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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Thursday, November 20, 2014

LOCATION:

Council Chambers
Scranton City Hall
340 North Washington Avenue
Scranton, Pennsylvania

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

ROBERT MCGOFF, PRESIDENT

PATRICK ROGAN, VICE-PRESIDENT

WAYNE EVANS

JOSEPH WECHSLER

WILLIAM GAUGHAN

LORI REED, CITY CLERK

KATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

AMIL MINORA, SOLICITOR

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

3 MR. MCGOFF: Roll call, please.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

5 MR. WECHSLER: Here.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

7 MR. ROGAN: Here.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

9 MR. EVANS: Here.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Here.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

13 MR. MCGOFF: Here. Dispense with
14 the reading of the minutes, and other people
15 have been waiting patiently. During our
16 caucus we were supposed to just have a
17 discussion on the legislation on the loan to
18 Steamtown Mall Partners, I think it's 7-E on
19 the agenda, and so we will suspend the rules
20 and representatives from OECD, Attorney
21 Hickey, Linda Aebli and Mary Maroon are here
22 representing OECD.

23 MR. HICKEY: Good evening, Council.
24 Maybe I could have one of the scouts come up
25 and actually explain this to you, they will

1 probably do a better job than I would. But,
2 no, 7-E on your agenda is a refinance of a
3 Section 180 loan that the city actually
4 loaned to Steamtown Mall Partners back in
5 2003. That loan became due and payable in
6 2013 in July and the City, as council
7 recalls, the Mall had actually entered into
8 a modification agreement with the city
9 sometime in 2009 or 2010 where the city was
10 actually making the payments on that loan up
11 until it's maturity date in 2013.

12 Obviously, the mall went into foreclosure
13 and as a result of the foreclosure sale due
14 to the city's lien position being behind the
15 primary lenders the lien of approximately
16 \$37 million the city could not collect on
17 that loan. As a result of that, the city
18 under the 108 program is required as a
19 guarantor to pay back that loan to HUD.

20 You may recall that we were here I
21 would say maybe six or seven months ago on a
22 substantial amendment we did to our action
23 plan in the amount of \$613,000 and that was
24 likewise to alleviate an issue with a
25 defaulted loan from the mall. In that case,

1 you remember HUD came in and literally just
2 withdrew the funds right out of our CDBG
3 allotment unbeknownst to the city at the
4 time and once we found out there was
5 basically nothing the city could have done
6 to alleviate that problem.

7 Well, this time the city through
8 Linda and Mary and the mayor actually met
9 with Senator Casey and his staff and some
10 others and they were able to get HUD to
11 agree to extend the term of the remaining
12 balance on the loan. The current
13 outstanding balance is \$1,865,000. That
14 should have been due and payable immediately
15 by the city. HUD has agreed to provide the
16 city to refinance that for an additional
17 ten-year term with payments of principle
18 anywhere from 140 to 160 thousand dollars a
19 year from 2016 through 2024. The interest
20 rate on that loan is very variable, it
21 fluctuates between 5.3 percent and 5.7
22 percent over that term. What it did is
23 doesn't impact our action plans to that
24 significant extent of the full value of the
25 loan immediately and lets us actually

1 program it in over time.

2 I know that were some questions why
3 hasn't the city gone after the mall, with
4 respect to that, it's because the city
5 doesn't have the security interest against
6 anyone to collect on it. That wasn't part
7 of the loan back in 2003, and that's why the
8 city has not undertaken efforts to try to
9 recoup that money from Steamtown Mall
10 Partners.

11 We have been in communication with
12 Mr. Boscov, and I know Councilman McGoff has
13 touched on the subject of Mr. Boscov
14 agreeing to make the city whole on his
15 108's. He has again indicated he is ready,
16 willing and able to do that and the Office
17 of Economic and Community Development is
18 going to be following up with him and his
19 attorney Scott Esterbrook to make sure that
20 happens. Again, it's not enforceable, this
21 is strictly Mr. Boscov saying he will make
22 good, but we are going to use our best
23 efforts to see that through and try to
24 recoup those funds for reprogramming in
25 future years. I don't know if council has

1 any questions on the refinance?
 2 MR. ROGAN: Just one comment and one
 3 question, I would like to thank you,
 4 Attorney Hickey and Ms. Aebli for explaining
 5 this to us, we had a conversation last week
 6 and the way you explained it puts it in
 7 perspective that it's not an issue,
 8 although, it stems from an issue of
 9 nonpayment it's not an issue that the city
 10 can get out of paying.
 11 MR. HICKEY: Right.
 12 MR. ROGAN: And just to put it in
 13 laymen's terms, and correct me if I'm wrong,
 14 so instead of paying out \$1.8 million out of
 15 our CDBG allotment in a single year, which
 16 would cripple our programming for paving,
 17 demolition of hazardous structures,
 18 neighborhood police officers and the many
 19 other programs that we do this will spread
 20 it out over time so we can have those
 21 programs continuing through those years and
 22 not have to take a big hit next year.
 23 MR. HICKEY: That's correct. And
 24 again, if Mr. Boscov makes good on his
 25 promise it won't have any impact on our

1 future action plan here so that's what he
 2 are hopeful for and we're going to move
 3 towards that direction.
 4 MR. ROGAN: Thank you.
 5 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else questions?
 6 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. McGoff, I'd just
 7 like to make a comment, this is one of these
 8 things that we talk about that things are
 9 going on all the time in the city and
 10 although it doesn't look like anything is
 11 happening this is a significant savings to
 12 our funding, and I'd like to thank the
 13 efforts of the administration and also I'd
 14 like to thank the efforts of Senator Casey
 15 for taking this -- reducing this burden from
 16 us and perhaps if Mr. Boscov pays his bill
 17 it will be relieved. Thanks.
 18 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else? Again, I
 19 do apologize for the lateness of the meeting
 20 beginning and the caucus, but it was
 21 necessary to complete the public hearing.
 22 If there is nothing else from OECD, thank
 23 you for your commentary and your explanation
 24 of Item 7-E.
 25 MS. AEBLI: You're welcome.

1 MR. HICKEY: Very good. Appreciate
 2 your time, gentlemen. Have a good night.
 3 MS. REED: THIRD ORDER. 3-A.
 4 MINUTES OF THE SCRANTON POLICE PENSION
 5 COMMISSION
 6 MEETINGS HELD SEPTEMBER 24 AND OCTOBER 22,
 7 2014.
 8 MR. MCGOFF: Are there any comments?
 9 If not, received and filed.
 10 MS. REED: 3-B. MINUTES OF THE
 11 NON-UNIFORM MUNICIPAL PENSION MEETING
 12 HELD OCTOBER 22, 2014.
 13 MR. MCGOFF: Are there any comments?
 14 If not, received and filed.
 15 MS. REED: 3-C. MINUTES OF THE
 16 COMPOSITE PENSION BOARD MEETING
 17 HELD OCTOBER 22, 2014.
 18 MR. MCGOFF: Are there any comments?
 19 If not, received and filed.
 20 MS. REED: 3-D. MINUTES OF THE
 21 REGULAR MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF SCRANTON
 22 HOUSING AUTHORITY HELD OCTOBER 6, 2014.
 23 MR. MCGOFF: Are there any comments?
 24 If not, received and filed.
 25 MS. REED: 3-E. TAX ASSESSOR'S

1 RESULTS REPORT FOR HEARING DATE HELD OCTOBER
 2 29, 2014.
 3 MR. MCGOFF: Are there any comments?
 4 If not, received and filed.
 5 MS. REED: 3-F. AUDIT STATUS REPORT
 6 FROM ROBERT ROSSI & CO. RECEIVED NOVEMBER 6,
 7 2014.
 8 MR. MCGOFF: Are there any comments?
 9 If not, received and filed.
 10 MS. REED: 3-G. AGENDA FOR THE
 11 NON-UNIFORM MUNICIPAL PENSION MEETING HELD
 12 NOVEMBER 12, 2014.
 13 MR. MCGOFF: Are there any comments?
 14 If not, received and filed.
 15 MS. REED: 3-H. AGENDA FOR THE CITY
 16 PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING HELD NOVEMBER
 17 19, 2014.
 18 MR. MCGOFF: Are there any comments?
 19 If not, received and filed.
 20 MS. REED: 3-I. MINUTES OF THE
 21 FIREFIGHTERS' PENSION COMMISSION MEETING
 22 HELD OCTOBER 22, 2014.
 23 MR. MCGOFF: Are there any comments?
 24 If not, received and filed.
 25 MS. REED: 3-J. CONTROLLER'S REPORT

1 FOR THE MONTH ENDING OCTOBER 31, 2014.
 2 MR. MCGOFF: Are there any comments?
 3 If not, received and filed.
 4 Are there any announcements from
 5 council?
 6 MR. ROGAN: I have a few. This one
 7 is a repeat, but I just wanted to announce
 8 it one last time. This years coat and
 9 school uniform drive benefiting Scranton
 10 School District students is wrapping up but
 11 there is still time to drop off a donation.
 12 If you would like to help out our students
 13 please drop off gently used coats and
 14 uniforms at either Kost Tire in West
 15 Scranton or at State Rep Marty Flynn's
 16 Office also in West Scranton.
 17 Next, Buona Pizza will be holding a
 18 free Thanksgiving day dinner from 12 to 2 at
 19 Buona's on Lackawanna Avenue. Delivery is
 20 available for those without transportation
 21 by calling Buona's at 570-342-4032, and we
 22 definitely want to thank Giovanni Piccolino
 23 for his generosity and for continuing the
 24 Thanksgiving Day dinner, and I see Mr. Bolus
 25 is here and I know he hosts the Christmas

1 Day dinner every year and we thank him as
 2 well.
 3 And finally, on November 28 at 5
 4 p.m. will be the lighting ceremony at Nay
 5 Aug when the lights will open up for the
 6 public. I know that's a very popular
 7 attraction. And that is all. Thank you.
 8 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else? A couple
 9 of things, first of all, this Saturday,
 10 November 22, at 9 a.m. in the downtown will
 11 be the 22nd annual santa parade. You can go
 12 on the internet it's at santaparade.net for
 13 the details, but that's this Saturday,
 14 November 22, 9 a.m. Just expect road
 15 closures between 9 and 11 a.m. that morning
 16 at Penn and Wyoming Avenue, Spruce to Linden
 17 Street and the 400 block of Lackawanna
 18 Avenue. We need to get santa through the
 19 city without delay.
 20 Next Thursday is Thanksgiving, there
 21 will be no meeting. City hall is closed on
 22 Thursday the 27th and Friday the 28th,
 23 however, DPW and refuse pickup will take
 24 place on Friday and Saturday of the week and
 25 also the blue container recycling will take

1 place so the only day that they will not be
 2 collecting is Thursday, Thanksgiving Day.
 3 Also, as far as the agenda is
 4 concerned, there will be a motion in Seventh
 5 Order to bring the SAPA plan back for final
 6 reading, and also, because of making that
 7 announcement if anyone wishes to address
 8 SAPA please do so during the public comment
 9 period. There be will no additional comment
 10 period in Seventh Order.
 11 Someone expressed a concern that the
 12 city website, there was a problem with the
 13 city website, the IT Department was working
 14 on the city's website last night and
 15 hopefully any glitches in that website will
 16 be rectified.
 17 And last, since we won't be here
 18 next Thursday, I would like to announce that
 19 Saturday, November 29, is small business
 20 Saturday in downtown Scranton. Please
 21 support local business and local small
 22 business. It is the lifeblood of many
 23 communities. Small businesses and the
 24 privately owned businesses need your
 25 support. Please do so not only this coming

1 Saturday, but also throughout the I'll say
 2 Christmas buying season, but that's Saturday
 3 the 29th is small business Saturday in
 4 downtown Scranton.
 5 MS. REED: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'
 6 PARTICIPATION.
 7 MR. MCGOFF: And first on the list
 8 is Gerard Hetman.
 9 MR. HETMAN: Good evening, Council.
 10 Gerard Hetman from the Lackawanna County's
 11 Community Relations Department. The benefit
 12 of following Attorney Hickey is the
 13 microphone is already adjusted for height so
 14 I thank him.
 15 To begin this evening, Lackawanna
 16 County Office of Youth and Family Services,
 17 previously known as Lackawanna County
 18 Children and Youth Department is conducting
 19 it's annual Adopt an Angel Program for the
 20 2014 holiday season. The Adopt an Angel
 21 Program allows children who are under the
 22 care of the Office of Youth and Family
 23 Services to receive Christmas gifts through
 24 the generosity of individuals, neighborhood
 25 groups, community groups, businesses and

1 groups of friends, really anyone who wishes
 2 to sponsor a child who is under the care of
 3 the Office of Youth and Family Services and
 4 for the purposes of the program they refer
 5 to those children as angels, but
 6 participation in the program is very simple.
 7 There is a volunteer, her name is Lea
 8 Dougherty, who coordinates it. She is one
 9 of the foster parents that works with the
 10 Office of Youth and Family Services, and
 11 I'll give you her contact information and
 12 she can be e-mailed, and I'll spell it out
 13 here, it's L-E-A-D-O-U-G-H-E-R-T-Y-M-S-W
 14 @gmail.com or she can be contacted by phone
 15 at 570-947-5509. And anyone who wishes to
 16 participate will be assigned a child or if
 17 they wish to sponsor multiple children that
 18 can be arranged. Folks in my office last
 19 year we pooled our funds and were able to
 20 sponsor three children for Christmas gifts
 21 and the office asks that approximately \$100
 22 per child be spent on gifts and you will get
 23 a letter from the child that gives their
 24 first name, their age and also some polite
 25 suggestions for gifts, kind of a wish list.

1 So again, cost is \$100 per child. It's a
 2 great way for anyone, again, from
 3 individuals to families or any neighborhood
 4 groups, clubs, that wish to participate to
 5 give back to the community, and again, last
 6 year over 700 children received gifts
 7 through this program and many of them live
 8 in the City of Scranton and it's a long
 9 ongoing effort, it's over many years, but we
 10 have seen the need grow and grow and the
 11 participation has always been there to
 12 match, so we thank anyone who has
 13 participated in the past years or has helped
 14 spread the word in the community and we
 15 welcome any participation this year and
 16 anyone wishes to contribute throughout
 17 Scranton and Lackawanna County.

18 Second, the annual festival of trees
 19 in the Electric City trolley museum will be
 20 back for the 2014 holiday season. The
 21 opening reception for the festival is
 22 Friday, December 12, from 5:30 to 8 p.m.
 23 There is a \$20 cost of admission at the door
 24 and all proceeds benefit the US Marine Corp
 25 Toys for Tots program. The exhibit then

1 runs from December 12th through the 31st as
 2 part of the regular museum exhibits. The
 3 trees are mixed with in with everything else
 4 in the museum. There is a special holiday
 5 rate that applies now, there is no extra
 6 charge to see the trees when you come in. I
 7 should note that trees can be entered,
 8 again, my businesses or community groups.
 9 There is a little bit different rate for a
 10 large business of 100 or more employees
 11 compared to the nonprofit and small business
 12 rate, but the deadline to enter is Friday,
 13 December 5, for any community groups or
 14 businesses that would like to sponsor a tree
 15 or decorate a tree. They do have to provide
 16 a tree and any decorations that go on it.
 17 They could do so by calling the Trolley
 18 Museum at 570-963-6590 and by e-mailing
 19 Arts-culture@LackawannaCounty.org. And
 20 again, the fees for the tree entries goes
 21 towards the Toys for Tots program, as well
 22 as all the effort from festival of trees go
 23 to benefit a great cause.

24 And also the same contact
 25 information can be used for the museum to

1 obtain our trolley museum run with santa.
 2 It's a program the trolley museum runs where
 3 they put santa on excursions. There's a
 4 whole schedule for the month, I won't go
 5 over all the dates now, but they are posted
 6 on our home page at LackawannaCounty.org,
 7 and again, they can be obtained by calling
 8 the Trolley Museum at 570-963-6510.

9 And the last thing that we also have
 10 more information about our website about
 11 this program, but Lackawanna County's
 12 Department of Emergency Services which
 13 operates our 911 center presents what they
 14 call the Next Gen operating system upgrade,
 15 and most of it stays on the receiving end of
 16 the 911 calls. It helps the computer
 17 systems and the dispatchers to process calls
 18 in a quicker and more efficient manner, but
 19 what is noticeable on the user end is the
 20 ability to text to 911, service which is
 21 live and which is being rolled out in a
 22 number of counties throughout the
 23 Commonwealth. We believe Lackawanna County
 24 is the first to be able to stand up and go
 25 live with 911 texting capability for the

1 general public.

2 So anyone who is in a emergency
3 situation can text 911 and have their text
4 answered by a emergency dispatcher the same
5 way they would if they called on a phone, a
6 cell phone or landline. The 911 dispatcher
7 center asks the same protocols be observed
8 for texting, and we all know prank texts,
9 and if someone is texting please remain on
10 the phone so they can text back and forth
11 with the dispatchers to relay information
12 and receive instructions. But again, it's a
13 great capability and one that we know will
14 be used in the future and we want to make
15 people aware of it so they can use it if the
16 need arises in an emergency.

17 So thank you as always, ladies and
18 gentlemen. Are there any questions from
19 counsel? Thank you.

20 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. Bob Bolus.

21 MR. BOLUS: Good evening, Council,
22 for the second time around. Bob Bolus,
23 Scranton. You know, we had a lot to talk
24 about tonight about the budget and the
25 future of where the city is going, but what

1 nobody is looking at is creativity, and I
2 think that's our key word here. You have to
3 become creative. You can't just make senior
4 citizens or business or commuters pay for
5 what was our folly. It's our
6 responsibility, but we haven't come up with
7 one single suggestion of creativity. Nobody
8 has looked beyond the taxpayers.

9 We look at Boscov, we want to give
10 him money for the mall. As I said earlier,
11 the mall is dead, nobody wants to go in
12 there. There is just no business and it's
13 unfortunate because the dream when that was
14 built should have been fulfilled but it
15 wasn't and why did this happen? We have to
16 look back at our history here in the city,
17 the mismanagement, the fiscal mismanagement,
18 all of the issues that brought us here, but
19 nobody came up with anything creative. Sell
20 the assets, sold the ballpark, gave away the
21 old bus station to the Ice Box for a dollar
22 a year. There is no creativity. Nobody
23 paid attention. The golf course made money,
24 we took the 3 1/2 million and the interest
25 from it and we threw it down the toilet.

1 There is no creativity. It should have been
2 developed, it was a money maker.

3 So anything that made money in the
4 city the past administration, the past
5 councils took it out and executed it. They
6 put it to sleep, just like the turkeys on
7 Thanksgiving, we put the taxpayers to sleep
8 and are continuing to do that.

9 I suggest a 1 percent fee, you want
10 to raise taxes 19 percent, the mayor said
11 there is no tools, we have used all our
12 tools, we haven't even gotten to the tool
13 shed yet. We walked around it, we walked
14 over it, but we didn't go into it. Every
15 one of you people in this room they all have
16 something to offer, but you always come here
17 and you fall on blackened, blind and deaf
18 ears and nothing comes out of it.

19 And I don't come here to insult
20 people, I have been in the city my whole
21 life and I looked at the young guys here,
22 the Boy Scouts, and I used to be one at ST.
23 Lucy's many, many, many years ago. I'd like
24 to thank the scout master and all of the
25 other scout masters, not only with the Boy

1 Scouts but with the Girl Scouts because they
2 take their time and energy, but they are
3 creative. They help them get their badges,
4 they move forward, and that's what I'm
5 talking about here. We take a 1 percent fee
6 across everyone in this city, forget the
7 tax, just 1 percent on everybody's gross,
8 that means the KOZ's, the nonprofits, all
9 have to pay because it's a 1 percent fee.

10 We need to create a fee that could
11 be universal for us, not just let's say for
12 road paving or dog walking or whatever we
13 want to look at, but a universal fee that
14 could be utilized through either the public
15 safety or transportation issues that we can
16 dump into our city, into our budget, into
17 our general fund so we could utilize it, but
18 1 percent brings in millions of dollars.
19 Think of that, millions. More than you are
20 going to get with 19 percent against the
21 people who are suffering.

22 You have to cut the suffering, we
23 got to cut the bleed. It's a hard road to
24 hoe right now, but, gentlemen, the decision
25 has got to be made. This budget has got to

1 go down. It's a budget of bankers. Bankers
2 deal with balance sheets, pro formas, but
3 they don't deal realistically, they don't
4 look at the individual. If you don't have
5 the assets or you don't do that they don't
6 take a gamble on you. It's not like the old
7 days where a handshake meant something or
8 people invested in people. Wayne I'm sure
9 deals with every day, there is people that
10 could buy homes that could grow his
11 business, but this falls on deaf ears
12 because people aren't looking from the
13 bankers or lending institutions at the
14 individual, what they can or cannot do.

15 Scranton was bit on immigrants,
16 hardworking people that built Scranton into
17 what Scranton is today, but we have
18 destroyed it. We have destroyed the whole
19 infrastructure. Don't let this budget
20 continue to be the demise of the city. Make
21 the hard core changes. You will accounted
22 for it, but you will be proud of yourselves
23 when it's all done and you will be able to
24 look yourselves in the face and say we took
25 and made the hard decisions that prior

1 councils and prior administrations wouldn't
2 do. Don't take it out on the people or the
3 businesses. If you want to grow a business
4 base make the hard decisions now and you
5 will bring business here, but what you are
6 doing now you got to be a bloody fool to
7 come to Scranton and put a business here.

8 Have a Happy Thanksgiving,
9 Gentlemen. And, Mr. Rogan, thanks for
10 bringing up the dinner, it will go on as it
11 has for the last 19 years, this will be 20
12 years, and I'm proud to say it's in
13 Scranton. Thank you.

14 MR. MCGOFF: Doug Miller.

15 MR. MILLER: Good evening. Doug
16 Miller, Scranton. Continuing on the
17 discussion on the budget, even though there
18 is really not a lot to say, but just to
19 continue along here, you know, as we look up
20 and we discuss that we have a budget in
21 front of us that contains realistic numbers,
22 something that council members quote, state
23 that we haven't seen in the past. And, you
24 know, going back to the previous council
25 majority, the supermajority we had

1 previously to this majority, I recall some
2 very difficult decisions that had to be
3 made. I think that over the four years that
4 supermajority I think the defining moment of
5 that majority was in the Summer of 2012, for
6 those that don't remember what took place
7 then, that was a time when the city made
8 national news for paying employees minimum
9 wage. We were the laughing stock in the
10 nation for that entire summer as we were
11 trying to develop a recovery plan, put the
12 budget together, and I can recall a council
13 president, Mrs. Evans, working tirelessly on
14 those numbers. I can recall the Finance
15 Chairmen, Mr. Frank Joyce, working
16 tirelessly around the clock to develop
17 numbers and try to develop a plan that would
18 lead the city forward, and so I take
19 personal offense when individuals, newly
20 individuals seated on this council make
21 statements that this is the first time we
22 have had a quote real numbers and we say
23 that in the same side of our mouth where at
24 the other side of our mouths we acknowledge
25 that we haven't even reviewed the budget

1 yet. So how we could make such an absurd
2 statement without even having taken the time
3 to review the document I just think does a
4 disjustice to this city, but most of all it
5 does a disjustice to the residents of this
6 city.

7 I don't recall seeing any of you
8 newly people down here participating in the
9 process. I mean, it's easy to have all of
10 the answers now, but in the critical moment
11 I don't recall seeing any of you here. You
12 know, it's easy to quarterback from the
13 bleachers and play that Monday morning
14 quarterback, and this all goes back to my
15 whole philosophy of how we just keep
16 electing people who aren't qualified to
17 manage this city, and we just continue to do
18 it repetitively, and ultimately the voters
19 are responsible. It all goes back to that
20 at the end of the day, it's very basic. The
21 voters cause these problems because
22 qualifications didn't matter. Political
23 affiliation mattered. Knowing someone,
24 being their best friend, going to school
25 with somebody, those are the qualifications

1 in this town and when you really step back
2 and you think about that for a moment that
3 really is sad and pathetic.

4 And believe me, is it only here?
5 No, it's all over the nation, but if ou
6 really, really want to sit back and pause
7 and think about that it's really just
8 disturbing that we got to this point because
9 we had voters that weren't educated enough
10 to go to the ballot box and make wise
11 choices. And, of course, we all have that,
12 that's our right that we have that's
13 instilled in us to go out and vote, but if
14 you are not willing to take the time and
15 look at facts and base your decisions on
16 fact I just don't see where we are moving
17 forward at all.

18 As I said previously, you know, you
19 thought there was some light at the end of
20 this tunnel, there is no light right now.
21 We just keep, as I have said, kicking the
22 same can down the road and we just expect to
23 get a different result. You know, as I said
24 earlier, it's easy to go back to the same
25 tools, raising taxes.

1 You know, we had Mr. Rogan who sat
2 previous on council and voted against every
3 budget that contained a tax increase, but
4 had no problem doing it last year and has no
5 problem doing it this year, and I just find
6 that really, really troubling that these are
7 the people that we keep electing, and you
8 ask yourself are your interests really for
9 us or are you just being politicians as
10 usual and representing a certain clientele?
11 And that's the elite few. You know, are you
12 carry out the work of the people or are you
13 carrying the work of an administration who
14 has yet to come forward. I mean, this
15 evening we had Mr. Bulzoni here, you know,
16 it was nice to have him here, but as
17 previous speakers stated tonight where was
18 Mayor Courtright? And it's not the first
19 time we have asked that question, you know,
20 we are still waiting for the mayor to come
21 forward and speak for himself. This is a
22 gentleman who served on council for six
23 years, sat in the tax office for four years,
24 stated he had a plan and a vision to be
25 mayor of this city and we have yet to this

1 day hear his plan. Not Mr. Amoroso's plan,
2 not Mr. Bulzoni's plan, Mr. Courtright's
3 plan, but we haven't heard it yet. Are we
4 ever going to and are we ever going to do
5 anything to turn this city around?

6 You know, next Thursday being
7 Thanksgiving, boy, the residents of this
8 city sure have a lot to be thankful for, tax
9 increases, an incompetent and incapable
10 government that cannot make the right
11 choices and no answers and just more pain
12 and suffering. Quiet away to sit back and
13 be thankful Thursday. Do I expect you to
14 veto this budget? No, I don't, but if we
15 ever going to do anything it has to start
16 now. Thank you.

17 MR. MCGOFF: Joan Hodowanitz.

18 MS. HODOWANITZ: Joan Hodowanitz,
19 Scranton. First of all, can you tell me if
20 the city administration or any council
21 members have participated in any meetings
22 with regard to Colts and it's proposed
23 closure of Saturday service? Has anything
24 moved on Colt's?

25 MR. MCGOFF: I personally have not

1 been involved in any of the discussions,
2 but--

3 MR. GAUGHAN: I think the meeting
4 got cancelled.

5 MR. EVANS: There was a meeting that
6 was scheduled and it got cancelled.

7 MS. HODOWANITZ: Has it been
8 rescheduled?

9 MR. EVANS: Not yet. There has been
10 negotiations going on between the state reps
11 and PennDOT trying to make some changes in
12 that ruling.

13 MR. WECHSLER: I can confirm that.
14 I spoke to Representative Flynn that other
15 evening and that's why the meeting was
16 cancelled because there are discussions
17 taking place.

18 MS. HODOWANITZ: Well, please, I
19 hope that the city gets involved. Keep in
20 mind that the vast majority of people who
21 ride the Colt's buses are either city
22 residents or people who work in the city or
23 students who come into the city to attend
24 class and they are all part of your
25 constituents and they are going to take

1 quite a hit, many of them, if Colt's has to
2 cut back it's service between Saturday
3 service. Some people are going to actually
4 lose jobs. It's very sad.

5 With regard to the Item 3-F, Robert
6 Rossi & Company has given us another audit
7 status report, I was looking at the backup
8 and I see that we still have 23 items
9 outstanding for the annual budget, and I
10 hate to tell you but in six months basically
11 we made almost no progress on the audit
12 report. You now, I recall Mr. Bulzoni he
13 made a comment that it would be more
14 realistic to have nine months to complete
15 the audit, I am here to tell you that he
16 should be happy he is not a publically run
17 company because he would have 90 days or the
18 SEC would be talking to him.

19 I could understand that it's running
20 late, but I can't understand why all
21 Mr. Rossi has to do on his report status is
22 change the date and just print the document.
23 If you have been reading those documents in
24 your backup papers, you see there is
25 virtually no progress being made. His

1 comment that in December he is hoping to
2 have a draft of the general fund is a little
3 scary. They have prepared a budget for next
4 year without benefit of knowing last year's
5 numbers. That is not a good thing. Also
6 notice that the Scranton Parking Authority
7 still has not completed it's audited
8 financial statements and basically we have
9 given them another \$4 million loan without
10 knowing their financial status.

11 And finally in this morning's paper,
12 "Mayor's finance fix is progressing. Two
13 ideas include selling parking garages and
14 sewer authority."

15 What about concessions from the
16 unions on the pensions? Has there been any
17 movement on that or are we still making
18 conversations?

19 MR. MCGOFF: I would say that it is
20 still conversation.

21 MS. HODOWANITZ: Yeah.

22 MR. MCGOFF: Or discussions.

23 MS. HODOWANITZ: Well, it's very
24 disappointing. Again, I agree with the
25 other speakers that the mayor should have

1 been here tonight and he should have been
2 able to answer questions from the public and
3 that would have been one of them. After we
4 sell off the Sewer Authority and the parking
5 garages I guess the next thing on the docket
6 will be city hall, the police station, which
7 is brand new, and the various fire stations.
8 Maybe we can get down to the fire equipment
9 and the police cars, but sooner or later we
10 are going to run out of assets to monetize.

11 We are definitely not making
12 progress, but we in the Army we use short
13 time calendars? Remember that, those of you
14 who served, your short time calendars you
15 went overseas for three years and you
16 counted down the days. I'm going to make
17 you guys a calendar, there are going to be
18 two, one is going to be five years and one
19 is going to be eight years and we are going
20 to cross it off by week, how many days do we
21 have left. Can't be worse than the
22 situation we are in now. Good luck,
23 gentlemen.

24 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. Anyone else
25 who wishes to address council?

1 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,
2 citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians, a
3 few words on SAPA again. Does anybody know
4 if Dunmore is really on board with this
5 deal? Have any of you talked to Dunmore
6 and said -- before you go and vote knowing
7 that Dunmore probably doesn't want to be
8 with us.

9 MR. GAUGHAN: No, Dunmore is
10 involved. They were one of the
11 municipalities.

12 MR. SBARAGLIA: They said they would
13 be?

14 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

15 MR. SBARAGLIA: In other words,
16 you're voting, they have voted on joining
17 SAPA?

18 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, I believe so.

19 MR. EVANS: They are waiting for us
20 because they can't officially join until
21 Scranton is part of it.

22 MR. SBARAGLIA: They are waiting for
23 us, is that what you said?

24 MR. EVANS: Yes, because Dunmore
25 can't officially join until Scranton joins.

1 MR. SBARAGLIA: Because they are
2 adjacent to Scranton.

3 MR. EVANS: Right. Right

4 MR. SBARAGLIA: Okay, I can
5 understand that. Now, you all realize the
6 first thing he said was the voting.
7 Scranton would have two votes, possibly
8 Dunmore would have two votes, Abingtons
9 would have 20.

10 MR. GAUGHAN: Mr. Sbaraglia, could I
11 just stop you for one second, they don't
12 vote. It's by consensus. They have two
13 representatives from Scranton and all of the
14 other municipalities, but they do not vote
15 on anything.

16 MR. SBARAGLIA: They must have
17 discussions.

18 MR. GAUGHAN: Yeah, that's what I
19 mean, but they don't vote on anything. They
20 just come to a consensus, so like Mr. King
21 said, whatever is good for the municipality
22 they try to include, but they have to come
23 to a consensus. So, in other words, they
24 don't vote on anything. Scranton doesn't
25 have two votes, Dunmore doesn't have two

1 votes, they have two representatives that
2 work together with everyone else in order to
3 come to a consensus.

4 MR. SBARAGLIA: Tell me, how could
5 they come to a consensus without voting or
6 stating their opinion? That's pretty hard
7 to do unless we got somebody there that's in
8 their brain said, "This is how you are going
9 to do it."

10 Now, another thing is the cost, we
11 are being assessed the greater cost for this
12 project, what he said the are volunteers
13 now, will they be volunteers when this thing
14 goes through or will they get money funding?

15 MR. GAUGHAN: No, I believe that
16 they will be volunteers.

17 MR. SBARAGLIA: I believe so, too,
18 and I believe Scranton taxpayers are going
19 to take a hit as usual. Okay, let's move
20 on. There is beating a dead horse, either
21 you made up your mind or you didn't.

22 Let's look at Boscov's. I'm not
23 going to get into the 108 loan, but Janet
24 brought this up maybe seven years ago that
25 the City of Scranton was paying for the

1 Boscov 108 loan. So to say now why this or
2 why that, don't whitewash it. They didn't
3 pay for seven or eight years. There is no
4 whitewash to it. They didn't pay, they
5 didn't pay and they weren't going to pay,
6 but he did make a lot of contributions to
7 the candidates in Scranton. Now, whether
8 that had something to do with it or not that
9 I do not know, but they never forced Boscov
10 to pay his 108 loans.

11 Now, let's go down to the budget.
12 Now, I believe you said 15 percent are fixed
13 costs, did I understand right? I was in the
14 back of the room.

15 MR. MCGOFF: I believe he somewhere
16 around, that was the estimate.

17 MR. SBARAGLIA: Does that make sense
18 to you when there is probably about 80
19 percent that are fixed? There must be at
20 least that. The police are fixed, the
21 firemen salaries are all fixed, pensions are
22 all fixed.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

24 MR. SBARAGLIA: I was hoping that 80
25 percent of the budget goes to the employees

1 in one way or the other, retirees, medical
2 this, that or whatever. Now, where he got
3 50 percent I don't know, but I'll say that,
4 that means you can cut the budget 50
5 percent. Does that maybe sense? You and I
6 know that can't be. You got to be
7 realistic. Whether he made a mistake when
8 he spoke or not, I don't know, but usually
9 the stuff for the City of Scranton is really
10 close to 80 percent when you figure
11 everything in and then the remaining 10
12 percent was miscellaneous pieces of
13 equipment, this, that, lawyer fees, maybe
14 some fees for people who sue. I know we got
15 cases that is being sued, how many I don't
16 know, but I know that the city is being sued
17 and things like that you can't put a dollar
18 amount on it, it they are going to come up
19 they are going to come up. Whether that
20 effects how much we are paying for our
21 insurance or not that comes up, too.

22 But everything that concerns money
23 is in the budget, whether it's a pencil, a
24 paperclip or a fire engine. These are all
25 budget items. Now, how can we keep the cost

1 low on budget items? Not variable fixed
 2 costs, only variables now, how many
 3 variables I don't know, like, salaries for
 4 some of the raises that you gave or the
 5 employees that maybe new hire or this or
 6 that or whatever. Well, I'll get back.
 7 Budget is still coming up again.
 8 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.
 9 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening,
 10 Council, Marie Schumacher.
 11 MR. GAUGHAN: Good evening.
 12 MS. SCHUMACHER: I have just given
 13 you the photos that I told you I would
 14 provide which show the growth of the
 15 Keystone Landfill. You will notice that
 16 mountain ridge is what separates Scranton
 17 really from, and my home is on the other
 18 side, that is a mountain of rotting garbage,
 19 it's going to smell, the wind is going to
 20 blow it over there, and I think this city
 21 needs to get involved in that effort and
 22 protect what little property value we still
 23 have.
 24 And then speaking of the property
 25 values, Mr. Evans, well, first of all, I'll

1 ask you, you promised to get the trash fee,
 2 the paid and the unpaid, will you be giving
 3 that in Fifth Order?
 4 MR. EVANS: I don't have it.
 5 MS. SCHUMACHER: Pardon?
 6 MR. EVANS: I don't have it at this
 7 time.
 8 MS. SCHUMACHER: I don't understand
 9 why we don't have that. It's been almost
 10 two months since the period closed. Okay,
 11 but back in -- about this time in 2011 you
 12 came here as the president of the Greater
 13 Scranton Realtors.
 14 MR. EVANS: Right.
 15 MS. SCHUMACHER: A position you
 16 still hold, I am would like you to update
 17 those statistics that you provided then
 18 using the same base year of 2006 and tell us
 19 the reduction in the sales of single family
 20 homes, the sale volume for single family
 21 homes, the inventory of how many months of
 22 single family homes compare to the inventory
 23 of 2006, and the average days on the market
 24 as compared to 2006 for the current year.
 25 If you need that reference, I can e-mail

1 that to you.
 2 MR. EVANS: Yes, would you please?
 3 MS. SCHUMACHER: I will do that.
 4 Okay, on the Boscov loan, you know, I sort
 5 of laugh because we are paying that 108
 6 loan, we also have been paying the 108 loan
 7 of the Hilton. How many you of you, may I
 8 ask, read the backup that you are provided
 9 every week?
 10 MR. GAUGHAN: I do.
 11 MS. SCHUMACHER: You do?
 12 MR. ROGAN: I go over it.
 13 MS. SCHUMACHER: Did you find
 14 anything with the I think it was the 22nd of
 15 October results of whatever they are called,
 16 the appeals on the assessments? Didn't
 17 notice anything strange?
 18 MR. EVANS: Well, I go through them
 19 but, I don't look at every single one.
 20 MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, one caught my
 21 eye and it was just my happenstance because
 22 I was looking for something else, not only
 23 were we still paying for the 108 loan for
 24 the Hilton Hotel, but now we taxpayers are
 25 going to get hit because they just had an

1 \$800,000 adjustment downward in the
 2 improvements of the Hilton Hotel. Do the
 3 math and see what a chunk of our tax base we
 4 have just hit.
 5 Another reason why this city, every
 6 taxing authority has the ability to sit in
 7 on those hearings and input. Why we refuse
 8 to do that and why the school board refuses
 9 to do that I cannot fathom, maybe one of you
 10 can explain it to me, but we do need to get
 11 more involved in those. That's why I'm
 12 interested in what our starting assessment
 13 base was. We have already had a big hit.
 14 There will be others. I urge everybody to
 15 try it, it works.
 16 MR. EVANS: I will say when I was in
 17 the assessment office only several
 18 municipalities elected to sit in on those
 19 and I always felt just like you do, they all
 20 should be here, especially when there is a
 21 large property like that that's going to
 22 impact our tax base.
 23 MS. SCHUMACHER: Yep, I do.
 24 MR. EVANS: Agree that should be
 25 standard policy.

1 MS. SCHUMACHER: As do I. I think
2 that's a lot more important than a
3 receptionist in the mayor's office. You
4 know, it could be part-time.

5 The other thing, you know, as a
6 property owner I'm really less concerned
7 with that vote -- what you are going to be
8 voting on tonight on the Boscov loan because
9 that's going to come out of federal funds,
10 it's going to stretch out the federal funds
11 and reduce them by a smaller amount, yes.
12 But I, as the taxpayer, am more concerned
13 about that \$4 million Scranton Parking
14 Authority debt that we didn't owe that you
15 were in a rush to add to our debt. And I
16 just, again, I don't understand why you did
17 that.

18 I think we should make an appeal for
19 the need to come up with another revised
20 recovery plan. How many have we had? None
21 of them have been followed. Next week I
22 will come and I -- next week I will be
23 enjoying Thanksgiving, but the following
24 week I will again be discussing the missed
25 revenue opportunities that this city has

1 been looking over. Thank you.

2 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

3 MR. DOBRYZN: Good evening, Council,
4 David Dobrzn, resident and someone left a
5 few letters for council they just asked me
6 to pass them over. Mr. McGoff already has
7 one, so I said they had to be somewhere
8 else. It may or may not be my personal
9 opinion on those pages.

10 Okay, da, da, dum, Department of
11 Corrections, the mall last week I said \$150
12 Governor Corbett there and in reality Al
13 Boscov donated \$150,000 to the Corbett run
14 for governor and that is about 1/8 of the
15 loan that he currently owes and is not
16 paying on.

17 And on the land bank issue, some of
18 the former lots that were purchased by
19 people, including myself, and I paid the
20 appraised value of it, and it's standing
21 against me now because for a 40 by 170 lot
22 I'm paying \$551 so I'd appreciate if we get
23 that land bank started that we start getting
24 some reappraisals here on these lots because
25 it's a considerable burden and ate a big

1 chunk of the income tax return. I always
2 pay the tax and stuff during the year so I
3 don't get any unpleasant notices in April
4 when all of the winter bills are past due
5 even possibly.

6 A lot has been mentioned on the
7 school district even though this is not the
8 place for it, but on school taxes and Act
9 76, I never had kids in school, where is my
10 refund? But I'd like to point out that even
11 if parents make 100 grand plus a year per
12 household and they have two children in
13 school it does constitute a pay as you go.
14 You probably put two kids through the
15 school, have to pay somewhere in the
16 neighborhood of 36 years or so, so it's not
17 a guardian on the school taxes.

18 And on SAPA, I agree, I think I seen
19 Andy when I was at home they had nothing
20 nice to say about us for many years now.
21 The Scranton Times on the previous mayor's
22 run was up in Clarks Summit asking somebody
23 who they wanted to be mayor of Scranton.
24 Well, come on, guys. I say down with SAPA,
25 you know, we don't need it right now.

1 And I want to take things a little
2 further on this delinquent trash fees,
3 especially many, many back years. I'd like
4 to get a list from the Scranton Times, I'm
5 sure I could do so, and I'm looking for a
6 fellow's pictures starting with the
7 wealthiest first and we can march around the
8 courthouse or something and call attention
9 maybe we can even get our friend Jim
10 Lockwood here to show up and put their names
11 in the paper again because really I heard
12 it's 7 1/2 million and that's a considerable
13 chunk of change and somebody of these
14 delinquent fees are insufferable. It's not
15 right to keep raising somebody else's taxes
16 and fees to pay for this, so I'll withhold
17 most comments, I have this being taped at
18 home and I'll review and go over the budget
19 issues later, but don't forget on my
20 proposal we need a Scranton Chamber of
21 Commerce. There are too big and they move
22 businesses out of town. My wife works with
23 people that had to purchase cars to go up to
24 Olyphant and she -- the lady was out
25 shopping for groceries at 3:00 Friday

1 morning, why would you do that? Because
2 your kids are home hungry. Thank you and
3 have a good night.

4 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

5 MR. ELLMAN: Well, I'll get right to
6 the point so I don't put anybody to sleep.
7 You people, this administration doesn't seem
8 to know that when you mess with people's
9 pocket books it makes them most irritable.
10 There is thousands of people in this city
11 that are really irritable with everything,
12 they can't afford the luxury of Mr. Amoroso
13 and his ideas. You know, I didn't vote for
14 him. Did anybody out here vote for Amoroso?
15 What the world is he running this city for?
16 I don't see your name in anything, I don't
17 see the mayor's name, everything I look at
18 in the paper is the Amoroso plan, the
19 Amoroso plan. Raise taxes is all I see. He
20 doesn't seem to be thinking about ten years
21 from now or 20 years from now, where are we
22 going to be if we're in the same place we
23 are right now because he is not helping
24 anything.

25 You know, many years ago I used to

1 go to Clarksdale, Mississippi, to see a
2 fellow named John Lee Hooker, he is probably
3 one of the greatest blues people ever and
4 before the show he would joke around and
5 talk to everybody and he used to say, "Don't
6 bring your garbage here, you have to take it
7 to the city dump."

8 You know, Mr. Amoroso is just full
9 of garbage. He hasn't done a thing and who
10 is paying him anyway? I asked you last week
11 why is he here, who is paying him? Is it
12 just the tax money?

13 MR. MCGOFF: He is paying by
14 donations through the City Chamber of
15 Commerce.

16 MR. ELLMAN: Well, they got --

17 MR. MCGOFF: No tax dollars paid.

18 MR. ELLMAN: -- a great track record
19 of success. And I don't know who read it,
20 if any of you read it in the paper last
21 week, the State Department of
22 Transportation, you know, the people that
23 our raising our gas tax 28 cents for roads,
24 last week it said they were given Pocono
25 Downs a \$1,200,000 to remodel the front of

1 the gate. In the same couple of days there
2 was an article Keystone College they are
3 getting over \$1 million to remodel their
4 entrance and it said 86 other schools and
5 businesses were sharing almost \$100 million.
6 Now, why can't one of you get some money
7 from the state to save the city? They are
8 absolutely wasting it, businesses, private
9 businesses, Pocono Downs is a multi-million
10 dollars business for crying out loud. We
11 have to give them a million dollars for
12 remodeling, and Keystone College isn't
13 broke. Nothing is being done. Nothing is
14 being done to help the people of this city.

15 You know, I know I got you irritable
16 at me about Boscov, but he is a deadbeat.
17 For God's sake, look what he is doing and
18 you can see the handwriting on the wall
19 three or four years ago that it was coming.
20 You know, there just no fix for stupid and
21 that's with we got here. Thank you.

22 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else who wishes
23 to address council?

24 MR. ELLMAN: I think I scared them
25 off.

1 MS. REED: FIFTH ORDER. 5-A.
2 MOTIONS.

3 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Wechsler?

4 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr.
5 McGoff. This week I had the honor and
6 privilege of attending a meeting with the
7 Scranton Tomorrow, and if you are not
8 familiar in 2016 Scranton will be
9 celebrating its 150 anniversary. The first
10 event that Scranton Tomorrow is putting on
11 for this celebration is a logo design
12 contest. The purpose will be for the 150th
13 anniversary celebration for the City of
14 Scranton. They are going to begin this with
15 an ethnic festival at the Steamtown Mall on
16 April 25, 2015. These events will continue
17 throughout the year, the various activities
18 and events. The celebration will conclude
19 on April 23, 2016, which is charter day.
20 There is more information available on this
21 contest on the Scranton Tomorrow's website.
22 I think it's very exciting. At the meeting,
23 I said I have been working hard to make sure
24 that we make it to this 2016 event, and we
25 are doing that.

1 In regards to the SAPA plan, I am
2 voting in favor of the SAPA plan. I think
3 it is a progressive plan for the city and
4 one of the things that I would like to
5 mention is that Scranton only gets two
6 representatives on the board and if one of
7 those is Don King we will be represented by
8 probably the most -- the expert of planning
9 in this area. I believe Mr. King's presence
10 on any board would lead that board to be --
11 for Scranton to be well represented.

12 And I have to agree with some of the
13 speakers today, which is sometimes out of
14 the ordinary for me, we do need to be more
15 creative, and I agree upon that. I was not
16 able to make it to the session today, but
17 there was a presentation about the new iron
18 district to be developed down by the iron
19 furnaces. Michelle Dempsey, who is a local
20 architect has been spearheading a lot of
21 these plans, were are truly visionary for
22 the places that we look at here in Scranton
23 and we don't look at creatively and I agree
24 with that. I am anxious to see what took
25 place at this session and I am hoping to be

1 able to support it. That's all I have, Mr.
2 McGoff.

3 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. Mr. Rogan?

4 MR. ROGAN: I will told my comments
5 until the voting portion of the meeting.
6 Thank you.

7 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Evans?

8 MR. EVANS: Speaking of the iron
9 district, I attended a presentation of the
10 proposed iron district this morning along
11 with Mayor Courtright and other stakeholders
12 and government officials. The great concept
13 of the plan that creates an arts and
14 cultural district in the 500 block of Bogart
15 Place to the iron furnaces and to Cedar
16 Avenue in South Side. It was an excellent
17 presentation and I would like to ask, if
18 it's okay with council, to have Michelle
19 Dempsey, whose firm has been charged with
20 leading the feasibility study to come before
21 council for a caucus sometime after January
22 to brief council on the plan. Additionally,
23 Michelle will bring along as some of her
24 concepts of the city as well.

25 On SAPA, as a former member of the

1 Scranton City Planning Commission for more
2 than a decade I'm a supporter and an
3 advocate for SAPA. A regional comprehensive
4 planning process is what progressive
5 communities do. I am confident that that
6 SAPA plan will foster economic investment
7 and will create cost savings through sharing
8 or plans, studies and future projects
9 throughout the planning area. I believe it
10 will be preserve green space where it should
11 and it will benefit proper development. I
12 also expect to facilitate revitalized and a
13 healthy urban center. So, again, I am
14 looking forward to the vote on that.

15 On some of the budget issues,
16 recently we asked through a letter to be
17 patient by a city union leader as
18 discussions and negotiations take place
19 between the union and the administration.
20 As much as I understand that sentiment and
21 appreciate the efforts to date by the unions
22 and the administration, it is extremely
23 difficult ask our taxpayers to be patient
24 when they are facing a 19 percent property
25 tax increase on the heels of a 57 tax

1 increase last year, and on the heels of a
2 report that just told us city pensions are
3 on life support. While those discussions
4 are taking place, I would like to propose
5 the following five actions that will not
6 effect the current union employees and their
7 pensions on the retirees and their pensions.
8 These actions should bring about long-term
9 stability both to the city and the pension
10 plans. While not directly impacting the
11 2015 budget, I feel recommendations like
12 these should be taken:

13 Number one, freeze entrance into the
14 existing pension plan for all city employees
15 immediately.

16 Two. All new hires should have one
17 option, that is a 457-B plan only available
18 to municipal and state employees. This plan
19 is similar to a 401-K plan that has been
20 implemented in the private sector for
21 decades. While there may be a slight uptake
22 in costs in the short-term, in the
23 long-term, the savings the city would get
24 would be dramatic while giving new hires a
25 level of flexibility in their pensions.

1 You must begin to make decisions
2 that will not have a net positive effect for
3 the future and break the cycle of
4 year-to-year crises decision making.

5 Three. All non-union employees
6 should be transferred to a 457-B plan with
7 any existing contribution already
8 established for that employee to be
9 transferred to the new plan.

10 Four. Over 50 percent of police and
11 fire pensions are disability pensions. As a
12 benchmark, most cities our size in
13 Pennsylvania are running between 3 percent
14 and 6 percent as disability pensions. We
15 have a systemic problem that must be openly
16 discussed and fixed before we can move onto
17 real pension reform.

18 Finally, number five. The 2015
19 budget, rightfully so, allows for \$5 million
20 to be paid toward the Court award to union
21 employees. However, I would suggest that
22 all future payments based on the Court award
23 be made directly to the pension funds of the
24 effected union members. It is my hope we
25 can enact or at least have a real discussion

1 on these recommendations sooner rather than
2 later. The taxpayers need to know that
3 there it's no longer business as usual as we
4 head towards 2015 and beyond. Thank you.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Gaughan?

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, thank you. I
7 would like to make a motion to amend the
8 minutes of the Scranton City Council meeting
9 held on November 13, 2014, to correct a
10 typographical error and it reflect the
11 correct file of the council number to read
12 as follows: File of the Council No.

13 55-2014, not File of Council No. 56-2014,
14 which was Item No. 6-A on the agenda.

15 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

18 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

19 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

20 MR. EVANS: Aye.

21 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

22 MS. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The
23 ayes have it and so moved. Thank you,
24 Mr. Gaughan.

25 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. I have a

1 few more comments. I received a few
2 requests about streetlights being out this
3 week and we forwarded them to DPW and Joyce
4 Electric so hopefully they were taken care
5 of, and also I would like to ask if everyone
6 would be in favor that we would request from
7 the administration that the proposed budget
8 be put on the website, I know it was brought
9 up tonight. I think it's a reasonable
10 request and then when we do adopt the budget
11 we just put the adopted budget on the
12 website. So in the mean time, so that
13 people who cannot make it to city hall and
14 to the Clerk's Office and they can if they
15 have a computer at least be able to pour
16 through the budget and be able to come next
17 week if they like and make a comment on it.

18 MR. MCGOFF: Any objection?

19 MR. WECHSLER: No.

20 MR. EVANS: As long as we make sure
21 it says "Proposed" or "Draft" or whatever.

22 MR. GAUGHAN: Right. And I will
23 save the rest of my comments for agenda
24 items. Thank you.

25 MR. MCGOFF: I, too, will wait until

1 the actual agenda items.

2 MS. REED: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION -
3 AN ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
4 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE
5 AND ENTER INTO AN ACCESS EASEMENT AGREEMENT
6 BETWEEN THE CITY OF SCRANTON ("GRANTOR") AND
7 AMERCO REAL ESTATE COMPANY ("GRANTEE") FOR A
8 PARCEL OF LAND LOCATED UNDERNEATH THE BRIDGE
9 CARRYING WEST LACKAWANNA AVENUE OVER
10 CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY.

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

14 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

15 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

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

19 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

20 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

21 MR. EVANS: Aye.

22 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

23 MS. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The
24 ayes have it and so moved.

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

1 RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
2 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO GRANT A
3 SPECIAL ENCROACHMENT PERMIT TO BAR PAZZO,
4 INC. TO OPERATE AN OUTDOOR RESTAURANT AT
5 524-526 LACKAWANNA AVENUE, SCRANTON,
6 PENNSYLVANIA.

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

10 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

11 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

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

14 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

15 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

16 MR. EVANS: Aye.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

18 MS. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The
19 ayes have it and so moved.

20 MS. REED: 5-D. FOR INTRODUCTION - A
21 RESOLUTION - APPOINTMENT OF KRISTIN JENKINS,
22 818 CAPOUSE AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA,
23 18509 AS A MEMBER OF THE SCRANTON MUNICIPAL
24 RECREATION AUTHORITY. MS. JENKINS WILL BE
25 REPLACING ANTHONY MARINUCCI WHO RESIGNED

1 EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 2, 2014. MS. JENKINS
2 WILL FULFILL THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF MR.
3 MARINUCCI WHICH WILL EXPIRE ON JUNE 17,
4 2015.

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

8 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

9 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

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

13 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

14 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

15 MR. EVANS: Aye.

16 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

17 MS. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The
18 ayes have it and so moved.

19 MS. REED: 5-E. FOR INTRODUCTION- A
20 RESOLUTION - ACCEPTING A DONATION OF ONE
21 THOUSAND NINETY DOLLARS AND 51/100 CENTS
22 (\$1,090.51) PRESENTED TO THE CITY OF
23 SCRANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT FROM KILDARE'S
24 SCRANTON, INC.

25 MR. MCGOFF: At this time I'll

1 entertain a motion that Item 5-E be
2 introduced into its proper committee.

3 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

4 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

5 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? Just
6 would like to thank Kildare's for their
7 donation to the Scranton Police Department.

8 All those in favor of introduction
9 signify by saying aye.

10 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

11 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

12 MR. EVANS: Aye.

13 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

16 MS. REED: 5-F. FOR INTRODUCTION - A
17 RESOLUTION - A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A
18 SISTER CITY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE CITY OF
19 SCRANTON, LACKAWANNA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
20 AND GUARDIA DEI LOMBARDI, PROVINCE OF
21 AVELLINO, ITALY.

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

25 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

1 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

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

4 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

5 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

6 MR. EVANS: Aye.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

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

11 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.
12 57, 2014 - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING FILE OF
13 COUNCIL NO. 55, 2013, AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED
14 "GENERAL CITY OPERATING BUDGET 2014" BY
15 TRANSFERRING \$41,500.00 FROM ACCOUNT NO.
16 01.401.16090.4299 (NON-DEPARTMENTAL
17 EXPENDITURES-UNENCUMBERED EXPENSES PRIOR
18 YEAR OBLIGATIONS) TO THE ACCOUNTS LISTED
19 BELOW TO PROVIDE FUNDING TO SUPPLEMENT THE
20 SALT ACCOUNT, MONTHLY PAYMENTS TO THOMSON
21 REUTERS (WEST LAW) AND FUNDING FOR
22 MISCELLANEOUS OFFICE SUPPLIES FOR ALL
23 DEPARTMENTS THROUGH THE PERIOD ENDING
24 DECEMBER 31, 2014.

25 MR. MCGOFF: You've heard reading by

1 title of Item 6-A, what is your pleasure?
 2 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-A
 3 pass reading by title.
 4 MR. WECHSLER: Second.
 5 MS. MCGOFF: On the question? All
 6 those in favor signify by saying aye.
 7 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.
 8 MR. ROGAN: Aye.
 9 MR. EVANS: Aye.
 10 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.
 11 MR. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The
 12 ayes have it and so moved.
 13 MS. REED: 6-B. READING BY TITLE -
 14 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 58, 2014 - AN
 15 ORDINANCE - APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE
 16 EXPENSES OF THE CITY GOVERNMENT FOR THE
 17 PERIOD COMMENCING ON THE FIRST DAY OF
 18 JANUARY, 2015 TO AND INCLUDING DECEMBER 31,
 19 2015 BY THE ADOPTION OF THE GENERAL CITY
 20 OPERATING BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2015.
 21 MR. MCGOFF: You've heard reading by
 22 title of Item 6-B, what is your pleasure?
 23 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-B
 24 pass reading by title.
 25 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

1 MS. MCGOFF: On the question?
 2 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes. On the question.
 3 I would like to take a brief moment to
 4 discuss Mayor Courtright's budget. The 2015
 5 budget includes a property tax increase and
 6 a tripling of the LST tax. We were all
 7 prepared for those tax increases so that
 8 fact alone didn't entirely come as a
 9 surprise.
 10 However, I was surprised to see a
 11 budget with tax increases that also include
 12 new expenditures and additional debt with
 13 little evidence of the meaningful cost
 14 savings. Mayor Courtright's budget delivers
 15 a tax increase coupled with the creation of
 16 new positions, increases in discretionary
 17 salaries and expenditures and additional
 18 debt from borrowing almost \$5 million to
 19 satisfy a component of the \$22 million court
 20 award. Where are the savings, and more
 21 importantly, where are the concession? Over
 22 the past ten months, I have asked about the
 23 stat you have the union negotiations. We
 24 have been told that repeatedly by the mayor
 25 that he has been talking with the unions,

1 yet I don't see any evidence of progress
 2 from these conversations reflected in this
 3 budget.
 4 We are facing a uniquely difficult
 5 financial situation, a situation that
 6 requires bold and difficult decisions to
 7 stabilize the city's finances. The most
 8 effective way to address over 80 percent of
 9 the city's budget is to negotiate economic
 10 concessions from the unions, and just to be
 11 clear, I am not asking Mayor Courtright to
 12 act on my vision of the budget, I'm asking
 13 him why he isn't following his budget plan,
 14 the plan he adopted from Henry Amoroso.
 15 That plan includes various specific
 16 recommendations regarding union negotiations
 17 and targeted concessions. Not only did the
 18 mayor adopt Mr. Amoroso's plan, he
 19 campaigned on the promise that he would be
 20 able to sit down with the unions to
 21 negotiate savings, and yet we have seen no
 22 measurable movement in those discussions and
 23 certainly no cost savings.
 24 Earlier tonight we had a public
 25 hearing on the budget, and I appreciate very

1 much our Business Administrator Dave Bulzoni
 2 coming to answer our questions. However, I
 3 find it extremely frustrating and very
 4 disappointing that the mayor was not here to
 5 present his budget. Mayor Courtright is
 6 asking the residents and the business
 7 community to bear the burden of a tax
 8 increase with no progress towards any real
 9 savings at this point. At the very least,
 10 the mayor should pay us the common courtesy
 11 of attending the hearing and defending his
 12 budget. If he were here, I would have asked
 13 him the same question I have asked many
 14 times over, where are the concessions and
 15 where are the savings?
 16 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else? All those
 17 in favor signify by saying aye.
 18 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.
 19 MR. ROGAN: Aye.
 20 MR. EVANS: Aye.
 21 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.
 22 MR. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The
 23 ayes have it and so moved.
 24 MS. REED: 6-C. READING BY TITLE -
 25 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 59, 2014 - AN

1 ORDINANCE - CREATING AND ESTABLISHING
 2 SPECIAL CITY ACCOUNT NO. 02.229614 ENTITLED
 3 "PAFRS" PA FIRE RECOVERY SERVICE FOR THE
 4 ACCEPTANCE OF DONATIONS TO SCRANTON FIRE
 5 DEPARTMENT AND PAYMENTS FROM PAFRS
 6 (INSURANCE) IN ORDER TO MAKE NECESSARY
 7 EXPENDITURES FOR THE PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT
 8 AND APPARATUS AND MAINTENANCE OF BOTH.
 9 MR. MCGOFF: You've heard reading by
 10 title of Item 6-C, what is your pleasure?
 11 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-C
 12 pass reading by title.
 13 MR. WECHSLER: Second.
 14 MS. MCGOFF: On the question? All
 15 those in favor signify by saying aye.
 16 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.
 17 MR. ROGAN: Aye.
 18 MR. EVANS: Aye.
 19 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.
 20 MR. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The
 21 ayes have it and so moved.
 22 MS. REED: 6-D. READING BY TITLE -
 23 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 60, 2014 - AN
 24 ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE REMOVAL OF THE
 25 EXISTING "NO PARKING" SIGNS LOCATED AT THE

1 INTERSECTION OF HARRISON AVENUE (SR 0611)
 2 AND EAST GIBSON STREET, WE MAINTAIN THE "ALL
 3 WAY" STOP SIGNS AND INSTALL NEW R7-302 NO
 4 PARKING SYMBOL/ARROW SIGNS.
 5 MR. MCGOFF: You've heard reading by
 6 title of Item 6-D, what is your pleasure?
 7 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-D
 8 pass reading by title.
 9 MR. WECHSLER: Second.
 10 MS. MCGOFF: On the question? All
 11 those in favor signify by saying aye.
 12 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.
 13 MR. ROGAN: Aye.
 14 MR. EVANS: Aye.
 15 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.
 16 MR. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The
 17 ayes have it and so moved.
 18 MS. REED: 6-E. READING BY TITLE -
 19 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 61, 2014 - AN
 20 ORDINANCE - REPEALING FILE OF THE COUNCIL
 21 NO. 11, 2014, AS AMENDED AN ORDINANCE
 22 AMENDING FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 74, 1993, AS
 23 AMENDED, ENTITLED "CITY OF SCRANTON ZONING
 24 ORDINANCE OF 1993", BY CHANGING THE ZONING
 25 MAP DESIGNATION OF THE JOHN J. AUDUBON

1 SCHOOL FROM R-1A (MEDIUM LOW DENSITY
 2 RESIDENTIAL) TO INS-G (GENERAL
 3 INSTITUTIONAL) IN THE CENTRAL PLANNING AREA
 4 IN THE EASTERN PORTION OF THE CITY OF
 5 SCRANTON AS SAID ORDINANCE WAS ADOPTED AFTER
 6 AN INSUFFICIENT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING HAD
 7 BEEN POSTED.
 8 MR. MCGOFF: You've heard reading by
 9 title of Item 6-E, what is your pleasure?
 10 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-E
 11 pass reading by title.
 12 MR. WECHSLER: Second.
 13 MS. MCGOFF: On the question? Mrs.
 14 Reed, just a question, the public hearing on
 15 this will be held?
 16 MS. REED: December 18.
 17 MR. MCGOFF: December 18. Just for
 18 general notice, the zoning change for
 19 Audubon School there will be a public
 20 hearing December 18 at?
 21 MS. REED: 5:30 p.m.
 22 MR. MCGOFF: 5:30. All those in
 23 favor signify by saying aye.
 24 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.
 25 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

1 MR. EVANS: Aye.
 2 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.
 3 MR. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The
 4 ayes have it and so moved.
 5 MR. ROGAN: I make a motion to take
 6 Resolution No. 56, 2014, from the table and
 7 place it in Seventh Order for final
 8 consideration.
 9 MR. WECHSLER: Second.
 10 MR. MCGOFF: On the question?
 11 MR. ROGAN: Yes, on the question.
 12 This is the SAPA legislation, although I do
 13 oppose this legislation I do believe it
 14 should receive an up or down vote.
 15 MR. MCGOFF: All those in favor of
 16 removing Resolution No. 56, 2014, from the
 17 table signify by saying aye.
 18 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.
 19 MR. ROGAN: Aye.
 20 MR. EVANS: Aye.
 21 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.
 22 MR. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The
 23 ayes have it and so moved.
 24 MS. REED: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR
 25 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC

1 WORKS - FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF THE COUNCIL
 2 NO. 55, 2014 - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL
 3 NO. 188, 1994, AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED
 4 "ESTABLISHING THE RATE TO BE CHARGED FOR THE
 5 USE OF SWIMMING POOLS, RECREATION CENTERS,
 6 BASEBALL FIELDS, AND THE SHOWMOBILE BY
 7 PROVIDING FOR AN INCREASE IN FEES" BY
 8 INCREASING THE FEE FOR USE OF THE
 9 SHOWMOBILE.

10 MR. MCGOFF: What is the
 11 recommendation of the Chair for the
 12 Committee on Public Works?

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

16 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

19 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

20 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

21 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

22 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

23 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

24 MR. EVANS: Yes.

25 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

1 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

2 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

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

5 MS. REED: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION BY
 6 THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE - FOR ADOPTION -
 7 RESOLUTION NO. 98, 2014 - ACCEPTING A
 8 DONATION OF ONE THOUSAND NINETY DOLLARS AND
 9 51/100 CENTS (\$1,090.51) PRESENTED TO THE
 10 CITY OF SCRANTON FIRE DEPARTMENT FROM
 11 KILDARE'S SCRANTON, INC.

12 MR. MCGOFF: What is the
 13 recommendation of the Chair for the
 14 Committee on Finance?

15 MR. EVANS: As Chairperson for the
 16 Committee on Finance, I recommend final
 17 passage of Item 7-B.

18 MR. ROGAN: Second.

19 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? Roll
 20 call, please?

21 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

22 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

23 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

24 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

25 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

1 MR. EVANS: Yes.

2 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

3 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

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

7 MS. REED: 7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION BY
 8 THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY - FOR
 9 ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 99, 2014 -
 10 ACCEPTING A DONATION OF SIX (6) TON OF 2B
 11 GREY GRAVEL WORTH ONE HUNDRED FORTY-FOUR
 12 (\$144.00) DOLLARS PRESENTED TO THE CITY OF
 13 SCRANTON FIRE DEPARTMENT FROM CONCRETE STEP
 14 UNITS, INC.

15 MR. MCGOFF: What is the
 16 recommendation of the Chair for the
 17 Committee on Public Safety?

18 MR. WECHSLER: As Chairperson for
 19 the Committee on Public Safety, I recommend
 20 final passage of Item 7-C.

21 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

25 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

2 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

4 MR. EVANS: Yes.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

8 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I hereby declare
 9 Item 7-C legally and lawfully adopted.

10 MS. REED: 7-D. FOR CONSIDERATION
 11 BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT -
 12 FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 100, 2014 -
 13 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE
 14 CITY OFFICIALS TO ENTER INTO AN AMENDED
 15 COOPERATION AND LOAN AGREEMENT WITH UNITED
 16 NEIGHBORHOOD COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
 17 CORPORATION ("UNCDC") AS WELL AS A MORTGAGE,
 18 PROMISSORY NOTE, FINANCE AGREEMENT AND ANY
 19 AND ALL OTHER DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO LOAN
 20 UNCDC AN ADDITIONAL \$10,000.00 TO FURTHER
 21 THE NEW CONSTRUCTION OF A RESIDENTIAL AND
 22 COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE 500 BLOCK OF
 23 CEDAR AVENUE.

24 MR. MCGOFF: What is the
 25 recommendation of the Chair for the

1 Committee on Community Development?
2 MR. EVANS: As Chairperson for the
3 Committee on Community Development, I
4 recommend final passage of Item 7-D.

5 MR. ROGAN: Second.

6 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? I
7 would just like to say that with the
8 completion of this project on Cedar Avenue
9 this area has undergone such a great
10 transformation under United Neighborhood
11 Centers, it has just revitalized that
12 section in Scranton and hopefully more
13 improvements on the way. Roll call, please?

14 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

15 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

16 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

17 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

18 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

19 MR. EVANS: Yes.

20 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

21 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

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

25 MS. REED: 7-E. FOR CONSIDERATION BY

1 THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - FOR
2 ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 101, 2014 -
3 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE
4 CITY OFFICIALS TO ENTER INTO A PROMISSORY
5 NOTE AND TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL OTHER
6 DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO REFINANCE A SECTION
7 108 LOAN WITH THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT
8 OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT ("HUD") IN
9 THE AMOUNT OF \$1,865,000.00 IN ORDER TO
10 REFINANCE A LOAN TO STEAMTOWN MALL PARTNERS,
11 L.P. THAT MATURED IN JULY 2014 AND WHICH WAS
12 GUARANTEED BY THE CITY OF SCRANTON.

13 MR. MCGOFF: What is the
14 recommendation of the Chair for the
15 Committee on Community Development?

16 MR. ROGAN: As Chairperson for the
17 Committee on Community Development, I
18 recommend final passage of Item 7-E.

19 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

20 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? I
21 perhaps should explain my "no" vote from
22 last week and the commentary that went with
23 it in the newspaper article this morning, I
24 recognize the importance of this legislation
25 for the City of Scranton and the good that

1 it will do in extending this loan so that
2 OECD is not hampered by -- more severely
3 hampered in their funding. However, with
4 that said, I sat in a number of meetings
5 where Mr. Boscov has claimed that he will do
6 what's best for the City of Scranton and
7 over the course of time I have not seen that
8 happen and, once again, Mr. Boscov has made
9 overtures that he will, in fact, make the
10 city whole based on past history, I just
11 don't trust it that will happen.

12 And, thus, as I said, a symbolic
13 "no" vote just to indicate that while I
14 understand the importance of the mall to the
15 City of Scranton and Boscov's to the City of
16 Scranton, I believe we as a city and we as a
17 council are just indicating that we have
18 lost some faith in Mr. Boscov's word that he
19 will do what's best for the City of
20 Scranton.

21 Roll call, please.

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

23 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

25 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.
2 MR. EVANS: Yes.
3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.
4 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.
5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.
6 MR. MCGOFF: No. I hereby declare
7 Item 7-E legally and lawfully adopted.
8 MS. REED: 7-F, PREVIOUSLY TABLED -
9 FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON
10 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - FOR ADOPTION -
11 RESOLUTION NO. 56-2014, A RESOLUTION ON THE
12 CITY OF SCRANTON, LACKAWANNA COUNTY,
13 PENNSYLVANIA, ADOPTING A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN.

14 MR. MCGOFF: What is the
15 recommendation of the Chair for the
16 Committee on Community Development?

17 MR. ROGAN: As Chairperson for the
18 Committee on Community Development, I do not
19 recommend final passage of Item 7-F.

20 MR. MCGOFF: Is there a second? We
21 do need a second in order to vote on it.

22 MR. WECHSLER: I'll second it.

23 MR. MCGOFF: What that means is
24 simply that since Mr. Rogan does not
25 recommend final passage of this that voting

1 "yes" would agree with him that it should
 2 not be passed, and voting "no" would
 3 indicate that, in fact, you are in favor of
 4 passage; correct, Attorney Minora?
 5 MR. MINORA: Yes. On the question?
 6 MR. ROGAN: Yes, on the question. I
 7 know I will be losing to a 4-1 vote on this
 8 issue, but there are just a couple of points
 9 I do want to make. While I certainly
 10 respect my colleagues' opinions and where
 11 they are coming from that they believe this
 12 will be a benefit to the city, I do not see
 13 it that way. I view this as the City of
 14 Scranton giving up its power to set its own
 15 zoning laws and our planning in-house to a
 16 group that is made up predominantly of
 17 members from outside of the City of
 18 Scranton. While I do commend the work that
 19 is done, and by all accounts Mr. King does a
 20 great job lobbying on behalf of the city, if
 21 there were a situation where a change needed
 22 to be made the city would be out voted.
 23 In addition, I know that some of my
 24 colleagues believe that there will be a cost
 25 savings associated with this through the

1 City of Scranton to not have to revise our
 2 own new planning, that may be true, but a
 3 bad plan if it doesn't benefit the city may
 4 wind of costing us more money in the long
 5 run.
 6 In addition to that, any revisions
 7 to the SAPA plan will be paid for by a
 8 proportion of the assessed taxes, population
 9 and square footage, which Scranton would be
 10 the largest on at least two of those three,
 11 maybe all three of these metrics, but while
 12 we are footing most of the bill moving
 13 forward we do not have most of the
 14 representation on the board.
 15 And finally, some of the issues that
 16 I am concerned about that this is being
 17 pushed predominantly by folks from outside
 18 of the city, and I understand that those in
 19 the Abingtons they want to keep their
 20 neighborhoods clean and green as the
 21 expression goes, and I would too if I was
 22 living there or if I was on a board in one
 23 of those communities, but we have look out
 24 for the best interests of the City of
 25 Scranton, and I do not believe that this

1 plan will do that, so I will be voting "no".
 2 Thank you.
 3 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question, I
 4 would like to commend Mayor Courtright and
 5 his administration for sending the
 6 Scranton/Abington's Planning Association
 7 legislation down to us a few months ago and
 8 supporting it. I am very pleased that we
 9 are taking a final vote on this important
 10 legislation tonight. SAPA allows Scranton
 11 to work together with other municipalities
 12 for the betterment of our region. SAPA
 13 acknowledges the fact that Scranton should
 14 be the center of economic development in
 15 this area. SAPA certainly is not a fix-all
 16 for every problem we face, but it is a
 17 definite step in the right direction and a
 18 blueprint that we can use for the future of
 19 the city. There are three main reasons why
 20 I am will be supporting SAPA, increased
 21 opportunities for economic development,
 22 increased funding for the state and
 23 opportunities to increase our tax base.
 24 In the past year we have witnessed
 25 the departure of several significant

1 businesses from the downtown. While the
 2 SAPA plan alone cannot prevent or halt this
 3 trend, the plan emphasizes the need to
 4 reduce sprawl and in-fill in the city. The
 5 SAPA plan allows participating
 6 municipalities to share land use
 7 requirements which mean Scranton can better
 8 attract new or relocating businesses.
 9 The plan can give the city a way to
 10 facilitate economic development based on the
 11 coordinated and comprehensive strategy
 12 rather than every municipality competing for
 13 tax revenue. SAPA puts a strong emphasis on
 14 Scranton being the center of economic
 15 development in this region. I healthy,
 16 vibrant urban center of Scranton is key to
 17 the overall vision of this plan.
 18 We also know, as evidenced tonight,
 19 that the City is in dire financial
 20 straights. Anything we can do to save money
 21 or create opportunities for new funding must
 22 be considered. If Scranton adopts this
 23 plan, which I believe it will tonight, it
 24 will be eligible for additional grant monies
 25 from the state and it saves us from

1 expending money on required planning
2 updates.

3 According to Cindy Campbell, who was
4 here with us tonight, the community planner
5 from DCED, communities that participate in
6 the multi-municipal state plan receive
7 priority consideration for grants from some
8 state agencies. PennDOT, DCED and the
9 Department of Conservation and Natural
10 Resources, among others, give priority
11 consideration for grants to communities
12 involved in comprehensive plans.

13 Projects such as the Elm Street
14 project in South Scranton, the Main Street
15 project in the downtown and the Lackawanna
16 Heritage Valley Authority Trail project
17 would have a better chance of obtaining
18 grants from the state. Should Scranton
19 reject the SAPA plan you would then need to;
20 pursue our own comprehensive plan.

21 In 1993, Scranton's single
22 comprehensive plan costs approximately
23 \$100,000. The SAPA plan would replace the
24 city's comprehensive plan, thereby, avoiding
25 the costs associated with updating or

1 creating a new city plan. The only cost
2 requirement for Scranton for implementation
3 of the SAPA plan will be \$200 a year for
4 use.

5 Finally, the city has long needed to
6 update their zoning ordinances. Adopting
7 the SAPA plan would make us eligible for
8 state funding to defray the cost of that
9 update.

10 Finally, SAPA offers the framework
11 to increase our tax base. No one would
12 disagree that we need more people and more
13 businesses in this city if we are to
14 continue to receive the same services
15 without burdening those least able to afford
16 it. Most of the targeted growth areas in
17 the plan are in an existing urban areas. By
18 keeping rural areas more rural and urban
19 areas more urban, it actually saves the
20 Abingtons from spending money developing the
21 infrastructure to support sprawl while
22 attracting money to Scranton by directing
23 businesses to where the infrastructure
24 already exists.

25 I would hope that my fellow council

1 members would support SAPA so that we begin
2 to a step in the right direction. This plan
3 provides a much needed blueprint for the
4 future. It allows us to work together
5 towards a shared vision. It is a framework
6 for the future of Scranton and anticipates
7 and accommodates opportunities for focus
8 growth in our city.

9 And just to respond to one comment
10 by Mr. Rogan, the city does not give up its
11 power. Each member of a community reserves
12 the right to withdraw from the SAPA plan at
13 any time and any each membered community
14 will be continue to maintain its own zoning
15 board. The SAPA plan shall not infringe on
16 any lawful rights granted to any member of
17 the municipality that said member obtained
18 prior to its participation in the
19 association and, the members on the SAPA
20 plan do not vote, as Mr. King explained in
21 the caucus. They have to come to a
22 consensus, so the representation on the
23 board I don't think really makes any
24 difference at all. Thank you.

25 MR. ROGAN: I don't want to belabor

1 this point all night, but just two quick
2 rebuttals, one regarding the city opting
3 out, yes, we can opt out after we opt in, I
4 think that probably would be the most
5 expensive of the three options, of
6 maintaining the course with what our current
7 zoning is and amending it or opting in and
8 then opting out, but Mr. King did mention
9 that once Scranton adopts SAPA the zoning
10 laws will be changed to reflect SAPA. So we
11 would be losing some of our power to zone
12 outside of the SAPA area by adopting this.

13 And second, regarding a consensus or
14 a vote, it's six and one half dozen of
15 another. If you have ten people and nine of
16 them want to do something and one doesn't
17 that's a consensus, that's majority. I find
18 it to be very rare when you get 20 people or
19 30 people together and they're all going to
20 agree on an issue. I understand this is
21 going to pass by a four to one vote tonight.
22 I hope that it does work, I hope that I'm
23 wrong, but at this point in time I haven't
24 been sold.

25 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Wechsler, anything?

1 MR. WECHSLER: No.
 2 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Evans?
 3 MR. EVANS: No.
 4 MR. MCGOFF: I would like to say
 5 just I have long supported this from the
 6 time it was first introduced. I have been a
 7 supporter of SAPA, and as Mr. Gaughan
 8 indicated, it's not a panacea, it does not
 9 solve all of the problems of the city, but
 10 it may be a help in solving some of them and
 11 at a very minimal cost. I just think that
 12 it's a step forward, and something that, in
 13 fact, may be beneficial and to lose the
 14 opportunity to be involved in something that
 15 is potentially beneficial to the city and
 16 the citizens of Scranton I think voting "no"
 17 would be -- or defeating this would be a
 18 lost opportunity for the city.
 19 In addition, SAPA and -- the
 20 adoption of SAPA is part of the recovery
 21 plan. PEL and others recognize the
 22 possibilities of SAPA and have recommended
 23 through the recovery plan adoption and
 24 implementation of SAPA and, therefore, I
 25 think it is something that we as a city need

1 to do.
 2 MR. GAUGHAN: I just want to make
 3 one more point, just to echo Mr. Wechsler's
 4 comments, I agree with him 100 percent that
 5 Mr. King, who is our city planner, is a
 6 great representative on that board and I
 7 think, you know, his knowledge of the city
 8 and his expertise is second to none. Anyone
 9 else? Roll call, please.
 10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.
 11 MR. WECHSLER: No.
 12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.
 13 MR. ROGAN: Yes.
 14 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.
 15 MR. EVANS: No.
 16 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.
 17 MR. GAUGHAN: No.
 18 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.
 19 MR. MCGOFF: No. I hereby declare
 20 Item 7-F legally and lawfully adopted.
 21 If there is no further business,
 22 I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.
 23 MR. ROGAN: Motion to adjourn.
 24 MR. MCGOFF: Meeting is adjourned,
 25 and a Happy Thanksgiving to all and we will

1 see you next on December 4.
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