

SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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HELD:

Thursday, September 14, 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  
2 moment of reflection 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 minute.

15 MS. REED: 3-A. TAX ASSESSOR'S  
16 REPORT FOR HEARING DATE HELD SEPTEMBER 13,  
17 2017.

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

20 MS. REED: 3-B. TAX ASSESSOR'S  
21 RESULTS REPORTS FOR HEARING DATES HELD  
22 AUGUST 23 AND AUGUST 30, 2017.

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

25 MS. REED: 3-C. SINGLE TAX OFFICE

1 CITY FUNDS DISTRIBUTED COMPARISON REPORT  
2 2016-2017 YEAR TO DATE AUGUST 31, 2017.

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

5 MS. REED: 3-D. MINUTES OF THE  
6 REGULAR MEETING OF THE LACKAWANNA COUNTY  
7 LAND BANK HELD AUGUST 11, 2017.

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

10 MS. REED: 3-E. AGENDA FOR THE  
11 BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS MEETING HELD  
12 SEPTEMBER  
13 13, 2017.

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

16 MS. REED: 3-F. TAX ASSESSOR'S  
17 REPORTS FOR HEARING DATES TO BE HELD  
18 SEPTEMBER 27, SEPTEMBER 28 AND OCTOBER 4,  
19 2017.

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

22 Do any council members have  
23 announcements at this time?

24 MR. PERRY: I have one announcement  
25 I want to read again about the Scranton

1 Police Department having their Fighting for  
2 a Cure spaghetti dinner. It's going to run  
3 from October 8 through October 22 and it's  
4 going to be at Fratelli's Restaurant 11 a.m  
5 to 8 p.m. You can get your tickets now,  
6 they're \$12 and it's eat in or takeout.  
7 Tickets are available at police headquarters  
8 or you can call 348-4139 or 558-8301. Thank  
9 you.

10 MR. EVANS: I have two. First of  
11 all, United Neighborhood Centers of  
12 Northeastern Pennsylvania will host a  
13 welcoming Scranton celebration September 16  
14 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. at Connors Park in  
15 South Side. This event bring together  
16 long-term local residents and those new to  
17 the country to grow cross-cultural  
18 understanding and raise awareness of the  
19 benefits of welcoming everyone.

20 Also, I'd like to remind everyone  
21 that Saturday is the Race for the Cure in  
22 downtown Scranton. I'm not sure how many  
23 years this is, but I will be walking again  
24 this year. I haven't missed a year yet,  
25 very important to me. My mother was a

1 32-year cancer survivor, breast cancer  
2 survivor, so I try to honor her memory each  
3 and every year so I hope you can all attend  
4 as well. That's all I have.

5 MR. WECHSLER: Just a follow-up on  
6 some more details about Race for the Cure.  
7 Of course, it will be held on Saturday. The  
8 opening ceremonies and activities are at the  
9 Lackawanna County Courthouse on North  
10 Washington Avenue. The race start time is  
11 8:30 a.m. The 5-K route begins on Wyoming  
12 Avenue, Greenridge Street, and back in  
13 downtown via North Washington Avenue.  
14 Please use caution when traveling in these  
15 areas Saturday morning and expect minor  
16 traffic delays.

17 MS. REED: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'  
18 PARTICIPATION.

19 MR. WECHSLER: John Foley.

20 MR. FOLEY: Gentlemen, as always,  
21 I'm only here to provide information, no  
22 reaction, no response from you is necessary.  
23 First, I had an opportunity to look at the  
24 letter we sent by Attorney Shrive, an  
25 analysis made an outside consulting firm of

1 the sewer deal. The only exception I take  
2 with the analysis or the statement by Mr.  
3 Shrive said that he was assisted. Well,  
4 frankly, he had a consultant prepare this  
5 report, not Jason.

6 I looked at it and most of the  
7 statements in there I agree with. They are  
8 100 percent accurate, but what is not in the  
9 report that is where the problem lies,  
10 frankly. Had somebody bothered to look at  
11 the cash flow statement and the city's  
12 financial statements for a couple of year  
13 period and in conjunction with the capital  
14 budget for 2016 and '17, it was going to be  
15 very clear that there would be a drain on  
16 cash. The cash negotiated number at  
17 December 2015 was not going to be there at  
18 the end of the year, so all it did for at  
19 least discussion purposes inflate the amount  
20 of the deal at \$195 million, but frankly, I  
21 believe, had they run it correctly you guys  
22 would have been comparing the deal of ACWA  
23 American with a much lower number.

24 The other things I disagree with the  
25 analysis that they talk about borrowing and

1           it was good to borrow cheap money and in  
2           most businesses that is really a good  
3           business decision, however, the borrowing  
4           was troubling me because the bond clearing  
5           account was running about \$30 some million.  
6           The money in that account could have been  
7           used for capital expenditures and, frankly,  
8           why didn't you borrow the money? Why didn't  
9           you just use the money that was in the bond  
10          clearing account? But what you did do by  
11          borrowing it -- or not you but the  
12          Authority, they borrowed money at an  
13          interest rate that was much higher than the  
14          interest earned on the funds in the money  
15          market account. That is not really a good  
16          business decision. It talked about the  
17          capital expenditures under the consent  
18          decree and, frankly, the Authority was  
19          mandated to make expenditures but the report  
20          doesn't address whether those expenditures  
21          had to be made during the three-year period,  
22          '14, '15 and '16, with the acceleration in  
23          the last three quarters of December of 2016,  
24          so my question is really did they have to be  
25          made, and if they didn't have to be made



1           they would have been the responsibility of  
2           PA American Water. That's simple. But a  
3           good report forceful discussion in it, the  
4           things that are not in there are the  
5           troubling things.

6                     Let me switch gears to one other  
7           item, because I have to get home for dinner  
8           with my wife. I sent a Right-to-Know  
9           request asking about the secret project with  
10          Carl Greco and I'm happy to report that the  
11          Authority did get back to me on that secret  
12          project. They said they would like to give  
13          it to me, the information, but  
14          attorney/client privilege. I sent that in  
15          conjunction with two other Right-to-Know  
16          requests, and it was all structured to  
17          elicit information on the possibility that  
18          there are already discussions going on to  
19          sell the city's last remaining asset, the  
20          storm water, or according to information  
21          that's in the legal bills for those who have  
22          read them closely, the Storm Water  
23          Authority. The last I heard, the city  
24          doesn't have a Storm Water Authority, but it  
25          sounds like there is something contemplated

1           there.

2                       The other things that I found in  
3           looking at other information provided by the  
4           Authority was that the Authority's general  
5           ledger for the 2017 year and generally I  
6           find in books and records of any business  
7           that legal fees are generally charged to  
8           legal expense. Attorney Greco's big portion  
9           of 2017 legal fees were charged to fixed  
10          assets. They were charged to a building. I  
11          have never come across -- well, I can't say  
12          that, I have come across that before, but I  
13          find it very ironic and unusual that legal  
14          expenses would be a capital asset similar to  
15          a desk or a building.

16                      So this is the information you  
17          should ponder, and maybe you should start  
18          making inquiries of the Authority. I have  
19          other things but, frankly, they are too  
20          numerous to talk. I have come back and talk  
21          another day. Gentleman, have a great  
22          evening and I hope your night goes better  
23          the same as this.

24                      MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Joan  
25          Hodowanitz.

1 MS. HODOWANITZ: Joan Hodowanitz,  
2 Scranton. With regard to Item 6-D, the  
3 capital budget, I know you are planning a  
4 public caucus on this next week, but I was  
5 looking at the draft and one thing that set  
6 me on my heels was this land acquisition for  
7 green space for \$450,000 which apparently is  
8 the corner of Linden Street and Wyoming  
9 Avenue. I think that's where the old Abe's  
10 restaurant and Scranton dry cleaners used to  
11 sit, it's an empty lot fenced in. Now,  
12 would the acquisition of this property for  
13 green space have anything to do with the  
14 ongoing lawsuit against the city which dates  
15 back to 2008 for Mayor Doherty's failure to  
16 perform the necessary environmental  
17 remediation of that property? Will the  
18 acquisition of this property for that sum  
19 cancel the lawsuit which scheduled to go to  
20 trial on October 25?

21 MR. EVANS: I'm not sure.

22 MS. HODOWANITZ: Because, you know,  
23 gentlemen, we need green space like I need a  
24 hole in the head. You have so many things  
25 you need to do with the money. Roads,

1 bridges, street signs. We could do without  
2 green space for a little while. I would  
3 love to see the public take a look at this  
4 issue, and the Times-Tribune take a look at  
5 this issue and see what is behind the  
6 acquisition of this green space. I'm sorry,  
7 this stinks to high heaven.

8 Okay, with that out of the way, Item  
9 5-C, the Meadowbrook Creek storm water  
10 project, I hope Mr. Young will address this  
11 if he is here tonight, but when are we going  
12 to see the plan for the long term fix and  
13 not the Band-Aid? You know, we owe this to  
14 Mr. Young and the other residents. With  
15 regard to Item 5-D, the purchase of six  
16 vehicles and the refinancing of four others.  
17 Apparently the vehicles being refinanced  
18 from 2014 for some reason the interest rate  
19 is not going down it's going up from 3.8  
20 percent to 3.35 percent. That means the  
21 annual payments will go up from \$170,000 a  
22 year to \$218,000 a year, okay? And also the  
23 Kansas City Bank needs a certificate of  
24 insurance for these vehicles which brings us  
25 to the Knowels insurance list which goes

1 back to March 30 which they were supposed to  
2 scrub because the Scranton Public Library  
3 among other issues. The minutes from March  
4 30 I say, "I hope that once the list is  
5 scrubbed you can give us a copy of the  
6 amended list.

7 MR. EVANS: Absolutely.

8 MR. HODOWANITZ: Mr. Evans, can you  
9 kick a few walls and a few desks and knock a  
10 few heads together.

11 MR. EVANS: I will.

12 MS. HODOWANITZ: I think five and a  
13 half months is more than a reasonable time,  
14 and I want to see that they have been  
15 adjusting and modifying that list as we have  
16 been getting the Serrenti Center and  
17 vehicles and whatever.

18 MR. EVANS: Yeah, and I was promised  
19 a quarterly report and we haven't seen the  
20 first one yet so we'll get back on that.

21 MS. HODOWANITZ: Okay, and 54 days  
22 to the election, whatever happened to the  
23 summary of the 2016 audit?

24 MR. WECHSLER: Mrs. Reed and are  
25 working on it.

1 MS. HODOWANITZ: And how about the  
2 disclosure of the double pension  
3 investigation by the Pennsylvania State  
4 Police is that moving any further?

5 MR. WECHSLER: That is still the  
6 same.

7 MS. HODOWANITZ: Okay. Well, I hope  
8 -- oh, and also 5-E, we are having in trade  
9 interest creep. The interest rate for this  
10 aerial platform truck is 3.76 percent so our  
11 interest rates appear to be going up since  
12 2014, I wonder why. Thank you.

13 MR. WECHSLER: Mike Cantazaro. Mr.  
14 Cantazaro, before you speak, I notice that  
15 you are registered as a resident of Childs?

16 MR. CANTAZARO: Yes, sir.

17 MR. WECHSLER: Normally city council  
18 is restricted to Scranton residents, but  
19 unless you are going to speak about the  
20 reassessment?

21 MR. CANTAZARO: Yes. I just wanted  
22 to finish what I started speaking about at  
23 the last hearing.

24 MR. WECHSLER: Just keep your  
25 comments to the reassessment.

1 MR. CANTAZARO: Excuse me?

2 MR. WECHSLER: Keep your comment to  
3 the reassessment issue.

4 MR. CANTAZARO: Yes, I will.

5 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you.

6 MR. CANTAZARO: First, I want to  
7 apologize, I did not there was a time limit  
8 in the amount of time that you were  
9 speaking. Just to recap, I was speaking  
10 against the reassessment issue because in my  
11 opinion, and again, I know, you know, from  
12 one of the outer boroughs in the country I'm  
13 speaking against it because in my opinion  
14 the cost doesn't justify it, it will not  
15 increase property values or promote economic  
16 activity and, in fact, on the economic  
17 activity front at the last Lackawanna County  
18 meeting both the head of SLIBCO and the head  
19 of the Scranton Chamber of Commerce spoke at  
20 the meeting and they both said that tax  
21 abatements are what's needed to promote  
22 economic activity.

23 You know, again, anybody, you know,  
24 whether they are on council, the city, the  
25 county, that thinks they are not paying

1           enough in property taxes, nothing is  
2           stopping them from sending extra money to  
3           the city or county treasurers. In fact, I  
4           seen an interview a few years ago with  
5           Warren Buffet, who is one of the most  
6           successful financial men and investors in  
7           the country, Mr. Buffet was touting an  
8           increase in income and corporate taxes  
9           because he thought people in corporations  
10          weren't paying enough in federal taxes at  
11          that time. When he was done with his spiel  
12          the interviewer asks him if he feels so  
13          strongly about paying more taxes why didn't  
14          he send an extra check to the US Treasury.  
15          He replied that he would not because  
16          government spends money inefficiently. I  
17          think this is a perfect example of what he  
18          thought, this reassessment issue.

19                   Capital, you see, tends to gravitate  
20                   who where it's treated well. I believe the  
21                   only ones that want a full county  
22                   reassessment are the municipalities that  
23                   haven't shown any fiscal responsibility on  
24                   behalf of the taxpayers and are up against  
25                   legislated imposed property tax caps. These



1 municipalities are independent entities that  
2 could still raise taxes through either the  
3 Court system or the ballot process. The  
4 County, I believe, does not need to spend  
5 \$15 million just to lower millage rates and  
6 raise assessments to remain revenue neutral  
7 so that governing bodies that are in  
8 fiscally bad shape because of the  
9 legislative imposed tax caps can raise  
10 millage in the future to try and get around  
11 these tax caps.

12 Finally, I'm in full agreement with  
13 the County Commissioner's decision to place  
14 the referendum on the ballot so that the  
15 voters from every municipality can have a  
16 say on a full county reassessment. The cost  
17 of this reassessment justifies this ballot  
18 initiative. I believe the County  
19 Commissioners showed a lot of courage by  
20 placing the reassessment referendum on the  
21 ballot and this is the right thing to do for  
22 the citizens and taxpayers of the county.

23 And, finally, just an invitation in  
24 any of the council members want to come up  
25 to Carbondale Township and speak at a

1 meeting you will be well heard, there is no  
2 time limit, and nobody will forcibly remove  
3 you if you try and go over. Thank you,  
4 gentleman.

5 MR. WECHSLER: Gerard Hetman.

6 MR. HETMAN: Good evening, Council.  
7 Gerard Hetman from the Lackawanna County  
8 Commissioner's Office. To begin this  
9 evening, our countywide tire recycling event  
10 is now underway. We have a drop off site  
11 available at the Lackawanna County Recycling  
12 Center on Boulevard Avenue in Scranton. We  
13 also have eight other sites around the  
14 country, I won't go through the whole list,  
15 but they are available on our website at  
16 [www.Lackawannacounty.org](http://www.Lackawannacounty.org). The hours coming  
17 up for the next two days are 8 a.m. to 3  
18 p.m., tomorrow, on Friday, and 8 a.m. to  
19 noon on Saturday. The cost is \$2 per tire  
20 if they are off the rim and \$5 per tire on  
21 the rim. We take tires from basically  
22 passenger vehicles. That's cars, trucks,  
23 sport utility vehicles, trucks meaning a  
24 pick up truck or a mini-van. Basically  
25 anything that doesn't require a CDL to drive

1 we'll take tires from. We just can't take  
2 some of the bigger ones because our contract  
3 doesn't call for those size and dynamics of  
4 tires to be accepted.

5 Please come out and see us. I'm the  
6 person who typically kind of works with our  
7 environmental person to run the show on the  
8 site so tomorrow I will be there, so please  
9 come out if you have any tires laying  
10 around, come down and see us at the  
11 recycling center from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

12 Second, our second annual Heroes Day  
13 Public Safety Fair runs this Saturday,  
14 September 16, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the  
15 County's 911 Center in Jessup. We feature  
16 guided tours of the 911 facility and hands  
17 on static displays of the fire, police, EMS,  
18 EMA and also military vehicles and  
19 equipment. We also have giveaways and  
20 information from various public safety  
21 agencies and county department. And also  
22 free refreshments. Come out and look at the  
23 facility behind the scenes. It's a really  
24 neat operation with the technology that we  
25 have. It's even better when you meet some

1 of the people that take care of us and  
2 answer 911 calls day-to-day. The people are  
3 really extraordinary that work at 911, they  
4 put up with a lot, as you can imagine, and  
5 every shift that they handle typically are  
6 some of the worst days in terms of calls  
7 from us and the general public so come on  
8 out and check everything out at 911, it's a  
9 really good time.

10 Third, our sixth annual Senior  
11 Health Fair is Friday, September 22, 10 a.m.  
12 to 1 p.m. at PNC Field on the up suite  
13 level. We'll have approximately 50  
14 exhibitors with lots of health screens and  
15 information and giveaways as it relates to  
16 senior health and wellness. We will also  
17 have refreshments and as to past years we'll  
18 have some health snacks, water, fruit and  
19 we'll also have some pizza, doughnuts,  
20 coffee because we try to meet demand when  
21 folks ask for certain refreshments.

22 It's a senior health fair because we  
23 gear the information and services towards  
24 seniors, but it is open to the public so  
25 anyone can come out and join us. Please

1           come out and have a good time.

2                       Also, the Lackawanna County Area  
3 Agency on Aging has asked to pass this  
4 along, it's a scam alert for senior citizens  
5 of Lackawanna County. They call it the  
6 "Hey, Grandma" scam. It's been happening to  
7 some of our elderly residents. How it works  
8 is contact is made and people are told that  
9 their children and/or grandchildren have  
10 been in an accident or are in trouble with  
11 the law and need money in the form of a  
12 Target or Wal-Mart gift card. People are  
13 informed there is a limited amount of time  
14 to do the transaction and the people are  
15 also asked to keep the call private.  
16 Scammers generally will call the people a  
17 few times for additional money explaining  
18 that the initial transaction was not  
19 received or the deadline was missed. We  
20 encourage anyone who gets this type of phone  
21 call to not respond to the call or interact  
22 with the caller. Please report any such  
23 incident to the Scranton Police Department  
24 or your local law enforcement agency and the  
25 Area on Aging also asks that you call them

1 at 570-963-6740.

2 Last, but not least, this is an  
3 exciting new initiative. We call it the  
4 "Say Yes to Life" campaign and what it is  
5 it's an anti-opoid public service  
6 announcement contest. It's an opportunity  
7 for individuals and organizations, could be  
8 one person, it could be a student group from  
9 high school or college, it could also be a  
10 company or some type of business in the  
11 community, they can apply to enter a  
12 30-second, no more than 30 second, PSA,  
13 public service announcement, detailing the  
14 dangers of opioid abuse and addiction in our  
15 community. I know this is something that  
16 has touched all of us in one way or another  
17 and our community deals with it as many do  
18 across the country and around the world  
19 every day. I encourage anyone who is  
20 interested in this to visit  
21 [Lackawannacounty.org](http://Lackawannacounty.org) and click on the Arts  
22 and Culture tab at the top of the page.  
23 There are some specific deadlines and rules  
24 regarding the video format, length, and  
25 quality. The videos can be no more than 30

1 seconds, and we have categories for over 18  
2 and under 18 that judges will pick, and  
3 there is also an online voting category for  
4 of the other videos that the public can vote  
5 on. The deadline for submission is Monday,  
6 October 16, and for the videos that will go  
7 to the online voting, the public will have  
8 from October 16 through November 6 to vote  
9 on them. Again, just visit  
10 Lackawannacounty.org and then under arts and  
11 culture and there is all of the details  
12 right there, so thank you. That's all we  
13 have.

14 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you very much.  
15 Lenny Srebro.

16 MR. SREBRO: Lenny Srebro, Scranton  
17 resident. Good evening, Council. And,  
18 Mr. Perry, did we come up with any answers?

19 MR. PERRY: We got information from  
20 Director Gallagher and he stopped by the  
21 office and he is working with the city  
22 planner right now to get the definitive  
23 answer for you and for all of us. The issue  
24 going on right now is, again, what we talked  
25 about last time, whose responsibility, where

1           does it lie? And they are getting everybody  
2           involved to find out exactly what's going on  
3           with that.

4                   MR. SREBRO: So how long did you  
5           think before we could get an answer?

6                   MR. PERRY: I wish I could tell you,  
7           but I don't know. All I can do is reach out  
8           and see what he feels, you know, the  
9           appropriate amount of time is going to be.  
10          I honestly don't know. I don't have a good  
11          answer for you, but --

12                   MR. SREBRO: Somehow I thought that  
13          that's your jobs --

14                   MR. PERRY: Yeah, I have a phone  
15          number, I'll get in touch with Director  
16          Gallagher and I'll give you a call tomorrow.

17                   MR. SREBRO: I don't mean to be too  
18          forward whatever, but, you know, one of the  
19          residents, one of the neighbors said to me  
20          that, "Lenny, if you think they are going to  
21          do anything for you you're sadly mistaken."

22                           And he brought up about the  
23          gentlemen in the Greenridge section who has  
24          the big hole in his yard that's going after  
25          the city. They said, you know, they are not



1 going to do anything about that hole that  
2 opened up because if they do that for him  
3 the city is going to have fix everybody's  
4 individual problems, so they are not going  
5 to do anything for your water problem. What  
6 made me think though, it's not just my  
7 property. I'll tell you what, that's about  
8 a four or six square blocks that gets  
9 affected by that flooding problem. It's not  
10 just me going after a problem with my  
11 property. You were there, Mr. Perry, and  
12 that whole area floods. Now, my biggest  
13 concern lately is that big PPL power  
14 station, I guess that's what I would call it  
15 anyway, that they are building along Keyser  
16 Avenue. You know what, with all that  
17 foliage that they tore out of there, you  
18 know, where is all of that water going to  
19 go?

