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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Thursday, September 1, 2016

LOCATION:

Council Chambers

Scranton City Hall

340 North Washington Avenue

Scranton, Pennsylvania

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

- JOSEPH WECHSLER, PRESIDENT
- PATRICK ROGAN, VICE-PRESIDENT
- WAYNE EVANS
- WILLIAM GAUGHAN
- TIM PERRY

- LORI REED, CITY CLERK
- KATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK
- AMIL MINORA, SOLICITOR

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

3 MR. WECHSLER: Roll call, please.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

5 MR. PERRY: Here.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

7 MR. ROGAN: Here.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

9 MR. EVANS: Here.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Here.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

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

15 MS. REED: THIRD ORDER. 3-A.

16 AGENDA FOR THE BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS
17 MEETING HELD AUGUST 10, 2016.

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 JULY
22 13, AUGUST 3, AND AUGUST 17, 2016.

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 2015-2016 YEAR TO DATE JULY 31, 2016.

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 JULY 8, 2016.

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

10 MS. REED: 3-E. AGENDA FOR THE
11 PROPOSED MEETING OF THE LACKAWANNA COUNTY
12 TAX COLLECTION COMMITTEE MEETING MAY 26,
13 2016.

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

16 MS. REED: 3-F. AGENDA FOR THE
17 LACKAWANNA COUNTY TAX COLLECTION COMMITTEE
18 MEETING HELD JULY 28, 2016.

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

21 MS. REED: 3-G. TAX ASSESSOR'S
22 REPORTS FOR HEARING DATES HELD AUGUST 17 AND
23 AUGUST 31, 2016.

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

1 MS. REED: 3-H. CONTROLLER'S REPORT
2 FOR MONTH ENDING JULY 31, 2016.

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

5 MS. REED: 3-I. MINUTES OF THE
6 FIREFIGHTERS PENSION COMMISSION MEETING HELD
7 JULY 13, 2016.

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

10 MS. REED: 3-J. MINUTES OF THE
11 COMPOSITE PENSION BOARD MEETING HELD JULY
12 13, 2016.

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

15 MS. REED: 3-K. MINUTES OF THE
16 NON-UNIFORM MUNICIPAL PENSION BOARD MEETING
17 HELD JULY 13, 2016.

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

20 MS. REED: 3-L. AGENDA FOR THE
21 NON-UNIFORM MUNICIPAL PENSION BOARD MEETING
22 HELD AUGUST 17, 2016.

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

25 MS. REED: 3-M. AGENDA FOR THE CITY

1 PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING HELD AUGUST 24,
2 2016.

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

5 MS. REED: 3-N. CORRESPONDENCE
6 RECEIVED FROM THOMAS J. ANDERSON &
7 ASSOCIATES, INC. REGARDING THE 2017
8 FINANCIAL REQUIREMENT AND MINIMUM MUNICIPAL
9 OBLIGATION (MMO).

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

12 MS. REED: 3-0. TAX ASSESSOR'S
13 REPORTS FOR HEARING DATES TO BE HELD
14 SEPTEMBER 14, SEPTEMBER 21, AND SEPTEMBER
15 28, 2016.

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

18 MS. REED: 3-P. MINUTES OF THE
19 SCRANTON POLICE PENSION COMMISSION MEETING
20 HELD JULY 13, 2016.

21 MR. WECHSLER: Are there any
22 comments? If not, received and filed. Do
23 any council members have announcements at
24 this time?

25 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, I have two.

1 First, there will a special day in
2 remembrance of the Kathleen Cavanaugh, a
3 victim of domestic violence. The event is
4 called Kathleen's Crusade and it is a
5 fundraising event. It will be held Sunday,
6 September 18 from 3 to 7 p.m. at the
7 Radisson Hotel. It's \$20 per person and all
8 proceeds benefit the Women's Resource
9 Center.

10 Also, there will be a fundraiser for
11 Pat Sweeney recently diagnosed with lung
12 cancer. All proceeds will help offset
13 medical bills and expenses. It will be held
14 Saturday, September 10, from 4 to 9 p.m. at
15 the Ice Box Sports Complex, 800 Providence
16 Road. There will be food, beverages,
17 raffles and entertainment and it is a \$20
18 donation. Thank you.

19 MR. EVANS: I'd like to remind
20 everyone of the obvious, that beginning
21 tomorrow La Festa Italiano will be taking
22 place at courthouse square Friday, Saturday,
23 Sunday and Monday. That's all I have.

24 MR. WECHSLER: In addition to La
25 Festa this weekend you can also attend the

1 Railfest. It will be labor day weekend,
2 September 3 and 4 at Steamtown. This year
3 it's kind of a special occasion I believe
4 it's the 25th anniversary of the Steamtown
5 Scranton.

6 Also, on September 11 and September
7 18 Scranton Tomorrow will be working on the
8 planters in downtown Scranton. On September
9 11 it will be wedding and cleaning and
10 mulching of the Mulberry Street island and
11 on September 18 it will be the removal of
12 summer planting and the planting of the fall
13 flowers. I'd like to thank Scranton
14 Tomorrow for doing that. It is a great
15 addition to our city. Anyone else?

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

18 MR. WECHSLER: Kara Seitzinger.

19 MS. SEITZINGER: Good evening, Kara
20 Seitzinger, city of Scranton resident, live
21 in the neighborhood of Greenridge. I came
22 this evening for obviously since we met last
23 there have been multiple storms and on the
24 Greenridge Neighborhood page people starting
25 sending me pictures. We invited them to so

1 we can catalog what is going on. It's
2 gotten worse and worse and worse with every
3 storm. Mr. Wechsler and I had a wedding, a
4 mutual wedding that we were attending and I
5 almost didn't make the wedding. I went to
6 church, came home and again had sewage in my
7 basement, and so it's just at the point now
8 where the odor is so bad, I don't have to
9 tell you gentlemen, you understand what is
10 going on. I know Mr. Wechsler has sent
11 letters to Mr. Barrett, and I do appreciate
12 that, but we are at dire straights at this
13 point. It's citywide because people are
14 sending them to me from West Side and South
15 Side, Dunmore. I'm Greenridge neighborhood
16 based, that's what we are, but that being
17 said, I mean, the ball is in someone's
18 Court. I guess we have to choose what to do
19 and I don't really know from here.

20 But that being said, I did get a
21 call, I was up at physical therapy, I got a
22 call from Joe Profera from Profera's Pizza,
23 his family started that business, he has a
24 property that is next to Mr. Young or a
25 couple of doors up. He also owns a property

1 on Greenridge Street in Dunmore, high up in
2 Greenridge Street. He has a third property.
3 The Greenridge Street property has been
4 flooded not in the three storms eight times
5 raw sewage. He contacted the Sewer
6 Authority, two different gentlemen at the
7 Sewer Authority and he has all of their
8 names, have given the proper people to speak
9 to legalwise for that matter and they were
10 rude, they were ignorant, they simply told
11 him that they gave up a long time ago
12 because they were so much debris and rocks
13 in the storm drain system that they couldn't
14 even handle it, and that's very consistent
15 with what happened to the McGrath's who live
16 across the street from me. 75 feet they dug
17 to the alley, it was grass or rocks, debris
18 so we don't know what's mixing with what
19 obviously, and I'm going to leave that
20 matter as it stands.

21 The next thing I have to tell you is
22 this letter that the Sewer Authority had
23 done with the easements, that came to pass
24 because I received a telephone call on my
25 cell phone, because my cell phone number was

1 with the Greenridge Neighborhood page, when
2 I received the phone call from a gentleman
3 who lives behind St. Joseph's Center he told
4 me about it, I asked him if he could provide
5 it or pick it up, he delivered it to my
6 mailbox. From that point on, I invited
7 people to obviously send it if they had to.
8 I forwarded that information all to the
9 Scranton Times. The gentlemen who was the
10 subject of the article in the Times happened
11 to come to me the day before the article was
12 being done by Chris Kelly. That gentlemen
13 had called Jerry Notarianni asking for help,
14 our county commissioner and he didn't even
15 know about it. Mr. Notarianni did not even
16 know that this was being passed around.

17 There is an Exhibit A, any legal
18 document would have an Exhibit A reference,
19 there's the pin number but no meets and
20 bounds attached and Exhibit B nothing. It's
21 an absolute mess. We have told everybody
22 not to sign it or to get legal counsel
23 before they sign it because you don't know
24 where they're encroaching on your property
25 without further information. There could be

1 52 public hearings, Paul Walker is a
2 disgrace. I apologize for taking that tone
3 but in my opinion the transparency is
4 beyond, and I'm not going to say anything
5 more than if anybody else has that document
6 that's listening tonight certainly please
7 contact the Greenridge Neighborhood
8 Association, we will point them in the right
9 direction.

10 The last thing I wanted to mention
11 was in keeping with the sewer storm and the
12 leachate, I had kind of disconcerting
13 situation that happened and I'm going to
14 read a brief thing to you. You cannot put a
15 price tag, a score card of how many times I
16 have attended daily mass, bestowed favors or
17 donated charity gifts to help with my
18 family, my husband and child in particular.
19 Make no mistake of the love of a strong,
20 Irish Catholic mother or any mother can take
21 on anyone. Thank you, Wayne. No matter how
22 large their wallet, how tall the amount of
23 trash or how deep the pool of leachate. I
24 was astounded, hurt and deeply offended when
25 the nephew of Louis DeNaples verbally

1 accosted me at a church picnic at St.
2 Rocco's last month because he had a front
3 row seat at the DEP hearing and he could not
4 believe that I stood up and advocated for my
5 family. Apparently, his father and uncle
6 did not raise him to be a better man. I
7 have never held any ill-will towards any
8 member of the DeNaples family. I attended
9 school with many of them, Dr. DeNaples in
10 particular was my classmate. My children
11 are their children's friends. I never
12 wanted to become involved in the Friends of
13 Lackawanna fight, it didn't effect me, until
14 unbeknownst to me the nefarious caper of
15 Eugene Barrett lost a sudden amendment to a
16 30-year-old permit barring liquid untreated
17 leachate trash suddenly appeared days
18 surrounding the execution of the agreement
19 of the sale of the SSA, then it most
20 certainly became my and my neighbors and the
21 entire city's problem. So I began to
22 research every single document that I was
23 able to put my hands on through the tireless
24 efforts of Friends of Lackawanna and
25 Greenridge Neighborhood Association.

1 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, but we do
2 have to respect the time limit, I'm sorry.

3 MS. SEITZINGER: Thank you. I'll
4 give it to Mr. Lockwood, thank you.

5 MR. WECHSLER: Than you.

6 MS. SEITZINGER: He can print it.

7 MR. WECHSLER: Joan Hodowanitz.

8 MS. HODOWANITZ: Joan Hodowanitz,
9 Scranton. Taxpayer and resident. I, too,
10 want to extend my condolences to Ozzie
11 Quinn's family on his passing. The city can
12 certainly use a lot more men like him. He
13 was outstanding.

14 The Friends of Scranton Public
15 Library are conducting another book sale,
16 second floor of the marketplace at
17 Steamtown, right in front of the Crunch gym.
18 The book sale runs through Sunday 5 p.m.
19 Books sell from one to two dollars. It's a
20 real bargain.

21 Now that we are back from summer
22 recess it's time for an update on a lot of
23 issues so if you could during motions give
24 us some information on the status of the
25 following issues: The 2015 audit, which is

1 now 94 days late; the status of the Auditor
2 General's audit of Scranton's municipal
3 pension fund. I sent him office an e-mail
4 asking for a status, I did not get a reply.
5 If memory serves, the Composite Pension
6 Board will meet on Wednesday, September 14,
7 at 11 a.m. right here and among other things
8 I will be voting on their next investment
9 advisor and that's quite important.

10 The status of the Scranton Sewer
11 Authority's sale, I must compliment you,
12 Mr. Wechsler, that you went to attend the
13 board meeting last week to see what was
14 going on. My first question is, if for any
15 reason the sale falls through or is
16 inordinately delayed does the city have a
17 Plan B with regard to super funding the
18 pension funds? This is a really important
19 to the entire city and this could hinge
20 whether or not we will go into receivership,
21 so if as the president of city council you
22 can discuss this issue with the
23 administration and pass the information onto
24 us.

25 If you recall during that board

1 meeting, there was mention made of having
2 public hearings or public briefings on this
3 easement issue and I saw something in the
4 paper, did I miss it?

5 MR. WECHSLER: No, I spoke to
6 Mr. Barrett today and he is still coming up
7 with a mechanism to do that.

8 MS. HODOWANITZ: Okay. The status
9 of the planning for the 2017 operating
10 budget which is coming upon us very quickly,
11 and the status of the rental registration
12 legislation, which has been hanging in the
13 air for God knows how many months. I am
14 very happy to see in the paper that the city
15 is going after delinquent loans. I saw the
16 issue with the Davis' for the Linden Street
17 project, be nice to know if there are any
18 other deadbeats we can go after.

19 And, finally, I attended the COLTS
20 board meeting, and I know this is county
21 level, and this was with regard to the
22 hiring of a new operation's manager, and one
23 thing that really disturbs me, and this
24 applies to the city as well as to the
25 county, we have a number of boards and

1 authorities which are appointed by the
2 county commissioners and/or the mayor and
3 that was city level, and once they are
4 appointed many of these boards and
5 authorities operate independently. They
6 answer to no one. Although appointed by an
7 elected official, they don't answer to the
8 official anymore and they certainly don't
9 answer to the voters and I think this whole
10 structure based on the Home Rule Charter
11 needs a relook because if you look at the
12 history of the Scranton Parking Authority
13 the COLT's board with it's ghost ridership
14 and \$6 million payback to PennDOT, double
15 pensions, just to mention a few, and I
16 didn't want to mention the Scranton school
17 board you know how that goes, but we don't
18 have adequate oversight of these entities
19 since they answer to no one. This is
20 bothersome. We need to look at this problem
21 and we need to come up with some innovative
22 ideas.

23 One thing we need we need is more
24 citizens like Ozzie Quinn willing to take
25 the time and the effort to look at these

1 issues and be heard and if anything else
2 maybe we can put the fear of God into some
3 of these potential criminals. Thank you.

4 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Anyone
5 else?

6 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening, Council.
7 Permission to -- I have some papers for you.
8 I'm sure our attorney is aware of it, but
9 give him one anyway. I think there is
10 enough there. Of course, I'd like to speak
11 tonight about ordinances and I have
12 mentioned before at times that some of our
13 ordinances seem to get a little overbearing
14 and in many instances they exceed state law.
15 I have here a paper on Wilkes-Barre settles
16 one strike lawsuit. Apparently, they have
17 an ordinance if there is drugs or guns
18 involved the apartment house can be shut
19 down immediately and in some cases it
20 happened here in Scranton a few years ago, a
21 person went to visit their mother, collapsed
22 from a drug overdose and the apartment house
23 in South Scranton shut down. He didn't even
24 reside there, and also on Linden Street I
25 know where the house is, I used to walk past

1 it on a regular basis, but I don't know the
2 address, I could point it out or find out.
3 But apparently the American Civil Liberties
4 Union took this to Court and now several
5 landlords and several tenants that were
6 effected by this qualified for \$100,000
7 settlement each. That's a lot of money if
8 it starts piling up, and then the second day
9 Wilkes-Barre could be open to lawsuits, they
10 announced that anyone that was effected
11 within still falls under the statute of
12 limitations could also file for a lawsuit,
13 so now you are talking maybe millions of
14 dollars and in too many instances I look at
15 many of our ordinances and they far exceed
16 state law.

17 I hate to drum the smoking ordinance
18 in the parks. I was up at the racetrack
19 over our little vacation at Pocono and there
20 are certain places you can smoke and certain
21 places you can't. Bleachers, communal,
22 eating facilities, you cannot smoke there,
23 but, you know, we are going overboard and
24 it's only a \$25 fine, but then again it
25 starts to get you involved with police and

1 different issues and things can tumble from
2 there, so I want you people to consider this
3 in the future here, digest it. I mean, I
4 apologize about the poor printing but I need
5 a cartridge I guess, but it is important
6 because this could add up to millions and
7 millions of dollars worth of senseless --
8 and it also punishes other people in the
9 apartment houses, it also punishes people
10 that aren't involved in it, and may not have
11 any awareness of it. If the landlord was
12 involved in something like that then, hey,
13 that's the way it goes, but you still have
14 other tenants that are possibly totally
15 innocent so we really need to look at this
16 because it just snowballs some day and we
17 have had enough settlements for the next
18 century, the rest of the century.

19 And once again, I'd like to note the
20 passing of Ozzie Quinn. He was a good
21 friend and great activist in the community
22 and I'd also like to call to people's
23 attention that radon gas in houses. Now, he
24 quit smoking 25 years ago, and I'm not
25 excusing any smoking, but we could be living

1 even if we don't smoke literally an atomic
2 bomb. Radon is radioactive and it can come
3 up through your basement floor, especially
4 in areas with heavy mining and your friends
5 or family or your pets could be all exposed
6 to this so if have you any question get rid
7 of it and get your house checked.

8 And I have a little fan club, Jennie
9 from Pittston Township don't forget to bawk,
10 bawk, bawk. Thank you. Every now and then
11 I meet somebody that is a fan.

12 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.
13 Lee Morgan, obviously a resident of
14 Scranton. I guess everybody is going to,
15 you know, give Mr. Quinn's family, you know,
16 condolences on their loss and I guess I'll
17 just add my name to that list. But there
18 were some discussions here about sewage
19 going -- backing into people's houses and
20 the first thing I think I'd tell them to do
21 is put a backflow preventer in and, quite
22 possibly ask the Scranton Sewer Authority to
23 reimburse you for the cost of it, and I
24 think that another important thing is, you
25 know, when we are just -- well, one of

1 speakers here was just discussing the case
2 in Wilkes-Barre and I just think that in
3 that case this was a flaw. I think that the
4 party that was suing should have sued the
5 individual lawmakers who created that law
6 and try to pierce their immunity and sue
7 them individually and it might be hard, but
8 in the end I think it might be possible and
9 I think that whenever you decide you're
10 going to engage your government sometimes
11 you have to consider not only suing the
12 township or the city, but the individual
13 council members or the mayor or any other
14 official because they do have a certain
15 amount of immunity, but it's not endless,
16 and I'd say to anybody that's having a
17 problem with an elected official to spend
18 some time at the law library and file
19 something and maybe you will get lucky
20 enough to, you know, take their assets and,
21 you know, return things to an even keel
22 because I think that too often we have
23 elected officials who believe that they
24 create the law and they are above the law
25 and that's not the case, and the law belongs

1 to every citizen, not just elected
2 officials.

3 The other thing I would like to say
4 here today is in the month that council has
5 been out on vacation the sewer deal, it's my
6 hope that that's all we are going to hear of
7 that deal and I hope it just never happens
8 because Scranton is going to be a city that
9 after the sewer deal goes through it's my
10 opinion that it's going to go into
11 receivership and when it goes into
12 receivership it's going to have more debt
13 than it had when it went into Act 47, and I
14 think it's a very troubling thing that over
15 a quarter of a century the residents of this
16 city couldn't elect people that had an
17 understanding of who they served and what
18 they were trying to accomplish and I really
19 feel sorry for residents that had to endure
20 this and the residents who live outside of
21 the city who are also feeling those effects,
22 whether it's taxation or lack of the
23 government in the city which really causes a
24 lack of employment opportunity and makes the
25 city really drag the whole area down.

1 And the last thing I have here today
2 is, you know, I watched former first lady
3 Hillary Clinton and also a senator at one
4 time and Vice President Biden come here and
5 as a Scrantonian I'd like to say that these
6 two individuals have had almost limitless
7 political power in their lifetime and as a
8 Scrantonian I don't remember them ever doing
9 anything for the residents of this city and
10 helping us in any moment where the city
11 itself was in trouble, and I'm so tired of
12 political people talking about where they
13 are from, okay, to curry votes and to create
14 talking points. When I live in a city
15 that's been just since the 1930's just in
16 decline, and with all of the power and all
17 of the access to power and to come here and
18 visit and say you are a Scrantonian and ask
19 people to vote for you that's what's really
20 wrong with this whole system. We have
21 elected people who have come up with slogans
22 like walk the walk and talk the talk and all
23 of the other silly things that have been
24 said, but in the end it's my hope that the
25 people will see that politics as usual has

1 to end and, you know, conservative
2 Republicans have lost control of the
3 Republican party, it's come to the center,
4 and it's my hope that in the next election
5 what do we to lose by voting for Mr. Trump
6 because we have heard all of the lies and
7 consider all of the seniors who worked all
8 their life trying to live on social security
9 and consider all of the residents of this
10 city that have watched elected officials for
11 25 years loot this city in every possible
12 way that is imaginable, and listen to all of
13 the slogans we have listened to, and you
14 know what? I think it's time to take a look
15 at the Scranton Parking Authority deal --

16 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr.
17 Morgan.

18 MR. MORGAN: And consider what
19 Mr. Doherty's role was in that.

20 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you,
21 Mr. Morgan.

22 MR. MORGAN: You're welcome.

23 MR. WECHSLER: Anyone else? FIFTH
24 ORDER.

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

1 MOTIONS.

2 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Perry?

3 MR. PERRY: Yes, I have a few
4 things. First off, I want to send my
5 deepest condolences to Ozzie Quinn's family.
6 To say Mr. Quinn was just a sad in passing,
7 we were on a first name basis but we weren't
8 all that close, I just met him fairly
9 recently, but as a person of obvious stature
10 in the city he knew a lot of people and had
11 a lot of friends and one of them was my
12 grandfather, Micky Lawler, and my
13 grandfather was also really into the
14 community and that's how I come to know
15 Ozzie and, you know, I hear stories about
16 the days of the yore and just knowing Ozzie
17 these last couple of years, my goodness, I
18 don't know if I knew someone who grabbed an
19 issue and ran with it harder than he did,
20 and it was great just watching him work at
21 neighborhood association meetings, I mean,
22 no one owned the room like he did. He was a
23 tremendous person and Scranton definitely
24 has a big hole that needs to be filled and
25 someone needs to step up to fill that for

1 the community that Ozzie left and he will be
2 deeply missed by the city and, you know, I
3 do want to pass that onto his family.

4 And moving onto some city business.
5 Miss Reed, there was an issue that we were
6 working on before recess about a truck ban
7 on River Street that ran from Cedar Avenue
8 to Meadow Avenue, the issue that we had was
9 trucks were turning on Cedar up River and,
10 you know, the streets in South Side they
11 just, you know, they just go up at an angle
12 and there was just truck after truck being
13 towed out of that intersection, so I just
14 want to see where we are with that, if there
15 is a ban in place. If not, if we could
16 implement it.

17 And, lastly, there is a storm drain
18 on the corner of Kane Street and Pittston
19 Avenue that was being worked on by the Sewer
20 Authority, then it was -- the work was
21 stopped abruptly and I don't know what the
22 reason was or what the stoppage was for
23 that, if we can send a letter out to maybe
24 Mr. Barrett and a copy to Mr. Gallagher on
25 it just to see what the issue was on it and

1 if we can get that back going on. I'm not
2 sure what the cost was but it was brought to
3 my attention by a couple of the neighborhood
4 residents that the work started and stopped
5 and nothing was received yet.

6 And we have the festival going on.
7 All definitely be there probably more than I
8 should so, you know, my favorite is
9 definitely the Unico porketta, I start at
10 one end, they're delicious. So I hope to
11 see everybody out there. The weather is
12 supposed to be fairly decent and that's all
13 I have.

14 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you.

15 Mr. Rogan?

16 MR. ROGAN: Yes, a number of items.
17 First, I'd like to join many of the speakers
18 and my colleagues in wishing Ozzie Quinn's
19 family the best in this terrible time they
20 are having. I have known Ozzie before I
21 have been on council. Luckily, we have
22 agreed more than we disagreed, but even when
23 we disagreed on issues he did it with class
24 and he truly believed in the things that he
25 was working for. The Hill Section would not

1 be the same without Ozzie Quinn and his
2 legacy will live on. He has done an amazing
3 job not only with the Hill community -- Hill
4 Neighborhood Association advocating here at
5 council, he's worked with Habitat for
6 Humanity and other organizations and he
7 definitely deserves to be honored for all of
8 that great work.

9 With my colleagues' agreement, could
10 we send a letter to the mayor asking that
11 some of the green space in the Hill section
12 Mr. Quinn worked so hard for can be named
13 after him. I'm not sure what the process
14 would be, but I think a plaque or some small
15 monument would definitely be in order for
16 all of the great work that he has done for
17 that neighborhood, so if everybody is in
18 agreement if we could send that letter to
19 the mayor's office to hopefully get the ball
20 rolling on that.

21 Onto a number of items, just a
22 couple that I'm going to bring up, over the
23 recess I was able to attend a number of
24 community events but one that I do want to
25 mention, my colleagues and I we were

1 fortunate enough to walk in the first annual
2 Bob McGoff memorial race and I just have to
3 say what a great job done by the organizers,
4 especially Bob Gattens and the entire
5 Connors' Park group. It was a well run
6 fundraiser and I know it meant a lot to Mr.
7 McGoff's family and everybody in the
8 community. I'm sure they raised a lot of
9 money for Coaches for Cancer. They did a
10 great job.

11 Onto a agenda item, there is
12 legislation regarding taking funding from
13 the bridge repair and putting it into
14 paving. Again, this happens almost every
15 year, there is a timeliness issue with our
16 federal dollars that need to be spent. I
17 did meet with Linda Aebli and Tom Preambo to
18 discuss this and many other items in OECD
19 throughout the recess, but the good news
20 regarding this transfer of funds is that the
21 bridge project is now going to be funded 95
22 percent by the state, instead of fully by
23 the city so that is a bit of good news and
24 that did open up additional funding for more
25 paving in the city. They haven't decided

1 for sure what areas have been paved -- will
2 be paved with these funds, but they are
3 looking at areas in the Pennsbrook
4 development in South Scranton because of the
5 maps changing you can only use them in
6 certain areas, but this is definitely a plus
7 to the city especially when we get some of
8 that state money to come back home for a
9 bridge project and use our funding elsewhere
10 for paving that desperately needs to be done
11 throughout the city.

12 Next, obviously over the last month
13 there has been -- we've had some torrential
14 rainstorms, and I knows it's been an issue
15 in all parts of the city. Last week I met
16 with residents on West Mountain and Keyser
17 Valley. They are having significant
18 problems, and they are not new problems but
19 they have gotten worse year after year.
20 From what I have been told, the rain water
21 problem actually originates -- on West
22 Mountain actually originates in Newton
23 Ransom. There has been a lot of new
24 development, new houses being built and that
25 water has to go somewhere. Unfortunately,

1 it's going down West Mountain though West
2 Mountain Road, and it's causing a lot of
3 issues with pavement and further down onto
4 Keyser Avenue and then into the Keyser
5 Valley area.

6 So we did receive, and there are a
7 number of entities that are going to be
8 trying to get this repaired, so we did
9 receive two correspondence, one from the
10 gentleman I met with who also spoke to
11 Senator Blake's office regarding some grant
12 funding and possibly partnering with Ransom,
13 some kind of retention pond at the top of
14 the mountain to prevent that water from
15 coming down or filling in the exposed
16 culverts coming down West Mountain Road, so
17 I have that.

18 And we also received correspondence
19 and pictures from a resident on north
20 Merrifield Avenue where the water is ending.
21 It's starting up in Ransom, going all of the
22 way down West Mountain Road, Keyser Avenue,
23 going onto the other side to Keyser Valley
24 in west side. So if we can send both of
25 these correspondences to Senator Blake's

1 office with a formal request for funding for
2 some sort of a solution up there, not only
3 for the city but for Ransom as well to try
4 and tackle this problem. I also was in
5 contact with PennDOT. Residents in that
6 area, and I certainly believe this, they
7 have lived there for decades, are telling me
8 since the Keyser Avenue project has been
9 completed the flooding in their
10 neighborhoods have been much worse. Where
11 in the past there would be some water
12 issues, but since the Keyser Avenue project
13 has been completed it's been much worse, so
14 I did reach out to representatives at
15 PennDOT and the possibility of a community
16 meeting maybe at the Keyser Valley Community
17 Center with many entities involved is
18 definitely on the horizon. So these are two
19 big issues on West Mountain and into lower
20 Keyser Valley that certainly need to be
21 addressed.

22 And as Councilman Perry mentioned,
23 I, too, will be enjoying La Festa Italiana
24 or as those of us in west side call it "The
25 Italian Festival", but one of my favorite is

1 cannolis, unfortunately. As we all know we
2 eat too many of them, but a Unico pork
3 sandwich and a porketta to take home will
4 certainly hit the spot this weekend so I
5 hope to see everyone down at the festival and
6 that is all. Thank you.

7 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you.

8 Mr. Evans.

9 MR. EVANS: I think we all call it
10 the Italian festival, not just you
11 westsiders. On the one-strike law in
12 Wilkes-Barre, the current legislation has
13 similar language, it has been stricken
14 completely out of the new version that city
15 council is working on.

16 As far as Ozzie Quinn is concerned,
17 we lost a great one. We lost Ozzie this
18 week. In many ways, Ozzie was bigger than
19 life. Maybe like most Scrantonians he was a
20 little rough around the edges and maybe a
21 bit outspoken but he was the very definition
22 of what a Scrantonian is with a heart as big
23 as they come. There was never a more
24 dedicated servant of the people, of the city
25 and of his neighborhood as Ozzie Quinn. I

1 have known Ozzie for probably 35 to 40
2 years. I wish to offer my deepest
3 condolences to his family. He was a good,
4 good man.

5 Over last weekend, as was mentioned
6 earlier, that we attended the Bob McGoff
7 race. I would like to congratulate all
8 those volunteers and the people that
9 participated. It was a great event by every
10 imaginable measure it was a success and Bob
11 would have been very proud of the event and
12 we hope that it carries on for years and
13 years to come and decades to come with his
14 name on it been done proud in that way.

15 This city council also announced in
16 the race that beginning in 2017 we will
17 create what will be known as the city
18 council cup to further honor our friend Bob
19 McGoff. This will be a series of three
20 races, two races will be part of the Run
21 Around Scranton series, and the final leg
22 each year will be the Bob McGoff race. The
23 fastest male and female runner over the
24 three race series will receive a city
25 council cup as the fastest distance runners

1 in Scranton as well a substantial amount of
2 money as prize money. Our goal is to make
3 Bob's memorial race a premier 5-K race in
4 the northeast and to continue to honor his
5 memory.

6 On another note, the sewer deal. No
7 there is no Plan B as far as I know, Joan, I
8 wish there was a Plan B, but there is not,
9 but as someone who has worked for a large
10 utility for 30 years and has been through
11 numerous PUC requests for rate increases I
12 found the recent comments by the
13 administrative law judges on the sewer deal
14 to be both predictable and in my view
15 somewhat expected. However, I disagree with
16 their interpretation and their list of Act
17 11, and the ability for utilities to spread
18 costs across a larger customer rate base. I
19 think they were way off base with those
20 comments.

21 It should be noted that I have been
22 saying from the beginning that this is
23 something that should be expected, and then
24 when the PUC meets we can expect similar
25 comments and requests for more information,

1 but I was surprised it seemed the
2 administration and the Sewer Authority and,
3 Pennsylvania America Water and numerous
4 consultants working on this deal seemed to
5 be caught flat footed and surprised by this
6 opinion and unable, in my opinion, to
7 formulate a proper response to the media.

8 Another issue that was brought up
9 was the storm water management and the lack
10 of a plan. Again, this should have been no
11 surprise. Members of this council have been
12 requesting this information and I forewarned
13 that the PUC will want to see a plan for
14 storm water management. I don't think
15 anyone should expect a comprehensive study
16 and plan in time for a closing, but
17 ratepayers and taxpayers deserve to know on
18 day one after this deal is closed what is
19 the basic plan for storm water in the City
20 of Scranton. Will Pennsylvania American be
21 responsible? If so, for how long and what
22 will their duties be? Will be the DPW be
23 responsible? If so, at what level? Will a
24 Storm Water Authority be enacted? If so,
25 when? These are simple questions that

1 should have been answered months ago and I
2 would expect will now have to be answered in
3 front of the PUC. I would hope that all
4 involved are working diligently on this
5 issue as well as anticipating other issues
6 so when the PUC asks the hard questions they
7 are not again caught flat footed and
8 surprised.

9 Also, I want to make a brief comment
10 on the use of the proceeds of the sale. It
11 has been constantly reported in the media
12 that an estimated \$65 million of the
13 proceeds will be put into the distressed
14 pension plans. For the record, that is
15 something that I have not agreed to or will
16 not agree to without significant pension
17 reforms and assurances that is what makes
18 the most sense financially in the city.
19 That's all I have for now.

20 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you.
21 Mr. Gaughan?

22 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, thank you.
23 First, I would like to send my condolences
24 out to the family of Ozzie Quinn, very sad
25 to read and hear about his death. He was a

1 dedicated neighborhood leader, an activist
2 and he was a friend so he will definitely be
3 missed at these meetings and throughout the
4 City of Scranton.

5 I would like to ask for an update on
6 the Young property on Wyoming Avenue. This
7 has been dragging on now for months and I'm
8 not exactly sure why since we have deemed it
9 an emergency. My recommendation has been
10 and continues to be for the Law Department
11 to simply schedule a meeting with the Youngs
12 and get this whole thing worked out before
13 somebody seriously gets injured. This is an
14 major public safety issue for everybody in
15 that neighborhood and in speaking to the
16 Youngs in the past few days the hole
17 continues to get bigger.

18 Also, received a complaint about two
19 vacant overgrown lots on East Locust Street
20 in South Side. An elderly neighbor is
21 worried about animals and tree that looks
22 like it's going to fall onto her house so we
23 had sent something out to try and take care
24 of that issue. Also, there are major
25 potholes nature One Cross Drive on East

1 Mountain if we could send something to the
2 DEP regarding that issue.

3 Also, I was really disturbed over
4 the recess with the way our Licensing,
5 Inspections and Permits Department is
6 currently being run. Director Hinton had
7 sent an e-mail to all of us regarding
8 putting the contractor's ordinance, which
9 had previously been defeated, back onto our
10 agenda, apparently there have been changes
11 that have been made. Within the e-mail, Mr.
12 Hinton stated that since he has been
13 director he has had to deny over 250
14 applications for a contractor's license in
15 the City of Scranton.

16 In reply, I simply asked for the
17 names of the companies or persons who
18 applied for a license and the reasons they
19 were denied and was told by Director Hinton
20 that they don't keep those records in the
21 office. They give the denied application
22 back to the applicant. The only records
23 that they keep, according to Mr. Hinton, are
24 when a person challenges the denial.

25 Something is seriously wrong with

1 this whole picture, and if that's the case
2 I'm afraid to see what kind of other records
3 are being kept or not kept in that
4 department and I, quite frankly, was
5 embarrassed to get a reply from Director
6 Hinton questioning my request. All I did
7 was ask for information so something doesn't
8 past the smell test in that regard.

9 I have requested and hopefully will
10 receive an answer for all denials that have
11 been challenged since January 1st of 2014,
12 and I also would like to know why we have
13 not hired an electrical inspector and a
14 plumbing inspector for months now. That
15 seems to be an issue.

16 Also, I sent a request in the middle
17 of July for an update on the third party
18 administrator with regard to new disability
19 language for the police and fire pensions.
20 Again, my request was not answered and I'm
21 surprised.

22 I did ask for a meeting on another
23 note with residents of the 400 block of
24 Fellows Street and members of the Scranton
25 Sewer Authority regarding the catastrophic

1 flooding that occurred over the period of
2 the last few weeks with some of those major
3 storms. The residents are concerned and
4 they have numerous questions so we did send
5 a letter and we are waiting for a meeting to
6 be set up.

7 I would also like an update on the
8 Rockwell Avenue bridge project and when
9 exactly that will be completed. I am
10 hearing conflicting reports on the
11 completion date. I thought it was December,
12 now I'm hearing it may be later, so I would
13 like clarification on that before next
14 Thursday.

15 Also, some good news, the city is
16 partnering with the University of Scranton
17 and a student who is completing his senior
18 project to develop a City of Scranton mobile
19 app prototype or proof of concept. This
20 mobile application will be given overview of
21 city services, downtown businesses, things
22 to do within downtown Scranton, and it is a
23 collaboration between the City, Scranton
24 Tomorrow and the University of Scranton so
25 that was exciting news and I was glad to be

1 involved in that meeting.

2 Apparently, the Board of Directors
3 of Community Development Partners Scranton,
4 CDPS, a nonprofit corporation for the
5 Parking Authority, held a meeting August 30.
6 This meeting was not open to the public as
7 was reported in the paper. Any future
8 meetings, and we discussed this in the
9 caucus, I would ask Mayor Courtright who is
10 a member of that board to demand that the
11 meetings be open to the public. I think as
12 a matter of transparency, all of these
13 meetings, all of that information should be
14 available to the people of this city.

15 I'd also like to request an update
16 on the City's lighting project. We talked
17 about this before the recess, but I feel we
18 also need an update on the pave cut program
19 in the city, and I would like to know if the
20 legislation that we passed months ago to
21 protect our infrastructure and hold the
22 utilities companies accountable is being
23 implemented and I would like know if it is
24 working. I'm also getting conflicting
25 reports on that.

1 required the mayor to bring all of the
2 stakeholders together from outlying cities
3 and boroughs who are also faced with all of
4 these various issues and see how we can work
5 together and share the burden.

6 Unfortunately, the mayor never answers. As
7 usual, he can't be reached for comment.

8 The city has supposedly been
9 approved for a grant for a storm water
10 management plan feasibility analysis. My
11 question is when will this analysis take
12 place and how long is this going to take?
13 In talking to the business administrator,
14 after this initial study takes place an
15 another comprehensive analysis has to be
16 undertaken. What is the mayor's plan to
17 maintain the storm water infrastructure on
18 day one if the Scranton Sewer Authority is
19 sold which now, as we know, is also in
20 question? Again, unfortunately, he can't be
21 reached for comment. This has, quite
22 frankly, become a disturbing trend in Bill
23 Courtright's almost three years as mayor of
24 this city. He refuses to answer the
25 difficult questions, he refuses to take a

1 stance on the important issues such as the
2 landfill, and he won't make a move or speak
3 a word without the approval of a team of
4 lawyers. We didn't elect the attorneys, we
5 didn't elect the business administrator, we
6 elected Bill Courtright to lead and so far
7 in my opinion he has failed. Thank you.

8 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr.
9 Gaughan. I'll be the last to echo the
10 compliments and condolences for Ozzie Quinn
11 and his family. I know Ozzie Quinn going
12 back to the mid-90's and was fortunate to
13 work with him on several different projects.
14 As was stated earlier, he was dedicated to
15 the City of Scranton, he was dedicated to
16 his neighborhood and was dedicated to his
17 family and he will be sorely missed.

18 One announcement moving forward is
19 that Monday is Labor Day so city hall will
20 be closed. DPW will also be off that day
21 and refuse and recycling collections will be
22 delayed by one day next week.

23 In regards to some of the other
24 issues that were brought up this evening,
25 over the break I did request information

1 from Mr. Barrett at the Sewer Authority
2 concerning the storm event that happened at
3 the end of July. This letter will be
4 available, I just brought it in tonight, but
5 two of the main questions that I asked
6 Mr. Barrett was if the line had been used
7 during that storm period, and also if it was
8 used if the flow was metered and in his
9 response Mr. Barrett says, "The alternate
10 line for pretreated waste water being
11 discharged from the Keystone Sanitary
12 Landfill treatment was not used during the
13 week of July 25, 2016 through July 31,
14 2016."

15 He also further said, "Again, the
16 alternate line was not used. The line used
17 exits the KSL chute and land property listed
18 a mile or so interfaces with the combined
19 sanitary sewer, the sewer line near the top
20 of Drinker Street and the Authorities
21 manhole No. 57. At this point, the
22 pretreated waste water comes in contact with
23 untreated sanitary waste flowing to our
24 waste water treatment plant in South
25 Scranton and Minooka border."

1 So we did ask if water from the
2 landfill came through the system that night,
3 Mr. Barrett said no.

4 I did have a meeting with
5 Mr. Barrett to discuss this matter, also, to
6 discuss as was speaking here about the storm
7 water management system for the city. It's
8 my understanding from speaking to him that
9 the day the Sewer Authority is sold the next
10 day the City of Scranton is responsible for
11 the storm water management of the city. The
12 Sewer Authority will take over -- or the new
13 owners of the sewer authority will take over
14 any of the combined sewer lines, so anything
15 that -- the older lines in the city, the
16 Sewer Authority will take over those, so in
17 my opinion we have to be ready with a Storm
18 Water Management Authority the day the sale
19 is complete and we have to work out the
20 details of that.

21 Our DPW workers have an interest and
22 contractual requirement to do that work of
23 storm water management so somewhere along
24 the line we are going to have figure out how
25 we can create a storm water authority and

1 also work in the current obligations the
2 city has towards its workers.

3 From talking to Mr. Barrett, we are
4 way behind on getting this going. If the
5 plan is to have a Sewer Authority sale
6 completed by the end of the October, closing
7 probably sometime in the beginning of next
8 year, we have to have all of this in place
9 rather quickly. So, as was discussed here
10 by my colleagues, we really have to get
11 moving along with how we can handle this
12 problem.

13 Also, as I spoke to Mr. Barrett,
14 it's apparently clear regardless of whether
15 the Sewer Authority transaction takes place
16 or doesn't the storm water issue still has
17 to be controlled. The city has been found
18 in violation of EPA requirements on storm
19 water that went into the Chesapeake Bay area
20 so regardless of what happens with the Sewer
21 Authority we are going to have to come up
22 with a plan sometime next year.

23 I also, as was spoken about, I did
24 attend the Sewer Authority meeting last
25 Thursday night just to get a feel for the

1 problem with the easements. The way we
2 understand it is there is 1,600 easements
3 that are in required where the storm water
4 lines are under city properties and in the
5 course of the 40 to 50 year history of the
6 city, the Sewer Authority only has about
7 1,000 of those easements in place. The
8 other 600 have to be completed before the
9 transaction. Once again, regardless of
10 whether the Sewer Authority sale takes place
11 or not, I think it's imperative that we get
12 this problem straightened out. The
13 easements where people who have sewer lines
14 under their property it's a major concern,
15 number one, people don't want their
16 properties damaged. Number two, people want
17 the Sewer Authority to come out on a
18 property if there is a problem with the
19 sewer line. So, once again, regardless of
20 whether or not the Sewer Authority still
21 happens or not this is something that has to
22 be taken care of.

23 I also today I contacted Mr. Barrett
24 to see if there is any plans for the
25 meetings for people who received easements

1 letters and currently they don't because
2 they didn't have a mechanism to do it. I
3 had suggested to them that the meeting
4 really should be somewhere -- held somewhere
5 where they can break it down into
6 neighborhoods where maps could be visible.
7 This problem is throughout the whole city.
8 Easements are required in West Scranton,
9 South Scranton, Greenridge, East Mountain,
10 everywhere so this is a major, major thing
11 that has to be corrected, and at the meeting
12 Mr. Walker and Mr. Barrett did agree that
13 the mailing of these letters was not handled
14 properly and they could have did a better
15 job, and I agree with them, so they are
16 trying to rectify that situation and see
17 where we are with it. I have been talking
18 with Mr. Barrett to try and move that along.

19 Also, there is no Plan B for the
20 Sewer Authority. The reason why there is no
21 Plan B is because the sale of the Sewer
22 Authority was part of our approved recovery
23 plan. There should be an alternative method
24 and we don't want to think about what the
25 alternative method is but we do have to

1 realize that right now the sale of the Sewer
2 Authority is a major lynch pin of the
3 recovery plan, and as it is we have to deal
4 with that right now and we will be evaluated
5 by PEL in the next few months to see if we
6 are on track with our recovery plan and they
7 will make the determination where we are at
8 and if we are moving along fast enough to
9 avoid receivership and they will have to do
10 that evaluation to see where that gets us.

11 Just a couple of other things while
12 we are off, I did have -- Monday morning I
13 came down to go to work and there was a tree
14 across East Mountain Road and the DPW
15 responded very quickly and I called them at
16 quarter after six and it was cleaned up by
17 7:30, I believe, so I'd like to thank them
18 for getting that done.

19 Also, as the summer goes along we
20 have had several complaints about overgrown
21 bushes coming out onto the streets, one is
22 on Oswald Avenue and there also was a
23 situation up on Wintermantle Avenue where
24 the trees were overgrown and actually
25 scratching cars so we will be working on

1 getting those problems corrected, and that's
2 all I have.

3 MS. REED: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION -
4 AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL
5 NO. 126, 2015, AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED
6 "GENERAL CITY OPERATING BUDGET 2016" BY
7 TRANSFERRING \$60,000.00 FROM ACCOUNT NO.
8 01.401.13090.4299 (NON-DEPARTMENTAL
9 EXPENDITURES - CONTINGENCY) TO ACCOUNT NO.
10 01.040.00040.4201 (DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS
11 ADMINISTRATION BUREAU OF ADMINISTRATION
12 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES) TO PROVIDE SUFFICIENT
13 FUNDING FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES ACCOUNT
14 THROUGH THE 2016 BUDGET PERIOD.

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

18 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

19 MR. EVANS: Second.

20 MR. WECHSLER: On the question? All
21 those in favor of introduction signify by
22 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: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION -
5 AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL
6 NO. 126, 2015, AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED
7 "GENERAL CITY OPERATING BUDGET 2016" BY
8 TRANSFERRING \$300,000.00 FROM ACCOUNT NO.
9 01.401.13090.4299 (NON-DEPARTMENTAL
10 EXPENDITURES - CONTINGENCY) TO ACCOUNT NO.
11 01.080.00083.4460 (DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC
12 WORKS-BUREAU OF HIGHWAYS STREET LIGHTING) TO
13 PROVIDE SUFFICIENT FUNDING FOR THE STREET
14 LIGHTING ACCOUNT THROUGH THE 2016 BUDGET
15 PERIOD.

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

19 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

20 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

24 MR. PERRY: Aye.

25 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

1 MR. EVANS: Aye.

2 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

5 MS. REED: 5-D. FOR INTRODUCTION -
6 AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF COUNCIL NO.
7 47, 2013 ENTITLED, "AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING
8 THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF
9 THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY
10 ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE CONSOLIDATED
11 SUBMISSION FOR COMMUNITY PLANNING AND
12 DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS TO BE FUNDED UNDER THE
13 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)
14 PROGRAM BY TRANSFERRING \$200,000.00 FROM
15 UNALLOCATED CDBG FUNDING/LINE OF CREDIT AND
16 PROJECT NO. 2014-01 WEST LACKAWANNA AVENUE
17 BRIDGE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$200,000.00 TO
18 PROJECT 16-04 RECONSTRUCTION OF ROADS AND
19 HANDICAP CURB CUTS.

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

23 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

24 MR. EVANS: Second.

25 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

1 MR. EVAN: On the question -- I'm
2 sorry.

3 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question, I
4 just have a couple of questions and I got
5 some of them answered from Ms. Aebli and one
6 of my -- I understand the transfer of
7 \$200,000 for the unallocated funding or the
8 West Lackawanna Avenue bridge project
9 because of the timing issue, however, I'm
10 concerned about the other move with \$200,000
11 from apparently different program income
12 from economic development loan repayments.
13 It's an extra \$200,000 that they are now
14 putting into the paving totaling \$400,000.
15 I would like to find out exactly where this
16 \$200,000 came from, specifically, which
17 accounts if that's possible; and secondly,
18 I'm not, you know, sold on the idea that we
19 should spend \$200,000 on paving and not put
20 that \$200,000 back in economic development
21 loans or something like that.

22 This office, I think, has become the
23 office of paving. I'm not seeing a lot of
24 economic development coming out of OECD
25 which I think is why the office exists so

1 think we need to look at the way that they
2 are spending money down there. I understand
3 there is a need to update our infrastructure
4 and we do have roads that are in bad shape
5 and need to be paved, but we also have small
6 businesses that need help with loans and
7 grants and things of that nature, so I would
8 just question spending that \$200,000 and
9 reallocating that funding. Thank you.

10 MR. EVANS: While I would agree with
11 that, I would to also ask is this upper
12 bridge or the lower Lackawanna Avenue
13 bridge? Is it the one -- there is two
14 Lackawanna Avenue bridges?

15 MR. ROGAN: It's the portion by I
16 think Kost Tires and Old Good Things. This
17 is the older --

18 MR. EVANS: The old one, okay. The
19 reason I ask it looks like we are
20 resurfacing or doing roads, but also we have
21 handicap curb cuts and if anybody has tried
22 to walk on the sidewalks of that bridge they
23 are absolutely horrendous and to put curb
24 cuts without repairing the sidewalks,
25 handicap curb cuts, nonetheless, is

1 absolutely ridiculous so I would like to
2 find out their plan for repairing the
3 concrete sidewalks on the bridge itself
4 because what I have seen, I know the money
5 for the curb cuts were federal funded but
6 what I'm seeing is handicap curb cuts that
7 are leading into sidewalks that you wouldn't
8 push, you know, a wheelchair on if you
9 wanted to or anything else like that.

10 MR. ROGAN: These funds couldn't be
11 used for anything associated with a bridge
12 project. That's going to be down
13 exclusively from PennDOT.

14 MR. EVANS: I was mentioning that
15 because of the handicapped curb cuts --

16 MR. ROGAN: Right, that's where the
17 money is going from the bridge project.

18 MR. EVANS: Right.

19 MR. ROGAN: So it's going to be
20 used--

21 MR. EVANS: Not on the bridge.

22 MR. ROGAN: Not on the bridge. The
23 bridge is going to be paved for 95 percent
24 by PennDOT.

25 MR. EVANS: We still have share

1 though.

2 MR. ROGAN: We will still have our
3 share but from, you know. PennDOT,
4 unfortunately, works at their own pace, but
5 it sounds like the entire bridge is going to
6 be replaced or say reconstruction because
7 there are some issues with that bridge.

8 MR. EVANS: So we are not doing curb
9 cuts at that location?

10 MR. ROGAN: We are not doing curb
11 cuts at the bridge.

12 MR. EVANS: Okay, citywide curb
13 cuts, again, I'd like to look at the next
14 known location that we are doing curb cuts
15 because I think that -- I saw one down on
16 Cedar Avenue where we had a curb cut on the
17 left side of the road and then the right of
18 the side road everything in-between there
19 was no sidewalk. It's bizarre.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: Well, apparently this
21 from the e-mail I received from Ms. Aebli
22 this funding, this \$400,000 is probably
23 going to be used to pave up in the Pennswood
24 development.

25 MR. EVANS: Well, which it

1 definitely needs it, I'm not going to deny
2 that, the roads up there are terrible, but I
3 would like to look into when they are doing
4 handicapped curb cuts and make sure that if
5 there is a money available so the sidewalks
6 adjacent to the curb cuts will be taken care
7 of.

8 MR. PERRY: Yeah, that's a good
9 point because I saw them starting now in
10 other states and now we are getting onto our
11 area and you have these nice beautiful curb
12 cuts that, like you said, it leads to a
13 sidewalk that's you couldn't walk across it
14 safely let alone use a wheelchair on it.

15 MR. ROGAN: And, unfortunately,
16 using federal dollars you have to put in the
17 handicap pave cuts.

18 MR. EVANS: Well, I understand that
19 but what we should do is try to see if there
20 is an account available when these
21 situations happen that we have have paving
22 and curb cut and also replacing the --

23 MR. PERRY: Finish the job.

24 MR. EVANS: -- adjacent sidewalks to
25 that, it makes sense because to put a

1 handicap curb cut in and then have dirt or
2 sidewalks that are lifting it doesn't make
3 any sense.

4 MR. ROGAN: I agree. Regarding
5 spending -- the spending of the money that,
6 as I mentioned, the \$200,000 we transferred
7 in the program funds, there are -- as I
8 mentioned, I did meet with Ms. Aebli and Mr.
9 Preambo over the recess, there are going to
10 be hopefully within the next month depending
11 on a couple of HUD compliance issues two
12 loans for job creation for small businesses
13 within the city coming for Council's
14 approval. Again, there are is still a
15 couple of some I's to be dotted and T's to
16 be crossed with HUD on one of those, the
17 other one does seem like it should be coming
18 sooner.

19 And as far as allocating money from
20 the program funding to paving, I don't think
21 there is a single person in this city who
22 would disagree that we need paving and this
23 year has probably been the most paving
24 that-- at least in my lifetime that we have
25 ever seen on the City of Scranton and it's

1 not enough. You know, every day each one of
2 us still receive calls about different areas
3 that need be paved and, unfortunately, the
4 federal funds could only be used in certain
5 areas and, you know, we try to backfill the
6 other areas with city dollars and some other
7 ideas that the business administrator and
8 the mayor come up with, so I fully support
9 this change and, you know, the community
10 portion of the Office of Economic and
11 Community Development can't be overlooked
12 either and clean roads, safe roads, paved
13 roads are certainly an essential part of
14 building a good community and I think this
15 year we have come a long way but there is
16 still much more work to do as far as paving
17 in the city and bridges as well. We haven't
18 even gotten started on those.

19 MR. WECHSLER: All those in favor of
20 introduction signify by saying aye.

21 MR. PERRY: Aye.

22 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

23 MR. EVANS: Aye.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

25 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The

1 ayes have it and so moved.

2 MS. REED: 5-E. FOR INTRODUCTION -
3 AN ORDINANCE - REPEALING FILE OF THE COUNCIL
4 NO 16, 2004, AN ORDINANCE (AS AMENDED)
5 ENTITLED "CHANGING THE DIRECTION OF CERTAIN
6 DOWNTOWN STREETS, PROVIDING FOR ANGLED
7 PARKING AND ELIMINATION OF PARALLEL PARKING,
8 AND ELIMINATION OF CERTAIN TURNING LANES IN
9 DOWNTOWN SCRANTON".

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

13 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

14 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

18 MR. PERRY: Aye.

19 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

20 MR. EVANS: Aye.

21 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

24 MS. REED: 5-F. FOR INTRODUCTION - A
25 RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF THE

1 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS OF THE CITY OF
2 SCRANTON TO SIGN AND SUBMIT THE PENNSYLVANIA
3 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION ("PENNDOT")
4 APPLICATION FOR TRAFFIC SIGNAL APPROVAL FOR
5 TRAFFIC SIGNAL PERMIT NO. 40332 FOR THE
6 MODIFICATION OF THE EXISTING TRAFFIC SIGNAL
7 AT NORTH MAIN AVENUE AND PARKER STREET.

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

11 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

12 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

16 MR. PERRY: Aye.

17 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

18 MR. EVANS: Aye.

19 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

22 MS. REED: 5-G. FOR INTRODUCTION -
23 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
24 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE
25 AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH A&M

1 ELECTRICAL CONSTRUCTION, INC. TO PROVIDE
2 MAINTENANCE OF TRAFFIC SIGNALIZATION FOR THE
3 CITY OF SCRANTON FOR THE PERIOD OF ONE (1)
4 YEAR FROM SEPTEMBER 1, 2016 THROUGH AUGUST
5 31, 2017.

6 MR. WECHSLER: At this time, I'll
7 entertain a motion that Item 5-G 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 eyes have it and so moved.

20 MS. REED: SIXTH ORDER. NO BUSINESS
21 AT THIS TIME.

22 SEVENTH ORDER. NO BUSINESS AT THIS
23 TIME.

24 MR. WECHSLER: If there is no
25 further business, I'll entertain a motion to

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adjourn.

MR. ROGAN: Motion to adjourn.

MR. WECHSLER: Meeting adjourned.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER