

SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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HELD:

Thursday, June 26, 2014

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  
(Not present)

JOHN LOSCOMBE

JOSEPH WECHSLER

WILLIAM GAUGHAN

LORI REED, CITY CLERK

KATHY CARRERA, 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. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

5 MR. WECHSLER: Here.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan. Mr.

7 Loscombe.

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: Here.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

10 MR. GAUGHAN: Here.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

12 MR. MCGOFF: Here. Let the minutes  
13 reflect that Mr. Rogan will not be in  
14 attendance this evening. He had prior  
15 commitments and should be back next week.

16 MR. WECHSLER: I make a motion to  
17 appoint Councilman Gaughan as the temporary  
18 chair for the Committee on Community  
19 Development.

20 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second. On the  
21 question? All those in favor signify by  
22 saying aye.

23 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

24 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

25 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

1 MS. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The  
2 eyes have it and so moved.

3 Dispense with the reading of the  
4 minutes.

5 MS. REED: THIRD ORDER. 3-A.  
6 MINUTES OF THE SCRANTON-LACKAWANNA HEALTH &  
7 WELFARE  
8 AUTHORITY'S REGULAR BOARD MEETING HELD ON  
9 MAY 15, 2014.

10 MR. MCGOFF: Are there any comments?  
11 If not, received and filed.

12 MS. REED: 3-B. TAX ASSESSOR'S  
13 RESULTS REPORT FOR HEARING HELD ON JUNE 4,  
14 2014.

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

17 MS. REED: 3-C. TAX ASSESSOR'S  
18 REPORT FOR HEARINGS TO BE HELD ON JULY 9,  
19 2014.

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

22 MS. REED: 3-D. AGENDA FOR CITY  
23 PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING HELD ON  
24 JUNE 25, 2014.

25 MR. MCGOFF: Are there any comments?

1 If not, received and filed.

2 MS. REED: 3-E. MINUTES OF THE  
3 COMPOSITE PENSION BOARD MEETING HELD  
4 ON MAY 28, 2014.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Are there any comments?

6 If not, received and filed.

7 MS. REED: 3-F. AUDIT STATUS REPORT  
8 FROM ROBERT ROSSI & COMPANY RECEIVED JUNE  
9 19, 2014.

10 MR. MCGOFF: Are there any comments?

11 If not, received and filed.

12 Are there any Clerk's notes?

13 MS. REED: Nothing, Mr. McGoff.

14 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. Any council  
15 persons have announcement?

16 MR. WECHSLER: Yes, Mr. McGoff, I  
17 have one. Besides the fireworks event  
18 that's going to take place next Thursday,  
19 there will also be a concert and fireworks  
20 at Nay Aug Park on Saturday, at 7:30 p.m.  
21 They also will be the Jimmy Strurr Orchestra  
22 so you can star the Fourth of the July  
23 celebration a little earlier this year.  
24 Thank you.

25 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else? A couple

1 of reminders, first of all, next week the  
2 council meeting will held on Wednesday,  
3 evening, that's July 2. City hall will be  
4 closed on July, Friday, July 4.

5 Also, next Wednesday, Mr. Amoroso  
6 will be making a presentation to council at  
7 5 p.m. It will be advertised as a caucus,  
8 Mr. Amoroso will be here at five and then we  
9 will have the meeting. Yes, it will held in  
10 council chambers, and the meeting will  
11 follow.

12 Also, on tonight's agenda or for  
13 tonight's agenda there are two pieces of  
14 legislation that will be taken from the  
15 table, they were tabled to allow for public  
16 comment or for comment period as required by  
17 the HUD. They are the two pieces of  
18 legislation from OECD. They will be brought  
19 back in Seventh Order as 7-C and D; and  
20 also, since they are not on the agenda and  
21 people do not have -- did not know that  
22 prior, we will allow for additional comment  
23 period prior to those being voted upon.

24 And that's all.

25 MS. REED: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'

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PARTICIPATION.

MR. MCGOFF: Joan Hodowanitz.

MS. HODOWANITZ: Good evening, Council. Joan Hodowanitz, city resident. With regard to 3-F, the audit status report from Robert Rossi dated June 19. There is progress. Instead of having 26 outstanding items we are down to 25, okay? That's process in one sense, but on the other hand, it doesn't seem likely that that audit is going to be available to the city before November 15 when they have to present their operating audit budget for next to the council, so that's an item of concern especially concerning not just the financial situation in the city, but the fact that we seem to have issues, accounting issues.

Well, we have one that came up a few weeks ago supposedly involving Boscov's. I came about 15 minutes to six this afternoon and I'm looking at the background papers and there was quite a lengthy composite pension board meeting report, and that was dated May 28, that's Item 3-E, have any of you had a chance to even glance at that?

1 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

2 MS. HODOWANITZ: Did you read the  
3 narrative, Mr. McGoff.

4 MR. MCGOFF: I'm sorry?

5 MS. HODOWANITZ: Did you have a  
6 chance to look at the narrative, the first  
7 few pages?

8 MR. MCGOFF: I read the -- I read  
9 the minutes that were given to us.

10 MS. HODOWANITZ: I started looking  
11 at it and I got to the second page and a  
12 couple of red flags went up, okay? I asked  
13 the city personnel, is it Cathy?

14 MS. CARRERA: Yes.

15 MS. HODOWANITZ: I asked Cathy if I  
16 could get a copy made, unfortunately the  
17 copier was down, so I'm going to get a copy  
18 made over the course of the next few days  
19 and I'll readdress this next few weeks, but  
20 the first paragraph on page two was very  
21 interesting because there was an issue about  
22 where checks were being written, was it  
23 against the general fund, not otherwise  
24 specified, or against the city's coffers.

25 And, you know, you see something



1           like that, you know, that should raise a red  
2           flag to whoever is receiving those reports.  
3           If I were the receiving the report I would  
4           go at that back to pension board and I would  
5           say, "Say what?"

6                        You know? I have no idea how much  
7           money is involved, what they are talking  
8           about. It wasn't a very clearly written  
9           paragraph. It was the first paragraph on  
10          page two, but there was this issue of, you  
11          know, are the checks coming out of the  
12          general fund, they should be written against  
13          the city's coffers and it was just kind of  
14          never resolved and they moved onto another  
15          issue and another speaker. That's why I'm  
16          very concerned about in audit report because  
17          the audit is never going to catch up to the  
18          accounting as long as you are playing this  
19          catch up game year after year after year.

20                       So I would like a copy of the report  
21          made and I will come back to you next week  
22          and I will read you that short paragraph and  
23          maybe if you have a chance to review it over  
24          the interim, you know, we can then get an  
25          answer to what are they talking about and is

1           there an issue because that could fly under  
2           the radar. I think a lot of our accounting  
3           issues are flying under the radar because we  
4           have neither the time, you know, we need to  
5           pursue them, so that's a little thing buried  
6           in a report, that's a very lengthy report,  
7           but it raised a red flag with me and I  
8           stopped reading at that point in time, but  
9           I'm going to get that whole report copied  
10          and I'm going to look at it with a  
11          magnifying glass because I think these are  
12          the kind of things you should be doing. And  
13          that's all I have tonight. Thank you.

14                   MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. Fay Franus.

15                   MS. FRANUS: Fay Franus, Scranton.

16                   MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

17                   MS. FRANUS: What I'm saying is just  
18          my opinion, but I'm sure many people feel  
19          the same way. Tonight, for example, in the  
20          caucus Ron Koldjeski from the county was  
21          there, he had so much information to share  
22          with the people, I couldn't even begin to  
23          remember it all about demolition and taxes  
24          and if you have a house and you want to buy  
25          the house next to you, put it on the tax

1 rolls and keep it, make your house more  
2 valuable. Like, I can't even begin to tell  
3 all of the important things that he said,  
4 but because this council, not Jack,  
5 Mr. McGoff, Mr. Gaughan, Mr. Wechsler, I  
6 don't know about Pat Rogan, they don't want  
7 the people out here to hear what's going on  
8 in that caucus room. I saw no reason at all  
9 why Mr. Koldjeski could not be out here  
10 saying everything he said in there for half  
11 an hour so the people in the city would know  
12 what he was talking about. This here  
13 council just having council here means  
14 nothing. I thought it was a very  
15 interesting and I think everybody in the  
16 city should have heard it, but they don't  
17 have the opportunity because Mr. McGoff,  
18 Mr. Wechsler and Mr. Gaughan want to keep it  
19 in the back room so people can't know what's  
20 going on, and you can't sit there and say  
21 otherwise because I have asked you many  
22 times and none of you have spoken up for  
23 wanting it out here. You just went along  
24 with Mr. McGoff, follow the master.

25 And last week, Mr. Gaughan, you

1 mentioned about the Parking Authority made  
2 the city's credibility bad. Oh, no, it  
3 didn't. That was the best thing this  
4 council did with Jack Loscombe, Janet Evans  
5 and Pat Rogan. Thank you, Mr. Loscombe,  
6 last week for speaking up the way you did  
7 and informing the people what's really going  
8 on here and all of the hard work you put  
9 into that. Could you imagine if that  
10 Parking Authority were allowed to run as it  
11 was with Scopelitti? When they came here  
12 with that caucus -- and you know what, that  
13 caucus was out of here so people could see  
14 it, just like you wanted, Mr. Loscombe, and  
15 those people saw everything you said, and  
16 let me tell I, they didn't have a budget,  
17 they had all of these figures, but they  
18 didn't have any -- how they were spending  
19 it. They didn't have a clue. Like, it was  
20 so embarrassing.

21 It's right there if anybody wants to  
22 look on the Scranton City government  
23 website, go to city council and look at the  
24 minutes of the meetings and go back to when  
25 that meeting was, try to find it and you

1 will see the minutes from caucus from Mr.  
2 Scopelitti at like 80 some thousand dollars  
3 a year, nobody knew why because he couldn't  
4 say how the money was spent. So that the  
5 best thing you did, Jack, and I'm glad you  
6 spoke up and I hope you still say something.

7 Now, this Pango situation, come on,  
8 they may have it down and they want to renew  
9 their contract, I'd like to know why is that  
10 you want these people? I'm not saying they  
11 are not good, but why isn't this going out  
12 for bid? Why?

13 MR. MCGOFF: It was.

14 MS. FRANUS: Oh, it was. So why is  
15 it that you want to -- Mr. Loscombe, how do  
16 you feel about this?

17 MR. LOSCOMBE: I don't know if you  
18 were here last week?

19 MS. FRANUS: No, I wasn't.

20 MR. LOSCOMBE: But I definitely have  
21 some issues on some of the things that --  
22 and I'm not against Pango.

23 MS. FRANUS: Neither am I.

24 MR. LOSCOMBE: There are some issues  
25 that have to be addressed.

1 MR. FRANUS: Those are the issues  
2 I'm referring to.

3 MR. LOSCOMBE: I just don't see the  
4 urgency that's being pursued on this right  
5 now, but I'll address that later.

6 MS. FRANUS: Well, I hope everybody  
7 at home listens to what you say, but I can  
8 bet that you three, Wechsler, McGoff and  
9 Gaughan will go right along with it because  
10 we don't know why, but there is a reason,  
11 hidden agenda and you say that Business  
12 Administrator recommends it? Bulzoni, he  
13 same man that recommended or got the loan  
14 for the bank, \$2.3 million loan when he  
15 worked at Landmark Bank and now the city is  
16 in a lawsuit with them when the city council  
17 wasn't even aware of it and it was illegal.  
18 City council didn't even come in front of  
19 council and they got a \$2.3 million loan  
20 from Landmark. Well, he didn't last their  
21 too long, but you are taking this guy's  
22 recommendation? Give me a break.

23 And then you have this financial  
24 consultant that I mentioned many weeks ago,  
25 went right in one ear and out the other, so

1 when we come here, Mr. McGoff, you don't  
2 even pay attention to what people say, you  
3 sit up there and you write, you know? You  
4 should pay attention to what people are  
5 saying.

6 MR. MCGOFF: I am.

7 MS. FRANUS: I shouldn't even say  
8 that because you don't care what we're  
9 saying because you never, ever -- you are  
10 supposed to be representing the people. You  
11 are representing the mayor, yourself and  
12 your other council members other than Jack.  
13 I mean, I don't know who you are taking  
14 care, but you no damn well it's somebody,  
15 somebody important that you think is  
16 important.

17 Now, back to you with that financial  
18 consultant that got the contract until 2018  
19 without cap, that was definitely illegal  
20 because there is no money in the budget for  
21 it. Article 613 of the City Code states  
22 that the money must be in the budget right  
23 now. Mr. Wechsler, you are the Finance  
24 Chair and you sat there and you knew it was  
25 illegal, and if you didn't you should have.

1 MR. WECHSLER: It's not illegal.

2 MS. FRANUS: Pardon me?

3 MR. WECHSLER: It's not illegal.

4 MS. FRANUS: Oh, yes, it is illegal.

5 Did you read the article from 613?

6 MR. WECHSLER: I know if it passed  
7 here it's not illegal.

8 MS. FRANUS: It is illegal. Mr.  
9 Minora, are you saying it's not illegal?  
10 Mr. Minora?

11 MR. MCGOFF: Excuse me.

12 MS. FRANUS: May I ask him a  
13 question?

14 MR. MCGOFF: You may ask him.

15 MR. FRANUS: Okay, don't you think  
16 he should answer the people or no?

17 MR. MINORA: It's not illegal.

18 MS. FRANUS: Pardon me?

19 MR. MINORA: It was not illegal.

20 MS. FRANUS: Okay, I just want that  
21 on the record because I really believe it is  
22 illegal.

23 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mrs. Franus.

24 MS. FRANUS: And other things that I  
25 think you do illegally because you know we



1 can't take you to Court so you just keep  
2 doing what you are doing and you don't care  
3 about the people or what they say. You are  
4 a joke, except Mr. Loscombe, he is for the  
5 people.

6 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. Doug  
7 Miller.

8 MR. MILLER: Good evening, Council.  
9 Doug Miller, Scranton. A few issue I have  
10 to take issue with here tonight, going back  
11 to some of the business from last week. You  
12 know, first on 7-B, you know, obviously  
13 stepping back and taking a look at this I do  
14 have to agree with Mr. Loscombe that, you  
15 know, I don't know see the need to have such  
16 a sense of urgency on this when there are  
17 many questions to still be addressed. I  
18 think yet again this is another situation  
19 where we are just voting blindly on a piece  
20 of legislation without having the proper  
21 documentation and correspondence needed.

22 You know, when we have city  
23 councilmen that still have questions that  
24 have yet to be answered I think that's a  
25 troubling thing when, you know, his

1 colleagues want to go ahead and just ram  
2 this legislation as you know previous  
3 councils have had an issue of doing without  
4 having knowledge and later on down the road  
5 it ends up causing a nightmare.

6 And, you know, speaking of  
7 nightmares that's what leads me to be here  
8 tonight. You know, I took real serious  
9 issues with the statements made by Mr.  
10 Gaughan last week and him criticizing the  
11 way Mr. Loscombe voted on the Parking  
12 Authority default and I just felt compelled  
13 that I needed to revisit this issue because  
14 those of us that were around at the time  
15 know full well that situation and the events  
16 that took place and what lead to the Parking  
17 Authority going into default. So for those  
18 of us that were around that back then, as I  
19 was and a lot of other people seated here,  
20 we were actually at these meetings, there  
21 were a lot of, as we know, mismanagement  
22 that took place throughout city government.

23 And, you know, when we talk about  
24 the default of the Parking Authority causing  
25 all of the city's financial problems and,

1           you know, causing the fear in the banking  
2           community I just think that that statement  
3           in itself is totally ludicrous. I think  
4           that anybody that maybe took the chance to  
5           pay an ounce of attention would know that  
6           the problems in this city have been caused  
7           by the fiscal mismanagement by the previous  
8           administration, decades worth of  
9           mismanagement.

10                         If we take a trip back to 2010, we  
11           remember that the incoming council majority  
12           cut taxes by roughly 11 percent. The  
13           council at that time lead by Mrs. Evans, and  
14           Mr. Loscombe was seated here, our Finance  
15           Chair Mr. Joyce, and Mr. Rogan and McGoff  
16           were here, and if you recall council cut the  
17           taxes by roughly 11 percent with the  
18           understanding that the city had the ability  
19           to do so, that a steady revenue stream was  
20           coming in according to previous budgets and  
21           that enabled the council at that time to go  
22           ahead and cut taxes.

23                         The weeks following that the council  
24           with the assistant from their council  
25           solicitor, Attorney Boyd Hughes, realized

1           that those budgets that they were basing  
2           their decisions off of were, in fact,  
3           inaccurate, make believe. And so we can  
4           recall that tax increase basically, you  
5           know, was taken back in the following -- in  
6           the next year's budget due to that.

7                         And so when you look at that  
8           situation in itself, I think can signify to  
9           us that that was really caused the brunt of  
10          the city's financial problems. It was the  
11          mismanagement of the previous administration  
12          that budgets that were voted on by previous  
13          rubber stamps councils weren't, in fact,  
14          real and these were budgets that always had  
15          PEL'S blessings, and then we sit here today  
16          and wonder why we are in the situation we  
17          are in.

18                        And when it comes to the default of  
19          the Parking Authority, we can recall that  
20          Parking Authority was ran recklessly.  
21          Getting any correspondence from  
22          Mr. Scopelitti or any of his minions down  
23          there was impossible. As a matter of fact,  
24          if we can all recall, those that of us that  
25          were actually here and paid attention, we

1 can recall one page-budgets coming from the  
2 Parking Authority that didn't explain  
3 anything, they weren't even budgets. They  
4 were Mickey Mouse budgets, budgets that a  
5 senior class officer would put together.  
6 Didn't explain anything. There was no  
7 transparency whatsoever. All they would do  
8 is just squander money, money was spent.  
9 There was no oversight, council was left in  
10 the dark. The administration did not  
11 cooperate with the council at the time.

12 So, you know, people like  
13 Mr. Loscombe, and his colleagues at the  
14 time, you know, basically had the wool  
15 pulled over their eyes, so to speak, they  
16 had no idea what was going on, and the only  
17 way that that council at the time was able  
18 to get full control and have a firm  
19 understanding and idea of what was going on  
20 was to take the checkbook away, and that's  
21 exactly what they did. Mr. Loscombe,  
22 Mrs. Evans, Mr. Joyce and Mr. Rogan did just  
23 that. They took that checkbook away. They  
24 stopped the bleeding. They prevented the  
25 Parking Authority from driving the city

1 deeper and deeper and deeper in debt.

2 And I have to ask people like  
3 Mr. Gaughan tonight, who want to talk about  
4 quote "on the record", this is the record.  
5 This is factual, this is a factual record,  
6 this is it actually what transpired, and I  
7 would just have to ask you and anybody else  
8 that opposed this at the time just think  
9 where this city would be today had the  
10 previous council not done what it did? It  
11 would still to this day be mismanaged,  
12 Mr. Scopelitti and all his peons that he  
13 had, okay, millions and millions of dollars  
14 would continue to be squandered, there would  
15 be no control over what's going on, and now  
16 with the receiver in place thanks to  
17 Mr. Loscombe and his colleagues we now have  
18 control. The checkbook has been taken away,  
19 and whether you want to agree with that or  
20 not, you know, it totally up to you, but  
21 that's the real truth. That's what took  
22 place. We could have let ahead and let them  
23 continue going down the path they were  
24 going, but just think where we were. That  
25 had nothing to do with frightening the

1 backing community, the banking community is  
2 frightened because the city has a history of  
3 squandering tax dollars, and that's where we  
4 truly are.

5 I look forward to listening to  
6 Mr. Loscombe's presentation later on and  
7 that we could get answers. To Mr. Loscombe,  
8 you know, I see your position here where you  
9 are sort of acting like --

10 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Miller?

11 MR. MILLER: -- a lone person here  
12 and, you know --

13 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Miller.

14 MR. MILLER: And, you know, I really  
15 look forward to hearing you say, and I hope  
16 your questions get answered because they  
17 deserve to get answered and you shouldn't  
18 have the door slammed in your face because  
19 your colleagues want to be political and  
20 want to continue to play games, and that's  
21 the problem we have, so I look forward to  
22 hearing your comments, Mr. Loscombe. Thank  
23 you.

24 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Dobrzyn.

25 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening, Council.

1 Dave Dobrzyn, resident and taxes paid.  
2 Appreciate if anyone with some extra cash  
3 laying around would do the same. On the  
4 parking tax, I would strongly recommend no  
5 exemptions even if you have to go to Court,  
6 too bad. They are making a profit on it and  
7 that costs the people that park there money.

8 A lot of things have been said, and  
9 they do pertain to City of Scranton, act 47  
10 they are talk about a DMT tax, well, I'd  
11 like to point that \$156 is 1 percent of 15  
12 grand a year or minimum wage. It's about .5  
13 percent of 50 grand, maybe .47, that's 47  
14 hundredths of a percent, and if you make 90  
15 grand it's .168 thousandths of a percent.  
16 It's 168 thousandths of a percent.

17 So, now, do I agree with the  
18 commuter tax? I didn't think so, because  
19 you are kind of holding and taking people  
20 hostage and that happen to have jobs in  
21 Scranton. Now, what's the answer? The  
22 state. I want to see people gather together  
23 with the Municipal Authorities Associations  
24 listed in the Sunday Times and sue in  
25 Federal Court, sue the State of Pennsylvania



1           that their requirement that we support all  
2           of these nonprofits is unconstitutional and  
3           we need that money replaced. I can't keep  
4           paying everybody else's taxes.

5                        Like I said, last week,  
6           unconstructable lot, I can't use it for  
7           anything but a grass or to park my doggy on  
8           and it's \$551 if I pay exactly on time.  
9           It's crazy. It's totally -- my wife is  
10          already to a point where she says, "Let it  
11          go back, you didn't get anything for 40  
12          years on it from 1962, let it go." You  
13          know, so she is the boss. We know who the  
14          boss is in our house, damn it.

15                       But Act 76, that's another solution  
16          that's been pushed and now Pennsylvania  
17          income tax for the average person will go up  
18          to 4.5 percent, none of which is tax  
19          deductible unless you top \$12,200 a year in  
20          expenses. So, you know, the guy at the top  
21          gets to charge that all and the guy at the  
22          bottom too bad. Too bad. And it will  
23          increase the 7 percent sales tax we have at  
24          the taxpayers, a conference on it, and they  
25          couldn't answer whether a can of Campbell

1            soup would cost 7 percent more, so it's  
2            something to think about. When they can't  
3            answer it I think not, I think I'll pass on  
4            that idea.

5                            And the Sunday Times, I have to  
6            compliment them on finally this is the first  
7            time in 10 years or 12 years that I have  
8            been receiving the Scranton Times that they  
9            have admitted that we are 33 percent tax  
10           exempt in the city, so you guys have your  
11           jobs picked out for you, you know?

12                           And I also want to point out on the  
13           EMT tax, it should be a monthly only tax.  
14           It should be by the month if it's deducted  
15           because if they deduct it in March and I got  
16           laid off in April 15 the money is gone and,  
17           you know, I worked a third of the year in  
18           Scranton and I have to go find a job  
19           elsewhere, and maybe I'll find another job  
20           in Scranton, maybe not, so that should  
21           actually be deducted on a monthly basis and  
22           not as a lump sum.

23                           On the Park Authority, the only  
24           thing I have to say about it was the Park  
25           Authority looked like the Kevaufer

1 Commission. To refresh everybody's memory  
2 out there in TV land, it looked like the  
3 mobsters when they are hauled into Congress,  
4 "Don't answer, this don't answer that."

5 But there is, I'd like to point out  
6 in the library, there probably is a copy of  
7 that CD so if you are interested try and  
8 watch it or acquire it and watch it. Thank  
9 you and have a good night and I'll be back  
10 hopefully. And don't forget, trade packs  
11 are once again we have enough joblessness in  
12 this town, it's 9 percent, so national  
13 issues are local issues, like the man said  
14 all politics is local. Thank you.

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

16 MR. MCGOFF: Ron Ellman.

17 MR. ELLMAN: Ronnie Ellman in case  
18 you forget.

19 MR. LOSCOMBE: Welcome back.

20 MR. ELLMAN: You know, thousands,  
21 maybe ten of thousands of people have asked  
22 me why I quit coming down. Why are you  
23 smiling at that?

24 MR. LOSCOMBE: I said welcome back.

25 MR. ELLMAN: You don't believe me?

1                   MR. LOSCOMBE: Oh, I believe you. I  
2 see you out and about.

3                   MR. ELLMAN: I quit coming because I  
4 just feel like coming down here to me is  
5 like beating your head on a stone wall.  
6 Nobody listens and nothing is getting  
7 accomplished. I have no master of  
8 orientation, but I think some of these  
9 people that come and speak before you are,  
10 and they have all kinds of intelligent  
11 suggestions for the city and nobody  
12 acknowledges this. It's just a sad thing to  
13 me, so I decided people had enough of me  
14 complaining about the universities and also  
15 so I quit coming.

16                   But allow me to make this  
17 unmistakably clear, I support you people and  
18 I support the city, but it's just -- it's  
19 not going nowhere. You know, it's not  
20 becoming a Hazelton, we are a Hazelton  
21 because the neighborhoods are in decline,  
22 it's the foreclosures are, like, 60 percent,  
23 you know, it's just nobody addresses all  
24 these things? People aren't interested  
25 sacrificing now for somebody 10 or 20 years

1 down the road. It's just -- you people just  
2 don't talk to people like I do when I go to  
3 the grocery store and all or at the club  
4 when I eat lunch.

5 You know, then I read in the paper  
6 this ridiculous remark that the country is  
7 on the downswing. Everybody knows that.  
8 That last week the paper said we shouldn't  
9 be taxing non-residents, but it's okay for  
10 them to use our streets and schools and  
11 hospitals and parks and insurance but we  
12 shouldn't tax them for nothing. That's the  
13 general feeling, you know? These  
14 universities don't think they should be  
15 taxed and all of these phonies you got  
16 dozens of them, nothing but plain, phony  
17 businesses hiding behind the Pure Charity  
18 Act and they are getting away with murder.

19 But I didn't come to assess Mr.  
20 Cross or Mr. Amoroso. I would like to say  
21 last week we lost a piece of property that  
22 was over a \$1,200,000 to the University so  
23 it would be off the tax rolls. The people  
24 that had it they could take it off their  
25 income tax for years to come, the University

1 can rent it out or do what they want with  
2 it, how are we going to make up that one  
3 piece of property? You know, you are  
4 talking about another 57 percent tax  
5 increase? The people can't stand it no  
6 more. You know, it's -- I know that it's --  
7 I don't know what you can do, but like I  
8 said, I came to implore you people to do  
9 something about the speeding cars on North  
10 Main Avenue, it's like a racetrack from  
11 about Market Street to Shift's. I see cars  
12 day and night go by my house 60, 70, 80  
13 miles an hour just one after another. It's  
14 all day and all night and it's not the  
15 police fault, when a police car comes by I  
16 see a lot of police cars, you know,  
17 everybody slows down. You need some  
18 unmarked cars to start giving some huge  
19 tickets, and to make matters worse there is  
20 no curb so everybody parks on the sidewalk.  
21 You have to walk in the street. I watched  
22 children in the morning when I walked  
23 Snuggle, little kids and their mommas up  
24 there in the street because of illegally  
25 parked cars. It's a dangerous situation.

1                   And now that school is out a bunch  
2                   of cold stone jerks have given children two  
3                   and four wheelers that are all other North  
4                   Main Avenue. I seen a little girl, I know  
5                   she is not four years old, in a little tiny  
6                   quad it looked like a little toy going down  
7                   North Main Avenue a couple of Saturdays ago.  
8                   Now, the kids been skateboarding by my house  
9                   on the white line, some kind of new fad.  
10                  You know, it's just a matter of the time  
11                  until somebody gets injured bad or worse and  
12                  they will putting up the little crosses and  
13                  the teddy bears, you know. It's sad. It's  
14                  coming. It's going to happen.

15                  MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr. Ellman.

16                  MR. ELLMAN: I saw in the paper  
17                  where Dickson City -- no, it was Dunmore got  
18                  a new machine for their traffic and the  
19                  paper said that we had one, I wish you would  
20                  bring it to North Main Avenue and start  
21                  using it. Thank you very much for allowing  
22                  me to speak.

23                  MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr. Ellman.

24                  MR. ELLMAN: And if anybody -- if  
25                  you people didn't go to that car show, and I

1           have nothing to do with the club Father's  
2           Day, you missed a wonderful affair. There  
3           must have been \$10 million worth of cars  
4           there. Scranton ought to be proud to have  
5           them come to Nay Aug once a year. Thank  
6           you.

7                       MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

8                       MR. MCGOFF: Marie Schumacher.

9                       MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening,  
10           Council. Marie Schumacher.

11                      MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

12                      MS. SCHUMACHER: First, the agenda  
13           items will -- I believe that a complete  
14           comparison of all fees between Pango and the  
15           person who made -- the company that made the  
16           presentation at caucus last week should be  
17           available before this item is voted on.  
18           It's only fair to the customers as it seems  
19           that if this were to go through that it's  
20           the customers who would be paying a whole  
21           lot of money and more than the other one and  
22           I think you owe it to the customers of the  
23           city to do that, so I do hope that 7-B will  
24           be tabled tonight and I hope that the  
25           comparison will be available very shortly,



1           maybe next Wednesday night.

2                         And on the 6-A, the amending Section  
3           III, if I'm not reading this correctly does  
4           it state that if somebody has five parking  
5           spaces they are going to have to pay \$50 and  
6           somebody who has 125 is going to \$50? You  
7           can answer during motions, but that's the  
8           way it appears to me, and the educational  
9           parking I am -- I don't think that's right.  
10          If they are charging their students to  
11          pay to park that is not educational, that is  
12          a parking lot any way you cut it.

13                        And 5-C, could you tell me during  
14          motions someone, what the nature of the --  
15          what the nature of the improvements are at  
16          Fellows Park because, I mean, I can't  
17          imagine what -- it was a playground before  
18          and then it was dangerous and I know I took  
19          the little guy over there and we left and  
20          know it's something else and so I was  
21          interested in what else could be done and I  
22          would like to know that.

23                        And now I guess, Mr. Gaughan, you  
24          are filling in for Mr. Rogan tonight?

25                        MR. GAUGHAN: Um-hum.

1 MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, it's been  
2 several months, over a year, since we had a  
3 report on the OECD loans and I would like to  
4 get them updated. Last year on the 28th of  
5 February Mr. Rogan reported that he had the  
6 loan portfolio for those who had been --  
7 that were still open but they were paid  
8 up-to-date, but then it also said they may  
9 be delinquent or they maybe be ahead, but  
10 they are not in litigation. There were 31  
11 loans. The following week he reported on  
12 the loans that were in litigation. There  
13 were 17 of them for a total of \$1.7 million,  
14 and so I would ask Mr. Rogan to report back  
15 on the following things:

16 First of all, are those loans that  
17 were current in March of 2013 still current  
18 and/or have they had any terms or conditions  
19 changed? I know Alexander's, for instance,  
20 their interest rate was reduced to a half a  
21 percent and that was supposed to be changed  
22 as of the end of this month and I haven't  
23 seen anything come before council, so I  
24 would also like to know the status of the  
25 Alexander interest renegotiation, and then

1 of those that were in litigation I would  
2 like to know of those -- what did I say 14,  
3 14 loans whether they have completed the  
4 process and if they are closed and I'd like  
5 to know what the outcome is. Are they --  
6 did we gain any money back or did we lose --  
7 have to write off \$1.7 million? So if you  
8 would pass that onto Mr. Rogan I would --

9 MR. MCGOFF: Mrs. Schumacher, would  
10 you please put those in writing?

11 MS. SCHUMACHER: I will put that in  
12 writing, and speaking of that, there are  
13 several outstanding from several weeks ago,  
14 I have heard from Mr. Gaughan, but some of  
15 the other people --

16 MR. WECHSLER: I still have the  
17 landfill one outstanding on that.

18 MS. SCHUMACHER: When do we expect  
19 to hear on that one?

20 MR. WECHSLER: I'm working on it  
21 this week, we are working on Pango.

22 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. May I just  
23 one more?

24 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

25 MS. SCHUMACHER: It's time critical,

1 the rest I'll bring back next week, I would  
2 like to know or remind people out there that  
3 have been served with the cell phone towers  
4 that the clock is running, that 30-day clock  
5 that the Scranton Times reported that was in  
6 a legal notice, comments to the FCC, it's  
7 not an easy process, but if care the clock  
8 is running and I wish you luck in doing it.  
9 Thank you.

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

12 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.  
13 My name is Lee Morgan, and I forget I said  
14 that since you asked me once before. The  
15 first thing I have here is I'd like to  
16 inform the residents of the city and for  
17 people who live outside of the city, that  
18 there is a spaghetti dinner at Villa Maria  
19 this Sunday, from 1 to 6, to support Kids  
20 Swim Free, and I hope people would attend.

21 The other thing I have here is there  
22 some kind of discussion that was taking  
23 place when I was sitting here about legality  
24 of the vote, and Mr. Minora said that it was  
25 legal, and I do respect you, Mr. Minora, but

1           only a judge determines what's legal and  
2           unless the residents of this city go to  
3           Court and object to anything this city does  
4           it's all legal.

5                         And, you know, Mr. Gaughan, you  
6           know, I hope you would question a lot more  
7           things about what's taking place in this  
8           city over a very, very long period of time  
9           because I really believe there needs to be a  
10          very widespread investigation into where all  
11          of the city's tax revenue has gone for let's  
12          say 40 years and where all of the federal  
13          funds and all of the spending has gone to  
14          because in my opinion, you know, like  
15          reading the paper today, I saw how they are  
16          going to try to allegedly sue the PEL over  
17          the pension. Well, I don't know what kind  
18          of immunity the PEL has, but the residents  
19          of this city pay taxes so that those  
20          pensions would be funded and they weren't.

21                         Now, in my opinion, for the city  
22          employees to really blame the city for  
23          what's taking place. They supported these  
24          candidates to ran for office and didn't fund  
25          their pensions, and for all of the wild for

1 lack of a better term pipe dreams that city  
2 government and city council have had over  
3 decades they have lead us to our where are  
4 now. I mean, you know, let's not forget  
5 that at one time there is a city called  
6 Detroit that's just -- they are going to  
7 that back into farmland, a third of that  
8 city is allegedly is going to be turned back  
9 into farmland.

10 Packard was there once. That's the  
11 city that helped this country win World War  
12 II. That's what made it possible for us to  
13 beat the Japanese and the Germans and supply  
14 everybody because Henry Ford taught us how  
15 to manufacturer there on an assembly line.  
16 The Germans were piece metaling things  
17 together. Their productions were no where  
18 near ours. It gave us the ability for land  
19 lease and all of the other things that were  
20 done during that war.

21 And when you take a look at that  
22 city and where it is maybe the Scrantonians  
23 here will get a good picture of what's  
24 coming for Scranton because it won't be on  
25 that scale, but you can see that the City of

1 Scranton's population has declined by 50  
2 percent, and I know a lot of truck drivers,  
3 because evidently I am one, they don't come  
4 here in the city and do any large amount of  
5 pickups anymore. This city is just so  
6 completely downtrodden it's unbelievable.  
7 We have children and people in this city  
8 paying to swim in a pool that their tax  
9 dollars built. Just makes no sense. We  
10 have an inability to use the Home Rule  
11 Charter that was designed as it was designed  
12 to issue subpoenas to do investigations, and  
13 then we wonder why we are and how we got  
14 there.

15 Look it, this council and this mayor  
16 if they are going to come up with a plan  
17 they have to pick up the documents of our  
18 government and use them and they are not  
19 willing to do that then the sheep who live  
20 in this city, okay, because sheep don't  
21 revolt, they just keep and coming and  
22 coming, keep getting sheared and sheared,  
23 okay, and it gets to the point where they  
24 have no money to go out and buy a hamburg  
25 for themselves because the government just

1           took it in taxes, and we have got all these  
2           new schemes about how we are not going to  
3           commuter tax people because, to be quite  
4           obvious, I don't think a Court would agree  
5           to it, so what we are going to do is do an  
6           end around and just come up with a new way  
7           to raise taxes so it won't be challenged in  
8           the Courts.

9                         And the legislature, they don't want  
10           this pension because they can't fund their  
11           own. I mean, the reality is that America is  
12           it very broken politically. Two  
13           organizations are responsible for that, the  
14           Democratic party and the Republican party.  
15           The bulk of the voters are independent  
16           voters now, but they are locked out of the  
17           primaries in places where they can make real  
18           changes and just recast this country. It's  
19           time to throw the Democrats and Republicans  
20           outs of the office, they haven't lead us  
21           anywhere good. Where did you know a country  
22           where you export out your jobs? If you read  
23           the history of the America, John Deere  
24           created steal in this country because we  
25           weren't allowed to by the British colony to



1           make steal here. We were supposed to import  
2           the things they wanted us to have. We need  
3           to know the history of our own country.  
4           Thank you.

5                     MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. Anyone else  
6           who wishes to address council?

7                     MS. REED: FIFTH ORDER. 5-A.  
8           MOTIONS.

9                     MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Wechsler.

10                    MR. WECHSLER: Thank you,  
11           Mr. McGoff. The first thing I'd like to  
12           mention is to congratulate the Scranton Fire  
13           Department on an outstanding save the other  
14           night in North Scranton. Although two homes  
15           were damaged, the rest of the neighborhood  
16           was protected and there was no loss of life  
17           there. It was a great job.

18                    The second thing I'd like to mention  
19           is that after we mentioned last week at the  
20           meeting the water has been repaired at  
21           Connors Park which will allow the summer  
22           program for the children to proceed with the  
23           use of water for that.

24                    And I'll have some more things to  
25           say during legislation. Thank you much.

1 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Loscombe?

2 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes, thank you. Just  
3 a couple of things, a couple of agenda items  
4 that were mentioned this evening. Let's  
5 see, I'll start with 5-C on the improvements  
6 for Fellows Park, that was mentioned by one  
7 of our speakers, and just looking in the  
8 backup, it's for introduction tonight, I  
9 will introduce it, and in the backup it  
10 says, "Work to include purchase and  
11 installation of recreation equipment, safety  
12 surfacing and enable further American  
13 disability accessibility following all  
14 safety guidelines on South Main Avenue in  
15 Scranton's West Side."

16 That's all I have at this point, but  
17 I will try on get some more information on  
18 that.

19 The other item was 6-A, and last  
20 week I said I would try to get together with  
21 solicitor to ask some questions on this.  
22 Unfortunately, this past week I have had  
23 some personal situations that didn't allow  
24 me to do so, but I do have an issue with the  
25 exemption of educational parking. Again,

1           they are charging their students and faculty  
2           to park in these places, no different than  
3           another parking business, so in light of  
4           that I believe there is a lawsuit pending,  
5           but I don't think that should change the  
6           legislation at this time. I think that  
7           would only feed into the lawsuit personally,  
8           I'm not a lawyer, but I don't agree with  
9           Section I, and I do have questions about the  
10          fee change for \$50 from a \$1 per space, too.  
11          Will that hurt the small partner or whatever  
12          so at this point I will be voting "no" on  
13          that because, you know, I just disagree with  
14          some of those issues.

15                   And next, I would like to apologize  
16                   for last week, and the reason I'm  
17                   apologizing is that I do get too passionate  
18                   on some issues. I take a lot of issues to  
19                   heart because I feel I'm representing the  
20                   majority of the taxpayers out there and  
21                   sometimes if I feel they are getting a raw  
22                   deal I will say it. I may be wrong, you  
23                   know, I'm not always right, the thing is at  
24                   the end of the day, and again, we don't  
25                   agree a lot of times, I don't agree with the

1 speakers a lot of times, but at the end of  
2 the day we do have to come together and work  
3 for the greater good. There is going to be  
4 issues we agree on, issues we don't agree  
5 on, but on the issue that I brought up last  
6 week with the parking contract I still have  
7 a lot of questions concerning that and my  
8 fellow councilman, who was unable to be here  
9 this evening, agreed with me to table this  
10 motion. Unfortunately, he is not here this  
11 evening, but he did speak to me by phone and  
12 said if he was here he would vote to table  
13 because he still has several questions on  
14 it.

15 And you know, I think there is some  
16 serious issues. If we are pursuing  
17 something this simple and we have some major  
18 issues coming ahead of us I would just hope  
19 we look at everything as seriously as this.  
20 I did write a letter to my fellow council  
21 members. Unfortunately, I didn't get it to  
22 them until this morning. Again, you know,  
23 if anybody wants to speak to me about my  
24 personal week I would be glad to do that,  
25 I'm not going to broadcast it over the air,

1 but I was at a disadvantage this week and I  
2 was able to get this information together  
3 this morning, but since we like to put  
4 things on the record I would like to put my  
5 letter on the record at this meeting here  
6 and the letter is as follows:

7 "Dear City Council members, I have a  
8 great respect and admiration for our  
9 business administrator, whom I believe is  
10 underpaid on overworked for the job he is  
11 doing. However, I take issue with his  
12 recommendation of Pango mobile parking over  
13 Mobile Now and the other two vendors who  
14 submitted bids and were discounted because  
15 of the missing affidavits as a pay per cell  
16 provider of the City of Scranton.

17 By history, Pango has had the  
18 distinct advantage because they have been  
19 operating in Scranton for a year now. I  
20 have to question the fact that this company  
21 was even provided with a contract last year  
22 given the fact there was never an RFP  
23 request for that type of service at that  
24 time. This contract was provided solely and  
25 unilaterally by former mayor Chris Doherty

1 without any discussion with or knowledge of  
2 said agreement with the city council, the  
3 legislative body of the city.

4 It was that city council majority  
5 that began to push for accountability and  
6 enhancements to our on-street parking  
7 program well over four years ago that opened  
8 the way for improvements with our parking  
9 both financially and technically. With the  
10 shakeup of the Scranton Parking Authority,  
11 it has finally allowed us an opportunity to  
12 become more progressive. The Scranton  
13 Parking Authority under the former  
14 administration was extremely uncooperative  
15 with the city council's numerous requests  
16 for financial information all the while  
17 providing us with sham budgets. The  
18 Scranton Parking Authority continued to cost  
19 the city and its taxpayers more and more  
20 annually as they were allowed to borrow  
21 their way into oblivion.

22 The last city council majority has  
23 been used as a scapegoat for the financial  
24 institutions reluctance to loan the city  
25 monies using the default of the Scranton

1           Parking Authority as the reason. The fact  
2           is the City of Scranton was in a financial  
3           quagmire years before the Scranton Parking  
4           Authority defaulted. As stated previously,  
5           the Scranton Parking Authority was allowed  
6           to borrow money from the banks well in  
7           excess of the garage's worth and some loans  
8           from banks with no guarantee of the payment  
9           from the city.

10                       By the way, the SPA bond payments  
11           have been made on schedule. The previous  
12           city council majority has been responsible  
13           for saving the taxpayers a significant  
14           amount of money by stopping the bleeding of  
15           the Scranton Parking Authority and by  
16           forcing the past administration to seek bids  
17           for on-street parking meter management and  
18           upgrades. The past administration was going  
19           to provide Central Parking a much more  
20           lucrative contract until the last city  
21           council majority stepped in and urged the  
22           administration to seek bids for the  
23           on-street meter management, thereby  
24           guaranteeing a more taxpayer favorable  
25           contract which as awarded to Republic

1           Parking who have been doing a commendable  
2           job to date.

3                       So with all of this that has been  
4           going on, it is much to my chagrin that the  
5           current business administrator under a new  
6           mayor has made a recommendation to keep  
7           Pango as a pay-by-cell provider when there  
8           are still questions as to how they were  
9           originally contracted by the city.

10                      I have some comments and questions  
11           for my colleagues on city council to ponder  
12           before making a final decision on the  
13           pay-by-cell agreement:

14                      1. Under the original agreement  
15           with Pango and the City of Scranton Pango  
16           was charging 12 percent of collected parking  
17           receipts. Why after forcing an RFP are they  
18           willing to reduce their fee 5 percent? Had  
19           the city not requested an RFP, the Pango  
20           contract would renew for another two years  
21           at 9 percent.

22                      2. Exhibit A, page seven of the  
23           Pango agreement states: Fees for the text  
24           reminder system are a -- reminder service  
25           are \$1.99 as of the effective date but our



1 subject to change during the term. Text  
2 reminders are automatically charged to each  
3 active customer's account on a monthly  
4 basis.

5 3. There is a 9 cent fee charged to  
6 the city for every check that a parking  
7 enforcement officer performs on a vehicle to  
8 see if it is valid or not.

9 4. The Pango proposal, page 9 of  
10 97, Item 4.4 states: The vendor may charge  
11 customers a convenience fee to reprogram,  
12 sign, decal production and installation.

13 5. The Pango proposal provides two  
14 options of payments: Option one, a 10  
15 percent convenient fee paid by the parker.  
16 Option number two, 5 percent of the parking  
17 receipts to be paid by the city. The  
18 business administrator has elected to go  
19 with option two.

20 Mobile Now does not charge for the  
21 text reminder service. It is free to users.  
22 Mobile Now does not charge for parking  
23 enforcement officers car validation checks.  
24 They are free. Mobile Now can alter the 30  
25 cent fee in anyway, instead of 15 cents per

1           parker and 15 per city, one example would be  
2           20 percent per car and 10 percent city.  
3           That could be altered. Mobile Now's  
4           proposal has no hidden fees. I have a  
5           attached a three-page statement from Mobile  
6           Now explaining such.

7                        As we heard at last week's caucus  
8           from representatives from Mobile Now, they  
9           would also offer the same terms as Pango on  
10          a cost sharing plan with the city to upgrade  
11          the enforcement devices.

12                       In looking over the Pango proposal  
13          I'm left with a few more questions that  
14          should be answered prior to any vote on this  
15          contract. Under the RFP requirements, the  
16          vendors pay-by-cell services shall be PCI  
17          and DSS certified. Proposals showed that  
18          submitted PCI and DSS and DCI-PA DSS Level 1  
19          complaint certificate with their proposals.  
20          These are certifications with their security  
21          with their on-line credit and stuff like  
22          that is up-to-date.

23                       Pango did provide an attestation  
24          document, but not certifications with their  
25          proposal. Furthermore, they don't seem to

1 be DCI and DSS certified at all in the US.  
2 At least the official Visa database of US  
3 certified companies does not list it.

4 The authority -- this is another  
5 recommendation or requirement. The  
6 authority would prefer that vendors provide  
7 us with an attestation by an objective third  
8 party stating that the application has been  
9 tested for common security vulnerabilities.  
10 Pango provided an attestation dated October  
11 6, 2013. Typically, such attestations are  
12 valid for three months at a time. Thus, it  
13 appears that Pango has presented a document  
14 that is it no longer valid.

15 In their list of clients, more  
16 particularly international clients, Pango  
17 references Colon, Germany, on page 77 of 97  
18 of their proposal. I happen to have some  
19 friends in Germany. However, it appears  
20 that the research on Colon shows that Pango  
21 operations in this city were closed down ON  
22 March 31, 2014. This may raise questions  
23 about a possible misrepresentation in their  
24 proposal.

25 In closing, I cannot understand the

1           urgency to vote on this contract until these  
2           issues have been resolved. Pango has agreed  
3           to continue their service to the city until  
4           the contract has been approved. After all,  
5           it is a further benefit to Pango as their  
6           fees will be continually paid at 9 percent  
7           and not the reduced fee of the 5 percent.  
8           So I respectfully request that this  
9           legislation be tabled until these issues are  
10          resolved. Jack Loscombe, Scranton City  
11          Council."

12                        And I have attached a three-page  
13          list of items from Mobile Now and they're  
14          available for anyone who is interested,  
15          basically some of the same information that  
16          I just explained here. Again, I want what's  
17          right for everyone here. I have no qualms  
18          about Pango, I'm not that technically savvy,  
19          I just want to see that everybody is getting  
20          a fair deal in the city and those who are  
21          using the program and some of these were  
22          brought up by complaints that I have copies  
23          of that were brought up for different  
24          issues, one was a security issue, that's how  
25          I ended up looking into that, and the other

1 was a problem -- earlier it was in the  
2 newspaper about some issues with the Pango  
3 thing.

4 But personally, and I'm not an  
5 expert, but I think some of these issues  
6 here do deserve further investigation to the  
7 benefit of the everybody here, and I do not,  
8 as I repeat, see the urgency not to table  
9 this until these issues are resolved.  
10 Again, the winner in this here if we delay  
11 is Pango because they are being paid more  
12 now than if they were awarded the contract  
13 today. So beyond any realm I cannot  
14 understand why it would be the tabled  
15 because there is no urgency at this point.

16 And respectfully at this time, as I  
17 said, Mr. Rogan would have seconded my vote,  
18 I am requesting that we table this issue  
19 until these answers are provided.

20 MR. MCGOFF: Is that a motion?

21 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes, I'm asking for a  
22 motion to table.

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

25 MR. LOSCOMBE: That's all I have.

1 Thank you.

2 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Gaughan.

3 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay, thank you. Just  
4 a few issues with what Mr. Loscombe said, he  
5 is asking what is the urgency? There is no  
6 urgency. We have known about this since May  
7 30. We all received in an e-mail, the  
8 recommendation from our Business  
9 Administrator Dave Bulzoni, May 30. That's  
10 almost four weeks that Mr. Loscombe has had  
11 to ask any questions, anything. He sends us  
12 a letter, we got it today, this morning,  
13 with all of these questions that he wants us  
14 to ponder.

15 I mean, Mr. Loscombe, did you speak  
16 to Mr. Bulzoni? Did you ask him these  
17 questions?

18 MR. LOSCOMBE: As I respectfully  
19 said, I'm not going to broadcast on  
20 television what my personal situation has  
21 been the past week, but I do 12-hour shifts  
22 seven straight. I did have personal issues  
23 with a family member that was ill this week,  
24 I don't have -- this is not a full-time  
25 position for me unfortunately, we do it

1 full-time, but I asked the questions -- when  
2 I got this proposal it takes some research  
3 that I did on my own to get to this point to  
4 get to these questions. That's still  
5 besides the point. Whether I had four weeks  
6 or not we have ten more weeks to pass this  
7 legislation or 20 weeks.

8 MR. GAUGHAN: Listen, all I'm saying  
9 is everybody up here works, everyone has  
10 personal lives, that's not our problem. You  
11 have four weeks to do your homework on  
12 things. You didn't -- well, let me finish  
13 because it's making it seem like, you know,  
14 there is something underhanded going on  
15 here, like you said last week. He had time  
16 to do his homework. He didn't do his  
17 homework. That's the bottom line.

18 MR. MCGOFF: Please.

19 MR. GAUGHAN: He doesn't ask --

20 MR. MCGOFF: Now you are making  
21 accusations. Please.

22 MR. GAUGHAN: Well, all I'm saying  
23 is he had a chance to ask Mr. Bulzoni, he  
24 had four weeks, he found this out on May 30  
25 and he didn't ask him so that's all I have

1 on that.

2 Mrs. Schumacher had asked for an  
3 update on the Harrison Avenue bridge  
4 project. Council had reached out to  
5 Mr. Pocius and he responded he believed that  
6 the Bunker Hill bridge was owned by  
7 Lackawanna County and that the let date on  
8 the awarding of the contract had been moved  
9 to September 11, 2014, due to delays in  
10 getting utility clearances and PUC  
11 clearance.

12 Two weeks ago a gentleman contacted  
13 me regarding a streetlight that was out in  
14 front of his house. Council had contacted  
15 DPW and Joyce Electrical, fixed the  
16 gentleman's problem. They were a little  
17 backed up so they should be getting out to  
18 everyone.

19 The street sweeper is scheduled to  
20 be in South Scranton from June 30 to July 3.  
21 Cherry Street to Breck Street, including all  
22 avenues and streets, and just a reminder  
23 that the street sweeping schedule is on the  
24 city's website at [www.ScrantonPa.gov](http://www.ScrantonPa.gov) under  
25 the DPW link.



1                   An update on the permit parking  
2                   legislation for Prescott Avenue, I believe  
3                   that that legislation should be on the  
4                   agenda by next week and then we will table  
5                   it to allow for a public hearing on that  
6                   matter.

7                   My thoughts and prayers go out to  
8                   the families affected by the fire in North  
9                   Scranton this week.

10                  And finally, I will reserve the rest  
11                  of my comments for Agenda Item 5-C. Thank  
12                  you.

13                  MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr. Gaughan.  
14                  A couple of items, first of all, someone  
15                  talked about the Composite Pension Board and  
16                  the minutes from that, as president of  
17                  council I am a member of the Composite  
18                  Pension Board. I generally do not attend  
19                  those meetings, I have one or two. The city  
20                  clerk by proxy attends those meetings, but  
21                  the minutes of the meetings are made  
22                  available to all of council members as a  
23                  matter of fact, and generally if there is  
24                  any question that takes place during those  
25                  meetings the city clerk will address it to

1 me and it can be resolved in that way, but  
2 hopefully the minutes of that meeting will  
3 be provided and whatever questions there  
4 maybe can be answered.

5 As far as the legislation tonight on  
6 the mobile parking, by contract had nothing  
7 been done the contract with Pango would have  
8 extended for another two years, the current  
9 contract. It was deemed early in this  
10 administration, and there were a number of  
11 the meetings held with various parking  
12 entities, and the issue of mobile parking  
13 and the fact that the Pango contract was  
14 expiring came up. It was through the  
15 business administrator, and the  
16 administration felt, that the best way to  
17 legitimize the process, rather than just  
18 extending the Pango contract and council  
19 would have had no say in the matter, it was  
20 put out for -- or RFP's were issued and all  
21 providers were allowed the opportunity to  
22 submit proposals.

23 Proposals were received, it was the  
24 recommendation after all of the proposals as  
25 were received Pango, Mobile Now being the

1 final two, it was determined by the business  
2 administrator and the others that the best  
3 proposal for the city would be for Pango,  
4 that they were the most responsible bidder.  
5 The recommendation had nothing to do with  
6 the prior history of parking in the City of  
7 Scranton. This was a new administration and  
8 a new council. What happened in the past  
9 had no significant to this proposal or this  
10 recommendation, and the recommendation is  
11 based solely on the proposals that were  
12 made. It was deemed that Pango was the most  
13 responsible, legislation was prepared and  
14 given to council.

15 And, yes, all of council had an  
16 opportunity to review the proposals, they  
17 were available, all of the council had the  
18 opportunity to ask questions of anyone on  
19 this legislation. And there is no urgency,  
20 it is simply the matter of doing business.  
21 It was given to us, it was voted upon last  
22 week in first reading, now it comes up for a  
23 second reading. If people are unsatisfied  
24 with the recommendation, they have the  
25 opportunity to vote "no". That is how the

1 process works and, therefore, that was my  
2 reason for not tabling it. Our job is to  
3 vote "yes" or "no" on this legislation and,  
4 therefore, it will still on the agenda and  
5 we will vote on it later this evening.

6 Just a couple of other responses, as  
7 far as was brought up about the history of  
8 the Parking Authority, I'll just for the  
9 record, the debt service to the Parking  
10 Authority following the default vote, the  
11 vote on the default, we are now paying  
12 approximately \$800,000 more per year on debt  
13 service than when we were prior. So that  
14 has not necessarily saved us any money. And  
15 that's all I have. Thank you.

16 MR. LOSCOMBE: Mr. McGoff?

17 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

18 MR. LOSCOMBE: Can I just make a  
19 quick comment?

20 MR. MCGOFF: Absolutely.

21 MR. LOSCOMBE: Just to go back as  
22 you said the past history has nothing to do  
23 with this, the only reason I bring up the  
24 past history is because that was in the  
25 recommendation for Mr. Bulzoni, he mentioned

1 the history of Pango being here as a  
2 favorable issue.

3 And I didn't think we are here to  
4 just blindly accept everybody's  
5 recommendation without researching it or  
6 reviewing it or, you know, I mean, we would  
7 be going back to being called rubber  
8 stampers. I think we all have a duty to  
9 research these issues, get the questions  
10 answered and, you know, if this was a matter  
11 of yes/no that's one thing, but there are  
12 some serious issues here, issues  
13 specifically on the security of the people  
14 who park here, not alone the financial  
15 issues, but the serious issues of the credit  
16 card access and that's why I so adamantly  
17 want these issues resolved, but apparently  
18 I'm the only one other than, unfortunately,  
19 yes, we have our vote, yes, no, yes, no.  
20 Mr. Rogan is not here this evening to cast  
21 his vote, but I apologize, that's the way I  
22 feel.

23 MR. MCGOFF: And the assumption that  
24 you make that no one else asked questions is  
25 not valid. All of us did our research,

1           asked questions and came to a conclusion on  
2           this. Whether it was a yes or a no  
3           conclusion will remain to be seen.

4                   MR. LOSCOMBE: So I'm going to ask  
5           you, the rest of this panel is not concerned  
6           about the security issues that have been  
7           presented here this evening?

8                   MR. GAUGHAN: Why are you presenting  
9           them to us and not the business  
10          administrator? You have had since May 30.  
11          That's why I'm -- that's what we're trying  
12          to tell you and you said we accept -- we are  
13          accepting --

14                   MR. LOSCOMBE: Because we are voting  
15          on it not the business administrator. We  
16          are voting on it.

17                   MR. GAUGHAN: But you have had  
18          questions --

19                   MR. LOSCOMBE: You already have his  
20          recommendation, it's you I have to sell, not  
21          the business administrator.

22                   MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, but you have  
23          personal questions that you failed to ask,  
24          you got us a letter this morning.

25                   MR. LOSCOMBE: I told you the reason

1 for that.

2 MR. GAUGHAN: Well --

3 MR. MCGOFF: All right.

4 MR. GAUGHAN: And you had four  
5 weeks. You are not doing your job.

6 MR. MCGOFF: The question was that  
7 -- yes, I would answer for myself that I am  
8 satisfied that Pango was the most  
9 responsible bidder and I am prepared to vote  
10 and I feel that the questions that I have  
11 were adequately answered.

12 MR. LOSCOMBE: That wasn't the  
13 question I asked though. The question I  
14 asked was are you concerned about the  
15 security issue that was presented here?

16 MR. MCGOFF: I don't believe that  
17 there is one.

18 MR. LOSCOMBE: I don't believe there  
19 is a Santa Clause either but --

20 MR. MCGOFF: Excuse me, that's  
21 insulting.

22 MR. LOSCOMBE: I apologize. I do  
23 take that back.

24 MR. MCGOFF: You asked me a  
25 question, I give a responsive answer.

1 MR. LOSCOMBE: And again, Folks, you  
2 know --

3 MR. MCGOFF: Because I disagree --

4 MR. LOSCOMBE: We do disagree, but  
5 we do work together, in the long run we have  
6 to do what's for the better issue. I may  
7 not be victorious on this, and that's why  
8 I'm here, that's why we have this vote, not  
9 to say I'm happy because I think it does  
10 impact a lot of people, but I do apologize,  
11 Mr. McGoff.

12 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you,  
13 Mr. Loscombe.

14 Mrs. Reed, please.

15 MS. REED: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
16 AN ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND  
17 OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF  
18 SCRANTON TO ENTER INTO LEASE AGREEMENTS WITH  
19 WEST SCRANTON LITTLE LEAGUE FOR  
20 VARIOUS LITTLE LEAGUE, T-BALL, FARM LEAGUE,  
21 TEENER LEAGUE, MISS-E LEAGUE, BASEBALL AND  
22 SOFTBALL FOR USE OF CITY OWNED PROPERTY IN  
23 CONNECTION WITH APPROVED LITTLE LEAGUE,  
24 TBALL, FARM LEAGUE, TEENER LEAGUE, MISS-E  
25 LEAGUE, BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL ACTIVITIES FOR



1 A THREE-YEAR PERIOD COMMENCING APRIL 15,  
2 2014 AND ENDING APRIL 14, 2017.

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

6 MR. WECHSLER: So moved.

7 MR. LOSCOMBE: 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. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

13 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

14 MS. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The  
15 eyes have it and so moved.

16 MS. REED: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION - A  
17 RESOLUTION - RATIFYING AND APPROVING THE  
18 EXECUTION AND SUBMISSION OF THE GRANT  
19 APPLICATION BY THE CITY OF SCRANTON  
20 (APPLICANT) TO THE COUNTY OF LACKAWANNA  
21 (COUNTY) FOR A LACKAWANNA COUNTY COMMUNITY  
22 RE-INVEST PROGRAM (CRP) GRANT FOR THE  
23 IMPROVEMENT PROJECT AT FELLOWS PARK AND  
24 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE  
25 CITY OFFICIALS TO ACCEPT THE GRANT, IF

1                   SUCCESSFUL, TO EXECUTE A GRANT AGREEMENT  
2                   AND ACCEPT AND DISBURSE THE GRANT FUNDS FOR  
3                   THE CITY OF SCRANTON IMPROVEMENT PROJECT AT  
4                   FELLOWS PARK.

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

8                   MR. WECHSLER: So moved.

9                   MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

10                  MR. MCGOFF: On the question?

11                  MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question,  
12                  I'm always in favor of improving our parks  
13                  and I think recreation is very important in  
14                  the City of Scranton. However, this project  
15                  to put a playground at Fellows Park doesn't  
16                  make much sense to me. The city put CDBG  
17                  funds into Fellows Park in the Fall of 2011  
18                  and the project was completed in May of  
19                  2012.

20                  They took the playground equipment  
21                  out of Fellows Park because it had a 20-year  
22                  history of being a magnet for illegal  
23                  activity such as drugs, among other things.  
24                  The project in 2011 addressed the immediate  
25                  need for a safe accessible play area with

1 safety surfacing and area for parking with  
2 ADA accessibility, drainage correction,  
3 security lighting and site entities such as  
4 benches and trash receptacles. The pavilion  
5 was also painted and repaired.

6 This grant that the city will be  
7 receiving from Lackawanna County in the  
8 amount of \$10,000 is for work that includes  
9 the purchase and installation of  
10 recreational equipment. It doesn't specify  
11 exactly what that will be. Also, safety  
12 surfacing and enabling further ADA  
13 accessibility, the grant application doesn't  
14 specify exactly how it will enable further  
15 ADA accessibility.

16 Again, I'm not sure why we are  
17 putting money into a park that was just  
18 renovated and putting playground equipment  
19 back in when it was an issue in the past  
20 that neighbors complained about. The other  
21 factor that plays in here is that the  
22 proposed playground is prohibited based on  
23 Fellows Park historical designation and  
24 another reason that the playground equipment  
25 was removed in 2011.

1                   These site has stayed in federal  
2                   significance based on the role of the  
3                   Mr. Fellows during the American Revolution.  
4                   He transported government papers that are  
5                   now known to be the Constitution of the  
6                   United States. Since Joseph Fellow, Jr. is  
7                   still buried underneath the monument, it is  
8                   considered a historic cemetery.

9                   Karen Foster, president of the West  
10                  Side Hyde Park neighborhood group, spoke  
11                  with MaryAnn Moran Savakinis, director of  
12                  the Lackawanna Historical Society who  
13                  confirmed the historic cemetery designation  
14                  and provided links to the information. She  
15                  also provided a copy of Eileen Freeman's  
16                  books that chronicles the history of the  
17                  Fellows Park property.

18                 Thomas Murray's West Scranton High  
19                 School's tenth grade class researched the  
20                 history of the Fellows' family and submitted  
21                 an application to the Pennsylvania  
22                 Historical and Museum Commission for a  
23                 historical marker to be put at Fellows Park.  
24                 The site was approved and received a  
25                 mini-grant in 2006, 2007, from the

1 Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority for  
2 purchase and installation of the Fellows  
3 Park Pennsylvania historical marker.

4 In closing, given these historical  
5 facts that I have pointed out relating to  
6 Fellows Park, I would urge the mayor to  
7 reconsider the nature of this proposed  
8 project. I will be voting "yes" to  
9 introduce this resolution and this past week  
10 I sent my questions and concerns to the  
11 administration for their review. Thank you.

12 MR. LOSCOMBE: Just on the question?

13 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

14 MR. LOSCOMBE: See, we do agree? I  
15 have to agree with Mr. Gaughan on this, and  
16 I know he is familiar with it because he was  
17 with OECD when they did the last project,  
18 and that was just pretty recently, a few  
19 years ago. That's why I do have a some  
20 questions on it myself and I appreciate the  
21 research you did as far as the historical  
22 aspect and stuff like that.

23 But it does -- you know, parks are  
24 good and money and grants are good when we  
25 need them, where we need them, but to just

1           throw random money around just to do it I  
2           would hope that's not what we are looking at  
3           doing here. Perhaps that \$10,000 can be  
4           used in some other areas of the city to a  
5           much greater benefit, but I do agree with  
6           Mr. Gaughan's comments. I will be voting to  
7           introduce it, but I'll be waiting to hear  
8           some answers. Thank you.

9                       MR. MCGOFF: And, yes, if the money  
10           is being used to somehow make it more  
11           accessible for handicapped, and I don't know  
12           exactly what that would be, I would be more  
13           than in favor of doing that, but there are  
14           some questions, obviously, about what it was  
15           and what the proposal may be. Are we  
16           returning it to a situation that was  
17           untenable to begin with. What we need is a  
18           more definitive idea of what exactly is  
19           going to be done at the park rather than  
20           just a statement of improvements that we  
21           really should determine whether, in fact,  
22           there will be improvements or that they  
23           would return it to a detrimental situation.

24                       All those in favor of introduction  
25           signify by saying aye.

1 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

2 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

3 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

4 MS. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The  
5 ayes have it and so moved.

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

7 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.  
8 30, 2014 - AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF  
9 THE COUNCIL NO. 30, 2012 ENTITLED "AN  
10 ORDINANCE IMPOSING A TAX FOR GENERAL REVENUE  
11 PURPOSES ON OPERATORS OF PARKING SPACES AT  
12 THE RATE OF FIFTEEN PERCENT (15%) UPON EACH  
13 PARKING TRANSACTION AND ESTABLISHING ANNUAL  
14 LICENSE PROCEDURES AND FEES AND PROMULGATING  
15 THE RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING RULES AND  
16 REGULATIONS ON PARKING TRANSACTIONS PURSUANT  
17 TO THE LOCAL TAX ENABLING ACT 53 PA. C.S.A.  
18 6901 ET SEQ. BY AMENDING SECTION 1.  
19 DEFINITIONS BY ADDING THE EXEMPTION OF  
20 EDUCATIONAL PARKING; AMENDING SECTION 3.  
21 ANNUAL LICENSE BY CHANGING THE ANNUAL  
22 LICENSE AT A FEE OF ONE (\$1.00) DOLLAR PER  
23 SPACE TO A FLAT FEE OF FIFTY (\$50.00)  
24 DOLLARS PER YEAR; AMENDING SECTION 5.  
25 RETURN

1 AND PAYMENTS BY CHANGING MONTHLY TO  
2 QUARTERLY AND IN ADDITION TO CITY ADD OR THE  
3 CITY'S DESIGNEE AND AMENDING SECTION 6 TO  
4 ADD A DESIGNEE TO THE OVERALL MANAGEMENT OF  
5 THE PARKING TAX.

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

8 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Chairman, I move  
9 that Item 6-A pass reading by title.

10 MR. GAUGHAN: Second.

11 MR. MCGOFF: On the question.

12 MR. LOSCOMBE: On the question, I'll  
13 just reiterate my comments I made under  
14 motions, I don't know agree with these  
15 amendments so I will be voting "no".

16 MR. MCGOFF: I don't necessarily  
17 disagree with the amendments, I think what  
18 we need to do is define what educational  
19 parking means. Does that apply to any  
20 parking at any educational institution? Is  
21 it defined as only student parking? I think  
22 the idea of just a phrase educational  
23 parking really doesn't define or explain  
24 exactly what is being exempt, and I think  
25 that is something that really -- that does



1 need to be answered prior to a final vote.

2 All those in favor signify by saying  
3 aye.

4 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

5 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

6 MR. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed?

7 MR. LOSCOMBE: No.

8 MR. MCGOFF: The ayes have it and so  
9 moved.

10 MS. REED: 6-B. READING BY TITLE -  
11 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 31, 2014 - AN  
12 ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO  
13 79, 2012 ENTITLED AN ORDINANCE "REPEALING  
14 ALL PRIOR ORDINANCES REGARDING FINES TO BE  
15 IMPOSED FOR POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS'  
16 RESPONSES TO FALSE ALARMS IN THE CITY;  
17 ESTABLISHING FINES TO BE IMPOSED FOR THE  
18 ACTIVATION OF AN ALARM DEVICE WHICH IS  
19 DETERMINED TO BE A FALSE ALARM BY THE POLICE  
20 DEPARTMENT OR FIRE DEPARTMENT; AUTHORIZING  
21 THE ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF SAID  
22 FINES; AND PRESCRIBING PENALTIES FOR  
23 VIOLATIONS OF THIS ORDINANCE" BY AMENDING  
24 CERTAIN SECTIONS, ELIMINATING A SECTION,  
25 RENUMBERING AND ADDING A NEW SECTION TO

1 PROVIDE FOR A GRADUATED FEE STRUCTURE AND TO  
2 INCREASE COLLECTION AND PAYMENT OF SAID  
3 SERVICE CHARGES AND TO PROVIDE FOR AN APPEAL  
4 PROCESS.

5 MR. MCGOFF: You've heard reading by  
6 title of Item 6-C, what is your pleasure --  
7 or 6-B, excuse me, what is your pleasure?

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

10 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

11 MS. MCGOFF: On the question? I did  
12 receive one phone call concerning this and  
13 it was a retired firemen who is thankful  
14 that the fees for home alarms is being  
15 changed or being distinguished, from I'll  
16 say --

17 MR. LOSCOMBE: Commercial.

18 MR. MCGOFF: -- commercial, yes, as  
19 he explained when one evening his alarm  
20 system kept triggering and had nothing to do  
21 with -- it was a faulty -- it was a fault in  
22 the system and he couldn't get it repaired  
23 in time and he was being subjected to a  
24 rather hefty fee because the system went  
25 faulty and, you know, it was no his fault,

1 but he was thankful that it's being changed  
2 and I think this would be a good remedy for  
3 that situation.

4 All those in favor signify by saying  
5 aye.

6 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

7 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

8 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

9 MR. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The  
10 ayes have it and so moved.

11 MS. REED: 6-C. READING BY TITLE -  
12 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 32, 2014 - AN  
13 ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER  
14 APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF  
15 SCRANTON TO ENTER INTO A LEASE AGREEMENT  
16 WITH WEST SCRANTON LITTLE LEAGUE FOR USE OF  
17 CITY OWNED PROPERTY FOR A ONE (1) YEAR  
18 PERIOD COMMENCING APRIL 15, 2014 AND ENDING  
19 APRIL 14, 2015. PER SECTION 9 OF THE LEASE  
20 AGREEMENT THE WEST SIDE FALCONS JUNIOR  
21 FOOTBALL TEAM WILL ENTER INTO A THIRD PARTY  
22 AGREEMENT WITH THE WEST SCRANTON LITTLE  
23 LEAGUE FOR USE OF THE LACKAWANNA LITTLE  
24 LEAGUE FIELD FOR THE MONTHS OF JULY THROUGH  
25 NOVEMBER 2014 AS SPECIFIED IN THE LEASE

1           AGREEMENT.

2                   MR. MCGOFF:  As Chair for the  
3           Committee on Rules, I recommend final  
4           passage of Item 7-A.  I'm on the wrong one.  
5           Losing track here, I'm sorry.

6                   You've heard reading by title of  
7           Item 6-C, what is your pleasure?

8                   MR. WECHSLER:  Mr. Chairman, I move  
9           that Item 6-C pass reading by title.

10                  MR. LOSCOMBE:  Second.

11                  MS. MCGOFF:  On the question?  All  
12           those in favor signify by saying aye.

13                  MR. WECHSLER:  Aye.

14                  MR. LOSCOMBE:  Aye.

15                  MR. GAUGHAN:  Aye.

16                  MR. MCGOFF:  Aye.  Opposed?  The  
17           eyes have it and so moved.

18                  MS. REED:  SEVENTH ORDER.  7-A.  FOR  
19           CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES- FOR  
20           ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 61, 2014 -  
21           APPOINTMENT OF SEAN MCANDREW, 821 NORTH  
22           GARFIELD AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA,  
23           18504 AS A MEMBER OF THE SCRANTON MUNICIPAL  
24           RECREATION AUTHORITY.  MR. MCANDREW WILL BE  
25           REPLACING COLLEEN GLEASON, WHO RESIGNED JUNE

1 10, 2014. MR. MCANDREW'S TERM WILL EXPIRE  
2 ON DECEMBER 31, 2017.

3 MR. MCGOFF: As Chairperson for the  
4 Committee on Rules, I recommend final  
5 passage of Item 7-A.

6 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

7 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? Roll  
8 call, please?

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

10 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

12 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

14 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

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

18 MS. REED: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION BY  
19 THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION -  
20 RESOLUTION NO. 62, 2014 - AUTHORIZING THE  
21 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS  
22 TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH  
23 PANGO MOBILE PARKING A/K/A PANGO USA LLC TO  
24 PROVIDE METERED AND UNMETERED PARKING  
25 PAY-BY-CELL SERVICES FOR THE CITY OF

1 SCRANTON FOR THE PERIOD OF FOUR (4) YEARS  
2 FROM JUNE 1, 2014 THROUGH MAY 31, 2018.

3 MR. MCGOFF: As Chair for the  
4 Committee on Rules, I recommend final  
5 passage of Item 7-B.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Second.

7 MR. MCGOFF: On the question?

8 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. McGoff, I have a  
9 few comments, please. I saved my comments  
10 because I figured the comment section during  
11 our council meeting might become heated so I  
12 wanted to save my comments to this point.  
13 Since last week's meeting, I did have a  
14 questions when we left the meeting last  
15 week, so what I did is I went back and I  
16 reviewed the Pango proposal, went through  
17 the information that Mobile Now had given  
18 us, went back to the BA's recommendation and  
19 I also made some calls to the representative  
20 from Pango, and based upon the information  
21 that I received from all of that information  
22 and digested it, I feel that Pango does  
23 offer the best opportunity for the city.

24 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. One other  
25 comment on this, last week it was asked why

1 the use of the term unmetered parking was  
2 included. As I said during the caucus,  
3 unmetered provides for the opportunity to  
4 create mobile parking zones, areas where you  
5 would not need to put meters where it would  
6 be strictly for parking through mobile apps.  
7 Now, there are no specific plan at this time  
8 to do that, but the legislation does provide  
9 for that opportunity.

10 Roll call, please.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

12 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

14 MR. LOSCOMBE: No.

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

16 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

17 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

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

20 MR. GAUGHAN: I would like to make a  
21 motion to take File of the Council No. 28,  
22 2014, from the table.

23 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

24 MR. MCGOFF: All those in favor  
25 signify by saying aye.

1 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

2 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

3 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

4 MS. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The  
5 ayes have it and so moved. I will say  
6 again, that item 7-C, which was previously  
7 tabled, is the legislation from OECD that  
8 was put on the table for a 30-day comment  
9 period as required by HUD.

10 The next piece of legislation also  
11 is a related one and if there is one who  
12 wishes to speak to Item 7-C or 7-D may do so  
13 now.

14 MS. SCHUMACHER: Marie Schumacher, I  
15 have a question on the content of the  
16 changes that were made. I know, for  
17 instance, our forester Tony Santoli has been  
18 doing an admirable job and putting in many,  
19 many hours and probably saved us from a lot  
20 of litigation from fell trees, so I'm  
21 concerned about his.

22 I know the previous council cut his  
23 budget rather severely in year for the  
24 operating budget, and he has money -- had  
25 money in the OECD budget, and I'm concerned



1 particularly with the Hemlocks up at Nay  
2 Aug. I think that those shots have to be  
3 given every year or we could lose the  
4 Hemlocks and I'm wondering if that is an  
5 item that's been cut?

6 MR. MCGOFF: Offhand, I do not  
7 believe that that was included in the  
8 changes, in the amendments.

9 MS. SCHUMACHER: But you can't say  
10 for certain because I really think that  
11 would be very detrimental. I don't know how  
12 Tony is going to operate on what he has got  
13 this year.

14 MR. MCGOFF: Okay, I'm wrong. It  
15 has here --

16 MS. SCHUMACHER: I mean, I  
17 apologize, I know --

18 MR. MCGOFF: Program year 2012  
19 forestry tree planting amount taken \$11,121.  
20 92.

21 MS. SCHUMACHER: I think that was  
22 all of it so he has got -- and somebody have  
23 the budget? What's he got this year in  
24 total?

25 MR. MCGOFF: I do not know.

1 MS. SCHUMACHER: I think it's -- I  
2 you cut it in half, if I'm not mistaken from  
3 like 20 down to 10 or 10 to 5, but rather  
4 significantly, so I would urge you if you  
5 are going to go ahead and approve this to at  
6 least somebody make contact with this  
7 tremendous volunteer of the city and see if  
8 you can't find some -- see what his position  
9 is financially, and if he is not going to be  
10 able to do some of those important time  
11 sensitive things such as the treatment of  
12 the Hemlocks then maybe you could find some  
13 in your contingency funding to transfer and  
14 increase his operating money.

15 MR. MCGOFF: I do know that all of  
16 the programs that were either eliminated or  
17 cut those people and those organizations  
18 were contacted by Ms. Aebli through OECD and  
19 it was explained and I'm not going to say  
20 that they agreed, but it was, you know, the  
21 information was given to them prior to the  
22 amendments being made.

23 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. Thank you.

24 MR. LOSCOMBE: Mrs. Schumacher, I  
25 agree with you, Mr. Santoli is a very fine

1 gentleman, I have known him for years. I  
2 did have a conversation with him out in this  
3 hallway several weeks ago regarding funding  
4 and the issues on that and I do agree, it's  
5 very important. I would hope that the  
6 administration will find something in one of  
7 the accounts for perhaps the county who is  
8 giving -- who is giving the grant for  
9 Fellows Park can maybe work out a greener  
10 grant or something like for this situation.

11 MS. SCHUMACHER: Yeah. Maybe -- I  
12 mean, that's certainly I would -- I would  
13 encourage you to pursue that because it's  
14 true, a lot of people from Lackawanna County  
15 use Nay Aug Park. That's not all Scranton  
16 City residents, so it would be behoove them  
17 to maintain its beauty as well.

18 MR. LOSCOMBE: Exactly. Mr. Santoli  
19 does this all out of his own heart free of  
20 charge. He is pretty active, too.

21 MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, you really  
22 should ask him sometime for the statistics  
23 of what he's done, the number of trees that  
24 have been cut down and trimmed back, and  
25 some of them I don't know if you ever went

1 on one of his excursions where he took you  
2 around the city and showed you and trees  
3 that look perfectly healthy, like 60 feet  
4 tall, and he would take an iron rod and put  
5 it right through. It was totally, totally  
6 hollow even though it had leaves and others  
7 that have been down and a lot of trees  
8 planted. So I think it's important program  
9 for our city and increases the oxygen in our  
10 air, but the Hemlocks especially. Thank  
11 you.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

13 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else who wishes  
14 it address 7-C or 7-D? Thank you.

15 MS. REED: 7-C- PREVIOUSLY TABLED -  
16 FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON  
17 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - FOR ADOPTION - FILE  
18 OF THE COUNCIL NO. 28, 2014 - AUTHORIZING  
19 THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF  
20 THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY  
21 ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT NUMEROUS ACCOUNTING  
22 ADJUSTMENTS TO THE CITY OF SCRANTON'S IDIS  
23 SYSTEM FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT  
24 FUNDS BY DECREASING FUNDING FOR VARIOUS  
25 PROGRAMS TO ACCOUNT FOR DEFICIENCIES IN THE

1 CITY OF SCRANTON'S LINE OF CREDIT WITH THE  
2 DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT  
3 ("HUD") DUE TO UNPLANNED SECTION 108  
4 PAYMENTS BY THE CITY OF SCRANTON IN THE  
5 AMOUNT OF \$1,662,043.98.

6 MR. MCGOFF: What is the  
7 recommendation of the Temporary Chair for  
8 the Committee on Community Development?

9 MR. GAUGHAN: As Temporary  
10 Chairperson for the Committee on Community  
11 Development, I recommend final passage of  
12 Item 7-C.

13 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

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

16 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

17 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

18 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

19 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

20 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

21 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

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

25 MR. GAUGHAN: I would like to make a

1 motion to take File of the Council No. 29-  
2 2014 from the table.

3 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

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

6 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

7 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

8 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

9 MS. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The  
10 ayes have it and so moved.

11 MS. REED: 7-D, PREVIOUSLY TABLED -  
12 FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON  
13 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - FOR ADOPTION - FILE  
14 OF COUNCIL NO. 29, 2014 - AMENDING FILE OF  
15 THE COUNCIL NO. 56 OF 2012 TITLED  
16 "AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE  
17 OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO TAKE  
18 ALL NECESSARY ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE  
19 CONSOLIDATED SUBMISSION FOR COMMUNITY  
20 PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS TO BE  
21 FUNDED UNDER THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK  
22 GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM, HOME INVESTMENT  
23 PARTNERSHIP (HOME) PROGRAM AND EMERGENCY  
24 SOLUTIONS GRANT (ESG) PROGRAM FOR THE PERIOD  
25 BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2013" BY DECREASING

1 FUNDING FOR VARIOUS PROGRAMS TO ACCOUNT FOR  
2 DEFICIENCIES IN THE CITY OF SCRANTON'S LINE  
3 OF CREDIT WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND  
4 URBAN DEVELOPMENT ("HUD") DUE TO UNPLANNED  
5 PAYMENTS IN VARIOUS SECTION 108 LOANS  
6 GUARANTEED BY THE CITY OF SCRANTON IN THE  
7 AMOUNT OF \$1,662,043.98.

8 MR. MCGOFF: What is the  
9 recommendation of the Temporary Chair for  
10 the Committee on Community Development?

11 MR. WECHSLER: As Temporary  
12 Chairperson for the Committee on Community  
13 Development, I recommend final passage of  
14 Item 7-D.

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

16 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? Roll  
17 call, please?

18 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

19 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

20 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

21 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

25 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I hereby declare

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Item 7-D legally and lawfully adopted.

Prior to adjournment, I again would like to remind people that next week's meeting will be on Wednesday evening, not Thursday, and if there is no further business I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

MR. LOSCOMBE: 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.

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CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR  
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER