

SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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HELD:

Thursday, September 29, 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 moment of reflection
2 observed.)

3 MR. WECHSLER: Roll call, please.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

5 MR. PERRY: Here.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

7 MR. ROGAN: Here.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

9 MR. EVANS: Here.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Here.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

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

15 MS. REED: THIRD ORDER. 3-A. TAX
16 ASSESSOR'S REPORTS FOR HEARING DATES TO BE
17 HELD OCTOBER 13 AND OCTOBER 20, 2016.

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

20 MS. REED: 3-B. AGENDA FOR THE CITY
21 PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER
22 28, 2016.

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

25 MS. REED: 3-C. INDEPENDENT

1 AUDITORS' REPORT OF THE SCRANTON SEWER
2 AUTHORITY FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 31,
3 2016.

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

8 MR. EVANS: I have one. The
9 Scranton Fringe Festival will be held
10 beginning today September 20 through October
11 2 in downtown Scranton. The festival is
12 dedicated to creating a platform for
13 creative and thought provoking art while
14 striving to promote as a viable and creative
15 environment. For more information and
16 complete list of shows visit
17 Scrantonfringe.org.

18 On a personnel note, Friday at 7:30
19 at the Hilton and Sunday at 4 p.m. in the
20 Hilton Conference Center Lou Bisignani is
21 going to give his version of a one-man show
22 called "The Outrageous Nancy Bisignani".
23 Nancy is his wife who passed away several
24 years ago, a personnel friend of mine, and
25 she was certainly outrageous, so if you can

1 get an opportunity please see that if you're
2 downtown, and I'm sure you will have a few
3 laughs and it will be a great show. That's
4 all I have for now.

5 MR. ROGAN: I have one as well. On
6 Wednesday, October 5, at 9 a.m. there will
7 be a downtown Scranton clean up day. This
8 is an initiative sponsored Lowe's Home
9 improvement for communities trying to
10 promote community well-being. Again, it's
11 at 9 a.m. Volunteers are welcome and they're
12 meeting at the Connell building at 129 North
13 Washington Avenue and that's starts at 9
14 a.m.

15 MR. PERRY: And I just have a
16 reminder that this Sunday Nay Aug Park is
17 forget me not walk/run which is sponsored by
18 Telespond. All proceeds go towards
19 Telespond, which is a nonprofit organization
20 that helps care for our community senior
21 citizens. I spoke about this a couple of
22 weeks ago, it's a great facility. It is
23 a -- it does a lot for our elderly people in
24 our community and it's a great event. I
25 believe this is the third annual. That's

1 all.

2 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you.

3 MS. REED: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'
4 PARTICIPATION.

5 MR. WECHSLER: Jessica Serenti.

6 MS. SERENITI: I'm from South
7 Abington Township. I'm also representing
8 the Scranton Public Library tonight. I just
9 have one announcement. The library is
10 holding a concert fundraiser on October 22
11 at 7 p.m. We are bringing in
12 singer/songwriter Chris Smither. He is well
13 known for his folk and blues so we are
14 excited to bring him to the Scranton area.
15 The tickets are \$22 per person and we do
16 have a discount ticket rate \$12 for all
17 college students. All they need to do is
18 show their student ID's. Tickets are
19 available online on our website Albright.org
20 or at the Albright Memorial Library, Nancy
21 Kay Holmes Library and the Library Express
22 at Marketplace at Steamtown, and if you are
23 not familiar with the venue it's a right
24 across the street from the Albright Memorial
25 Library. It's at the People's Security Bank

1 Theatre at Lackawanna County. And that's
2 all I have. Thank you.

3 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Elizabeth
4 Davis.

5 MR. EVANS: Hi, Liz.

6 MS. DAVIS: Hi. Hello. My name is
7 Elizabeth Davis from South Side. I'm here
8 on behalf of the Scranton Public Library and
9 Scranton Reads. As you know, Scranton Reads
10 is one of the community reading events
11 organized by the City of Scranton and
12 Scranton Public Library. Each year during
13 the month of October citizens of Scranton
14 get together to read a great work of
15 literature. They participate in book
16 discussions, special events related to the
17 chosen work. Scranton Reads has two main
18 goals, the first goal is to encourage
19 reading among people of all ages, and the
20 second goal is to bring the community
21 together through the sharing of a common
22 experience. Scranton Reads, one city one
23 book, enhances the feeling of community by
24 bringing people of all different backgrounds
25 and uniting them through the love of

1 literacy, arts and culture and this year we
2 have selected 'The Handmaid's Tale' by
3 Margaret Atwood. We hope everyone can join
4 to help celebrate our 15th year, which we
5 are very proud of, and discuss the
6 importance of reading.

7 Our kickoff event will be a First
8 Friday show on October 7 at The Leonard with
9 readers' submitted art based on this year's
10 book. You can find more information about
11 Scranton Reads and all of events at our
12 website at ScrantonReads.org and I hope the
13 council can join us for our book discussion
14 at Albright on October 17, and I even
15 brought you guys a copy of the books. If I
16 may approach?

17 MR. EVANS: Sure. Thanks.

18 MR. WECHSLER: Joan Hodowanitz.

19 MS. HODOWANITZ: Joan Hodowanitz,
20 Scranton, taxpayer and resident. 122 days
21 that the independent audit for the city is
22 late. During Fifth motions if you can give
23 us an update on the statute of the audit.
24 October 1 is just around the corner, that's
25 the beginning of the fourth quarter of the

1 fiscal year and I am breathlessly awaiting
2 the working session.

3 With regard to that, I haven't seen
4 any legislation with regard to extending
5 Rainey & Rainey's contract. If that does
6 come to pass, I have a lot to say about
7 that. I have not seen the Auditor General's
8 audit on the Municipal Pension Fund. Does
9 anyone have any idea when that will be
10 finalized and made public?

11 MR. WECHSLER: The Auditor General
12 is coming Monday.

13 MS. HODOWANITZ: Say again?

14 MR. WECHSLER: The Auditor General
15 is coming to city hall on Monday.

16 MR. EVANS: Monday at 1:30 he will
17 be giving a press conference in the
18 conference room.

19 MS. HODOWANITZ: Aww, I wonder what
20 that's all about. Also, during Fifth Order
21 if you could give us any stats you have on
22 the Sewer Authority sale. I noticed in the
23 backup paperwork for tonight's meeting that
24 you have the audit for the Sewer Authority
25 from their last fiscal year and I scanned

1 it, the numbers aren't overly surprising,
2 but what was interesting was they omitted
3 the management's discussions and analysis,
4 which doesn't effect the numbers, but which
5 is required by GASP and GAP and it should
6 have been in there. That would have been
7 the appropriate place to discuss issues such
8 as lack of the easements, documentation, but
9 they didn't put it in.

10 And during Fifth Order if you could
11 give us any update on the status of the OECD
12 loans where we stand on that issue, and when
13 we will get the state of the city address
14 from the mayor, and the rape kit. Do we or
15 do we not have one rape kit that's more than
16 a year old?

17 And I did attend the working session
18 on the pave cuts, found it interesting,
19 although a little hard to follow because you
20 don't have microphones, but one thing came
21 to mind, I received a letter late this
22 afternoon from another resident with regard
23 to the pave cut issue and it's many pages
24 long so I haven't had time to digest it, but
25 the pave cuts is symptomatic of a problem we

1 have throughout the city and that is when a
2 citizen has a problem, a complaint, an issue
3 or a question and attempts to get answer
4 from a city official or city department so
5 often all that a resident gets is a
6 voicemail or we'll get back to you and then
7 nothing is ever heard again. As you revise
8 this ordinance or any other ordinance I
9 would request that you always consider the
10 citizen as a stakeholder in these
11 ordinances.

12 What is a citizen supposed to do? I
13 no longer drive so for me pave cuts is an
14 academic issue, but consider the citizen
15 maybe a retired person living on a fixed
16 income that has to drive a car to get around
17 and their street is a wholly mess, a wholly
18 terror, you know, good only for Halloween
19 Trail of Tears. What is that citizen
20 supposed to do? He or she pays taxes, pays
21 fees, has a problem, how does that citizen
22 get information back?

23 I did notice, I think you brought it
24 up, Mr. Gaughan, is that there ought to be
25 some kind of computerized database where you

1 could get answers and where citizens could
2 get answers. When might their street be
3 paved? If there was a pave cut, you know,
4 who is inspecting it? You know, is it
5 going, you know, sit for a month while the
6 ground settles, citizens get no feedback but
7 they do get their tax bills and somehow we
8 have got to relook that attitude towards the
9 citizens as you turn to them for taxes and
10 money and fees, but they get no satisfaction
11 when they have an issue or a problem, and I
12 don't think that's a hard thing to do.
13 Citizens aren't stupid. They understand
14 that not every road is going to get paved
15 and paving doesn't have a host of issues,
16 but they deserve the courtesy of information
17 back from the city, so maybe you could put a
18 paragraph somewhere in the new ordinances
19 that addresses citizens' concerns. Thank
20 you.

21 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

22 MR. WECHSLER: Bob Bolus.

23 MR. BOLUS: Good evening, Council.
24 Bob Bolus, Scranton. It's hard to figure
25 out where to start here once in awhile but

1 MR. BOLUS: I saw you there. I'm
2 addressing the issue to a couple of the
3 others, and I respect you for doing that. I
4 don't want to single you out individually,
5 but we have other people here that have an
6 obligation to us and that's out of respect
7 to all of us. You represent every one of us
8 and when they come here I expect to see you
9 show up.

10 The issue going on here today, and
11 I'm very proud to say I was part of it, CNN
12 was here in Scranton today. They rode
13 around with me in the Trump trailer
14 yesterday all over the area and it
15 highlighted Scranton, Pennsylvania. Today
16 the trailer was parked downtown Scranton
17 right across from the courthouse, so was
18 CNN, and I felt honored to say that I
19 represented Scranton, whether it was the
20 Trump trailer that we brought there, I
21 brought people here to Scranton, our city,
22 that's been in the spotlight nationally from
23 Biden, Trump, Clinton, everybody that comes
24 here and we can't turn our back on that. We
25 are Scrantonians. I don't think I want you

1 guys ever to forget that. That's why you
2 ran for office so respect us with that
3 dignity that you owe us.

4 But I was proud to say they had a
5 heck of a time here in Scranton, and then
6 some loudmouth, egotistical idiot as I will
7 call him from WILK, Steven Corbett, well,
8 Mr. Corbett wanted to blast me all over his
9 radio today with me parking the Trump
10 trailer downtown Scranton, my failure to put
11 money in the meters. Well, what the
12 loudmouth didn't understand, I won't even
13 return his phone call because we have had
14 discussions back and forth, I find him a
15 very ignorant, belligerent individual who is
16 generally very arrogant in discussions.
17 Here is tickets from the city today that say
18 "Violations," but what Corbett didn't
19 understand it says "Warning Only." Today
20 the city they were not writing tickets and
21 you didn't have to put money in the meters.
22 You would only receive a warning because I
23 went over the Parking Authority this morning
24 to see about renting the meters, which I do
25 every time I park the trailers. We pay 20

1 bucks a meter. They said, "No, you don't
2 have to do that today because you'll only
3 get a warning."

4 So to that loud mouth, the one that
5 discredited me and the City of Scranton
6 where I'm from put his money where his mouth
7 is because I'll be able to show him any time
8 he wants face-to-face where he has no
9 control over a microphone and let's see how
10 big mouth he is and how smart he is. I
11 welcome the challenge.

12 Moving on what we are doing here, I
13 had the road up by East Mountain by the
14 Cultural Center when you come down through
15 there, Joe, you know how bad it is, people
16 are going all the way over into the left
17 side coming down to try and avoid the bumps
18 and somebody is going to get hid head on
19 there because it's a blind corner. I'd
20 really like you guys to look into that
21 because it's a safety issue.

22 MR. WECHSLER: I have been working
23 on that.

24 MR. BOLUS: Thank you. I'm glad you
25 are doing that because I saw a lady almost

1 get hit there this morning so I thought I
2 would come here tonight.

3 I had a sign on East Mountain, I own
4 the lot where you had it "For Sale" there by
5 the lake, I now own that lot, I had a Trump
6 sign twice it's been taken, okay? So won't
7 tolerate that, but we did have a lot of
8 vandalism over the hall at 305 Fifth Street
9 where we have the Trump headquarters for the
10 Scranton public and the volunteers for Trump
11 and we have had parties there, we've had
12 things going on there, on the second, and
13 you may want to attend this, the miners for
14 Trump, these are the coal miners, are coming
15 cross country and they are going to hold a
16 rally at the hall on Sunday at 2:00, and I
17 think it would good for each and every one
18 of us to remember where we all came from,
19 the pioneers, the grandfathers, the uncles
20 and those that worked in those mines in our
21 areas. These are the miners who have built
22 America and I think we owe them the respect
23 to maybe come over and I'm extending that
24 invitation to all of.

25 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr. Bolus.

1 Doug Miller.

2 MR. MILLER: Good evening. Doug
3 Miller, Scranton. You know, just to respond
4 to a couple of the comments that Joan stated
5 earlier this evening. You know, I think she
6 really hit it right on the head with a lot
7 of the statements she made in regards to --
8 well, the audit we have been talking about.
9 We have been talking about audits for a long
10 time and I find that kind to be a little
11 ridiculous at this point with the audits,
12 but once she discussed the condition of the
13 roads in the city and how our government
14 fails to realize the importance of making
15 the residents aware of what you intend on
16 doing, what your plan is to solve that
17 problem, I mean, it's something we have been
18 dealing with for a very long time in this
19 community, and the sad part is when you have
20 a city that's in the status we are in and
21 you consistently year after year rely on
22 federal and state funding for projects such
23 as that to pave streets, to repair
24 sidewalks, you just have to really step back
25 and ask yourself is that something that we

1 should be proud of? I mean, how pathetic is
2 that we are a city of beggars, that we rely
3 on state and federal government funding
4 consistently?

5 You know it's been brought up before
6 from this podium by many other speakers in
7 the past, when is the last time the city
8 invested in a project using it's own money?
9 I can't remember any time. All of the
10 hundreds of thousands of dollars that have
11 been pumped into the downtown, it's all
12 state and federal money. A lot of these
13 developers they are not investing a lot of
14 their own money they are using grant money
15 and it just spread around and it's handed
16 out like candy. I mean, it's really
17 comical. You know, we go through the
18 neighborhoods, we have had absolutely zero
19 investment in the neighborhoods. We blame
20 property owners for the conditions of the
21 neighborhoods, the blight that's just taken
22 over excessively. I mean, it really is sad
23 when you really think about it.

24 And I mentioned before, you know,
25 Mr. Evans being a realtor he sees it every

1 day, it's not a secret to him. Go up and
2 down, when you go down a city block and you
3 see four or five "For Sale" signs in one
4 block, I mean, that doesn't open your eyes?
5 I mean, it really, really isn't something to
6 be proud of.

7 And then had we look at the national
8 election that we have taking place in the
9 next what 40 some days we realize the
10 importance of that and what's really at
11 stake and I hope the residents of this city
12 understand how important it is because
13 believe is it or not that election has an
14 awful lot to do with the future of this city
15 because the federal government really has an
16 impact on what we do, not their grant money
17 and all of the other nonsense we rely on,
18 but their ability to come in and assist us
19 and put their minds to work and help us come
20 up with a plan because obviously this isn't
21 working. You know, the same plans that we
22 have listened time and time again haven't
23 lead us anywhere. The Amoroso plan is a
24 suicide mission, Mr. Courtright said to put
25 forward a plan, and at this point this

1 council as a whole has yet to come forward
2 with a plan because we rely on this council
3 to lead not just the mayor. You know, the
4 mayor has his vision and then council has to
5 have a vision and we have yet to really hear
6 a clear vision from this council. Your job
7 isn't to back the mayor, that's what we have
8 here. You have a council majority that
9 feels their obligation is to back the mayor.
10 No, your obligation is to back the 70,000
11 people that live in this community from the
12 oldest resident all the way down to the
13 youngest child and you haven't done that.

14 You know, I really want to call out
15 Mr. Gaughan because I really appreciate him
16 initiating the issue in regards to the
17 agenda, the backup to the agenda, because
18 it's my understanding that you are going to
19 put it online finally and let the residents
20 have the opportunity to go on there and view
21 it and that's something that's been
22 discussed in this chamber for a few years
23 now and I have to really thank you for that
24 and give you credit for stepping up. That's
25 leadership. That's an example that when you

1 believe in something and you believe in
2 putting people first that's -- those are the
3 things you do, and I know a lot of people
4 appreciate that and so to have the ability
5 to look at the backup and have that
6 transparency that's an example of
7 transparency right there, and we have had a
8 lack of it in this chamber for a few years
9 now.

10 You know, and I just really hope
11 moving forward these are the types of things
12 we are going to see more of. You know, it's
13 only one small thing, we have long way to
14 go, and as we get into budget season and
15 different things that are going to come up I
16 really, really hope that the residents of
17 this city are going to be on your mind
18 because our future is at stake here and this
19 election season is vital and I hope people
20 do come out to vote, as I said, and really
21 pay close attention to these candidates
22 because there is are really huge difference
23 between the two. We have a political
24 insider who for 30 years did absolutely
25 nothing for the city and yet she comes here

1 asking for our votes as an alleged
2 Scrantonian, and then we on the other
3 spectrum a businessman who tells it likes it
4 is, who is going to come with realistic
5 solutions, who is going to brings jobs back,
6 he's going to help this country once and for
7 all and that's what we need. Democrats,
8 Republican and Independents all need to come
9 together and put us first for a change.
10 Thank you.

11 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you,
12 Mr. Miller. Anyone else?

13 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening.
14 Marie Schumacher. A search of the Greater
15 Scranton Realtors' website this morning
16 showed there are 67 MLS listings for
17 Scranton City. Since this body met last
18 week, a scant ten properties have been
19 transacted with 55 properties transactions
20 in the past month. Since late March of this
21 year a 45.5 percent of the selling prices
22 were below the common level ratio. Just a
23 regular status report on that.

24 And for those who may be interested,
25 if the Scranton Sewer Authority did not

1 cancel their meeting, which they did not
2 have any legal notice that I noticed, the
3 people were locked out of the say at that
4 meeting if it was actually held this
5 evening.

6 A quick question for Mr. Rogan,
7 which will require a yes or no answer, is
8 there a statute of limitations regarding
9 seeking payment on unpaid CDBG loans?

10 MR. ROGAN: I would have to ask
11 Attorney Hickey regarding the legal
12 question.

13 MS. SCHUMACHER: Maybe during Fifth
14 Order we could get that. At the SSA
15 meeting, the Scranton Sewer Authority
16 meeting, on the rights and ways that was
17 held at the former Central High School a
18 view weeks ago, it was stated that
19 properties having storm and/or combined
20 storm and sewer lines but without rights-of-
21 way had been identified. My question to you
22 is will the city be soliciting rights-of-way
23 for the storm water only lines and will we
24 be guaranteeing the return to original
25 condition should the city need to access any

1 of these lines?

2 MR. WECHSLER: The Sewer Authority
3 is keeping the combined lines.

4 MS. SCHUMACHER: I know that I'm
5 asking but they said they have identified
6 all of the lines.

7 MR. WECHSLER: The city won't have
8 to get into those because it's going to be
9 part of the transaction. The combined lines
10 are going to be part -- the Pennsylvania
11 American Water --

12 MS. SCHUMACHER: We'll talk about it
13 later because they are not all combined --

14 MR. WECHSLER: Well, that's ---

15 MS. SCHUMACHER: And those will be
16 ours, okay? Next, I would like to talk
17 about initiatives that appear to be
18 stagnant. My number one favorite is
19 reassessment and, Mr. Evans, at the first
20 council meeting of June this year you
21 stated, "I'm in favor of a countywide
22 reassessment. We have to get that done. I
23 also favor that we should put on the county
24 to act if they don't act then should take
25 them to court. It's that simple because our

1 property owners are getting crushed. It's
2 not fair to them, it's not fair to us, it's
3 not fair. We are not going to have the
4 growth we need and the equitable tax base we
5 need if we don't have a reassessment and I
6 will personally, I'll guarantee you over the
7 next few months, I will be visiting the
8 Court Administration building and the
9 commissioners to make our case for
10 reassessment."

11 Has it occurred?

12 MR. EVANS: No, because every time I
13 wanted to go to the meeting they would
14 change the time and it didn't work with my
15 schedule but I'm am going there. I'm going
16 to try to arrange a meeting with one of the
17 commissioners myself first before I go over.
18 I want to get some feedback from one of the
19 commissioners.

20 MS. SCHUMACHER: Do you have an
21 estimated time?

22 MR. EVANS: Hopefully I'll get over
23 in the next couple of weeks and make my
24 visit over there, but I stand by that
25 statement, and if they don't want to

1 cooperate then we should sue them and take
2 them to court.

3 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay, I agree.
4 Results of the analysis, this is number two,
5 results of the analysis of the actual cost
6 of trash collection. Have these been
7 received and if not when will the results be
8 known or will we have to wait for the 2017
9 budget request?

10 MR. EVANS: That study is ongoing so
11 we haven't had any feedback yet.

12 MS. SCHUMACHER: The study is what?

13 MR. EVANS: Is ongoing. We haven't
14 gotten any results back yet.

15 MS. SCHUMACHER: It shouldn't seem
16 to be that difficult, but number three, the
17 condemnation policy. When will legislation
18 revising this procedure be coming to
19 council?

20 MR. EVANS: Well, the administration
21 should be coming in possibly next Thursday
22 and to follow that would be a review of the
23 condemnation policy.

24 MS. SCHUMACHER: Do you expect to
25 occur before the end of the year?

1 MR. EVANS: Well, you know, we are
2 looking at it ourselves internally.

3 MR. WECHSLER: I would assume that
4 that will not be done this year.

5 MS. SCHUMACHER: That's been years
6 that we have been talking about it.

7 MR. EVANS: Well, it will be study.
8 It will be looked at finally after rental
9 registration is done. That was the plan all
10 along to get that out of the way and go
11 right to the condemnation policy.

12 MS. SCHUMACHER: Next one, storm
13 water fee, will we see this prior to the
14 receipt of the 2017 budget?

15 MR. WECHSLER: No, because a
16 decision of the Sewer Authority is probably
17 coming next Thursday so we don't know, you
18 know, what the status of it is and I don't
19 believe that we have storm water fees in
20 2017.

21 MS. SCHUMACHER: But the contract
22 was let to come up with recommendations;
23 right?

24 MR. WECHSLER: I thought your
25 question was is there going to be a fee?

1 MS. SCHUMACHER: Yeah.

2 MR. WECHSLER: No, I don't think
3 there is going to be a fee in 2017.

4 MS. SCHUMACHER: No, no, no. Okay
5 that was not the question then. I assume, I
6 did assume it would be in the 2017 budget,
7 but if not what my question was, if I may go
8 back, is will we see the results of the
9 contract that was let?

10 MR. WECHSLER: The answer to that is
11 always, yes, you always get to see the
12 results of whatever comes in.

13 MS. SCHUMACHER: We don't hear
14 everything, but --

15 MR. WECHSLER: Well, if we get it,
16 you get it, I know that.

17 MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, you know, I
18 still have a concern that a few years ago we
19 had a Washington -- or a Wall Street West
20 initiative that was failed and I have an
21 ongoing feeling that we are going to end up
22 Newark West.

23 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening, council.
24 Dave Dobrzyn, resident, taxpayer. On that
25 sewer issue, I mentioned last week that it

1 would be interesting to explore a plan of
2 getting this sewer system, the storm sewer
3 system off of people's properties and, I
4 mean, it would be troubling to know that
5 some day might be get a knock on a door and
6 told you can't live there anymore or
7 whatever, or they have to come in and do
8 major construction on your property and have
9 it all torn up, some of these construction
10 outfits also we had the lady about a year or
11 two ago with tooth brushes and some light
12 bulbs, broken light bulb socket where it
13 screws in and so forth so, you know, it's a
14 good time to start to at least look into it
15 and see. I mean, years back I bought my
16 house and I thought because the trolley
17 tunnel ran under it that I would be safe
18 from mining that I have a big arch of
19 bedrock under my house. Somehow somebody
20 went up there and mined on top of -- on top
21 of the tunnel so you can't win, you know.

22 Once again I'd like to mention
23 letters to the editor to the Scranton Times
24 for outlying communities. When you write
25 them please consider that yeah, we all have

1 our problems with management, but we have 35
2 percent of tax exempt properties with little
3 hope of having any say as to whether they
4 are given a tax exemption to begin with and
5 a lot of times it seems awfully sloppy and
6 disheveled the way that it gets granted. We
7 have a junkyard who used building material
8 down on Providence Road, they're tax exempt,
9 it was owned by a religious cult or
10 something or former, you know, come on. Do
11 they really need a tax exemption for
12 something like that and to have a bunch of
13 the old iron railings and whatever sitting
14 around.

15 And, once again, how much money has
16 been lost at hotels and developers where
17 their plans didn't come to fruition and they
18 were overly optimistic and 15 or 20 years
19 something turns totally around like the
20 mall. I'd like to see a retail space just
21 simply because it's very hard, I can only
22 imagine if you didn't have a car and the
23 ability to get up to Commerce Boulevard or
24 somewhere like that, I mean, what do you do
25 if you need a pair of shoes with so many

1 stores just closed down there that all you
2 could get is a pair of sneakers or whatever.

3 And, once again, finally, the police
4 apprehended a big time burglar on our street
5 and harump but it's -- I'm glad he off the
6 streets it seems like he has been hitting
7 everybody for a whole year now and we really
8 need police resources to put where they
9 belong and that's apprehending people like
10 or controlling them, possibly catch them
11 even if takes unmarked vehicles. Let them
12 use their own vehicle some night and give
13 them a little stipend for it because if you
14 are breaking the law on that respect you
15 probably have a little bit of radar.

16 And I'd like to remind council once
17 again we have winter coming and we have the
18 bridge issues so some kind of equipment
19 should be bought to clear those bridges.
20 That's not a good way to get the town if you
21 have to walk across the bridge. They are
22 piled up with two feet of ice. And,
23 finally, I'll make it quick, recycling in my
24 neighborhood if we have a lot of snow it's
25 not acceptable to have eight or ten weeks

1 without recycling being picked up. It's
2 just too much. Thank you and have a good
3 night.

4 MR. WECHSLER: Anyone else?

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

6 MOTIONS.

7 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Perry?

8 MR. PERRY: Yes, just a couple of
9 things. First, I'd like to thank the
10 engineering department, we had a work
11 session before tonight's meeting
12 specifically on pave cuts. Pave cuts is a
13 hot topic. Anybody who does any time
14 anywhere in the city just, you know, there
15 is just a lot of them going on right now.
16 And, Ms. Hodowanitz, I think you brought up
17 that citizens were out of the loop a lot,
18 and nine times out of ten we're out of the
19 loop a well where we are with that process
20 of the pave cuts and I think we got a lot of
21 that cleared up, and I know some might have
22 colleagues even brought up the point of
23 getting that information to us ahead of time
24 so if we do have questions that are put
25 before us we can not only give you the

1 answer on will paving be done or when will
2 the pave cuts be filled, but we can actually
3 give you a decent timeline on where are they
4 in the scope of the project, because I think
5 that's where the missing pieces were on our
6 end. We see the work being done, just like
7 you see the work being done, but you come up
8 with us and you give us a question there is
9 a pave cut that's been there for over a
10 month. There's a pave line, it's at the
11 corner of Cedar and Duncan and we're running
12 around and doing our research and we aren't
13 able to find out exactly where that is and
14 where it is on the scope of the work to be
15 filled in permanently.

16 A couple of key points that we did
17 learn from this meeting was they have 60 to
18 70 pave cuts, once they get to that number
19 that's the magic number and that's when they
20 go back and that's when they fill in
21 everything permanently. I believe it was
22 said, you know, it's not four, it's no five,
23 it's not ten of them. To make it
24 financially just doable they do 60 they get
25 them all done and it's over. They are

1 followed up and they are very little -- once
2 they are completed and permanently done
3 there is very little problems that we have
4 after that. It's just when do we get to
5 that point of permanent completion, I think
6 that's what we are all suffering with, and
7 I'll let some of my colleagues talk more on
8 that as well.

9 Secondly, I sent a request out to
10 DNC about the camera situation at the
11 Steamtown Mall and the Marketplace, and I'm
12 just going to read a little bit from this
13 letter that I got. This was sent on
14 September 27. "We were extremely sad to
15 hear about the recent incident at the
16 Marketplace at Steamtown garage --" and, of
17 course, this is talking about the mugging
18 that took place a couple of weeks back. As
19 a new member of the City of Scranton and the
20 community we felt the impact of this event
21 deeply and do not want it to distract from
22 the great process in downtown Scranton.
23 Consistent with our preexisting plans, we
24 have made security a priority and the follow
25 measures including finalizing and

1 renegotiation of the security contract that
2 was assigned to the community development
3 properties, Scranton, Inc., by the receiver
4 at close of concession. Inspecting existing
5 security cameras within the former Scranton
6 Parking Authority garages, and analyzing
7 camera enhanced validation and control
8 systems of our scope for new parking garage
9 equipment.

10 Steamtown 300, LLC, has informed us
11 that operating security cameras exist within
12 the Marketplace at Steamtown garage,
13 although, regrettably the incident occurred
14 in a blind spot of the cameras. We will
15 continue to work through ABM parking
16 services, our day-to-day manager, to
17 implement best management practices on
18 security-related issues in the garage."

19 So just to sum that up, there are
20 cameras but this particular incident
21 happened in the blind shot but they are
22 continuing to look at do they need more
23 cameras, do they need enhanced cameras, do
24 they need to replace cameras.

25 And, Mr. Reed, what I would like to

1 request is if you can send something back
2 over to them, if possible maybe this Monday,
3 if available, I would like just to tour the
4 facility of the garages and the mall parking
5 area of exactly the security that's in place
6 and maybe speak with the operation's manager
7 on any kind of proposal they make because
8 there is always going to be blind spots and
9 there's going to be something but just to
10 give a better answer on exactly what
11 happened and their direction, and if you
12 could get back to me on that that would be
13 fantastic.

14 And, lastly, I believe Mr. Dobrzyn
15 hit on this earlier but I also want to
16 comment on it, I just want to thank the
17 Scranton Police, they apprehended a burglar
18 that was in no short words, there is really
19 no easy way to say this, was a one-man crime
20 spree in this area. He was hitting up cars,
21 homes, multiple businesses and this was
22 going on and on and sometimes the same place
23 multiple times and it's a big relief I know
24 in my community that this guy has been
25 caught and, you know, is being held and, you

1 know, he will get his trial, but we are very
2 happy to have him caught and, again, just
3 thank the Scranton Police for taking care of
4 business. That's all I have today.

5 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you.

6 Mr. Rogan?

7 MR. ROGAN: Yes, a couple of items
8 that were brought up, regarding the OECD
9 loans, the request was made to OECD for the
10 entire loan portfolio and where that stands.
11 I did talk to Linda Aebli regarding that.
12 It is going to take a little while to put
13 that together because it is an extensive
14 number of loans over the last few decades.

15 Regarding a statute limitations for
16 legal recourse, I will inquire with OECD
17 Solicitor Attorney Hickey regarding that
18 issue to see if there is a statute of
19 limitations for that issue.

20 Echoing much of what Councilman
21 Perry mentioned regarding our meeting
22 earlier today, I would also like to thank
23 John Hazzouri and John Pocius for coming in
24 and passing on additional information to us
25 about how pave cuts are managed in the City

1 of Scranton. From most of the complaints
2 that I have received from residents, it
3 isn't so much after the pave cuts are
4 completed and restorations are completed,
5 now that does happen and I do know
6 Mr. Hazzouri has been very responsive when
7 we received complaints on that end, but the
8 complaint that I receive more and I see more
9 in the community is a street is torn up and
10 it's temporary filled and then it sits and
11 it sits and it sits and if it goes through
12 the winter, I mean, they're putting salt and
13 they're running plows over those roads it
14 gets worse and worse. I know it's not a
15 city road, but Washburn Street last year in
16 the lower part you couldn't even drive down
17 there in the winter because it was in such
18 bad shape.

19 So one of the things I would like to
20 look into the process of reviewing pave cut
21 legislation is establishing some sort of
22 time guidelines where when work is done for
23 the job to be completed. I understand the
24 blacktop plants close down in the winter,
25 but I think the residents of Scranton are

1 owed. The roads have to be, you know, they
2 have to be restored prior to the winter.
3 Too many people have problems getting around
4 to begin with the deterioration of many of
5 our roads. We paved a lot of them this
6 year, a lot more work to do, but when you
7 have a utility that cuts all of them down
8 the streets they are extremely unsafe and
9 when they are left exposed during the winter
10 hollowing down just the roads even further.

11 I was also here and Councilman Evans
12 will probably talk more about this, I
13 brought this up about a spread sheet or a
14 map of proposed work. As I believe we all
15 had a lot of questions regarding when is
16 this project going to start, when is this
17 project going to finish and with the city
18 paving it's easy, you know, it's done within
19 the city. Unfortunately, the frustrating
20 thing with any of the utility work is it's
21 not done by the City of Scranton and we are
22 really at the mercy of these contractors
23 and, you know, there has to be a better way
24 so I am very encouraged with some of the
25 information we got from the meeting today.

1 I'm very happy to hear that in my
2 neighborhood that a very large project is
3 finally going to be paved throughout the
4 Hyde Park and Tripps Park section of West
5 Scranton, blocks and blocks of roads have
6 been torn up for months and it was so bad
7 that I even take a different route to go
8 home from my mother's house. So I'm really
9 looking to for ward to getting those paved.

10 And finally, on a more lighthearted
11 note, anyone in Scranton that's gone to
12 either West Scranton High School, which I
13 have, or Scranton High School, which I
14 believe Councilman Gaughan went, knows about
15 the battle of the bell game, and I'm very
16 pleased to report that West Scranton did,
17 indeed, win the bell back this year so I
18 want to give a shout out to West Scranton
19 Invaders for the win and while the game was
20 played well by both sides, the bell is back
21 in West Side where it belongs, and that is
22 all. Thank you.

23 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Evans.

24 MR. EVANS: Thank you. Briefly on
25 the paving, yes, we did request a spread

1 street, I think that's going to be very
2 helpful to see the entire scope of work for
3 the entire coming year so we know exactly
4 when the pave cuts are going to happen and
5 the second phase happens and when the final
6 restoration is done. I know sometimes it's
7 a moving target, but at least we have
8 something to work on when citizens come
9 before us we'll be able to tell them exactly
10 what's going on in that particular street or
11 what's planned on another street before
12 coming here.

13 On other another issue, over the
14 last two years you may have heard me at
15 times rail against different facets of city
16 government, but it's a culture that in many
17 ways is ingrained within the walls of this
18 building and not necessarily in a good way.
19 This should not be an indication that I
20 don't believe in government, because I do,
21 all civilized societies should have some
22 form of government. Government, if nothing
23 else, allows us to act collectively to solve
24 problems but it's the way we go about
25 solving the problem that may be at issue. I

1 have talked numerous times about the
2 systemic problems that exist with the local
3 government, but it is not necessarily the
4 people who work in enforcing that problem.
5 In many of the cases, if not most, the
6 system they work in may actually be a larger
7 problem. So, yes, maybe we can lease the
8 Parking Authority for 30 years and we could
9 probably sell the Sewer Authority and we can
10 even get out of Act 47 and distressed
11 status, we may even be fiscally sound for
12 the short term, but if we don't change the
13 systems, if we don't truly reinvent this
14 government into something that it currently
15 isn't then at some point we will be right
16 back where we started, broke and broken.

17 So over the next few weeks, and even
18 months, I'm going to periodically discuss
19 further the concept of reinventing this
20 government. One of the models I discuss
21 early on we call the entrepreneurial
22 government, a description that looks for
23 government to use it's limited resources in
24 new ways and maximize productivity and
25 effectiveness.

1 While this subject was first brought
2 to our attention in the early 90's by author
3 David Osborne, it's time for another look
4 and for many involved in local government a
5 first look so I hope you will find my future
6 comments somewhat interesting and worthy of
7 consideration and at least food for thought.
8 That's all I have tonight. Thank you.

9 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you.

10 Mr. Gaughan.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, thank you, just a
12 couple of things. First of all, I received
13 a complaint from a few neighbors, dump
14 trucks are going up and down Mineral Avenue
15 in Pinebrook and they dumping in the area of
16 an old auto site. The trucks start at seven
17 in the morning, they continue past 6 p.m.
18 and they are dumping sometimes seven days a
19 week nonstop so I would like to find out who
20 gave permission for this dumping since that
21 neighborhood is classified as light
22 industrial and according to zoning
23 regulations dumping is not allowed there,
24 and a recent sign according to the neighbors
25 was posted for no dumping in that area,

1 however, the dumping continues so I would
2 like clarification on that.

3 Also, last week I mentioned that we
4 sent a correspondence to PPL for them to
5 trim the trees on Phelps and Division
6 Street. We did receive a response from
7 Elaine Roberts, who is the regional affairs
8 director. She said that PPL does not trim
9 for streetlights that are owned by the
10 municipality. Phelps Street has one street
11 light on the block that the city can trim
12 safely. The electric line was recently
13 trimmed and is clear. Division Street is
14 off road and they did a hot spot trim here
15 earlier this year and the wires buried in
16 trees are telephone and TV wires so we did
17 send additional correspondence to the DPW
18 director to see if they can go out and
19 possibly take care of that problem.

20 Mrs. Reed, did we receive any
21 information that I requested from OECD at
22 the last public hearing last week?

23 MS. REED: No.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. I'm going to
25 ask that we send an additional request, I

1 asked a few questions about the action plan,
2 this year's action plan so if we could
3 resend that. I would like the answers by no
4 later than Thursday of next week. All that
5 information should be contained on a simple
6 spreadsheet so I'm not sure what the holdup
7 is.

8 In regards to the caucus or the work
9 session that we held in the Governor's room,
10 first of all, and I did express it to my
11 colleagues last week, I was disappointed
12 that the work session was not held in
13 council chambers for a number of different
14 reasons: First of all, and as my colleagues
15 have mentioned, the pave cut problem in the
16 city has been one in which we have all
17 gotten complaints about over the last two
18 and a half to three years. I know I get at
19 least one or two e-mails and phone calls
20 every single week about some part of the
21 city so I think it would have been
22 beneficial to have that caucus held here so
23 the residents could be informed rather than
24 hearing secondhand information.

25 The second reason is for those

1 residents who did show up to the caucus in
2 the Governor's room it is awful hard to hear
3 if you are sitting in the outskirts of the
4 room. We could hear fine, but there is no
5 microphone in front of us so it is difficult
6 for the public to hear that information so
7 in the future I would just hope that we
8 could hold these important work sessions in
9 council chambers, have them be televised so
10 that the people can see what's going on.

11 As it relates to the actual work
12 session, you know, I think I'm more
13 concerned and more confused now than I was
14 before the meeting. You know, it's clear to
15 me that part of the ordinance are not being
16 followed and not being enforced, some parts
17 are being enforced, you know, kind of by the
18 paving inspector's discretion and the city
19 engineer's discretion, which I have concerns
20 about. One of the things in the ordinance
21 is the work order inspection tracking ticket
22 which I asked numerous questions about that
23 and I'm still concerned about the record
24 keeping in that office. One of the things
25 that was discussed was if there is a problem

1 with a pave cut and the inspector goes out
2 and looks at it there is no documentation,
3 he does not keep documentation of that. He
4 just gives a verbal warning or speaks to
5 whoever the contractor is and they take care
6 of it, and that's an issue because if the
7 utility company continues to have these, you
8 know, problems with the pave cuts and there
9 is no documentation, you know, that just
10 doesn't make any sense from a good standard
11 business practice.

12 The other comment that I had been
13 concerned about is that, you know, when I
14 press these gentlemen on whether or not the
15 ordinance is being followed and the work
16 order inspection tracking ticket they said
17 that they weren't sure what was in the final
18 version of the ordinance. They just kind of
19 had a chance to read it. That's very
20 concerning. Everybody should be reading the
21 ordinances before they are passed and when
22 they are passed to make sure they know what
23 they are enforcing so for some reason there
24 is a disconnect there. I'm just concerned
25 about the procedures and controls that are

1 in place and the other comment in the work
2 session was that we should trust the utility
3 companies because they have their own
4 inspection process, which I object to.
5 That's why we have an inspector. I'm not
6 saying that the utility companies are doing
7 anything wrong, but the reason that you have
8 someone in city hall whose job is dedicated
9 to that is to make sure that they are
10 protecting the city's interest. I don't
11 really care what the utility company does.
12 I only care that whoever works in city hall
13 is making sure that everything is inspected
14 and the cities infrastructure is protected.

15 We did receive a very detailed
16 letter from a resident with lot of detailed
17 questions that I will be submitting, I have
18 my own questions that we didn't have enough
19 time back there and some of them will
20 require documentation so I will be
21 submitting that. And that's all I have this
22 week. Thank you.

23 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you,
24 Mr. Gaughan. In regard tos the reason why
25 the work session was held in the Governor's

1 room, I think Mr. Gaughan answered his own
2 question. This was the introduction meeting
3 to evaluate this ordinance, and as
4 Mr. Gaughan stated, we have more questions
5 than we have to develop so I'm not sure that
6 this -- these work sessions are arranged for
7 information for the council so we could get
8 a handle on what we have to do and questions
9 that we have to answer, and in my opinion in
10 order to get the best information from
11 Mr. Pocius and from Mr. Hazzouri the meeting
12 to me was better in the Governor's room, and
13 I manage people all the time. I have 35
14 years of experience in management and I kind
15 of have an ability that I think to get
16 information from people for the best use and
17 our goal was to get the information about
18 the pave cut program, and I think as time
19 goes on and we get a better handle on it I
20 think we will be more prepared to discuss it
21 with the public because there was some
22 things, as you stated, and in private
23 industry contractors do a lot of
24 self-certification but there also is a
25 process for that to happen and I have not

1 gotten a feeling based on our meeting
2 tonight that that process is 100 percent
3 established.

4 The contractors that were mentioned
5 are certified, they do have track histories
6 of quality performances, but I would like to
7 see little bit more documentation that they
8 provide to us, that they certify their work
9 that it meets the requirements and that
10 gives us the opportunity and I think is
11 something that we should make sure is
12 defined and refined in the new ordinance as
13 you work on it, is that the city does do
14 core sample testing to verify the work
15 that's being done, and just to get a level
16 of confidence in the certifications that the
17 contractors provided. I think it's
18 impractical to have the pave cut inspector
19 go out and inspect 100 percent of this work.
20 In sampling -- in a sample like that we want
21 to make sure it's as good as the sample that
22 you have taken. It doesn't tell you that
23 down the street it wasn't something
24 different and so I think we have to refine
25 that process a little bit better.

1 What I was impressed upon this
2 evening was the fact that the pave cut
3 inspector is following the fee schedule
4 that's listed in the ordinance for pave cut
5 dollars and surprisingly it was reported
6 that we had budgeted about \$278,000 for pave
7 cut proceeds and right now as of this
8 September we are almost at \$481,000, which
9 is a significant amount of money for us.

10 Also, it was reported that over the
11 course of the next few years the utilities
12 are going to be doing major upgrades in the
13 city especially trying to replace water and
14 gas lines I think they said they were in
15 place since prior to 1989, they want to
16 replace all of those lines so this is
17 something that is going to be an ongoing
18 problem and that's why we do want to look at
19 the ordinance.

20 Our goal was to improve the old
21 ordinance in 2015 and I think now we have an
22 opportunity to refine that a little bit in
23 terms of what the industry standards are and
24 just following through and make that it
25 happens because I also am concerned that we

1 aren't getting the inch and a half milling
2 requirement that is there to make sure that
3 we are getting our two inches of paving they
4 are supposed to get and that I think will be
5 cleaned up.

6 Even though it's not a state road,
7 we did bring up the question of why the
8 manhole covers up on Main Avenue are such a
9 problem and it was discussed that one of the
10 utilities did not raise theirs in time and
11 the state paved the road, so what I got out
12 of that is I guess we have to put pressure
13 on PennDOT to get those replaced either
14 involving the utility or doing it themselves
15 because, as we said in the meeting, those
16 are permanent potholes now on Main Avenue
17 and it's not acceptable that those are
18 there, we just had the roads paved.

19 I did receive a complaint this week
20 or a question about a street light on Alder
21 Street that I will be getting the
22 information then to get with that and I
23 clean that up, and just one thing back on
24 the pave cuts, I just checked my list, there
25 was a representative, field representative

1 from Pennsylvania American Water at the
2 meeting who came voluntarily to offer some
3 input to the meeting and he told us that we
4 could contact him at any time if we had any
5 problems or projects that he would come
6 here, so I was happy to see him there.
7 That's it.

8 MR. GAUGHAN: Just if I may, I have
9 two dish additional items. I would just
10 respectfully disagree with my colleague
11 about having the caucuses in the Governor's
12 room. Look, you know, this isn't just for
13 our own information, our information is the
14 public's information so I don't see the
15 difference between having it there or having
16 it here and having it televised. A lot of
17 what we on back there is hard to relay
18 secondhand to the public so it would just
19 make more sense to have it out here and have
20 it televised so that people can understand
21 what's going on.

22 And the second thing is that I
23 forgot to mention earlier in my comments, a
24 woman had written a letter to Senator Blake,
25 we got a copy of it about the flooding that

1 occurred throughout the city on July 30, and
2 in Senator Blake's reply for this woman he
3 said that he has forwarded her letter onto
4 his contacts at Scranton City Hall as they
5 are continuing to collect data and total
6 damages caused by the flooding events in the
7 last week of July. So I would like to find
8 out, Mrs. Reed, if you could tomorrow who
9 the contacts are in city hall, who is
10 collecting this information about the
11 flooding, and I'd like to see that the data
12 and the total damages that have been
13 collected so far because I don't think
14 that's been publicized about where people
15 can call or who they should contact if they
16 have that damage to the property so I would
17 like be updated on that. Thank you.

18 MR. WECHSLER: Just, and I don't
19 want to go back and forth on this, but as
20 council president I have the responsibility
21 to the council and to the public to make the
22 decision that's best, in my opinion, in
23 getting the best information on the city and
24 if council -- other council members disagree
25 with my decisions they are always free to

1 bring that up and if there is enough members
2 that want to overrule me then I evaluate it,
3 but there will be -- in the future there
4 will be a work sessions that will not be out
5 here.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: If that's the case
7 then I won't be a part of them. If it's
8 that important then if it's going to be back
9 there I'm not going to attend unless it's in
10 these chambers for the reasons that I
11 stated.

12 MR. WECHSLER: Which is your
13 prerogative and you will miss out on
14 information then.

15 MR. GAUGHAN: That's fine.

16 MS. REED: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION -
17 AN ORDINANCE - CREATING AND ESTABLISHING
18 SPECIAL CITY ESCROW ACCOUNT NO. 02.229620
19 ENTITLED "HARB" TO ACCEPT AND DISBURSE FUNDS
20 RECEIVED FROM THE HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURE
21 REVIEW BOARD APPLICATIONS FOR THE
22 CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS.

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

1 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

2 MR. EVANS: Second.

3 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

4 MR. EVANS: On the question, I have
5 to say this is very simple but very smart
6 idea that this ordinance does. Basically it
7 does take the money from the certificate of
8 appropriateness, put it into a special
9 account and allow that money to be used only
10 for HARB expenses instead of taking it out
11 of the general fund, there's a lack of
12 accounting there, we'll know exactly what
13 HARB is spending, we'll have money available
14 to them so, you know, as I said, be able to
15 have overlook on that so I do appreciate him
16 doing this. Again, very simple, but very
17 effective legislation.

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

21 MR. PERRY: Aye.

22 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

23 MR. EVANS: Aye.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

25 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The

1 ayes have it and so moved.

2 MS. REED: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION -
3 A RESOLUTION - APPOINTMENT OF ADA
4 RIOS-RIVERA, PHD, 519 COLFAX AVENUE,
5 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18510 AS A MEMBER OF
6 THE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION, EFFECTIVE
7 SEPTEMBER 21, 2016. DR. RIOS-RIVERA WILL BE
8 REPLACING REV. DR. HOWARD T. WOODRUFF WHO
9 RESIGNED FROM THE BOARD ON MAY 31, 2016.
10 DR. RIOS-RIVERA WILL FILL THE UNEXPIRED TERM
11 OF REV. DR. HOWARD T. WOODRUFF THAT IS
12 SCHEDULED TO EXPIRE ON SEPTEMBER 24, 2018.

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

16 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

17 MR. EVANS: Second.

18 MR. WECHSLER: On the question? All
19 those in favor of introduction signify by
20 saying aye.

21 MR. PERRY: Aye.

22 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

23 MR. EVANS: Aye.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

25 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The

1 ayes have it and so moved.

2 MS. REED: 5-D. FOR INTRODUCTION -
3 A RESOLUTION - ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATION
4 OF THE HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURE REVIEW BOARD
5 ("HARB") AND APPROVING THE CERTIFICATE OF
6 APPROPRIATENESS FOR FAST SIGNS,
7 SCRANTON-POCONO HIGHWAY, SCRANTON,
8 PENNSYLVANIA, FOR INSTALLATION OF A BLADE
9 STYLE BANNER MEASURING 96" H BY 30" W
10 AFFIXED BY TWO (2) POLE STYLE BRACKETS ON
11 THE FRONT OF THE BUILDING AT 503 LACKAWANNA
12 AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA.

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

16 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

17 MR. EVANS: Second.

18 MR. WECHSLER: On the question? All
19 those in favor of introduction signify by
20 saying aye.

21 MR. PERRY: Aye.

22 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

23 MR. EVANS: Aye.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

25 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The

1 ayes have it and so moved.

2 MS. REED: 5-E. FOR INTRODUCTION - A
3 RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
4 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND
5 ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH KEYSTONE QUARRY,
6 INC. TO PROVIDE THE CITY 2000 TON (MORE OR
7 LESS) ANTI-SKID SAND FOR THE PERIOD OCTOBER
8 25, 2016 THROUGH APRIL 30, 2017.

9 MR. WECHSLER: At this time, I'll
10 entertain a motion that Item 5-E 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-F. FOR INTRODUCTION - A
24 RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
25 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND

1 ENTER INTO A DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION
2 INSPECTION SERVICES CONTRACT WITH REILLY
3 ASSOCIATES TO PROVIDE DESIGN AND
4 CONSTRUCTION INSPECTION SERVICES FOR THE
5 CONSTRUCTION WORK FOR THE PROJECT ENTITLED:
6 "RECONSTRUCTION OF CITY STREETS TO INCLUDE
7 HANDICAPPED CURB CUTS."

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

11 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

12 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

16 MR. PERRY: Aye.

17 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

18 MR. EVANS: Aye.

19 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

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

23 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.
24 54, 2016- AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF
25 THE COUNCIL NO. 32, 2016, AN ORDINANCE

1 ENTITLED "APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE
2 ACQUISITION OF CERTAIN PROPERTIES BY EMINENT
3 DOMAIN, DEED IN LIEU OF CONDEMNATION,
4 AGREEMENT, OR OTHERWISE OF ANY AND ALL
5 RIGHTS, LICENSES, PERSONAL PROPERTY,
6 EASEMENTS, INTERESTS, OR TITLES IN REAL
7 ESTATE AND/OR STRUCTURES REQUIRED IN ORDER
8 TO OBTAIN FEE SIMPLE TITLE TO SAID
9 PROPERTIES TO COMPLETE THE LACKAWANNA RIVER
10 LOCAL FLOOD PROTECTION PROJECT" TO INCLUDE
11 PARCEL NO. 13501-060-03401, LOCATED AT 78
12 EAST PARKER STREET, WHICH WAS INADVERTENTLY
13 OMITTED ON EXHIBIT "A" IN THE ORIGINAL
14 ORDINANCE TO THE NEW EXHIBIT "A" ATTACHED
15 HERETO.

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

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

20 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

23 MR. PERRY: Aye.

24 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

25 MR. EVANS: Aye.

1 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

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

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

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

21 MR. ROGAN: Second.

22 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?
23 Roll call, 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-A legally and lawfully
10 adopted.

11 MS. REED: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION
12 BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE FOR ADOPTION -
13 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 52, 2016 - AMENDING
14 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 126, 2015, AN
15 ORDINANCE ENTITLED "GENERAL CITY OPERATING
16 BUDGET 2016" BY TRANSFERRING \$10,500.00 FROM
17 ACCOUNT NO. 01.380.38000 (MISCELLANEOUS
18 REVENUE OTHER-NOT CLASSIFIED) TO ACCOUNT NO.
19 01.080.00083.4550 (DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC
20 WORKS-BUREAU OF HIGHWAYS CAPITAL
21 EXPENDITURES) TO UTILIZE ADDITIONAL REVENUE
22 RECEIVED FROM THE SCRAP VEHICLES BID PROJECT
23 BY INCREASING THE REVENUE AVAILABLE IN THE
24 DPW BUREAU OF HIGHWAYS CAPITAL EXPENDITURE
25 LINE ITEM.

1 MR. WECHSLER: What is the
2 recommendation of the Chairperson for the
3 Committee on Finance?

4 MR. EVANS: As Chairperson for the
5 Committee on Finance, I recommend final
6 passage of Item 7-B.

7 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

11 MR. PERRY: Yes.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

13 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

14 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

15 MR. EVANS: Yes.

16 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

18 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

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

22 MS. REED: 7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION BY
23 THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE - FOR ADOPTION -
24 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 53, 2016 - APPROVING
25 AND ACCEPTING THE UPDATED CITY OF SCRANTON

1 CAPITAL BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2017 WHICH IS
2 THE FOURTH-YEAR AND FINAL REVISION AND
3 EXTENSION OF THE 2013 FIVE-YEAR PLAN.

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

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

10 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

14 MR. PERRY: Yes.

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

16 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

17 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

18 MR. EVANS: Yes.

19 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

21 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

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

25 MS. REED: 7-D. FOR CONSIDERATION BY

1 THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - FOR
2 ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 67, 2016 -
3 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE
4 CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A
5 MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AND SCOPE OF
6 SERVICES BY AND BETWEEN THE CITY OF SCRANTON
7 AND NEIGHBORWORKS NORTHEASTERN PA FOR
8 DELIVERY OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON HOME
9 ASSISTANCE PROGRAM BY SCRANTON NEIGHBORHOOD
10 HOUSING SERVICES, INC. D/B/A NEIGHBORWORKS
11 NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA.

12 MR. WECHSLER: What is the
13 recommendation of the Chairperson for the
14 Committee on Community Development?

15 MR. ROGAN: As Chair for the
16 Committee on Community Development, I
17 recommend final passage of Item 7-D.

18 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

21 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

22 MR. PERRY: Yes.

23 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

24 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

25 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

1 MR. EVANS: Yes.

2 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

3 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

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

8 MS. REED: 7-E. FOR CONSIDERATION
9 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION -
10 RESOLUTION NO. 68, 2016 - RE-APPOINTMENT OF
11 MARYANNE SINCLAIR, 1310 LUZERNE STREET,
12 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18504, TO THE BOARD
13 OF THE SCRANTON HOUSING AUTHORITY FOR AN
14 ADDITIONAL FIVE (5) YEAR TERM. MRS.
15 SINCLAIR'S CURRENT TERM WILL EXPIRE ON
16 SEPTEMBER 27, 2016 AND HER NEW TERM WILL
17 EXPIRE ON SEPTEMBER 27, 2021.

18 MR. WECHSLER: As Chairperson for
19 the Committee on Rules, I recommend final
20 passage of Item 7-E.

21 MR. ROGAN: Second.

22 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

23 Roll call, 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-E legally and lawfully
10 adopted.

11 MS. REED: 7-F. FOR CONSIDERATION
12 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION -
13 RESOLUTION NO. 69, 2016 - APPOINTMENT OF
14 PASTOR ANTHONY ISMAEL, 510 PEAR STREET,
15 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18505, AS A MEMBER
16 OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF
17 SCRANTON EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 15, 2016.
18 PASTOR ISMAEL WILL BE REPLACING JERRY
19 RICHARDSON WHOSE TERM EXPIRED. PASTOR
20 ISMAEL'S TERM WILL EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 31,
21 2019.

22 MR. WECHSLER: As Chairperson for
23 the Committee on Rules, I recommend final
24 passage of Item 7-F.

25 MR. ROGAN: Second.

1 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

2 Roll call, please?

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

4 MR. PERRY: Yes.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

6 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

8 MR. EVANS: Yes.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

10 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

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

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

17 MR. ROGAN: Motion to adjourn.

18 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