

SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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HELD:

Thursday, September 21, 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. An executive
14 session was held this evening to discuss a
15 matter of litigation. Dispense with the
16 reading of the minutes.

17 MS. REED: THIRD ORDER. 3-A. TAX
18 ASSESSOR'S REPORT FOR HEARING DATE TO BE
19 HELD OCTOBER 11, OCTOBER 12, AND OCTOBER 18,
20 2017.

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

23 MS. REED: 3-B. CONTROLLER'S REPORT
24 FOR MONTH ENDING AUGUST 31, 2017.

25 MR. WECHSLER: Are there any

1 comments? If not, received and filed.

2 MS. REED: 3-C. MINUTES OF THE
3 NON-UNIFORM MUNICIPAL PENSION BOARD MEETING
4 HELD AUGUST 16, 2017.

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

7 MS. REED: 3-D. MINUTES OF THE
8 SCRANTON POLICE PENSION COMMISSION MEETING
9 HELD AUGUST 16, 2017.

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

12 MS. REED: 3-E. MINUTES OF THE
13 COMPOSITE PENSION BOARD MEETING HELD AUGUST
14 16, 2017.

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

17 MS. REED: 3-F. AGENDA FOR THE
18 NON-UNIFORM MUNICIPAL PENSION BOARD MEETING
19 HELD SEPTEMBER 20, 2017.

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

24 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, I have two. The
25 first, the North Scranton Neighborhood

1 Association Watch is having their annual
2 fundraiser which is going to benefit the
3 community throughout the year. It's called
4 Octoberfest. It will be held October 7 from
5 6 to 10 p.m. at the Polish Club at 1817
6 Brick Avenue. Tickets are \$15 and it
7 includes food, drinks and entertainment.
8 There will be basket raffles and 50/50.

9 Also, donations are still currently
10 being collected for Hurricane Harvey and
11 Hurricane Irma relief. All Scranton
12 firehouses throughout the city will be
13 accepting nonperishable goods to help with
14 the relief efforts for victims of Hurricane
15 Harvey and Hurricane Irma. For more
16 information, you can call 570-348-4133.
17 Thank you.

18 MR. PERRY: Yes, I have one
19 announcement. Scranton Police Department is
20 going to be fighting for a cure hosting a
21 spaghetti dinner at Fratelli's restaurant.
22 It's going to run October 8 through October
23 22, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily. Tickets are on
24 sale now. They are \$12 a piece. You can
25 dine in, you can take out. Tickets are

1 available at police headquarters or by
2 calling 348-4139 or 558-8301 and all the
3 proceeds, of course, go to the American
4 Cancer Society.

5 MS. REED: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'
6 PARTICIPATING.

7 MR. WECHSLER: Joan Hodowanitz.

8 MS. HODOWANITZ: Joan Hodowanitz,
9 Scranton taxpayer and resident. Item 3-B
10 was the August Controller's report, now I
11 have been looking at these reports month
12 after month for some time and this one was
13 startling in the sense that the general fund
14 revenue report shows that to the end of
15 August, from January 1 to August 31,
16 expenditures exceeded revenues by more than
17 \$21 million. Now, normally, you would see
18 revenues exceeding expenditures because the
19 invoices tend to come in late, but why
20 revenues lag expenditures by \$21 million.
21 Now, I know we are not supposed to ask
22 questions and supposed to put this in
23 writing, but you might want to contemplate
24 that statistic. It begs the question.

25 Item 5-D on tonight's agenda, I sat

1 in the caucus in the back room and listened
2 to Mr. Bulzoni's explanation of the capital
3 budget and this Item 5-D and it was clear
4 that I was not privy to previous
5 conversations, especially with regard to
6 RSM's law suite against the city, but I
7 think it would be in the best interest of
8 the city if someone could reconcile the
9 \$450,000, not 400, \$450,000 expenditure in
10 the capital budget for this property on
11 Wyoming avenue for green space, and Item
12 5-D, which transfers the deed for \$375,000,
13 and with that explain the status of RSM's
14 lawsuit and what is the county doing
15 applying for a grant and how are they a
16 player in all of this action?

17 Sometimes I feel like, you know, the
18 public really doesn't have the need to know.
19 You know, we should just sit down and be
20 quiet and not make waves and if we see
21 things that, you know, get our interest or
22 raise some questions, you know, well, submit
23 your questions in writing or submit a
24 Right-to-Know, but I'm getting kind of tired
25 of that, and I know you probably don't have

1 the answers because I'm just saying this
2 right now, but again, before you start
3 passing the capital budget and passing 5-D I
4 think the public has a need to know this.
5 This is our money, too, and this is our
6 city, too.

7 With regard to item 7-A, I was
8 thoroughly lost with Mr. Bulzoni's
9 explanation of why it was a good thing to
10 refinance the four refuse packers at a
11 higher interest rate where would we pay
12 \$47,787 extra each year for a six-year
13 period that comes to \$286,725. He had an
14 explanation, I couldn't follow his logic. I
15 would like to hear someone else explain
16 that. Something about it's a good thing to
17 extend the lease another three years, I
18 don't know. Again, that's our money.

19 And Item 5--

20 MR. PERRY: Ms. Hodowanitz, I don't
21 want to take up your time, if we could hold
22 her time, just a quick explanation as to
23 what I got out of the caucus, it's extending
24 the current lease that we had on us and in a
25 rate that he still deemed favorable,

1 although, a little bit higher than what we
2 were paying before, and he anticipated if we
3 had to start a new lease to get the
4 equipment either next year or down the road
5 that interest rate was going to be much
6 higher than the current rate is now. So he
7 felt, you know, based on his expertise that
8 it was better to refinance now at a slightly
9 higher rate than wait and start a new lease
10 and the terms would have been definitely
11 higher than when we got refinanced for.
12 That was what I got out of it in a nutshell.

13 MR. ROGAN: And I'll comment on it
14 when the vote comes up as well.

15 MS. HODOWANITZ: Okay. With regard
16 to Item 5-E, the \$75,000 grant to develop a
17 Chesapeake Bay Pollution Reduction Plan, is
18 this based on the Arcadis study, and if so
19 when will that study be released to the
20 public? It's been in the know for several
21 months and I'm hoping to see it before
22 election date which, by the way, is 47 days
23 from today. Thank you.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

25 MR. WECHSLER: Fay Franus.

1 MS. FRANUS: Fay Franus, Scranton.
2 I'd like to speak about Courtright's storm
3 water fee. This fee that we created because
4 of the backroom deals, the mayor and the
5 lawyers and Pennsylvania American Water and
6 the Sewer Authority. This fee, no one in
7 the city, the taxpayers, the citizens, they
8 don't have a clue what this fee is going to
9 be. There is a study, but it hasn't been
10 complete and from what I understand it won't
11 be released until after the election so this
12 fee will be added to the person's already
13 electric bill, water bill, sewer bill. It
14 just might be a straw that breaks the
15 camel's back as far as what taxpayers have
16 to pay because the citizens of the city have
17 to make up the storm water management
18 because the mayor didn't make sure that
19 Pennsylvania American Water took over the
20 storm water management, so now the city is
21 responsible, which is us, the ratepayers and
22 the taxpayers. So, as I say, this might be
23 the straw that breaks the camel's back and I
24 don't believe that Mayor Courtright cares at
25 all about the taxpayer's backs considering

1 he is riding around in a 2017 \$45,000 new
2 Dodge Durango that we, the taxpayers, are
3 paying for.

4 MR. WECHSLER: Lee Morgan.

5 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.
6 Lee Morgan, not that it matters that much.
7 You know, I thought I'd come to the podium
8 and today and say that the last time I was
9 here I had an opportunity where I brought up
10 my opinion that a team of pro se litigators
11 should come together and begin to pursue
12 something in Court in regards to the city
13 because no attorney would probably step into
14 that mess, and some of the most gifted
15 attorneys never went to law school.

16 Now, the sale of the Scranton Sewer
17 Authority, the Scranton Times has been
18 running numerous articles on it and I read
19 the article the other day where it's all
20 illegal. So, I mean, Mr. Wechsler, you
21 introduced it and the council acted on it
22 and broke the law if what the Scranton Times
23 is saying is true. The other thing that's
24 troubling is if the PUC agreed, if any of
25 those PUC judges agreed to the sale it's

1 very troubling. It's illegal, okay?
2 Movement of the money outside of the Sewer
3 Authority was illegal. Now, payment to the
4 attorneys on the sale of the Authority
5 illegal. I just don't know why somebody
6 doesn't go to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court
7 or whoever holds attorneys responsible and
8 strip them of their law license because I
9 don't think lawyers can use their license to
10 commit a crime and they did. So, I mean,
11 when you look at this whole circle, and you
12 wonder where is the Auditor General? Where
13 is the Attorney General? Where are they?
14 There is a crime that's been committed here
15 against the people. I think the only thing
16 that's going to bring them out into the
17 daylight is if a group of people go into
18 Court and file a petition because I don't
19 see how this petition can fail, but then the
20 whole political system is in hot water
21 because where were they all that they a
22 responsibility to protect the public trust
23 and assets, because the Sewer Authority
24 wasn't created to bail the city out, it was
25 created for something much different.

1 And as far as the storm water
2 collection system, that's a troubling thing
3 because that may cost hundreds and hundreds
4 of millions of dollars and they were
5 balanced together. That's why they were
6 combined the Scranton Sewer Authority had
7 both obligations. And, you know, when you
8 look at the Scranton Sewer Authority was it
9 politics that made it fail over an extended
10 period of time by not meeting obligations
11 the federal government mandated? Was it a
12 political problem? That's troubling. The
13 whole thing is very troubling, and I think
14 the two mayoral candidate, the two major
15 mayoral candidates, Mr. Mulligan,
16 Mr. Courtright, I don't know what their plan
17 is, I don't like what's taken place so far
18 and I don't see any way for this city to
19 turn itself around because really what
20 needed to be done a long time ago wasn't
21 bringing, you know, the distressed status on
22 the city, Act 47, that's wasn't the answer.
23 Leadership was required. Cutting the city
24 budget was required.

25 Now, a former council president, I

1 asked him to cut the budget by 30 percent.
2 That's a minimum necessary to start to bring
3 the city back into some kind of financial
4 stability, but none of you understand it.
5 You are all clamoring for a reassessment.
6 If there is a reassessment in Scranton,
7 there was a lady in the newspaper trying to
8 sell her house recently for \$49,000. There
9 is a house on East Mountain for \$54,000.
10 There is houses that have sold in this city
11 for \$20,000 that you can move into. Does
12 that tell you anything? That means if there
13 is a reassessment in this city all of the
14 tax rates inside the boundaries of the City
15 of Scranton should be cut, but it won't
16 politically happen because the elected
17 leaders in this community want the last drop
18 of the blood that you can pull out of every
19 resident. It's just pathetic. It's beyond
20 pathetic. Really it is, and I really in my
21 heart of heart think it's time for the
22 residents to sign a mass petition and take
23 two or three pro se litigators and go into
24 court and fight it out and see what happens.
25 And you know what the residents of this city

1 need to do, they need get a backbone.
2 Something they haven't had for a long time.
3 Thank you.

4 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

5 MR. WECHSLER: Glynnis Johns.

6 MS. JOHNS: Glynnis Johns, North
7 Scranton. I just wanted to bring a couple
8 of points that have been on my mind over the
9 past few weeks. So with everything that is
10 happening in the country that trickles down
11 to the local level I was wondering what
12 happens with DACA and the dreamers that
13 actually live here in the city and some of
14 the people who might be undocumented that do
15 a lot, particularly of students that are
16 around my age. What is the city's plan to
17 protect these people or will this not be a
18 police of sanctuary or I'm just curious
19 because I haven't heard anything on the
20 local level.

21 Another question that I had has to
22 do with, like, I spoke with Mr. Wayne Evans
23 before, I'm particularly interested in the
24 history of Scranton, Pennsylvania,
25 particularly when it comes to people of

1 color so I wanted to do more to bring
2 representation to the people that helped
3 build the city and maybe talk about walking
4 tours or putting up placards for people to
5 be remembered, particularly George W. Brown
6 was a huge figure in the city who had one of
7 the biggest businesses in the area of
8 Northeastern Pennsylvania and he did a lot
9 for the city, he did a lot for people of
10 color and did a lot for the businesses,
11 schools, education and all of those things
12 so I would like to see presentation happen
13 and I would like give you a guys a proposal
14 by the end of the month with my ideas and
15 how we can make that happen because I think
16 kind of like what you touched on citizens
17 here their voices aren't really being --
18 their voices aren't really being heard or
19 they are being forgotten, and I think, like
20 I said, particularly when it comes to people
21 of color our voices aren't being heard and
22 we also don't have representation, so I kind
23 of want to make that my mission from here on
24 out.

25 And I'm going to keep it short, I

1 don't have as many powerful words to say as
2 some of the people that were up here before
3 me, but, like I said, those are the things I
4 would like to give to you guys before the
5 end of the month and see if there is
6 anything that we can work on from there.

7 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. We look
8 forward to hearing from you.

9 MS. JOHNS: Thank you.

10 MR. WECHSLER: Ron Ellman.

11 MR. ELLMAN: Hello, Council. This
12 past week six or eight people asked me what
13 the hell I was talking with last week when I
14 said a dollar was gone forever. Real quick,
15 I said three men rented a room for \$15, \$5 a
16 piece. I got in arguments about this. The
17 clerk said the room was a \$10 a room because
18 it had two beds. She took \$5, went to the
19 room, gave each man a dollar, that made the
20 room cost \$4 a piece which is \$12. She has
21 two dollars, there is a dollar missing.
22 Just like I said, that dollar is gone. It's
23 just not there. There is no way to account
24 for it. You multiply by the millions that
25 have gone through the people's hands, the

1 government's hands in this city.

2 Since I have bought my house, since
3 I have bought my house, listen to this, the
4 golf course, I know people -- a lot of
5 people don't know we had a golf course at
6 one time, what happened to the money I don't
7 know what golf course. The airport, very
8 few people knew that we owned an airport, I
9 didn't for a long time, I never heard them
10 talk about it. Nobody knows about the
11 airport. The South Side complex, well, this
12 they say all kind of nonsense. Nothing ever
13 happened about that. The parking garages,
14 well, who wants a dirty, greasy, nasty
15 parking garage so we will just give it away.
16 The Parking Authority, when that nonprofit
17 leaves here, and I said when because they
18 are not going to stay long, the city will be
19 left holding the bag for all of these
20 millions of dollars like the \$4 million that
21 went to the mall. It's gone. People will
22 say where is it? It's gone, just like that
23 dollar bill.

24 And there is not much sense in
25 talking about the sewer deal, better know as

1 the unscrupulous greedy attorney enhancement
2 program, and my favorite one the \$3 million
3 you gave to this greedy based institution
4 instead of the firehouse repairs, and has
5 anyone dictated what to do next? You know,
6 sell a fire truck or something? What are we
7 supposed to do about the firehouses? They
8 have been in the paper over a year ago they
9 needed repairs. I would rather have one
10 firehouse than a thousand Lackawanna
11 Colleges and their students. They don't
12 contribute nothing.

13 Well, that brings me down to I just
14 couldn't believe this last week, this
15 unbelievable stupidity of evicting the
16 museum. I don't know Amoroso, that must be
17 one of Amoroso's ideas or something because
18 he don't care about the city. And I was
19 thinking maybe Bill is a southern
20 sympathizer, doesn't want anyone to know
21 about it, but I never seen him at any of our
22 anti-Army of the Republic protest meetings.
23 Then somebody told me maybe he's a closet
24 southern sympathizer and just too
25 embarrassed to let people know. Whatever.

1 People we need to -- we have to get
2 an incredible government in here and I can't
3 imagine Mr. McGovern or anything wanting to
4 take on all of these problems that are here
5 and now and that are coming. All I can say
6 is God Bless them. Thank you.

7 MR. WECHSLER: Anyone else?

8 MS. SCHUMACHER: Marie Schumacher.
9 First item is 5-D on the agenda, until we
10 have much more explanation of what's going
11 on with this property I think that that
12 should be tabled and I would look forward to
13 some transparency on this whole issue. I
14 just don't know what's happened. All I know
15 is we are being kept in the dark. The
16 county's going after money, we are not doing
17 what we are supposed to do and now
18 apparently perhaps the company that bought
19 it and spent \$670,000 on it is willing to
20 sell it for a lot less just to get out of
21 Dodge. I don't know, I don't feel good
22 especially with that remediation. The
23 county is -- it looks like we are looking
24 toward the county to get that money from the
25 environmental group. There is no guarantee

1 one person should, but have they been spread
2 out so that somebody from the City of
3 Scranton that represents the council will be
4 there at every meeting?

5 MR. WECHSLER: I'm not sure we are
6 going to do it as a council. We can, we can
7 discuss and come upon a position that we
8 want to express as a council. It will
9 probably be very simple from what we did
10 with the opposition to the landfill. I'm
11 not sure we are going to do it as a body or
12 the individual council members --

13 MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, I would
14 suggest we get together and get some
15 statistics together to show what we need and
16 I am willing to share my data with anybody
17 who --

18 MR. WECHSLER: My opinion is the
19 reason why it's happening is because council
20 pushed them do it. That's my opinion. The
21 reassessment is happening what was
22 discussed.

23 MS. SCHUMACHER: I don't think it
24 belongs on the ballot, but that's neither --
25 but onto number three is also, I guess,

1 Mr. Wechsler, you had spoken at the last
2 meeting in July before the August recess
3 about a parking meeting and that you thought
4 it would happen in -- when e-mailed you
5 during the recess you said September. It's
6 september we are running out of days so has
7 that been set?

8 MR. WECHSLER: No, it has not been,
9 but we have been in contact with NDC and ABM
10 to have the next meeting here in Scranton.

11 MS. SCHUMACHER: Is that on the
12 schedule?

13 MR. WECHSLER: No, it's not. There
14 is no scheduled meetings for that.

15 MS. SCHUMACHER: They just pop up?

16 MR. WECHSLER: Yup. Just like any
17 private business. They can schedule them on
18 their own time.

19 MS. SCHUMACHER: The Serrenti
20 dollars, the dollars that we are paying in
21 insurance on that property does anybody have
22 that yet? Have we paid the bill? Do we
23 have the Knowle's list?

24 MR. EVANS: We both -- I know
25 Councilman Wechsler and myself both asked

1 for that. Did you have it yet, Joe?

2 MR. WECHSLER: No. I know

3 Mr. Bulzoni--

4 MR. EVANS: We both asked for it so
5 are waiting.

6 MS. SCHUMACHER: We both
7 simultaneously asked for that list last week
8 so we didn't get it back yet, but he
9 promised to get it to us. We saw an e-mail
10 chain that he sent to Knowles to get the
11 information.

12 MS. SCHUMACHER: And I guess I would
13 personally like to ask we are the only
14 municipality in this entire county that has
15 separate tax millage on land and
16 improvements, I would ask that we -- you ask
17 that the budget be -- the property taxes be
18 based on the total just as every other
19 municipality in the county, that would help
20 go along way toward people to understand
21 what's go on.

22 MR. EVANS: I asked that for at a
23 PEL meeting to have them study that and the
24 issue seems to be very difficult outside of
25 reassessment. Reassessment is the perfect

1 opportunity to do that, but, again, that was
2 the answer I got.

3 MS. SCHUMACHER: It's an algorithm.
4 You can get the same amount of the total as
5 you can from the sum of two.

6 MR. EVANS: Yes. It's very
7 complicated with the way it's structured but
8 we'll talk about that again.

9 MS. SCHUMACHER: Thank you.

10 MS. JEFFERIES: I'm Norma Jefferies,
11 Scranton resident, and to they young lady --
12 yes, she's still here, I came to Scranton
13 when I was 9 months old and I was educated
14 here and the gentlemen that said about
15 Lackawanna College, well, it was Lackawanna
16 Business when I went there and I went onto
17 Arcadia down in Glynnside in Pennsylvania,
18 to finish up, so to whatever reason he
19 doesn't like Lackawanna College now, you
20 know, I think I did okay, you know coming
21 out of there, but that's not why I'm here.

22 I'm here to say thank you, to thank
23 you for the street signs. You know, that
24 they are up and it looks really good and the
25 first one that I noticed was at Wheeler and

1 Ash Street, so I don't know who did what,
2 but they are up and I just want to say thank
3 you and if I could give you a little thank
4 you. I don't know who is who, but, you
5 know, the computer does all kinds of things
6 so I just wanted to say thank you to whoever
7 and --

8 MR. WECHSLER: It's too bad the
9 television station left already.

10 MR. JEFFERIES: You do all kinds of
11 things. I'm going to give you one, too,
12 whether you part of it. This is what I gave
13 them, okay, a thumbs up and it just says,
14 "To city council from a very satisfied
15 Scranton resident. A big thank you for
16 helping with my project. Yeah. The street
17 signs are up."

18 That's all. Thank you.

19 MR. WECHSLER: Anyone else?

20 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening, Council.
21 Dave Dobrzyn, resident, taxes paid, fees
22 paid. All right, to start out tonight,
23 Xfinity television is Comcast in our town
24 and we tried to see if anybody else was
25 interested, but something has to be done.

1 It's a rip off. First of all, they should
2 start paying their royalties in 30 pieces of
3 silver to the city. I have complaints for a
4 month and a half, called them several times,
5 stations kept going out, pixilations all you
6 over the place and they told me they were
7 going to give me a break on my cable TV
8 bill. Well, they gave me a brake, they gave
9 themselves a break, it's \$20 more. It went
10 from \$195 to \$215, you know, thank you,
11 Comcast. In France, by the way, it's about
12 50 bucks a month because it's regulated like
13 it should be.

14 On reassessment, I know our city
15 needs it, but the only question I have we
16 couldn't trust the last guys that did it, we
17 couldn't trust the last guys to get it done,
18 and can the current conductors be trusted.
19 From what I can see of the county
20 commissioners, I'm not really -- I don't
21 know about that, and Lackawanna County keeps
22 coming up and one of the things I know a lot
23 of people say a lot of hurtful things, but
24 the comment that was passed a few years back
25 was that if they gave a PILOT it would be

1 money down the rathole and I found that
2 terrible. They deserve a little thanks for
3 bringing in Henry Amoroso for chipping in
4 PEL and the Chamber of Commerce are also
5 complicit because personally I think it was
6 a snow job and PILOTS in themselves you can
7 ask but you cannot demand and if somebody
8 wants to be appalled, like happened to two
9 former council members, well, then it gets
10 to be a loophole in the paper.

11 And once again on trash removal, we
12 better be careful, some people won't be
13 paying the throw they will just throw and
14 dump it off on their neighbor's property
15 properties and public properties, so I
16 prefer that we go after them for the fee and
17 certainly it could be lower, but that's the
18 way it is. In reality living out in the
19 country most of my life I paid way more than
20 \$300 a year and that was years ago.

21 Once again, on Act 76, I keep seeing
22 it in the paper, what began as an effort by
23 Kentucky to help a single company to help
24 Appalachia to help raise capital by keeping
25 state income taxes withheld from worker's

1 paychecks had grown to more than 2,700
2 companies in 19 states when this book was
3 published. The big banks, carmakers,
4 insurers, a host of Canadian, Chinese,
5 European, Japanese companies all get to
6 profit by pocketing the taxes withheld from
7 their American worker's paychecks. Since
8 the Fine Print came out in hardback, two
9 more states have joined the trend, Oregon
10 and Pennsylvania.

11 So, you know, we have all kinds of
12 trouble in Harrisburg here and you read
13 about how they have budget impasses and
14 everything, they don't have a budget because
15 they gave the store away and piling more
16 taxes on top of taxes is not the answer. If
17 you are going to give the store away, then
18 that's just too bad but people don't have 15
19 percent by the time a minimum wage worker
20 walks out of his job, it doesn't need to go
21 up to a 17 and 18 and 20, shame on
22 Harrisburg. And once again, have a good
23 night.

24 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Anyone
25 else?

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

3 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Perry?

4 MR. PERRY: Yes, thank you,
5 Mr. Wechsler. I had a question last week on
6 the capital budget, I think, Mrs.
7 Schumacher, you asked me the threshold for
8 the amounts of spending on it. You know,
9 not to anybody's surprise we haven't had a
10 capital budget in the City of Scranton in
11 quite sometime. It's something we haven't
12 had money to do, but there is no set amount.
13 Capital budget items get decided on and put
14 on legislation and then approved, so there
15 is not a \$500, a \$1,000 type tier. It's
16 just something that gets put on and then
17 once it's on the capital budget that money
18 needs to be dedicated for that use.

19 Firehouses, I believe that was
20 brought up, a very apropos, you brought up
21 those firehouses tonight, Mr. Ellman, I have
22 in my hand here a contract that was just
23 signed not too long ago and the next step is
24 to get the schedule of -- schedule for it to
25 be done by the company. They are obviously

1 a big concern of the utmost importance and
2 we are going to not only get a schedule of
3 time done but the firehouses in order
4 prioritized on that, so once I get that
5 schedule I'll be sure to pass it onto
6 everybody so we are aware of what that was,
7 because if you remember we left off in July
8 with emergency legislation to get this done
9 before the weather gets bad, so it's very
10 important to me to make sure that this job
11 gets completed before the weather.

12 I do have a request from a director
13 from downtown Scranton for some handicap
14 spot in front of their business. I received
15 the e-mail, I'll read a small portion of it.
16 "I'm writing on behalf of Integrative
17 Counseling Services, P.C." They are right
18 there on the corner of Mulberry Street and
19 Penn. If you are heading towards the new
20 school, they're on the right where that ESSA
21 bank and plaza is, and they have several
22 clients that are coming in that are
23 handicapped and there is really no
24 handicapped parking dedicated.

25 So, Mr. Wechsler, I think you can

1 help we with this, I know that's metered
2 down in that section, so I don't know if
3 that would really fall under the ADA's --

4 MR. WECHSLER: Yeah. That falls
5 under the umbrella that Mr. Evans and I
6 discussed with them the other day, so we did
7 have contact with them.

8 MR. PERRY: So a request would be to
9 go out to them to consider --

10 MR. WECHSLER: Understood.

11 MR. PERRY: -- making one of those
12 spots dedicated for a handicapped spot, so
13 we'll take care of that and get that in the
14 works for them.

15 We had a meeting with Mr. Don
16 Rinaldi tonight, who is in charge of the
17 Lace Works project. Remember, this project
18 has been in the works for many years now,
19 it's a massive huge project and it was
20 lately in the news for, you know, attempted
21 arson on that site, so that brought, you
22 know, some eyebrows raised on this board.

23 Mr. Rinaldi was nice enough to come
24 in and answer some questions, not only on
25 what his intents are on safety for that

1 location, but also where he is with the
2 project and where it's going to go from
3 here. So just to give you an update, the
4 hazmat clean up on this project to get rid
5 of all of the hazardous chemicals that were
6 on the building and in the ground to get
7 moved and then to get the stamp of approval
8 to actually start new construction has been
9 about a year in the process. He expect in
10 about two weeks to have all of that wrapped
11 up.

12 From then, his next order of
13 priority would be prioritizing demolitions
14 of unsafe buildings and structures in that
15 area. Some of those building will just not
16 be able to be saved, unfortunately, which I
17 think everybody knew that going in, so all
18 of the unsafe buildings will be destroyed,
19 taken down and removed from the property.
20 Unfortunate, none of that could have been
21 done until the hazmat issues were cleaned up
22 there.

23 Once he gets that done, as we know,
24 the preservation of all the existing
25 structures there just to keep the natural

1 charm of the old Lace building just so we
2 don't lose a piece of what we were. We can
3 actually enjoy, you know, that once
4 prominent building in our city. After that,
5 things, new construction and construction
6 around it, building, you know, added to it.
7 He doesn't like to put timelines on things,
8 but he is probably a year and a half or two
9 years out, but again, he said don't quote me
10 on it, because as soon as I say something,
11 something else comes up, which is I
12 understand.

13 More importantly, getting to the
14 safety issue. Councilman Gaughan and myself
15 brought a couple of suggestions to -- I
16 believe Councilman Gaughan I'm sure he will
17 talk about this, on-site -- 24-7 on-site
18 surveillance. I brought up bring
19 initiative or bring some portable lighting
20 there. He already has a fence up, but with
21 a property that big, you know, it's very
22 difficult to keep people out but, you know,
23 he is, unfortunately, that's his property
24 and he needs to do his due diligence and I
25 do believe his heart is in the right spot

1 and once he gets that location to an active
2 work site that will be 24/7 person there
3 anyway living in the trailer, there will be
4 somebody there onsite at all times. And
5 once the active work site starts I don't
6 really see loitering as being as big of an
7 issue as it is now, but until then we did
8 really ask him to consider taking some
9 steps, whether it be someone have their
10 manned or portable lights or something just
11 to deter. You know, it's a nice
12 neighborhood and what he is doing there is
13 admirable, we just don't want to see any
14 other further disturbances.

15 And there is a bunch of other things
16 on the agenda, and you know what, I'm just
17 going to get those as we go tonight and that
18 way I don't have keep you guys any longer
19 than you have to. So that's everything,
20 guys.

21 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr. Perry.
22 Mr. Rogan?

23 MR. ROGAN: Yes, a couple of items
24 that I wanted to touch on, some of them are
25 agenda items that I'll take the opposite

1 approach on. I'll speak on them now and
2 hold the comments when it's time for the
3 vote.

4 Regarding the property on Wyoming
5 Avenue, this is on for introduction this
6 week and I am little bit conflicted
7 regarding how I'm going to vote on that. I
8 do understand from having our caucus tonight
9 that there is litigation and there is a lot
10 more too it that could potentially cost the
11 city a lot more money, and taking the
12 property for a green space, but at the same
13 time I do hate to see a piece of prime
14 residential real estate being used for a
15 park. I'm sure the park will be beautiful,
16 but I would much rather see a business there
17 paying taxes and creating jobs, so that's
18 something over the course of the next few
19 weeks as this goes on I'm going to continue
20 to listen to residents and the business
21 community as well to see what their thoughts
22 on the best use of that property are.

23 Next, I'm glad to Mr. Perry
24 mentioned the firehouses, again, I've become
25 a little frustrated at the timeline with the

1 repairs on these firehouses as other people
2 have as well, but I appreciate Mr. Bulzoni
3 giving the update.

4 Also, Mr. Bulzoni was in today and
5 he spoke regarding the questions I have with
6 the lease of equipment that raises the
7 interest rate from about 3 percent to 3.4.
8 There is additional costs. Mr. Bulzoni's
9 explanation was that by spreading it out
10 over a longer payment of time even though it
11 would cost the city more money in the long
12 term, it would stabilize the budget short
13 term. I don't agree with them, but I do
14 appreciate him coming in and giving the
15 explanations on where he stands. Personally
16 I still I hate debt. I say that all of the
17 time and I certainly hate refinancing debt
18 from a lower interest rate to a higher
19 interest rate so because of that I can't
20 support that legislation.

21 The Lace Works project was brought
22 up and Mr. Perry had a lot of points, but
23 one thing I mentioned in the caucus that I
24 do want to mention out here in the public is
25 I know there is a lot of frustration,

1 particularly by the residents in lower
2 Greenridge about how slow the Lace Works
3 project has been to materialize. You know,
4 Mr. Rinaldi assured us that the
5 environmental cleanup part is almost
6 complete, which is a really big part of the
7 project. There was lead, asbestos, tons of
8 hazardous materials in that property that
9 needed to be cleaned out before any real
10 construction began. And I just want to
11 remind people that, unfortunately, these
12 type of projects do take times, much longer
13 than we would all like and the North
14 Scranton Junior High project is one that for
15 decades people thought was never going to
16 happen and now if you drive up Greenridge
17 Street when you get to Main Avenue at the
18 top you see a beautifully redone building,
19 which many people are living in, and I hope
20 that in a year or two we will be able to say
21 the same thing about the Scranton Lace Works
22 and I have confidence in the developer and
23 in their team and I appreciate you keeping
24 us in the loop on what's going on.

25 Finally, this is something that has

1 downtown Scranton. I asked her to meet me
2 downtown and she talked about that at length
3 the last time she was here, and at the time
4 I was sort of working on an idea I had to
5 create walkable tours of the downtown with
6 different subjects, for example, history,
7 architecture, just even walking in general
8 making a connection between the downtown and
9 LAGB trail, and when Glynnis was talked
10 about she showed me a lot of locations where
11 there was some significant black history in
12 the downtown, and I thought it was very,
13 very interesting so I asked her to develop a
14 little bit more and possibly be part of this
15 tour idea that we had. So hopefully we will
16 continue to work on that and be part of it.
17 I anticipate at least five of these during
18 next year during the summer from May to
19 September, once a month, so there will be
20 more on that as we go along, but I
21 appreciate her being back and it was a very
22 deductive walk and I learned a lot of
23 things, I hoped you learned a few things as
24 well, so we'll get back to that as we move
25 on into the spring.

1 The empty lot on Linden and Wyoming,
2 first of all, at this point, I think the
3 purchase of this lot appears to be a
4 reasonable outcome of a lawsuit filed by the
5 current property owners. Lackawanna County,
6 as you heard tonight, committed through a
7 brownfield grant to remediate the
8 environmental issues related to the
9 property. Remediation relative to the
10 future project that would be green space be
11 far less costly and intrusive than if the
12 property is developed for some type of
13 building. Sometimes, green space becomes
14 the only viable alternative.

15 While I disagree with the County's
16 position on reassessment and some other
17 important issues, I will expand on that in a
18 minute. I would like to say that when it
19 comes to projects like this and the land
20 bank and working with individuals like
21 George Kelly and Andy Wallace, the county
22 has been at times a very, very good partner.

23 But back to the empty lot, the other
24 reality is that there were no developers
25 beating the door down to develop this

1 contaminated parcel of land in downtown.
2 This parcel had been vacant since 2008 after
3 it was purchased and, for the record, it had
4 been on the market almost continuously since
5 2009. It was purchased for \$595,000 so this
6 \$375,000 amount really is pretty close to
7 value in my mind, especially since the city
8 lost a lawsuit that figured it doubled
9 without the landing being part of the deal.

10 Furthermore, Scranton Tomorrow has
11 applied for additional grant money of
12 approximately \$500,000 to develop that
13 parcel for a pocket park which would be the
14 first of it's kind in downtown Scranton. As
15 Councilman Rogan mentioned, my first choice
16 would always be a tax paying entity that
17 would build a building that would be home to
18 another mixed use development bringing small
19 businesses and jobs and residents along with
20 additional tax dollars. I just don't see
21 that as viable given the history of that
22 site.

23 The city in many ways continues to
24 lack the initiative to be business friendly,
25 and the county continues to punt on

1 reassessment. So the dynamics for
2 attracting new construction are certainly
3 not in place. I'm sure we will have more
4 discussion on this as we move into the
5 agenda items, but that's all I have for that
6 issue at this time.

7 I would also like to mention, as was
8 mentioned by members of public, county
9 announced it's schedule for two days of
10 informational sessions on the reassessment
11 or what could be called based on the ballot
12 question to let us borrow \$13 million to
13 raise your taxes tour. While I appreciate
14 the effort, it really is too little too
15 late. When the ballot question was
16 developed as stated, it killed in my mind
17 any chance for reassessment being passed by
18 the voters. I also find it interesting that
19 the attorney that will be doing the
20 questioning and answer session to my
21 knowledge is the same attorney that helped
22 the county craft the ballot question.

23 In case anybody could have missed it
24 at all, since I have said it maybe hundreds
25 and hundreds of times, for the record,

1 again, I support reassessment because tax
2 equity is always the right thing to strive
3 for and remains in my mind the
4 responsibility of the commissioners to make
5 sure that happens, not the voters. So
6 that's all I have for tonight. Thank you.

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

9 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, that is correct.
10 I would like to start off with some
11 citizen's requests that I received this
12 week. I was contacted by several members of
13 the Hill Section about the roads in that
14 area of Scranton and particularly the rough
15 shape that they were in after utility
16 company work, so the residents are extremely
17 frustrated and they wanted to know if paving
18 to be done this year, so we did speak with
19 DPW Director Gallagher and he reported the
20 following. He spoke with officials at the
21 gas company who advised him that the Public
22 Relations Department of the utility company
23 will be placing a schedule in the newspaper
24 to notify the residents of the area as to
25 their schedule for the hill Section. They

1 are planning on restoring the trenches and
2 cuts for the winter, however, they did state
3 that it will be weather permitting. The
4 director also spoke with Pense paving and
5 they told him they were scheduled to be in
6 the Hill Section possibly at the end of the
7 week, so that's an update for residents of
8 the hill.

9 I also got several complaints about
10 pave cuts and utility work in the area of
11 Sanderson Avenue. We also spoke with the
12 DPW director, utility work by the gas
13 company was just completed on Sanderson
14 Avenue, cuts were filled with hot patch and
15 they were not permanent. Now, the water
16 company is coming into to do the main and
17 then new service cuts. The water should be
18 working in the same -- water company should
19 be working in the same cuts that the gas
20 company made. Again, they are not certain
21 if the road will be fully restored prior to
22 winter, but it will be restored by the
23 utilities at some point.

24 It's disappointing that they are not
25 sure if it's going to get done prior to

1 winter weather because we had this
2 experience last winter in Minooka and the
3 residents were forced to drive on a road
4 that was not only dangerous because of
5 winter conditions, but because the utility
6 company didn't restore it properly at that
7 point so hopefully that will be taken care
8 of.

9 We received several complaints about
10 Sewers Court, which is beyond the V-Spot bar
11 and it needs to be patched, so we sent that
12 into the DPW. Residents are damaging their
13 vehicles when he trying to get to their
14 homes and their garages.

15 Also, I received several calls over
16 the last week and a half from residents in
17 Keyser Valley about the PPL work and them
18 cutting down the forest on West Mountain.
19 So I would like to send correspondence or
20 get in touch with PPL and find out if they
21 have to replant the trees that they took
22 down in order to build the substation up
23 there, several residents are curious about
24 that.

25 I brought up the last few weeks

1 about the Civil War Museum in the basement
2 of city hall. So at this point I would like
3 to make a motion that Scranton City Council
4 send a letter to Mayor Courtright expressing
5 it's support for the GAR Civil War Museum's
6 continued operation in the basement of city
7 hall and urging the mayor to renew the GAR's
8 lease which expires November 28, 2017
9 immediately.

10 MR. ROGAN: I'll second it.

11 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

12 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.

13 I make that motion for two reasons. Number
14 one, there was a story that was done on WNEP
15 where they interviewed Mr. Courtright and he
16 said that he would be in favor of the GAR
17 Museum staying as long as they wanted. I
18 have spoken to these people that run this
19 museum for several months now, and they
20 continue to be concerned about the operation
21 of the museum and whether or not they are
22 going to be kicked out. They were relieved
23 that Mayor Courtright agreed to let them
24 stay as long as they want, however, I have a
25 lease here from 2007 that was a ten-year

1 lease, it does expire this November and I
2 would like this council to support the
3 museum in it's current operation in the
4 basement and urge the mayor to renew that
5 lease before it expires so at least the
6 people that put so much effort and so much
7 time into what they do down there for the
8 benefit of all residents in the City of
9 Scranton can at least have a satisfaction
10 knowing that they have a signed document
11 that says they are going to be able to
12 continue to operate down there. Thank you.

13 MR. WECHSLER: On that question, I
14 have spoken to Mayor Courtright about this
15 several times. He has made a commitment to
16 keep the museum there as long as possible.
17 My only concern in asking for the lease to
18 be renewed is what would be the term? We
19 have heard from the director of facilities
20 here that the space may be needed for
21 storage, which is the responsibility of the
22 city. As you have seen in the past where
23 records have not been stored properly and
24 have been damaged by weather or maintenance
25 failures, so I'm do support the museum, I do

1 support them staying here until we have
2 another place for them to go or until the
3 space is needed by the city, it's our
4 responsibility, but I'm just concerned
5 asking for a letter for the lease to be open
6 ended, I am concerned about that.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: And just to respond to
8 that, I understand there may be storage
9 issues, and I'll reiterate my point that
10 I've made over the last few weeks I'm sure
11 there is someplace else we can store
12 documents in either city hall or someplace
13 lese, but there is no way that we can say
14 that anybody else can say, as far as I'm
15 concerned, that they have a museum with the
16 kind of artifacts that we have, the kind of
17 dedication, the kind of hard work that was
18 put it in that basement by the members of
19 this museum any place else in the State of
20 Pennsylvania. So I think instead of
21 worrying about storage and documents, we
22 should be worried about promoting the museum
23 and keeping it here, and I think the only
24 way we can do that is to make sure that they
25 have a signed lease and all of the terms of

1 the lease are within the document I don't
2 think much has to change the mayor would
3 have to decide how many years. I would
4 prefer a ten-year lease is what was done in
5 2007 because I think it's important, but
6 that again would be up to the mayor.

7 MR. WECHSLER: Yeah, I don't
8 disagree with the comments about the museum
9 and how successful they are and how great of
10 place it is, but if we decide to keep them
11 here and we have to go off site and store
12 records, there is going to be a cost to the
13 city. We have had discussions here about
14 saving \$10,000, \$20,000. I don't know the
15 cost of a storage space, and I do support
16 the museum, I just want to make sure that we
17 don't tie the city up into a ten-year lease
18 with the museum and then find out that we
19 have to spend \$50,000 a year to store
20 records.

21 MR. ROGAN: On the storage issue I
22 think the solution, at least practically, is
23 the Serrenti building, which I thought was a
24 good acquisition for the city and, you know,
25 there is plenty of room in that facility.

1 You know, any time there is an organization
2 or any type of event that honors veterans,
3 such as this museum, I think we have to try
4 to do everything we can to accommodate them
5 so I agree with the motion and I think as
6 far as the storage goes the city can find
7 space in there Serrenti building.

8 MR. EVANS: Can you reread your
9 motion again?

10 MR. GAUGHAN: Sure. The motion was
11 that Scranton City Council send a letter to
12 the mayor expressing it's support for the
13 GAR Civil War Museums continued operation in
14 the basement of city hall and urging the
15 mayor to renew the GAR lease which expires
16 November 28, 2017 immediately.

17 MR. EVAN: Okay.

18 MR. PERRY: Yeah, that doesn't
19 really leave it open ended. We support the
20 museum. I would like them to stay here.
21 The administration would have to decide
22 what's more important to them, the museum or
23 storage.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: Here's my one question
25 though, and this is what annoys me, to be

1 honest with everybody up here, I have been
2 asking the mayor for an answer on this for
3 weeks and he cannot give a definite answer.
4 What records? Are they from the law
5 department? Are they from the Business
6 Administrator's Office? What's the plan?
7 And, by the way, when I speak to the people
8 that run the museum, and this was on the
9 report Monday, nobody can get in touch with
10 the mayor. So, you know, he is talking to
11 some people, he is not talking to other
12 people, it's a problem. Either you want
13 them there, give them a lease or do
14 something else, but just do something. I'm
15 just sick of the back and forth.

16 MR. WECHSLER: Well, the back and
17 forth is part of the process. We have to go
18 back and forth to make sure that we do
19 what's right for the museum and the city.
20 That's part of the back and forth.
21 Mr. Courtright has received a request for
22 the space from the building manager and from
23 the city solicitor and that's part of the
24 back and forth. So I agree with the motion,
25 I'd like to get it settled. We want the

1 museum here because it is a valuable asset
2 to the city and I think that's just
3 something that has to be resolved.

4 MR. EVANS: Yeah, the bottom line is
5 that we all agree that we support the
6 museum, now it's a matter of hashing out of
7 the terms that are satisfactory and both
8 parties and it should have done well ahead
9 of the --

10 MR. PERRY: Yeah, before the
11 November lease date.

12 MR. EVANS: So I'm fine with it.

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

15 MR. PERRY: Aye.

16 MR. EVANS: Aye.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

18 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

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

21 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. Just a few
22 more items, I'm still waiting for a response
23 from the mayor on another item which is the
24 termination and dissolution of the Scranton
25 Sewer Authority so I would like to send

1 another letter to the mayor hopeful for a
2 response. We have no written update yet
3 from the Attorney General on a request for
4 the Attorney General's Office to review the
5 sale of the Scranton Sewer Authority. I
6 also would like to send another letter, and
7 again, hope that the mayor responds to this
8 one, it's about the Ethics Board that's in
9 the city. I had sent a letter to the mayor
10 weeks ago on this with whether or not he was
11 going to appoint people to the Ethics Board.
12 There are people that are currently on this
13 board, but the appointment have elapsed so I
14 would like to know from our solicitor if we
15 could have this answer next week. Does
16 council get to appoint people to a board if
17 a certain period of time elapses and no
18 appointments are made by the mayor. And
19 that's all I have. Thank you.

20 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you,
21 Mr. Gaughan. One comment, I see that the
22 Attorney General was busy today, he was very
23 busy in the city today, so we have sent a
24 request to them to further take a look at
25 our request and we are still waiting for an

1 answer to that.

2 In regards to the point Mr. Gaughan
3 brought up about the West Mountain project,
4 I think the best person to talk to would be
5 Mr. King because we have spoken to him in
6 the past regarding PPL's permit and earth
7 permits, so I know Mr. King is up to speed
8 on that before we proceed with the PPL, like
9 I said, Mr. King may already have the
10 answers.

11 A general comment about the capital
12 budget even those it's been tabled. I think
13 it's best described tonight by Business
14 Administrator Bulzoni, in the past the
15 capital budget was more of a wish list,
16 something that garnered a lot of press in
17 the paper for one day, a lot of pie in the
18 sky projects that were not going to be
19 fulfilled, actually this capital budget will
20 be a funded budget for the money to be
21 disbursed and used so it is a true capital
22 budget.

23 In regards to the purchase of the
24 property on Wyoming Avenue, the county
25 already is in possession of a brown field

1 grant from the state. I believe the county
2 has been allotted \$500,000 to do remediation
3 throughout the county, but there are several
4 brown field sites within the county, and it
5 is a project that we had to talk about
6 tonight. It will combine the activity in
7 the city, the county and Scranton tomorrow
8 in approving that process.

9 In terms of the green space being
10 used for a building again, Mr. Evans brought
11 his expertise in this, he has been active in
12 that project and explained, you know, the
13 situation that one of the things that we
14 have been hearing to make downtown more
15 attractive for residential, green space is
16 one of the items that comes up constantly.
17 We also hear requests for grocery stores and
18 more varied entertainment within the city,
19 so this is one of our steps that we can take
20 to help develop the downtown and I think
21 it's a good idea and use for that property.

22 When that property is sold I do
23 believe one of the things that we discussed
24 tonight is if there are any back taxes owed
25 to the city or the school board those taxes

1 will be paid by the seller, so any back
2 taxes will be recuperated on that property.

3 In regards to the Lace Works, that
4 development has received some grants and has
5 received a tax abatement from the city, the
6 county and school board but for the most
7 part and I think it's very important. That
8 project represents mostly private
9 investment, which is a rare anymore. The
10 group that's taken over that project is
11 committed for a success. They are putting
12 their own money on the table which to me
13 shows the true commitment when someone puts
14 their own money on the table.

15 And one more comment in terms of the
16 leases on the DPW equipment, in private
17 industry the lowest price or the cheapest
18 price isn't always the best deal. In this
19 situation I feel that the city has taken a
20 look at what is the best value for the city
21 in terms of refinancing the lease, being
22 able to add more equipment and to stabilize
23 the drain on the budget, so even though if
24 we do pennies and nickels it comes out to be
25 a little more expensive for the city in

1 terms of being the best value for the city I
2 think it may be the wisest choice here.
3 That's it.

4 MS. REED: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION -
5 AN ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
6 OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF
7 SCRANTON TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY ACTIONS TO
8 IMPLEMENT THE CONSOLIDATED SUBMISSION FOR
9 COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS
10 TO BE FUNDED UNDER THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
11 BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM, HOME INVESTMENT
12 PARTNERSHIP (HOME) PROGRAM AND EMERGENCY
13 SOLUTIONS GRANTS (ESG) PROGRAM FOR THE
14 PERIOD BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2018.

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 - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
6 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO APPLY
7 FOR AND EXECUTE A GRANT APPLICATION BY THE
8 CITY OF SCRANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT AND, IF
9 SUCCESSFUL, A GRANT AGREEMENT, AND ACCEPT
10 THE FUNDS RELATED THERETO THROUGH THE BJA FY
11 17 EDWARD BYRNE JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT
12 ("JAG") PROGRAM-LOCAL SOLICITATION IN THE
13 AMOUNT OF \$19,133.00.

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

17 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

18 MR. EVANS: Second.

19 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

20 MR. PERRY: Yes, just on the
21 question, I did some research on this, this
22 is a really neat piece of equipment that we
23 are looking to acquire. This is something
24 that it's a pod that stands up and it just
25 scans a crime scene and accident scene, and

1 it does it in a split second to measurements
2 of a millimeter. It saves so much time.
3 You know, you have accident on the highway,
4 a lot of times they have to be -- you know,
5 it takes -- they have to collect evidence,
6 there could be evidence tampering, this just
7 takes care of everything just like that and
8 to have potential grant money available to
9 take care of this with county help, you
10 know, that's a pretty good tool in the city
11 toolbox to have.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question,
13 I agree with Councilman Perry and I just
14 want to say that the police department and
15 Chief Graziano are to be commended for being
16 consistently, as far I'm concerned, in the
17 last four years ahead of the curve in terms
18 of technology and efficiency and I think
19 this legislation just goes to prove that.
20 Thank you.

21 MR. WECHSLER: All those in favor of
22 introduction 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: 5-D. FOR INTRODUCTION -
5 AN ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
6 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE
7 THE DEED CONVEYING TITLE FROM RSM
8 PROPERTIES, LLC, THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT
9 248-256 WYOMING AVENUE, SCRANTON,
10 PENNSYLVANIA TO THE CITY OF SCRANTON, AS
11 MORE FULLY DESCRIBED IN EXHIBIT "A" ATTACHED
12 HERETO AND MADE
13 A PART HEREOF.

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

17 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

18 MR. EVANS: Second.

19 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

20 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question,
21 I'll be voting to move this to Sixth Order.
22 However, I do have several not questions but
23 I'd like to review some documents that were
24 discussed in the caucus. I would like to
25 see a copy of the settlement agreement

1 between the city and RMS who currently owns
2 the property, Attorney Boyles has agreed to
3 give us a copy of that already.

4 Number two, I would like a copy of
5 the grant application in the amount of
6 \$500,000 in order to rehab this property to
7 a green space, and I'd also like to see if
8 we can get confirmation if there isn't
9 already from DEP that the city can actually
10 use this property as green space. According
11 to Mr. Bulzoni there was several
12 conversations, but I just want confirmation
13 on that.

14 And, finally, I would like to see a
15 copy of the grant application that the
16 county has for remediating brownfields. I'd
17 like an estimate on the cost that it's going
18 to take to remediate this piece of the
19 property in order for the city to be able to
20 make it green space. Thank you.

21 MR. WECHSLER: On the question, just
22 one comment that I had, we did have a
23 hearing to this prior to this issue, but I
24 found it interesting as much criticism as
25 council gets and as much criticism that the

1 city gets in general, the argument for not
2 buying this property is that it's too
3 valuable. The fact that the city has seen
4 development in residential development and
5 business, the argument against the sale is
6 that it's too valuable because it may be
7 used for other interests. I find that very
8 interesting for the fact that a few years
9 ago when there was no interest in downtown
10 Scranton and through several different
11 developments, Mr. Jefferson has made some
12 investments, Mr. Russo made some
13 investments, the medical college has come to
14 town, we really have turned the downtown
15 around in terms of the a place to live and
16 do business. We wish there was more
17 shopping, but there isn't, but over the past
18 15 years or so the downtown has changed into
19 something we are now talking about value and
20 I think that's outstanding.

21 MR. ROGAN: Just to reiterate on
22 this item, I'm very open minded on it, I
23 initially my gut reaction was it's probably
24 not best use of the land. Councilman Evans
25 had a lot of experience with this and the

1 items that he mentioned we have discussed it
2 at length, certainly weigh a lot on my
3 decision, but I do want to talk to some
4 downtown developers to see what their
5 opinions are, neighboring businesses before
6 making a final decision.

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

9 MR. PERRY: Aye.

10 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

11 MR. EVANS: Aye.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

15 MS. REED: 5-E. FOR INTRODUCTION -
16 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
17 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO APPLY
18 FOR AND EXECUTE A GRANT APPLICATION BY THE
19 CITY OF SCRANTON AND, IF SUCCESSFUL, ACCEPT
20 THE FUNDS RELATED THERETO THROUGH THE
21 PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND
22 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (DCED) FOR A LOCAL
23 SHARE ACCOUNT GRANT (GAMING FUNDS-MONROE
24 COUNTY) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$75,000.00 TO BE
25 USED TO DEVELOP A CHESAPEAKE BAY

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POLLUTION REDUCTION PLAN.

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

MR. ROGAN: So moved.

MR. EVANS: Second.

MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question, just a little clarification on what this grant application is going to do. This grant will come from DCED. The total cost of the plan is \$100,000, so the city is committed to \$25,000 towards this project. The total project consists of \$50,000 for the actual creation of the Chesapeake Pollution Reduction Plan, and then \$50,000 in the second half of it for mapping the MS-4 system, which will be a combination of plan reviews, field work and GIS digitizing.

The cost of the plan is based on a scope of the work that was provided by a representative from Arcadis who is doing the storm water study. The city is required by their MS-4 permit, the municipal separate storm water system, sewer system, issued by

1 DEP to prepare this plan, Chesapeake Bay
2 Pollution Reduction Plan. This funding is
3 going to be used to prepare that plan, it's
4 going to include public participation,
5 mapping, identification of pollutants,
6 determining the baseline pollutant loading,
7 determining the amount of pollutants that
8 must be removed, identifying the funding
9 mechanisms and identifying the responsible
10 parties for the operation and maintenance of
11 best management practices. Thank you.

12 MR. WECHSLER: All those in favor of
13 introduction signify by 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-F. FOR INTRODUCTION – A
21 RESOLUTION – AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
22 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND
23 ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH CC CLEANING
24 SERVICES FOR JANITORIAL SERVICES FOR
25 SCRANTON CITY HALL AND THE SCRANTON POLICE

1 HEADQUARTERS FOR A ONE (1) YEAR PERIOD.

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

5 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

6 MR. EVANS: Second.

7 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

8 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question, I am
9 going to be voting to move this along, but I
10 do have a few questions so this legislation
11 the city is going to enter into a contract
12 with the cleaning company for cleaning
13 services, janitorial services in city hall
14 and in the Scranton Police Department
15 headquarters. So this company was the
16 lowest bidder at \$33,540. It's for a
17 one-year period. The services are going to
18 be performed by the company two days a week.
19 My first question is what is the reasoning
20 for having this cleaning company? And I ask
21 that question because according to our
22 budget we have one maintenance man in city
23 hall, we have two janitors according again
24 to the budget so what is the reasoning for
25 having the cleaning company and if they are

1 hired what will the, for example, the
2 Scranton headquarters, Scranton Police
3 Headquarters, what would that person be
4 responsible for during that two-day period
5 the cleaning company will be there? I don't
6 know all of the details so maybe I'm missing
7 something, but on the surface this seems
8 like a waste of money. We have a staff
9 that's employed full-time that should take
10 care of these duties. So, again, I'm sure
11 why we are paying a cleaning company but I
12 would like to find that out before we pass
13 this. Thank you.

14 MR. WECHSLER: All those in favor of
15 introduction signify by 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: SIXTH ORDER. 6-A.

23 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.
24 117, 2017 - AN ORDINANCE - CREATING AND
25 ESTABLISHING SPECIAL CITY ACCOUNT NO.

1 02.229622 ENTITLED "LINDY CREEK FLOOD
2 PROJECT 2017" FOR THE RECEIPT AND
3 DISBURSEMENT OF MATCHING GRANT FUNDS FROM
4 THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT
5 OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ("DEP") FOR
6 REHABILITATION ASSISTANCE FOR THE LINDY
7 CREEK FLOOD PROJECT.

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

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

12 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

15 MR. PERRY: Aye.

16 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

17 MR. EVANS: Aye.

18 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

21 MS. REED: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR
22 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE -
23 FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 113,
24 2017 - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 65,
25 2016, AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED "GENERAL CITY

1 OPERATING BUDGET 2017" BY TRANSFERRING
2 \$464,861.26 FROM ACCOUNT NO. 01.380.38000
3 (MISCELLANEOUS REVENUE OTHER-NOT CLASSIFIED)
4 TO ACCOUNT NO. 01.011.00078.4550 (DEPARTMENT
5 OF PUBLIC SAFETY-BUREAU OF FIRE CAPITAL
6 EXPENDITURES) BY INCREASING FUNDING IN THE
7 ABOVE REVENUE AND CORRESPONDING EXPENSE
8 ACCOUNTS TO UTILIZE ADDITIONAL REVENUE
9 RECEIVED FROM DCED, LSA GRANTS FOR AERIAL
10 FIRETRUCK (\$330,142.00) AND PPL COMMERCIAL
11 REBATE PROGRAM (ACT 129) FUNDS
12 (\$134,719.26).

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

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

19 MR. ROGAN: Second.

20 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?
21 Roll call, please?

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

23 MR. PERRY: Yes.

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

25 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

2 MR. EVANS: Yes.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

4 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

6 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby

7 declare Item 7-A legally and lawfully

8 adopted.

9 MS. REED: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION BY
10 THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION - FILE
11 OF THE COUNCIL NO. 114, 2017 - AMENDING FILE
12 OF THE COUNCIL NO. 107, 2017, AN ORDINANCE
13 ENTITLED "APPROVING THE TRANSFER OF A
14 RESTAURANT LIQUOR LICENSE CURRENTLY OWNED BY
15 JOAN HUDAK T/D/B/A SEVEN SISTERS TAVERN, 814
16 SUSQUEHANNA AVENUE, OLYPHANT, LACKAWANNA
17 COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, LICENSE NO. R-3527
18 TO CFM BEER BRICK, LLC FOR USE AT 337 WEST
19 MARKET STREET, SCRANTON, LACKAWANNA COUNTY,
20 PENNSYLVANIA AS REQUIRED BY THE PENNSYLVANIA
21 LIQUOR CONTROL BOARD" TO CORRECT A
22 TYPOGRAPHICAL ERROR IN THE LIQUOR LICENSE
23 NUMBER IN THE SECOND WHEREAS CLAUSE AND THE
24 NOW THEREFORE CLAUSE TO READ "LIQUOR LICENSE
25 NO. R-3527".

1 MR. WECHSLER: As Chairperson for
2 the Committee on Rules, I recommend final
3 passage of Item 7-B.

4 MR. ROGAN: Second.

5 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?
6 Roll call, please?

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

8 MR. PERRY: Yes.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

10 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

12 MR. EVANS: Yes.

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

14 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

16 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby
17 declare Item 7-B legally and lawfully
18 adopted.

19 MS. REED: 7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION BY
20 THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE - FOR ADOPTION -
21 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 115, 2017 - AMENDING
22 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 60, 2016, AN
23 ORDINANCE ENTITLED "GRANTING LOCAL ECONOMIC
24 REVITALIZATION TAX ASSISTANCE TO A PROPERTY
25 LOCATED AT ALBRIGHT AND GLEN AVENUES AND

1 IDENTIFIED AS PIN NO.'S 13420-060-017 AND
2 13420-050-028 OWNED BY LACE BUILDING
3 AFFILIATES LP AND SETTING FORTH AMOUNTS OF
4 TAX ABATEMENTS FOR EACH YEAR FOR TEN YEARS"
5 FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE TO CORRECT THE FILE OF
6 THE COUNCIL NUMBER IN THE SECOND WHEREAS
7 CLAUSE TO FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 37.

8 MR. WECHSLER: What is the
9 recommendation of the Chairperson for the
10 Committee on Finance?

11 MR. EVANS: As Chairperson for the
12 Committee on Finance, I recommend final
13 passage of Item 7-C.

14 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

17 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

18 MR. PERRY: Yes.

19 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

20 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

21 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

22 MR. EVANS: Yes.

23 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

25 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

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

4 MS. REED: 7-D. FOR CONSIDERATION
5 BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS - FOR
6 ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 184, 2017 -
7 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE
8 CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A
9 CONTRACT WITH REILLY ASSOCIATES CONSULTING
10 ENGINEERS FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES-TEMPORARY
11 CULVERT IMPROVEMENTS FOR MEADOWBROOK CREEK
12 STORM WATER PROJECT.

13 MR. WECHSLER: What is the
14 recommendation of the Chairperson for the
15 Committee on Public Works?

16 MR. GAUGHAN: As Chairperson for the
17 Committee on Public Works, I recommend final
18 passage of Item 7-D.

19 MR. ROGAN: Second.

20 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?
21 Roll call, please?

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

23 MR. PERRY: Yes.

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

25 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

2 MR. EVANS: Yes.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

4 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

6 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby

7 declare Item 7-D legally and lawfully

8 adopted.

9 MS. REED: 7-E. FOR CONSIDERATION BY
10 THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS - FOR ADOPTION
11 - RESOLUTION NO. 185, 2017 - AUTHORIZING THE
12 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS
13 TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A GOVERNMENT
14 OBLIGATION CONTRACT BETWEEN KANSAS STATE
15 BANK OF MANHATTAN (OBLIGEE) AND THE CITY OF
16 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA (OBLIGOR) FOR THE
17 PURCHASE OF ONE (1) 2018 MACK GU813 WITH 25
18 YARD PACKER, ONE (1) 2018 MACK GU812 WITH A
19 20 YARD PACKER, FOUR (4) FREIGHTLINER 108 SD
20 TRUCKS (MOUNTAIN) WITH SNOW PLOW EQUIPMENT
21 AND REFINANCING OF CONTRACT #3346397 FOR THE
22 FOUR (4) 2015 GU813 REFUSE PACKERS FOR THE
23 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS.

24 MR. WECHSLER: What is the
25 recommendation of the Chairperson for the

1 Committee on Public Works?

2 MR. GAUGHAN: As Chairperson for the
3 Committee on Public Works, I recommend final
4 vote of Item 7-E.

5 MR. ROGAN: Second.

6 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

7 MR. PERRY: Yes, on the question.
8 We talked a little bit about this already
9 tonight. And I'm glad Mr. Bulzoni came in
10 to caucus today and answered some of our
11 questions on this. Initially, when I saw
12 that the interest rate increase on
13 refinance, you know, that didn't really sit
14 well with me. To be honest, I didn't
15 understand why we would be doing something
16 like that. As we got into it and we got,
17 you know, the explanation, first of all,
18 it's needed equipment, we need to get that
19 to the DPW not only so they are safe but so
20 they can adequately do their job for the
21 rest of us and provide the service. That
22 being said, if we wait and we don't
23 renegotiate this lease and extend it out and
24 we start a new lease or wait the interest
25 rates, if anybody has noticed what's going

1 on nationally with the feds, they are moving
2 their rates up so eventually that's going to
3 trickle down to lease rates and regular
4 consumer rates so we will be looking
5 something north of 4 percent if we did go
6 out and wait and hesitate on this.

7 So, you know, he does feel that it's
8 still a reasonable rate, under 4 percent, if
9 we are to wait it will be over 4 percent
10 next time and it would cost us more in the
11 long run, so for that, reasoning and
12 rationale, I'll be voting "yes" for this.

13 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.
14 I think this is money well spent. The
15 bottom line is we need the equipment. We
16 are either going to buy it today or buy it
17 at some point in the future or we are going
18 to spend money on fixing up the equipment so
19 this makes sense, I think it nearly
20 completes the equipment overhaul in the DPW
21 and I'm particularly pleased at purchasing
22 some additional snowplow equipment as we do
23 need that as well. Thank you.

24 MR. WECHSLER: Yeah, the important
25 thing in this, as Mr. Gaughan just

1 mentioned, is the four snow plows. One
2 thing that we said we were going to do after
3 the blizzard happened, we were going to make
4 sure that we had wherever we can to put
5 proper equipment in place to get into some
6 of the harder areas, particularly some of
7 the alleys, East Mountain, some of the dead
8 ends that didn't get plowed until later on
9 during the snowstorm, so I think that this
10 is a good step to make sure that we are more
11 prepared for snow. I would love for it to
12 stay just like it is and never snow again,
13 but we know that's not true, so I think this
14 is a good plan.

15 MR. ROGAN: Just to be clear, I
16 support the acquisition of the new equipment
17 as well. It is sorely needed, but I don't
18 agree with lumping and refinancing older
19 equipment into this package. I don't think
20 it makes sense, I think we should -- the
21 city should do the purchase as a whole. I
22 don't like the idea of refinancing older
23 equipment that the city is responsible for
24 maintaining, but I do appreciate the
25 business administrator coming in and giving

1 his explanation even though I do disagree
2 with him on this case I appreciate him
3 coming in.

4 MR. WECHSLER: Roll call, please?

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

6 MR. PERRY: Yes.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

8 MR. ROGAN: No.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

10 MR. EVANS: Yes.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

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

17 MS. REED: 7-F. FOR CONSIDERATION
18 BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY - FOR
19 ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 186, 2017 -
20 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE
21 CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A
22 GOVERNMENT OBLIGATION CONTRACT BETWEEN
23 MUNICIPAL LEASING CONSULTANTS, LLC (OBLIGEE)
24 AND THE CITY OF SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA
25 (OBLIGOR) FOR THE ACQUISITION OF A NEW 2017

1 SUTPHEN SP100 ARIEL PLATFORM TRUCK FOR THE
2 CITY OF SCRANTON FIRE DEPARTMENT.

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

6 MR. PERRY: As Chair for the
7 Committee on Public Safety, I recommend
8 final passage of Item 7-F.

9 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

13 MR. PERRY: Yes.

14 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

15 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

16 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

17 MR. EVANS: Yes.

18 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

19 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

20 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

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

24 MS. REED: 7-G. FOR CONSIDERATION BY
25 THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY - FOR

1 ADOPTION – RESOLUTION NO. 187, 2017 –
2 RATIFYING AND APPROVING THE EXECUTION AND
3 SUBMISSION OF THE GRANT APPLICATION BY THE
4 CITY OF SCRANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT TO THE
5 PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND
6 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (DCED) FOR A LOCAL
7 SHARE ACCOUNT GRANT (GAMING FUNDS-MONROE
8 COUNTY) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$83,907.00 FOR THE
9 PURCHASE OF SEVENTY-FIVE (75) TASERS FOR THE
10 SCRANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT PATROL DIVISION.

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

14 MR. PERRY: As Chair for the
15 Committee on Public Safety, I recommend
16 final passage of Item 7-G.

17 MR. ROGAN: Second.

18 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?
19 Roll call, please?

20 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

21 MR. PERRY: Yes.

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

23 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

25 MR. EVANS: Yes.

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

2 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

4 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby
5 declare Item 7-G legally and lawfully
6 adopted.

7 MS. REED: 7-H. FOR CONSIDERATION
8 BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY - FOR
9 ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 188, 2017-
10 ACCEPTING A ONE THOUSAND (\$1,000.00) DOLLAR
11 DONATION FROM MR. AND MRS. JAMES STEWART
12 PRESENTED TO THE CITY OF SCRANTON POLICE
13 DEPARTMENT FOR THE K-9 UNIT.

14 MR. WECHSLER: What is the
15 recommendation of the Chairperson for the
16 Committee on Public Safety?

17 MR. PERRY: As Chairperson for the
18 Committee on Public Safety, I recommend
19 final passage of Item 7-H.

20 MR. ROGAN: Second.

21 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

22 MR. PERRY: Yes, just quickly on the
23 question, I just want to personally thank
24 Mr. and Mrs. Stewart for their ongoing
25 generosity to the canine unit. Canines are

1 a valuable part of our city and our police
2 department and their generosity definitely
3 doesn't go unnoticed. Thank you.

4 MR. WECHSLER: Roll call, please?

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

6 MR. PERRY: Yes.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

8 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

10 MR. EVANS: Yes.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

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

17 MS. REED: 7-I. FOR CONSIDERATION
18 BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT -
19 FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 189, 2017 -
20 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE
21 CITY OFFICIALS TO APPLY FOR AND EXECUTE A
22 GRANT FOR THE REDEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE
23 CAPITAL PROGRAM (RACP) THROUGH THE
24 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA'S OFFICE OF THE
25 BUDGET IN THE AMOUNT OF ONE MILLION

1 (\$1,000,000.00) DOLLARS; ACCEPTING AND
2 DISBURSING THE GRANT; AND COORDINATE THE USE
3 OF THE GRANT FUNDS WITH "SCRANTON-CHERRY,
4 LP" FOR THE PROJECT TO BE NAMED THE
5 "SCRANTON COUNSELING CENTER."

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

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

12 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

16 MR. PERRY: Yes.

17 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

18 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

19 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

20 MR. EVANS: Yes.

21 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

22 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

23 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

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

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adopted.

Before we adjourn, I just want to thank Ms. Jefferies. We don't usually get thank you notes or congratulations so this will have a special place in council history.

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

MR. ROGAN: Motion to adjourn.

MR. WECHSLER: Meeting adjourned.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER