is a major problem
8 and hopefully next year it will be taken
9 care of.

10 There also was a major issue at 1413
11 Maple Street on East Mountain. Councilman
12 Wechsler and I heard a great detail about
13 this property, thankfully Pat Hinton from
14 Licensing and Inspections went up the next
15 day and is in the process of taking care of
16 this issue for the residents up there.

17 Also, a problem with the East
18 Mountain Road steps leading down to the
19 people's properties it was put in a couple
20 of years ago during the East Mountain Road
21 project. We did ask the city engineer and
22 he said it is the responsibility of the
23 homeowners to replace these steps down onto
24 their property. Many of the people, as
25 Councilmen Wechsler and myself heard when we

1 were at this meeting, are very upset. They
2 do not think it is their responsibility. We
3 are asking the city if there is a
4 possibility of using liquid fuels money or
5 some kind of creative way to try and fix the
6 steps for flexibility so that is in the
7 process.

8 The 2015 paving project using OECD
9 funds will start within the next week or two
10 and there are 12 streets that are being
11 paved and they are all located in West
12 Scranton.

13 Councilman Evans mentioned land
14 banks, I was very, very pleased to see that
15 it passed final reading in the county and I
16 look forward to working with my colleagues,
17 the mayor, and the county commissioners on
18 this land bank authority and look forward to
19 working on the intergovernmental cooperation
20 agreement so that we can get this authority
21 moving and helping to eliminate blight in
22 our neighborhoods in the city. And that is
23 all I have for this week. Thank you.

24 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. A number of
25 things that have come up. First of all, the

1 caucus with Mr. Boscov and others was
2 something that was requested by Mr. Boscov
3 so that he could explain what happened with
4 the letter of support that the mayor signed
5 for his grant application. Since the caucus
6 went well beyond that particular issue and
7 there were numerous questions that seemingly
8 went unanswered concerning the mall and what
9 is going to take place at the mall. I think
10 this is just an issue that we need to
11 continue to watch and continue to see how it
12 transpires. One of the things that I
13 thought we kind of lost in some of the
14 conversation, a question -- the first
15 question I asked Mr. Boscov they are
16 committed for another seven years to keeping
17 that store in the the Steamtown Mall. It
18 now becomes a question for him does he want
19 to buy the property or does he want someone
20 else to buy the property and then have to
21 lease from those new owners.

22 It's obvious that purchasing the
23 mall itself is probably much cheaper than
24 leasing from another loaner for the seven
25 years that he is still obligated to be there

1 so I think there are, you know, numerous
2 interests Mr. Boscov has that go beyond, you
3 know, some of the things that were mentioned
4 and Mr. Boscov is a great businessman and I
5 think tonight we saw that he is probably
6 also a very good politician. He can say a
7 lot and not provide necessarily the answers
8 that you need, but we will continue to
9 monitor what goes on with the mall and with
10 Mr. Boscov and especially with this grant
11 application that, again, it kind of danced
12 around the idea that if they get this grant
13 they also need the city to, you know, apply
14 for what is it, Section 108 loan, in the
15 amount of \$15 million. That's something
16 that I think that we really need to be
17 concerned with.

18 Just to go through, I would like to
19 thank Councilman Gaughan for his dogged
20 efforts on behalf of a land bank. It was
21 reported in the paper that the county and
22 the city have agreed upon a countywide land
23 bank authority, I don't think that would
24 have taken place had it not been for the
25 efforts of Councilman Gaughan, I know he

1 that you have to look at as to why this
2 happened and hopefully through the
3 arbitration hearings we will be able to
4 discern that, and also the Auditor General
5 has continued to investigate and hopefully
6 his report will show something as far as
7 these pensions are concerned.

8 Also on the paving, I received an
9 e-mail today that the PIB loan was approved,
10 it's through that loan that we will be able
11 to pave city streets that are not in the low
12 to mod income areas, and this has been a
13 longtime coming. It's gone through the
14 bureaucracy of the state government, and
15 finally we have got approval and hopefully
16 we can now start that process to get those
17 streets paved and hopefully many of them
18 paved before the winter months, but this
19 will be great for the city because for years
20 we have been unable to provide funding for
21 the non-low to mod income areas. Finally,
22 those areas, those streets in those areas
23 would be paved and this will be great for
24 the City of Scranton.

25 And lastly, I did look at the

1 booklet that Mr. Ellman provided me on the
2 Scranton Plan and great idea in 1946. The
3 war was over, the country was looking for
4 ways to convert as the saying is from guns
5 to butter, and though some private funding
6 and through some government funding Scranton
7 got together and or actually the chamber
8 lead the charge to build factories that
9 would produce consumer goods, and it was
10 kind of like the field of dreams idea, if
11 you will build it they will come and they
12 did, and for a number of years the Scranton
13 Plan was very successful. What lead to the
14 failure of it was the inability to transform
15 from those consumer goods to a more
16 mechanized or to a more what do I want to
17 say, computer or oriented economy and
18 ultimately the Scranton Plan, you know, kind
19 of fell apart, and if you want to see what
20 happened just go take a look at the Lace
21 Works or Capital Records, those were things
22 that were, you know, great part of the
23 Scranton plan.

24 And, yes, do we need some type of
25 plan like that or you do we need to get

1 together, yes, desperately and hopefully in
2 the coming years we can do that.

3 MS. REED: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION - AN
4 ORDINANCE - ESTABLISHING A LOADING/UNLOADING
5 ZONE ALONG THE WESTERLY CURBLINE OF THE 300
6 BLOCK OAKFORD COURT BETWEEN LINDEN STREET
7 AND MULBERRY STREET FOR A LENGTH OF THIRTY
8 (30) FEET FROM THE NORTHERLY EDGE OF THE
9 EXISTING CONCRETE SIDEWALK AT THE REAR
10 ENTRANCE OF THE LINDEN STREET APARTMENTS
11 NORTH TOWARDS MULBERRY STREET.

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

15 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

16 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

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

20 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

21 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

22 MR. EVANS: Aye.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

1 MS. REED: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION - A
2 RESOLUTION RATIFYING AND APPROVING THE
3 SUBMISSION OF THE GRANT APPLICATION BY THE
4 GRANT MANAGER AND OTHER CITY OFFICIALS OF
5 THE CITY OF SCRANTON, LACKAWANNA COUNTY, FOR
6 A PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
7 GREEN LIGHT GO PROGRAM (ROUND 1) GRANT IN
8 THE AMOUNT OF \$6,150.00 TO BE USED FOR ASSET
9 MANAGEMENT OF TRAFFIC SIGNALS LOCATED IN
10 "CRITICAL CORRIDORS" TO TRACK EQUIPMENT
11 FAILURES AND EVALUATE SYSTEM RELIABILITY TO
12 IMPROVE SAFETY AND MOBILITY BY REDUCING
13 CONGESTION AND IMPROVING EFFICIENCY OF
14 EXISTING TRAFFIC LIGHTS IN THE CITY OF
15 SCRANTON AND IF THE GRANT APPLICATION IS
16 SUCCESSFUL, AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
17 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE ANY
18 AND ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO ACCEPT AND
19 DISBURSE THE GRANT FUNDS.

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

23 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

24 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

25 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? All

1 those in favor of introduction signify by
2 saying aye.

3 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

4 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

5 MR. EVANS: Aye.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

7 MR. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The
8 ayes have it and so moved.

9 MS. REED: 5-D. FOR INTRODUCTION - A
10 RESOLUTION - RATIFYING AND APPROVING THE
11 SUBMISSION OF THE GRANT APPLICATION BY THE
12 GRANT MANAGER AND OTHER CITY OFFICIALS OF
13 THE CITY OF SCRANTON, LACKAWANNA COUNTY, FOR
14 A PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
15 GREEN LIGHT GO PROGRAM (ROUND 1) GRANT IN
16 THE AMOUNT OF \$1,825.00 TO BE USED FOR ASSET
17 MANAGEMENT OF TRAFFIC SIGNALS LOCATED IN
18 "DESIGNATED CORRIDORS" TO TRACK EQUIPMENT
19 FAILURES AND EVALUATE SYSTEM RELIABILITY TO
20 IMPROVE SAFETY AND MOBILITY BY REDUCING
21 CONGESTION AND IMPROVING EFFICIENCY OF
22 EXISTING TRAFFIC LIGHTS IN THE CITY OF
23 SCRANTON AND IF THE GRANT APPLICATION IS
24 SUCCESSFUL, AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
25 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE ANY

1 AND ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO ACCEPT AND
2 DISBURSE THE GRANT FUNDS.

3 MR. MCGOFF: At this time I'll
4 entertain a motion that Item 5-D be
5 introduced into its proper committee.

6 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

7 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

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

11 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

12 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

13 MR. EVANS: Aye.

14 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

17 MS. REED: SIXTH ORDER. 6-A. NO
18 BUSINESS AT THIS TIME.

19 SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR
20 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC
21 WORKS- FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 154,
22 2015 - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
23 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND
24 ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH REILLY ASSOCIATES
25 CONSULTING ENGINEERS FOR

1 ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING (A/E) SERVICES FOR
2 TRAFFIC SIGNAL DESIGN AT THE INTERSECTION OF
3 NORTH MAIN AVENUE AND PARKER STREET.

4 MR. MCGOFF: What is the
5 recommendation of the Chair for the
6 Committee on Public Works?

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

10 MR. ROGAN: Second.

11 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? Roll
12 call, please?

13 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler.

14 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

15 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

16 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

17 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Evans.

18 MR. EVANS: Yes.

19 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

21 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

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

24 MS. REED: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION BY
25 THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS - FOR ADOPTION

1 - RESOLUTION NO. 155, 2015 - ACCEPTING A
2 DONATION OF FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000.00)
3 DOLLARS FROM ALLIED SERVICES PRESENTED TO
4 THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO DEFRAY THE COST OF
5 SWIMMING FEES FOR TEENS AGES 13 TO 17 AT THE
6 NAY AUG PARK SWIM COMPLEX.

7 MR. MCGOFF: What is the
8 recommendation of the Chair for the
9 Committee on Public Works.

10 MR. GAUGHAN: As Chairperson for the
11 Committee on Public Works, I recommend final
12 passage of Item 7-B.

13 MR. ROGAN: Second.

14 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? Roll
15 call, please?

16 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler.

17 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

18 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

19 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

20 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Evans.

21 MR. EVANS: Yes.

22 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

24 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

25 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I hereby declare

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Item 7-B legally and lawfully adopted.

MR. MCGOFF: Prior to adjournment, I would just like to wish everyone, all of the fathers out there a happy Father's Day this coming Sunday, that's for all of fathers and perspective fathers as well.

MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

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

MR. ROGAN: Motion to adjourn.

MR. MCGOFF: Meeting adjourned.

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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 of testimony taken by me at the hearing of the above-captioned matter and that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the same to the best of my ability.

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER