

SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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HELD:

Thursday, October 19, 2017

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

KATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

AMIL MINORA, ESQUIRE - SOLICITOR

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

3 MR. WECHSLER: Roll call, please.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

5 MR. PERRY: 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. Wechsler.

13 MR. WECHSLER: Here. Dispense with
14 the reading of the minutes.

15 MS. REED: 3-A. CHECK RECEIVED IN
16 THE AMOUNT OF \$500.00 FROM HARRISON HOUSE
17 PERSONAL CARE HOME, WHICH IS PAYMENT IN LIEU
18 OF TAXES FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON.

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

21 MS. REED: 3-B. TAX ASSESSOR'S
22 RESULTS REPORT FOR HEARING DATE HELD OCTOBER
23 4, 2017.

24 MR. WECHSLER: Are there any
25 comments? If not, received and filed.

1 MS. REED: 3-C. CONTROLLER'S REPORT
2 FOR MONTH ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2017.

3 MR. WECHSLER: Are there any
4 comments? If not, received and filed.

5 MS. REED: 3-D. MINUTES OF THE
6 SCRANTON FIREFIGHTERS PENSION COMMISSION
7 MEETING HELD AUGUST 16, 2017.

8 MR. WECHSLER: Are there any
9 comments? If not, received and filed.

10 MS. REED: 3-E. MINUTES OF THE
11 NON-UNIFORM MUNICIPAL PENSION BOARD MEETING
12 HELD SEPTEMBER 20, 2017.

13 MR. WECHSLER: Are there any
14 comments? If not, received and filed.

15 MS. REED: 3-F. MINUTES OF THE
16 SCRANTON POLICE PENSION COMMISSION MEETING
17 HELD SEPTEMBER 20, 2017.

18 MR. WECHSLER: Are there any
19 comments? If not, received and filed.

20 MS. REED: 3-G. MINUTES OF THE
21 COMPOSITE PENSION BOARD MEETING HELD
22 SEPTEMBER 20, 2017.

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

25 MS. REED: 3-H. AGENDA FOR THE

1 NON-UNIFORM MUNICIPAL PENSION BOARD MEETING
2 HELD OCTOBER 18, 2017.

3 MR. WECHSLER: Are there any
4 comments? If not, received and filed. Do
5 any council members have announcements at
6 this time?

7 MR. PERRY: Yes, I have two
8 announcements to make. The first
9 announcement is Alex Heroes. This is a
10 community fundraiser. It's going to be
11 taking place Saturday November 18 from 6:00
12 to 10:00 at the FOP Lodge on 401 Railroad
13 Avenue in Scranton. This is -- it's a very,
14 very tragic event that happened to Officer
15 Chris Hallock. He was a 33-year-old-year
16 Scranton police officer diagnosed with an
17 aggressive and rare type of leukemia
18 AML-FT3. He has a wife and a brand new
19 newborn baby boy and, you know, he is
20 fighting very hard for them and we should
21 grab his back and be fighting hard for him
22 and get out and support him and his family
23 in his time of need. It's \$15 per person,
24 which will include food and beverages, and
25 like a lot of the raffles there will be

1 baskets and 50/50 t-shirts and bracelets
2 and, you know, we should go to show the
3 support for somebody who is out there on a
4 daily basis and protects, you know, people
5 like us so we can do what we could.

6 So, again, let's get out there and
7 support Chris November 18, 6:00 to 10:00 and
8 that's going to be at the Scranton/Dunmore
9 FOP Lodge on 401 Railroad Avenue.

10 And my second announcement is as
11 part of the National Prescription Take Back
12 Day on October 28 the Scranton Police
13 Department is participating to provide a
14 convenient, safe and responsible means of
15 disposing of prescription drugs. Unused or
16 expired prescription medications may be
17 brought to police headquarters 100 South
18 Washington Avenue on October 28 from 10 a.m.
19 to 2 p.m. For a full list of participating
20 locations you can visit
21 takebacktheday.dea.gov. Thank you.

22 MR. WECHSLER: Just before anyone
23 else, if anyone in the gallery is going to
24 have a conversation could you please take it
25 out in the hall? It's quite distracting to

1 our stenographer. If you are having a
2 conversation could you please take it out in
3 the hall, it's distracting to the
4 stenographer? Thank you. Anyone else?

5 MR. EVANS: Yeah, I have two.
6 First, the second annual bonfire at the Iron
7 Furnaces will take place this Saturday,
8 October 21, from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at
9 the historic Scranton iron furnaces. The
10 bonfire being at 8 p.m. The tickets for the
11 event include admission to the festival and
12 \$5 in bonfire bucks to use towards food,
13 beverage and activities. Tickets are \$15
14 online and \$20 at the gate. Entrance to the
15 festival is free for children 12 and under.

16 Also, the Chocoholic Frolic will be
17 held this Sunday, October 22 from 6:00 p.m.
18 to 7:30 p.m. at the Scranton Cultural
19 Center. Tickets are \$35 and benefit United
20 Neighborhood Centers Program for adult
21 literacy and DESL education. For more
22 information you can call 346-0759.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, and I have one.
24 Our city controller, Roseann Novembrino, who
25 has done an awful lot for the city and in

1 regards to community service and public
2 service over the years needs our help. Her
3 daughter, Elaine Novembrino-Hubb, has
4 undergone a lung transplant with
5 complications. They having a benefit for
6 her to raise money at Kilcoyne's on South
7 Main Avenue in West Scranton October 22,
8 which is this Sunday from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.
9 Donation is \$10. All donations will be
10 gratefuly appreciated. Thank you.

11 MR. WECHSLER: The City's Recycling
12 Department has purchased bags for the sole
13 use of yard waste and leaves. Bags are
14 available for pickup at the DPW building,
15 101 Popular Street, beginning Monday,
16 October 30. Pick ups scheduled for Monday
17 and Thursdays for the bags is 2 to 5, and on
18 Wednesdays from 2 to 7. There is no charge
19 for the bags. Proof of residency is
20 required. Your yard waste and leaves placed
21 in these bags will be recycled. Please do
22 not rake leaves to the curb.

23 The vacuum truck is going to be used
24 intermittently as conditions permit.
25 Basically, they are going to be used to take

1 leaves from the street that blow there over
2 by storm drains. Placing leaves in the bags
3 is the best way to maximize our recycling
4 efforts. If you do use normal trash bags
5 and put them out before that week, they will
6 be collected as trash. So if we want --
7 this is an attempt to get our recycling
8 program started with the leaves. The DPW
9 has purchased approximately 20,000 bags for
10 recycling, and this is our first effort to
11 have a recycling program for leaves so your
12 cooperation is requested. Any questions you
13 may have, please call 570-348-4165.

14 Also, next Thursday, October 26, at
15 6:30 p.m., counsel will present a
16 proclamation to the Naughton family naming
17 the City Clerk's Office as the Frank J.
18 Naughton City Clerk's Office. We invite all
19 those who worked with Mr. Naughton,
20 including any present or past elected
21 officials to join us in honoring Mr.
22 Naughton on this special evening.

23 MS. REED: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'
24 PARTICIPATION.

25 MR. WECHSLER: Joan Hodowanitz.

1 MS. HODOWANITZ: Joan Hodowanitz,
2 Scranton resident and taxpayer. We are down
3 to 19 days until the general election on
4 November 7. I hope that everybody listening
5 to this broadcast understands that next
6 Wednesday night, that's October 25, at 6:00
7 p.m. the University of Scranton's Leahy
8 Hall, that's on Linden Street, second floor,
9 Mayor Courtright and Jim Mulligan will
10 debate their positions for mayor and I just
11 hope that anybody who can possibly go there
12 will go. This is your opportunity to ask
13 both candidates questions and to hear their
14 replies. I certainly hope that ECTV will be
15 broadcasting that live or at least tape it
16 and then show it several times before the
17 election.

18 And speaking of the election, it
19 would be nice to see the results of the
20 Arcadis study on storm water management. Is
21 there anybody possibility that might be
22 forthcoming?

23 MR. GAUGHAN: There was supposed to
24 be, from what I understand, a meeting held,
25 we did get an update, between the

1 administration, members of Arcadis and
2 Pennsylvania American Water. As for a date
3 for this study, I don't know that yet.

4 MS. HODOWANITZ: Because not only is
5 this information you should have as we
6 prepare for the election, but it also ought
7 to effect your budget planning process and
8 the administration's budget planning
9 process. I don't know how they can prepare
10 a budget for next year without that kind of
11 information, but we'll see what they do.

12 I have in my hand here \$1, which I
13 will gladly give to anybody who will give me
14 a copy of the updated Knowel's insurance
15 list? Any takers?

16 MR. GAUGHAN: As far as I'm
17 concerned, we didn't get that yet, Mrs.
18 Reed; correct, the insurance list?

19 MR. WECHSLER: No, we got the master
20 list, we gave it to the business
21 administrator, we gave it the cabinet heads
22 to review their responsibilities within the
23 list and we have not received it back yet.

24 MS. HODOWANITZ: That's a long time
25 ago.

1 MR. EVANS: Yes.

2 MR. WECHSLER: Yes, it is.

3 MS. HODOWANITZ: Well, you realize
4 that the insurance -- the insurance policy
5 is going to come up for renewal in March and
6 we won't have seen the list. Okay, that's
7 the way things are done.

8 And I understand, I didn't go to the
9 pension board meetings yesterday because I
10 went to the county board meetings, but I
11 understand they have yet decided to select
12 an independent medical examination
13 coordinator yet, is that true?

14 MR. EVANS: That's true.

15 MS. HODOWANITZ: So basically any
16 proceeds from the sewer sale are still
17 sitting in limbo and have not slowed to the
18 pension plans.

19 MR. EVANS: That's true.

20 MS. HODOWANITZ: I wonder what the
21 current figure is had that money flowed long
22 ago, like the beginning of the year, what
23 would they have made off with the stock
24 market, but those are just unrealized gains.
25 Okey-dokey. Speaking of the budget, have

1 you any kind of a timeline for when you
2 received the proposed 2018 budget so that
3 the public also can get a look at it?

4 MR. WECHSLER: Yeah, to the best of
5 my understanding it will follow the dates as
6 established by the Home Rule Charter.

7 MS. HODOWANITZ: Which is? When
8 will we see it?

9 MR. WECHSLER: I think we are
10 getting it November 16.

11 MS. REED: November 15.

12 MS. HODOWANITZ: November 16?

13 MR. WECHSLER: November 15, I'm
14 sorry.

15 MS. HODOWANITZ: November 15.

16 MR. WECHSLER: 15th.

17 MS. HODOWANITZ: And it has to be
18 passed within 30 days?

19 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

20 MS. HODOWANITZ: Looking forward to
21 that, like I said, a lot of questions on
22 wondering how they are coming up with their
23 numbers. And I saw in the paper Judge
24 Gibbons' decision not to drop the lawsuit on
25 the Act 511 taxes, all those pending

1 lawsuits they are all potential land mines
2 for not just the 2018 budget, but the
3 financial welfare of the city as a whole, and
4 then I'm very worried about the school
5 district because you hold hands with the
6 school district, you are one city, okay, and
7 if the state has to come in and take them
8 over that will impact your credit rating, so
9 we should see what happens there.

10 I don't know if you ever been to the
11 Library Express at the Marketplace at
12 Steamtown, if you go in there you will see
13 on the wall all of these paper machete
14 masks. Those masks were made by the
15 residents of the Juvenile Detection Center,
16 part of County Prison system in 2014, and on
17 first Friday, November 3, those masks will
18 be on display at St. Luke's Church on
19 Wyoming Avenue from 5 to 9 p.m., and prisons
20 have an awful lot of bad publicity,
21 hopefully this will be one of the good
22 stories that comes out of the things that
23 can go well when they are properly run.
24 Thank you.

25 MR. WECHSLER: Fay Franus.

1 MS. FRANUS: Fay Franus, Scranton.
2 I want to start off by talking about Dunmore
3 City Council where they are not going to use
4 any money from the sewer sale to pay any
5 bills for the Borough because they want to
6 wait and see what the lawsuit says because
7 the lawsuit -- the state law says that any
8 money gained from an authority sale cannot
9 be spent on any city government, it can only
10 be spent on sewer-related matters. This
11 council has chosen to pay bills, loans,
12 millions of dollars to the banks that were
13 owed by the city.

14 Now, Mr. Wechsler, when I talked to
15 you on the phone when you called me back you
16 told me that -- I'm going to ask you
17 something, did you tell me you had to listen
18 to what your Solicitor Minora said that he
19 felt it was legal so you went ahead and did
20 it. Did you say you must listen to him or
21 that you just decided to?

22 MR. WECHSLER: I trusted his
23 opinion, yes.

24 MS. FRANUS: But you don't have to
25 listen to him?

1 MR. WECHSLER: No.

2 MS. FRANUS: So you're as culpable
3 then as --

4 MR. WECHSLER: I don't see it as
5 culpability, our interpretation is that we
6 could spend the money. Dunmore's council's
7 interpretation is they don't want to spend
8 the money.

9 MS. FRANUS: Well, the law says that
10 you cannot. How do you interpret it?

11 MR. WECHSLER: That's your
12 interpretation. It hasn't been decided in
13 Court yet.

14 MS. FRANUS: Okay. As far as these
15 studies, the storm water money, I find it
16 very convenient that Mayor Courtright has
17 decided to pave streets when all that money
18 could have been used for storm water, but
19 you notice in the last four years streets
20 didn't get paved until two weeks, three
21 weeks before the election. So you have to
22 ask yourself when somebody does something
23 for themselves really versus for the people
24 they are not a good person and he is not
25 really doing it for the people, he is doing

1 to get votes so everybody should understand
2 his character.

3 Mr. Rogan, I want to ask you
4 something, back in December of 2013, when
5 the garbage fee was \$178 it was on the
6 council agenda that night to vote for it to
7 be raised from \$178 to \$300, did you vote to
8 raise it from \$178 to \$300?

9 MR. ROGAN: I believe that was in
10 the budget.

11 MS. FRANUS: Pardon me?

12 MR. ROGAN: I believe that was in
13 that budget packet.

14 MS. FRANUS: I didn't ask you that.
15 I said did you vote "yes" or "no" for the
16 garbage hike increase from \$178 to \$300?

17 MR. ROGAN: Yes, I believe I voted
18 "yes."

19 MS. FRANUS: You believe? Well, I
20 know you did because it was in the agenda --
21 it was on the minutes. Anybody that wants
22 to look it up December 13, 2013. Pat Rogan,
23 Bob McGoff and Jack Loscombe voted to raise
24 the garbage fee from \$178 to \$300. Had Mr.
25 Rogan voted "no", the garbage fee would

1 still be at \$178, and while he ran for
2 election all these fliers came out and said
3 Pat Rogan voted against the garbage fee,
4 when in reality had he not voted for that
5 increase it would still be \$178 so Pat Rogan
6 is the reason why the garbage fee is \$300
7 for anybody that wants to vote November 7.

8 Now, another thing, a woman has been
9 in touch with you for six weeks with no
10 response from you whatsoever about 20 or
11 more trees that were cut behind -- below the
12 lookout on Elmhurst Boulevard, the city did
13 that, right? Who ordered the city -- who
14 gave the tree company permission to cut
15 those trees?

16 MR. ROGAN: That is something that I
17 was looking into it and --

18 MS. FRANUS: Six weeks.

19 MR. ROGAN: I'm not sure if it was
20 the city or PennDOT that did that work.
21 There ws simultaneous work going on.

22 MS. FRANUS: I'm pretty sure it was
23 the city and if that's the case who pays for
24 that, the taxpayers?

25 MR. ROGAN: Either way it's the

1 taxpayers if it was the city or the state.

2 MS. FRANUS: But city taxes is more
3 important right now than I'm worried about
4 PennDOT. So how come you haven't gotten
5 this information in six weeks? It was very
6 simple, one phone call to find out -- you
7 already knew the tree company, how come you
8 couldn't find out who ordered them to cut
9 the trees?

10 MR. ROGAN: I haven't had a reply
11 and it's not something counsel voted on. We
12 didn't approve any of this.

13 MS. FRANUS: Not the staff, you were
14 asked by a constituent who ordered these
15 people to cut the trees and you haven't
16 answered that question, so why not? What
17 are you trying to hide? Are you trying to
18 protect Bill Courtright because he ordered
19 these trees to be cut? Do you realize all
20 the ice that's going to be on Elmhurst
21 Boulevard now this winter? These trees are
22 still sitting there. They are still sitting
23 there, so how did you justify not answering
24 the person for six weeks?

25 MR. ROGAN: I haven't received an

1 answer from the people who made that
2 decision. That decision wasn't made by city
3 council.

4 MS. FRANUS: I didn't say it was.
5 All you had to do was call the city, the
6 city's office and ask who ordered these
7 trees cut. You are a city councilman.
8 Mr. Evans has done many things for me
9 through the city. He has made phone calls
10 and gotten things done, how come you haven't
11 been able to call somebody in the city
12 administration and say, "Who ordered these
13 trees to be cut?"

14 MR. ROGAN: Again, I have been
15 looking -- I looked into it, I haven't
16 received an answer.

17 MS. FRANUS: Six weeks. So what are
18 you going to wait until after the election
19 to protect Bill Courtright?

20 MR. ROGAN: It has nothing to do
21 with the mayor.

22 MS. FRANUS: Well, then why couldn't
23 you get any -- okay, then let's put it this
24 way, will you have an answer by next week
25 for sure as to hired this tree company and

1 who is paying for it?

2 MR. ROGAN: I can't promise you I'll
3 have an answer, but I will promise I will
4 promise you I will send another
5 correspondence out tomorrow morning.

6 MS. FRANUS: Can't you pick up the
7 phone instead of a letter?

8 MR. ROGAN: Sure.

9 MS. FRANUS: Then I'm hoping --
10 because I'll be on your back about this one.

11 MR. WECHSLER: Gerard Hetman.

12 MR. HETMAN: Good evening, council.
13 Gerard Hetman from the Lackawanna County
14 Commissioner's Office. First, we would like
15 to thank on behalf of the commissioners and
16 our staff, city council and your staff, for
17 allowing us to use the council chamber for
18 one of our public hearings on the issue of
19 reassessment earlier this month. We had a
20 great meeting here, very good crowd, about
21 20 to 25 constituents I would say and we had
22 a very good series of interaction, great
23 experience overall. So thank you to
24 everyone who made that happen, we really
25 appreciate being able to use the facility

1 for such a good purpose so thank you.

2 On a second note, this time of year,
3 as you are familiar, is the County's budget
4 process, so the commissioners unveiled the
5 tentative 2018 Lackawanna County general
6 fund budget on Friday, October 13, as
7 required by the County's Home Rule Charter.
8 As proposed at the moment, the County's
9 budget includes no tax increase, the millage
10 rate will stay stable at the same rate it
11 has for the last four budget cycles. And
12 when we say that, of course, the Home Rule
13 Charter requires a period of review after
14 the budget is proposed. We have to have a
15 series of four public budget hearings which
16 I'll describe in just a moment.

17 The budget also has to go through
18 two readings at two separate commissioner's
19 meetings similar to the way your legislation
20 also has to go through readings. So when I
21 say it's not final, it hasn't going through
22 the process yet so it can be amended and
23 changed under the County's Home Rule
24 Charter, but as it is proposed now there is
25 no millage increase or decrease from the

1 current level.

2 So priorities in the budget process
3 including funding, debt reduction, funding
4 economic development initiatives, and
5 infrastructure improvements and continued
6 funding for the Lackawanna County library
7 system. One of the hallmarks of the budget
8 this year is savings in our 2017 debt
9 refinancing package. Our revenue financed
10 estimates we are saving approximately \$5
11 million from the current budget cycle to the
12 one we're coming up into it through debt
13 refinancing.

14 The County's 2018 budget will exceed
15 the 2017 budget in terms of total final
16 numbers due to many of the same challenges
17 faced by the city government and other
18 municipal governments, school districts,
19 nonprofit entities and private corporations
20 and businesses, those being rise in health
21 care and pension costs, reduced state and
22 federal funding, and collectively bargain
23 wage and benefit increases. That brings a
24 total bottom line for the County's general
25 fund budget as proposed for 2018 to \$123

1 million. The complete budget as proposed
2 can be accessed in PDF on our county website
3 at www.lackawannacounty.org. In the format
4 that we have it in, it's about 57 pages in
5 length, and anyone can feel free to review
6 that, check it out, go through any line item
7 and ask us any questions or bring any
8 questions to the Commissioner's Office or
9 the Commissioner's meetings.

10 The document that you have in front
11 you is our annual budget message. This is
12 another item required by the Home Rule
13 Charter that we have to present a basic
14 breakdown, a framework of the budget for
15 public review. Now, I should note that we
16 always do one comprehensive budget message,
17 which is on the top sheets there, but
18 sometimes each commissioner also may choose
19 to do his or her own version of the budget
20 message if they had points they would like
21 to emphasize to the public. So this year
22 Commissioner Cummings offered her own budget
23 message, which is on the third page there.
24 In that message, she encourages residents to
25 explore the budget and come to the

1 commissioners with any questions or
2 particularly suggestions on how we can save
3 money, if they have anything. We are always
4 open to that, of course, but she would like
5 particular emphasis on that as we go through
6 the budget process.

7 And last, but not least, our series
8 of four public budget hearings, again,
9 required by the Home Rule Charter, will be
10 held on Thursday, November 2. They are at
11 10 a.m. in the Commissioner's Conference
12 Room at the County Administration building,
13 12:30 p.m. in the Moscow Borough building,
14 3:00 p.m. at the Olyphant Borough building,
15 and 6:00 p.m. at the Scott Township
16 building, that one is at 7:00. So those are
17 public meetings where the focus is strictly
18 on the budget and we are open to any
19 comments, questions or suggestions at those
20 and, of course, the other commissioner's
21 meetings as they come up. If anyone would
22 like to speak to us in the office directly
23 or with comments, questions or suggestions
24 they can call us at 570-963-6800.

25 So we thank you, and that's all we

1 have for this evening. Thanks.

2 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Les
3 Spindler.

4 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening,
5 Council. Les Spindler, city resident,
6 homeowner and taxpayer. Last week on the
7 news and in the newspaper there was
8 announcement Mayor Courtright wants to
9 renovate Crowley Park and he was approached
10 by Mark Seitzinger, a Greenridge resident,
11 saying it's contaminated all the stuff that
12 was dumped. This happened in 2016, why did
13 Mr. Seitzinger wait until now to bring this
14 up? Nothing about a political ploy to get
15 his lying buddy Jim Mulligan elected mayor.

16 And he wasn't satisfied because
17 Chief Graziano and DPW director Gallagher
18 were contacted about this and they both said
19 that the fill was not contaminated, it was
20 clean fill. And, also, the Friends of
21 Crowley Park said it's clean fill. If Mark
22 Seitzinger is so concerned why does he still
23 let children play in there? They were
24 playing there the day of the story and he
25 was letting them play in it. If it's so

1 contaminated, why doesn't he stop people
2 from playing there? Nothing but a political
3 ploy on his part.

4 Next thing, a letter to the editor
5 the other day from a Phyllis Reihnard, the
6 same person who wrote a letter two weeks ago
7 lying about Mayor Courtright raising the
8 garbage fee to \$300, and I'm just going to
9 read the last sentence here. It says, "I
10 sincerely believe a vote for Jim Mulligan on
11 Election Day is a vote for the return of
12 fiscal, transparent, accountable leadership
13 in the mayor's office."

14 Really? She is talking about a guy
15 who made \$250,000 as a Sewer Authority
16 lawyer, illegally took health care for his
17 family from the Sewer Authority, and he
18 didn't pay the sewer bills while all our
19 sewer bills were rising. That's
20 transparency and accountable leadership? I
21 don't think so. What we all need is another
22 lying person from Greenridge as our mayor.
23 The last one put us in debt and that's why
24 we are in the trouble we are now.

25 Lastly, I received something in the

1 mail today, which I will read part of it,
2 it's about a lawsuit brought by candidate
3 Jim Mulligan. Jim Mulligan, current
4 candidate for election of the Mayor of City
5 of Scranton, was at one time an owner of
6 Ander's Development Group, Incorporated.
7 His partners were attorneys Donald J.
8 Frederickson, Jr., and Brenda M. Koba1.
9 Attorney Mulligan brought a lawsuit against
10 his partners. The stole asset of the
11 business was real estate located at 3822
12 Birney Avenue, Moosic, PA. I'm just going to
13 read one part of the lawsuit, which was
14 denied, the whole lawsuit was denied, but it
15 would be 15 or 20 minutes to read the whole
16 thing. Part 6-A, it says, "Denied. And by
17 way of further answer, petitioner created an
18 impossibility of performance and maintenance
19 by changing the locks on the premises,
20 preventing respondents from entering the
21 premises, and threatening bodily harm to the
22 respondents. Petitioner continues to harass
23 respondent, Donald Frederickson, Jr., by
24 lewd gestures and public and baseless
25 threats of criminal prosecution."

1 Now, this is a man who says he has
2 character. What I just read, that doesn't
3 sound like a man that has character. It
4 sounds like a man who should be disbarred
5 and not allowed to practice law in this
6 state anymore and definitely shouldn't be
7 our mayor, because our mayor has the city
8 going in the right direction, 300 block of
9 Penn Avenue is starting to begin to look
10 downtown when I was a kid, small businesses
11 there and it's happening all over the city.
12 So I don't think this mayor is -- this
13 person is qualified to be mayor. And that's
14 all I have tonight. Thank you.

15 MR. WECHSLER: Bob Bolus.

16 MR. BOLUS: Good evening. Bob
17 Bolus, Scranton. Just to reiterate a little
18 what Les just said, I don't believe the
19 mayor should even share a stage with
20 Mulligan. He took money illegally. He is a
21 lawyer, he should have known better, that
22 you don't take insurance when you are not on
23 the payroll, it's against the law, it's
24 illegal, I don't think the mayor should even
25 waste his time sitting on the stage.

1 I have already sent a letter, as you
2 all know, to the Attorney General requesting
3 an investigation into it. It's a law. The
4 law is for everyone, including Mr. Mulligan,
5 and when you break it you pay the price. We
6 all know that. I know that I have gone
7 through it around here right, wrong or
8 indifferent. So I don't think he should
9 even stand up for and said he is doing
10 something for the city or he is going to do
11 something better when all he was a taker and
12 not a giver, and if you can't be truthful
13 and honest in the administration running in
14 city and representing all of the people you
15 don't belong there, and I personally don't
16 think I would share with him and I don't
17 think anybody else should. He doesn't
18 belong there. He knew better and he should
19 have known better if he didn't know better.
20 Hopefully the AG will do something to step
21 up to the plate once and do something about
22 it and save the city from a possible
23 catastrophe from somebody stole from us.

24 The Sewer Authority is still active,
25 Mr. Gaughan, you are one guy who yells about

1 transparency, I see it in my sleep anymore.
2 It seems everywhere I go all I see is
3 transparency, but I haven't seen you take
4 issue with Mr. Mulligan, yet you argue about
5 the Sewer Authority what the mayor did and
6 the mayor is still on this and he was
7 accountable to each and every one of you.
8 You are the only one that came up and you
9 tried to bully him, but he was there for
10 everybody. I haven't seen any of you guys
11 stand out there all by yourselves and take
12 criticism or take answers and questions as
13 the mayor did and I think it's all wrong
14 that you keep coming out and challenging
15 transparency when you signed the recovery
16 plan. You know, you are all same as the fox
17 in the hen house, same group so, you know, I
18 think you got to be marginal where you are
19 going, pointing blame where blame belongs.
20 You haven't said a word about Mulligan, yet
21 you let something else go on.

22 Taxes on the mall. Nobody stood
23 here and said, "Geez, let's go get that
24 reassessed.

25 You haven't told us where our

1 parking spaces are, the 500 spaces we are
2 supposed to have that we pay millions of
3 dollars of our money to do it. You're
4 transparency, I haven't heard you say
5 anything about that because it's political.

6 So if you are going to run a city
7 here and stand out and argue about
8 transparency and credibility and integrity
9 do something about it than just barking
10 about it. You know, I'm a guy that likes to
11 see action. I don't like talkers. And I
12 don't like nonsense where people just don't
13 take responsibility. Found out what the mal
14 did with our money and why we pay \$10 to
15 park on St. Patrick's Day in our parking
16 spaces, and we should have premier parking
17 spaces for residents or the businesses in
18 the City of Scranton people who pay the
19 taxes. Take care of that transparency, give
20 us an answer. Rope it off, tell us what we
21 owe them.

22 The other part is I got to commend
23 the mayor, I tried to do that when you shut
24 the mic off of on me a couple of weeks ago,
25 Mr. Wechsler, and I was sort of displeasure

1 with it because I was talking about
2 something great for the city. I was the
3 president last week when he stood on the
4 stage and thanked Laureen Cummings, our
5 commissioner, and said how he loves the City
6 of Scranton. That's from the President of
7 the United States and what we showed him
8 here. You guys didn't show him, I did and
9 so did a lot of other people. I opened up a
10 house for him, a headquarters, I brought him
11 to Scranton with trailers and advertising,
12 but he gave us credibility nationally.

13 And our mayor stood up in front of
14 the courthouse, Mr. Evans, you were there,
15 you saw what the mayor did. He is the only
16 mayor in the country that gave the city key,
17 the key to the city to the American Towman
18 Spirit Ride out of every city that this
19 coffin what the spirt ride, which is toward
20 the move over law, went nationally.
21 Thousands of places this has gone through
22 with towing companies, first responders, we
23 were honored to be able to have it down here
24 in Scranton, where I requested it be
25 brought, not in my place of business I

1 wanted it in my city. I wanted it downtown
2 because of the respect I have for my city
3 and for this mayor out of this whole country
4 showed credibility and integrity far beyond
5 anybody that's out there and the criticism
6 he is getting in a lot of areas is all wrong
7 because everybody here was all part of where
8 the city is today, the school district and
9 everywhere else that has put the City of
10 Scranton in the hole again, and it's going
11 to head there because they are going to
12 break us because nobody is taking an issue,
13 but this mayor at least stood before us and
14 a took the criticism and opened the door to
15 him. Let somebody else do that. Thank you.

16 MR. WECHSLER: Lee Morgan.

17 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.
18 Lee Morgan. You know, I appreciate
19 everybody's opinion when they come here to
20 the podium because they are speaking their
21 mind and I think that's important to be able
22 to voice your opinions especially to your
23 government. But, you know, where the city
24 is after 25 years of distress and the city
25 being in worse shape than it was when it

1 began and, you know, with the rulings that
2 are going to come, I mean, I think that
3 Judge Gibbons is just looking for wiggle
4 room and trying to give the city a little
5 space and hoping that the higher court will
6 rule not just in the city's favor but to try
7 to help all the cities across the
8 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania that find
9 themselves in the same financial shape the
10 city is in because there has been a total
11 lack of political leadership in this country
12 for decades.

13 And, you know, the only thing that's
14 going to really save this city in my
15 opinion, and I appreciate people when they
16 run for office, but too often people run for
17 office and really they have never attended a
18 public meeting, they don't know how to do
19 research and develop ideas on their own and
20 it's like they are being lead down the road
21 holding somebody's hand because, you know,
22 in most instances grant money, whether it's
23 federal, state -- or state has been
24 determined where it's go to be spent at the
25 inception of the legislation.

1 I think what really needs to happen
2 in the city is something needs to go on the
3 ballot to give the residents the opportunity
4 to dissolve Scranton's city government and
5 the Scranton school district's government
6 because after 25 years of failed leadership,
7 and I'm not just saying that, Mr. Wechsler,
8 because of your comment about what Attorney
9 Minora told you about the law because, I
10 mean, if you were to read the law words and
11 laws have meaning and maybe your solicitor
12 could explain that to you, but the financial
13 harm that's been done to the residents of
14 this city is just mind boggling, and for the
15 people at home, you know, you have got
16 senior citizens living on almost nothing,
17 but to be honest with you that's their fault
18 because for 50 or 60 years the government --
19 the people and the citizens in this country
20 have known that the US government was
21 looting their social security funds and
22 putting IOUs in fund and place of the cash
23 reserves, and for so long citizens have just
24 stood idly by fearful of their own
25 government.

1 Mr. Bolus asked a very legitimate
2 question here tonight, where are our 500
3 parking spaces? But you know something, I
4 remember when we are building one of the
5 garages downtown and people were bragging
6 about the crane on our skyline, but the
7 residents they have received nothing for all
8 of the work that's been done in this city
9 because it's all been sold off and the
10 people who took it don't even pay taxes, and
11 the revenue that should be coming into the
12 city, whether it's the parking meters or the
13 fines, parking fines, that's going to
14 somebody else, too, and the \$15 fee per
15 parking spot doesn't exist anymore.

16 So all that's happened in this city
17 is that more and more of the burden of the
18 government has fallen on the people who have
19 nothing left and the people who were their
20 representatives to protect their interest
21 you are seated before me and your
22 performance -- well, to be honest with you,
23 I don't have words to convey your
24 performance because I don't think they have
25 created that word yet to be quite honest,

1 and what this city really needs are massive,
2 and I mean massive cuts to the budget,
3 massive, 30 or 40 percent cuts to the
4 budget. Not make believe, but reality. The
5 wage tax has to go to zero. Not 2.4 but to
6 zero to bring people into this city willing
7 to buy property and give it a shot.

8 And the downtown, well, some people
9 might conduct business in their home but to
10 be honest with you downtowns were designed
11 to conduct business but we are turning them
12 into neighborhoods and when people start
13 talking about jobs and development, where?
14 Where do we have a business park in this
15 city that's vibrant and why don't we because
16 you gentlemen did such a stellar job. We
17 need to dissolve this government. We need a
18 government by the people and for the people.
19 Thank you.

20 MR. WECHSLER: Ron Ellman.

21 MR. ELLMAN: Good evening, Council.
22 This week our tree fell on my house, my
23 refrigerator quit, and my oven, my furnace
24 wouldn't go on in the cold weather. The
25 only reason that I mention this, these can

1 be catastrophes to some of the people in
2 this city when these things happen. There
3 is more than just -- you people just think
4 of taxes and reassessment and so on, there
5 is all of these other expenses, and I know
6 some of you have spoken to some people that
7 just couldn't afford to pay for a house
8 anymore when one of the mates died because I
9 have run into it two or three times and
10 that's a great sadness.

11 About the reassessment, of course
12 everybody knows I'm against it, but if our
13 next mayor, the incoming mayor, whoever --
14 whichever it is, if he could get to talk to
15 Mrs. Cummings and Jerry and Mr. O'Malley and
16 come to some kind of conclusion what to do
17 about the City of Scranton our taxes -- we
18 couldn't afford no more and taxes aren't
19 going to go down. I don't care who is in
20 office taxes aren't going to about down in
21 this city.

22 We have got a runaway school board
23 that's leaderless and it's a luxury that a
24 big city couldn't afford. I've asked some
25 people who the hell ever heard of a school

1 board in such debt as this? And they have
2 hired 16, 17 now teachers, you know, board
3 benefits. They are just completely out of
4 the control.

5 But as I was saying, what if
6 something could be done about keeping the
7 level of taxes in Scranton for a period of
8 the time and the county is where most of the
9 newer buildings and properties are over the
10 years, this city is full of hundred-year-old
11 houses, hundreds of them, probably thousands
12 of them. The house on each side of me was
13 there before 1912. I got a map of the
14 neighborhood from my survey years ago,
15 that's how I just happened to know that. It
16 even showed little outhouses on the map I
17 got downtown, and if anybody wants to know
18 about their property those people just bend
19 over backwards to help you. I don't know if
20 any of you all have ever had to go there,
21 the old gas company, but I don't know how to
22 use a computer and/or nothing and I had two
23 different people just/KWRUS doing everything
24 for me a couple of the years ago.

25 About the reassessment, \$13 million,

1 \$15 million, that's ridiculous. They could
2 hire 300 unemployed people. This doesn't
3 take any skill to measure a house. I helped
4 the girl that came to my house years ago.
5 They could hire 300 people at \$100 a day
6 that's \$150,000 a week. I have no idea how
7 long it would take. If it took 12 weeks
8 what's that \$1,800,000? And if it took 20
9 weeks you are talking about \$3 million. Why
10 should it take 300 people measuring houses
11 all over the county a prolonged time?

12 Besides that, Mr. Cordaro and Mr. Munchak
13 had records, I don't know whatever happened
14 to them, they had a secretary put everything
15 on the disc from the survey they took from
16 as much as they got years ago, but it's just
17 an idea. If this administration gets
18 involved the same people who did the Sewer
19 Authority will end up with our \$13, 15
20 million dollars and they probably still
21 won't get the job finished. Thank you.

22 MR. WECHSLER: Glynis Johns.

23 MS. JOHNS: Good evening. So a lot
24 of people brought up a lot of important
25 things that are happening in the city. One

1 thing that's really striking to me is the
2 school district. I'm a product of the
3 school district, I have seen a lot of things
4 that have happened. I have also worked in
5 school districts in other cities and just to
6 know that we are in this debt and there is
7 not that many resources, and if there are
8 resources they are only going to certain
9 schools, I think we need to do something
10 about that. There is old resources there,
11 we are in 2017. We can use different
12 technology that will ultimately save us
13 money and facilitate education for these
14 students.

15 I feel like leaving the Scranton
16 school district I had teach myself a lot
17 when I got to college, and I feel like I
18 have done a lot to further my education and
19 I just wish that there were teachers that
20 wanted to be there, especially to help
21 children of color. I feel like we are
22 always marginalized in the city, and it's
23 really hurtful because I want to be there
24 for those students and I think we don't have
25 enough representation in the school. I

1 think we need to do more recruiting for
2 right teachers. I think we need to get
3 ourselves out of debt properly and I don't
4 think that we are doing that. The fact that
5 the school is in more debt than some of the
6 New York City school districts is out of
7 control.

8 But to put that aside, like I said,
9 the other few times I was here I really
10 wanted to do lot to bring remembrance and
11 recognition to some of the prominent members
12 of color of this city from the past, and I
13 would really like to see historical markers
14 placed for some of these people and I wrote
15 a proposal for you guys regarding that.

16 Two figures, for example, that I
17 would like to start with, if the city could
18 sponsor it that could happen, would be
19 George W. Brown, who was a prominent
20 business owner in the early 1900's as well
21 as another man named Thomas H. Hughes. He
22 was one of the first -- well, he was the
23 first African-American to move in the east
24 side on the 900 block of Prescott Avenue and
25 he pretty much opened the way for there to

1 be integration in housing because before
2 that African Americans could only live in
3 one part of the city, so I think we need to
4 show the city that we do care about these
5 people who actually made an impact. You
6 know, we have all of these placards and
7 different remembrances of different people
8 for different reasons and I think it's time
9 that we start to see more representation of
10 other people, native Americans, the Indian
11 community, the black community, the Hispanic
12 community, so I kind of want to encourage
13 that.

14 So can I give you guys papers? This
15 is just like a draft of a proposal that I'm
16 working on. The Pennsylvania History Exam
17 Commission, they are the ones that go about
18 making the placards, so they have a deadline
19 of December 1 but if that's not possible
20 then I really want to work for next year,
21 especially when you guys are redoing the
22 budget because it is pricey and I would like
23 to be sponsored for this project.

24 So I'll just give you guys -- so I
25 have some information about these people,

1 So I want to work to getting more
2 people of color recognized, more people of
3 the color to be involved in the community.
4 Like I said before, there is also not a lot
5 of people that participate in city council
6 or the government that is my age and seeing
7 all of the things that's happening now I
8 think it's more than necessary seeing what
9 the mayor is not doing for us is terrible
10 and seeing that we are not really being
11 encouraged to go out into the world, and
12 also when you come back here there is no
13 jobs. I have two degrees and I cannot find
14 a job here, and honestly I don't know if I
15 want to say it's because of my color or I'm
16 overqualified or I'm a woman of color, but I
17 have done a lot of work trying to find a job
18 in this local area and it's very hard, but
19 I'm not going to, you know, bring that into
20 the discussion, but I'm just saying like a
21 few people said, Lee Morgan, he said there
22 is not really jobs here for people. There
23 are jobs are from big corporations that stay
24 for a couple of years but that to me is in
25 the a career job and I think if you we have

1 students and we do something to like
2 advocate education and have a place for them
3 to come back and actually contribute to this
4 community it could also make it better. So
5 those are some ideas that I have and I
6 wanted to share with you all, so thank you.

7 MR. WECHSLER: Glynis, before you
8 leave, actually right down in the area of
9 Cliff Street down in that area the county
10 actually is getting ready to build what they
11 are going to call a boomerang park because
12 of the shape of the park so I'm thinking
13 actually if it ties in the county may be
14 able to do something for something like this
15 while they are developing a park and I think
16 it would be a great edition knowing that
17 historical event like some you are talking
18 about that would be something that maybe Mr.
19 Hetman, whose representing the county, just
20 let him know that you were here this evening
21 and see if there is something you can put
22 together for you.

23 MS. JOHNS: Absolutely, and I would
24 love that. I pretty much did my whole
25 graduate studies on this history of this

1 city so I feel like I'm more than qualified
2 and I have become an expert on this area.
3 I'm getting ready to show my thesis to the
4 city, I'm working on that. Like I said, in
5 this proposal I put excerpts from my thesis
6 on all of the information on these people
7 backing up why I think they deserve to have
8 recognition. So, once again, thank you for
9 all listening.

10 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

11 MR. WECHSLER: Anyone else?

12 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening.

13 Marie Schumacher. I am trusting that
14 assigning the authority to the mayor to --
15 to sign the deed for that property at Linden
16 and Wyoming is not -- will remain on the
17 table tonight?

18 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

19 MR. SCHUMACHER: I just would like
20 to say one thing with that, thanks to the
21 milling of Wyoming Avenue I actually got
22 stopped in front of St. Luke's and there is
23 a beautiful park right there already it's
24 gorgeous. I guess it's the church's. I
25 don't know who does it, maintains it, but

1 it's beautiful so I think one in that block
2 is sufficient.

3 Next, Wayne, do you yet have the
4 number of building permits that have been
5 issued since the three-year abatement was
6 passed?

7 MR. EVANS: No, I'm sorry, I will
8 get that for you.

9 MS. SCHUMACHER: Thank you. And
10 then following up on another one,
11 Mr. Wechsler, I would like to go back and
12 clarify something, a couple of weeks ago I
13 asked about the -- if the agreement with
14 Steamtown 300, Mr. Basalyga, was for the 40
15 years of the lease, do you remember it?

16 MR. WECHSLER: In terms of the
17 parking?

18 MS. SCHUMACHER: In terms of the
19 noncompete and whether that was --

20 MR. WECHSLER: I don't know.

21 MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, you know,
22 that's why I'm -- I was looking up something
23 else because I want to talk about the
24 Parking Authority, which I think is probably
25 a bigger disaster than the Sewer Authority,

1 but in going through it, it said the
2 original was for 15 years exclusivity, I
3 went to the dentist today, excuse me, and
4 originally it was unspecified but it said a
5 much higher amount, and it said that what
6 they got for the \$4.5 million that we gave
7 them up front was for 22.5 years, so I would
8 like clarification on which it really ended
9 up, if it was the 22.5, and then do we have
10 a date yet for the parking?

11 MR. WECHSLER: No. We have a
12 tentative date, but --

13 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay.

14 MR. WECHSLER: I don't want to put
15 it out and then --

16 MS. SCHUMACHER: Were you able to
17 get the number of spaces in the Electric
18 City garage that were built in the early
19 90's rather than in the 50's?

20 MR. WECHSLER: No, the question that
21 you sent to me was which garages were
22 filled.

23 MS. SCHUMACHER: I'm sorry?

24 MR. WECHSLER: The question you said
25 to me were which garages were built.

1 MS. SCHUMACHER: No, I asked for the
2 number of parking spaces in that parking --

3 MR. WECHSLER: Unless I read your
4 e-mail incorrectly, I didn't get that from
5 your e-mail.

6 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay, well, I would
7 like to know the number of --

8 MR. WECHSLER: Send --

9 MS. SCHUMACHER: All they have is
10 the 685 and --

11 MR. WECHSLER: Send it to me with
12 the proper question.

13 MS. SCHUMACHER: Yeah, okay. That's
14 what I want is the number in the new section
15 so I could do the subtraction, which is
16 interesting we gave them \$4.5 million for
17 that exclusivity for maybe 20, around 20
18 years and they are able to get the entire
19 mall for \$5.5, we could have done 2,000
20 spaces.

21 Anyway, back to -- also, we still
22 were obligated, I do know this was in the
23 contract, for \$2.85 million toward the
24 immediate repairs for the Electric City
25 garage, how much of that has been expended?

1 MR. WECHSLER: I don't think any of
2 it has been expended.

3 MS. SCHUMACHER: Was it put in
4 escrow? Well, it was for immediate. I
5 mean, that's quite awhile -- immediate to me
6 is like right away so could you find that
7 out how much of that -- and if not where it
8 is our in budget process because we do, we
9 have committed to spending \$2.85 million
10 towards the 5.1 -- estimated \$5.1 million in
11 the immediate repairs to the EC garage.

12 Back to this page, I remember being
13 back in the Governor's Room right behind us
14 here and listening to Mr. Carlos and other
15 people commit to the trust agreement for the
16 proceeds of the sewer assets like
17 immediately, if not sooner, kind of a
18 comment, when are we going to do this right?
19 I mean, my goodness, we had that one third
20 party administrator, then we came out with
21 this now we are going to have to make two
22 jobs instead of one, independent worker and
23 examination coordinator, when are we going
24 to get down to the nitty-gritty?

25 MR. EVANS: Well, I expect that to

1 be done relatively soon. Once that happens
2 we can start rolling the trucks.

3 MS. SCHUMACHER: Could you define,
4 because obviously I have a different
5 definition of immediate so could you --

6 MR. EVANS: I know. In government
7 soon could be a very difficult term.

8 MS. SCHUMACHER: And, if I may, the
9 rest I'll bring back, but I would like to
10 point out one thing and that is that Mayor
11 Courtright did have the opportunity to amend
12 the budget when he came into office and that
13 was the first year that the garbage fee was
14 changed from \$178 to \$300 a year. Thank
15 you.

16 MR. WECHSLER: Anyone else?

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

18 MOTIONS.

19 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Perry?

20 MR. PERRY: Yes. Thank you,
21 Mr. Wechsler. I just have a few brief
22 items. The first item we actually touched
23 on already and Ms. Hodowanitz and other
24 people mentioned it that there is going to
25 be a scheduled meeting before Arcadis and

1 American Water Company, the date is not set
2 yet, but once the date is we will pass on
3 all of the information that comes out from
4 that meeting. Obviously, we are kind of all
5 waiting with baited breath on that.

6 I was fielding some phone calls this
7 week on the paving project for South Irving
8 Avenue. They started the project, put up
9 signs and then stopped kind of like cold and
10 it was -- you know, the residents up there
11 are waiting for so long were kind of upset
12 so I told them I would find out some
13 information. I did pas on the information I
14 found but I figured I'd make a more broader
15 statement in case some people are still
16 wondering. The paving company, there was a
17 death in the family of one of the employees
18 that caused their shut down of the company
19 so the projects were on hold, all of their
20 projects are back up and running now. As of
21 today, there might be sites, there might be
22 equipment on the site now, I don't know, but
23 it is scheduled to take place rather soon,
24 within the next week. So that's the update
25 on the South Irving Street paving project.

1 The only other note I have is that I have a
2 request for a replacement stop sign on the
3 corner of Duncan and Cedar Avenue. It's a
4 hand painted stop sign. I don't know if
5 anybody's every noticed those. When a stop
6 sign goes down, they get hit by a car or
7 whatever happens and they get faded, some
8 citizen will, you know, go up and just kind
9 of paint brush it in just to have it there
10 and that's the case on this, there is no
11 reflectivity to it, it's just a hand painted
12 sign. So if we can get that addressed and
13 fixed as soon as possible that would be
14 fantastic.

15 Those are the only items I have.
16 There is nothing if Fifth Order so there is
17 no real new business. That's all I have,
18 Mr. Wechsler.

19 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr. Perry.
20 Mr. Rogan?

21 MR. ROGAN: Yes, also just two very
22 brief items. I appreciate Mr. Hetman coming
23 and giving us the budget message from the
24 commissioners. One thing that, and a
25 speaker mentioned this today, regarding the

1 city and the taxes is that, you know, to the
2 average taxpayer, whether it's going to the
3 city, the county or the school district all
4 they know is they're writing a check. So I
5 am pleased to see the county budget is not
6 going to raise taxes, the city budget next
7 year will not raise taxes and we will wait
8 to see what the school district has to say,
9 which as anyone reads the paper knows right
10 now the school district is one of the three
11 bodies that's in the most severe financial
12 distress with the state possibly coming in.

13 So I think we moving forward the
14 three governing bodies need to have more
15 cooperation whether it's as far as
16 purchasing goes and I know a lot of times
17 that can be very difficult between the
18 taxing bodies, but especially with the
19 school district and the city there is an
20 opportunity for greater cooperation. This
21 is something that's been brought up to me a
22 number of times, but the school district has
23 garbage trucks, you know, they have people
24 that are paid just to do that function. You
25 know, again, I think the city is better at

1 that because we have a full force, you know,
2 there is areas where we can help the school
3 district and areas where the school district
4 can help us, so I'm hoping in the future
5 there can be more cooperation between the
6 taxing bodies especially with the question
7 of distress currently within the school
8 district.

9 With that being said, I am pleased,
10 again, regarding the County's budget message
11 and, you know, appreciate Mr. Hetman coming
12 and keeping us informed on that end.

13 Secondly, I know Mr. Perry mentioned
14 this during announcements but I just want to
15 comment, the fundraiser for Chris Hallock,
16 Chris is a friend of mine and he is one of
17 the best police officers the City of
18 Scranton has. As Councilman Perry
19 mentioned, he has a newborn son just
20 recently and was diagnosed with a very rare
21 form of leukemia. So he is in our prayers
22 and I hope to see everyone at the fundraiser
23 on the 18th for Chris. I just went to
24 mention that because he is such a great guy
25 and he is always sending me ideas about the

1 city and how to make the city better, he is
2 truly what's great about our city and our
3 city's police department so we hope to see
4 him back bouncing back from this and back at
5 work soon. Thank you.

6 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr. Rogan.
7 Mr. Evans?

8 MR. EVANS: Thank you. First a
9 remainder that ECTV will be televising the
10 mayoral and city council debates on Channel
11 19, that's all I'm going to say about that
12 issue because I really don't think this is
13 the forum for political comments.

14 Tonight I'm going to talk about a
15 subject that is a special interest to me,
16 and no it's not reassessment. Historical
17 preservation and the future of cities, and
18 while we just may be on the cusp of
19 something truly amazing, but only if we make
20 the right decisions on a going forward
21 basis.

22 As a former president of the
23 Architectural Heritage Association, as well
24 as a former member of the HARB, which is the
25 Historical Architecture Review Board, and

1 also a former city planning commission
2 member for almost a decade, preservation and
3 planning have always intercepted for me. So
4 what I want it talk about tonight is a
5 return of the city. City living, believe it
6 or not, is making a come back. I think we
7 have seen some of that for yourselves with
8 the growth of residential living downtown.
9 80 percent of Americans live in cities and
10 urban areas, and that number is increasing.
11 According to the last census, the urban
12 population grew at 12 percent between 2000
13 and 2010. In fact, since 2000, home prices
14 in the city centers have out performed those
15 in the suburbs by 50 percent. This dynamics
16 per the Time magazine headline in April of
17 2014 that read, "The new American dream is
18 living in the city not owning a house in the
19 suburbs."

20 So even while suburban sprawl
21 continued to proliferate, many Americans
22 began to feel that something was missing in
23 the name of the 20th century convenience.
24 Building suburban neighborhoods structured
25 around cars, rather than people, they found

1 they were losing many aspects of the meaning
2 of place that comprised the building lots
3 that make up a community. Suburbanites
4 complete dependence on the automobile ends
5 of costing families more money in the form
6 of multiple cars, more insurance, gas, and
7 even health care. The former president of
8 the national trust, Richard Moe, called the
9 suburbs the most expensive, resource intense,
10 land gobbling, polluting way of living ever
11 built.

12 So as I mentioned earlier, in the
13 beginning of the 21st century the come back
14 for cities began. In the book "The Great
15 Inversion in the Future of the American
16 City" the author wrote that we are living in
17 a moment in which the massive outward
18 migration of the affluent that characterized
19 the second half of the 20th century is
20 coming to an end, and among the driving
21 forces behind this change and an inward
22 migration back to cities are those born
23 between 1980 and 1987, also known as
24 millennials.

25 A Nielsen report found that 62

1 percent of the millennials wanted to live in
2 an urban, mixed use environment alongside
3 shops, restaurants and offices. In fact,
4 further research suggested that a full 85
5 percent of this group preferred city living
6 to life in the suburbs, and I'm not even
7 including the empty nesters, many who are
8 now taking a leave to city life and trading
9 their lawnmowers and snowblowers for an
10 easier and far more interesting way of urban
11 life.

12 Young professionals and millennials,
13 unlike their parents, who seem to have
14 calculated their worth in terms of how many
15 square foot their house was, are more
16 interested in the amenities of the city
17 itself. Great public spaces, walkability,
18 diverse people, and more activities.

19 The reason I talk about subjects
20 like this is because this could be our
21 future. We need to do a lot more things
22 right but this is there for the taking. We
23 need to embrace it because a vital and
24 relevant downtown neighborhood will bring
25 increased tax base, a re-imagined

1 prosperity, small businesses and yes jobs,
2 and that means stability at the government
3 level as well as additional resources to
4 draw from to help support our neighborhoods.

5 In the movie the "Field of Dreams"
6 the theme is simple, if you build it, they
7 will come. We have already built it. We
8 already have what others don't have, but we
9 need to be smart and innovative and
10 concerned caretakers of what we do have and
11 it's true potential.

12 So how does historic preservation
13 enter this conversation, because it starts
14 with what I'm going to call the quality of
15 place. This is the quality of the
16 buildings, architecture and the streets that
17 surround us. People want to live and work
18 where that exist. Quality like the Scranton
19 Cultural Center, the Albright library, the
20 Radisson Lackawanna, the Scranton Life
21 building, the Scranton Electric building,
22 the Connell building, the Brooks building.
23 City hall and the courthouse, the 300 block
24 of Penn Avenue and on and on.

25 Our downtown is not measured with

1 nondescript strip malls and cookie cutter
2 franchises, but with history and
3 architecture and quality of the place.

4 So from time to time I will be
5 revisiting this topic to more fully explore
6 the length and with cities in the downtown
7 walkability and, of course, historic
8 preservation. In the meantime, we, some
9 city officials and government officials,
10 developers, residents, artists, property
11 owners and we that believe in Scranton we
12 have to step and be the advocates for what
13 is right in this city. For too long we have
14 let us others tell us who and what we are.
15 It's time for us to tell a different story
16 and so that's I have on that subject
17 tonight.

18 Finally, I would like to thank -- on
19 reassessment, because I can't let a night go
20 by that I don't talk about reassessment, I'd
21 like to thank Mr. Cross from PEL as well as
22 the League of Women Voters for their
23 unbiased presentation on reassessment. And
24 one more thing, the election is less than
25 three weeks away, please vote "yes" for

1 reassessment. Thank you.

2 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr. Evans.
3 Mr. Gaughan?

4 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, thank you, just a
5 few items. First of all, I want to
6 apologize for being absent last week. I was
7 ill and I still can't seem to shake this
8 cold. I want to say something about the
9 purpose of these council meetings after
10 listening to some speaker tonight. It's my
11 view that the purpose of these meetings is
12 to conduct city business, not engage in who
13 people want to win for the Office of Mayor,
14 throwing out various allegations about
15 different candidates. I think that we need
16 to get these meetings in order over the next
17 few weeks, otherwise, the intent of council
18 meetings, which is -- the purpose is to
19 conduct city business, it will continue to
20 deteriorate in my opinion.

21 Second thing I would like to
22 mention, this past Saturday I had the
23 opportunity to call a bingo game at the West
24 Side Senior Center and I approached a table
25 of elderly women and we started to have a

1 conversation and almost all of the women at
2 the table lived or currently live in
3 Greenridge Senior apartments off of Dixon
4 Avenue. And if you remember, this subject
5 has come up here more than once with one
6 speaker who was very passionate about some
7 of the perceived injustices that are taking
8 place at this complex, and I had almost all
9 of the people sitting at this table tell me
10 some pretty horrifying things that are going
11 on down -- apparently going down at this
12 senior citizen, at the senior apartments.

13 One of them is that there is
14 apparently a \$15 charge on elderly people if
15 they are located next to the elevator. The
16 elevator was down for a long time so that
17 affected many of the elderly there and
18 people that are handicapped.

19 One of the major things that these
20 women were telling me is that the rents
21 continue to rise. When this was built back
22 in 2012, and I want to read an excerpt from
23 an article, a March 21 article from the
24 Scranton Times, "The City of Scranton,
25 Lackawanna County and the school district is

1 considering a tax abatement for the 121 unit
2 senior citizen apartment building that was
3 going to be built in a former masonry block
4 plant in the Greenridge section of Dixon
5 Avenue."

6 So this company, which is from
7 Williamsville, New York, was seeking a tax
8 abatement, it was specifically seeking a
9 LERTA, which gives a one-year tax abatement
10 for every \$1 million invested in
11 improvements to a property for up to 10
12 years, and I believe they eventually got a
13 10-year tax abatement.

14 Christopher Trivasani, the director
15 of development for affordable senior
16 opportunities of New York Incorporated, a
17 for-profit company, requested a LERTA from
18 Scranton City Council in March of 2012, and
19 he said, "With the construction estimated to
20 cost 10 to 50 million dollars a LERTA would
21 pay for the firm's mortgage and, thus, allow
22 rents of \$700 to \$800 a month."

23 He also went onto say, according to
24 this article, "That rents could be
25 maintained as affordable, so affordable

1 senior housing could be offered to the
2 citizens of Scranton and the county."

3 Well, apparently from what these
4 elderly women told me, the rents are now in
5 the area of \$1,100, \$12,00 and \$1,300 a
6 month. I don't have to tell anybody in the
7 room tonight or in the City of Scranton that
8 our senior citizens are on a fixed income
9 and these women that I spoke to sold their
10 homes in the city to move into this
11 apartment complex because they were promised
12 affordable housing. So needless to say, we
13 went onto -- I won't go into everything, but
14 we went on to discuss a lot of other things
15 that are going on down there, they are very
16 afraid of speaking out. There have been a
17 mass exodus of people who have left the
18 complex apparently. The problem is there
19 are those who are left behind and who cannot
20 leave because they cannot find any place
21 else to go and many of them don't have
22 family left in the city.

23 This has kept me up now for the last
24 couple of nights thinking about all of these
25 people that I met and all of their stories,

1 so I did bring this up in our caucus in the
2 back room and I think whether this is an
3 issue where we have the authority to solve
4 this problem at this point doesn't even
5 matter to me, something has got to be done
6 here. I don't know what, whether it's
7 bringing this company back in and taking
8 away the tax abatement, I don't even know
9 how that works. I have had discussions with
10 Solicitor Minora in the past about that, but
11 something has to be done here.

12 The woman that came and spoke a
13 few -- maybe a month or two ago, she was
14 very passionate, she was very passionate
15 about the cause, I've had more than one
16 conversation with her, but now she got
17 kicked out of the apartment complex because
18 she was speaking up. The people that are
19 left there are afraid to speak up so they
20 need somebody. They have gone to other
21 avenues and it hasn't worked out so I have
22 asked Solicitor Minora to investigate every
23 possible avenue to see if this council can
24 do anything to help these people. I
25 honestly thought of my own grandparents if

1 they were told that they could move into
2 this apartment complex and pay \$700 or \$800
3 a month and be able to afford it and then
4 five years later you are paying nearly
5 \$1,300. It's unacceptable. And this is a
6 for-profit company so something has to be
7 done.

8 Just a few more things, I asked for
9 an update from the mayor today, the mayor's
10 secretary actually, on the lease agreement
11 between the city and the Civil War GAR
12 Museum down in the basement, haven't heard
13 back yet, but we are hopeful that we are
14 going to get that on the agenda before
15 November.

16 I also had the opportunity to take a
17 ride out to the 1,800 block of Shimpf Court
18 where there is several residents in South
19 Scranton who had a number of different
20 complaints. There is issues with the court
21 actually crumbling and falling apart. It
22 was last paved in 1975, so I would ask that
23 we request that it be put on the next paving
24 list if we can send correspondence to OECD
25 because I do believe that is in a low to

1 moderate income area. There were mounds of
2 dirt that were on the court and there are
3 two houses where the weeds are overgrown, I
4 actually couldn't even see to get into the
5 house. The weeds were so high and the grass
6 was so high I couldn't even see the front
7 door.

8 We did contact the DPW and I do have
9 to say they responded very quickly and the
10 residents were thrilled with that. So in
11 the meantime, they did go out and they
12 patched some of the Court so in the interim
13 think that will take care of some of the
14 issues.

15 One property owner was cited and
16 came out and cleaned up one of the
17 properties. The other two properties at
18 1826 Cedar Avenue, and I'm mentioning this
19 because there were some people that couldn't
20 be at the meeting that we had, there are two
21 properties on this parcel, both of
22 condemned, you can see the one when you are
23 coming by Scranton -- or the Pennsylvania
24 American Water rather on Cedar Avenue, both
25 of these properties are condemned. A bank

1 from Delaware acquired them in August,
2 Mr. Hinton informed us that a notice of
3 demolition has been sent and the bank has 20
4 days to appeal. And I did, you know,
5 recommend to Mr. Hinton that the bank be
6 notified that in the interim that they need
7 to clean the property up because it is a
8 disgrace.

9 1342 Bryn-Mawr Street in West
10 Scranton, I was approached by several
11 residents in that area about a property
12 where there is illegal dumping going on.
13 The property, we found out, is owed by the
14 Lackawanna County land bank so we did
15 contact Ralph Atlas from the county and he
16 is going to take care of that issue.

17 The last thing I have tonight is my
18 concern over the Act 511 challenge in Court
19 and the fact that that may have on the
20 city's plan to exit Act 47 distressed
21 status. You know, the mayor has been
22 touting the last few months that the City of
23 Scranton is possibly going to exit Act 47,
24 and I hate to rain on his parade and
25 everybody else's parade, but we really only

1 have two options according to the
2 legislation that was passed by the state.
3 We either exit Act 47, taking advantage of
4 the three-year timeline that we have, which
5 takes us to 2021, we disincorporate as a
6 municipality, which doesn't apply to us, or
7 we enter receivership. So there is really
8 only two options.

9 This lawsuit is particularly
10 concerning, and I did ask the Pennsylvania
11 Economy League what their opinion on this
12 was and if they are considering any
13 alternate projections to the budget, and
14 Mr. Cross, I'd like to thank him, he
15 provided me with a lengthy response, I'm not
16 going to read the whole thing, but to
17 summarize, he basically said that the main
18 question is to be decided by Commonwealth
19 Court and the jurisdiction that decides the
20 matters of municipal law and which law
21 controls what subject.

22 He doesn't think that the case is
23 going to be settled soon and he thinks that
24 Commonwealth is going to provide legal
25 support to the city litigators on the side

1 of Home Rule because there is a question of
2 which is superior, state law and Home Rule,
3 and I think that's already been decided.
4 The state law supercedes that. He said he
5 doesn't foresee an impact on the city's
6 budget in the near term as the judge did not
7 grant a request to escrow tax dollars for
8 2017 or prior years.

9 Regarding the case overall, he says
10 that he has not spoken with legal experts
11 that agree with the plaintiff's argument and
12 that the city is not alone in Pennsylvania
13 Home Rule municipalities that will be
14 affected if the Home Rule exception is not
15 upheld.

16 So basically it's a wait and see but
17 these things are concerning if we are
18 looking at the upcoming budget. The rental
19 registration challenge, the traffic
20 challenge, and I'm also really concerned
21 about the challenge in Court regarding the
22 Municipal Authorities Act on whether it's
23 even legal to use the proceeds of the
24 Scranton Sewer Authority for anything other
25 than it's stated function. That question

1 has still not been answered yet.

2 Recently, and I think it was
3 mentioned tonight, the mayor-elect of
4 Dunmore Tim Burk, along with several other
5 council members, said they would not spend a
6 dime of the proceeds until that lawsuit is
7 resolved. I would agree with them and
8 that's one of the reasons that I voted
9 against spending the sewer proceeds when
10 that came up before us, and I don't think we
11 should really do anything further until
12 these issues are resolved. And that's all I
13 have this week. Thank you.

14 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you,
15 Mr. Gaughan. I share your concerns
16 regarding the political comments made at the
17 podium. Unfortunately, a few years ago it
18 was decided that that type of speech was
19 allowed at council. I don't care for it,
20 there is a lot of things said at that podium
21 that I would not like to have said here or
22 that are said in poor taste or inaccurate
23 but, unfortunately, for the next few weeks
24 we going to have to listen to that
25 conversation. I don't think it's worth the

1 turmoil of arguing with speakers in the few
2 five minutes they are here, so I won't be
3 here next year so maybe the next council
4 president will want to have that fight, but
5 I don't think it's worth the aggravation of
6 a battle at the podium when it's been
7 decided that that speech can be used.

8 In regards to Dunmore's decision not
9 to spend the sewer proceeds, Dunmore has the
10 luxury that we don't have. They weren't
11 facing Act 47, they weren't facing a problem
12 with excessive bond payments, I wish we had
13 the luxury also of not to spend that money
14 but, unfortunately, in order to move the
15 city ahead and keep our taxes under control
16 we did have to spend that money.

17 I also have spoken to Mr. Cross
18 regarding the Act 511 and I have also spoken
19 to Business Administrator Bulzoni and really
20 right now we have to stay on the course that
21 we are at. We can't plan for a failure,
22 otherwise, we would have to increase
23 property taxes. We hear talks about cutting
24 30 percent of the budget. In reality, where
25 do you cut 30 percent of the budget? Where

1 do you cut it? We barely have enough
2 policemen, we barely have enough firemen, we
3 need more DPW workers, not less. We need
4 more staff in this building, there is no way
5 to cut the budget 30 percent. And then the
6 next comment is we are going to eliminate
7 the wage tax. Well, how can you cut 30
8 percent of the budgets and eliminate the
9 wage tax?

10 Like I said, comments are made at
11 that podium and everybody has a right to
12 speak, but we have to get real here. There
13 is no way to cut 30 percent of the city's
14 budget and there is no way to eliminate the
15 wage tax. There is no way to do that. We
16 have to get tax revenue in here to pay our
17 bills. Do want to raise taxes? No. Do we
18 have to be more efficient with what we
19 collect? Yes. Can we try to lower fees
20 where we can? Yes. But everybody wants
21 firemen, everybody wants policemen,
22 everybody wants their garbage picked up.
23 The staff that we have is what we need and
24 it's irresponsible to say to cut it 30
25 percent and eliminate the wage tax.

1 Another matter that we have been
2 working on here, a few weeks ago
3 representatives from the Veterans Committee
4 came here to see if we could do some work on
5 the OECD grant for their plans for the
6 Veterans memorial. Tom Preambo and Linda
7 Aebli from OECD, they had contacted HUD,
8 they are in the process of asking the, what
9 procedures we can do so that still is an
10 active matter to see if we can get these
11 guys some money.

12 And really the only thing I had
13 planned to talk about tonight was some good
14 news from Comcast, but things changed. I
15 have an announcement that Comcast provided
16 to me. Comcast announced that it has now
17 activated 154 xfinity wi-fi outdoor hotspots
18 in Scranton, part of an ongoing expansion of
19 wi-fi networks in the Keystone region that
20 includes more than 4,700 hotspots throughout
21 the area. Right now these 154 hotspots are
22 in 23 retail locations along Main avenue
23 including Wells-Fargo, Family Dollar,
24 Johnson College, Johnny's Car Wash and
25 various medical and dental offices and

1 barber shops. They are 13 hotspots along
2 Scranton/Carbondale Highway, including near
3 the Viemont Mall, Fashion Mall Street,
4 Sheetz, Siniawa Plaza II, Pep Boys, as well
5 as the Circle Drive-In and numerous
6 restaurants. There is also hotspots along
7 South Main Avenue in West Scranton,
8 including the post office, Sunoco,
9 Walgreens, CVS and various hair salons and
10 churches and markets.

11 The interesting thing with this is
12 if you are an Xfinity wi-fi customer, you
13 are able to use these hotspots just as you
14 would at your home. Most Xfinity customers
15 can access wi-fi hotspots by selecting
16 Xfinity wi-fi from the list of available
17 networks on their laptops or mobile devices
18 and entering their Comcast user name and
19 password, and that would be at no additional
20 cost.

21 So as Mr. Evans talked about our
22 downtown changing, our whole area is
23 changing especially in the past couple of
24 years this council and the administration we
25 have been made several steps to make

1 Scranton a more technological city, more
2 friendly to walking and more friendly to the
3 new technologies that are out there, not
4 that old guys like I use, but young people
5 live on their cell phones and we need to
6 make Scranton a more receptive city to that
7 progress. That's all I have.

8 MS. REED: 5-B. NO BUSINESS AT THIS
9 TIME.

10 SIXTH ORDER. 6-A. NO BUSINESS AT
11 THIS TIME.

12 SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR
13 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES -
14 FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 200, 2017 -
15 APPOINTMENT OF REV. REBECCA A. BARNES, 801
16 WHEELER AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA,
17 18510, AS A MEMBER OF THE HUMAN RELATIONS
18 COMMISSION, EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 3, 2017. REV.
19 REBECCA A. BARNES WILL BE REPLACING ROBERT
20 JOHNS WHO RESIGNED ON SEPTEMBER 7, 2017.
21 REV. BARNES WILL FILL THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF
22 ROBERT JOHNS WHICH IS SCHEDULED TO EXPIRE ON
23 AUGUST 24, 2018.

24 MR. WECHSLER: As Chairperson for
25 the Committee on Rules, I recommend final

1 passage of Item 7-A.

2 MR. ROGAN: Second.

3 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

4 Roll call, please?

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

6 MR. PERRY: Yes.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

8 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

10 MR. EVANS: Yes.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

14 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby

15 declare Item 7-A legally and lawfully

16 adopted.

17 MS. REED: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION

18 BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT -

19 FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 201, 2017 -

20 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE

21 CITY OFFICIALS FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON

22 TO ENTER INTO A LOAN TO GRANT AGREEMENT AND

23 MAKE A LOAN/GRANT FROM THE CITY OF SCRANTON

24 BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY LOAN/GRANT PROGRAM FOR

25 PROJECT NO.150.41 IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED

1 \$25,000.00 TO THE BHUTANESE CULTURAL
2 FOUNDATION OF SCRANTON ASSOCIATION (BCFSA)
3 TO ASSIST AN ELIGIBLE PROJECT.

4 MR. WECHSLER: What is the
5 recommendation of the Chairperson for the
6 Committee on Community Development?

7 MR. ROGAN: As Chair for the
8 Committee on Community Development, I
9 recommend final passage of Item 7-B.

10 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

14 MR. PERRY: Yes.

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

16 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

17 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

18 MR. EVANS: Abstain.

19 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

21 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

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

25 MS. REED: 7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION

1 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION -
2 RESOLUTION NO. 202, 2017 - AUTHORIZING THE
3 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS
4 TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT FOR
5 THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BY AND
6 BETWEEN THE CITY OF SCRANTON ("CITY"), NDC,
7 ABM AND TEAMSTERS LOCAL 229 ("THE UNION") IN
8 ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS SET
9 FORTH IN THE AGREEMENT WITH AN EFFECTIVE
10 DATE OF JANUARY 1, 2017, AND RATIFIED BY THE
11 MEMBERSHIP.

12 MR. WECHSLER: As Chairperson for
13 the Committee on Rules, I recommend final
14 passage of Item 7-C.

15 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

18 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

19 MR. PERRY: Yes.

20 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

21 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

23 MR. EVANS: Yes.

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

25 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

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MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby
declare Item 7-C legally and lawfully
adopted.

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

MR. ROGAN: Motion to adjourn.

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.

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER