

SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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HELD:

Thursday, September 22, 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. I have one
14 announcement, council will hold a work
15 session next Thursday, September 22, at 5:30
16 p.m. with the pave cut inspector to
17 discussion pave cuts procedures due to the
18 numerous projects occurring in the city by
19 utility companies.

20 Also, Item 6-A, the 2017 Action Plan
21 on tonight's agenda will be tabled after
22 it's read in order for OECD to comply with
23 the 30-day comment period as required by
24 HUD. The legislation can expected to be
25 finally acted upon and adopted on October

1 27.

2 Dispense with the reading of the
3 minutes.

4 MS. REED: THIRD ORDER. 3-A.
5 MINUTES OF THE SCRANTON FIREFIGHTERS PENSION
6 COMMISSION MEETING HELD AUGUST 17, 2016.

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

9 MS. REED: 3-B. MINUTES OF THE
10 NON-UNIFORM MUNICIPAL PENSION BOARD MEETING
11 HELD AUGUST 17, 2016.

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

14 MS. REED: 3-C. AGENDA FOR THE
15 NON-UNIFORM MUNICIPAL PENSION BOARD MEETING
16 HELD SEPTEMBER 14, 2016.

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

19 MS. REED: 3-D. MINUTES OF THE
20 SCRANTON POLICE PENSION COMMISSION MEETING
21 HELD AUGUST 17, 2016.

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

24 MS. REED: 3-E. MINUTES OF THE
25 COMPOSITE PENSION BOARD MEETING HELD AUGUST

1 17, 2016.

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

4 MS. REED: 3-F. BERKHEIMER REPORT
5 AUGUST 2016 FOR LACKAWANNA TAX COLLECTION
6 DISTRICT.

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

9 MS. REED: 3-G. CONTROLLER'S REPORT
10 FOR MONTH ENDING AUGUST 31, 2016.

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

13 MS. REED: 3-H. TAX ASSESSOR'S
14 RESULTS REPORT FOR HEARING DATE HELD AUGUST
15 31, 2016.

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

18 MS. REED: 3-I. TAX ASSESSOR'S
19 REPORTS FOR HEARING DATES TO BE HELD OCTOBER
20 6 AND OCTOBER 12, 2016.

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

23 MS. REED: 3-J. LACKAWANNA COUNTY
24 PLANNING COMMISSION SUBDIVISION AND LAND
25 DEVELOPMENT EVALUATION REPORTS REVIEWED

1 SEPTEMBER 13, 2016.

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

6 MR. EVANS: I have one. I just like
7 to make another announcement that as a
8 reminder the second payment is now due for
9 the refuse bills. It is payable by
10 September 30 to avoid penalty and also
11 remind everybody beginning next year in 2017
12 if the entire bill is paid by the end of May
13 2017 it will be a 10 percent discount.

14 MR. GAUGHAN: And I have one,
15 Lackawanna County Commissioners Pat O'Malley
16 and Jerry Notarianni and Laureen Cummings
17 and the County's Office of Environmental
18 Sustainability and the Pennsylvania DEP will
19 provide Lackawanna County residents with an
20 opportunity to recycle used tires at the
21 Lackawanna County Recycling Center located
22 at 3400 Boulevard Avenue in Scranton. For
23 our county this will be Wednesday, October
24 12 through Saturday, October 15, from 8 to 3
25 p.m. on Wednesday, and on Sunday from 8 a.m.

1 to 11 a.m., so if anybody has any tires they
2 would like to recycle that's the time to do
3 it thanks.

4 MR. WECHSLER: Anyone else?

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

7 MR. WECHSLER: Andrew, I'm sorry, I
8 can't read the last signature. Oh, Andy
9 Sbaraglia.

10 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,
11 citizen of Scranton, fellow Scrantonian.
12 Was there a fee attached to the recycling of
13 the tires?

14 MR. GAUGHAN: Let me check. Yes, \$2
15 per tire for tires 13 by 16 and \$3 per tire
16 for 17 by 20.

17 MR. SBARAGLIA: Yeah, that was
18 important.

19 MR. GAUGHAN: Yeah, sorry, I missed
20 that. Not as sharp as you, Andy.

21 MR. SBARAGLIA: Kind of forget that.
22 Let's talk a little about 7-C that has to do
23 with the lighting contract and the borrowing
24 for the lighting contract. No one really
25 can dispute that the waive of the future

1 isn't LEDs. That isn't the problem with it,
2 it's the payback time. We are a distressed
3 city and we got to wait 10 to 12 years
4 before we break even with this deal. It's
5 like -- plus, we are going to lose the
6 liquid fuel tax that's going to be poured
7 into pay for this project. That tax usually
8 goes for roads. I guess you can use it for
9 almost anything because you are getting away
10 with it for lighting, but we just did the
11 LEDs, we really didn't need to get into this
12 now. In the future maybe, but not now. The
13 payback is too long. I'll be dead long
14 before you even break even with them lights,
15 and a lot of people in this city will also
16 join me, but that's the way it goes. Why
17 they did it, I don't know, but you didn't
18 even vote unanimous when you voted on it,
19 you had some disagreement amongst you.

20 Now, let's talk about the parking
21 because that's awful, awful important. I
22 have the 2012 budget, which you know has to
23 be balanced as law requires all budgets to
24 be balanced, and it gives the list of how
25 much money we gave to this company from our

1 treasury not counting everything else that
2 was given to them, just from our treasury.
3 It measured parking tickets, we used to get
4 around 700,000 for it, that was yellow.
5 White was about 35,000. Permits was another
6 25,000. Meters 1,400,000 plus parking
7 spaces that used -- different people that
8 had lots 50,000, came to somewhere like
9 \$2,210,500 back when this was printed. Now
10 there has been raises in the fees, but let's
11 look at basically the whole system. You
12 went and paid off the bank that the Parking
13 Authority loaned out so they couldn't
14 actually put a lien against this deal that
15 came later. You didn't pay off this loan
16 for the greatness of the city but to clear
17 your path for the garage, whatever you want
18 to call it, I call it a giveaway. The man
19 didn't put up a penny of his money so we in
20 turn give him a lease that he was able to
21 borrow on, so really in a sense we gave the
22 man the \$28 million that he got from our
23 good nature people here and then when we
24 went out and borrowed more money to makeup
25 the difference would take all the stranded

1 debt, what I all idiocracy. If yous people
2 were here, well, maybe Mr. Rogan was the
3 only one that remembered, when they came
4 before council and wanted the same deal that
5 you gave this private individual, the
6 Parking Authority wanted and it was
7 rejected, okay?

8 MR. ROGAN: The Parking Authority
9 wanted to buy the meters.

10 MR. SBARAGLIA: What difference?

11 MR. ROGAN: A completely different
12 deal.

13 MR. SBARAGLIA: So what did you do?
14 You leased the meters. It's the same damn
15 thing. We ain't going to get a penny from
16 them no matter what owns hem and then you
17 turned around and sold a garage for a \$1
18 that was worth a heck a lot more than a
19 dollar and then you went out and leased more
20 parking spaces in the mall, which couldn't
21 fill -- in all of the garages you couldn't
22 fill them anyway but you needed more, bend
23 other backwards and then now you want to
24 angle parking so they get more meters in and
25 maybe this -- if you ever went down to Penn

1 Avenue it's not fun parking there, really.
2 I don't blame Delta Medix for moving out
3 because that's the worst place to park.
4 Okay, five minutes enough.

5 MR. WECHSLER: Les Spindler.

6 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening,
7 Council, Les Spindler, city resident and
8 homeowner and taxpayer. Two weeks ago when
9 I was here talking about the terrible job
10 that the utilities are doing on the streets
11 I neglected to talk about PennDOT not hiring
12 competent contractors to pave our city
13 streets. Last year Main avenue was paved
14 and there are manhole covers and shutoffs,
15 each below the street surface. They are as
16 bad as hitting potholes. It's terrible.
17 There is one on the corner of Jackson Street
18 and North Main. I hit that awhile back, I
19 thought my car was going to fall apart.
20 It's ridiculous. There is a couple in front
21 of Rite Aid on Main Avenue, also. They are
22 all over, all over Main Avenue.

23 MR. ROGAN: That's the worst one.
24 It's right by my house.

25 MR. SPINDLER: The one on Jackson

1 Street is terrible. It's got to be three or
2 four inches below the surface. Totally
3 incompetent. These things got to be fixed.
4 It's worse than hitting a pothole.

5 Okay, on a good note, I was glad to
6 see that Delta Medix is moving into what
7 used to be the mall, the old Bon-Ton store.
8 I think that's -- in one way it's a good
9 thing and another way I'd like Mr. Basalyga
10 to look and I wish he would start
11 concentrating on getting some retail stores
12 in that mall. We are getting people in the
13 mall but there is nothing for them to do in
14 there. If there were retail stores to shop
15 in then we would get more business in the
16 city. I mean, you got the gym, you got kids
17 in the college, there is no where for them
18 to shop in the mall. No where for young
19 kids to shop in this city. Everything moved
20 out of the city. I think he should
21 concentrate on getting some retail stores in
22 there. I think it would be a lot better.

23 He's behind schedule, also. The
24 marketplace was supposed to be open by
25 summer and not even close to being open.

1 The theatre was supposed to open, that's not
2 ready yet either so I do like what he is
3 doing but I hope he gets some retail stores
4 in there.

5 And lastly, Councilman Evans
6 mentioned the illegal garbage tax, which
7 I've talked about for years, we shouldn't
8 have to pay anything next year. I talked
9 about this before, it was put in for the
10 tipping fees to be paid off, they would be
11 paid up at the end of this year, we
12 shouldn't have to pay that illegal tax any
13 more. It's ridiculous. I thought you
14 people were going to try to do something
15 about it but it seems like you are just like
16 all of the last councils.

17 MR. EVANS: There is a study --

18 MR. SPINDLER: We are going to have
19 keep paying and paying and paying.

20 MR. EVANS: There is a study in
21 process to find out what the true costs then
22 we'll make a determination after that.

23 MR. SPINDLER: We shouldn't have to
24 pay it. It was put in to pay off the
25 tipping fees. We won't have to pay any

1 tipping fees anymore so why do we have to
2 pay it? We pay our taxes for that, to have
3 our garbage collected. It's illegal. I
4 mentioned that until I'm blue in the face
5 but nobody listens. It's illegal. We
6 shouldn't have to pay it. That's why we pay
7 taxes. That's all I have tonight. Thank
8 you.

9 MR. ROGAN: Just one comment on the
10 PennDOT issues, I did speak with PennDOT
11 regarding the numerous issues at that
12 intersection on Main Avenue, in particular,
13 the lack of the traffic device, a red light
14 or any signal coming out of Brunetti's,
15 well, coming out of Family Dollar, the old
16 Brunetti's. Again, this week traveling to
17 city hall I saw another person pulling out
18 onto Main Avenue where there is no light so
19 I did speak with the safety officer
20 regarding that and the condition of Main
21 Avenue, and also the press officer trying to
22 see some dates as far as scheduling a caucus
23 regarding the flooding in the Keyser Valley
24 area.

25 MR. WECHSLER: Joan Hodowanitz.

1 MS. HODOWANITZ: Joan Hodowanitz,
2 Scranton resident and taxpayer. The City's
3 annual independent audit is now 115 days
4 late. However, I noted in the August
5 controller's report that the auditors, SB &
6 Company were paid \$21,000 in the month of
7 August which would suggest to me that the
8 audit is completed, can you give me a status
9 on the audit?

10 MR. WECHSLER: It is not completed
11 yet but it is getting put together to be
12 done in time for the budget.

13 MS. HODOWANITZ: Okay. I also noted
14 in the August controller's report that
15 Rainey & Rainey got another \$3,000. Let's
16 hope that this will be the last year that
17 their services will be required.

18 What I haven't seen, also, is the
19 Auditor General's aggregate audit of the
20 pension funds, has anyone else seen the
21 report come out?

22 MR. WECHSLER: No, we were told we
23 were going to get it within two weeks and I
24 think today is the second week.

25 MS. HODOWANITZ: Because I have been

1 checking online and it's not posted.

2 MR. WECHSLER: They've assured us
3 that it will be available when it comes out.

4 MS. HODOWANITZ: It's supposed to go
5 on their website. Once it's posted it's a
6 public document. I know that you don't have
7 the entire list of all of the 108 loans that
8 are due to the city, I do hope that there is
9 a number high enough to encompass that
10 total, I fear that is going to be a very
11 high number. Any idea, Mr. Rogan, when that
12 might be coming out to --

13 MR. ROGAN: Well, I did request OECD
14 the report on all loans within the city, but
15 108 is a separate program, the only
16 delinquent 108 we are currently paying is
17 the Boscov loan. The other programs, the
18 other loans that many of them are delinquent
19 were through other programs so they don't
20 come out of our programming account, but
21 they don't come out of our block, but it is
22 program income we lose so we can't loan it
23 out for other projects.

24 MS. HODOWANITZ: Okay. I have heard
25 that the mayor was working on his state of

1 the city address, does anybody have a
2 projected date on when he might present
3 that?

4 MR. WECHSLER: They are waiting to
5 get, as best they can, final review on the
6 Sewer Authority sale.

7 MS. HODOWANITZ: Okay. And I
8 compliment you, Mr. Wechsler, again, you
9 came to the Sewer Authority's meeting last
10 night, the briefing on the easements for the
11 general public. I was not positively
12 impressed by Attorney Paul Walker's, shall
13 we say his attitude and remarks to the
14 general public. I personally have nothing
15 to did with the easements, it's not
16 effecting me as a homeowner, but I can
17 understand the anxiety that many of those
18 people in the audience were feeling and I
19 thought they had a very valid suggestion
20 that the Sewer Authority should rewrite the
21 letter, include the attachments which were
22 not present in the first mailing, send them
23 back to the 600 owners with a reasonable
24 time window for them to sign off on the
25 easement.

1 You know, to get a letter like that
2 where attachments were missing, number one,
3 where it was written in a legal ease which
4 would almost require them to hire a lawyer
5 to explain it to them, which might cost more
6 than the \$100 he was offering, I thought it
7 was very arrogant of him the way it was
8 presented. I understand that they are
9 trying to complete this sale of the Sewer
10 Authority and they're obligated to
11 Pennsylvania American Water to get this
12 done, but I wasn't impressed by that and I
13 think he did not serve the taxpayers well
14 which underlines the whole problem with
15 people appointed to authorities, they do not
16 answer to the taxpayers. They are appointed
17 by either a mayor or county commissioner and
18 once appointed they are independent and it's
19 almost like a fire and forget cruise
20 missile. God forbid they hit the wrong
21 target. And keep in mind, too, that these
22 authorities and boards and commissions often
23 have their hands on very big budgets. Right
24 now Colts has still got to pay \$6 million
25 back to PennDOT for the ridership numbers

1 which were inflated over the years, look at
2 what happened with the pensions and the
3 double pensions. This is another example of
4 authorities existing who do not answer to
5 the voters and to the public and that's why
6 I was very happy to see you there that, at
7 least you were representing City Council and
8 the City of Scranton. Thank you.

9 MR. WECHSLER: Lenny Serebo.

10 MR. SEREBO: Lenny Serebo, Scranton
11 homeowner. Mr. Rogan, I didn't quite catch
12 what you were saying about the flooding
13 problem in the Keyser Valley there that's
14 why I'm here?

15 MR. ROGAN: As I mentioned, I think
16 it was about two weeks ago, we would like to
17 have a large meeting with many stakeholders
18 to try and address that issue. Mr. Spindler
19 brought up issues with PennDOT and I did
20 mention I was in contact with PennDOT
21 regarding issues that he brought up as well
22 as the flooding issue as many residents seem
23 to think it's gotten a lot worse since the
24 Keyser Avenue project has been completed.

25 MR. SEREBO: Can give you pictures

1 of the flooding?

2 MR. ROGAN: Sure.

3 MR. SEREBRO: Just a few pictures.
4 You guys can keep the papers, but that's
5 just from the last storm we had overnight.
6 That's what I woke up in the morning to.
7 That's what I constantly wake up to. There
8 is no drainage there, or very minimal, and
9 that's why it just comes down the streets
10 and floods people's yards.

11 Now, that's right, last time I was
12 here they talked about having a meeting at
13 the Keyser Valley Community Center so when
14 is the meeting?

15 MR. ROGAN: That's what my
16 conversation with PennDOT was about.

17 MR. SBARAGLIA: That's what we keep
18 hearing all the time but there is never any
19 dates.

20 MR. ROGAN: There will be a date, I
21 promise you that.

22 MR. SEREBRO: How about that
23 drainage pipe is in those pictures there
24 that's just blocked. Last time when I was
25 here you suggested that, okay, let's get it

1 flushed and that may not solve the problem,
2 but I'm sure it's going to alleviate it so
3 that's what I'm wondering, too, about you
4 know what a couple of blocks up, a couple of
5 blocks that way they are flushing but they
6 won't do that one and I have had it -- I
7 have spoken -- I have left numerous messages
8 with the mayor's office, the state
9 representative Marty Flynn I spoke to him
10 personally and PennDOT, too, I spoke to a
11 representative from PennDOT which looked
12 into the problem and said there is nothing
13 that PennDOT can do, that was the reply and
14 I have the guy's name at the house but I
15 don't have it with me.

16 I have had DPW there, the
17 supervisors and all of that, Scranton Sewer
18 Authority supervisors, they all come and
19 they look at it and they say, yeah, if we
20 can flush it, but nothing ever gets done.
21 I'm telling you a couple of blocks down the
22 street they are flushing and they are there
23 like a couple of times a week it's a common
24 thing. I even asked them how come you are
25 here all of the time, what's been -- what

1 are you doing and he told me it's roots that
2 grow, but I don't understand why they can't
3 come over a couple more blocks and take care
4 of that drain age pipe. I know that would
5 alleviate some of the problem, but I'm
6 telling you, you know, like my cellar in my
7 house that I have a classic car in my garage
8 that you know what I can live with the
9 flooding in the garage, but now this year it
10 comes in the house and my cellar and
11 literally gushes from the walls and it
12 shoots out a foot or two, next thing I'm
13 worried about my fuse boxes and a couple of
14 feet down from it, what do I do if sparks
15 start flying? All you could do is run.

16 But it's always passing the buck,
17 like, you know, we got to look into it, we
18 got to contact this person, we got to
19 contact that person. You can see the road
20 lifted about a month ago there, I watched
21 the street sweeper come down to Merrifield
22 and Lafayette and turn, you know, but there
23 is right at the intersection right there and
24 that's an old picture already after we had
25 those floods that came every couple of days,

1 you know. Nowadays the cars keep driving
2 over it it's much worse than in the picture
3 there.

4 So pretty much just maybe to get
5 something happening I'm wondering about
6 flushing that drain?

7 MR. ROGAN: We did send
8 correspondence to the Sewer Authority
9 requesting that they look into flushing that
10 out as a tentative thing. It's only a
11 temporary solution. We did request that.

12 MR. SEREBRO: That's right.

13 MR. ROGAN: I think it was two weeks
14 ago when you were here previously, I don't
15 believe we received a correspondence back
16 from them.

17 MR. SEREBRO: Well, see, that's what
18 always happens, all of the neighbors up
19 there can tell you the same thing they have
20 been through it, they are doing what I'm
21 doing, you know, like contacting everybody
22 and we are looking into it. Council,
23 please, help us.

24 MR. PERRY: We are going to put a
25 call and do a follow up on that initial

1 letter you sent and I don't know if you plan
2 on hanging out for the entire meeting, if
3 you wanted to afterwards we can talk and
4 exchange numbers and I'll give you the
5 information as soon as I get it.

6 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Serebro, I would
7 like to tell you one thing, we had a problem
8 when the Keyser Avenue project was being
9 done with some routing and traffic and city
10 council was able to get PennDOT here to
11 discuss the issue, took commentary from the
12 neighbors and we were successful in getting
13 changes made to their plan. They were very
14 reluctant to do it while they were here, but
15 through the actions of council we were able
16 to give some pressure to it so we just
17 started on this a few weeks ago and we do
18 have some track record of success in getting
19 some results when other people haven't. I
20 can't promise you that here, but we are kind
21 of like dogs with a bone and we do have a
22 track record of having some success so we
23 are going to work on that.

24 MR. SEREBRO: Thank you.

25 MR. ROGAN: You are right that you

1 said that each agency keeps passing the
2 buck. Many times we contact DPW and they
3 send us to the Sewer Authority and they send
4 us to the state, they send us back, that's
5 why we all need to be in one room, all of
6 the agencies to talk together instead of
7 sending letters back and forth.

8 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening, Council.
9 Dave Dobrzyn, I figured I'd save you some
10 time. Call 1-202-224-3121, call of your
11 congressmen and all your senators and tell
12 them to can their trade packs. And
13 1-202-456-1111 and call the president and
14 tell him to can it, too. You are tired of
15 all of these problems and broke cities and
16 broke social security and broke everything.

17 Once again, the tax office please
18 separate the city bill from the school bill.
19 It would be nice to know what you are
20 paying.

21 And, once again, last week I
22 mentioned about ITT going belly up and one
23 of the things that I noticed about these
24 community colleges and it ties in with this
25 trade packs business, they are training

1 ungodly amounts of people all for the same
2 thing. They have three or four courses,
3 major courses and, I mean, how many of this
4 or that do you need and they don't even tell
5 people, I knew somebody that had a morbid
6 obesity problem and they went through
7 criminal justice and how did you do that?
8 You know, solve the obesity problem first
9 and, I mean, it was a problem. Not knocking
10 the person.

11 But something does have to get done
12 with this flooding. It's just ashame. And
13 last week you give a good speech on that,
14 Joe, and stay on them. Stay on them because
15 they just don't seem to be interested. And
16 another thought popped into my behind when I
17 was down there with all of these easements,
18 Joe, why can't the Sewer authority commit to
19 as long as we have to separate the sewer
20 systems flood and sewer hit to the getting
21 these relocated off of people's properties
22 and under the streets where they belong
23 because I wouldn't be happy if I found out
24 that, you know, I had a bootleg line under
25 my house so I'm stuck with that.

1 frustrating, I mean, I have to start writing
2 my own letters to the editor and remind some
3 of these people just how much we are out
4 from Scranton tax property taxes.

5 And last week Pat mentioned about
6 how much we are out over the mall, we are
7 also out over certain hotels in town and all
8 of these people that were supposed to come
9 here with big deep pockets and just throw
10 money around and that's what the average Joe
11 is told and it didn't happen. They wound up
12 going bankrupt, costing us money time and
13 time again. I'd love to know how much money
14 went down with some of these developers and
15 it's never going to be repaid but there is
16 other places other than the mall is the
17 point. And thank you and have a good night.

18 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening.
19 Marie Schumacher. Tonight I'd like to spend
20 my time on the Scranton Sewer asset sale, or
21 as I call it grand theft government. I
22 still have a real problem wrapping my head
23 around having an authority that we have been
24 told is autonomous and then having the city
25 resolve the sale of the assets for which we,

1 the ratepayers, have paid and invested for
2 the future and use the proceeds for
3 municipal expenses totally unrelated to
4 collecting, treating and disposing of our
5 sewage and storm water.

6 Last night I attended the Scranton
7 Sewer Authority meeting. I would have great
8 difficulty trying to find a single adjective
9 to describe that meeting, but I do believe
10 the gist of it was caught in the headline of
11 Mr. Lockwood's article, "Sewer Authority
12 Explains Why Easements Needed." That's what
13 it was all about, what the Scranton Sewer
14 Authority needs to complete the sale
15 expeditiously as had been promised city
16 council.

17 Now, as an aside, that tidbit about
18 the involvement of you all as a body was
19 quite shocking. Perhaps one of you during
20 motions could tell us when this vote on this
21 posture was taken --

22 MR. WECHSLER: Before you get too
23 far ahead, and I'll give you your time back,
24 we -- I say "we", I requested and I kept on
25 Mr. Barrett to have that public meeting,

1 that's what Mr. Lockwood was commenting
2 about. It was a request from council and
3 myself to have this meeting so people could
4 get information about the easements. It was
5 not --

6 MS. SCHUMACHER: For the meeting not
7 the expediting of the --

8 MR. WECHSLER: Correct.

9 MS. SCHUMACHER: -- okay, thank you.

10 MR. WECHSLER: -- to hold the
11 meeting. I told him that this board would
12 like to have this meeting and he was
13 reluctant to do it and I kept the pressure
14 on him until he finally held the meeting.

15 MS. SCHUMACHER: I stand corrected.
16 Thank you. Okay. The meeting was far, far
17 less than a meeting to inform those effected
18 homeowners, but rather to tell, no, demand
19 the signing of the paperwork giving the
20 Sewer Authority the demanded rights of ways
21 or off to Court we go. The solicitors and
22 the Authority demands are on the top shelf
23 while the needs of the effected homeowners
24 are on the bottom rung, and it's about as
25 upside down of the normal employer/employee

1 relationship as you can get and it's wrong
2 and they have should not have been treated
3 the way they are and while only less than
4 600 homeowners are effected I believe it
5 would behoove all homeowners to read a copy
6 of that letter. The tone was both
7 intimidating, unclear, and incomplete in
8 that exhibits were missing, and apparently
9 only those who have attended meetings and
10 found out that you can go down and make an
11 appeal to have the inclusion of a restored
12 to original condition put onto your deed and
13 in your right-of-way will get that. I think
14 that should be something that's available to
15 all, and even there these homeowners are
16 concerned. We have all seen, I can show you
17 PAWC pave cut that took months and months to
18 be fixed and it still isn't in original
19 condition so if that's how they do our pave
20 cuts how would you feel if those people came
21 onto your property and did some work and,
22 again, you are giving up the right if it
23 goes down the middle of your property and
24 you wanted to put something on there forget
25 about it, it's not your property anymore or

1 your could lose it afterwards.

2 To me, this arrogance should be the
3 final nail in the coffin of the asset sale.
4 Given that we are been told -- the
5 ratepayers will see \$7,650 from this sale
6 over time, which I believe is 30 years, or
7 computes to \$25.50 a year are we really
8 gaining very much? I asked that question.

9 Now, the 32 percent tax increase
10 that was estimated by I believe the business
11 administrator that would have to occur if
12 the asset sale does not go through would
13 provide about \$10.7 million based on this
14 year's budget, and as certainly a world of
15 hurt for a lot of taxpayers. However, it's
16 a lot more much -- it's a lot more than the
17 MMO increase due to the expiration of the
18 state's contribution to our pension fund
19 which I believe is somewhere between four
20 and five million dollars, so if we went that
21 way we could put the balance of that \$10
22 million if, in fact, it turned out to be \$10
23 million into making the pension found
24 healthier and overtime it would become
25 healthier, but over that time they would

1 take the whole 12 years. We would still own
2 the assets of the Scranton Sewer Authority,
3 part of our storm water problem would go
4 away, and I think it's something perhaps
5 worth considering. Thank you.

6 MR. WECHSLER: Anyone else?

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

8 MOTIONS.

9 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Perry?

10 MR. PERRY: Yes, I have a couple of
11 things tonight. The first thing is just to
12 follow up on some housekeeping from last
13 week, a letter did go out to the National
14 Development Council, the DNC, about cameras
15 in their garages and as of yet we haven't
16 heard anything back yet to see if they were
17 going to be doing this, but again, when I
18 find out I'll pass that on.

19 Also, a question was asked if we are
20 going to be continuing the use of Rainey &
21 Rainey in the audit department. As of right
22 now, it appears that we want to keep them on
23 a little longer. When I talked to the
24 business administrator this afternoon his
25 reasoning was it was fairly simple, just

1 think where we were with the audit last year
2 we are you know, it was out of control.
3 This year with the year under our belt we
4 are very close to having that audit come out
5 months and months prior than the year
6 before, but we are still not where we need
7 to be with the audit so we need to have it
8 in a more timely basis and if we do decide
9 to go with this firm again that would be for
10 the sole purpose of tightening up to get it
11 to where we need to be. We still feel like
12 we could do better right now with our audit
13 getting it there so that's the course of
14 action. There would be nothing long-term
15 with this company, we are strictly going on
16 a year-by-year basis right now but nothing
17 set in stone. As of right now, that looks
18 like what we are leaning to do, just
19 continuing to improve on the performance
20 getting our audits out on a timely basis.

21 And lastly, we had a fantastic
22 meeting this afternoon before this with the
23 members of OECD and the community about the
24 CDBG funds and, you know, there is -- I'm
25 not going to read them because Councilman

1 Rogan did it yesterday, but there is dozens.
2 There is a lot of people and a lot of worthy
3 organizations that they really, you know,
4 they need the funds and if they really go
5 right to the community public safety whether
6 it's public safety or parks, Boys and Girls
7 Club, that sort of thing. The two line
8 items that stick out to me that really, you
9 know, get my blood going is the two loans to
10 that we have to guarantee for the Steamtown
11 Mall Partners. The Section 108 loans which
12 we are on the hook to make good and that
13 comes out of CDBG money the total of those
14 two in this turnaround is \$482,000. That's
15 almost a half a million dollars that we have
16 to kick in from the Steamtown Mall Partners.
17 Now, what that means is we have almost a
18 half a million dollars less to give to these
19 organizations and to these people that are
20 looking to put the money directly back in
21 the community. We can't do that. We can't
22 do that this year so, you know, I want to --
23 I want to make an appeal to the Steamtown
24 Mall Partners right here, right now, we
25 supported you when your time in need, and

1 it's time to pay it forward. This money
2 that you are going to pay to make sure your
3 108 loans are good, doesn't go to the
4 general fund, it doesn't sit in the bank and
5 do nothing, that money frees up a half a
6 million dollars for us to put directly back
7 in the community public safety, parks, Boys
8 and Girls Club, I mean, that's where the
9 money you taking the money from. It's from
10 those people, that fund race until they are
11 they can't even stand anymore just to make
12 sure their community and their organizations
13 continue and for us not to have that money
14 is tough. It's tough enough, but not to
15 have money because we have to make good on a
16 loan that we are there, we stepped in when
17 you needed us, and now it's time to repay
18 that and I'm asking Steamtown Mall Partners
19 to make good on that so we can put that
20 money back in our community. Thank you.
21 That's all I have.

22 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Mr.
23 Rogan?

24 MR. ROGAN: Yes. Mr. Perry said it
25 just perfectly and I think we all agree on

1 that this money needs to be repaid back to
2 the city. After last week's meeting a
3 letter was sent to Al Boscov at his
4 department store headquarters in Reading and
5 the letter states, "Dear Mr. Boscov, at the
6 Scranton City Council meeting held Thursday,
7 September 15, 2016, a request was made by
8 Councilman Pat Rogan to send correspondence
9 to your attention. Councilman Rogan would
10 like to know whether or not there will be
11 any future donations made to the City of
12 Scranton as was promised at a caucus held on
13 June 18, 2015."

14 At this point, we'll leave it at
15 that. A letter went out, we'll see if we
16 get a response. If we don't receive a
17 response within the next few weeks, we have
18 to look into what else we can do to put
19 pressure on Mr. Boscov have to pay these
20 loans, unfortunately, and after talking to
21 Attorney Hickey the city can't file suit to
22 have this money paid, so really the only way
23 it will be paid back is out of goodness of
24 Mr. Boscov's heart or by significant public
25 pressure put on him and there is a number of

1 ways to do that. Hopefully, you will read
2 the letter correspondence appropriately and
3 we'll go from there, but it will be an
4 ongoing issue for many, many, many years as
5 Mr. Perry mentioned.

6 Our CDBG allotments, it's a huge
7 chunk of money. We heard from members of
8 North Scranton today looking for additional
9 funding for renovations with the park safety
10 items that need to be done, if we had this
11 money this, you know, this large amount of
12 money we would be able to put more into that
13 program as well as many others throughout
14 the city.

15 Unfortunately, if money wanted to be
16 moved from one category to another to give
17 to one you have to take from another. Our
18 federal dollars are dwindling and getting
19 reduced every year so, again, as I mentioned
20 during the caucus, please for anyone
21 listening that supports all of these
22 programs that I mentioned last week and some
23 that we heard from this week call
24 Congressman Cartright, Senator Toomey,
25 Senator Casey and ask them to continue to

1 support CDBG money for us. I believe all
2 three of them do, but there is much more
3 that needs to be done. These monies really
4 make a difference in the community, but most
5 federal tax dollars a lot of time you don't
6 see them come back but these dollars you do.
7 They really make a difference in
8 neighborhoods, neighborhood police patrols,
9 purchasing a fire engine, paving, demolition
10 of hazardous structures, parks, nonprofits,
11 these are all great programs that will
12 funded and many great programs that,
13 unfortunately, weren't funded so we need to,
14 you, now, we need to keep the pressure on
15 our federal representatives to support that
16 program.

17 Moving onto some positive items
18 actually, the rest of all of my comments are
19 positive which is very nice thing. Had the
20 pleasure of attending the Hill Neighborhood
21 Association meeting last night to talk about
22 a variety of issues, the main reason I was
23 invited was a few weeks back after the
24 passing of Ozzie Quinn we talked about
25 dedicating green space within the Hill

1 Section in his name and we discussed that at
2 the Hill Section they are working on forming
3 a committee to pick a location that would be
4 perfect for that, and I talked to Mayor
5 Courtright, he has agreed that the city can
6 help regarding a plaque, but the wording of
7 the plaque and location shouldn't be decided
8 by the members of council, the mayor or
9 anyone in government, it should be decided
10 by Mr. Quinn's family and by the Hill
11 Neighborhood Association.

12 Also, at that meeting I'd like to
13 congratulate Nicole Pettinato who was
14 elected as the permanent president of the
15 Hill Neighborhood Association. I'm sure she
16 will do a fabulous job. She does have very
17 big shoes to fill, I'm sure she knows, but
18 I'm confident she will do an excellent job.

19 At that meeting a number of
20 citizens' requests were brought to my
21 attention, many of them were still being
22 worked on, but one I do want to give a shout
23 out to is Larry Wynn at the DPW. There was
24 a lingering issue for two years regarding a
25 large piece of glass that was dumped in an

1 alley, and DPW wasn't able to pick it up, it
2 was becoming dangerous, kids were playing
3 and literally within a couple of hours of
4 contacting him that was taken care of so I
5 want to give him a big thank you for that.

6 And, also, I would to like Chief
7 Graziano and Director Hinton and City
8 Inspector Jack Liptai who all worked
9 together regarding condemning a property on
10 Meridian Avenue that has been a nuisance to
11 the neighbors on that block for probably a
12 decade. This building was in such bad
13 condition that there were cockroaches in the
14 house that were leaving and going into the
15 neighbor's houses, so it was in such bad
16 condition they acted very quickly, and the
17 resident contacted me, a couple of days
18 later and actually had taken care of so it's
19 nice to report some good news on these
20 fronts from good work from our department
21 heads, members of the DPW, LIPS and our
22 police department. And that is all for
23 tonight. Thank you.

24 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Mr.
25 Evans.

1 MR. EVANS: Thank you. I was very
2 happy to see the announcement about Delta
3 Medix moving into the mall, actually the
4 Marketplace, I have to get -- stop using
5 the word "mall" because it's no longer a
6 mall, that's a very positive move. You
7 know, when Mr. Basalyga took over the mall
8 or Marketplace he talked about creating
9 mixed use space and that's how that place is
10 going to be successful. You know, a
11 downtown that is vibrant is one that was
12 lots of different uses, not just retail, but
13 restaurants, offices, banks, colleges,
14 schools, etcetera, so I think that's the
15 model he used to be successful at the
16 Marketplace so I'm very happy to hear that.
17 Delta Medix could have gone anywhere. It
18 could have went to Dickson City, it could
19 have went to Dunmore, could have went to
20 Moosic, but they stayed in Scranton and
21 specifically they said downtown, in fact,
22 are adding to what their presence downtown
23 was before so that's a very, very positive
24 statement that was made today.

25 Also, I attended a few meetings this

1 week. At the PEL meeting we talked about,
2 of course, the audit and as Councilman
3 Wechsler mentioned we hope to have that
4 completed prior to the budget or at least
5 prior to final approval of the budget.

6 I also attended a meeting about the
7 tax payments issue or legislation that is
8 being passed on Tuesday with the BA and the
9 Treasurer as well as representative from the
10 Single Tax Office and what we are looking to
11 do is create a simple, seamless process for
12 applicants of the program. The meeting went
13 well, which is they are just waiting for the
14 first applicants when they apply. We expect
15 the application for the abatement to also be
16 dispensed on the city's website. I will
17 keep everybody informed as you move that
18 forward, but it was a very, very good
19 meeting and, you know, sometimes we have to
20 be involved in passing legislation.
21 Sometimes we just can't pass it and then
22 expect it to get done the way we want it to
23 get done, so I was happy we were all able to
24 get together on this.

25 I also attended the sewer meetings,

1 I was sitting behind Joe and Marie to the
2 right in the back and a couple of takeaways
3 from the sewer meeting last night. It was
4 somewhat informative and the problem was,
5 you know, the horse was already out of the
6 barn. I mean, Councilman Wechsler chided
7 the Sewer Authority to have the meeting, but
8 they really should have had the meeting
9 prior to any notices going out.

10 Secondly, Attorney Walker, who
11 represents the Sewer Authority, he made a
12 comment through the night that I thought was
13 interesting he said he was advising the
14 residents that were there to contact their
15 attorney so they could issue a language to
16 the easement to reflect that when work was
17 done on the property that the property would
18 be returned to its original condition.
19 That's a great idea, however, and I think
20 Joe mentioned this himself, that's good
21 advice but why wasn't it on the original
22 letter that went out to the property owners,
23 so that's something we should really look at
24 and why should I as a property owner have an
25 attorney when it's something that could have

1 been in the agreement right off the bat, so
2 I think that's something they should do.
3 Again, possibly, resending all of the
4 letters again instead of threatening eminent
5 domain I think that would be the first thing
6 they should do prior to that course of
7 action.

8 Also, I was at a meeting as a
9 requested by some citizens who were involved
10 in a lot of special events downtown that
11 incorporate vendors as well as Tom Welby who
12 was representing First Friday. I met with
13 them and the BA and the Director of LIPS to
14 discuss revising legislation for peddlers,
15 vendors, etcetera, to make all involved and
16 to make it easier for all involved and to
17 continue to encourage special events and the
18 use of vendors in the downtown. So it was a
19 very productive meeting, we're hoping to
20 have new legislation that will address that
21 come out by the end of November so we can
22 have ready for a big event they we are
23 planning for sometime in the December.
24 That's all I have tonight.

25 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you.

1 Mr. Gaughan?

2 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. Regarding
3 the easements from the Sewer Authority, I
4 wasn't able to attend, unfortunately attend
5 the sewer meeting, but from what I have
6 heard from some of the residents who
7 attended the meeting and what I read in the
8 paper, there has been a complete lack of
9 regard for the people of this city. The
10 ignorance and the arrogance from officials
11 from the Sewer Authority is disgraceful. I
12 can't believe that you would put the onus
13 the residents of the city. It's not their
14 fault and I don't think the attorneys at the
15 Sewer Authority are getting the message
16 clear enough and, quite frankly, you know, I
17 think they need to be told that they are not
18 going to be able to bully their way through
19 this deal. You know, you are not going to
20 bully a 75-year-old person who has lived
21 here their whole life and just expect them
22 to sign a piece of paper so I found the
23 whole thing to be quite a disgrace.

24 Just a few DPW issues, I have been
25 in contact with a resident on West Mountain

1 Road, the 100 block. There is a blocked
2 drain up there. It needs to be pumped out.
3 Water from Newton Township flows down.
4 There's a pipe at the bottom of their
5 driveway and water goes directly across the
6 road to the basin and that road also needs
7 to be patched so we have been in contact
8 with the DPW and the Sewer Authority to try
9 and get that issue taken care of.

10 Also I received some complaints this
11 week about potholes on Crane Street in
12 Minooka and Charlotte Street in North
13 Scranton so we will send that along to the
14 DPW, and I received a call from a neighbor
15 in the 100 block of South Cameron Avenue
16 about a property that we have been working
17 on that has been in terrible condition and
18 finally the bank -- the property was
19 foreclosed and the bank did send someone to
20 cut the grass and clean out the building and
21 make it secure so that was good.

22 Also, I received a call for update
23 on the 300 block of 16th Avenue. They
24 submitted a streetlight petition. We did
25 receive it and we are sending that along to

1 the appropriate department so we'll get an
2 update on that probably in a few weeks. And
3 that is all I have. Thank you.

4 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you,
5 Mr. Gaughan. Since the Sewer Authority made
6 out letters requesting citizens to provide
7 easements for their property access in
8 August, I have been requesting that the
9 Sewer Authority communicate the required
10 information to homeowners so they can make
11 an informed decision on how to proceed with
12 the dealing with this request. I met with
13 Mr. Barrett and attended a meeting of the
14 Sewer Authority Board and have reached out
15 to Mr. Barrett weekly to determine the
16 status of the public meeting that would
17 inform the residents. In response to my
18 request, the meeting was held last night.
19 Only a few of the affected parties attended
20 and I think that was mostly due to the lack
21 of advertising and the short notice provided
22 within the classified section of the
23 Scranton Times. At the meeting last night,
24 it was obvious that the Scranton Sewer
25 Authority needs to do a better job at

1 communicating the particulars of this issue.
2 I would encourage them to prepare another
3 letter to affected homeowners. The
4 threatening language of further legal action
5 should be removed from the correspondence.
6 The new letter should contain a map
7 detailing the location of the sewer lines on
8 the property, and also the letter should
9 contain that if work is required on a sewer
10 line, and I would like to see this language
11 in there, that says the property is restored
12 to its original condition, and further as
13 described by the property owner.

14 I also would like to see a statement
15 in that easement that would say the owner
16 will be exempt from litigation resulting in
17 work injury or property damage while work is
18 being performed on the owner's property.

19 Further examination of this issue
20 leads me to believe that these easements are
21 required to let the utility work on private
22 property. In a case of an emergency, I'm
23 sure that property owners would want utility
24 to fix the problem. We are well aware of
25 Mr. Young's problems getting work done on

1 his property. He is rightfully concerned on
2 granting access protecting himself from
3 litigation. Also, this easement issue
4 should not be expedited because of the
5 impending sale of the Authority. This is an
6 unknown problem that existed for the entire
7 life of the Scranton sewer system. Some
8 lines go as far back as 1861. Many original
9 deeds go back when the Scranton area was
10 part of Luzerne County. It seems
11 unrealistic to correct a 150 year error in
12 eight weeks.

13 I am concerned that if the Authority
14 fails to get the signed easements that it
15 can file requests for condemnation and then
16 that condemnation act would be sufficient
17 for the sale to be complete. As a result,
18 Pennsylvania American Water Corporation
19 would be required to complete the easement
20 for condemnation procedure. This would
21 leave the public to deal with the private
22 company instead of public officials. I
23 don't believe that it's fair or just for
24 homeowners to take money out of their own
25 pocket to pay legal fees to protect their

1 interest against negligence caused by the
2 Authority and their predecessors. It is yet
3 to be determined how these liens will effect
4 property values. Vacant land may become
5 unbuildable if there is an easement on the
6 property.

7 At a minimum, I would suggest that
8 the Authority prepare a new letter for the
9 taxpayers to further explain this issue.
10 Ultimately, I would like the proces to be
11 delayed until there are assurances that the
12 homeowners are protected.

13 The scary part of this issue goes
14 back to the same thing I spoke about last
15 week, this issue has to be looked at
16 independent of the sale of the Sewer
17 Authority. The easements on these
18 properties should have been attained back in
19 the 70's when the sewer system was built,
20 and I'm not sure if it was something that
21 just wasn't paid attention to or we never
22 thought we were going to sell them, but it
23 is something that's going to have to be
24 completed whether the Sewer Authority sale
25 proceeds or not and based upon the comments

1 of the people last night, once again, these
2 are just regular people and there was not
3 one political person there who had a line on
4 their property that was there. These are
5 just people fighting for their rights to be
6 protected and defended.

7 The easements are going to have to
8 granted. We heard tonight about relocating
9 the lines. If you look at the map, that's
10 going to be impossible. A lot of these
11 properties are built on top of lines that
12 are there for generations so separating or
13 rerouting the lines is not practical. Many
14 of them go right under the homes so, once
15 again, I am concerned that the Sewer
16 Authority would just abandon the letter
17 issue, the letter writing campaign, just
18 issue the condemnation and then turn it over
19 to Pennsylvania American Water Company. I'm
20 very concerned about that, so hopefully they
21 will come to some type of understanding on
22 that.

23 That's the by bad news. I do have
24 the positive, also. Getting back to what
25 Mr. Evans said about Delta Medix, Delta

1 Medix was aggressively pursued by several
2 communities in our area. This is a true
3 victory for Scranton and we hear a lot of
4 negatives about us and comments about us as
5 a group, but the fact that the Steamtown
6 Marketplace is now a functioning entity and
7 it's able to be successful in attracting a
8 major company like Delta Medix and also
9 Luzerne Community College, when we asked
10 Mr. Boscov if he was interested in doing
11 something like that he said no. He was only
12 interested in retail and he would not commit
13 to anything like that so, once again, I am
14 very happy that Mr. Basalyga was the
15 successful bidder on the mall, and now that
16 you have some anchors at the other end I
17 think you will see more retail space as the
18 mall moves on towards the Boscov area of the
19 store.

20 Also, I have been contacted by
21 Leslie Collins, the director of Scranton
22 Tomorrow and she asked me to read a letter
23 that Mayor Courtright sent to Mr. Steve
24 Ward, who is the Penn State Master Gardener.
25 The mayor goes on to write: "Dear Mr. Ward,

1 on behalf of the City of Scranton, I would
2 like to thank you for dedicated efforts
3 within the downtown Scranton business
4 district. Penn State master gardeners in
5 partnership with Scranton Tomorrow have made
6 significant strides in improving the
7 downtown curb appeal. Your streetscape
8 efforts, including the seasonal planting in
9 100 downtown city-owned planters,
10 revitalization of the Mulberry Street
11 islands and ongoing maintenance are
12 commendable.

13 Additionally, we thank you for the
14 continuation of your annual donation of that
15 planting of the steps at city hall. We
16 recognize that your organization has
17 provided this service as an in-kind to the
18 City of Scranton and are very grateful for
19 your support and dedication and
20 partnership."

21 And Mrs. Collins also asked me to
22 make this information known about her group.
23 The project has utilized over 1,000
24 volunteers providing 3,000 hours of labor
25 and more than 40,000 annuals planted within

1 the past three years. And, also, with all
2 of this, good stuff, there is also more
3 worked involved. The cleanup date and the
4 winter planting is scheduled for Sunday,
5 November 13, 2016. And I would like to
6 thank Scranton Tomorrow and the Penn State
7 master gardeners. And that's all I have
8 tonight.

9 MR. GAUGHAN: I apologize, I forgot
10 to add one thing.

11 MR. WECHSLER: Go ahead.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: I should have
13 mentioned this earlier, we received a letter
14 from the civil designer and the
15 environmental analysis -- analyst rather,
16 Albert Magnotta and David Osborn, vice
17 president and director of engineering for
18 Labelle Associates, the engineers for the
19 Scranton Sewer Authority, and I just want to
20 read it really quickly. This is relating to
21 the 400 block of Phelps Street and
22 Councilman Wechsler and I were out there at
23 the meeting on September 13, and this letter
24 is written to Eugene Barrett from the Sewer
25 Authority. It says, "Dear Mr. Barrett, on

1 Tuesday, September 13, we met with
2 Councilman Gaughan and the property owners
3 along the 400 block of Phelps Street at his
4 request along with Councilman Wechsler. The
5 purpose of this meeting was to determine the
6 potential course of action to alleviate the
7 flooding as I identified in our prior
8 correspondence dated August 230, 2016.

9 After taking into consideration the
10 eyewitness accounts and discussions held
11 during said meeting we recommend the
12 following:

13 Number one, to significantly reduce
14 odors and prevent surcharging during wet
15 weather events, the Scranton Sewer Authority
16 should install in-line check valves on the
17 outlook end of the catch basins located
18 immediately upstream of the combined sewer
19 system within the 400 block of Phelps
20 Street. We would recommend a red valve
21 series 3--G or approved equal.

22 Number two, the Scranton Sewer
23 Authority should commence with the
24 inspection and cleaning program of the
25 Pinebrook branch interceptor as identified

1 on the Scranton Sewer Authority's 2015
2 annual operation report.

3 And finally, number three, in
4 accordance with the nine minimum controls
5 program, the Scranton Sewer Authority
6 collection system maintenance personnel
7 should periodically verify that grit or
8 sediment will not accumulate within the
9 inlets along Phelps Street. If grit does
10 begin to build up, the basin should be
11 cleaned as soon as possible.

12 Please note, that though we are
13 aware that these measures will not complete
14 eliminate the drainage issues along the 400
15 block of Phelps Street, it is the extent to
16 which the Scranton Sewer Authority can do to
17 reduce the flooding in lieu of a complete
18 upgrade of the Pinebrook branch intercepting
19 sewer line.

20 To provide further protection to the
21 property owners during wet weather events,
22 the city should perform an investigation on
23 what controls can be put in place in
24 conformance with their MS4 permit for storm
25 water management. Very truly yours," and

1 they go onto sign the letter and the
2 chairman for the Sewer Authority, the mayor,
3 Councilman Wechsler and myself and John
4 Pocius are cc'd on this letter.

5 So I would ask in follow-up if we
6 could check with our city planner and our
7 city engineer on what controls we might be
8 able to put in place to conform with the MS4
9 permit that we hold, and also this might be
10 useful for the gentleman from Keyser Avenue
11 if some sort of correspondence was created
12 and an engineer goes out and looks at the
13 issue over in Keyser Valley.

14 So I just wanted to update everybody
15 on that and we'll continue to follow up with
16 the people from the 400 block of Phelps
17 Street. Thank you.

18 MS. REED: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION -
19 AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL
20 NO. 32, 2016, AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED
21 "APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION
22 OF CERTAIN PROPERTIES BY EMINENT DOMAIN,
23 DEED IN LIEU OF CONDEMNATION, AGREEMENT, OR
24 OTHERWISE OF ANY AND ALL RIGHTS, LICENSES,
25 PERSONAL PROPERTY, EASEMENTS, INTERESTS, OR

1 TITLES IN REAL ESTATE AND/OR STRUCTURES
2 REQUIRED IN ORDER TO OBTAIN FEE SIMPLE TITLE
3 TO SAID PROPERTIES TO COMPLETE THE
4 LACKAWANNA RIVER LOCAL FLOOD PROTECTION
5 PROJECT" TO INCLUDE PARCEL NO. 13501-060-
6 03401, LOCATED AT 78 EAST PARKER STREET,
7 WHICH WAS INADVERTENTLY OMITTED ON EXHIBIT
8 "A" IN THE ORIGINAL ORDINANCE TO THE NEW
9 EXHIBIT "A" ATTACHED HERETO.

10 MR. WECHSLER: At this time, I'll
11 entertain a motion that Item 5-B 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-C. FOR INTRODUCTION -
25 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND

1 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE
2 AND ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
3 AND SCOPE OF SERVICES BY AND BETWEEN THE
4 CITY OF SCRANTON AND NEIGHBORWORKS
5 NORTHEASTERN PA FOR DELIVERY OF THE CITY OF
6 SCRANTON HOME ASSISTANCE PROGRAM BY SCRANTON
7 NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSING SERVICES, INC. D/B/A
8 NEIGHBORWORKS NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA.

