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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Thursday, September 3, 2015

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:

ROBERT MCGOFF, PRESIDENT  
(Not present)

PATRICK ROGAN, VICE-PRESIDENT  
(Not present)

WAYNE EVANS

JOSEPH WECHSLER

WILLIAM GAUGHAN

LORI REED, CITY CLERK

JAMIE MARCIANO, 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. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler.

5 MR. WECHSLER: Here.

6 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan. Mr.

7 Evans.

8 MR. EVANS: Here.

9 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan.

10 MR. GAUGHAN: Here.

11 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

12 MR. WECHSLER: Let the record  
13 reflect that Mr. McGoff and Mr. Rogan are  
14 not present this evening. Ms. Reed.

15 MS. REED: Thank you, Mr. Wechsler.  
16 Council President McGoff has sent the  
17 following statement and asked that I read it  
18 this evening. "A series of medical  
19 situations and unfortunate treatment delays  
20 have and continue to keep my hospitalized.  
21 Consequently, I will be unable to attend  
22 tonight's meeting."

23 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. An  
24 executive session was held on Tuesday,  
25 August 18, at 6:30 p.m. regarding contract

1 negotiations.

2 Other announcements, Monday  
3 September 7, City Hall will be closed in  
4 observance of the Labor Day Holiday. DPW is  
5 also off that day, refuse collection and  
6 paper recycling will be delayed one day next  
7 week.

8 As we all know, this weekend the  
9 Italian festival will be held in the  
10 downtown Friday through Monday. If you saw  
11 this evening, please expect many road  
12 closures around the courthouse, but don't  
13 let that stop you from coming down and  
14 enjoying La Festa.

15 Do any other councilmen have  
16 announcements.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, I have one.  
18 There will be a fundraising event in  
19 remember of Kathleen Cavanaugh, a victim of  
20 domestic violence. It will be held Sunday,  
21 September 20, 3 to 7 p.m. outdoors at Pat  
22 McMullen's, 217 East Market Street and it is  
23 \$20 per person. All proceeds benefit the  
24 Women's Resource Center.

25 And I'd like to make a motion to

1 appoint Councilman Wechsler as temporary  
2 chairperson.

3 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

6 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler.

7 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

8 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Evans.

9 MR. EVANS: Yes.

10 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

12 (Whereupon the attorney speaks to  
13 Mr. Wechsler.)

14 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. All those in  
15 favor, please say aye.

16 MR. EVANS: Aye.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

18 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

19 MR. WECHSLER: Dispense with the  
20 reading of the minutes.

21 MS. REED: THIRD ORDER. 3-A.  
22 AGENDA FOR THE BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS  
23 MEETING HELD AUGUST 12, 2015.

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

1 MS. REED: 3-B. TAX ASSESSOR'S  
2 REPORT FOR HEARING DATES HELD AUGUST 19 AND  
3 SEPTEMBER 2, 2015.

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

6 MS. REED: 3-C. SINGLE TAX OFFICE  
7 CITY FUNDS DISTRIBUTED COMPARISON REPORT  
8 2015-2014 YEAR TO DATE 7-31-15.

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

11 MS. REED: 3-D. TAX ASSESSOR'S  
12 RESULTS REPORTS FOR HEARING DATES HELD JULY  
13 22, JULY 29, AUGUST 5, AUGUST 12 AND AUGUST  
14 19, 2015.

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

17 MS. REED: 3-E. RECOMMENDATION FROM  
18 CITY ENGINEER FOR INSTALLATION OF STREET  
19 LIGHT IN THE 700 BLOCK OF GILBERT STREET.

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

22 MS. REED: 3-F. CONTROLLER'S REPORT  
23 FOR THE MONTH ENDING JULY 31, 2015.

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

1 MS. REED: 3-G. TAX ASSESSOR'S  
2 REPORTS FOR HEARING DATES TO BE HELD  
3 SEPTEMBER 9, SEPTEMBER 16, AND SEPTEMBER 23,  
4 2015.

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

7 MS. REED: 3-H. AGENDA FOR THE CITY  
8 PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING HELD  
9 AUGUST 26, 2015.

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

12 MS. REED: 3-I. MINUTES OF THE  
13 FIREFIGHTERS PENSION COMMISSION MEETING HELD  
14 JULY 22, 2015.

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

17 MS. REED: 3-J. AGENDA FOR THE  
18 NON-UNIFORM MUNICIPAL PENSION BOARD MEETING  
19 HELD AUGUST 26, 2015.

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

22 MS. REED: 3-K. MINUTES OF THE  
23 NON-UNIFORM MUNICIPAL PENSION BOARD MEETING  
24 HELD JULY 22, 2015.

25 MR. WECHSLER: Are there any

1 comments? If not, received and filed.

2 MS. REED: 3-L. MINUTES OF THE  
3 COMPOSITE PENSION BOARD MEETING HELD JULY  
4 22, 2015.

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

7 MS. REED: 3-M. MINUTES OF THE  
8 SCRANTON POLICE PENSION COMMISSION MEETING  
9 HELD JULY 22, 2015.

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

12 MS. REED: 3-N. LACKAWANNA COUNTY  
13 PLANNING COMMISSION SUBDIVISION AND LAND  
14 DEVELOPMENT EVALUATION REVIEWED AUGUST 18,  
15 2015.

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

18 MS. REED: 3-O. SINGLE TAX OFFICE  
19 CITY FUNDS DISTRIBUTED COMPARISON REPORT  
20 2015-2014 YEAR TO DATE 8-31-15.

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

23 MS. REED: 3-P. AGENDA FOR THE BOARD  
24 OF ZONING APPEALS MEETING TO BE HELD  
25 SEPTEMBER 9, 2015.



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

3 FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'  
4 PARTICIPATION. Cara Seitzinger.

5 MS. SEITZINGER: Good evening,  
6 Council. My name is Cara Seitzinger. I  
7 have a letter that my husband wrote to  
8 Pennsylvania Insurance Company as well a  
9 letter that I wrote on his behalf, on our  
10 family's behalf. I have a copy for each of  
11 you if that's okay that I give it to Lori?  
12 I have never done this before.

13 MR. GAUGHAN: That's okay, you are  
14 doing a great job. City employees don't  
15 come to meetings. I'm going to read my  
16 letter and Mark's parallels pretty much the  
17 same.

18 "Dear Insurance Commissioner: I am  
19 currently an employee of the City of  
20 Scranton and my husband, Mark G. Seitzinger,  
21 is currently a patient of Delta Medix in  
22 Scranton, Pennsylvania. I am the insured  
23 policyholder of the plan issued to my  
24 employer by Highmark Northeast PA Blue Cross  
25 First Priority Life Insurance Company,

1 hereinafter referred to as Highmark, and my  
2 husband and children are named insured on  
3 this policy. Currently Delta Medix is not  
4 participating in any of the Highmark  
5 products due to an ability to reach a  
6 contract agreement.

7 Mark has been under the care of  
8 Dr. Donald Preate after being diagnosed with  
9 cancer on February 1, 2007, at 29 years old  
10 and one month before our wedding. Following  
11 two recurrences of cancer, subsequent  
12 surgeries and countless painful cancer  
13 treatments he was five plus years cancer  
14 free until his scheduled six-month checkup  
15 on August 24, 2015, revealed there may be a  
16 recurrence of his cancer. He is currently  
17 being worked up under a continuation of care  
18 and will have surgery and a biopsy on  
19 September 1, 2015. However, this agreement  
20 expires at midnight on September 2, 2015,  
21 less than 12 hours after this scheduled  
22 surgery.

23 This is a hardship on many counts.  
24 First and foremost, Highmark has advised  
25 that Mark can no longer be seen by the

1 specialist with whom we have developed a  
2 relationship and trust with over the past  
3 eight plus years. Additionally, Highmark  
4 has provided a list of in-network  
5 urologists, none of whom are located in the  
6 Scranton area. I personally contacted the  
7 office of Dr. John Minella of Geisinger  
8 Health system, urologist, oncologist in the  
9 Wilkes-Barre area last week and was advised  
10 that my husband's records must be reviewed  
11 by a nurse, triaged and that the earliest  
12 appointment was not available until  
13 November. I then contacted Dr. Michael  
14 Rittenberger, also a urologist/oncologist  
15 located in Kingston and after providing all  
16 information was told by the scheduling  
17 department we don't see Delta Medix, and I  
18 was promptly hung up on.

19 This is a woefully inadequate  
20 network present by Highmark and I'm at a  
21 lost as to how the Insurance Commission has  
22 not investigated this matter thus far or  
23 intervene on behalf of the thousands of  
24 residents of both Scranton and Northeastern  
25 Pennsylvania who are currently subscribers

1 with Highmark.

2 By way of background, after the  
3 original cancer diagnosis Mark was on a  
4 three-month protocol testing and cystoscopy  
5 for two years and if there was no recurrence  
6 of the cancer during that time period he  
7 would finally graduate to the six-month  
8 protocol, which is was finally able to  
9 achieve two and one half years ago through  
10 the first rate care that he received from  
11 Dr. Preate and Delta Medix. Even if he was  
12 cancer free, that six month protocol would  
13 remain in place for the rest of his life due  
14 to his young age when diagnosed, the number  
15 of recurrences, and the type of the cancer  
16 that he suffers from. As such, we have been  
17 vigilant and we have never missed or failed  
18 to schedule his appointments, cancer  
19 treatments or testing.

20 On August 24, Mark's 39 birthday, we  
21 were literally shaken to the core with the  
22 news that his cancer may have returned, yet  
23 we were firm in our resolve that there were  
24 countless in this area who are being  
25 disenfranchised by the practices of Highmark

1 and so are now publically speaking out on  
2 behalf of ourselves, our children, who are  
3 also insured through my policy, and have  
4 treated by other physicians within the Delta  
5 Medix group for other medical issues, and  
6 any other policyholder that may not have the  
7 time, strength or the courage to come  
8 forward.

9 Additionally, I myself suffered a  
10 neck injury in a motor vehicle accident and  
11 traveling long distances for my husband's  
12 care is extremely difficult for me. I will  
13 have to take days off from work, make  
14 arrangements for our children much like most  
15 families in the area. My husband is now  
16 expected to disrupt his oncology care,  
17 travel a great distance and wait almost  
18 three months for the care because Highmark  
19 cannot reach a contract with my provider.

20 As the director of insurance for the  
21 State of Pennsylvania I implore you to  
22 address this issue with NEPA Blue Cross,  
23 First Priority Life Insurance Company, now  
24 known as Highmark leadership so that we, the  
25 members, can have adequate network

1 specialists to provide care for the members  
2 living not only in Scranton, but all of  
3 Northeastern Pennsylvania. I await response  
4 and thank you for your prompt attention to  
5 this matter.

6 On a personal note, many of you know  
7 that Mark began his employment with the city  
8 in 2004 and he served the city very well  
9 until January of 2013. As you can see the  
10 dates here, Mark was on-call all the time  
11 24/7 and he never didn't answer a phone  
12 call. Not on our honeymoon, not on a  
13 vacation. His first cancer treatment I  
14 remember coming out of Moses Taylor, and I  
15 can't remember why we had had two cars, but  
16 I looked to the right and saw the smoke and  
17 I said -- I called and said, "What do you  
18 think that is?"

19 He said, "I don't know."

20 I said, "Don't even think about it."

21 Well, of course, it was the fire on  
22 Monroe Avenue where the three homes were  
23 lost, his story is a little different than  
24 -- I don't know, I'll have to check with  
25 Officer Mike Costanzo, he said he was

1           stopped and told they needed him, he got  
2           there, the porch collapsed and he wouldn't  
3           drive over the firehose because it's a  
4           \$1,000 fine in the State of Pennsylvania --  
5           or in the City of Scranton.

6                        His third and last set of cancer  
7           treatments towards the end of that year I  
8           remember by then he could get very sick from  
9           the treatment, so he would take a couple of  
10          days from work off so that he could sleep  
11          and rest and the phone rang at 5:30 in the  
12          morning, it was Director Ray Hayes saying  
13          there was a fire downtown, we will be taking  
14          down the building. And I heard Mark's  
15          response, "Over my dead body."

16                       He got out of bed, and for 15 hours  
17          every day he was at that fire, and it went  
18          on for days because he was afraid of the  
19          collapse zone. And then last week, trying  
20          to keep our minds off it we took our  
21          children out to dinner at Russell's and he  
22          was perplexed through the whole dinner, and  
23          I figured he was thinking about that, and as  
24          we started to drive he said, "I think I'm  
25          going to drive down by the fire."

1 I said, "Oh."

2 And I didn't even know there was a  
3 fire, and I work for the city. That's  
4 disgraceful. He said they called a mayday  
5 and he said -- I said, "Well, did everybody  
6 get out?"

7 And he said, "Yes, as far as I know,  
8 but I just want to make sure that that  
9 collapse zone is wide enough."

10 I don't know a man who is more  
11 honorable and honest than my husband and I  
12 just think about he is so private, so many  
13 people who have reached out to us said that  
14 they never knew because he never showed it,  
15 he just did his job. He went back to work  
16 today after having surgery and being sick  
17 yesterday and the day before, but I think  
18 this problem with High mark speaks to a  
19 larger problem, as the bigger hospitals come  
20 in they see the quality of care in this area  
21 is deplorable.

22 Many people said, commented that I  
23 should take him out of the area. I did  
24 that, I took him to Johns Hopkin's when he  
25 had his first recurrence. Johns Hopkin's



1 found nothing on that three-month checkup.  
2 I brought him back here and Dr. Preate found  
3 something so I just -- I'm asking you as  
4 councilmen to be leaders and to send a  
5 letter along with myself to stand in support  
6 of us and countless residents of Scranton  
7 and Northeastern Pennsylvania because it  
8 starts with one voice and to ask the mayors,  
9 council men, people across this area, across  
10 Northeastern Pennsylvania to stand with you  
11 and to try and get help for everyone.

12 I'm so grateful for our health  
13 insurance. I mean, I work for health  
14 insurance, that's why I work. People  
15 complain about it, I have never complained,  
16 I really haven't, and I'm not now. My  
17 complaint is with the Highmark Delta Medix  
18 issue which we did not want to get involved  
19 in. And, again, I just thank you for your  
20 time and I appreciate any help that you can  
21 give us.

22 MR. EVANS: Cara, first of all --  
23 sorry. You speak about Mark and what he is  
24 going through a dozen years I didn't know  
25 that and it goes to speak to the kind of

1 person he is. So certainly we will, I'm  
2 sure we can all agree to send a letter  
3 tonight and do it as soon as we can.

4 MR. GAUGHAN: And our prayers are  
5 with your family.

6 MS. SEITZINGER: Thank you.

7 MR. WECHSLER: I had the privilege  
8 of working with Mark on several different  
9 issues and I'm sure we can put something  
10 together and get it out as soon as possible.

11 MR. SEITZINGER: And for anybody  
12 that doesn't know, Delta Medix themselves  
13 have uploaded a letter, a sample letter, for  
14 citizens if they would kindly write to  
15 Highmark and ask that Highmark reconsider.  
16 The quality of care that we get here, it's  
17 just -- it's very difficult for people to go  
18 out of the area, people work very hard, and  
19 as Mark said when we talked to the  
20 newspaper, which for him to do that was  
21 business, that's just not the kind of guy  
22 Mark Seitzinger is, we figure somebody  
23 always had it worst than we have and that's  
24 why he did it. So I really appreciate it  
25 any help. Thank you very much.

1 MR. EVANS: Do we have to make a  
2 motion or anything at this point or should  
3 we just talk about it?

4 MR. WECHSLER: I think if we can  
5 access the sample Delta Medix has and just  
6 work from that.

7 Joan Hodowanitz.

8 MS. HODOWANITZ: Joan Hodowanitz,  
9 Scranton taxpayer and resident. With regard  
10 to Item 3-F, July controller's report, I'm  
11 not sure you have had the opportunity to  
12 look at it closely, but there were two items  
13 that were charged against the contingency  
14 fund, this is on page 15, Miller Bean  
15 Funeral Home \$10,802.59. Cathedral  
16 Cemetery, \$3,040. Now, only funeral  
17 associated with a city employee in the month  
18 of July that I'm aware of was the funeral  
19 for Patrolman Wilding who passed away on  
20 July 12. Now, this surprised me because I  
21 was under the foolish assumption that city  
22 employees, especially police and  
23 firefighters who go into harm's way, are  
24 protected by things like workmen's  
25 compensation and life insurance.

1 I did just a quick check, and this  
2 the 2013 audit, page 96, workmen's  
3 compensation claims budgeted \$3,700,680,  
4 actual \$2,642,281, so at least in the past  
5 we had workmen's compensation and workmen's  
6 compensation will pay for both injury and  
7 death, there are claim benefits.

8 And life insurance, this is the 2015  
9 operating budget under the Bureau of Police  
10 and life/disability insurance the 2015  
11 budget was \$300,000. Assuming that this is  
12 the funeral for Patrolman Wilding, some  
13 concerning questions come to my mind.  
14 First, was Patrolman Wilding covered by  
15 workmen's compensation an/or life insurance  
16 as a city employee? If not, why not? Why  
17 would we send an employee into harm's way  
18 without covering him financially. Two, is  
19 this the first time the city has paid  
20 funeral expenses for an employee? Did we  
21 pay for Captain James Robeson who died on  
22 January 6, 2008. If not, why not?

23 According to a story in the  
24 Times-Tribune, four of our firefighters came  
25 close to being killed last week during the

1 Sandone Warehouse fire, had they been killed  
2 would they very have been covered  
3 financially? I don't know. Have we set a  
4 precedent by paying for this funeral for all  
5 city employees in the future an employee  
6 dies then we are going to use tax revenues  
7 to pay for their funeral because they are  
8 not covered or if they are covered is this  
9 in addition to their entitlements?

10 I would like to know, and I have  
11 asked in a Right-to-Know request what is the  
12 written policy the benefits that we provide  
13 to our employees and under what  
14 circumstances do we use tax revenues to pay  
15 for funerals? I have never heard of this  
16 before in any city. If a soldier dies on  
17 the battlefield his funeral is paid for  
18 under his servicemen's group life insurance,  
19 SGLI. The unit does not pay for his  
20 funeral. I don't know if any of you have  
21 heard of such a situation, but I'd certainly  
22 like to know how the contingency fund was  
23 used to pay for a funeral in the month of  
24 July, and I do know that Wildman's funeral  
25 was handled by Miller Bean.

1 Other issues not that you are all  
2 back, in future weeks I will be asking you  
3 about the status of the 2014 audit. Has SP  
4 & Company given us any statuses?

5 MR. WECHSLER: Not at this type.

6 MS. HODOWANITZ: Okay, because we  
7 have paid them \$20,000, which is half of  
8 what we gave them under the contract. Do we  
9 have any status on how soon we are going to  
10 see the 2016 budget?

11 MR. WECHSLER: No.

12 MS. HODOWANITZ: Okay. How about  
13 the rental registration ordinance, are we  
14 making any progress on updating that?

15 MR. EVANS: That's in litigation  
16 right now, that's the problem.

17 MS. HODOWANITZ: So that's frozen.  
18 How about the sale of the Parking Authority  
19 and the Sewer Authority or the sale or the  
20 leasebacks, make any progress there?

21 MR. WECHSLER: The administration is  
22 working on both.

23 MS. HODOWANITZ: Okay, and I'll get  
24 back to the other things next week, but I  
25 would like some kind of response on what



1 know -- weren't able to so Officer Anthony  
2 Geida came up and he said to me, "I'd like  
3 to help you out, but it's not properly  
4 posted."

5 There was only one properly posted  
6 sign, the other ones there were not visible  
7 enough, which you will see in one of those  
8 pictures there, and I'll go through them in  
9 a minute with you. So I talked to the guy  
10 at the DPW and he was doing the job for  
11 quite some time but he said they didn't have  
12 the money to buy the material to put the  
13 signs up so, he did go he tell me two more  
14 signs put up at that point. We had to get  
15 the budget passed, I guess it had something  
16 to do with the budget with him getting  
17 materials with the signs.

18 I make all of our tenants get  
19 parking permits and I have the sheet at my  
20 home that when by tenants move in I bring  
21 them, I literally bring them to the DPW  
22 building and make them get permits --  
23 (unintelligible) was enforcing it. I  
24 actually talked to Officer Gieda and Officer  
25 Bachman, he handles that. They said there



1            isn't anything we can do until we get all of  
2            the signs up of. The guy came and got a  
3            couple up. I then myself, since I'm trying  
4            to enforce this with the people in the area  
5            arguing with people that weren't living  
6            there that worked for the hospital and  
7            things like that, I went down to the DPW and  
8            asked for a parking permit for myself. We  
9            worked on the house, I have to do things  
10           there, so I mean, it's not -- and I just got  
11           a ticket myself which is now I'm fighting it  
12           and pleading not guilty over at the  
13           magistrate's office.

14                    I took our deed, I showed her we  
15                    have bills that common areas because of the  
16                    fact that it's a two apartment, you have to  
17                    have a light and I have to have some  
18                    utilities in our name. I took them over  
19                    there, I took the deed. She said that there  
20                    is -- no, she didn't say that. What she  
21                    said was that, "You did not live there, you  
22                    can't have a parking permit."

23                    Took the ticket down, showed her the  
24                    ticket. Sorry, still can't help you. So I  
25                    was informed that there was kind of a glitch

1 in the ordinance for saying that homeowners  
2 if they don't live there they cannot get a  
3 parking permit so that's where we are with  
4 that. There is a woman who drives -- she's  
5 a nurse, she lives in Nanticoke, she cursed  
6 at me and did several things she then has a  
7 parking permit in her car that was -- I know  
8 because Officer Gieda ran her license plate  
9 and found out that she lived in Nanticoke  
10 and she worked at the Mercy Hospital. I  
11 seen her there, she was a nurse.

12 Also, on the parking permits it's  
13 supposed to indicate the address of the  
14 block, not the home, but the block. Let's  
15 say you will see in the picture there,  
16 visitors pass or like the tenant's pass.  
17 The tenant's pass has an address and it has  
18 a license number. The pass for their  
19 visitor does not have a license number and  
20 it has, you know, a date.

21 When some people are parking in  
22 there now that are using parking permits  
23 from other areas they push the parking  
24 permit, which is a piece of paper, down  
25 underneath the window so you could only see

1 partial day and parking permit for the city,  
2 parking permit for the City of Scranton so  
3 you really don't know which car it was in. I  
4 mean, that's another glitch that this  
5 parking permit situation has, and like I  
6 said, from time-to-time I have to go there  
7 and I have to paint, I have to go there  
8 every three days to take care of the boiler,  
9 we need to do something to get this  
10 ordinance straightened out.

11 If you look at the piece of paper,  
12 these are pictures taken from this morning.  
13 The first one is a black Honda, the last  
14 four digits of the license plate are 5248.  
15 You can see where it clearly says, I have it  
16 circled here, it says, "Parking permit  
17 only." Parking by permit only."

18 No permit in this car. This Venza  
19 no parking permit in that either. This  
20 Compressor C-230, it's a new Mercedes, there  
21 isn't a parking permit in that car either.  
22 Now, here is one on East Gibson, it's from  
23 Connecticut, no parking pass there either.  
24 Now, this next one that you see supposedly I  
25 was told this was a fireman in the City of

1           Scranton, he has a pass there, which you  
2           could see, that expired 4-10-15, which is  
3           quite a few months ago. The license plate  
4           doesn't match, and you can see the other one  
5           in the license plate is on that vehicle.

6                   MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Klonicki, could  
7           you just give your full number to Jamie,  
8           please, so we can forward these pictures to  
9           Chief Graziano and discuss it with them and  
10          just take a look at it. Maybe it needs  
11          defined or maybe he can explain it to you  
12          and to us, you know, why this is happening  
13          so if you could give your number to --

14                   MR. KLONICKI: All right, what about  
15          the ordinance for letting an owner get a --

16                   MR. WECHSLER: That's we would have  
17          to talk to him and we would have to take a  
18          look at that ordinance and see if it needs  
19          to be fine tuned. To be honest with you,  
20          this is the first I have heard of a problem  
21          like yours.

22                   MR. EVANS: It's usually just the  
23          opposite, it's usually people complaining  
24          that they got tickets and everybody got a  
25          ticket. Since we have had the parking

1 enforcement people out there, that's been  
2 our bigger complaint so not getting tickets  
3 is odd for us though, but I think it's time  
4 for us to have a talk with Chief Graziano  
5 anyway to go over the progress of that  
6 program as well as issues like yours with  
7 the permit parking, and I think that's a  
8 good point you should have almost a guest  
9 pass if you are the property owner so you  
10 can park there when you are doing work on  
11 your house or painting or etc., so I think  
12 that's not something that we should look at  
13 lightly.

14 MR. WECHSLER: It only makes sense  
15 that you should have the right to park since  
16 you own the building and you pay taxes, that  
17 only makes sense. We have to fine tune that  
18 a little about so we should start working on  
19 it, but if you could give your contact  
20 information to Jamie we will he get back to  
21 you in a few days and let you know our  
22 progress. Thank you for taking the time to  
23 come down and making us aware of the  
24 problem.

25 Ron Ellman.

1 MR. ELLMAN: Ron Ellman. I got a  
2 surprise, I had no intentions of attacking  
3 anybody tonight, and I'm proud to hear the  
4 doughboy is still around. I was wondering I  
5 have brought some things up and I was told  
6 you have to do -- see council about this and  
7 council about that, you people are operating  
8 under codes that are 50, 60 years old. Why  
9 aren't they brought up? Why isn't it  
10 brought up to the 21st century for crying  
11 out loud. You know, there is lots of them.

12 During the holiday, your holiday, I  
13 tucked to -- I ran into a few people that  
14 brought up taxes, I know you guys don't want  
15 to talk about it, what was it 2090  
16 foreclosures in the county, 639 in the city.  
17 There is things on here that have been here  
18 for eight, ten years, dead people on here.  
19 Everything is so -- why can't we step up a  
20 notch in this city? Who ever heard --  
21 there's a lady in here that's my friend's  
22 aunt she died years ago and they tore the  
23 house down eight years ago and it's still in  
24 here for taxes. This is just -- Mr. Amoroso  
25 hasn't done a damn thing since he has been

1 here. He hasn't done one thing to help this  
2 city. Why can't you let him go through here  
3 on the big sums of money and see what's  
4 going on. He is supposed to be collecting  
5 money, I know he is not going to collect  
6 anything from Lackawanna College. Well,  
7 there is some names on here that owe \$500.  
8 They shouldn't be there. There ought to be  
9 something -- something that they could do.  
10 While I think of it, last month when you  
11 people were so intent on giving the \$150,000  
12 away to that new business I heard on my car  
13 radio twice there is a company called  
14 BusinessLoansNow.com that said they give 50  
15 to 500,000 dollar business loans. Why don't  
16 you start telling some of those deadbeats  
17 that can't go to bank that get taxpayer  
18 money to go to them? If you ever talk to  
19 somebody, people are just so fed up and  
20 frustrated with what's going on with the  
21 waste.

22 I got a bill for two new shocks on  
23 my car. I didn't have it done. It was  
24 almost \$1,000 and it was because of the  
25 streets. You can't avoid it during the

1 winter. I have to fix it, but I just  
2 thought I would put it off. These  
3 antiquated codes for the city, and I know  
4 you guys know what I'm talking about, I'm  
5 talking about my neighbor's junky truck  
6 parked under my window that nobody would do  
7 a thing about. Well, he is taking me to  
8 Court for harassment because I have  
9 complained. It's your fault that I  
10 complained because you are the ones never  
11 done nothing about it. There is not a one  
12 of you if this truck, this diesel pile of  
13 junk was parked under your window and  
14 started at 4:00 in the morning it might last  
15 day and that would be it. If you had to go  
16 sell the house and have this truck sitting  
17 in the driveway they would tell you they  
18 would give you \$20,000 less.

19 I talked to someone this morning, I  
20 had coffee with someone with 5:30 this  
21 morning and we were talking about it and  
22 they said sure this truck diminishes the  
23 value of the whole neighborhood, parking a  
24 Martin bread truck in your driveway. I'll  
25 be 80 years old soon, you know, my house



1 will probably be for sale in a year or two  
2 or three. I hope something is done by then  
3 about it. I guess I'll just have to do it  
4 myself, you know, because one other thing, I  
5 thought that the parking garage was supposed  
6 to know to be settled in April what they  
7 were going to do. There was a company  
8 wanting to buy and lease them and so forth,  
9 it was in the paper, I thought that they had  
10 a date in April they would know what they  
11 were going to do with the parking garages;  
12 am I not right?

13 MR. WECHSLER: Right now it's still  
14 continuing to be -- I think it's anticipated  
15 to be done by the end of the year, and I  
16 don't believe it was ever in April.

17 MR. ELLMAN: I don't remember  
18 exactly, but April was stuck in my mind.

19 MR. WECHSLER: That's maybe when  
20 they started the process in earnest, but  
21 right now the target is the end of the year.

22 MR. ELLMAN: Well, you take care of  
23 the doughboy for me.

24 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you very much.

25 MR. ELLMAN: I have seen him. Thank

1           you .

2                   MR. WECHSLER: He is at the Trolley  
3 museum right now.

4                   Marcus Sanchez? Is there anyone  
5 else who wishes to address council?

6                   MS. GAUGHAN: Yes, Councilman. Good  
7 evening, gentlemen.

8                   ALL COUNCIL: Good evening.

9                   MS. GAUGHAN: I'm here usually and I  
10 say something positive. I believe the  
11 positive part is --

12                   MR. WECHSLER: Excuse me, you have  
13 to state your name, please.

14                   MS. GAUGHAN: My name is Mary  
15 Gaughan.

16                   MR. WECHSLER: Thank you.

17                   MS. GAUGHAN: And usually I say  
18 everything positive because I think you fine  
19 gentlemen could be the answer to the city.  
20 The mall is sold, the city could be looking  
21 up, but every day I see people violating a  
22 law that was passed by the Pennsylvania:  
23 Legislature 2007. Anyone wants to get it,  
24 it's the Clean Indoor/Outdoor Air Act. On a  
25 consistent basis half the people in town

1           violate that law. I took the bus the other  
2           day, somebody sat down right next to me and  
3           started smoking. I said excuse me, sir, if  
4           you want cancer I don't would you please  
5           move?

6                         Now, I shouldn't have to say that,  
7           and I see a policeman that walks around and  
8           you could put a rail and put up a blowup  
9           dummy because he sees nothing. His book  
10          should be filled. The city's coffers should  
11          be filed with fines and they are not. I see  
12          too many homeless people, some of them are  
13          gone now because of the Italian festival is  
14          coming, and there is cigarette butts all  
15          over the city, and I see a business, a major  
16          hotel that I looked and I thought the canopy  
17          was falling in. I looked and I saw  
18          vegetation growing in their steps. I looked  
19          and I see a wall that looks like it's going  
20          to start falling down. The business makes a  
21          lot of money in this city, why are they not  
22          responsible for keeping this city looking  
23          well?

24                         And, also, I'm a senior citizen and  
25          several times I almost got run over by a

1 bicycle because people ride bicycles down  
2 the middle of the sidewalk. If there isn't  
3 an ordinance there should be one. The same  
4 thing with skateboarders. I see on a  
5 consistent basis they went into the  
6 Renaissance 500 and they are skateboarding,  
7 there is big sign there "No skateboarding."

8 I tried to cross the street in the  
9 middle of Lackawanna Avenue where it's a  
10 crosswalk, where it says you are supposed to  
11 get the right-of-way. Well, do you get it?  
12 No. Tonight I went to cross the street, I'm  
13 in the crosswalk, I pushed the button and I  
14 have eight seconds to cross the street which  
15 is like you usually get 15 or something, and  
16 a guy came right and he nearly ran over me  
17 because he wanted to make a right turn.

18 It's my point that this city might  
19 not be distressed if the people that want  
20 double pensions and want a pension better  
21 look around and so what's going on when the  
22 three-on-three tournament was on Wyoming  
23 Avenue there was a homeless man that I see  
24 quite frequently with his back up against  
25 the Rite Aid, there was a stream of urine

1 coming into the road. I don't know why the  
2 police did not see this. There were all  
3 young people in town. The man needs help,  
4 he needs not to be there and do the children  
5 have to see that? And there were groups of  
6 Korean young men walking around about ten or  
7 20 in a group, and I know that and I know  
8 they were from Korea because they looked on  
9 their cell phones -- they didn't speak  
10 English and they wanted to know where to go  
11 to a restaurant. Now, why did they have to  
12 see this? And the poor man, I'm not against  
13 him, why doesn't something do something?  
14 There are Catholic Social Services, the  
15 Salvation Army, the Red Cross, the  
16 Lackawanna United Fund. These people should  
17 shouldn't be on the streets they should be  
18 helped.

19 And I don't think I want to spend  
20 the rest of my life in Allied because I get  
21 run over by a bicycle or a skateboarder if  
22 the police can't see these things and can't  
23 see that sometimes they had the ability to  
24 clock cars and motorcycles they'd see that  
25 they were going 60 miles per hour down

1 Lackawanna Avenue. Thank you, gentlemen. I  
2 think if people paid attention maybe the  
3 money that would come into the city coffers  
4 would cause the city not to be distressed  
5 any more, and I certainly don't think you  
6 fine men are responsible for what's going  
7 on, I think you are responsible for trying  
8 to do something and better the city. Thank  
9 you.

10 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening, Council.  
11 Dave Dobrzyn, resident and taxpayer, taxes  
12 paid, by the way, fees paid and dog license.  
13 Once again, I'd like to mention, and  
14 hopefully somebody from Comcast is watching  
15 because ECTV disappears, I'm going to  
16 disappear from their roles as a paid  
17 customer. I find it kind of egregious and I  
18 would like to see them funded and funded  
19 adequately and funded annually.

20 In the paper a few weeks ago the  
21 Chamber of Commerce and SLIBCO is trying TO  
22 sell the globe store to the county which  
23 will then make it a tax exempt institution  
24 or building. Once again, we are going to  
25 loss a quarter of a million dollars in tax

1 revenue coming into Scranton and, by the  
2 way, the jobs are taken out of there a year  
3 or two ago for a new development which they  
4 own and I have spoken literally to people  
5 who used to work there and they couldn't  
6 afford the transportation to get to the new  
7 place because they moved it once again to  
8 out to the wilderness or what was once  
9 wilderness or commons, commons were lands  
10 that city or towns might have owned and  
11 anybody could walk around as long as they  
12 didn't cause any trouble.

13 Once again, the sewer plant is in  
14 the paper, and my prediction is that it will  
15 not fair well and cities will subsidize  
16 rural areas they are right now. We are  
17 subsidizing power delivery to the Poconos.  
18 We are paying for line repairs out in the  
19 Poconos. We are paying for sewer out in the  
20 Poconos by companies that own these lines  
21 have bought into the sewer plants and their  
22 rates get reduced slightly, which are very  
23 high, and if you want 500 foot frontage in  
24 front of your house then maybe you deserve  
25 to pay it and if you can't pay it find

1 another situation because I don't have money  
2 to pay it for you.

3 The block grants and the \$150,000 I  
4 have a question on those and I read through  
5 the material that I was handed and that's  
6 okay but are these block grants applied for  
7 as apples, oranges or peaches. Is there  
8 something else we can do with the money like  
9 brown field reclamation from our collieries,  
10 things like this. Down in the valley it's a  
11 law now that you have backfill and restore  
12 the grade and there was a coal operation at  
13 the old Baker colliery, now they tore down  
14 the trees that finally grew there and they  
15 are sitting there as a nice eyesore, culm  
16 banks and ash banks and whatever.

17 And, once again, winter is  
18 approaching, don't want to rush it, don't  
19 like the bills, but we really need a plan  
20 for recycle on the Friday recycling run,  
21 every Friday -- nearly every Friday our  
22 recycling crew was snatched up to remove  
23 snow downtown and the recycling piled up, I  
24 said 9 cubic feet, well, three or four weeks  
25 ago after we went on vacation I was out in



1 the backyard and I thought I'm going to cut  
2 the grass and do some things and I opened up  
3 this trash barrel and it wasn't wise or  
4 anything, it was newspapers. Old trash in  
5 addition to the 9 or 12 cubic feet paper  
6 that I had stuffed in boxes and hanging  
7 around on a less than legal basis  
8 practically, I probably would had to take it  
9 to court if somebody didn't see it  
10 reasonably. And bridge ice removal that has  
11 to be done, I know that's a pet peeve of  
12 yours. One of those little Bobcats or  
13 something like that and that's about as wide  
14 as the sidewalk and they need to be cleared.  
15 They are totally impassable and, you know,  
16 if you hit somebody trying to get across  
17 that bridge your life is over for quite some  
18 time, you know, and it's just wrong to not  
19 have those cleared so thank you and I'll be  
20 back and besty as ever. Have a good night.

21 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you.

22 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,  
23 citizen of Scranton, fellow Scrantonian. I  
24 guess we don't have a quorum up there for  
25 right now but I guess I can speak anyway,

1           it doesn't really matter I guess. As you  
2           know, our good recovery plan calls for a 6  
3           percent hike come January. I think it's  
4           going to be 6, 8 percent hike in January.  
5           You have done nothing to avoid a tax  
6           increase. In fact, you are probably  
7           relishing it, and that's not right. You  
8           should be doing everything you can to avoid  
9           a tax increase in January, but I don't think  
10          you are quite able to do it because you are  
11          not committed to it.

12                        I mean, oppression of the citizens  
13          of Scranton with people going out and giving  
14          tickets doesn't really help anything. It  
15          fosters people's dislike of the City of  
16          Scranton and that's what we are getting.  
17          I'm surprised you ain't getting a lot more  
18          lawsuits with these nuisance filings you  
19          were opposing on people. You are not  
20          improving the city one iota. In fact, you  
21          are causing a lot of people to leave the  
22          city and that's not right either. You  
23          should try to encourage people to come to  
24          Scranton and point out the good things in  
25          Scranton. We do have lot of good things in

1           Scranton, best I always said you can be out  
2           in five minutes. That was a great thing to  
3           have because Scranton is a metropolitan  
4           area. If you have tried to avoid people  
5           going up Main Avenue you'd go all the way to  
6           Carbondale or if you turn around you go all  
7           the way to Wilkes-Barre and never find open  
8           space. That's how many people actually live  
9           alongside of Main Avenue, but for some  
10          reason no one in the city ever tried to  
11          reach out and ask the legislature to  
12          incorporate a city franchise where you could  
13          take in some of these small areas. There is  
14          no reason for Scranton to have a separate  
15          government in Dunmore or a second government  
16          from Taylor or a second thing from Old  
17          Forge, Dickson City. We have to have a  
18          citywide government, even if it has to be  
19          countywide, it's the only way you are going  
20          to avoid what's happening. The city is  
21          going to be taxed out of existence and you  
22          are not going to cure anything.

23                   Everything that's in that recovery  
24                   plan is going to cost the residents of the  
25                   city more money, not necessarily in taxes

1 but in services. Your Sewer Authority bills  
2 will rise, your parking, we are giving away  
3 millions of dollars in parking revenue. If  
4 you sell the parking meters along with  
5 parking garages or privatizing, whatever  
6 word you want me to use, it's going to take  
7 a million, a million and a quarter out of  
8 the city every year and revenue from the  
9 meters. I don't know how much of the  
10 revenue you gave to the banks, but you did  
11 do that, too. That was a lot of money we  
12 have lost and that money given to the bank  
13 didn't help one iota. You couldn't -- you  
14 didn't even get a loan from the Scranton  
15 bank, you were out there with the same  
16 people you borrowed before 8 1/2 percent and  
17 if they go out to New York or wherever they  
18 are going they get another loan or bond or  
19 whatever you want to call it it's going to  
20 be like 8 percent or 8 1/2 percent, we are  
21 not talking about \$24 million, we are  
22 talking about maybe \$55 million. Someone  
23 has to pay them debts even though they are  
24 extended they still got to be paid.

25 And I don't see a solution of what

1           you are doing. No matter what you do you  
2           are not going to save the city, there is no  
3           way to save it. You have to sit there and  
4           watch it go downhill. People have been  
5           coming here for 20 years telling you stop,  
6           stop, stop, but nobody cared. You got your  
7           votes, you got your people that were voting  
8           for you, you got a thousand city workers  
9           voting for you, but the people are leaving.  
10          Pretty soon you will only have the  
11          nonprofits and city workers, and I don't now  
12          how are going to survive like that.

13                   MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

14                   MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening,  
15          Council, Marie Schumacher. First, I'd like  
16          to congratulate Councilman Gaughan on the  
17          birth of his son.

18                   MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

19                   MS. SCHUMACHER: And wish them all  
20          well. Now to business, before you went on  
21          your whatever, you were promising a revised  
22          recovery plan listing or matrix that was  
23          going to show the timing and the status of  
24          -- has that matrix been received?

25                   MR. EVANS: No, it hasn't. I'm

1                   sorry, no, it hasn't. A couple of the  
2                   meetings -- sorry. A couple of the meetings  
3                   were postponed for different reasons so we  
4                   haven't had a chance to get that done yet,  
5                   but I'll ask them about that.

6                   MS. SCHUMACHER: It seems to be  
7                   taking an awful long time, and speaking of  
8                   PEL, I'll jump down, is it the 15th of this  
9                   month that the budget is due to PEL for them  
10                  to come up with their recommendations?

11                  MR. EVANS: I don't think it's the  
12                  15th of this month. I thought it was --

13                  MS. SCHUMACHER: 15th of September.

14                  MR. EVANS: We have a meeting on  
15                  Monday -- no, we don't have a meeting this  
16                  week because of the holiday so I'll check on  
17                  that and make sure that's the date.

18                  MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay, and then how  
19                  will that -- will that be the same budget  
20                  that you guys receive in November or what is  
21                  the process from the time the City submits  
22                  it to PEL and does council have to act on  
23                  that budget or is that totally the  
24                  administration?

25                  MR. EVANS: Well, at that point it's

1 the administration, but when we see the  
2 budget we will have an opportunity to  
3 comment and amend the budget as we see fit.

4 MS. SCHUMACHER: After PEL has made  
5 the recommendation?

6 MR. EVANS: Right. We are part of  
7 the process as well. We have a seat at the  
8 table at the PEL meeting so if that comes  
9 down we will have an opportunity to comment.

10 MS. SCHUMACHER: But it's not very  
11 transparent to the public what's going on  
12 there.

13 MR. EVANS: Well, that's --

14 MR. WECHSLER: It doesn't exist yet  
15 to be transparent. It can't be transparent  
16 if it hasn't been presented to us or anyone  
17 else.

18 MR. EVANS: Well, our meetings are  
19 open to the public, the PEL meetings you  
20 could sit in on those any time.

21 MR. SCHUMACHER: The what?

22 MR. EVANS: The PEL meetings that we  
23 have on Mondays.

24 MS. SCHUMACHER: Are open to the  
25 public?

1 MR. EVANS: Are they open to the  
2 public?

3 MS. SCHUMACHER: I don't believe so.

4 MR. EVANS: Oh, I thought they were.

5 MS. SCHUMACHER: They are or they  
6 aren't?

7 MR. EVANS: No, they're not.

8 MS. SCHUMACHER: I didn't think so.  
9 Now, at the Pension Board meeting for  
10 non-uniform it came to the surface at the  
11 last meeting, as I'm sure Lori has probably  
12 advised you, that the Pension Board does not  
13 have subpoena power, so a lot of the  
14 information that would be valuable for  
15 untangling this mess that just goes from  
16 month to month you people do have the  
17 subpoena power, so I would like to make a  
18 recommendation that you review the material  
19 and where the wholes are and where it would  
20 be good to talk to people, I know for  
21 instance when I went back and listened to  
22 those tapes from the meeting on doubling the  
23 taxes I believe it was Gary Dibileo when it  
24 was introduced said something to the effect,  
25 "Well, I'm voting for it to get it on the



1 agenda, but there is some issues," and then  
2 it sailed through without any comment so  
3 what happened? I mean, I would like --

4 MR. EVANS: Well, I know there is  
5 still hearings that are still ongoing and  
6 also the FBI and the state police are still  
7 involved.

8 MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, their  
9 hearings, but the Pension Board is operating  
10 without that power and without the ability  
11 to talk to those people where there are  
12 questions that might clear up the mess and  
13 so I'm doing a suggesting you might want to  
14 consider who should be called in and get to  
15 the bottom of this and get it resolved. It  
16 would be nice to start the new year with  
17 that not hanging over our heads for both of  
18 the people who are effected and the  
19 taxpayers.

20 And then something that's been  
21 bothering me, Mr. Evans, since July you made  
22 this statement, "According to the  
23 information we received recently there are  
24 2,400 businesses that would pay a payroll  
25 tax and there is an approximately 340 that

1 are paying the mercantile tax. What this --  
2 what that tells me is that it would be a  
3 broader, more equal tax because people  
4 aren't paying the mercantile tax now  
5 anyway."

6 May I finish?

7 MR. EVANS: Yeah.

8 MS. SCHUMACHER: "It's a voluntary  
9 tax that probably one-third of the  
10 businesses are paying."

11 Now, I don't see any place where the  
12 mercantile tax is listed as voluntarily,  
13 number one. Number two, all businesses  
14 collect the LST tax from their employees'  
15 paychecks so the tax office knows who the  
16 businesses are and how can we have only 340  
17 businesses out of 2,400 paying the tax? Are  
18 those accurate numbers?

19 MR. EVANS: According to analysis by  
20 a consultant that was working for PEL, yes,  
21 they are, or they are close to being very,  
22 very accurate.

23 MS. SCHUMACHER: Why?

24 MR. EVANS: That's the question.

25 MR. GAUGHAN: That's a good

1 question, that's what we asked.

2 MS. SCHUMACHER: I mean, if you have  
3 the identification of all of these people --

4 MR. EVANS: Not everybody that has  
5 payroll is eligible to pay the mercantile  
6 tax.

7 MS. SCHUMACHER: I know that, but  
8 you can go and write a letter and have them  
9 if they are going to tell you if they are  
10 not -- for what reasons they are not  
11 eligible, but this is crazy.

12 MR. EVANS: It is.

13 MS. SCHUMACHER: It's sort of like  
14 the trash tax.

15 MR. EVANS: You are absolutely  
16 right, it's exactly like the trash tax and  
17 the reason I call it voluntarily is because  
18 you don't get a bill for the mercantile tax,  
19 you get a property tax bill, you know, other  
20 bills you get, you don't get a bill for that  
21 so if you don't voluntarily pay it then  
22 somebody has to go out and ask you to pay  
23 it.

24 MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, isn't that  
25 what the tax office is for? They've got

1                   eight or ten people down there. Come on.

2                   MR. EVANS: I'm not making excuses,  
3 I'm just --

4                   MS. SCHUMACHER: It sounds like it.

5                   MR. EVANS: No, not at all.

6                   MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, has anybody  
7 sat DOWN and talked with them and asked them  
8 that simple question?

9                   MR. EVANS: Well, this information  
10 -- again, this is information we just  
11 received in July so we are absolutely going  
12 to look into that. Yeah, I've had this  
13 conversation with PEL almost on a weekly  
14 basis what we are going to do about it and I  
15 found it outrageous.

16                  MR. GAUGHAN: I have been on those  
17 meetings and it is outrageous.

18                  MS. SCHUMACHER: But has anybody  
19 talked to the tax collector? Like I said,  
20 you have -- I mean, I just don't understand  
21 why, it's almost the 9th of September, two  
22 months, could have been down there on the  
23 10th and asked a simple question, I mean.

24                  MR. EVANS: Well, we are going to  
25 get to the bottom of it, it's not something

1 we are taking lightly.

2 MS. SCHUMACHER: Well --

3 MR. EVANS: Because this is very  
4 much part of our budget discussions when we  
5 have asked -- being asked for property  
6 owners to increase taxes and then we have  
7 voluntary tax like the mercantile tax to be  
8 paid at less than 30 percent.

9 MS. SCHUMACHER: It's outrageous.

10 MR. EVANS: It is.

11 MS. SCHUMACHER: It really is  
12 outrageous, and the same with the trash tax,  
13 do we know? Now the second payment was  
14 due--

15 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. Thank you, Mrs.  
16 Schumacher.

17 MS. SCHUMACHER: Do we have the  
18 numbers?

19 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Is there  
20 anyone else who wishes to address council?

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

22 MOTIONS.

23 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Evans.

24 MR. EVANS: Just a very brief  
25 comment on the budget since that came up

1           tonight quite a bit. We know that  
2           discussions will be taking place in the near  
3           future and I have been very clear on my  
4           unsupport of the Amoroso plan which called  
5           for 18 percent in 2015, 6 percent in 2016  
6           and 6 percent in 2017. Last year, the  
7           increase was 18.99, which effectively is 19  
8           percent. So I had stated previously that my  
9           threshold is 5 percent as far as the tax  
10          increase is concerned for 2016.

11                     It's that simple. Double digit tax  
12           increases have had a devastating impact on  
13           housing, values, our neighborhoods,  
14           development, and growth within the city and  
15           this is year it has to stop. I telegraphed  
16           this last year at budget time, I'm stating  
17           it again, so if you see a budget with more  
18           than 5 percent then I will make numerous  
19           amendments to that budget. Thank you.

20                     MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Gaughan?

21                     MR. GAUGHAN: Yes. Thank you, I  
22           have quite a few. First, I'd like to  
23           welcome everyone back, we had a very busy  
24           recess and as Mrs. Schumacher noted my wife  
25           and I had our son, Jack, on August 12 and he

1 is healthy and is doing well, so that's good  
2 news.

3 I've asked Mrs. Reed to send a  
4 letter to the mayor asking for an update on  
5 you progress of the \$1 million in savings  
6 from the new police and fire contracts. I  
7 want to know how much we've saved so far and  
8 if they are on track to hit \$1 million in  
9 savings which is what the mayor proposed  
10 when we were voting on these two contracts  
11 back in January.

12 I have also asked Chief Graziano for  
13 a report on how much revenue has been  
14 collected to date from the civilian parking  
15 enforcement. The administration was  
16 expecting to see \$300,000 from this new  
17 program.

18 I am concerned about that we may  
19 fall short in our collection of the LT tax.  
20 At the PEL meeting this past Monday, I asked  
21 if we were on track to meet what was  
22 budgeted for 2015 and the answer was that we  
23 were very behind. To date we have collected  
24 \$2,235,256.48. We budgeted \$4,287,500. I  
25 asked for a letter to be sent to the mayor

1 and the business administrator. We did  
2 receive information back from the business  
3 administrator with a correspondence from the  
4 Single Tax Office. The Single Tax Office  
5 does not believe we are reach the budgeted  
6 amount because the fourth quarter of 2015  
7 isn't due until January 31, 2016. This  
8 year's collection will include the fourth  
9 quarter of 2014, which is at the old rate.  
10 I would like an explanation from Mayor  
11 Courtright as to what the plan is to makeup  
12 for this possible and likely shortfall and  
13 what ramifications will be for the 2016  
14 budget should we not hit that mark.

15 I also asked for an update on the  
16 status of the Police and Fire Pension  
17 Board's transfer of the plans management to  
18 the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement  
19 system. The mayor sent a letter to the  
20 unions on June 25 requesting that this be  
21 done so I'd like to get an update on that.

22 I've also asked for a letter to be  
23 sent to the mayor, business administrator  
24 and law department asking for an update and  
25 explanation on a proposal that was received



1 by the city on January 26 in response to the  
2 City's request for proposals for life,  
3 disability and dental insurance. I'd like  
4 to know why a contract has not been awarded  
5 yet when significant savings were identified  
6 in a memo dated April 10 from Dave Bulzoni  
7 to the mayor, Jason Shrive, our office, and  
8 Rebecca McMullen. What has occurred from  
9 April until today? And if you look at the  
10 memo, it is noted that there are significant  
11 savings in the area of \$300,000 so this  
12 occurred back in January and then April what  
13 is the hold up on this? So I do want an  
14 explanation by next Thursday as to what's  
15 going on there.

16 Councilman Wechsler proposed awhile  
17 ago that all open city positions should be  
18 advertised in the newspaper and on the  
19 website, which I think is a great idea. I'd  
20 like a response from the mayor to see if  
21 there is any effort to prepare legislation  
22 to make this mandatory, if not, I think we  
23 should, as Councilman Wechsler mentioned,  
24 prepare legislation and make this happen.

25 There was a letter that was sent

1 July 28, 2015, to all City of Scranton  
2 plumbing contractors notifying them that an  
3 additional \$50 inspection fee was being  
4 levied for residential plumbing inspections.  
5 I did inquire if this would have to come  
6 before council approval. We did find out  
7 the other day that it does not. The fee  
8 will be in place until the city hires a  
9 plumbing inspector and Northeast Inspection  
10 Consultant has a \$50 fee in their contract  
11 so that is the reason for that increase so  
12 as soon as the city hires a plumbing  
13 inspector that fee will disappear.

14 I attended a very interesting  
15 meeting on Monday concerning recycling in  
16 the City of Scranton. As you know, the city  
17 just hired a recycling consultant per a  
18 recommendation from the state. It's clear  
19 to me after this meeting with Joyce Hatala,  
20 who is our consultant, Barbara Geoclat and  
21 Pat Munley from Lackawanna County's  
22 Environmental Office Recycling Department,  
23 and member of DEP that we have a major issue  
24 with recycling in the City of Scranton.

25 For example, and this is just one

1 example, if you look at the tonnage that we  
2 report for the yard and leaf waste, and this  
3 is the 2013 numbers, that's the report that  
4 this woman had, we are collecting 70 tons.  
5 Wilkes-Barre collects 9,122 tons of yard  
6 waste, yard and leaf waste a year. We are  
7 losing out on funding because of this and we  
8 need to find a way to fix it.

9 There are a few other issues, lack  
10 of recycling at the housing projects  
11 throughout the city, lack of recycling  
12 downtown, lack of recycling in apartment  
13 buildings, and the lack of reporting from  
14 commercial sites throughout the city. We do  
15 plan on having a follow-up meeting with our  
16 DPW director who could not be there because  
17 of vacation that was already scheduled.

18 Fortunately, Mrs. Hatala, our  
19 consultant, is preparing a report that  
20 outlines our issues as it relates to  
21 recycling and what we need to do to fix them  
22 and we'll keep everyone updated on that as  
23 we move along.

24 I attended a Hill Neighborhood  
25 meeting a few weeks ago and there were a

1 number of issues that were forwarded to the  
2 appropriate departments and we will keep  
3 track of them until they are all taken care  
4 of.

5 On the paving program, the city's  
6 paving project 2 1/2 million that we have  
7 been talking about for the last few months  
8 is being done in phases. Right now there  
9 are three phases that have been bid out.  
10 Phase one, paving includes the downtown and  
11 Greenridge. Phase two includes North  
12 Scranton, West Scranton and Keyser Valley,  
13 and Phase three includes South Scranton,  
14 Minooka and East Mountain and the Hill  
15 section. It's my request that the city  
16 publish all city streets that will be paved  
17 on our website so we can keep the citizens  
18 informed. I did have additional questions  
19 regarding some streets that were on our  
20 final list that council received that didn't  
21 make it on the RFP's and I'm awaiting  
22 response from our DPW Director and City  
23 Engineer John Pocius so I'll get together  
24 with them tomorrow.

25 Phase one bids have been received

1 and opened on August 31. The two companies  
2 that submitted bids were American Asphalt  
3 and Krieger Construction and the bids will  
4 be reviewed and a decision will be made so  
5 we'll start to see paving done in the down  
6 town and Greenridge.

7 I have also asked for the fourth  
8 time that the DPW collection schedule be put  
9 online, so hopefully we will see that done  
10 in the near future, and we also need trash  
11 cans for the downtown. There has been some  
12 complaints from the downtown business owners  
13 that there is some problems with trash  
14 downtown so we'll try to take care of that.  
15 And that is all I have this week. Thank  
16 you.

17 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr.  
18 Gaughan. Now I know why I let you go first.  
19 I just have a few things. Number one,  
20 concerning the fire in downtown it was a  
21 special circumstance for our department and  
22 I think we all can agree that an amazing job  
23 was done, but I did contact Chief DeSarno  
24 today because a lot of the special equipment  
25 and a lot of special fire suppression stuff

1           like the foam had to be used by the city. I  
2           also understand that fact that the equipment  
3           was down by the fire so long and suffered  
4           some possible damage from the fumes, also  
5           some of the equipment that the firemen wore  
6           may also have been effected by the extra use  
7           that was taken on in the fire. The question  
8           I had for Chief DeSarno was is if there is  
9           anything in the insurance policy of the  
10          owner of that building that might help us  
11          recoup some of those losses. I know the  
12          owners of the building pays taxes and fire  
13          service is a part of that service, but I'm  
14          just wondering if there is any extending  
15          circumstances that we may be able to recoup  
16          some of the extra expenses that the city  
17          incurred because of the time that they spent  
18          down on that fire.

19                 One other thing, today we did swear  
20                 in a new class of firefighters. It's been a  
21                 long time in coming and it will help us to  
22                 alleviate some of the overtime when these  
23                 people come on and also they are a part of  
24                 the new contract agreement so they will be  
25                 starting at a lower rate before they get up

1 to full rate so I wish all of those young  
2 men luck and I know they will make the city  
3 very proud, and I do have some other  
4 comments as we move through the agenda, but  
5 that's all.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Councilman Wechsler, I  
7 forget I have two additional quick comments,  
8 if I may? I received a number of different  
9 complaints about Ash Street and Ridge Avenue  
10 with a stop sign request and different  
11 public safety issues that were going on up  
12 there. Chief Graziano and the police  
13 department did a traffic study and I'd just  
14 like to read very quickly two opinions that  
15 they gave. "It is our professional  
16 engineering opinion within a reasonable  
17 degree of engineering judgment --" this is  
18 actually from John Pocius, our city  
19 engineer -- "that a stop sign with an except  
20 right turn below it be installed at the  
21 northwesterly intersection of Ridge Avenue  
22 and Ash Street. It is also our professional  
23 engineering opinion that the existing  
24 one-way sign be removed at the intersection  
25 of the Ridge Avenue and Myrtle Street and a

1 new one-way sign be installed on a channel  
2 there. Also, an additional one-way sign  
3 should be installed near 927 Ridge Avenue so  
4 hopefully that will alleviate some major  
5 public safety issues that were occurring in  
6 that area.

7 Also, a gentlemen about a month or  
8 two ago came to council requesting a stop  
9 sign at Ferdinand Street and Sweeney Avenue,  
10 our city engineer performed a study and it  
11 is their opinion that additional stop signs  
12 were not warranted at this intersection.  
13 Thank you.

14 MS. REED: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
15 AN ORDINANCE - SALE OF TAX DELINQUENT  
16 PROPERTY MORE COMMONLY KNOWN AS 1427 CAPOUSE  
17 AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, TO FMP  
18 REALTY, LLC, 1110 SAGINAW STREET, SCRANTON,  
19 PENNSYLVANIA, 18505, FOR THE CONSIDERATION  
20 OF \$4,001.00.

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

24 MR. EVANS: So moved.

25 MR. GAUGHAN: Second.



1 MR. WECHSLER: On the question? All  
2 those in favor of introduction signify by  
3 saying aye.

4 MR. EVANS: Aye.

5 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

8 MS. REED: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
9 AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL  
10 NO. 100, 2015, AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED  
11 "APPROVING THE TRANSFER OF A RESTAURANT  
12 LIQUOR LICENSE CURRENTLY OWNED BY KOSMART  
13 ENTERPRISES, INC. NO. R-14852 TO 16TH WARD,  
14 LLC. FOR USE AT 306 PENN AVENUE, SCRANTON,  
15 PENNSYLVANIA AS REQUIRED BY THE PENNSYLVANIA  
16 LIQUOR CONTROL BOARD" TO CORRECT A  
17 TYPOGRAPHICAL ERROR IN THE CAPTION OF THE  
18 ORDINANCE TO THE CORRECT RESTAURANT LIQUOR  
19 LICENSE NO. R-14902 AS STATED IN THE BODY OF  
20 THE ORDINANCE.

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

24 MR. EVANS: So moved.

25 MR. GAUGHAN: Second.

1 MR. WECHSLER: On the question? All  
2 those in favor of introduction signify by  
3 saying aye.

4 MR. EVANS: Aye.

5 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

8 MS. REED: 5-D. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
9 A RESOLUTION - APPOINTMENT OF MARION E.  
10 GATTO, 12 FRANK WAY, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA  
11 18504, AS A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
12 OF THE LACKAWANNA COUNTY LAND BANK TO A FIVE  
13 (5) YEAR TERM WHICH WILL COMMENCE ON AUGUST  
14 6, 2015 AND IS SCHEDULED TO EXPIRE ON AUGUST  
15 6, 2020.

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

19 MR. EVANS: So moved.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: Second.

21 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

22 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.

23 MR. EVANS: Yes. Go ahead.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: I was just going to  
25 say that I'm very happy to see the land bank

1 up and moving and now we just await the  
2 inner-governmental cooperation agreement  
3 between the council and the city and we'll  
4 move from there.

5 MR. EVANS: And my comment is that I  
6 know Mrs. Gatto for quite a long time, she  
7 used to serve as the president for the  
8 Greater Scranton Board of Realtors. She is  
9 an excellent appointment so I appreciate the  
10 mayor's appointment on this one, and as  
11 Councilman Gaughan said, very, very happy to  
12 see this moving along.

13 MR. WECHSLER: I would just like to  
14 echo my colleagues' comments, I have worked  
15 with Ms. Aebli and Mrs. Gatto on a few  
16 projects, they will be an integral part to  
17 the success of this land bank.

18 All those in favor of introduction  
19 signify by saying 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-E. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
25 A RESOLUTION - APPOINTMENT OF LINDA B.

1 AEBLI, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF  
2 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, FOR THE  
3 CITY OF SCRANTON, 906 SKYVIEW DRIVE,  
4 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA 18505, AS A MEMBER OF  
5 THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE LACKAWANNA  
6 COUNTY LAND BANK TO A FIVE (5) YEAR TERM  
7 WHICH WILL COMMENCE ON AUGUST 6, 2015 AND IS  
8 SCHEDULED TO EXPIRE ON AUGUST 6, 2020.

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. EVANS: So moved.

13 MR. GAUGHAN: Second.

14 MR. WECHSLER: On the question? All  
15 those in favor of introduction signify by  
16 saying 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-F. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
22 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND  
23 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS FOR THE  
24 CITY OF SCRANTON TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO  
25 AN AGREEMENT WITH URBAN DESIGN VENTURES,

1           LLC, 212 EAST SEVENTH AVENUE, HOMESTEAD,  
2           PENNSYLVANIA 15120 TO PERFORM AN ANALYSIS OF  
3           IMPEDIMENTS TO FAIR HOUSING CHOICE FOR THE  
4           CITY OF SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA.

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

8                   MR. EVANS: So moved.

9                   MR. GAUGHAN: Second.

10                   MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

11                   MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question,  
12           in regard to this study that's going to be  
13           done I'm going to reach out to OECD, I have  
14           been getting a lot of complaints about the  
15           Laurel Woods development down in Minooka and  
16           possible impediments to fair housing that  
17           are going on down there and some people are  
18           having some difficulty so maybe, you know,  
19           these people from this company can help in  
20           that regard so thank you.

21                   MR. WECHSLER: All those in favor of  
22           introduction signify by saying aye.

23                   MR. EVANS: Aye.

24                   MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

25                   MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The

1 ayes have it and so moved.

2 MS. EVANS: 5-G. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
3 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF  
4 THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS OF THE CITY  
5 OF SCRANTON TO SIGN AND SUBMIT THE  
6 PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
7 ("PENNDOT") APPLICATION FOR TRAFFIC SIGNAL  
8 APPROVAL FOR TRAFFIC SIGNAL PERMIT NO. 02007  
9 FOR THE MODIFICATIONS OF THE EXISTING  
10 TRAFFIC SIGNAL AT THE INTERSECTION OF GREEN  
11 RIDGE STREET (SR 6011) AND CAPOUSE AVENUE.

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

15 MR. EVANS: So moved.

16 MR. GAUGHAN: Second.

17 MR. WECHSLER: On the question? All  
18 those in favor of introduction signify by  
19 saying 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-H. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
25 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND

1 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE  
2 AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH A&M  
3 ELECTRICAL CONSTRUCTION INC. TO PROVIDE  
4 MAINTENANCE OF TRAFFIC SIGNALIZATION FOR THE  
5 CITY OF SCRANTON FOR THE PERIOD OF ONE (1)  
6 YEAR FROM SEPTEMBER 1, 2015 THROUGH AUGUST  
7 31, 2016.

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

11 MR. EVANS: So moved.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: Second.

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

16 MR. EVANS: Aye.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

20 MS. REED: 5-I. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
21 A RESOLUTION - APPOINTMENT OF SUSAN BLUM  
22 CONNORS, 2630 BIRNEY AVENUE, SCRANTON,  
23 PENNSYLVANIA, AS A MEMBER OF THE HUMAN  
24 RELATIONS COMMISSION, EFFECTIVE AUGUST 24,  
25 2015. MRS. CONNORS IS BEING APPOINTED TO A

1 THREE (3) YEAR TERM THAT WILL EXPIRE ON  
2 AUGUST 24, 2018.

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

6 MR. EVANS: So moved.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: Second.

8 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

9 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question I  
10 would just like to congratulate Mrs. Connors  
11 for being appointed to this commission and  
12 I'm very happy to see this commission is  
13 going to be up and running again, I think  
14 it's an integral part of making sure that  
15 people are not discriminated against in the  
16 City of Scranton. Thank you.

17 MR. EVANS: I would concur with  
18 that, Mrs. Connors is an excellent  
19 appointment to this committee and I'm also  
20 very, very glad to see tis up and running  
21 again at full steam.

22 MR. WECHSLER: Yeah, the same here.  
23 I was approached earlier this year that we  
24 did have a problem with this committee not  
25 being staffed and I do believe that



1 Mrs. Connors and Mr. Johnson will do an  
2 excellent job in rectifying this problem.

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

5 MR. EVANS: Aye.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

9 MS. REED: 5-J. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
10 A RESOLUTION - APPOINTMENT OF ROBERT A.  
11 JOHNS, 833 NORTH REBECCA AVENUE, SCRANTON,  
12 PENNSYLVANIA, AS A MEMBER OF THE HUMAN  
13 RELATIONS COMMISSION, EFFECTIVE AUGUST 24,  
14 2015. MR. JOHNS IS BEING APPOINTED TO A  
15 THREE (3) YEAR TERM THAT WILL EXPIRE ON  
16 AUGUST 24, 2018.

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

20 MR. EVANS: So moved.

21 MR. GAUGHAN: Second.

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

25 MR. EVANS: Aye.

1 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

4 MS. REED: 5-K. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
5 A RESOLUTION - RATIFYING AND APPROVING THE  
6 SUBMISSION AND EXECUTION OF THE GRANT  
7 APPLICATION BY THE CITY OF SCRANTON  
8 (APPLICANT) TO THE COUNTY OF LACKAWANNA  
9 (COUNTY) FOR A LACKAWANNA COUNTY COMMUNITY  
10 RE-INVEST PROGRAM (CRP) GRANT TO REPAIR AND  
11 REPLACE SCRANTON'S "SPIRIT OF AMERICA  
12 DOUGHBOY" AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND  
13 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO ACCEPT  
14 THE GRANT, IF SUCCESSFUL, TO EXECUTE A GRANT  
15 AGREEMENT AND ACCEPT AND DISBURSE THE GRANT  
16 FUNDS FOR THE REPAIR AND REPLACEMENT OF THE  
17 ORIGINAL VIQUESNEY "DOUGHBOY".

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

21 MR. EVANS: So moved.

22 MR. GAUGHAN: Second.

23 MR. WECHSLER: On the question? On  
24 the question, I'm happy to say that this is  
25 -- introduction of this ordinance has been a

1 part of an effort by several people in the  
2 community to see the doughboy statue from  
3 Duffy Park repaired and the possibility of  
4 it being restored, the former statue could  
5 be placed indoors for future generations to  
6 enjoy and that a new replica of the doughboy  
7 statue be placed in the new Duffy Park when  
8 the Harrison Avenue bridge is opened, so  
9 it's been a lot of effort by the veterans  
10 and a lot of people from South Side and  
11 hopefully this will come to fruition and the  
12 statute will be able to be enjoyed by  
13 generations to come.

14 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question, I  
15 just want to say that I applaud Councilman  
16 Wechsler for his work on this project. If  
17 it wasn't for him, I don't think we would  
18 have seen this happen. I know there was a  
19 lot of people that were involved and putting  
20 it together and getting this going, but  
21 without Councilmen Wechsler's efforts and  
22 his passion for this and his passion for  
23 veterans in our city I don't think we would  
24 have seen this. So, again, I just want to  
25 congratulate you, Councilman, on your hard

1 work and we appreciate that.

2 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you.

3 MR. EVANS: And the doughboy was  
4 your mission for quite a long time and I  
5 congratulate Ms. Reed for saying the  
6 "Viquesney boy."

7 MR. WECHSLER: It's for doughboys  
8 all around everywhere.

9 MR. WECHSLER: All those in favor of  
10 introduction signify by saying aye.

11 MR. EVANS: Aye.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

15 MS. REED: 5-L. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
16 A RESOLUTION - RATIFYING AND APPROVING THE  
17 EXECUTION AND SUBMISSION OF THE GRANT  
18 APPLICATION BY THE CITY OF SCRANTON FIRE  
19 DEPARTMENT TO THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF  
20 COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (DCED)  
21 FOR A LOCAL SHARE ACCOUNT GRANT (GAMING  
22 FUNDS) MONROE COUNTY IN THE AMOUNT OF  
23 \$713,435.40 FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON FIRE  
24 DEPARTMENT TO BE USED TOWARD THE PURCHASE OF  
25 A NEW KME 100' MID MOUNT AERIAL TRUCK TO

1 REPLACE A 2001 FERRARA TRUCK AND AUTHORIZING  
2 THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY  
3 OFFICIALS TO ACCEPT THE GRANT, IF  
4 SUCCESSFUL, COORDINATING AND DISBURSING THE  
5 GRANT FUNDS TOWARD THE PURCHASE OF THE NEW  
6 AERIAL TRUCK.

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

10 MR. EVANS: So moved.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Second.

12 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?  
13 Yes, on the question. As you can see this  
14 week the city does need new equipment to  
15 combat some of the larger fires that we have  
16 in the city so this will be a welcome  
17 addition to our tools.

18 All those in favor of introduction  
19 signify by saying 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: SIXTH ORDER. 6-A. NO  
25 BUSINESS AT TIME.

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SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. NO BUSINESS AT  
THIS TIME.

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

MR. EVANS: Motion to adjourn.

MR. GAUGHAN: Second.

MR. WECHSLER: Meeting adjourned.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

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CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR  
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER