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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Thursday, November 17, 2016

LOCATION:

Council Chambers

Scranton City Hall

340 North Washington Avenue

Scranton, Pennsylvania

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

- JOSEPH WECHSLER, PRESIDENT
- PATRICK ROGAN, VICE-PRESIDENT
- WAYNE EVANS
- WILLIAM GAUGHAN
- TIM PERRY
  
- LORI REED, CITY CLERK
- JAMIE MARCIANO, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK
- AMIL MINORA, SOLICITOR

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

3 MR. WECHSLER: Roll call, please.

4 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Perry.

5 MR. PERRY: Here.

6 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

7 MR. ROGAN: Here.

8 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Evans.

9 MR. EVANS: Here.

10 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Here.

12 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler.

13 MR. WECHSLER: Here. This evening  
14 as part of the November national month of  
15 awareness for pancreatic cancer we have a  
16 proclamation we would like to read so would  
17 everyone please come up that's involved with  
18 the proclamation.

19 WHEREAS, in 2016, an estimated  
20 53,070 people in the United States will be  
21 diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, one of the  
22 deadliest cancers, and 41,780 will die from  
23 the disease; and

24 WHEREAS, pancreatic cancer surpassed  
25 breast cancer this year to become the third

1 leading cause of cancer death in the United  
2 States, and it is projected to become the  
3 second leading cause by 2020; and

4 WHEREAS, pancreatic cancer is the  
5 only major cancer with a five-year relative  
6 survival rate in the single digits at just  
7 eight percent; and

8 WHEREAS, when symptoms of pancreatic  
9 cancer present themselves, it is generally  
10 later stages, and 71 percent of pancreatic  
11 cancer patients die within the first year of  
12 their diagnosis; and.

13 WHEREAS, approximately 2,090 deaths  
14 will occur in Pennsylvania in 2016; and.

15 WHEREAS, pancreatic cancer is the  
16 seventh most common cause of cancer related  
17 death in men and women across the worlds;  
18 and

19 WHEREAS, there will be an estimated  
20 418,451 new pancreatic cancer cases  
21 diagnosed worldwide in 2020; and

22 WHEREAS, the good health and  
23 well-being of the residents of Scranton are  
24 enhanced as a direct result of increased  
25 awareness about pancreatic cancer and

1 research into early detection, causes, and  
2 effective treatments.

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that  
4 Scranton City Council wishes to designate  
5 Thursday, November 17, 2016, as "WORLD  
6 PANCREATIC CANCER DAY" in Scranton.

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this  
8 Proclamation be made a permanent part of the  
9 Minutes of this Council.

10 MS. SAUNDERS: On behalf of the  
11 Pancreatic Cancer Action Network and the  
12 volunteers here today he would like to thank  
13 you very much for the observance and  
14 declaring today World Pancreatic Cancer Day.  
15 Obviously, it's a very personal group, it's  
16 a very personal issue for all of us here  
17 today. We have all lost someone we love to  
18 pancreatic cancer so just some facts, again,  
19 to reiterate some of the things you have  
20 already ready. Pancreatic cancer is the  
21 third leading cause of cancer deaths in the  
22 United States and is anticipated to be the  
23 second by 2020. Pancreatic kills more  
24 people than breast cancer. Here in the  
25 northeast pancreatic cancer is an issue. It

1 is on the rise. My husband, Jay Saunders,  
2 was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer when he  
3 was 45 years old and he lived two years with  
4 this horrible disease. He was the  
5 exception. 76 percent diagnosed will die  
6 within the first year, and the five-year  
7 survival rate is only 8 percent. In 2010,  
8 43,000 individuals were diagnosed that year  
9 and in 2016 it is predicted that over 53,000  
10 individuals will be diagnosed and 42,000  
11 will die.

12 There are no screenings or early  
13 detection methods for pancreatic cancer.  
14 Cancer can develop for up to 17 years before  
15 signs and symptoms present themselves and  
16 then it's too late and surgery is not an  
17 option. There are no effective treatments  
18 for pancreatic cancer and they are often  
19 quite harsh and difficult for patients to  
20 tolerate. And lastly, there is in cure.

21 Research is desperately needed to  
22 develop screenings, find a cause and find a  
23 cure and that is why funding is so critical  
24 for without funding there is no research and  
25 there will be no cure. Funding for the

1 cancer correlates with survival rates.  
2 Breast cancer, prostate cancer, colon  
3 cancer, have received an enormous of  
4 research dollars over the years and they  
5 have the highest five-year survival rates,  
6 they also have screening tools, which  
7 pancreatic cancer does not.

8 The Pancreatic Cancer Action  
9 Network's goal is to double the survival  
10 rates by 2020. Two years ago when this  
11 initiative began the five-year survival rate  
12 was just 6 percent, and although it's a slim  
13 increase, the five-year survival rate is now  
14 8 percent. This is in part due to the  
15 efforts of the Pancreatic Cancer Action  
16 Network and their efforts had increasing  
17 federal and private dollars for research so  
18 there is hope to find a cure for this  
19 disease but funding and research is critical  
20 to the success of this goal.

21 We would like to thank you for your  
22 support in helping us create awareness, wage  
23 hope and for declaring November 17, 2016,  
24 World Pancreatic Cancer Day. Thank you.

25 MR. WECHSLER: Dispense with the

1 reading of the minutes.

2 MS. REED: THIRD ORDER. 3-A.  
3 AGENDA FOR THE BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS  
4 MEETING HELD NOVEMBER 9, 2016.

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

7 MS. REED: 3-B. TAX ASSESSOR'S  
8 REPORT FOR HEARING DATE TO BE HELD NOVEMBER  
9 30, 2016.

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

12 MS. REED: 3-C. MINUTES OF THE  
13 REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE MEMBERS OF SCRANTON  
14 HOUSING AUTHORITY HELD SEPTEMBER 6 AND  
15 OCTOBER 3, 2016.

16 MR. WECHSLER: Are there any  
17 comments? If not, received and filed.

18 MS. REED: 3-D. MINUTES OF THE  
19 REGULAR MEETING OF THE LACKAWANNA COUNTY  
20 LAND BANK HELD OCTOBER 14, 2016.

21 MR. WECHSLER: Are there any  
22 comments? If not, received and filed.

23 MS. REED: 3-E. CONTROLLER'S REPORT  
24 FOR MONTH ENDING OCTOBER 31, 2016.

25 MR. WECHSLER: Are there any



1                   comments? If not, received and filed. Do  
2                   any council members have announcements?

3                   MS. EVANS: I have one. Saturday,  
4                   November 26, is small business Saturday in  
5                   downtown Scranton so please go Scranton  
6                   Tomorrow Main Street Scranton FaceBook page  
7                   for the latest details on the downtown  
8                   Scranton participating businesses.

9                   MR. WECHSLER: This Saturday,  
10                  November 19, at 9:15 a.m. is the annual  
11                  Santa parade in downtown. The parade route  
12                  will be on Spruce Street and around  
13                  courthouse square. Please expect slight  
14                  traffic delays due to road closures in that  
15                  area.

16                  Next Thursday is the Thanksgiving  
17                  holiday, therefore, council will not be  
18                  meeting next week. City Hall will be closed  
19                  Thursday, November 24 and Friday, November  
20                  25. Our next meeting will be December 1.

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

23                  MR. WECHSLER: Joan Hodowanitz.

24                  MS. HODOWANITZ: Joan Hodowanitz,  
25                  city resident and taxpayer. Correct me if

1 I'm wrong, but aren't we coming up on the  
2 one-year anniversary of the passing of Bob  
3 McGoff?

4 MR. EVANS: Yes.

5 MS. HODOWANITZ: He's sorely missed.  
6 And today is November 17, does anybody know  
7 where the City's independent audit is?

8 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. The independent  
9 audit will be completed by the 30th.

10 MS. HODOWANITZ: And when will  
11 public works session be?

12 MR. WECHSLER: There is going to be  
13 an exit conference with Dave Bulzoni,  
14 Councilman Evans and myself.

15 MS. HODOWANITZ: That will not be  
16 open to the public?

17 MR. WECHSLER: No. It's an exit  
18 interview for you us to review the findings.

19 MS. HODOWANITZ: I thought we were  
20 going to have a session that would be open  
21 to the -- a working session open to the  
22 public?

23 MR. WECHSLER: We will have a  
24 session to discuss it, but not with the  
25 body.

1 MS. HODOWANITZ: When will that  
2 session be?

3 MR. WECHSLER: I'm not sure, but we  
4 will -- it will be available to the public  
5 and we will take comment on that.

6 MS. HODOWANITZ: All right. I see  
7 that the draft 2017 operating budget is out.  
8 I certainly hope that input from the audit  
9 was considered as it was drafted. On the  
10 issue of pensions, I hope you have some kind  
11 of update on the status of double pensions  
12 and your subpoena. If you could explain  
13 that during motions?

14 Also, I went to the Pension Board  
15 meeting yesterday, Composite Pension Board,  
16 and I asked about that the status of the  
17 third party administrator and among other  
18 things I learned that apparently this  
19 administrator will be focusing on disability  
20 pensions, not pensions in general, and  
21 though I have no objection to someone  
22 looking at disability pensions, how will  
23 this appointment of a third party nationally  
24 recognized pension administrator prevent the  
25 recurrence of something like the double

1 pension fiasco? In looking at the  
2 statements that the mayor has made that this  
3 was one of his major pension reforms, why  
4 are we not having an administrator that is  
5 dealing with an entire pension issue and not  
6 just disability pensions? Is this person  
7 simply going to sit at the table and if a  
8 disability pension requests comes up and he  
9 makes a comment. Otherwise, he sits there  
10 doing nothing? I don't understand this.

11 Also, I'd like to though when we are  
12 going see an RFP so we can see the  
13 qualifications that are going to be required  
14 for this position. Also, very interesting  
15 article in the Times-Tribune after the  
16 election and which it encapsulated statistic  
17 for the city and the county and these  
18 apparently are based on US Census Bureau  
19 data from 2014. The county has apparently  
20 something like 40 municipalities, and they  
21 look at two issues, one was medium household  
22 income, and the other one was percentage of  
23 bachelor degrees. Scranton came in number  
24 38 out of 40 for median household income of  
25 \$37,551. That was behind Mayfield, \$42,564.

1 Jermyn, \$42,188, and Thornhurst Township,  
2 \$41,833.

3 In terms of percentage of bachelor  
4 degrees, Scranton came in 26 with 21.4  
5 percent of which beat out Mayfield which  
6 only had 7.5 percent, Jermyn which had 9.7  
7 percent, and Thornhurst Township which had  
8 10.1 percent, so I would say that the low  
9 median household income, and it's  
10 considerably lower than the state or the  
11 national average is not due to the education  
12 of our work force because our work force is  
13 pretty well educated. There's got to be  
14 some other reasons and I think it would be  
15 behoove the city to look closely at that  
16 because one of the things that Scranton  
17 needs more than anything else is a jobs, and  
18 also, that public sector jobs should be well  
19 advertised and open to all qualified  
20 residents. Thank you.

21 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

22 MR. WECHSLER: Les Spindler.

23 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening,  
24 Council. Les Spindler, city resident and  
25 homeowner and taxpayer. Glad to see in the

1 budget that there is not going to be a tax  
2 hike this year. I have been coming to these  
3 meetings for 14 years now and this is the  
4 first year in all of those years that we  
5 haven't had a tax hike. I think that's  
6 great news for the citizens. I think that's  
7 great news. I think the mayor is doing a  
8 good job contrary to what some council  
9 people might think and some speakers that  
10 come to this podium. There is new business  
11 moving down town. I read in the paper today  
12 where a new restaurant is coming in where  
13 the Banshee was so I think the city is  
14 looking much better than it did 14 years  
15 ago.

16 The only thing I didn't like in the  
17 budget is still having \$300 illegal garbage  
18 fee, which I talked about for years and  
19 years and years. We pay our property taxes  
20 to have our garbage collected, and it was  
21 put into effect to pay tipping fees, which  
22 I've said in the past the tipping fees will  
23 be paid this year. We shouldn't have the  
24 garbage fee, but you people you sit there  
25 and do something about it, you didn't do a

1 thing about it, all I hear we are waiting  
2 for a study, we're waiting for a study. You  
3 don't need a study. It's illegal. We pay  
4 our property taxes to have our garbage  
5 picked up. No argument with that.

6 Oh, and I did speak to former Mayor  
7 Connors, he tried to do away with the  
8 garbage fee but the council at that time  
9 voted against him, so you people have the  
10 ability to do away with the garbage fee but  
11 you really don't do anything to help the  
12 taxpayers.

13 Next thing, I haven't been here  
14 sense the article came out in the state  
15 police investigation for the double  
16 pensions, kind of convenient that Chris  
17 Doherty got away with giving those double  
18 pensions out and state police said the  
19 statute of limitations was up. I asked for  
20 an investigation 10, 12 years ago and I said  
21 Chris Doherty was as corrupt as Cordaro and  
22 Munchack and kind of convenient that the  
23 state police said the statute of limitations  
24 is up. This investigation should have been  
25 12 years ago.

1 Moving on to another subject I've  
2 talked about for a long time, the terrible  
3 streets on Sumner Avenue, five, six, seven  
4 eight hundred blocks. Last meeting I  
5 attended, Council Perry, you said you were  
6 going to go up and look at those blocks, did  
7 you have a chance to go up there?

8 MR. PERRY: Yeah, they match a lot  
9 of other city sheets. They are not very  
10 good. We have been getting numerous reports  
11 since that time we have had -- we had a  
12 meeting with Mr. Hazzouri and Mr. Pocius,  
13 the engineer, on pave cuts and we are  
14 getting recent updates on what streets and  
15 what are getting fixed and a timeline so  
16 that information has been coming in so at  
17 least what we are trying to do is hold their  
18 feet to the fire a little bit, not just  
19 letting residents in the dark on what's  
20 happening and when. There is street close  
21 to where I live, Colliery Avenue, Councilman  
22 Gaughan is aware of it, too. I'm not even  
23 sure how to explain it, it's just -- it's  
24 crazy, as you can understand.

25 MR. SPINDLER: Terrible.



1 MR. PERRY: And that looks like it's  
2 not going to get done until the springtime,  
3 and it's unfortunate but at least I can tell  
4 someone that now. Before I was kind of in  
5 the same boat you were, I wasn't sure what  
6 to say, so we are getting information, they  
7 know that the citizens want to know, they  
8 know that we want to know, and they are  
9 giving us information, they are getting it  
10 either from the gas company, the water  
11 company, or whether it's something schedule  
12 to be done by the city.

13 MR. ROGAN: And on those one in West  
14 Side, Mr. Hazzouri actually messaged me on  
15 Wednesday that the paving is beginning on  
16 that section so -- and this is the pave cut  
17 streets that had the utility work, they  
18 actually will be done before winter. I  
19 actually just pulled it up on Wednesday, so  
20 they started to pave the West Side project  
21 so you know.

22 MR. SPINDLER: Are they just going  
23 to -- kind of where they --

24 MR. ROGAN: No, this the whole  
25 street.

1 MR. SPINDLER: Oh, that will be  
2 great if they do it of because, as I said,  
3 two of those blocks were recently paved  
4 about a year ago and they are terrible.

5 Next thing, I brought up last  
6 meeting was also about the street markings  
7 on the corner of Jackson and Main and Oram  
8 and Main going the one direction and there  
9 is markings that are in one direction not  
10 the other.

11 MR. PERRY: I remember,  
12 Mr. Spindler. We did send a letter out and  
13 I will do follow-up to see where we are with  
14 that. If the State -- I did ask if that's  
15 our responsibility or I'll follow-up on  
16 that.

17 MR. SPINDLER: Okay, thank you for  
18 all your help and I'd like to wish everyone  
19 a happy and healthy Thanksgiving. That's  
20 all I have.

21 MR. WECHSLER: Lee Morgan.

22 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.  
23 Well, the first thing I have here tonight  
24 is, you know, there's been a couple of  
25 statements here made about the pensions, the

1 double pensions. The truth of the matter is  
2 that at the time that all of this stuff took  
3 place the council should have used it's  
4 powers and did an investigation and issued  
5 subpoenas at that time, and to do it at this  
6 time just proves a point that the city  
7 government is just so broken and so  
8 dysfunctional that it's remarkable because  
9 we are doing an investigation much too late,  
10 and I think everybody knows that who  
11 understands how this city government  
12 functions, but I think that the thing that  
13 we really need to kind of think about is  
14 that the city may not have a tax increase  
15 next year, but the fees that are coming for  
16 the storm water and everything else, those  
17 -- the storm water was never designed to be  
18 separated from the sewer, from the sanitary  
19 sewer system, and I just think that what our  
20 city government is doing to us is basically  
21 in my opinion just about criminal, but  
22 nobody in government is going to step in and  
23 doing something about it.

24 You know, we are selling off assets  
25 and, you know, tonight I'd like to thank the



1           should have come up with ideas, not jus this  
2           council, but other ones. And, you know,  
3           it's nice to dress the part, but sometimes  
4           it's important to actually play the part and  
5           do things that are going to help people, and  
6           when I look at my downtown I don't see what  
7           Les sees, I don't see economic development  
8           there. I see massive amounts of empty  
9           buildings and empty store fronts. A total  
10          lack of investment there, and I also see  
11          where any time there is money to invest in  
12          the city it's thrown back in that pit, but  
13          money that should be really going somewhere  
14          should be going to the neighborhoods, and  
15          I'm not talking about little trickles of  
16          money, I'm talking about a major initiative  
17          throughout all of the city's neighborhoods  
18          to give people a reason to come here and  
19          live in the city because people don't want  
20          to live in blighted rundown neighborhoods  
21          and, you know, it's time to face the reality  
22          that when you have got a school district in  
23          trouble like this one is, there is problems  
24          all across the whole spectrum, and for the  
25          county to say that it's not going to do a

1 reassessment is utterly ridiculous because  
2 we don't need a reassessment, what we need  
3 is a government that functions and we don't  
4 have that and the children in Scranton  
5 School District being shortchanged on  
6 education. I mean, everybody in this  
7 community is just being run completely over,  
8 and the truth of the matter is that in my  
9 opinion council needs to show who it  
10 represents to start thinking of things that  
11 can make our city better, and maybe you  
12 don't agree but, you know, all of these  
13 votes about selling parking garages and just  
14 selling everything is just -- it hasn't  
15 gotten us anywhere. Our people are just  
16 getting poorer and poorer and poorer and  
17 there is lack of development here, and it's  
18 not going to change probably ever until,  
19 well, until there is no population here  
20 because we lack something here. It's  
21 leadership. The suits look nice, but you  
22 know what, it's not how you look, it's how  
23 you think and how you react to the people  
24 you represent and maybe it would be good to  
25 think about that. Thank you.

1 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

2 MR. WECHSLER: Gerard Hetman.

3 MR. HETMAN: Good evening, Council.

4 Gerard Hetman from the Lackawanna County  
5 Commissioner's Office. To begin this  
6 evening, the final 2017 Lackawanna County  
7 budget was passed by the commissioners at  
8 their regularly scheduled meeting on  
9 Wednesday, November 16. The tax rate stays  
10 the same as projected at 57.42 mills so  
11 there is no change from the preliminary  
12 budget that was introduced in October. The  
13 only change is the reallocation of some of  
14 the arts and culture funding that previously  
15 went to the library speakers series. This  
16 will have in place a fund to be distributed  
17 to other programs used by the Lackawanna  
18 County Library System. The final budget  
19 will be available on the county website  
20 LackawannaCounty.org for the public's review  
21 and we have an archive of all budgets going  
22 back to 2006, maybe a little bit earlier,  
23 again, available in PDF format for anybody  
24 who wants to browse and compare.

25 One key item that I will note as

1           this was brought up by Council in a previous  
2           session when I spoke, the issue of  
3           reassessment. This is currently being  
4           actively explored with an effort being lead  
5           by our County Chief of Staff, Andy Wallace.  
6           He intends to make a recommendation to the  
7           commissioners, we believe by the end of this  
8           calendar year. So it is an issue, again,  
9           that's actively being examined, explored and  
10          discussed so we will see some type of, I  
11          believe, statement, or recommendation on  
12          that within the next at this point few weeks  
13          before the end of the year. So please  
14          understand your concerns are well-founded  
15          and they are being actively considered by  
16          the commissioners and our staff. So we  
17          thank you for raising that and we know it's  
18          a subject important to everyone who is a  
19          stakeholder in the county.

20                    During some of holiday events, and I  
21                    will note some exciting changes with this  
22                    year so please stay with me. First, the  
23                    Scranton Made Holiday Marketplace, Fourth  
24                    Annual Scranton Holiday Marketplace will  
25                    take place, it opens up on Friday, December



1           2, 5:00 p.m. It's held this year in the  
2           former Globe Store on Wyoming Avenue. I  
3           know we're familiar with the Globe Store is,  
4           but for some of the younger folks, it's  
5           really an exciting opportunity, we are going  
6           to have a kickoff celebration at that time,  
7           again, Friday, December 2, 5 p.m. The  
8           Marketplace will open. There were also be  
9           some exterior decorations we have for the  
10          building. Those were purchased with the  
11          support of several local businesses who made  
12          some donations. We going to have some  
13          Christmas trees, garland and lights, they  
14          will look very similar to Globe Store of  
15          yesteryear both in terms of Christmas and  
16          holiday decorations so please come out and  
17          join us for the brief celebrations, it will  
18          be a lot of fun. The other times for the  
19          Marketplace are going to be Saturday,  
20          December 3, 11 a.m to 7 p.m., and Sunday,  
21          December 4, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. That also will  
22          force, because that's Friday night, our  
23          annual county tree lighting, which I know  
24          some of our audience members come to, will  
25          be held that Thursday evening, December 1,

1 at 6 p.m. on courthouse square. Again, a  
2 brief ceremony to light the county Christmas  
3 tree and we'll have some refreshments there  
4 and singing about a half an hour it takes so  
5 that Thursday evening 6:00 p.m., which is  
6 before the council meeting.

7 Also, the County's festival of trees  
8 opens up on Friday, December 9, 5:30 p.m.  
9 We'll have a ceremony to open it in the  
10 former BonTon annex at the Marketplace at  
11 Steamtown. Our theme for the trees this  
12 year is Scranton goes Steampunk which should  
13 produce some interesting decorations. The  
14 events open through January, 9 during normal  
15 marketplace hours. We ask any business or  
16 nonprofit group interested in decorating a  
17 tree to contact our Arts and Culture  
18 Department at 570-963-6590, extension 106.

19 Also, we will have a showing, a free  
20 showing of "It's a Wonderful Life." That's  
21 a partnership between the County and  
22 Lackawanna College. It takes place  
23 Thursday, Tuesday, December 6. There is two  
24 showings, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. It's at the  
25 People's Security Bank and Trust Theatre at

1 Lackawanna College. It's free to the  
2 public, but as we go into our second year of  
3 doing the County's annual food drive we will  
4 accept canned goods or non-perishable food  
5 items as a donation.

6 Also, last, but not least, of the  
7 holiday events the Lackawanna Heritage  
8 Valley Santa train will go from Carbondale  
9 down through the valley and stopping at  
10 Steamtown National Historic Site for it's  
11 final stop of the day on Saturday, December  
12 3, at 3:00 p.m. at the Steamtown Stop. For  
13 several years this stop in the parking lot  
14 next to the State Office building. It was  
15 fun then, the last two years it stopped at  
16 Steamtown and comes right into the  
17 roundhouse table. Really fun day. Last  
18 year there were several thousand people  
19 there and hope to see you again. Really a  
20 nice way to end the santa train run right  
21 tin the heart of downtown.

22 And last, but not least, the World  
23 Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Accident  
24 Victims, remembering anyone who was killed,  
25 injured or on their way to responding to

1 help somebody who was in a traffic accident  
2 will be remembered at a candlelight vigil  
3 Sunday, November 20, at 5 p.m. on courthouse  
4 square.

5 So that's all we have. Lots coming  
6 up for Christmas and the holidays. I hope  
7 you will join us for some of them when you  
8 can and we'll keep you posted on the budget  
9 and anything that is related to the  
10 reassessment. Thank you.

11 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you very much.  
12 Ron Ellman.

13 MR. ELLMAN: Hello, Council. I get  
14 any kind of award for not bothering you for  
15 a month?

16 MR. GAUGHAN: Joe was mentioning  
17 that we are going to give you a  
18 proclamation.

19 MR. ELLMAN: Can I get five minutes  
20 for each time I didn't show up?

21 MR. WECHSLER: You want to go for  
22 another week?

23 MR. ELLMAN: What if I bring an  
24 excuse from my doctor? Didn't work.  
25 Quickly, I won't waste too much -- in

1 Tuesday's paper Kathleen Bolus heaps praises  
2 upon Lackawanna College for taking another  
3 \$950,000 off of property off the tax rolls.  
4 Evidently, she just lives in a bubble or non  
5 in Scranton. She doesn't think somebody has  
6 got to make this up. She's just full of  
7 glee that they are buying stuff left and  
8 right and taking property from us. When are  
9 you going to do something about it these  
10 phony businesses that are making all of this  
11 money? No my answer. There's something got  
12 to be done. It's sucking the city dry for  
13 God's sake.

14 About a month ago there was another  
15 article about the rebirth of Cedar Avenue by  
16 all of the developers and real estate  
17 companies. I don't know if any of you all  
18 remember there was a big article in the  
19 Times. What this article didn't mention  
20 that a crime is so bad that many businesses  
21 close around seven. What it didn't mention,  
22 I'm going to read a quick list. These are  
23 all addresses on Cedar Avenue that haven't  
24 paid taxes. These are real estate and  
25 developers. Are you listening? Michael

1 Truss, 315 Cedar Avenue. They owe \$5,000. D  
2 & D Reality 417, they have their name, it's  
3 all over the city for not paying taxes.  
4 It's a half dozen times in the paper. They  
5 owe \$2,100 on just one property. AP Youth  
6 Sell-a-Lot, they owe \$1,800. Thomas  
7 Thatchery Reality, their name is in the  
8 paper and a dozen times for properties not  
9 paying taxes. On one property on Cedar they  
10 owe \$11,000. That's when everybody in the  
11 newspapers praise you. Cedar Avenue  
12 Associates 509 they owe 11,000. 501 Cedar,  
13 LLC., \$20,000. This is what the paper  
14 thinks we are so proud of. They are not  
15 paying taxes. What the -- the city is going  
16 to pot and nobody seems to do something  
17 about it. Whoever heard of people like  
18 this? James Talerico, his name is all over  
19 the paper for dozens of property, he owes  
20 7,100. Maeve Gantz, \$3,000. Paul Boss,  
21 \$7,000. Dave Clooney, \$3,700. Now listen  
22 to this one, Passwood Manor, which is a  
23 going business, they are making money, they  
24 owe \$53,000, and there is others. That's  
25 not fair to the people that are paying that

1           borrowed money and so forth to pay their  
2           taxes and allow this to go on by these  
3           businesses.

4                       I can understand. I have talked to  
5           so many people that just can't make it that  
6           we've discussed, but these are business  
7           people they are living off of us. Why  
8           should they get away with it? You know,  
9           there is one business Scranton Investors,  
10          LLC, they owe \$484,000 to the city. Now,  
11          who the hell ever heard of allowing this to  
12          go on year after year after year? That in  
13          2005 is the time I paid my taxes twice the  
14          city was so messed up and I never got  
15          nothing accomplished about it. Here people  
16          go for years, years and years and don't pay  
17          taxes, and you people sit there and not  
18          doing nothing. There's got to be something  
19          you can do, attach the property. Look at  
20          Boscov's, he got a whole business down  
21          there, why don't you attack someone and get  
22          some money for us.

23                       MR. WECHSLER: Thank you,  
24           Mr. Ellman.

25                       MR. ELLMAN: I'm not chastising you

1 or the mayor. I once said that I really  
2 thought that this should be a full-time  
3 occupation up there. I'm not mad at guys,  
4 it's just time you quit talking about  
5 downtown and the mall and do something for  
6 the people of the city. Thank you.

7 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr.  
8 Ellman. Anyone else?

9 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,  
10 citizen of Scranton, fellow Scrantonians.  
11 I, too, am glad that it's going to be no tax  
12 increase, but we all know why that dollar  
13 you got from selling that multi-million  
14 dollar garage put us over the top. We don't  
15 need a tax increase with that dollar we got,  
16 and the money we gave away, millions and  
17 millions of dollars, well, don't worry about  
18 that either. That's the thing to do, but  
19 next year somebody is going to come and say  
20 we need the tax increase, and I'm going to  
21 ask where is the \$120 million you gave when  
22 you gave away the parking business? We lost  
23 that. We lost all of the parking meter  
24 revenue and all of the fines. And what did  
25 that guy do? How do we even know that he



1 with the best one for this contract? Who  
2 was he the best for? Himself? The Mayor?  
3 Who? But not for the citizens of Scranton.  
4 No way in heck was it good for the citizens  
5 of Scranton, and you tell me why you should  
6 have paid off the mall, given 4 1/2 million  
7 for parking spaces. You've got to be  
8 kidding. I tell you there should be an  
9 investigation of this whole deal. Why there  
10 is none, I don't know. How PEL can sit  
11 there and say it was a great deal, if they  
12 even said it. I read a little article from  
13 PEL in the paper, I can't believe it. Is it  
14 so bad. Is the city, state, and government  
15 so bad that we allow things like this to  
16 happen? The deal was great for the person  
17 that leased the parking meters. He didn't  
18 have to put up a penny. We even gave him  
19 the money to do it in the form of a lease.  
20 He borrowed on this lease. That means we  
21 are responsible if he for some reason or  
22 other go bankrupt, default or whatever, the  
23 city is on the hook for 40 years to maintain  
24 them garages, maintain the parking over  
25 there in the mall, but the only garage

1           that's really going to make a bundle is the  
2           one we sold for a dollar because it's going  
3           to deal with the County and I am waiting for  
4           that shoe to fall to see how much the county  
5           is going to pay because there was nothing  
6           wrong with that garage. There was only a  
7           few things that had to be done, and the  
8           worst part about it the first half of that  
9           garage, or the last half I should say, was  
10          built at the same time as the mall, but yet  
11          we figured the mall spaces for some reason  
12          were in better shape than the spaces over  
13          the movie theatre. I can't comprehend it.  
14          I don't know who was the engineer that told  
15          you that that place was worthless? Is there  
16          a name of that engineer that declared that  
17          whole garage as being in danger of falling  
18          down? That garage was making over \$300,000.  
19          Did they shut the garage down now? Is the  
20          garage still open? Believe me, it probably  
21          is. I don't know how you can sleep at night  
22          with what you did.

23                   MR. WECHSLER: Anyone else?

24                   MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening,  
25                   Council. Marie Schumacher. First, the real

1 estate report as of today, 1,726 properties  
2 have been transacted in Lackawanna County  
3 since mid-March. Of these 22 percent have  
4 been Scranton properties of which 47 percent  
5 actual sale price was below the common level  
6 ratio.

7 Yesterday, the county passed the  
8 2017 budget without any funding for  
9 reassessment. What action does this council  
10 plan to take and by when?

11 MR. EVANS: You want an answer now?

12 MS. SCHUMACHER: Crickets.

13 MR. EVANS: No, I told you many  
14 times I would expect the City if they don't  
15 do the reassessment --

16 MS. SCHUMACHER: I'm sorry, somebody  
17 coughed, I couldn't hear you.

18 MR. EVAN: If they don't do a  
19 reassessment soon I'm looking at 2017 then  
20 we should take them to Court. I have said  
21 that over and over again.

22 MS. SCHUMACHER: And when is this  
23 going to happen?

24 MR. EVAN: Well, I want it to happen  
25 in 2017. We can't wait any longer so that's

1 my expectation.

2 MS. SCHUMACHER: Do you have a month  
3 in mind?

4 MR. EVAN: We don't have the ability  
5 to take them to Court. It has to be done by  
6 the administration, but that is something I  
7 want to see happen.

8 MS. SCHUMACHER: How are you going  
9 to make that known to the administration?

10 MR. EVANS: They know.

11 MS. SCHUMACHER: I don't know. The  
12 credibility of this whole council is going  
13 down the tubes. Many months ago, for  
14 instance, we were told that we would have  
15 the audit available to the public by the end  
16 of September, and then more recently it was  
17 before the budget, and now you have the  
18 budget in hand, but we don't have an audit.  
19 The criticality of the debt portion it could  
20 only be obtained from an audit and it's just  
21 pitiful the way you keep telling us lies.

22 MR. WECHSLER: Mrs. Schumacher, they  
23 are not lies. They are what we are told by  
24 the business administrator so I would please  
25 ask you not to call it a lie. That's what

1 we were told by the business administrator.

2 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay, I will call  
3 the business administrator the fibber then.

4 MR. WECHSLER: Well, it's not a lie.

5 MS. SCHUMACHER: Many months ago,  
6 also, we had something called a revised  
7 recovery plan and one of the things in there  
8 said unless otherwise provided for in an  
9 overall debt management strategy prior to  
10 December 30, 2015, which did not occur,  
11 proceeds from the sale of the Scranton  
12 Parking authority shall first be used to  
13 reduce the outstanding Scranton Parking  
14 Authority indebtedness. Any excess funds of  
15 the funds from the parking monetization  
16 after satisfaction of debt shall be used to  
17 reduce the City's unfunded liability for its  
18 pension funds. How much is gone into the  
19 pension from the sale of the release or  
20 whatever you want to call it?

21 MR. EVANS: There was no excess  
22 funds, there was stranded debt so I think  
23 they were wishing against something else  
24 that happened, but it was stranded debt not  
25 excess money.

1 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. Now, I again  
2 was disappointed, I thought we are going to  
3 see a reduction in the trash bill. I have a  
4 lot of things on trash which I'm not sure  
5 I'm not going to get to this week because it  
6 appears that, just if I could find the right  
7 paper, Forbes has been doing a lot on trash  
8 and it says the economic of recycling have  
9 turned upside down. The oil gut has made  
10 fresh plastics cheaper than the recycled  
11 stuff and there is lot -- some communities  
12 across the country have even stopped  
13 collecting glass because it costs too much  
14 and when he goes to the landfill it doesn't  
15 pollute, it doesn't do anything except sit  
16 there, and there are a lot of things and I  
17 thought we were going to have somebody here  
18 from the recycling department that could  
19 maybe answer some of these questions, but I  
20 don't know what happened to that either.

21 Mr. Wechsler, you attended the  
22 meeting of the parking --

23 MR. WECHSLER: I'm on the board.

24 MS. SCHUMACHER: Yeah, okay, you're  
25 on the board, so one of the things I would

1           like to know is how much was in that budget  
2           for the contribution to Daniel Marsh? If  
3           you look at the 990 of the parent  
4           organization he gets -- and the last one was  
5           2014, he gets a salary from the organization  
6           of over 255,000 and he also gets money from  
7           all of the deals that are made, and how is  
8           he getting from the Scranton deal?

9                       MR. WECHSLER: I'm not sure, but  
10           there is going to be a public meeting on  
11           December 5. December 5 at 6 p.m. there will  
12           be a public meeting which is going to be  
13           held by the Scranton Parking Authority which  
14           would be attended by members of the ABM and  
15           NDC.

16                      MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. Got lots  
17           more. See you in two weeks.

18                      MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening, Council.  
19           Dave Dobrzyn, resident and taxpayer. Once  
20           again, call Congress, your Congressmen, both  
21           Senators and Representatives, 1-202-224-3121  
22           and tell them to can their Transpacific  
23           pack, and the president at 1-202-456-111 and  
24           tell Mr. Obama that it's about time that  
25           somebody other than the Democrat puts their

1 name on NAFTA and the Chinese trade packs  
2 and whatever else. We constantly hear  
3 about, oh, it's mechanized now and robotic,  
4 well, if the US government gives out huge  
5 tax cuts for investment in robots even  
6 though it eliminates people then on top of  
7 it how much can working class take? We  
8 heard about the salaries of probably the  
9 salaries that were aforementioned in  
10 Scranton might even have dual employed  
11 people in the household, so it all gets  
12 funneled into one basket. Sounds good, but  
13 if you really knew the facts of it sounds  
14 bad.

15 And trash once again came up  
16 tonight, apparently they had off Monday with  
17 DPW so everything is moved up a day, and  
18 recycling came up and, you know, we have a  
19 man in New York, the magnate of  
20 broadcasting, he wants a soda tax, why don't  
21 we put a five cent a bottle on everything  
22 and if somebody is against it financially  
23 you could run around and pick up 20 bottles  
24 you have a dollar, you know? And all of  
25 this liter that's, like, you ever see you



1           have probably see it every couple of weeks  
2           they clean up on Moosic Street there or at  
3           the top of River Street by 81, and everybody  
4           throws their bottle out of the car window  
5           and it's a mess. So, you know, it's some  
6           food for thought instead of telling people  
7           what they should drink and what they  
8           shouldn't drink.

9                         Now, getting to the pensions, there  
10           is lot of it over the dam and the sale of  
11           the sewer plant has been cited as a solution  
12           and, okay, it's practically a done deal so  
13           I'm not going to bother there, but call  
14           Congress once again at those numbers and  
15           tell them not, not to repeal the  
16           (unintelligible) was repealed and we got  
17           ripped off for \$26 million dollars out of  
18           the police and fire pension fund and we  
19           can't have \$90 million being ripped off  
20           again. It's ungodly. Why you would want to  
21           give these people the ability to steal that  
22           money off from under you after we got  
23           through all of this.

24                         I see our friends from the union are  
25           here and, you know, they shouldn't be able

1 to lock anybody out, but they are right, a  
2 technical job if you can't read a book how  
3 do you get a job? And education should not  
4 be -- or testing should not be withheld.  
5 There should be -- there should be -- you  
6 should have the ability to take the test on  
7 a timely basis for whatever field you want  
8 to work in in order to attain the license  
9 and authorization to do this work.

10 A lot of people stop me on the  
11 shopping malls and stuff and they mention  
12 about school tax and the one thing that I  
13 feel the public has to understand, I'm just  
14 using this as a forum, if only people that  
15 pay taxes were to get -- if it were only  
16 people with kids in school it would be  
17 tuition, it wouldn't be a tax, and it  
18 probably would be unaffordable so that's the  
19 way it is and it kind of stinks that it's in  
20 the form of a property tax, but we really  
21 can't go the other way. All right. Well,  
22 thank you and have a good night.

23 MR. WECHSLER: Anyone else?

24 MR. MCNULTY: Good evening, Council.  
25 My name is Tom McNulty, resident of the city

1 and I'm representative for the National  
2 Contractor's Association. First of all, I  
3 want to thank you guys for having that open  
4 caucus on this ordinance proposal. I think  
5 it's pretty clear coming out of that caucus  
6 that obviously there is a lot of confusion  
7 about what should or shouldn't and what  
8 people believe is in there and what's not in  
9 there, okay? So obviously you want to make  
10 sure that we get the proper language when it  
11 is revisited.

12 There is a couple of things that  
13 Mr. Hinton said that I'd like to expand on,  
14 if I may. Number one, years ago, and I was  
15 a contractor for many, many years in the  
16 city, there was an ability to pull a  
17 one-time license to do a project. Now, I  
18 don't know if that still is in effect. I  
19 don't know, but that should be something  
20 that's explored, but if you remember just a  
21 couple of months ago, maybe six months ago,  
22 they built a Popeye's restaurant down in  
23 South Side; right? Well, none of those  
24 contractors were local contractors. None of  
25 them. So how did they get the permits to do

1           it? So I don't know if you are into a  
2           selected -- you know, I don't know what's  
3           happening there but obviously something has  
4           to be looked at it.

5                         But I do believe that Mr. Hinton is  
6           right. We are not here to prohibit anybody  
7           from working. You know, if an individual  
8           can pass a test, pass the electrical test  
9           then he is qualified to do the work. We are  
10          not trying to push anybody out. I have a  
11          real problem when it's said -- let me just  
12          explain something else on this Uniform Code  
13          Act. The reason the Uniform Code Act never  
14          addressed licensing, okay, never addressing  
15          licensing is because it was never passed.  
16          That's exactly what happened. For 28 years  
17          I have been with this association and we  
18          have been trying to get state licensing, and  
19          we can't even get it out of the committee.  
20          If they put any kind of licensing  
21          requirements in that bill that would have  
22          never happened, and it's a good bill.

23                         There is -- there is too many times  
24          I have walked into buildings and homes and I  
25          can't believe what I see, so I think it's

1 the right thing to do. I think it's the  
2 right course to take, but in all honestly  
3 safety doesn't begin with the Uniform Code  
4 Act, safety begins with me, the contractor.  
5 That's where it begins. So that contractor  
6 you have to feel comfortable with that  
7 contractor when he goes into the home that  
8 he can do the work, that he has capable men  
9 to do the work so that's the other thing I  
10 want to address.

11 The other thing is the City of  
12 Allentown, the City of Bethlehem, the City  
13 of Harrisburg, all of those are under the  
14 Uniform Code Act, none of those took the  
15 licensing requirements out. None of them  
16 took that testing out. Not one of them. So  
17 that's tells you something.

18 And then the other thing Mr. Hinton,  
19 you know, is talking about, he says we can  
20 go to Dunmore and we can go to Old Forge or  
21 we can go to Throop and we can do electrical  
22 work and he is right. He is absolutely  
23 correct, but let me just explain to you, let  
24 me just read something to you, this is out  
25 of the Dunmore application for licensing for



1 is, okay? That's covering somebody's you  
2 know what. All right? So let's not fool  
3 around with the testing requirement, let's  
4 make sure there is a test there, okay? I  
5 know personally almost every one of you guys  
6 and I know where your heart is and your  
7 heart is with city. This is not something  
8 you want to do. This is not something that  
9 we should ever do. Keep that testing in  
10 there, I beg you, please. Thank you very  
11 much.

12 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. McNulty, before  
13 you leave the podium -- Joe Wechsler.

14 MR. MCNULTY: I'm sorry.

15 MR. WECHSLER: Is there a city that  
16 you would consider that has the model  
17 ordinance?

18 MR. MCNULTY: Yes, if you can take a  
19 look at Bethlehem, not too long ago  
20 Bethlehem has -- you know, a couple of years  
21 back they did their licensing requirements  
22 and stuff like that, they do have a  
23 residential. They do have a residential,  
24 you know, license and they have a, you know,  
25 commercial license, master license. You

1           could look at some of those cities, they  
2           already have the language, it's already  
3           there, okay? But that test for every one of  
4           those licenses is required and that's what  
5           you want to make sure, you know?

6                         There is a difference between wiring  
7           a home and wiring a commercial building,  
8           okay, or wiring a hospital. I did  
9           hospitals. I did schools. I didn't do a  
10          lot of home work. That's wasn't my  
11          expertise. That was left to other guys.  
12          The non-union contractors, by the way,  
13          nonunion contractors to this city, they do a  
14          majority of the residential work. They do.  
15          And that state licensing bill, by the way,  
16          is we are together on that, the union and  
17          the non-union are together on that. That  
18          would simplify everything. That would take  
19          you guys right out of this process.  
20          Unfortunately, you can't control what the  
21          state will approve, but be careful what you  
22          could here.

23                         MR. WECHSLER: Do they use private  
24          testing services in Bethlehem?

25                         MR. MCNULTY: Yes. Yes, they do,



1           okay, but I'm not sure if they provide a  
2           true -- that company, you know those  
3           companies that they talked about, I have to  
4           tell you something I personally have called  
5           those companies and I don't get a return  
6           call and so something is wrong in that  
7           system and it has to be investigated. Thank  
8           you.

9                         MR. EVANS: Tom, before you go.

10                        MR. MCNULTY: Yeah.

11                        MR. EVAN: You talked about at the  
12           meeting earlier about the testing and that's  
13           basically what we're all talking about  
14           right, is a residential test appropriate.

15                        MR. MCNULTY: For a journeymen?

16                        MR. EVANS: Yeah.

17                        MR. MCNULTY: I think for a  
18           journeyman that has spent four or five years  
19           obviously work in the trade. Yes, if he  
20           could pass that residential test no harm, no  
21           foul. That's the way I look at that, but he  
22           has got to be able to show he can do it.  
23           You know, a lot of times when I would go on  
24           a job I would tell me guys, listen, here's  
25           what I want you to do, four circuits over

1 here, three over here, two over there. I  
2 knew what I wanted. I knew what I could do  
3 by the code, okay? Not that they were --  
4 these individuals were very intelligent,  
5 very smart, but they are not looking at the  
6 code every day. They are not looking at the  
7 National Electrical Code every day, so it's  
8 up to me. It's my responsibility to make  
9 sure that I laid out job the proper way so  
10 that's what you have, okay?

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Mr. McNulty, just to  
12 answer your question.

13 MR. MCNULTY: Yeah.

14 MR. GAUGHAN: The ordinance does  
15 address you can get a one-time license in  
16 the city.

17 MR. MCNULTY: It does.

18 MR. GAUGHAN: Yeah. For a fee of  
19 \$400 and all you have to have is a valid  
20 contractor's license equivalent to that the  
21 city issued by another municipality to the  
22 applicant. If not from another  
23 municipality, proof of experience in said  
24 field. Experience shall meet the minimum  
25 requirements for a journeyman as defined in

1           this ordinance.

2                   MR. MCNULTY: Well, if that language  
3           is still there then I don't see the problem  
4           where this Whitney guy came in and wanted to  
5           know, you know, can I work here. It's just  
6           not real.

7                   MR. GAUGHAN: And just for the  
8           record, too, I requested all of these  
9           licenses that have apparently been denied  
10          and they can't produce them because as  
11          Mr. Hinton said, he doesn't keep any record  
12          of it so, you know, that's one thing that I  
13          challenge is if he can get a one-time  
14          license how are all of these big contractors  
15          getting denied. It doesn't make sense.

16                  MR. MCNULTY: There is something  
17          else that -- and I think Paul will probably  
18          expand on it, but currently right now in the  
19          City of Scranton there is 100 contractors  
20          carrying a license in the City of Scranton.  
21          Now, you are telling me that's not a good  
22          size pool? There is something wrong with  
23          that, okay? So thank you very much for your  
24          time, appreciate it.

25                  MR. WECHSLER: Anyone else?

1 MR. CASPARO: Thank you,  
2 Mr. President. Paul Casparo, President of  
3 Local 81 IBEW, International Brotherhood of  
4 Electrical Workers, taxpayer. We spoke on  
5 this last week, we don't want to beat this  
6 thing to death, but I do have couple of  
7 comments, Attorney Minora talked about it  
8 before and Tommy just talked about it, there  
9 is state licensing all around us, we are one  
10 of the few states in the whole country that  
11 doesn't have state licensing, and as Tommy  
12 said that would clean up a lot of this. Why  
13 Pennsylvania doesn't have state licensing I  
14 don't know. Our business manager, Rick  
15 Schraeder, who spoke last week but couldn't  
16 be here tonight because he is out of town on  
17 business, him and a group of businessmen  
18 from Pennsylvania have legislation in  
19 Harrisburg to get state licensing. I'm not  
20 sure where it's at right now, they're  
21 confident that it will get in there and it  
22 will get passed and, you know, that will  
23 take this mess out of all our hands here,  
24 and we are long, long overdue in  
25 Pennsylvania for that.



1           cycles so they can be on '08 or a 2005, so  
2           you tell me is that safety or what? Because  
3           there is thousands of changes every code  
4           cycle. I sit on National Electrical Code so  
5           every three years that's updated, and just  
6           this past year, in fact, 2017, the code book  
7           isn't out yet, but it's too early to put in  
8           place here, but there is thousands and  
9           thousand of changes. And how do those  
10          changes get in there? They get in there  
11          through documentation. Fires. Deaths.  
12          People getting killed doing electrical work.  
13          That's how they get in there. It's tough.  
14          Very tough to get anything passed in the  
15          electrical code, but what does get in there  
16          is those statistics.

17                    Just two nights ago there was a fire  
18                    two blocks from my house in North Scranton,  
19                    what was the cause of that fire?  
20                    Electrical. Case closed. I don't want to  
21                    prolong this anymore and, you know, we know  
22                    what we need to do. Tommy is right, if we  
23                    can get this testing in there, you know, do  
24                    we want to really lose unqualified people  
25                    doing this work? I know I won't hire

1           anybody, I wouldn't go to a doctor  
2           that wasn't qualified, I'm sure you  
3           wouldn't, so I'm sure we will do the right  
4           thing and I thank you for your time.

5                   MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

6                   MR. WECHSLER: Anyone else?

7                   MR. REILLY: Excuse me, I'm Josh  
8           Reilly, I'm a resident. I'm a taxpaying  
9           citizen and I'm also a master electrician.  
10          I'm a contractor, I'm non-union. As much as  
11          he may be union we have no problems. I  
12          absolutely agree. I think testing is  
13          essential. I think that us being currently  
14          in the 2008 Code book is indicative and  
15          proof of no growth at all and at the same  
16          time I want to make it crystal clear that I  
17          have a videotape, the words that come out of  
18          his mouth saying that nobody had applied for  
19          Mr. Bannon's position in the City of  
20          Scranton because I did. I personally put  
21          that application in as a licensed  
22          contractor, as a licensed individual who has  
23          never had problem, I personally put it in. I  
24          handed it RH. I called back week after week  
25          with no response. I reached out to Mr.

1 Hinton with no response. I want that to be  
2 crystal clear and on the books that I did my  
3 part to try to fill that position and I was  
4 told specifically by the staff inside of his  
5 own office that they were not hiring this  
6 year for that position and that that  
7 position had been eliminated. That came  
8 from both HR and his office.

9 I have a lot of respect for  
10 Mr. Marino. I would like to consider myself  
11 a friend. I respect him. I think he does  
12 well and very good job. I have nothing  
13 against his organization, but I haven't had  
14 a chance to review any of what their  
15 ordinance or what they are trying to set in  
16 place, but I don't -- I find it very hard to  
17 believe that with those same 200  
18 applications that he can't have proof for,  
19 I'm sure mine also vanished, so I have  
20 little to no truth I don't think came out of  
21 that entire meeting and that's it. Thank  
22 you.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

24 MR. WECHSLER: Anyone else?

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



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MOTIONS.

MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Perry?

MR. PERRY: Wow, where to start. A big day, a lot of information. Well, I'm just going to start with the public caucus that we had with Director Hinton and Mr. Marino. I felt it was a very, very effective public caucus. There was a lot of information that we received. A lot of the questions that we asked that was followed up with three gentlemen here at the podium, some repeat speakers on this legislation, some not, but yeah, I'm optimistic that with the information that we have that we are going to be able to find common ground, middle ground whether we have to reform this legislation but let's put something crystal clear as far as I'm concerned, testing is an absolute must for anybody who is going to receive a license to work in the City of Scranton. That's the only way that this passes for me personally, and I was clear on that last time in March. Safety is first. Easy and competition is great and it's a great concept and it what's we're all about,

1 but not at the cost of safety at all. Even  
2 if no one gets hurt in an electrical fire,  
3 we are still sending first responders out  
4 and there is danger in that as well. So I  
5 personally will not have any part of that,  
6 but I do think there is enough information  
7 that we received here tonight to get  
8 together and get common ground, clean up  
9 some bad legislation to make it easier. At  
10 that same time, make it absolutely as safe  
11 as possible. I'll address other questions  
12 or other comments on that as it comes up.

13 Third party administrator for the  
14 pensions came up today, and please forgive  
15 me, I don't know have accurate numbers, but  
16 I know it does involve the disability  
17 claims, and again, these are rough numbers  
18 because it was several months ago. The city  
19 average of disability claims were 50  
20 percent. 50 percent of them got approved.  
21 The national average is in the single  
22 digits. That is absolute huge amounts that  
23 is not being overseen, I believe, so that's  
24 what I thought the TPA was a very integral  
25 part of that deal. I was concerned it was

1 taking a very long time to get that in  
2 place, but once that third party  
3 administrator is in place as in charge of  
4 disability claims I expect that number to  
5 drop drastically. 50 percent city average  
6 to the single digit national average on  
7 disability claims.

8 Let's talk a little bit about the  
9 budget. We're going to be introducing the  
10 2017 budget tonight. It's my first go  
11 around on the budget and I know I'll just  
12 talk all the credit for being the lucky  
13 charm. The no tax increase on that is  
14 absolutely ecstatic. One of the reasons why  
15 I went out and I went to get into public  
16 office was because of the possibility of me  
17 having to downsize. I would never move out  
18 of the city, this is my home, thee is where  
19 I live, but I didn't know if I could afford  
20 my house anymore with some of the crazy tax  
21 hikes that were happening in the city and  
22 I'm very happy now to say that there is not  
23 going to be -- or potentially not going to  
24 be any tax increases based on this budget in  
25 here that's in front of us. This could

1           actually help us see our way out of Act 47  
2           sooner rather than later, and you couple  
3           that with the growth that we are seeing  
4           currently on Penn Avenue with new businesses  
5           coming in, and the business owners will tell  
6           you we are coming downtown because that's  
7           where the people are. If you are getting  
8           people moving outside of the city to inside  
9           of the city there is a reason for that and  
10          they know that that's where the people are,  
11          and you couple that with the rebirth of the  
12          Scranton Lace, you know, that's going to  
13          draw not only the jobs, as a speaker said,  
14          we definitely need jobs. Jobs are what make  
15          the world go round. Job brings income,  
16          income brings homeowners, homeowners bring  
17          community and we all want to live in a good  
18          community so that's the bedrock is jobs and  
19          I do agree with that.

20                    You know, there is going to be tough  
21                    times in the city. There is going to be  
22                    tough times ahead of us, a lot of things  
23                    that we are going to have to face. I'll  
24                    tell you right now that I believe that we  
25                    are in better position today to face those

1 tough decisions than we were three years  
2 ago, four years ago, even last year. We are  
3 making some strides.

4 Finally, next week is Thanksgiving,  
5 we won't be here, but spend your time like I  
6 will with your family, friends and enjoy  
7 your holiday. Thank you.

8 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr. Perry.  
9 Mr. Rogan?

10 MR. ROGAN: Yes, I guess I'll pick  
11 up where Mr. Perry left off regarding the  
12 budget since I think everyone was very happy  
13 to hear that there had not be a tax increase  
14 in this year's budget, and it really  
15 represents a turning point for the city over  
16 the last decade where every year there have  
17 been increases. I have long stated that one  
18 of the biggest hindrances to the city's  
19 throat is our tax structure, not only real  
20 estate taxes but the wage tax, fees, which  
21 we have talked about quite a bit tonight  
22 regarding contractors, and many other items  
23 within the city that really have restricted  
24 our growth. My hope is that this budget is  
25 a turning point for the city. We have seen,

1 as I stated for decades, increases. And no  
2 tax increases is very good, but even better  
3 than that is a tax cut, and I'm hopeful that  
4 this budget and many of the initiatives that  
5 have taken place over the last year will  
6 lead us towards reducing taxes for the  
7 residents of Scranton.

8 A couple of other items that were  
9 brought up tonight, the issue of the  
10 subpoenas was brought up again. I know  
11 Attorney Minora will be filing next Tuesday  
12 at the Court to subpoena those documents  
13 regarding the double pensions scandal. I am  
14 very anxious to get those documents and to  
15 look them over. I hope that we -- first, I  
16 hope that we do receive the documents, we'll  
17 see there may be some legal wrangling, but  
18 I'm confident, we have an excellent attorney  
19 in Attorney Minora, I'm sure will do a great  
20 job representing our case for us.

21 A little bit more good news,  
22 obviously the budget is the big story, but  
23 another business is moving into town. The  
24 AV, which is a very popular restaurant in  
25 Moosic has chose to move into downtown

1           Scranton. And I would have a tally, but I  
2           could say over the last year there have been  
3           a number of businesses that have been  
4           relocating from out of town into downtown  
5           Scranton. That is something that is very  
6           good for the city and for years many of us  
7           have talked about growth, and that's the  
8           only way to have long-term sustained  
9           recovery in the city is to grow, have more  
10          people move into the city, and the first  
11          time homebuyers grant Mr. Evans and myself  
12          put together for a \$5,000 grant to bring  
13          people in. We need more residents in the  
14          city and we need more businesses, but the  
15          amount of the progress the city has made  
16          over the last few years has been tremendous.  
17          We do have a long way to go, but we are  
18          certainly on the right track.

19                   And, finally, actually on the  
20          contractor legislation, I think it's -- I  
21          think we all agree that we may be a little  
22          more confused after the caucus than we were  
23          prior, I know I am, but I do think there is  
24          middle ground that can be reached here from  
25          what Mr. Hinton said from what many of the

1 contractors that are here said, and I think  
2 we very, very close. It just sounds like it  
3 might be one or two items that need be added  
4 or subjected in this ordinance to make  
5 everyone happy. Personally I would like,  
6 and as I stated last time around, I did  
7 support the original legislation which I'm  
8 confident we are not passing in this form,  
9 so there has to be a middle ground that's  
10 met her. Personally I would like to see  
11 more licensed contractors in the city,  
12 especially on the residential side. I have  
13 heard of so many times from people  
14 throughout the city, many times seniors that  
15 they can't find somebody to do the work  
16 especially a small job when, you know, they  
17 can't find somebody that wants to go out and  
18 do that, you know, very minor job, but it  
19 needs to be done. So I'm hopeful that we  
20 can come up with something that keeps the  
21 safety, keeps the -- you know, the items  
22 that need to be -- boxes that need to be  
23 checked as far as testing goes, and at the  
24 same time allow more people if they need the  
25 qualifications to do work within the City of



1 Scranton.

2 And I was upset, you know, hearing  
3 about the fact that there are people out  
4 there that want to do business in the city  
5 but can't because testing hasn't been  
6 offered, and that's something that certainly  
7 needs to be addressed whether it's a third  
8 party testing service I think would probably  
9 make the most sense or some other type of  
10 arrangement, but anyone who meets the  
11 qualifications should be able to take the  
12 test, and if you pass the test then you  
13 could do work in the city then make it your  
14 home so that's why I think we are -- the  
15 five of us on here and I think Mr. Hinton  
16 can certainly come to an agreement on some  
17 -- I really they are probably going to be  
18 minor modifications, like I said, it sounds  
19 like we are pretty close so I hope that  
20 something can be agreed to that works for  
21 everybody.

22 And finally, I would like to wish  
23 everyone a very happy Thanksgiving and we  
24 will see you in a couple of weeks.

25 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you.

1 Mr. Evans?

2 MR. EVANS: Thank you. On the  
3 contractor's license, I feel better tonight,  
4 I think we are on the path to consensus and  
5 compromise. I think we are going to be able  
6 to get that done.

7 On the budget, we will all be  
8 reviewing it in-depth over the next several  
9 weeks, but for now we know the main story is  
10 no tax increase for 2017. Is this cause for  
11 celebration? Maybe for about five minutes  
12 and then we have to get back to work. You  
13 need to remember the impact on our city that  
14 a dramatic increase in property taxes have  
15 taken that has stymied growth, reduced  
16 property taxes and values -- not taxes for  
17 sure, but values, and hurt those that are  
18 the most vulnerable, our working poor and  
19 our senior citizens. We need to make sure  
20 that this scenario never happens again. We  
21 need find new ways to increase growth,  
22 increase property values and help those that  
23 need it the most help. It must begin within  
24 the walls of this building. We need to  
25 create a new culture of entrepreneurship.

1 We need to make systemic changes that are  
2 needed to become an efficient government  
3 that deliver services in a cost effective  
4 manner and on time. We need to create a  
5 vision for economic development and not  
6 continue to repeat mistakes of the past  
7 while maintaining the status quo.

8 On a related matter, as far as the  
9 budget is concerned and proceeds of the  
10 Sewer Authority, I am clearly on the record  
11 in favor of paying down or paying off high  
12 interest and long-term debt. I would  
13 withhold any contributions to the pensions  
14 until all of the current reforms are in  
15 place and are working, until the third party  
16 administrator is hired and in place and  
17 working, and additional pension reforms take  
18 place.

19 Finally, I would like to Honor our  
20 former council president Bob McGoff tonight  
21 by saying a few words. This Saturday,  
22 November 19, is the first anniversary of  
23 Bob's passing. The following are his words  
24 of the subject that sadly too many of us  
25 have come to know all too well.

1                   "Just one thing I would like to  
2                   mention, I would just like to say that I  
3                   know all of us have been effected in some  
4                   ways by this insidious disease and I would  
5                   just encourage anyone that knows someone who  
6                   is fighting this or dealing with treatment  
7                   involved with cancer to be a friend. One of  
8                   the things that happens to cancer patients  
9                   and those under treatment, depression is a  
10                  very significant aspect of it and I believe,  
11                  and believe it or not, simply sitting down  
12                  and talking with people, going and watching  
13                  a television show, bringing dinner and  
14                  having something to eat with them goes a  
15                  long way to helping people deal with that.  
16                  And I would just encourage that if you know  
17                  someone please be a friend and be part of  
18                  the helping process."

19                  These words are wisdom and sincerity  
20                  by someone who understood the importance of  
21                  even the smallest actions. Someone who  
22                  always created respect are worth mentioning  
23                  again in his honor. Thank you.

24                  MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr. Evans.  
25                  Mr. Gaughan?

1 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. I'd like  
2 to thank Mr. Evans for that. I can't  
3 believe that it's been a little over a year  
4 since Mr. McGoff was sitting up here with  
5 us. He is someone who is truly  
6 irreplaceable and if you look at the long  
7 list of councilmen that we have had in our  
8 illustrious history as a city he is one of  
9 the finest. He was a friend, we all  
10 considered him a friend, he was a great  
11 colleague, and most of all he was a  
12 gentleman, and that's how I will always  
13 remember him.

14 I'd like to start off tonight with  
15 some citizen's complaints from the past week  
16 and a half. First of all, the 300 block of  
17 Foster Street there are overgrown hedges  
18 and, Mrs. Reed, if you could send somebody  
19 over to the Licensing and Inspections  
20 Department. Also, received a complaint  
21 about a food cart on Cherry Street. We did  
22 send correspondence to our DPW Department  
23 about overgrown trees on Brook Street on  
24 East Mountain. They are very dangerous and  
25 there seems to be a lot of dead trees that

1           could be impeding traffic and pedestrian  
2           traffic. Residents had contacted me and are  
3           curious about a large area of deforestation  
4           on West Mountain so I will get together with  
5           the Licensing and Inspections Department and  
6           try to find out what's going on up there.

7                        I did see this week on the news that  
8           a hole had opened up in somebody's backyard  
9           in Schuylkill County almost swallowing their  
10          home. The Department of Environmental  
11          Protection was out almost immediately, a  
12          contractor was there this week to stabilize  
13          the home and support beams and they are  
14          currently working on filling the hole  
15          immediately. I bring this up because I  
16          would ask, once again, that Mayor Courtright  
17          settle the issue with the Young family on  
18          Wyoming Avenue and the unbelievably large  
19          hole that they have in their backyard before  
20          somebody gets hurt. And people are probably  
21          getting sick of me bringing this up, and I  
22          don't like to get personal up here, but this  
23          has become a personal issue for me, and one  
24          of the most important issues I have dealt  
25          with here from a citizen's standpoint since

1 I have been on council.

2 You have to understand when you meet  
3 with these people you sit at the kitchen  
4 table across from them, you hear their story  
5 and you see what they have to deal with.  
6 You want this to be fixed for them. I talk  
7 to them at least once a week, once every two  
8 weeks and I cannot believe that the mayor of  
9 the city and the Law Department had promised  
10 these people to fix this hole so they could  
11 at least sit outside and enjoy their yard  
12 and now they can't even get a meeting with  
13 the mayor or the Law Department and, in  
14 fact, those people in their 60's and 70's  
15 they had to hire a lawyer and sue the city.  
16 This is disgusting.

17 I am going to make it my mission to  
18 try to get this problem solved for them. My  
19 recommendation to the mayor was get rid of  
20 all of the lawyers, sit in a room across the  
21 table like that and explain what's going to  
22 happen and settle the deal. Fill the hole.  
23 I don't understand how it's gotten to this  
24 point, but you are literally ripping apart a  
25 good family in this city. So, again, I

1 would urge Mayor Courtright put politics,  
2 put everything aside, put the lawyers to  
3 rest, and fix this problem once and for all.

4 I did also receive issues about  
5 parking on Ralph Street and Greenridge, so  
6 we did send something to the Police  
7 Department and we are going to look at a  
8 traffic study in that area. The 200 block  
9 of Ferdinand Street where tires outside of a  
10 home and broken parts that's dangerous to  
11 children playing in the area.

12 Regarding the sale of the Scranton  
13 Sewer Authority, I would like to find out  
14 from Director Gene Barrett how are any  
15 delinquent accounts going to be handled with  
16 the transition of the sale?

17 Another issue that has been coming  
18 up that has me baffled is leaf pickup in the  
19 city. I know my colleagues have gotten  
20 inundated with phone cause and e-mails from  
21 people who were confused about what the  
22 process was. And ad was put in the paper  
23 that the DPW was going to ask people to bag  
24 leaves. I talked to the DPW director before  
25 the meeting tonight and come to find out





1 that leachate, in fact, has been leaking  
2 into ground water. Water monitoring wells  
3 intermittently have been picking up  
4 contamination at the landfill's leachate  
5 treatment plant for 13 years or longer with  
6 DEP officials and Keystone Sanitary landfill  
7 officials struggling until recently to  
8 identify the source and no violations issued  
9 in total this past week.

10 To say this has shaken my faith and  
11 the public's faith in the DEP is  
12 understatement. What else have they  
13 overlooked over the period of the last 13  
14 years? What else have they struggled with?  
15 Is it a coincidence that the cancer rate in  
16 this area is one of highest in the nation?  
17 Is it a coincidence that there are a high  
18 number of toxins in the air around Sherwood  
19 Park in Dunmore, and I wonder where else?  
20 I'm deeply concerned, outraged and disgusted  
21 by what has been allowed to happen to the  
22 health and welfare of the residents of this  
23 city and our region over the period of the  
24 last 50 years, probably more. It seems to  
25 me, and I'm a rookie councilman, this will be

1 my third year but I've learned a lot, that  
2 based on how much money, how much power, and  
3 how much influence you have in this area  
4 agencies and elected officials that are  
5 supposed to protect us will look the other  
6 way when it comes to regulations and the  
7 law. The offer of a monetary donation,  
8 maybe a new building, or a shiny fire truck  
9 seems to make people think twice about  
10 speaking up, telling the truth, and standing  
11 with the people and that, in my opinion, is  
12 shameful.

13 I stand firmly and strongly with the  
14 Friends of Lackawanna and the Greenridge  
15 Neighborhood Association in their fight to  
16 stop the expansion of the landfill and  
17 shutdown the leachate line that runs  
18 underneath our city. I'm, quite frankly,  
19 appalled that Mayor Courtright continues to  
20 remain silent on this issue, along with some  
21 other elected officials. The fact that he  
22 is mayor of the largest city in Northeastern  
23 Pennsylvania and in my opinion is too much  
24 of a coward to take a stand on one of the  
25 most important issues facing our city speaks

1 volumes about who he actually answers to,  
2 and it's definitely not the people of this  
3 city. Thank you.

4 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you,  
5 Mr. Gaughan. It's been long evening so I  
6 will just touch briefly on some of the  
7 issues that came upon us this evening.  
8 Number one, in regards to the budget we have  
9 received a budget, we are quite happy that  
10 there is no tax increase, and to be honest  
11 with you there could not be a tax increase.  
12 We are at the point of tax -- the highest  
13 taxes that we can have. There can never  
14 been any significant tax increases again.  
15 In my opinion, over the past three years we  
16 have taken the tax rate to where it should  
17 have been for all of the years that there  
18 weren't tax increases, and I think right now  
19 we are at the point where we begin to  
20 gradually work with our budget and control  
21 our costs that is at least in line with  
22 inflation, so I think as we move forward I  
23 think we are in a better place.

24 Also, from speaking to Business  
25 Administrator Bulzoni, the fact that our

1 financial house is getting in order and the  
2 budget is in place we also had a better  
3 reception to our application for the TAN,  
4 tax anticipation note, for next year and it  
5 is my understand that that will be done  
6 quite soon at a much better rate than we  
7 experienced in the past, so all these steps  
8 that we have been taking in terms of getting  
9 our financial house in order are beginning  
10 to pay off. We are going to go through the  
11 budget again, we are going to take a look at  
12 where perhaps there are some savings,  
13 perhaps there are some better efficiencies  
14 in the budget, but we will be doing that  
15 over course of the next couple of weeks.

16 In terms of the contractor's  
17 legislation, it's taken us a long time to  
18 get to this point. Last year we went  
19 through it, it wasn't satisfactory to us,  
20 Director Hinton had worked on it and we also  
21 continued to look at it and also work with  
22 the community of the men and women that do  
23 this work. And I think, as my colleagues  
24 have said, I think we are very close to  
25 coming to a point where we have satisfied

1           our concerns for safety, our concerns that  
2           work is done by qualified people, and  
3           Scranton also becomes a better place to do  
4           business so I think we are very close to  
5           that right now, and I appreciate the  
6           comments that we have gotten from the  
7           public. I also appreciate the work that  
8           Mr. Hinton has done, and also I appreciate  
9           the work that my fellow councilmen have done  
10          trying to get this issue resolved. I think  
11          we are in a much better place with that.

12                   I echo what Mr. Rogan mentioned, I  
13          did sign off on the paperwork this week to  
14          submit our request for a subpoena. Attorney  
15          Minora is working on that and that is in the  
16          process right now so there is many different  
17          roads of that request we can down so we'll  
18          see how it plays out as we go along.

19                   A couple of other issues that have  
20          been in front of council the last few weeks,  
21          we did attempt to contact Director Gallagher  
22          in regards to the Merrifield Avenue problem.  
23          We are requesting information with regards  
24          to what would it take to scope out the storm  
25          water line on Merrifield Avenue and also

1 take a look at getting an estimate on what  
2 costs would be to fix it so we are pursuing  
3 that and we haven't heard anything back yet.

4 We also are waiting to hear a  
5 response back from Sewer Authority Director  
6 Barrett in regards to the monitoring that  
7 should be taking place upon the Monahan  
8 library, so we are all on record as being  
9 opposed to that line, but while it's there  
10 it does have to be properly monitored and we  
11 want to make sure that this is happening.

12 As Mr. Perry mentioned, we have  
13 receive updates from Mr. Hazzouri on the  
14 paving issues, and just to touch on a couple  
15 of real quick, Mr. Rogan had mentioned that  
16 Mr. Hazzouri had told us that -- this was an  
17 e-mail dated yesterday, November 16, that  
18 Mr. Hazzouri said that the water company  
19 project in West Side will be begin today,  
20 that's on Sumner Avenue and on Filmore and  
21 Lincoln. I also received some calls from  
22 people over on Cameron Avenue, their road  
23 had just been paved and now it's being dug  
24 up again. Unfortunately, under that road  
25 there were several gas leaks that were

1 required to be torn up so from talking to  
2 residents there and also from talking to  
3 representatives from the utilities next year  
4 when we do paving we will have to try and do  
5 a better job on coordinating paving with the  
6 city and paving by the utilities. This year  
7 was the first attempt at doing that, we had  
8 some positive results, but we had some  
9 negative results, also. I'm optimistic that  
10 if we can work together we should be able to  
11 get a plan together to result in a new plan.

12 And just one last thing I would like  
13 to touch on, myself, Mrs. Novembrino and  
14 Mayor Courtright are members of the Board of  
15 Directors for the new parking board. As  
16 such, it's a seven-member board, there are  
17 four members that are from the company  
18 representatives and the three of us.

19 For the first time in my three years  
20 on council the Scranton Times did a  
21 disservice to this council, I shouldn't say  
22 the council, to the members of -- to Mrs.  
23 Novembrino and myself and to Mayor  
24 Courtright. The story online had a sidebar  
25 that detailed the information that Attorney



1 Shrive requested that the press be allowed  
2 into the meeting. I had sent an e-mail  
3 earlier in the week that the press be  
4 allowed into the meeting. I requested that  
5 the press be allowed in the meeting the day  
6 of the meeting. Mr. Lockwood was in  
7 Roseanne Novembrino's office when the  
8 meeting began. Mrs. Novembrino has asked if  
9 Mr. Lockwood could stay at the meeting and  
10 that request was rejected. Unfortunately,  
11 this is a private company and as such they  
12 are not subject to the Sunshine laws. I  
13 will continue to try to request again the  
14 press at the meetings every time we have  
15 them but, unfortunately, we only have three  
16 votes, but as the meeting went on we  
17 continued to pressure the board just as for  
18 the act of convenience Mrs. Novembrino, the  
19 mayor and myself we agreed to funnel our  
20 comments or questions through Todd Johns who  
21 was the solicitor of the Parking Authority,  
22 so we can all get information directly, so I  
23 believe it was soon after the meeting  
24 concluded around noontime -- I'm sorry,  
25 concluded around 1:00, I believe Mr. Johns

1 got the information to Mr. Lockwood later in  
2 the day, but I do believe that the editorial  
3 saying that we are against transparency is  
4 absolutely incorrect. This council, myself,  
5 and my colleagues I think we are very  
6 transparent, and like I said, it's the very  
7 first time that on council I think the Times  
8 did a disservice. That's all I have.

9 MS. REED: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
10 -AN ORDINANCE - APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE  
11 EXPENSES OF THE CITY GOVERNMENT FOR THE  
12 PERIOD COMMENCING ON THE FIRST DAY OF  
13 JANUARY, 2017 TO AND INCLUDING DECEMBER 31,  
14 2017 BY THE ADOPTION OF THE GENERAL CITY  
15 OPERATING BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2017.

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

19 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

20 MR. EVANS: Second.

21 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

22 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.  
23 I'd first like to say that I appreciate the  
24 work that Mayor Courtright and his  
25 administration, particularly the Business

1 Administrator's Office put into crafting the  
2 2017 budget. I realize after being on  
3 council for almost three years that this is  
4 not an easy task and I thank them for their  
5 effort. I am still reviewing, along with my  
6 colleagues, the 2017 budget and I will  
7 continue to do so over the next week.

8           However, let me offer a different,  
9 maybe more cautious perspective on this  
10 budget. At first glance it seems to me  
11 again that Mayor Courtright is fixated on  
12 increasing salaries almost across the board  
13 for city employees and adding more positions  
14 to the budget. In the budget narrative, the  
15 mayor says, and I quote, "That the  
16 percentages of salary increases may be  
17 modified in future budgets if inflation and  
18 cost of living levels increase."

19           I have to ask when the last time the  
20 city taxpayer has had a cost of living  
21 increase? I also have to ask when is the  
22 last time the taxpayer has received a raise?  
23 I also have to wonder if we are not seeing a  
24 tax increase this year because there happens  
25 to be a mayoral election quickly

1           approaching. Many people are relieved we  
2           will not see an increase in the taxes this  
3           year, and I understand that and I agree, but  
4           I'm not ready to celebrate just yet. I'd  
5           like to know if there will be a tax increase  
6           in 2018 and what the projections are, if  
7           possible, for the next five years? I'm also  
8           seriously concerned, and I think this is  
9           going to be one of the biggest issues that  
10          we face that I think people are showing a  
11          lack of really regard for that we are  
12          banking on the proceeds from the sale of the  
13          Sewer Authority without first knowing how  
14          much storm water management will cost us. I  
15          believe, as I said, in the newspaper that we  
16          should put any proceeds from the sale in an  
17          escrow account until we know for sure how  
18          much it will cost us to manage our storm  
19          water system. This is going to be a huge  
20          multi-million dollar undertaking that will  
21          cost the taxpayers of this city. How much  
22          will the equipment cost? What about the  
23          manpower? How are we going to handle lakes  
24          and costs and the employees that we'll  
25          probably have to hire? Who will clean the

1 system on day one and are we equipped to do  
2 that? We need to remind the mayor that this  
3 is not his money, it is the ratepayers'  
4 money. They have invested their hard earned  
5 tax dollars into the Sewer Authority for a  
6 long time. This is not his personal piggy  
7 bank. Allowing this deal to go through  
8 without first knowing the cost of storm  
9 water management, in my opinion, is simply  
10 fiscally irresponsible.

11 I would also like to know after  
12 months of asking for this information how  
13 much we have saved in total from the mayor's  
14 renegotiated police and fire contracts that  
15 take us out to 2021. It is now been nearly  
16 a full year and I think it's time that we  
17 see the exact impact. I did ask and I  
18 finally received an answer on what is going  
19 on with the third party administrator for  
20 the police and fire pensions. The director  
21 of human resources had sent a correspondence  
22 that was hand delivered today of saying that  
23 they are not at a point where they even have  
24 a request for proposal ready to release.  
25 You know, I have to wonder what is the

1 holdup? Keep in mind that the agreement was  
2 finalized back in March and the mayor had  
3 said that the police and fire would have  
4 their pensions managed by a third party  
5 administrator having a neutral doctor  
6 determine disability pensions. I was  
7 surprised to see that in the firefighters'  
8 pension meeting minutes from October 12,  
9 2016, a work-related disability pension was  
10 granted. Attorney Durkin stated that his  
11 opinion is that the Pension Board is under  
12 provisions of the old system where the board  
13 still picks the physician. The new system  
14 has not been finalized by the city and the  
15 fire union. This is, quite frankly,  
16 unbelievable. Why is it taking this long?  
17 I do remember the mayor saying pack in March  
18 and at other points over the past few months  
19 that everyone is going to feel the pain over  
20 the next few years with our budget problems,  
21 and really I don't think this has been  
22 completely true.

23 In my overview of the budget so far  
24 I'm also deeply concerned about the drastic  
25 rise in health care costs. 13.92 percent

1 for the police department, 12 percent for  
2 the clerical union, 34 percent for the  
3 Public Works Department, and 5.2 percent for  
4 the Fire Department. What is the effect of  
5 this going to be on the budget and future  
6 budgets?

7 These are just some of my concerns  
8 and I don't think that we should entertain  
9 passing this budget until we have answers to  
10 these important questions and all of our  
11 questions. Over the next weeks, I'll be  
12 posing numerous questions to the  
13 administration regarding this budget and I  
14 hope that I will receive answers. Thank  
15 you.

16 MR. WECHSLER: Anyone else?  
17 Following up with Mr. Gaughan's comments, I  
18 would just like all of us to realize that  
19 this is going to be a partnership between  
20 city council and the mayor on the proceeds  
21 of the Sewer Authority. Mr. Evans attends  
22 weekly meetings as our representative with  
23 the Pennsylvania Economy League, and there  
24 has been some just broad discussions on the  
25 best way to spend the proceeds from the

1 Sewer Authority, so as far as I know, as far  
2 as I'm concerned there is nothing settled  
3 yet in terms of where the money has -- where  
4 the proceeds are going to go. I'm sure  
5 there will be a temptation to spend the  
6 money on a private -- we haven't had money  
7 for quite awhile, but we have to have the  
8 discipline and the -- just the fortitude to  
9 do the right thing with this money when it  
10 comes in, and it will be a combination of  
11 the decision and recommendation from the  
12 mayor and also the recommendations from the  
13 five of us as how we see that money to be  
14 spent, so the main thing is get the deal  
15 complete and then work on how best to handle  
16 the proceeds.

17 The storm water management issue is  
18 going to be an issue whether the Sewer  
19 authority is sold or isn't sold. Somewhere  
20 down the line there is going to need to be a  
21 major creation of some type of authority,  
22 some types of bonds are going to have to be  
23 issued and I don't -- I don't see to be able  
24 to pay for the improvement from the storm  
25 water management system spending all of the



1 money that comes from the sale of the Sewer  
2 Authority. There is going to have to be  
3 some type of investment from that, but I  
4 think we also are going to have see a  
5 creation of some type of authority and also  
6 some bonds generated to pay for that  
7 improvement.

8 So the introduction of budget  
9 tonight is the first step, as you said. It  
10 does have to be reviewed and I believe it is  
11 open to amendment, we can make amendments as  
12 we see required, and we will make it a  
13 living document. Now, the Pennsylvania  
14 Economy League has weighed in on it, it is  
15 an accordance with the recovery plan, and as  
16 Mr. Rogan stated, I think as we move along  
17 this year it should be a good step towards  
18 us finally getting out of Act 47. I look  
19 forward to the challenge of doing what's  
20 right with the budget and also with the  
21 proceeds of the Sewer Authority.

22 MR. ROGAN: I wasn't going to bring  
23 up the Sewer Authority, but since I think  
24 everyone has chimed in on it, I firmly  
25 believe that the Sewer Authority proceeds

1           need to be -- we can't put all of our eggs  
2           in one basket when it comes to the sewer  
3           Authority proceeds. I know there are some  
4           out there that think we should use it all  
5           for debt repayment or all for pension to  
6           help the pension funds, but the best way to  
7           use it, in my opinion, the best way to use  
8           this money, is a measured approach across  
9           all of these categories. You know, I do  
10          believe firmly that the pensions need to be  
11          shored up. I think we can all agree to  
12          that. Even more so a big portion of the tax  
13          bill the residents of the Scranton are  
14          paying is not for -- to operate the city.  
15          It's for debt that's been levied for the  
16          last 10, 20, 30 years, that we are paying  
17          off. Much of that debt if it's retired will  
18          actually result in a tax decrease for the  
19          residents and that's something I think is  
20          very important moving into 2018. If we can  
21          retire a couple of the pieces of this city  
22          debt and reduce that millage I think the  
23          residents of Scranton will be very happy to  
24          see the tax bill go in the opposite  
25          direction which is down, and that's the

1 direction we need to get that tax bill  
2 moving.

3 I would also like to say the  
4 recovery plan was brought up, I have to get  
5 the mayor a lot of credit this I believe one  
6 of the first times that the recovery plan  
7 that was crafted has pretty much been  
8 followed. I know Councilman Wechsler  
9 mentioned, the Pennsylvania Economy League  
10 can sign off on this year's budget, but many  
11 of these very large initiatives that when  
12 this recovery plan was presented many people  
13 didn't think they could be accomplished,  
14 especially the parking deal that was done  
15 and now the sewer deal. These are massive  
16 deals and they take, as you see, they take  
17 not only months but years to put together  
18 and I'm glad to see that for the most part  
19 many of the items in the recovery plan,  
20 especially the largest ones, have been  
21 followed.

22 There's still a lot of work to do  
23 there is no question, but many of the key  
24 items are being hit and I think we need to  
25 keep working our way down that list.

1 MR. WECHSLER: All those in favor of  
2 introduction signify by saying aye.

3 MR. PERRY: Aye.

4 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

5 MR. EVANS: Aye.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

9 MS. REED: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION - A  
10 RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER  
11 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND  
12 ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH TALLEY PETROLEUM  
13 ENTERPRISES, INC. TO PROVIDE 80,000 GALLONS  
14 (MORE OR LESS) LOW SULFUR DIESEL FUEL TO THE  
15 CITY OF SCRANTON DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
16 FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2017 THROUGH  
17 DECEMBER 31, 2017.

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

21 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

22 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

1 MR. PERRY: Aye.

2 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

3 MR. EVANS: Aye.

4 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

7 MS. REED: 5-D. FOR INTRODUCTION - A  
8 RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER  
9 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND  
10 ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH DENAPLES TOWING,  
11 INC. TO PROVIDE TOWING SERVICES FOR CITY  
12 OWNED VEHICLES FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1,  
13 2017 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2017.

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

17 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

18 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

22 MR. PERRY: Aye.

23 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

24 MR. EVANS: Aye.

25 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

3 MS. REED: 5-E. FOR INTRODUCTION - A  
4 RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER  
5 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND  
6 ENTER INTO AN AMENDMENT TO AN AGREEMENT  
7 BETWEEN TYLER TECHNOLOGIES, INC. ("TYLER")  
8 AND LACKAWANNA COUNTY 911 ("CLIENT") TO ADD  
9 THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO THE AGREEMENT AS AN  
10 AUTHORIZED AFFILIATED AGENCY.

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

14 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

15 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

19 MR. PERRY: Aye.

20 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

21 MR. EVANS: Aye.

22 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

25 MS. REED: 5-F. FOR INTRODUCTION -

1           A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND  
2           OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE  
3           AND ENTER INTO A GOVERNMENT OBLIGATION  
4           CONTRACT BETWEEN MUNICIPAL LEASING  
5           CONSULTANTS, LLC (OBLIGEE) AND THE CITY OF  
6           SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA (OBLIGOR) FOR THE  
7           PURCHASE OF POLICE RECORDS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM  
8           FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT.

9           MR. WECHSLER: At this time, I'll  
10          entertain a motion that Item 5-F be  
11          introduced into its proper committee.

12          MR. ROGAN: So moved.

13          MR. EVANS: Second.

14          MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

15          MR. PERRY: Yes, on the question.

16          So this is the police record management  
17          system. It is going to be a tool used by  
18          the Scranton Police in company with the  
19          county to process records right in the  
20          vehicle at the time without having to log on  
21          go anywhere else. I'll have more details  
22          after a sit down discussion interview with  
23          Chief Graziano -- I'm sorry, with Chief  
24          Graziano later this week, so when we resume  
25          on December 1 I'll have more information on

1 the police record management system.

2 MR. WECHSLER: All those in favor of  
3 introduction signify by saying aye.

4 MR. PERRY: Aye.

5 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

6 MR. EVANS: Aye.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

8 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The  
9 ayes have it and so moved.

10 MS. REED: 5-G. FOR INTRODUCTION - A  
11 RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF THE  
12 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS OF THE CITY OF  
13 SCRANTON TO SIGN AND SUBMIT THE PENNSYLVANIA  
14 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION ("PENNDOT")  
15 APPLICATIONS FOR TRAFFIC SIGNAL APPROVAL FOR  
16 THE INSTALLATION AND/OR MODIFICATION OF THE  
17 EXISTING TRAFFIC SIGNALS AT THE  
18 INTERSECTIONS LISTED BELOW AS PART OF A  
19 PENNDOT ROADWAY CONSTRUCTION PROJECT.

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

23 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

24 MR. EVANS: Second.

25 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?



1 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, very briefly  
2 because I did get some interest from  
3 citizens about some of these intersections,  
4 and I'll be very brief, I just want to run  
5 through where they are going to be working  
6 on these traffic signals. South Main Avenue  
7 and Eynon Street. South Main Avenue and  
8 Luzerne Street. South Main Avenue and  
9 Washburn Street. North Main Avenue and  
10 Jackson Street. North Main Avenue and West  
11 Lackawanna Avenue. North Main Avenue and  
12 West Linden Street and Swetland Street.  
13 North Main Avenue and Oram Street. North  
14 Main Avenue and Congressman Joseph McDade  
15 Expressway, and North Main avenue and  
16 Providence Road and Wood Street. Thank you.

17 MR. WECHSLER: All those in favor of  
18 introduction signify by saying aye.

19 MR. PERRY: Aye.

20 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

21 MR. EVANS: Aye.

22 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

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

1 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.  
2 63, 2016 - AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF  
3 THE COUNCIL NO. 155, 1999 AN ORDINANCE  
4 ENTITLED "PROVIDING FOR THE LICENSING AND  
5 REGULATING OF CONTRACTORS DOING BUSINESS IN  
6 THE CITY OF SCRANTON INCLUDING REQUIREMENTS  
7 FOR THE GRANTING OF PERMITS AND FEES FOR  
8 SAME; PROVIDING PENALTIES AND RIGHTS OF  
9 APPEAL" BY ADDING AND DELETING DEFINITIONS,  
10 UPDATING THE DEPARTMENT NAME AND DIRECTOR'S  
11 TITLE, UPDATING APPLICATION FORMS, THE  
12 REQUIREMENTS FOR CONTRACTORS LICENSE,  
13 LICENSE FEES, ISSUANCE OF PERMITS,  
14 CONFORMANCE TO CODE, REVOCATION, SUSPENSION,  
15 DENIAL, PROHIBITED ACTS, STOP WORK,  
16 CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY AND TEMPORARY  
17 CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY, PERMIT FEES,  
18 INSPECTIONS, FINES FOR VIOLATIONS AND  
19 APPEALS PROCEDURE AND DELETION OF SECTIONS  
20 17 AND 22 IN THEIR ENTIRETY.

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

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

25 MR. EVANS: Second.

1 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

2 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.  
3 Again, I'm going to beat this issue to death  
4 because I spoke on it pretty extensively  
5 last week, but again, this comes down to an  
6 issue of safety, more importantly common  
7 sense. I don't know how at this point we  
8 can come to an agreement with someone who  
9 sat there as Mr. Hinton did and blatantly  
10 lied to this council, as Mr. Reilly came up  
11 and here explained to us about the hiring of  
12 an electrical and plumbing inspector, and I  
13 think he discredited much of what Mr. Hinton  
14 had said. As one of my colleagues  
15 mentioned, to say that we were utterly and  
16 thoroughly confused and more confused after  
17 the caucus is an understatement. I am in  
18 general very troubled by the way that the  
19 office is run of Licensing and Inspections,  
20 very troubled that when you ask pointed  
21 questions it seems to be confusion, a state  
22 of confusion.

23 So, again, I'm troubled by the way  
24 that the department is run. I'm troubled by  
25 the way this ordinance even came down to us

1 if you think back that a year ago, the main  
2 issue and why three of us voted against it  
3 was the testing so what does Mr. Hinton and  
4 Mayor Courtright and his administration do?  
5 They send us down the ordinance with the  
6 same language in it so what do they expect?  
7 I mean, I don't know where the lack of,  
8 again, it goes back to a lack of  
9 communication and a disregard for this  
10 council and the public and their safety, so  
11 I'll be voting no. I hope that we can come  
12 to some sort of agreement, but I do question  
13 much of what Mr. Hinton had said tonight.  
14 Thank you.

15 MR. WECHSLER: All those in favor  
16 signify by saying aye.

17 MR. PERRY: Aye.

18 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

19 MR. EVANS: Aye.

20 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed?

21 MR. GAUGHAN: No.

22 MR. WECHSLER: The ayes have it and  
23 so moved.

24 MS. REED: 6-B. READING BY TITLE -  
25 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 64, 2016 - AN

1           ORDINANCE - CREATING AND ESTABLISHING  
2           SPECIAL CITY ESCROW ACCOUNT NO. 02.229621  
3           ENTITLED "WM. SCRANTON CHARITABLE TRUST" TO  
4           ACCEPT FUNDS TO BE RECEIVED FROM THE WILLIAM  
5           AND MARY SCRANTON CHARITABLE REMAINDER TRUST  
6           STATEMENT (CRUT) FOR "TREES, SHRUBS AND  
7           FLOWERS IN HONOR OF MARY L. SCRANTON".

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

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

12                   MR. EVANS: Second.

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

15                   MR. PERRY: Aye.

16                   MR. ROGAN: Aye.

17                   MR. EVANS: Aye.

18                   MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

19                   MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The  
20           eyes have it and so moved.

21                   MS. REED: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR  
22           CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE -  
23           FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 62,  
24           2016 - SALE OF TAX DELINQUENT PROPERTY MORE  
25           COMMONLY KNOWN AS 2316 JACKSON STREET,

1 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18504, TAX MAP NO.  
2 14412-050-018 TO FRANK BOYLAN, 2314 JACKSON  
3 STREET, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18504, FOR  
4 THE CONSIDERATION OF \$2,000.00.

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

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

11 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

14 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Perry.

15 MR. PERRY: Yes.

16 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

17 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

18 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Evans.

19 MR. EVANS: Yes.

20 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan.

21 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

22 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler.

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

1 MS. REED: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION  
2 BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE - FOR ADOPTION -  
3 RESOLUTION NO. 83, 2016 - AUTHORIZING THE  
4 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS  
5 TO APPLY FOR AND EXECUTE A GRANT APPLICATION  
6 FOR COMMUNITY NEEDS AND CRITICAL NEEDS GRANT  
7 THROUGH THE SCRANTON AREA FOUNDATION IN THE  
8 AMOUNT OF \$18,375.00. THIS FUNDING WOULD BE  
9 USED FOR THE CASH MATCH REQUIREMENT FOR THE  
10 NATIONAL RESOURCE NETWORK ENGAGEMENT AND  
11 ADVISORY SERVICES TO DEVELOP A FRAMEWORK FOR  
12 ECONOMIC RECOVERY, DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION  
13 AND LONG-TERM COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE CITY  
14 AND ITS STAKEHOLDERS.

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

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

21 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

24 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Perry.

25 MR. PERRY: Yes.

1 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

2 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

3 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Evans.

4 MR. EVANS: Yes.

5 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

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

11 MS. REED: 7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION  
12 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION -  
13 RESOLUTION NO. 84, 2016 - AUTHORIZING THE  
14 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS  
15 TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO AN ASSIGNMENT AND  
16 ASSUMPTION AGREEMENT BY AND AMONG THE CITY  
17 OF SCRANTON ("CITY"), THE SEWER AUTHORITY OF  
18 THE CITY OF SCRANTON ("SSA"), LACKAWANNA  
19 COUNTY("COUNTY"), LACKAWANNA RIVER BASIN  
20 SEWER AUTHORITY ("LRBSA"), MOOSIC BOROUGH  
21 ("BOROUGH") AND THE PENNSYLVANIA-AMERICAN  
22 WATER COMPANY ("PAWC") IN ORDER FOR THE SSA  
23 TO TRANSFER AND ASSIGN ALL RIGHTS AND  
24 RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THE WASTE WATER  
25 SERVICE AGREEMENT TO PAWC UPON CLOSING OF



1 THE TRANSACTION AND DISSOLUTION OF THE SSA.

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

5 MR. ROGAN: Second.

6 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

7 Roll call, please?

8 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Perry.

9 MR. PERRY: Yes.

10 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

11 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

12 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Evans.

13 MR. EVANS: Yes.

14 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan.

15 MR. GAUGHAN: No.

16 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler.

17 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby

18 declare Item 7-C legally and lawfully  
19 adopted.

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

22 MR. ROGAN: Motion to adjourn.

23 MR. WECHSLER: 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