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

12 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

13 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

17 MR. PERRY: Aye.

18 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

19 MR. EVANS: Aye.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

23 MS. REED: 5-D. FOR INTRODUCTION - A
24 RESOLUTION - RE-APPOINTMENT OF MARYANNE
25 SINCLAIR, 1310 LUZERNE STREET, SCRANTON,

1 PENNSYLVANIA, 18504, TO THE BOARD OF THE
2 SCRANTON HOUSING AUTHORITY FOR AN ADDITIONAL
3 FIVE (5) YEAR TERM. MRS. SINCLAIR'S CURRENT
4 TERM WILL EXPIRE ON SEPTEMBER 27, 2016 AND
5 HER NEW TERM WILL EXPIRE ON SEPTEMBER 27,
6 2021.

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

10 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

11 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

15 MR. PERRY: Aye.

16 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

17 MR. EVANS: Aye.

18 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

21 MS. REED: 5-E. FOR INTRODUCTION - A
22 RESOLUTION - APPOINTMENT OF PASTOR ANTHONY
23 ISMAEL, 510 PEAR STREET, SCRANTON,
24 PENNSYLVANIA, 18505, AS A MEMBER OF THE
25 PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON

1 EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 15, 2016. PASTOR ISMAEL
2 WILL BE REPLACING JERRY RICHARDSON WHOSE
3 TERM EXPIRED. PASTOR ISMAEL'S TERM WILL
4 EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 31, 2019.

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

8 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

9 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

13 MR. PERRY: Aye.

14 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

15 MR. EVANS: Aye.

16 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

19 MS. REED: SIXTH ORDER. 6-A.
20 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.
21 50, 2016 - AN ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE
22 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE
23 CITY OF SCRANTON TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY
24 ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE CONSOLIDATED
25 SUBMISSION FOR COMMUNITY PLANNING AND

1 DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS TO BE FUNDED UNDER THE
2 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)
3 PROGRAM, HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP (HOME)
4 PROGRAM AND EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANTS (ESG)
5 PROGRAM FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING JANUARY 1,
6 2017.

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

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

11 MR. EVANS: Second.

12 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

13 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.
14 I hope nobody has anywhere to go tonight, I
15 want to read another letter. I received
16 this letter from one of my neighbors and I
17 wanted to read it into the record and give
18 to my colleagues, and this relates to the
19 McLane Park improvement project.

20 "To the members of the Scranton City
21 Council: I am unable to be at this meeting
22 because of a family vacatio out of state,
23 but I wanted to let you know how I feel
24 about the updates to the park at Rockwell
25 Avenue and Gilbert Street corner in North

1 Scranton in North Scranton. You know this
2 park as the James Pine McLane Park but for
3 as long as I remember the nickname was
4 Rockwell playground or just the park.
5 That's right, I have used this park since
6 there was a pool, a hopscotch pad, a
7 dodgeball circle, a king square, a
8 volleyball court, an old fashioned
9 merry-go-round, swings and even a building
10 used to store supplies and equipment.

11 I was raised in the house on the
12 corner and still live there now. I remember
13 a winter when I was quite young when my
14 father and many of the other fathers in the
15 area made arrangements with the city to
16 build a shallow ice skating rink over a few
17 winters. That was before the baseball field
18 was fenced in.

19 I also remember my father telling us
20 that my Aunt Marie, which was his sister,
21 could hit a softball passed the scoreboard
22 that used to be on the hill directly behind
23 center field. My children and grandchildren
24 have played on the equipment that is there
25 now.

1 We have been informed that there is
2 a grant request in the works for the repair
3 and refurbishment of this park that will
4 include many things that are very necessary,
5 but I have also heard through the grapevine
6 the amount approved has been much less than
7 the requested total. I realize that the
8 city is in bad shape, but I know that in the
9 past years there has been a great deal of
10 funds allowed for the other parks in the
11 City of Scranton with many parks receiving
12 multiple grants over a number of years.
13 This doesn't seem to be quite equitable to
14 me and I would hope that you would feel that
15 the residents of North Scranton are just as
16 important as those in the other areas of the
17 city.

18 Many people use this park with many
19 people coming here from other areas of the
20 city since it is a quiet park and the
21 residents are very kid oriented. We watch
22 out for the kids, both those who live in our
23 area and anyone who visits in park. We have
24 always had a large population of children in
25 our area and it has been this way since I

1 was young. Come here at any time of the day
2 and if it is nice out you will probably find
3 a parent here with their young children to
4 use the rings and actually sliding down
5 slides with their children. There is almost
6 always a basketball pickup game going on as
7 soon is out and on weekends. We are also a
8 place where you will find tavern softball
9 leagues playing almost every week and
10 weekend.

11 With the use of the park as abundant
12 as it is we need to keep it safe and sound
13 for those who use it. As long as I can,
14 remember, the only upgrade I have seen to
15 this park is when the neighborhood scout
16 promoted an eagle project to upgrade it. JP
17 Myers earned his Eagle Scout badge by
18 repairing and replacing the wooden portion
19 of the structures and placing new mulch
20 around the playground equipment. That was a
21 number of years ago and it wasn't something
22 that the city did.

23 Even with the Rockwell Avenue bridge
24 being closed, you still see many people at
25 this park often. It's very important that

1 we show our young people that they matter by
2 giving them an area where they can come to
3 play, sit and talk and be with friends. We
4 also need to show the parents of these young
5 people that their children will be safe when
6 they go to the park. This park can be used
7 to teach our children and adults about many
8 things including community involvement,
9 pride in your community, pride in your
10 country and pride in yourself. If we can
11 make the improvements to this park, all of
12 these would come to fruition.

13 With the addition of the flag pole,
14 our scouts and veterans could also hold
15 ceremonies as well. Please consider raising
16 the amount of the grant to the original
17 total of the request so we can keep our
18 community safe, happy, healthy and civically
19 involved. This is not only important to the
20 people of North Scranton, but also to those
21 who come here to play baseball, basketball,
22 and many other sports. Thank you for
23 listening to my ramblings as important as
24 they are. Sincerely, Rosie F. Gavin,
25 Rockwell Avenue, Scranton, Pennsylvania."

1 And I apologize for taking up so
2 much time, but I think that letter was
3 important, as I said earlier at the public
4 hearing at 5:30 I'm very passionate about
5 this project. It affects hundreds and
6 hundreds of children in North Scranton and
7 this park has not been upgraded, there has
8 been no money put in this park in almost 25
9 years. The equipment is out of date, it's
10 not ADA accessible, the sidewalks and the
11 park are a disgrace. The softball fence is
12 a hazard, something needs to be done up
13 there and while I know that the residents
14 appreciate that it was funded for 90,000
15 that's not going to be anywhere near what is
16 needed.

17 So over the next month as we take a
18 pause from this action plan to allow for
19 public comment, I am willing to try to work
20 with my colleagues to see if we increase the
21 funding and provide much needed updates to
22 this park. Thank you.

23 MR. WECHSLER: Anyone else? All
24 those in favor signify by saying aye.

25 MR. PERRY: Aye.

1 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

2 MR. EVANS: Aye.

3 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

6 MS. REED: 6-B. READING BY TITLE -
7 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 51, 2016 - AN
8 ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
9 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO ACCEPT AND
10 DISBURSE GRANT FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF
11 \$20,920.00 AWARDED THROUGH THE BJA FY 16
12 EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE
13 GRANT ("JAG") PROGRAM-LOCAL SOLICITATION FOR
14 THE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF MOBILE
15 VIDEO RECORDERS IN FOUR (4) PATROL CARS.

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

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

20 MR. EVANS: Second.

21 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

22 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question
23 just briefly. You know, I am in 100 percent
24 support of this project. I think it's
25 extremely important. All of the these video

1 recorders are going to record all encounters
2 between the police and the public which will
3 demonstrate without a doubt that the
4 Scranton Police Departments' dedication,
5 transparency and accountability. It will,
6 of course, improve police services, as the
7 grant says, by enhancing officers
8 interaction with the public and build
9 community trust.

10 You know, this is relevant to what's
11 going on in the United States with all of
12 the different things in the news about the
13 police departments across the country and I
14 think we are especially lucky because in my
15 opinion we have one of the best police
16 departments in the United States, one that
17 is very professional and the men and women
18 of our police department do a fine job and I
19 think that this grant is going to increase
20 transparency and help those officers in any
21 time of need, so I support this grant, I
22 support this project and kudos to the Police
23 Department for submitting this grant. Thank
24 you.

25 MR. WECHSLER: All those in favor

1 signify by saying aye.

2 MR. PERRY: Aye.

3 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

4 MR. EVANS: Aye.

5 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

6 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The
7 ayes have it and so moved.

8 MR. ROGAN: I'd like to make a
9 motion to table Item 6-A to October 27 to
10 allow OECD a 30-day public comment period as
11 required by HUD.

12 MR. EVANS: Second.

13 MR. ROGAN: This was the previous
14 legislation that would be spoke about for
15 most of the night regarding the Action Plan
16 for 2017. Now, there will be by law there
17 is required to be a 30-day comment period,
18 as was mentioned. During that period, we
19 will be happy to listen to residents or
20 suggestions about any type of changes that
21 can be made to the plan and hopefully within
22 that 30-day -- the 30-day time period does
23 give us a bit of a chance to maybe hear back
24 from Mr. Boscov on if he has any plans to
25 give money to the city as well.

1 MR. WECHSLER: There is a motion and
2 a second on the floor to table Item 6-A, all
3 those in favor signify by saying aye.

4 MR. PERRY: Aye.

5 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

6 MR. EVANS: Aye.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

8 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The
9 ayes have it and so moved.

10 MS. REED: 6-C. READING BY TITLE -
11 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 52, 2016 - AN
12 ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.
13 126, 2015, AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED "GENERAL
14 CITY OPERATING BUDGET 2016" BY TRANSFERRING
15 \$10,500.00 FROM ACCOUNT NO. 01.380.38000
16 (MISCELLANEOUS REVENUE OTHER-NOT CLASSIFIED)
17 TO ACCOUNT NO. 01.080.00083.4550 (DEPARTMENT
18 OF PUBLIC WORKS-BUREAU OF HIGHWAYS CAPITAL
19 EXPENDITURES) TO UTILIZE ADDITIONAL REVENUE
20 RECEIVED FROM THE SCRAP VEHICLES BID PROJECT
21 BY INCREASING THE REVENUE AVAILABLE IN THE
22 DPW BUREAU OF HIGHWAYS CAPITAL EXPENDITURE
23 LINE ITEM.

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

1 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-C
2 pass reading by title.

3 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

6 MR. PERRY: Aye.

7 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

8 MR. EVANS: Aye.

9 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

12 MS. REED: 6-D. READING BY TITLE -
13 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 53, 2016 - AN
14 ORDINANCE - APPROVING AND ACCEPTING THE
15 UPDATED CITY OF SCRANTON CAPITAL BUDGET FOR
16 THE YEAR 2017 WHICH IS THE FOURTH-YEAR AND
17 FINAL REVISION AND EXTENSION OF THE 2013
18 FIVE-YEAR PLAN.

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

21 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-D
22 pass reading by title.

23 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

1 MR. PERRY: Aye.

2 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

3 MR. EVANS: Aye.

4 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

7 MS. REED: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR
8 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC
9 SAFETY - FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 63,
10 2016 - RATIFYING AND APPROVING THE EXECUTION
11 AND SUBMISSION OF THE GRANT APPLICATION BY
12 THE CITY OF SCRANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT TO
13 THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND
14 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT(DCED) FOR A LOCAL SHARE
15 ACCOUNT GRANT (GAMING FUNDS) MONROE COUNTY
16 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$97,000.00 FOR THE PURCHASE
17 OF EIGHTEEN (18) SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS TO BE
18 INSTALLED IN FIVE (5) CITY PARKS AS PART OF
19 THE SECURE OUR PARKS PROJECT AND BE
20 MONITORED BY SCRANTON POLICE PERSONNEL
21 TWENTY-FOUR (24) HOURS A DAY, SEVEN (7) DAYS
22 A WEEK. AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
23 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO ACCEPT THE
24 GRANT, IF SUCCESSFUL, AND DISBURSE THE GRANT
25 FUNDS FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON POLICE

1 DEPARTMENT PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF THE
2 EIGHTEEN (18) SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS IN FIVE
3 (5) CITY PARKS.

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

7 MR. PERRY: As Chairperson for the
8 Committee on Public Safety, I recommend
9 final passage of Item 7-A.

10 MR. ROGAN: Second.

11 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

12 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.
13 Mrs. Schumacher had a question last week and
14 someone else actually approached me asking a
15 similar question about how the footage from
16 these video cameras would be stored, so I
17 spoke to Chief Graziano and he informed me
18 that the cameras are tied into a dedicated
19 server which stores the recordings for a
20 minimum of 30 days. Those recordings are
21 recorded over in the cycle unless a specific
22 video segment is archived for evidentiary
23 purposes. This includes the park cameras
24 and all of the other cameras that are
25 already on the system.

1 He also told me that officers can
2 watch the cameras live or they can review
3 recorded video and they have also begun
4 assigning on light duty to proactively
5 monitor the cameras. Thank you.

6 MR. WECHSLER: 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-A legally and lawfully
18 adopted.

19 MS. REED: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION
20 BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT -
21 FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 64, 2016 -
22 ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE
23 HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURE REVIEW BOARD
24 ("HARB") AND APPROVING THE CERTIFICATE OF
25 APPROPRIATENESS FOR WIDMER SIGN COMPANY,

1 2209 AMELIA AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA,
2 FOR INSTALLATION OF A VINYL WALL SIGN ON THE
3 NORTHWESTERN EXTERIOR WALL MEASURING 28 FEET X
4 15 FEET; AN LED LIGHT MOUNTED FROM ABOVE AND A
5 SINGLE LED LIGHT MOUNTED BELOW AT 515
6 LACKAWANNA AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA.

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

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

13 MR. EVANS: Second.

14 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

15 MR. ROGAN: Very briefly, I know we
16 approve a number of these and the vast
17 majority of them are with Widmer sign and I
18 just want to give them a shout out that so
19 many of these when we see them come across
20 our desk in legislation they do a great job,
21 not only promoting the businesses that are
22 the clients, but keeping the historical
23 nature of the districts that they are
24 working in.

25 MR. WECHSLER: Roll call, please?

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

2 MR. PERRY: Yes.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

4 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

6 MR. EVANS: Yes.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

8 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

10 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby
11 declare Item 7-B legally and lawfully
12 adopted.

13 MS. REED: 7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION
14 BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE - FOR ADOPTION -
15 RESOLUTION NO. 65, 2016 - AUTHORIZING THE
16 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS
17 TO ENTER INTO A MUNICIPAL LEASE FINANCING
18 AGREEMENT FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON STREET
19 LIGHTING IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, TO BE EXECUTED
20 BETWEEN THE CITY OF SCRANTON, AS LESSEE, AND
21 M&T BANK AND/OR ANY WHOLLY OWNED SUBSIDIARY
22 OF M&T BANK, AS LESSOR.

23 MR. WECHSLER: What is the
24 recommendation of the Chairperson for the
25 Committee on Finance?

1 MR. EVANS: As Chairperson for the
2 Committee on Finance, I recommend final
3 passage of Item 7-C.

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-C legally and lawfully
18 adopted.

19 MS. REED: 7-D. FOR CONSIDERATION
20 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION -
21 RESOLUTION NO. 66, 2016 - AUTHORIZING THE
22 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS
23 TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A SERVICE
24 AGREEMENT BETWEEN GRANICUS, INC., A
25 CALIFORNIA CORPORATION AND THE CITY OF

1 SCRANTON TO PROVIDE SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL'S
2 OFFICE, GRANICUS SOFTWARE AND MANAGED
3 SERVICES TO AUTOMATE AND STREAMLINE THE
4 AGENDA PROCESS.

5 MR. WECHSLER: As Chairperson for
6 the Committee on Rules, I recommend final
7 passage of Item 7-D.

8 MR. ROGAN: Second.

9 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

10 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question
11 just briefly. I mentioned everything about
12 this project last week, but I just want to
13 say how excited I am to get this underway.
14 Remember, our office goes through thousands
15 and thousands of pieces of paper every year.
16 We are going to cut down on that immensely.
17 We are going to save almost \$30,000 a year
18 in paper costs, ink costs and other costs.
19 We are going to save almost five trees a
20 year, and from a transparency perspective
21 any resident instead of coming into City
22 Council's Office and paying 25 cents for a
23 copy you will now be able to see all of the
24 legislation, all of the backup, all of the
25 Third Order items, everything will be

1 available to you with a click of the button.
2 So not only are we saving money, but we are
3 making this office much more transparent so
4 I would like to thank the administration for
5 working with me on this project and my
6 colleagues for all of their help in making
7 this goal a reality. Thank you.

8 MR. EVANS: On the question, I'd
9 like to thank Councilman Gaughan for all of
10 the hard work he put into this. He did a
11 yoman's job of keeping this together and
12 making this point and with this passage, I
13 have to say, we are officially, city
14 council, part of the 21st century.

15 MR. ROGAN: Absolutely. Great job.
16 Hundreds of thousands of sheets of paper,
17 and a lot of them end up in the back seat of
18 my car to recycling so it will be nice to
19 have everything in a nice sortable
20 electronic format.

21 MR. WECHSLER: As long as they train
22 the old guys we'll be okay. Roll call,
23 please?

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

25 MR. PERRY: Yes.

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

2 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

4 MR. EVANS: Yes.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

8 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby
9 declare Item 7-D legally and lawfully
10 adopted.

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

13 MR. ROGAN: Motion to adjourn.

14 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