20 You know, I went into the office  
21 where you pull in and I asked them if I  
22 could go up on the mountain. Believe me,  
23 over the years I rode motorcycles up there  
24 along the power lines, I know that mountain  
25 pretty well, but they refused to let me go

1 up there, which is understandable, but they  
2 had a big map on the wall that showed their  
3 retention ponds they have and they have  
4 directing where the water is going to be  
5 coming down. Son of gun, it comes down to  
6 Keyser Avenue and then it doesn't show  
7 anything else on their map. I asked them,  
8 "So where does that water go after it makes  
9 it's way down the mountain?"

10 He told me he doesn't know, he can't  
11 answer that, but I just know it's going to  
12 make it's way to Keyser Creek. I'm not sure  
13 how. Where else could it possibly go?

14 MR. PERRY: Well, I mean, I don't  
15 need a map to tell you water runs downhill.  
16 I mean that's exactly the issue.

17 MR. SREBRO: So can we find out where  
18 that water is going to go now? I believe  
19 it's going to go to Keyser Creek, however  
20 it's routed, and it's going to come down to  
21 the area that I live in, now we got more  
22 problems, and I know from speaking with  
23 neighbors like over the last 20 years the  
24 problem, 20 years plus, you know, that they  
25 informed me that that drainage pipe was in

1 the past put in at the wrong angle and  
2 that's why it doesn't drain well, and I know  
3 that in the bad storms that retention pond  
4 it's down from my property, you can actually  
5 see the water coming back in a bad storm.  
6 That's what's happening. We went down to  
7 that Keyser Creek in bad storms, a couple of  
8 them, and watch it, it fills up and it comes  
9 back up instead of drain down, you know, it  
10 comes back up. So who's responsible for  
11 putting that drainage pipe in at the wrong  
12 angle? You know, the property owner, I  
13 guess, I assume there, but now we could want  
14 to go back to who inspected it that it was  
15 put in properly? You know, that's taxpayers  
16 waste of money. Somehow it was definitely  
17 done wrong but they allowed it to go  
18 through. Just want to say that how do I  
19 find out the information on who would be  
20 responsible for that drain pipe?

21 MR. PERRY: I'm going through  
22 Director Gallagher right now, that's the  
23 person I'm using to find out where the  
24 responsibility lies, so that's who I'm  
25 using.

1 MR. PERRY: And that half a flush  
2 that they did, that they never finished it,  
3 see, that's wasted taxpayers' money also  
4 right there because they flushed half of it  
5 but they know if the other half is still  
6 clogged up and they don't come back then  
7 it's throwing the money away.

8 MR. PERRY: I think what they were  
9 doing there is whatever the city had at  
10 their disposal, the city equipment, they  
11 took whatever they had out to see if they  
12 could just clear it out for you at that  
13 time, but the city doesn't have anything to  
14 that magnitude because the pipe runs, you  
15 know, it runs well over 30 feet, 40 feet,  
16 when it gets down to that river bed.

17 MR. SREBRO: Well, I don't  
18 understand why we can't lease the equipment  
19 to do that job. Somebody has to have the  
20 equipment. Thank you.

21 MR. WECHSLER: Al Young.

22 MR. YOUNG: Albert Young, Scranton  
23 resident. First comment is, Lenny, patience  
24 is a virtue. Good evening, council members.  
25 First, I'd like to thank the members of

1 council for smoothing out a little rough  
2 situation this week. I don't know if it was  
3 misinformation, lack of information or  
4 otherwise, but at least it hopefully has  
5 been remedied.

6 Secondly, I will not apologize for  
7 my temperament as it has been a long 49  
8 years with hundreds of phone calls, letters,  
9 and face-to-face meetings about this  
10 project. We did, however, repair smaller  
11 holes ourselves, but about 12 years ago or  
12 so the crater started to open up, and as  
13 many of you know has gotten larger and  
14 larger over the years. It's been very  
15 frustrating to sit and watch our property  
16 value diminish by 50 percent in the last 12  
17 years, plus pay the required city taxes on  
18 the whole property and have one-third of the  
19 property become useless because of this  
20 crater in the backyard. Also, when it  
21 storms the sewage odor and leachate odor is  
22 horrendous, let alone the attorney's fees  
23 that have been endured.

24 Now, I think it's time for Mr. Blake  
25 and Mr. Flynn to step up to the plate and

1 stop the blame game here and get the monies  
2 allocated to finish what was started 30  
3 years, 20 years, 30 years ago, and I think  
4 probably the situation should be pushed by  
5 council and the legal departments, all of  
6 the legal departments in the City of  
7 Scranton. I feel that Mr. Blake and  
8 Mr. Flynn, I'm not going to call them by  
9 their title because they are not doing their  
10 job, but I feel that they are really doing  
11 nothing but waiting for a town hall meeting  
12 or a call to someone for their birthday.

13 This is outrageous. I hope when  
14 council does, if they do, pass this  
15 resolution onto the Reilly firm they  
16 understand that this has to be up to code,  
17 present day code, not 20 year later or  
18 earlier and they can get in our backyard  
19 ASAP. This would be a tremendous Christmas  
20 present to us by Christmas of 2017.

21 Now, I know and I understand the  
22 legal department flexed it's muscles this  
23 week again and they moved it around a bit,  
24 which is I can wait another week, no  
25 problem, I have waited 49 years, we can wait

1 another week, but your business manager has  
2 screwed up again. He couldn't write a  
3 proper RFP and now with the resolution  
4 coming through it does not, and I made that  
5 very prominent not, give the resolution the  
6 emergency funding or proper designation that  
7 you, the council members, stated 17 months  
8 ago. I don't under why he cannot follow  
9 procedure and follow this whole thing down  
10 the line.

11 I'm sorry, again, gentlemen. I do  
12 thank you all for intervening with the  
13 little problem that developed over the  
14 weekend, and I can wait if it does go  
15 tonight I can wait the week, but I do want  
16 it understood that this has to be done up to  
17 code present day, federal, state and local  
18 codes, and I am willing to sit down with  
19 Reilly engineers whenever they decide to  
20 come up to the house. I will definitely sit  
21 down with them and I will go over anything  
22 and everything I have for them. Thanks  
23 again. Have a good evening.

24 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Marie  
25 Schumacher.

1 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening.  
2 Marie Schumacher. In preparation for the  
3 public hearing next week, the narrative that  
4 came with the capital budget says the  
5 capital budget does not include lesser  
6 items, typically will not include lesser,  
7 and then in parentheses it says certain  
8 vehicle and rolling stock capital items.  
9 What is the dollar threshold? Nobody knows?

10 MR. GAUGHAN: I don't know. We can  
11 find out.

12 MS. SCHUMACHER: If you can find out  
13 during the week it will be more helpful,  
14 I'll send you an e-mail and remind you. The  
15 other thing I, too, am with Joan on that  
16 \$450 million investment in green space which  
17 is a tedious one block from the green space  
18 around the courthouse and I think we do have  
19 enough parks and maintaining them, but the  
20 bigger issue is what kind of liability are  
21 we taking on? Unfortunately, the DEP guy  
22 has been on vacation this week or some  
23 assignment, but hopefully he will be back  
24 next week. If you remember, the remediation  
25 that was done on this property before the



1 lawsuit was filed included -- now, this was  
2 Mr. Sunday who was a -- who is the part of  
3 the state regulators. It says, "Remediation  
4 of the site began in March and was largely  
5 completed by the start of August when the  
6 developer and the Scranton Redevelopment  
7 Authority submitted a final remediation  
8 report to the state but state regulators  
9 still have a few concerns including the  
10 potential for a contamination plume to reach  
11 down to an underground mine pool, Mr. Sunday  
12 said."

13 Now, in the legal documentation,  
14 going through that stuff, it says that --  
15 whatever the name of the company is, "R"  
16 something, RSM, that they already spent --  
17 the reason they filed the breach of contract  
18 was we had decided as a city to do that for  
19 them, take down the buildings, put that  
20 down. Now, this is a big item, the company  
21 itself into the legal documentation says  
22 several hundred -- they already invested  
23 \$70,000 more in trying to get it up to speed  
24 and was facing the potential of several  
25 hundred thousands dollars. So if that

1           number, I couldn't find any place where it  
2           had been challenged by either side, so if we  
3           are going to not only spend \$450,000 on it  
4           and then have a liability of another couple  
5           of hundred thousand dollars if we have to  
6           remediate it so it doesn't go down to the  
7           mine that's expensive. I don't think we  
8           need to do that.

9                        Okay, onto other buildings we own  
10           that I question whether we need. Serrenti,  
11           do we have the amounts yet for the estimates  
12           for what needs to be done on that property  
13           and do we know how much the cost to maintain  
14           and do we know how much it upped the  
15           insurance to cover that building? Again,  
16           Joan gave some dates that are getting pretty  
17           moldy, but --

18                       MR. GAUGHAN: The cost to maintain  
19           no, because I asked for that, they don't  
20           have that. The improvements that need to be  
21           done for the building, yes, there was I  
22           believe an engineering study done that  
23           detailed everything that needed to bring it  
24           up to code and all of that, so we do have  
25           and, I can get that to you.

1 MS. SCHUMACHER: But that's not in  
2 the capital budget.

3 MR. GAUGHAN: No.

4 MS. SCHUMACHER: So then it begs the  
5 question of getting back to what's the  
6 dollar threshold on these things, although,  
7 that's obviously not a vehicle or a rolling  
8 stock, it's a --

9 MR. EVANS: I think a lot of that  
10 money is coming from grants and things like  
11 that, that's probably why they're not in the  
12 capital budget.

13 MS. SCHUMACHER: Thinking is nice,  
14 I'd like a firm answer.

15 MR. EVANS: Yeah. I'll ask.

16 MS. SCHUMACHER: Yeah, and how much  
17 the insurance is on that.

18 MR. EVANS: We can certainly find  
19 that out.

20 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. Also, going  
21 over again some odd stuff, could we look, if  
22 we have \$450,000 to throw around, if you'll  
23 recall I told us, I think Mr. Gaughan, that  
24 we only have two street sweepers.

25 MR. GAUGHAN: Yeah, I'm pretty sure

1 we only have two.

2 MS. SCHUMACHER: I think we need to  
3 do some research on some smaller things that  
4 can do it, some vehicles that can do that  
5 kind of work and buy at least one or more  
6 trucks so we can do a good job. I'll be  
7 back with the rest next week, good Lord  
8 willing. Thank you.

9 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Ron  
10 Ellman.

11 MR. ELLMAN: Good evening, Council.  
12 A couple of years ago when I was in 9th  
13 grade I had a dispute with my father about  
14 my allowance one day and he told me this  
15 little fable where my money was. Three men  
16 go to rent a room for \$15, \$5 a piece. The  
17 clerks figures out immediately this was a  
18 \$10 room because it only had two beds, so  
19 she takes \$5 and goes up to the gentlemen,  
20 gives each one a dollar back and keeps the  
21 \$2 for her services. Where is the other  
22 dollar, gentlemen? Three fours are 12 and  
23 hers is 14. That's what's going on with the  
24 money in this city. People keep asking  
25 where the money is and there is no answer,

1 never no answers where it knows what's  
2 happening with it, just a bunch of third  
3 rate attorneys that have taken over and  
4 nobody confronts them. The state ought to  
5 be in here investigating every inch of what  
6 happened with all of these phony deals and  
7 the way they were enhancing themselves.

8 Brother Bill, I'm happy you're back.  
9 Last week you asked who is running the city?  
10 I believe Mr. Volk and Lackawanna College  
11 run the city and I believe that's why  
12 Amaroso was brought in here with his law  
13 firm and I believe there is complete  
14 collusion between them and the mayor's  
15 office with all of these adversities that  
16 have happened to the people of this city for  
17 the last four years. Well, I got that off  
18 my chest.

19 When Mr. Wolf was here, of course,  
20 you can't brag about downtown with all of  
21 the friends and supporters that own these  
22 buildings aren't paying taxes, there is  
23 hundreds of thousands of dollars owed in  
24 that little circle around the mall, empty  
25 apartments, it's not the city's fault but we

1           have to keep pouring money in there. It's  
2           never going to end. Instead of fixing fire  
3           stations you people gave the money away that  
4           a lot of others need in the city to  
5           Lackawanna College.

6                       Well, it seems the mayor decided the  
7           jewel of this city is Cedar Avenue. I've  
8           been down it and it looks good, but I don't  
9           know this man was in the tax office for four  
10          years and he seems to have a complete void  
11          about collecting taxes from all of these  
12          deadbeats that owe fortunes to the city. In  
13          less than one mile off Cedar Avenue, just  
14          Cedar Avenue 18 people, and it's right here  
15          in this paper, 18 people owe \$240,000.  
16          Eighteen people on just Cedar Avenue. Why  
17          hasn't something been done? This is the  
18          street he is bragging about that looks so  
19          good. The man that collected taxes for four  
20          years, our mayor. This is the man -- I  
21          can't comprehend anyone, anyone wanting four  
22          more years of what's happened to this city  
23          the last four years. These two running  
24          around Cedar Avenue make me think I got a  
25          bumper sticker Richard Nixon driving around

1 in an Edsel. That's what these two are just  
2 like, just two failures. Thank you.

3 MR. WECHSLER: Anyone else?

4 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening, Council.  
5 Dave Dobrzyn, resident and taxpayer. We had  
6 another reassessment issue from up here  
7 tonight and I'd like to remind people valley  
8 that 35 percent of our city is tax exempt,  
9 largely at the hands of the county and the  
10 state and, once again, what I'd love to see  
11 is go to Federal Court and see what time and  
12 at what threshold we could demand the state  
13 to come up with the compensation for their  
14 constitution. And the chamber was  
15 mentioned, of course, well, they just love  
16 their tax exempts, but the only reason there  
17 is an economic growth in Scranton is because  
18 we just said no more tax exempts, no more  
19 giveaways, and last week the -- last week  
20 the Comcast -- it was disclosed that Comcast  
21 came up with a big royalty payment or  
22 whatever and I'd like to remind the city  
23 government that somebody has been filming us  
24 for years and hopefully they will see  
25 something.

1                   On these street signs, I had an idea  
2                   last week. Now, could we get a decal made  
3                   up of various streets with reflective  
4                   material, I have been seeing it with other  
5                   signs. You wouldn't even have to disconnect  
6                   the sign from the pole, you'd just get  
7                   somebody up there on a cherry picker and  
8                   bing and you wouldn't have to pay for new  
9                   signs, you would have a nice clear  
10                  description of where you are and I think a  
11                  lot of money could be saved by all of them.

12                  So, now, also, the electric facility  
13                  up on West Mountain was mentioned and we  
14                  really need to be proactive because when  
15                  these people are putting these things they  
16                  just want to put in what they have to and  
17                  water rolls downhill has been said, no more  
18                  on that.

19                  Now, last week I mentioned on trash,  
20                  the removal is as important as policing and  
21                  fire and when I was riding along the Erie  
22                  line with bicycle by Salvation Army off of  
23                  River Street I seen someone in there a few  
24                  years back with a pickup truck and there was  
25                  a mattress and box springs on the bed, so he



1           went back a little ways and then he came  
2           back and he noticed my glare and he started  
3           getting a little red faced as in fearful  
4           that I was -- and I didn't have a pencil and  
5           paper with me, so after that I took a pencil  
6           and paper with me for things that I might  
7           have seen that could be reported, however, I  
8           do not feel -- I want all trash picked up.  
9           I don't care if it has an owner, I just want  
10          it picked up and the people of the city have  
11          to pay the bill, and I don't want to argue  
12          that it's somebody else's trash. I don't  
13          want to get cited because somebody throws  
14          trash on my lawn or my property and I don't  
15          want to hear it from the city inspector,  
16          "I'm sorry, Mr. Dobrzyn, I realize that this  
17          trash was dumped here by someone else,  
18          however, you will have to remove it or pay a  
19          fine."

20                        So we really don't need that, and I  
21                        think on Act 76, once again, last week I  
22                        have proved that the State of Pennsylvania  
23                        is allowing employees to deduct your state  
24                        taxes from your paycheck and pocket them on  
25                        the guise of economic expansion or whatever

1 and some of these companies don't need it,  
2 and it's time that we start to tell these  
3 state representatives, you people included,  
4 that it's time we get the taxes to the  
5 government and not to somebody that doesn't  
6 need it or just wants to make a whole lot  
7 more money. If your taxes are going up then  
8 oh, well, and you have a good night.

9 MR. WECHSLER: Anyone else?

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

11 MOTIONS.

12 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Perry?

13 MR. PERRY: Yes, thank you, Mr.  
14 Wechsler, a couple of things to cover  
15 tonight, I won't be too long. The first  
16 thing I want to do is I want to thank DPW  
17 for taking care of some pothole repairs in  
18 Hamm Court. As most of us know, paving is  
19 one of the utmost important things and  
20 especially with this rustbelt area and one  
21 of the few areas that just get neglected  
22 beyond any other courts and alleys in the  
23 city. It's just some of them are just  
24 devastatingly difficult to pass and, you  
25 know, just not high on our priority list.

1                   So the patchwork that has been done  
2                   I greatly appreciate it. I know that the  
3                   business owners on Hamm Court appreciate  
4                   that. It was difficult for customers  
5                   getting in and out and I'm looking forward  
6                   to just patchwork throughout the city more  
7                   than courts, and if anybody has some major  
8                   concerns they're more than welcome to e-mail  
9                   me or get them to me and we can try to get a  
10                  list together prioritizing and send them to  
11                  DPW to get them taken care of, because I  
12                  know there are lot out there and they do  
13                  need to be addressed.

14                  As far the Youngs go, I'm very  
15                  thankful to have this on the legislation  
16                  tonight. As you guys know, we put money  
17                  aside over a year ago to have this taken  
18                  care of, so sorry for the red tape and  
19                  everything you guys have been going through.  
20                  It was definitely not the intentions of  
21                  anybody on this council to have it take this  
22                  long, but I'm glad to see this being taken  
23                  care of on the city's part, you know, the  
24                  quote/unquote temporary fix, but I'm totally  
25                  on your side about the state getting a

1           timetable together on a permanent fix all of  
2           the way up to that issue that we are having  
3           here. I mean, it just needs to be taken  
4           care of by the state and, again, that's only  
5           go to happen if you put the pressure on our  
6           representatives and our senators to make  
7           sure that we say that this has to -- you  
8           know, that we come first and that's what our  
9           society is about.

10                         So we'll keep on that fight up with  
11           hole and try to get a permanent fix for not  
12           you, but everybody up in that area, because  
13           it's not going to get any better, it's only  
14           going to get worse, but that being said I'm  
15           glad we are actually at this point now where  
16           we are going to start to pass legislation  
17           and get people to take care of it. Thank  
18           you.

19                         As far as spending on capital budget  
20           guidelines, that's a good question and that  
21           would have been a good question to submit to  
22           us and we would have the answer for you  
23           today if we had it ahead of time, but we'll  
24           have it for you next week. Mrs. Reed, if  
25           you could maybe send something to

1 Mr. Bulzoni and just see what the guideline  
2 is set up. I know all businesses in  
3 government have different guidelines on what  
4 capital expenditures are set at, some are  
5 \$5,000, some are ten, some smaller  
6 businesses are \$600, so what's the City of  
7 Scranton's cut off for what they use that  
8 capital improvement money for. I would like  
9 to know that as well.

10 Since we are talking about Mr.  
11 Bulzoni, before we went on break we did  
12 emergency legislation to get our firehouses,  
13 get contracts signed and get the work done.  
14 Could we just get an update from Mr. Bulzoni  
15 on the work being done on the firehouses and  
16 what's complete and what's not and is there  
17 a time table for completion, because I know  
18 one of the reason why the emergency  
19 certificate was attached to that was to get  
20 it done before the weather, so I just want  
21 to make sure that we are on track with that.

22 As far as the Serrenti building and  
23 the spending on that, Mr. Evans was  
24 absolutely right that's going to done  
25 through grants and there will be no money

1           spent unless there are grants to spend the  
2           money. That's just the commitment that we  
3           got. Improvement, the building is totally  
4           usable, ready to go, it's being used by the  
5           city for years now so anything that they  
6           want to do will come in the form of grant  
7           money and they will just go grant by grant  
8           by grant as far as they want to make  
9           improvements, so I don't see anything in  
10          capital budget for the Serrenti building.

11                        I think we even talked about the  
12          sale of the building on Ash Street being  
13          used to put into an account and that's also  
14          go to go into kind of an ongoing upkeep for  
15          that building as well to keep costs down and  
16          keep that from making kind of drain or  
17          seepage from our general budget.

18                        And, finally, and this is something  
19          that we had issue with last year so I want  
20          to bring it up and see if we can get it on  
21          the table and get it ahead of the curve is  
22          our leaf pickup protocol for 2017. If you  
23          remember when we do not want to rehash what  
24          happened in 2016. If we can get something  
25          out to the administration, Mayor Courtright,

1 and we can copy Director Gallagher on that  
2 and we can all get on the same page on how  
3 we want to handle this and make it a  
4 one-avenue road on how we are going to  
5 direct all of the residents on proper leaf  
6 disposal. It think if we get ahead of the  
7 game now we can just totally cut off the  
8 nonsense that happened last year because,  
9 you know, a city of this size with this many  
10 employees needs to be run as efficient as  
11 possible and I think it takes all of us,  
12 including us and all our directors and  
13 employees to be on the same page so I would  
14 just like to see that happen in 2017. And  
15 that's all I have for you at this time.  
16 Thank you.

17 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr. Perry.  
18 Mr. Rogan?

19 MR. ROGAN: Yes, three items I'm  
20 going to speak about, Mr. Perry already hit  
21 on one of them, but just to piggyback a  
22 little bit, I think it was probably the same  
23 people who talked to you that mentioned the  
24 fire station repairs to me as well, as  
25 Mr. Perry mentioned. The condition of a

1           number of the firehouses in Scranton are in  
2           deplorable condition and it's not something  
3           that happened overnight. These firehouses  
4           have been deteriorating for decades. That  
5           did prompt emergency legislation, which was  
6           passed by council some time ago and this  
7           work still hasn't began so, again, I agree  
8           fully with Mr. Perry on sending the letter  
9           to the business administrator to see what  
10          the delays are with these repairs,  
11          especially with the winter months coming up.

12                        Secondly, I did want to talk a  
13           little about the condition of North South  
14           Road. If you are not familiar with North  
15           South Road this is in West Scranton between  
16           Keyser Avenue, it's an industrial area,  
17           there is a number of large employers. This  
18           was a letter, I was able to speak to the  
19           site manager for Quadrant Engineering, which  
20           employees around 200 individuals. This  
21           letter was actually -- it's a copy of a  
22           letter that was sent to the DPW director  
23           back in March, and just to summarize, he is  
24           writing representing the Keyser Valley  
25           Industrial Park to recondition the North



1 South Road and Loop Road to the city's  
2 attention to request a major refurbishment  
3 of these two roads. I did spend a little  
4 bit of time over on those roads this week  
5 and they really are in terrible condition.  
6 The letter goes onto say that every day  
7 Colt's buses, Simplex Modular Homes, steel  
8 and freight companies such as Standard Iron  
9 Works, Gress Refrigerated Services,  
10 Rothenstein's Wholesale, Mesko Glass,  
11 Quadrant Plastics and Erie Materials along  
12 with hundreds of employees of these  
13 companies and Scranton citizens navigate the  
14 collapsing shoulders and are forced to cross  
15 into oncoming traffic to avoid serious  
16 damage or overturning. The section from  
17 Simplex Drive to Loop Road and the Loop Road  
18 connector to Keyser Avenue are in need of  
19 immediate attention.

20 I would ask if we could forward this  
21 letter, again, to DPW Director Gallagher and  
22 ask that some sort of meeting is set up  
23 between the city and the managers or  
24 presidents of these companies. Between just  
25 the couple of companies that were mentioned,

1 and there is others in that plaza, Gerrity's  
2 Supermarkets has their headquarters back  
3 there, Orlando Foods and I know there is  
4 others that I haven't mentioned, that plaza,  
5 that industrial park employes well over  
6 1,000 people and this road is extremely  
7 dangerous and it needs to be addressed  
8 quickly. So if we could forward this letter  
9 back to Director Gallagher and ask that a  
10 meeting is set up with the individuals who  
11 are charge of these companies to work on a  
12 long-term solution and to get this road in  
13 better condition.

14 Finally, I believe it was Joan that  
15 brought up Item 5-D, which is the  
16 legislation, and I'm pulling it back up  
17 again, that deals with purchasing of  
18 equipment which I don't have a problem with  
19 it, that is needed, but it also has a  
20 refinancing component in here that frankly  
21 doesn't make any sense to me. Again, the  
22 purchase component is the city needs to  
23 purchase additional equipment, completely  
24 understand, but this refinancing does not  
25 make sense. The current contract is a

1 six-year lease, six-year deal on equipment,  
2 Packmasters, that were purchased for our DPW  
3 and they were purchased at an interest rate  
4 of about 3 percent. They were purchased in  
5 2014, and if we continue to make those  
6 payments in 2020 they would be paid off and  
7 the city will not owe anymore money. This  
8 legislation would take that interest rate  
9 from 3 percent to 3.4 percent, which doesn't  
10 sound like a huge difference, but  
11 refinancing to a higher interest rate is  
12 something to me that never makes sense. The  
13 current payment on this debt would cost the  
14 city \$170,000 over the next -- under the  
15 remainder of the term. By refinancing it  
16 would cost the city \$218,000 so the  
17 difference of \$47,800. \$47,000 may not  
18 sound like a lot of money in the grand  
19 scheme of a hundred million dollar budget,  
20 but when you take into account the average  
21 person in the city doesn't even make this  
22 much money, and it's not being spent to help  
23 anything. It's just extra interest, so for  
24 those reasons I would urge my colleagues to  
25 join me in opposing this legislation and

1 asking the business administrator to send  
2 back legislation strictly for the purchase  
3 of the new vehicles without the refinancing  
4 component.

5 Again, one of the things the city  
6 has done over the last year that has been  
7 very good and the long-term debt of the city  
8 is paying off high interest date.  
9 Refinancing debt into a higher interest rate  
10 is something I will never support, it just  
11 absolutely does not make sense. And that is  
12 all for tonight. Thank you.

13 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr. Rogan.  
14 Mr. Evans?

15 MR. EVANS: Thank you. First of  
16 all, a speaker tonight talked about the  
17 reassessment and, of course, everybody has  
18 an opinion and he threw out a value of \$15  
19 million as cost to do a reassessment. I've  
20 stated my opinion many times, I feel  
21 qualified to give this opinion, that a  
22 reassessment wouldn't cost anywhere near  
23 that, more likely five to seven million  
24 dollars, but I think that's part of the  
25 strategy of those that oppose to it just

1            throw these crazy numbers week in and week  
2            out.

3                            On Mr. Young's property, you stated  
4            patience is indeed a virtue and I totally  
5            agree and congratulations, hopefully we will  
6            finally get this done for you quickly,  
7            hopefully by Christmas. That would be  
8            again, a great present for you as well as  
9            all of us. I will make one comment about  
10           the business administrator, behind the  
11           scenes the BA was a champion in getting this  
12           done for you. He is the one that came up  
13           with the funding scenario that made this --  
14           move this forward so I have had many  
15           conversations about this issue and I know  
16           it's frustrating, I know maybe there maybe  
17           there were some issues that I didn't know  
18           about, but I will say he was very much  
19           involved in trying to get this done for you,  
20           so that's just my two cents.

21                            Council President Wechsler and I  
22            attended a meeting at the Scranton Tomorrow  
23            Economic Revitalization meeting yesterday  
24            morning to discuss downtown parking. In  
25            attendance were small business owners,



1 and/or consolidate fees that I identified as  
2 not being very revenue substantial. Weeks  
3 ago, as a follow-up, I requested what fees  
4 currently in the books are required by state  
5 statute. This is important because as we  
6 enter the budget period in the fall I expect  
7 that many of those fees that I identified  
8 are still part of the 2018 budget. I will  
9 be making a motion to amend the budget to  
10 eliminate most, if not all of them.

11 If LIPS remains silent on the  
12 justification for those fees, I will have to  
13 assume that they are unnecessary and an  
14 impediment to fostering a better  
15 relationship with our small business  
16 community. So if I may send another letter  
17 to Deputy Director Oleski in LIPS asking for  
18 an update on both requests, but also I would  
19 also like send a second question to Deputy  
20 Director Oleski and I'd like to see a  
21 spreadsheet of the monthly tickets issued  
22 under the quality of life ordinance for 2016  
23 and year-to-date 2017. Specifically, how  
24 many tickets were issued each month, what is  
25 the percentage of those paid immediately,

1 and what is the percentage that required  
2 filing citations to collect through the  
3 magisterial process and of those what is the  
4 percentage of success at that level. As I  
5 have stated previously, I always had  
6 concerns that the fines were too high on the  
7 quality of life tickets for various  
8 violations. The goal was to change behavior  
9 and have a cleaner city in both the  
10 neighborhoods and our downtown. The goal  
11 should never have been to make them money:  
12 LIPS is not and should never be considered a  
13 profit center for the City of Scranton.

14 So once we receive this information  
15 from a lips I think it might be time a take  
16 a look at all of the levels of fees within  
17 the current quality of life program and have  
18 a good, solid discussions having moved  
19 forward with that program.

20 Last week I briefly discussed the  
21 assessed valuation of taxable and tax exempt  
22 properties in the City of Scranton. The  
23 assessed valuation for taxable property  
24 continues to decline each year and it's  
25 very, very concerning, but the total



1           assessed valuation for tax exempt property  
2           is another issue altogether. The numbers  
3           were for taxing of property land  
4           \$25,668,955. Improvements, \$193,467,777 for  
5           a total of \$219,136,732 in assessed  
6           valuation, about 65 percent of what our  
7           taxable property projections are. As I said  
8           last week, those numbers simply are  
9           astounding. To put it into a different  
10          context, if that amount was taxable it would  
11          mean an additional \$14,434,321 in annual tax  
12          revenue for the city. I'm not suggesting  
13          that we could ever expect 100 percent of  
14          what would be taxable for the nonprofits,  
15          but why shouldn't we expect more? Why  
16          shouldn't we expect maybe 10 percent of that  
17          amount? A 90 percent reduction in taxes for  
18          the nonprofits would still garner a PILOT,  
19          or payment in lieu of taxes, over \$1.4  
20          million annually for the city. Since I have  
21          been on city council I'm not aware of any  
22          real effort to negotiate PILOTS, from the  
23          administration. I won't dispute there is a  
24          tremendous value to the city with many of  
25          the nonprofits in jobs, in development, spin

1           offs within the economy, all of that, but  
2           having \$14.4 million as a point of reference  
3           I think it's time we did better. I think  
4           it's time we did much better. That's all I  
5           have for tonight.

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

8                     MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, thank you. First  
9           of all, I just want to mention the Hurricane  
10          Harvey and Hurricane Irma relief drive. I  
11          had a chance to speak to Mayor Barrett from  
12          the Borough of Archbald last week and she  
13          explained to me that the relief drive is  
14          going very well. They have a trailer  
15          outside of the Borough building in Archbald.  
16          When I spoke to her it was half filled so  
17          she is asking that anybody in this area drop  
18          off anything that you can think of for the  
19          people that are effected in that area. I  
20          would like to commend the mayor and the fire  
21          department for having drop off locations in  
22          the City of Scranton. All Scranton  
23          firehouses will be accepting nonperishable  
24          goods to help with relief efforts for  
25          victims of Hurricane Harvey and Hurricane

1 Irma, so if you have any non-perishable  
2 goods in your home that you can spare such  
3 as baking items, canned fruit, canned meat,  
4 fish, condiments, noodles, rice, household  
5 items, personal care items, you can drop  
6 them off at any firehouse throughout the  
7 city. For more information on this relief  
8 drive you can call 570-348-4132. So I want  
9 to thank them again for doing that.

10 I did talk with the Chamber of  
11 Commerce president Bob Durkin regarding my  
12 request last week that we put together  
13 proposals to attract the online retailer  
14 Amazon to Scranton. As I mentioned last  
15 week, Amazon is interested in building a  
16 second headquarters in North America and  
17 they are launching a search in soliciting  
18 bids from cities and states throughout the  
19 United States. This headquarters will  
20 employ roughly 50,000 people. There is  
21 going to be a \$5 billion investment into the  
22 community or region by Amazon. So I had a  
23 frank discussion with Mr. Durkin and he said  
24 that the chamber is working with a company  
25 called Pennsylvania Northeast to put

1 together a regional proposal. From a  
2 pragmatic perspective, our chances would be  
3 slim, the City of Scranton, because we don't  
4 exactly meet some of the rigged preferences  
5 and requirements that are located in the  
6 request for proposals from Amazon, but  
7 Mr. Durkin and I both agree, as I mentioned  
8 last week, that there would be a great value  
9 in putting the proposal together and making  
10 a push for this even if we do get rejected.  
11 I think it gives us just another opportunity  
12 to tell our story and to promote the City of  
13 Scranton and the region, so I will continue  
14 to provide updates on that as we move  
15 further.

16 Mr. Wechsler mentioned in the  
17 caucus, as I brought up last week about the  
18 Lace works project and Mr. Rinaldi is going  
19 to attend a caucus next week to give us an  
20 update on the timeline of what's going on  
21 there and some of the security concerns that  
22 we have heard about and have been detailed  
23 in the paper.

24 I mentioned last week about my  
25 concerns with the Civil War Museum in the

1 basement of city hall, and I just want to  
2 reiterate those for a minute because I got a  
3 letter from a member of the Grand Army of  
4 the Republic Memorial Association of  
5 Scranton. Currently as it stands now the  
6 museum and the group that runs the museum in  
7 the basement of city hall their lease is up  
8 in November and we have been informed, not  
9 officially, that the mayor is considering  
10 using that space for storage. So the Museum  
11 would have to look for some place else to  
12 go, so I just want to read a portion of this  
13 letter because I think it's extremely  
14 important.

15 The gentleman says, "My name is  
16 Craig Kelly and I'm a member of the Grand  
17 Army of the Republic Memorial Association of  
18 Scranton. Our nonprofit organization is  
19 housed in the basement area of city hall  
20 where we have a meeting room and an exhibit  
21 area for our Civil War Museum and library.

22 A great many of the artifacts on  
23 display in the GAR Museum and library have  
24 been donated by the Civil War veterans of  
25 the City of Scranton and the surrounding

1 area. These men who fought and returned  
2 home after the US Civil War. They wanted to  
3 keep the history of the United States Civil  
4 War a memory and sacrifices of the boys in  
5 blue alive for future generations through  
6 the exhibits in the museum and the basement  
7 of city hall.

8 The men of the Grand Army of the  
9 Republican were American patriots and many  
10 sacrificed their lives and fortunes to  
11 preserve our union for God and country.  
12 This museum has provided tours for Scranton  
13 High School students, local Boy Scouts and  
14 Girl Scout troops the Children's Library of  
15 Scranton, the Lackawanna County Historical  
16 Society, among many other groups.

17 The relationship between this group  
18 and the City of Scranton goes back in the  
19 late 1800's. The men of the GAR Post 139  
20 joined together first for comradery and then  
21 for political power. The Grand Army of the  
22 Republic which by 1890 was down to 409,000  
23 veterans of the War of the Rebellion  
24 nationwide."

25 This gentleman concludes, and like I

1           said, I'm not going to go through the whole  
2           letter here, but he says, "Therefore, it is  
3           my hope that the honorable city council  
4           members take into consideration the need to  
5           renew the ordinance or lease that we may  
6           stay the course of our mission statement to  
7           keep the green memory of the boys in blue  
8           and the history of the City of Scranton,  
9           Pennsylvania, in to keep the museum in the  
10          basement of city hall."

11                        I bring this up again for a few  
12          different reasons, I don't believe that this  
13          group is getting a fair shake or information  
14          from the mayor. They are not sure exactly  
15          where they stand and as someone who teaches  
16          American government I think that this museum  
17          is extremely important not only to this  
18          building, but to the City of Scranton and to  
19          our residents. I think if anything rather  
20          than looking for a place for them to move we  
21          should be promoting the fact that we have a  
22          museum of this magnitude in our building.  
23          So we did send a letter to the mayor asking  
24          for clarification on exactly what his plans  
25          are and I know many of the members of this

1 group are extremely concerned because they  
2 are not sure what their future is going to  
3 be.

4 203 Pittston Avenue, Mrs. Reed, if  
5 we could send a letter to the Licensing and  
6 Inspections Department. I received several  
7 complaints this week and I actually did  
8 drive by and take a look at it. Looks the  
9 building or the house is vacant, overgrown  
10 grass and it just looks terrible for that  
11 neighborhood.

12 I also received a complaint from a  
13 gentleman living in the 600 block of Taylor  
14 Avenue. Apparently the utility companies  
15 are there ripping up the streets. This  
16 street in particular was just paved last  
17 year by the city so I would like to see  
18 exactly what project they are completing  
19 there.

20 Just an update on the street  
21 lighting project throughout the city. This  
22 has been going on for quite a few months  
23 now. We did receive a report and they  
24 should be all complete by the end of  
25 September, so that is a good thing and I



1 think for the most part the project has been  
2 a success.

3 And the last request I have is for  
4 the Sewer Authority, I would like to know if  
5 the mandated work that was done between 2015  
6 and to 2016 were there RFP's put out for  
7 that work and what companies performed the  
8 mandated work? And the rest of my comments  
9 I'll hold until agenda items. Thank you.

10 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr.  
11 Gaughan. Just to follow up on some of the  
12 comments Mr. Evans made, we did also attend  
13 a session concerning the amount of spending  
14 that the universities and colleges bring  
15 into the City of Scranton. The amount of  
16 money that's spent is quite significant.  
17 The issue that Mr. Evans brought up is an  
18 important one, and I think the one thing  
19 this city council has done is we have  
20 established a working relationship with the  
21 colleges and universities that we have a  
22 dialogue. Mr. Evans and myself and have  
23 been aggressively talking to the University  
24 of Scranton, Lackawanna College, and dealing  
25 with Mr. Basalyga through Luzerne County

1           Community College. We do have to come to a  
2           better understanding of working with them.  
3           The PILOT program has never really been  
4           quite successful here, but the fact that we  
5           have a dialogue now I believe establishes  
6           the point at least that we have some  
7           reference that we can start to communicate  
8           with these important members of our  
9           community. The University of Scranton has  
10          in the past contributed not so much in taxes  
11          but their building permits have added  
12          tremendously to the city and really as their  
13          building has slowed down so has their  
14          application for building permits, so we are  
15          kind of seeing a point in the University  
16          that one of their arguments that's kind of  
17          going to be receding because they aren't  
18          building as many buildings as they used to,  
19          but I do think the relationship between the  
20          city and the universities, when I say  
21          universities I should say the colleges and  
22          universities, is much better than it used to  
23          be.

24                           We talked about -- last week I spoke  
25          to -- I called Mr. Young after we found out

1           that the agenda item was going to include  
2           the temporary repair for his facility -- or  
3           his home over there. I'm very happy that  
4           that is moving along, but one thing I would  
5           like to comment about that is when this  
6           project was lagging I reached out to Senator  
7           Blake's office and especially his Chief of  
8           Staff, Larry West. Larry West got me in  
9           contact with the DEP. We did find out that  
10          this project could move along with impacting  
11          our contributions to the project. Once we  
12          had that information, we got it to  
13          Mr. Bulzoni. Mr. Bulzoni ran with the ball,  
14          so I don't like to take credit for what I  
15          do, but this project was kind of dead until  
16          I got involved with it again, moved it along  
17          with Mr. Blake, moved it along with DEP,  
18          moved it along with Mr. Bulzoni to the point  
19          now where it's going to be completed and I'm  
20          so happy to hear that's going to be done.

21                         We had a meeting last week with  
22                         Reilly Associates, they are work everything  
23                         up to spec. They were involved in the  
24                         original project, Phase I, so they are quite  
25                         aware of -- and alleviating your concerns in

1 terms of the project being up to spec. The  
2 representatives from Reilly left their  
3 contact information with Mrs. Reed so if you  
4 need to get contact information provided  
5 it's available in the council office.

6 In addition to that, Senator Blake  
7 and Mr. West are working to try and get that  
8 main project done. They are getting it on  
9 the list for the capital program for DEP,  
10 hopefully that study will be done in 2018.  
11 You know, these guys are working on this. I  
12 know you are not satisfied with the results,  
13 but I can tell you that they are working on  
14 the --

15 MR. YOUNG: Twelve years.

16 MR. WECHSLER: Just to touch base on  
17 this project, you know, we get a lot of  
18 criticism here on council and what are you  
19 good for and what do you do, but I can cite  
20 two projects right now that without city  
21 council nothing would be happening, and one  
22 is your project. It took a long time to get  
23 it to that point, Mr. Young. I can remember  
24 you standing at the podium the first night  
25 you were here. There was a lot of grandeur

1 and a lot of stuff at the time and all of a  
2 sudden it kind of died, but only this city  
3 council is the one that got it pushed to the  
4 point where it's going to be done, and I do  
5 think you have to temper your words about  
6 Mr. Bulzoni. Mr. Bulzoni is the one who saw  
7 to make sure this got completed and it's  
8 done.

9 The other project is the paving of  
10 South Irving avenue. That's another project  
11 that has been out there for years and years  
12 and no one ever thought it was going to  
13 done. If Mr. Srebro is still here, I found  
14 that odd that he is saying your project is  
15 never going to be done and it's on the  
16 agenda this evening. So this council I'm  
17 proud of the work that my four colleagues  
18 have done and I'm proud of the work that  
19 I've done to get these two projects,  
20 projects that people said were never going  
21 to get done or going to get done and that's  
22 because this council provides constituents  
23 service, our office, our office staff  
24 provides constituent service and that's how  
25 this gets done. Mrs. Reed works with

1 Mr. Bulzoni, works with the administration  
2 and that's how they things get done, so when  
3 we get criticism that we don't accomplish  
4 anything I really have to disagree with  
5 that.

6 We had a speaker here tonight that  
7 he signed in from Childs. I let him speak  
8 because of the nature of his comments,  
9 really city council is supposed to be  
10 restricted to Scranton residents. We are  
11 going to allow comment from outside  
12 residents during the leading up to the  
13 election concerning the reassessment, I  
14 think it's an important issue to discuss.  
15 As Mr. Evans said, we are not going to have  
16 debate here, but that speaker this evening  
17 was totally wrong. Whether the reassessment  
18 is voted upon or not voted upon,  
19 reassessment is something that's supposed to  
20 happen all the time. You are not supposed  
21 to have reassessments down that last for 50  
22 years. The area is changing, so whether  
23 this reassessment fails at the voting booth  
24 come November, at some point in time there  
25 has to be a reassessment based on the fact,

1 as Mr. Young stated, his property is losing  
2 value every day, so it's not fair for his  
3 assessment not to have changed in all of  
4 these years. Reassessment is something that  
5 has to happen. If it fails at the ballot  
6 box, it's still going to have to happen and  
7 it's not for us because we were financially  
8 irresponsible, it's because the economic  
9 structure and economic performance of  
10 certain areas have changed in our area and  
11 it's something that should be taken  
12 responsibly and performed on a regular  
13 basis.

14 The last thing I have this evening,  
15 we followed up with the Attorney General's  
16 Office in regard to our request for their  
17 activity to investigate the sale of the  
18 Scranton Sewer Authority. We just sent them  
19 a letter to find out where they are at with  
20 that request. That's it.

21 MS. REED: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
22 AN ORDINANCE - CREATING AND ESTABLISHING  
23 SPECIAL CITY ACCOUNT NO. 02.229622 ENTITLED  
24 "LINDY CREEK FLOOD PROJECT 2017" FOR THE  
25 RECEIPT AND DISBURSEMENT OF MATCHING

1 GRANT FUNDS FROM THE COMMONWEALTH OF  
2 PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL  
3 PROTECTION ("DEP") FOR REHABILITATION  
4 ASSISTANCE FOR THE LINDY CREEK FLOOD  
5 PROJECT.

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

9 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

10 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

14 MR. PERRY: Aye.

15 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

16 MR. EVANS: Aye.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

18 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The  
19 ayes have it and so moved.

20 MS. REED: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
21 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND  
22 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE  
23 AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH REILLY  
24 ASSOCIATES CONSULTING ENGINEERS FOR  
25 ENGINEERING SERVICES-TEMPORARY CULVERT



1 IMPROVEMENTS FOR MEADOWBROOK CREEK STORM  
2 WATER PROJECT.

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

6 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

7 MR. EVANS: Second.

8 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

9 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question.

10 First of all, I'm going to vote for this  
11 project because I think it's important and  
12 it's a long time coming, but I also think  
13 that we should call a spade a spade here.  
14 Number one, this is an emergency. It's been  
15 an emergency for the last 17 months and the  
16 fact that this administration sends  
17 legislation to us, down to us time after  
18 time with emergency certificates and this  
19 didn't come with an emergency certificate  
20 attached signed by the mayor and the  
21 controller I don't think was right and, you  
22 know, the hole gets bigger by the day yet  
23 this doesn't come down with an emergency  
24 certificate, so that's number one.

25 Number two, I get a kick out of

1 sitting here and listening to all of the  
2 back and forth about this project. What it  
3 tells me is that if you have a problem in  
4 the city like the Youngs and you have a hole  
5 in your yard you have to go to the  
6 newspaper, you have to go to council, you  
7 have to get an attorney, that's pretty sad.  
8 That's not something that should be  
9 celebrated. I think it shows a failure in  
10 government. I sat down with the Youngs  
11 early on and they can tell you and I will  
12 tell you that this could have been taken  
13 care of 17 months ago if there was a little  
14 bit more communication on the part of the  
15 administration and the mayor because I  
16 remember talking to the Youngs and the door  
17 was shut in their face. They had to get an  
18 attorney so, I mean, if -- and I commend  
19 Alan and Elaine Young because I think most  
20 people have just thrown in the towel at that  
21 point because people don't want to put up  
22 with the frustration, they don't want to get  
23 an attorney, they don't want to come down  
24 and be on television at a council meeting.

25 So I'm glad this is final being

1 taken care of, but as Mr. Young and  
2 Mrs. Young can tell you this has been in my  
3 opinion an unnecessarily frustrating  
4 experience and I think over the past 17  
5 months the arrogance and the negligence of  
6 the mayor and this administration is on full  
7 display. I am glad that we are voting on  
8 this and I look forward to the completion of  
9 this project. Thank you.

10 MR. WECHSLER: I would have to  
11 disagree to a point with Mr. Gaughan's  
12 comments, I agree that this took way too  
13 long to do, I disagree with it from this  
14 standpoint, the work that was going to be  
15 done by the city could have impacted the  
16 responsibility that the city might have in  
17 terms of the bigger DEP project that might  
18 happen down the road. My concerns had  
19 always been if once we put a shovel in a  
20 hole over there that the city became  
21 responsible for \$13 million project there  
22 was no way that we going to be able to do  
23 that. I did not accept the fact that that  
24 was going to be true, so we continued to  
25 push and push, as I stated, we pushed it

1 with Senator Blake, we pushed it with DEP so  
2 we could get to the point where it had to be  
3 done properly. I'm not sure it was  
4 arrogance or whatever it was in the  
5 administration, but I can tell you this one  
6 thing we talk about government, there is a  
7 speed of government and it does not move  
8 fast. The only way that we would be able to  
9 move it along is by working together, by  
10 contacting Mr. Bulzoni, contacting the  
11 mayor, contacting DEP, contacting Senator  
12 Blake, contacting State Representative  
13 Flynn. That's how we move things along.  
14 Sometimes people deserve criticism, and  
15 maybe criticism is due at this point that it  
16 took too long, but the fact that -- and I  
17 hate saying this, but the fact that I worked  
18 with Blake and Bulzoni and the mayor we got  
19 this project completed. So criticism is  
20 easy, but sitting down and making the calls  
21 making sure that it happens, making sure  
22 that it happens properly that it doesn't  
23 affect the rest of this city, that's part of  
24 the reason why this project was delayed and,  
25 like I said, I'm proud to say that it's

1                   being done. I wish it was done a year and a  
2                   half ago, but that's not the case, but it is  
3                   being done now. All those in favor of  
4                   introduction signify by saying aye.

5                   MR. PERRY: Aye.

6                   MR. ROGAN: Aye.

7                   MR. EVANS: Aye.

8                   MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

9                   MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The  
10                  eyes have it and so moved.

11                  MS. REED: 5-D. FOR INTRODUCTION – A  
12                  RESOLUTION – AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND  
13                  OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE  
14                  AND ENTER INTO A GOVERNMENT OBLIGATION  
15                  CONTRACT BETWEEN KANSAS STATE BANK OF  
16                  MANHATTAN (OBLIGEE) AND THE CITY OF  
17                  SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA (OBLIGOR) FOR THE  
18                  PURCHASE OF ONE (1) 2018 MACK GU813 WITH 25  
19                  YARD PACKER, ONE (1) 2018 MACK GU812 WITH A  
20                  20 YARD PACKER, FOUR (4) FREIGHTLINER 108 SD  
21                  TRUCKS (MOUNTAIN) WITH SNOW PLOW EQUIPMENT  
22                  AND REFINANCING OF CONTRACT #3346397 FOR THE  
23                  FOUR (4) 2015 GU813 REFUSE PACKERS FOR THE  
24                  DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS.

25                  MR. WECHSLER: At this time, I'll

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

3                   MR. EVANS:    So moved.

4                   MR. GAUGHAN:  Second.

5                   MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

6                   MR. PERRY:    Yes, on the question.  I  
7                   agree with Councilman Rogan about the  
8                   increase in the interest rate and if my  
9                   fellow councilmen would agree with me I  
10                  would like to give a letter of explanation  
11                  out to Mr. Bulzoni, what caused the increase  
12                  from 3.08 to 3.35 and is there anyway to  
13                  reintroduce this legislation without that  
14                  increase?  Again, it was I don't want to  
15                  rehash what Councilman Rogan said, but  
16                  \$47,000 is an awful lot, I mean, that's an  
17                  extra DPW worker, that's an extra police  
18                  officer, that's a lot so --

19                  MR. MINORA:  It could be amended.

20                  MR. WECHSLER:  Yeah, I would ask my  
21                  colleagues if we get a majority to move this  
22                  forward and then consult with Mr. Bulzoni as  
23                  to the understanding of why this is or can  
24                  these two things be separated because there  
25                  is no doubt about it that the DPW needs this

1 equipment, we need it to complete -- some of  
2 these things are going to be different  
3 trucks to use, plows to do snow removal this  
4 winter. I would ask my colleagues if we  
5 could get an aye vote on this just to move  
6 it forward so we can have future discussions  
7 with Mr. Bulzoni and I'm sure he can explain  
8 it, maybe he can explain to our satisfaction  
9 or maybe not.

10 MR. PERRY: Yeah, I don't have  
11 problem with introducing this tonight, but I  
12 would just like to be a better  
13 explanation --

14 MR. WECHSLER: I agree.

15 MR. PERRY: -- on why the increase,  
16 what caused it, can we avoid it.

17 MR. WECHSLER: I agree.

18 MR. PERRY: Before I give a final  
19 passage.

20 MR. ROGAN: To be clear on my  
21 objection, my objection has absolutely  
22 nothing to do with the purchase the new  
23 equipment, I do agree the DPW does need some  
24 new equipment, but the refinancing component  
25 makes absolutely no sense. It shouldn't be

1 in the legislation. If we are doing a  
2 purchase, do a purchase. If we were saving  
3 on the refinancing I would be all for it,  
4 but not to pay a penny more in interest  
5 never mind \$47,000.

6 MR. WECHSLER: All those in favor of  
7 introduction signify by saying aye.

8 MR. PERRY: Aye.

9 MR. EVANS: Aye.

10 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

11 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed?

12 MR. ROGAN: No.

13 MR. WECHSLER: The ayes have it and  
14 so moved.

15 MS. REED: 5-E. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
16 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND  
17 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE  
18 AND ENTER INTO A GOVERNMENT OBLIGATION  
19 CONTRACT BETWEEN MUNICIPAL LEASING  
20 CONSULTANTS, LLC (OBLIGEE) AND THE CITY OF  
21 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA (OBLIGOR) FOR THE  
22 ACQUISITION OF A NEW 2017 SUTPHEN SP100  
23 ARIEL PLATFORM TRUCK FOR THE CITY OF  
24 SCRANTON FIRE DEPARTMENT.

25 MR. WECHSLER: 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. EVANS: Second.

5 MR. WECHSLER: On the question? All  
6 those in favor of introduction signify by  
7 saying aye.

8 MR. PERRY: Aye.

9 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

10 MR. EVANS: Aye.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

12 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The  
13 ayes have it and so moved.

14 MS. REED: 5-F. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
15 A RESOLUTION - RATIFYING AND APPROVING THE  
16 EXECUTION AND SUBMISSION OF THE GRANT  
17 APPLICATION BY THE CITY OF SCRANTON POLICE  
18 DEPARTMENT TO THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF  
19 COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (DCED)  
20 FOR A LOCAL SHARE ACCOUNT GRANT (GAMING  
21 FUNDS-MONROE COUNTY) IN THE AMOUNT OF  
22 \$83,907.00 FOR THE PURCHASE OF SEVENTY-FIVE  
23 (75) TASERS FOR THE SCRANTON POLICE  
24 DEPARTMENT PATROL DIVISION.

25 MR. WECHSLER: At this time, I'll

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

3                   MR. ROGAN:    So moved.

4                   MR. EVANS:    Second.

5                   MR. WECHSLER:  On the question?

6                   MR. PERRY:    Yes, just quickly on the  
7           question, I'm very happy to see this come  
8           across our desk.  Non-lethal weapons are  
9           some of the police officers best ways of  
10          defense, you know, with everything that's  
11          going on out there right now and this,  
12          tasers, we don't have enough on the police  
13          force right now, every police officer should  
14          have one and right now that's not the case  
15          and this just gives them another avenue,  
16          another way to safely subdue someone who is  
17          either going to cause themselves harm or a  
18          police officer harm or someone else harm and  
19          I have seen it firsthand and it's not  
20          pretty, and a police officer without  
21          non-lethal form of restriction has two  
22          choices, you know, brut force or lethal  
23          force, and we never want it to come to that  
24          because that's not safe either way you go  
25          and that's not what we are all about here in

1 our city, so I'm very happy to see that this  
2 is going to get it's just about up to par on  
3 every officer having a taser.

4 MR. WECHSLER: All those in favor of  
5 introduction signify by saying aye.

6 MR. PERRY: Aye.

7 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

8 MR. EVANS: Aye.

9 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

10 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The  
11 ayes have it and so moved.

12 MS. REED: 5-G. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
13 A RESOLUTION - ACCEPTING A ONE THOUSAND  
14 (\$1,000.00) DOLLAR DONATION FROM MR. AND  
15 MRS. JAMES STEWART PRESENTED TO THE CITY OF  
16 SCRANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR THE K-9 UNIT.

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

20 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

21 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

25 MR. PERRY: Aye.

1 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

2 MR. EVANS: Aye.

3 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

6 MS. REED: 5-H. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
7 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND  
8 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO APPLY  
9 FOR AND EXECUTE A GRANT FOR THE  
10 REDEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE CAPITAL PROGRAM  
11 (RACP) THROUGH THE COMMONWEALTH OF  
12 PENNSYLVANIA'S OFFICE OF THE BUDGET IN THE  
13 AMOUNT OF ONE MILLION (\$1,000,000.00)  
14 DOLLARS; ACCEPTING AND DISBURSING THE GRANT;  
15 AND COORDINATE THE USE OF THE GRANT  
16 FUNDS WITH "SCRANTON-CHERRY, LP" FOR THE  
17 PROJECT TO BE NAMED THE "SCRANTON COUNSELING  
18 CENTER."

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

22 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

23 MR. EVANS: Second.

24 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

25 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.

1 I just wanted to say that I am in full  
2 support of this project. I think that it's  
3 going to do it two things. Number one, it's  
4 going to revitalize a portion of the South  
5 Scranton and the 300 block of Cherry Street.  
6 I think it's going to provide the  
7 opportunity for redevelopment of the entire  
8 300 block of Adams Avenue where the Scranton  
9 Counseling Center currently is, and it's  
10 also going to reduce, as we discussed in the  
11 caucus, the traffic congestion that we often  
12 encounter in the 300 block of Adams Avenue.  
13 It's going to retain over 300 jobs from the  
14 Scranton Counseling Center, and it's going  
15 to create this project over 100 construction  
16 jobs. So I think, you know, this is going  
17 to be a transformative effect on two  
18 neighborhoods within the City of Scranton.  
19 Thank you.

20 MR. WECHSLER: As I mentioned in the  
21 caucus, this building has a special  
22 importance to my family, it's where my  
23 parents met when it was Consolidated  
24 Mold Products, so I'm happy to see that it's  
25 going to be put back into use and become a

1 major lynchpin in the redevelopment of South  
2 Scranton.

3 MR. EVANS: I would agree, and it's  
4 a perfect adaptive reuse of a historical  
5 building, and as Councilman Gaughan said,  
6 the second part of this is the  
7 revitalization of the 300 block of Adams  
8 Avenue which is really a very interesting  
9 block as is. There's a lot of great small  
10 businesses in that block and it's only going  
11 to go further to enhance that situation  
12 there.

13 MR. WECHSLER: All those in favor of  
14 introduction signify by saying aye.

15 MR. PERRY: Aye.

16 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

17 MR. EVANS: Aye.

18 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

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

22 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.  
23 113, 2017 - AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF  
24 THE COUNCIL NO. 65, 2016, AN ORDINANCE  
25 ENTITLED "GENERAL CITY OPERATING BUDGET

1           2017" BY TRANSFERRING \$464,861.26 FROM  
2           ACCOUNT NO. 01.380.38000 (MISCELLANEOUS  
3           REVENUE OTHER-NOT CLASSIFIED) TO ACCOUNT NO.  
4           01.011.00078.4550 (DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC  
5           SAFETY-BUREAU OF FIRE CAPITAL EXPENDITURES)  
6           BY INCREASING FUNDING IN THE ABOVE REVENUE  
7           AND CORRESPONDING EXPENSE ACCOUNTS TO  
8           UTILIZE ADDITIONAL REVENUE RECEIVED FROM  
9           DCED, LSA GRANTS FOR AERIAL FIRETRUCK  
10          (\$330,142.00) AND PPL COMMERCIAL REBATE  
11          PROGRAM (ACT 129) FUNDS (\$134,719.26).

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

14                   MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-A  
15                   pass reading by title.

16                   MR. EVANS: Second.

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

19                   MR. PERRY: Aye.

20                   MR. ROGAN: Aye.

21                   MR. EVANS: Aye.

22                   MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

25                   MS. REED: 6-B. READING BY TITLE -

1 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 114, 2017 - AN  
2 ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.  
3 107, 2017, AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED "APPROVING  
4 THE TRANSFER OF A RESTAURANT LIQUOR LICENSE  
5 CURRENTLY OWNED BY JOAN HUDAK T/D/B/A SEVEN  
6 SISTERS TAVERN, 814 SUSQUEHANNA AVENUE,  
7 OLYPHANT, LACKAWANNA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA,  
8 LICENSE NO. R-3527 TO CFM BEER BRICK, LLC  
9 FOR USE AT 337 WEST MARKET STREET, SCRANTON,  
10 LACKAWANNA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA AS REQUIRED  
11 BY THE PENNSYLVANIA LIQUOR CONTROL BOARD" TO  
12 CORRECT A TYPOGRAPHICAL ERROR IN THE LIQUOR  
13 LICENSE NUMBER IN THE SECOND WHEREAS CLAUSE  
14 AND THE NOW THEREFORE CLAUSE TO READ "LIQUOR  
15 LICENSE NO. R-3527".

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

18 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-B  
19 pass reading by title.

20 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

23 MR. PERRY: Aye.

24 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

25 MR. EVANS: Aye.



1 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

4 MS. REED: 6-C. READING BY TITLE -  
5 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 115, 2017 - AN  
6 ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.  
7 60, 2016, AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED "GRANTING  
8 LOCAL ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION TAX ASSISTANCE  
9 TO A PROPERTY LOCATED AT ALBRIGHT AND GLEN  
10 AVENUES AND IDENTIFIED AS PIN NO.'S  
11 13420-060-017 AND 13420-050-028 OWNED BY  
12 LACE BUILDING AFFILIATES LP AND SETTING  
13 FORTH AMOUNTS OF TAX ABATEMENTS FOR EACH  
14 YEAR FOR TEN YEARS" FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE TO  
15 CORRECT THE FILE OF THE COUNCIL NUMBER IN  
16 THE SECOND WHEREAS CLAUSE TO FILE OF THE  
17 COUNCIL NO. 37.

18 MR. WECHSLER: You've heard reading  
19 by title of Item 6-C, what is your pleasure?

20 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-C  
21 pass reading by title.

22 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

25 MR. PERRY: Aye.

1 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

2 MR. EVANS: Aye.

3 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

6 MS. REED: 6-D. READING BY TITLE -  
7 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 116, 2017 - AN  
8 ORDINANCE - APPROVING AND ACCEPTING THE CITY  
9 OF SCRANTON CAPITAL BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2018  
10 PURSUANT TO SECTION 904 OF THE CITY'S HOME  
11 RULE CHARTER.

12 MR. WECHSLER: You've heard reading  
13 by title of Item 6-D, what is your pleasure?

14 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-D  
15 pass reading by title.

16 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

19 MR. PERRY: Aye.

20 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

21 MR. EVANS: Aye.

22 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

25 MR. EVANS: I would like to make a

1 motion to table Item 6-D.

2 MR. ROGAN: Second.

3 MR. WECHSLER: There is a motion on  
4 the floor and a second to table Item 6-D.  
5 On the question? This piece of legislation  
6 is being tabled to allow for a public  
7 hearing to be held on the capital budget  
8 next Thursday, September 21, at 5:30 p.m.  
9 All those in favor signify by saying aye.

10 MR. PERRY: Aye.

11 MR. EVANS: Aye.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

13 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

14 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The  
15 ayes have it and so moved.

16 MS. REED: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR  
17 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC  
18 WORKS - FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 181,  
19 2017 - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND  
20 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE  
21 AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH A&M  
22 ELECTRICAL CONSTRUCTION, INC. TO PROVIDE  
23 MAINTENANCE OF TRAFFIC SIGNALIZATION FOR THE  
24 CITY OF SCRANTON FOR THE PERIOD OF ONE (1)  
25 YEAR FROM SEPTEMBER 1, 2017 THROUGH AUGUST

1 31, 2108.

2 MR. WECHSLER: What is the  
3 recommendation of the Chairperson for the  
4 Committee on Public Works?

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

8 MR. ROGAN: Second.

9 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?  
10 Roll call, please?

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

12 MR. PERRY: Yes.

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

14 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

16 MR. EVANS: Yes.

17 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

18 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

19 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

20 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby  
21 declare Item 7-A legally and lawfully  
22 adopted.

23 MS. REED: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION  
24 BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY - FOR  
25 ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 182, 2017 -

1           AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE  
2           CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO AN  
3           AGREEMENT SETTING FORTH THE TERMS AND  
4           CONDITIONS BY AND BETWEEN THE CITY OF  
5           SCRANTON AND TOYOTA OF SCRANTON, INC. TO  
6           ACCEPT THE DONATION OF A NEW TOYOTA CAMRY TO  
7           BE USED BY THE SCRANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT AS  
8           A SUPERVISOR'S CAR.

9                   MR. WECHSLER: What is the  
10           recommendation of the Chairperson for the  
11           Committee on Public Safety?

12                   MR. PERRY: As Chair for the  
13           Committee on Public Safety, I recommend  
14           final passage of Item 7-B.

15                   MR. ROGAN: Second.

16                   MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

17                   MR. EVANS: On the question, my only  
18           comment is that Toyota of Scranton has shown  
19           to be the very definition of what it means  
20           to a good corporate citizen. That's all I  
21           have, and I think we have to applaud them  
22           for what they have done for the city over  
23           and over again. They promote the city. If  
24           you go into their showroom there are  
25           pictures of the city throughout. So, again,

1                   they are the very, very definition of a good  
2                   corporate citizen.

3                   MR. WECHSLER: Roll call, please?

4                   MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

5                   MR. PERRY: Yes.

6                   MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

7                   MR. ROGAN: Yes.

8                   MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

9                   MR. EVANS: Yes.

10                  MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

11                  MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

12                  MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

13                  MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby  
14                  declare Item 7-B legally and lawfully  
15                  adopted.

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

18                  MR. ROGAN: Motion to adjourn.

19                  MR. WECHSLER: Meeting adjourned.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I hereby certify that the proceedings and evidence are contained fully and accurately in the notes of testimony taken by me at the hearing of the above-captioned matter and that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the same to the best of my ability.

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CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR  
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