

SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

HELD:

Thursday, April 21, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.

LOCATION:

Council Chambers

Scranton City Hall

340 North Washington Avenue

Scranton, Pennsylvania

Elizabeth V. Kedrick, RPR - Official Court Reporter

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

JOSEPH WECHSLER, PRESIDENT

PATRICK ROGAN, VICE-PRESIDENT

WAYNE EVANS

WILLIAM GAUGHAN

TIM PERRY

LORI REED, CITY CLERK

JAMIE MARCIANO, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

AMIL MINORA, SOLICITOR

1 MR. WECHSLER: Pledge of Allegiance,  
2 please?

3 (Pledge of Allegiance recited.)

4 MR. WECHSLER: Please remain  
5 standing for a moment of silent reflection  
6 for our service men and women throughout the  
7 world and also for those who have passed  
8 away in our community.

9 (Moment of silence observed.)

10 MR. WECHSLER: Roll call, please?

11 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Perry?

12 MR. PERRY: Here.

13 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan?

14 MR. ROGAN: Here.

15 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Evans?

16 MR. EVANS: Here.

17 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan?

18 MR. GAUGHAN: Here.

19 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler?

20 MR. WECHSLER: Here.

21 MR. ROGAN: I'd like to make a  
22 motion to allow Mr. Bernie McGurl, Executive  
23 Director of the Lackawanna River Corridor  
24 Association to address Council in regard to  
25 storm water management.

1 MR. PERRY: Second.

2 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

3 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.

4 I appreciate Mr. McGurl coming tonight to  
5 talk about the storm water issues. However,  
6 I would say that, I hope that the  
7 administration or the Mayor and someone from  
8 his administration also comes and gives us  
9 their ideas and their plan for storm water  
10 management. I sent now for the past two  
11 weeks correspondence and reached out to  
12 Mayor Courtright and have not heard back.  
13 So hopefully we can get someone from the  
14 administration as this is going to have to  
15 be something that they're going to have to  
16 implement. Thank you.

17 MR. WECHSLER: All those in favor  
18 signify by saying aye?

19 MR. PERRY: Aye.

20 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

21 MR. EVANS: Aye.

22 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

23 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The  
24 ayes have it and so moved. Mr. McGurl,  
25 please come to the podium to address

1 Council?

2 MR. B. MCGURL: Thank you, Mr.  
3 President. I believe I sent copies of my  
4 comments over to everyone. I have some  
5 handouts that I'll pass out just before I  
6 speak. Could you pass this out? Just  
7 general information pamphlet on storm water  
8 authorities that we put together last year  
9 that we are--if you could pass them out.  
10 And also, the top ten things to do and not  
11 to do to be a good steward of water from the  
12 home and small business. Okay, well, I've  
13 got a few comments here. And if I could  
14 indulge 10 minutes of your time, I'll try to  
15 get through them as quickly as possible.  
16 I'm sure everyone knows a little bit about  
17 the Lackawanna County River Corridor  
18 Association. But we're now the Lackawanna  
19 River Conservation Association. We're  
20 changing our name and we're going to have a  
21 big announcement about that on an Earth Day  
22 event tomorrow afternoon from 4 to 9 at the  
23 On & On Gallery at 500 Renaissance Plaza on  
24 Lackawanna Avenue. So, Lackawanna River  
25 Conservation Association is a non-for-profit

1 non-political river and watershed  
2 conservation organization and we were  
3 created and we've been governed by local  
4 citizens here in the Lackawanna Valley since  
5 1987 to promote the protection, the  
6 conservation and the appropriate management  
7 of the Lackawanna River and it's watershed  
8 resources. An important function of our  
9 mission is to reach out and involve our  
10 fellow citizens, community organizations,  
11 businesses, governments with programs and  
12 practices that will enhance the health and  
13 wellbeing of our watershed and its  
14 communities. Storm water is a term that  
15 refers to the run off generated from rain  
16 fall and snow fall events. As a critical  
17 aspect of the global hydrologic site, storm  
18 water is a major influence on both the water  
19 quality and the water quantity on all parts  
20 of our planet. In the natural habitats of  
21 our watershed, storm water run off is  
22 filtered by the vegetation and the natural  
23 soils. And it easily infiltrates to become  
24 ground water. In turn, the ground water  
25 flows are the sources of the Lackawanna

1 River, it's many tributaries and all of our  
2 water supply reservoirs. In a natural  
3 setting, the flow of storm water to ground  
4 water ensures that we have perennial flow in  
5 our streams, reservoirs and rivers. In an  
6 urban setting, the primary habitat of the  
7 human community, the natural ground cover is  
8 replaced by what is known as impervious  
9 surfaces; such as roads, roofs, sidewalks,  
10 driveways, parking lots and highways. Rain,  
11 rainfall or snow melt cannot infiltrate  
12 through those surfaces. And it becomes  
13 urban storm water run off. And it is  
14 considered to be one of the top three  
15 sources of water pollution in the United  
16 States. The Clean Water Act passed by  
17 Congress in 1972 and updated by Congress and  
18 amended in 1996 recognizes that all of us  
19 are responsible for pollution from storm  
20 water. And we're all responsible to do  
21 something about it. In order to facilitate  
22 compliance by all citizens, federal and  
23 state agencies have developed regulations  
24 and procedures for local urban governments  
25 to adopt that will help reduce water

1 pollution from urban storm water run off and  
2 better protect the water quality of our  
3 rivers and streams. These practices  
4 importantly can help our communities become  
5 healthier and provide a higher standard of  
6 living for our residents. These practices  
7 and procedures are governed through  
8 regulations through municipal storm water  
9 separate sewer systems or MS-4. Under the  
10 Clean Water Act, the federal government  
11 requires states to require local, urban  
12 governments to obtain and comply with the  
13 requirements of the Clean Water Act through  
14 a permit through the National Pollution  
15 Discharge Elimination System or NPDES.  
16 Scranton, Dunmore and all the boroughs of  
17 the Lackawanna Valley are considered urban  
18 municipalities. They're all required to  
19 obtain, manage and renew an NPDES permit for  
20 their MS-4 every five years. The MS-4  
21 permits will also require additional levels  
22 and sophistication of compliance in each  
23 five year period. So once the EPA tells us  
24 to jump, then they're going to tell us to  
25 jump higher. So that's what we've got to

1 look at going forward. And we want to get  
2 in shape so we can hit those hurdles before  
3 they hit us. US EPA issued letters of  
4 warning to fourteen Lackawanna County  
5 municipalities in 2013 including the City of  
6 Scranton. These letters indicated  
7 insufficient levels of compliance and  
8 advised local governments to include a wide  
9 range of compliance practices to avoid  
10 future problems and enforcement actions.  
11 Recognizing that many local governments lack  
12 the capacity to meet and maintain the MS-4  
13 permits, Pennsylvania adopted Act 68 in July  
14 of 2013 to facilitate the creation and  
15 funding of storm water authorities by local  
16 governments. Act 68 provides a way forward  
17 for many communities like Scranton and  
18 Dunmore to join forces and go beyond  
19 compliance to better manage and improve our  
20 local infrastructure. The LRCA has been  
21 discussing the creation of a storm water  
22 authority with several up valley  
23 communities. And we have been in  
24 discussions with the City of Scranton during  
25 the later years of the Doherty

1 administration and transitioning into the  
2 Courtright administration. Worked with Don  
3 King, our city planner, to develop this  
4 document which is available on the LRCA  
5 website. And this is a plan and an  
6 assessment of the storm water situation  
7 throughout our city. And I'd urge everyone  
8 to visit the LRCA website. And it's free  
9 for the download. It's about 200 some  
10 pages. So don't get scared. There's a lot  
11 of great information in there. But we've  
12 been discussing this and we've also been  
13 working over the last dozen years or so with  
14 the Scranton Sewer Authority on getting into  
15 compliance on the long term control plan and  
16 developing the work that was now under way  
17 by the authority on that. The new  
18 introduction of the transaction to sell the  
19 authority has sort of changed. And it sort  
20 of brought all these issues together to the  
21 floor and to the public's attention. So, I  
22 welcome that. And we took the initiative in  
23 working with the city in 2013 to develop  
24 this study. And we also collaborated with  
25 McClane Associates of Scranton, the

1 University of Maryland Center for  
2 Environmental Finance which importantly has  
3 established a relationship with the US EPA  
4 and has helped to do an initial cost  
5 assessment and asset management assessment  
6 on what it might cost Scranton to maintain  
7 it's responsibilities under that permit.  
8 When we suggest that the proposed sale of  
9 the sanitary treatment system now provides  
10 us with the unique opportunity to move  
11 forward and implement a management system  
12 for Scranton and Dunmore's MS-4 which  
13 recognizes that it is a unified system in  
14 many aspects. Dunmore is upstream from  
15 Scranton. Much of Dunmore's storm water as  
16 well as its sanitary flows pass through  
17 Scranton to reach the Lackawanna River. We  
18 recommend that the elected officials of  
19 Scranton and Dunmore consider that they have  
20 had over 50 years of productive,  
21 collaborative work since 1966 it's  
22 incorporated and been operating as the  
23 Scranton Sewer Authority in the collection  
24 and treatment system. Both municipalities  
25 are now receiving significant financial

1 benefit through the conveyance of the  
2 authority's sanitary treatment works and  
3 collection system to the Pennsylvania  
4 American Water Company. The LRCA recommends  
5 that elected officials continue this  
6 tradition of 50 years of delivery and  
7 regulated public services by keeping the  
8 authority intact if legally feasible. And  
9 if that is not feasible, then a new storm  
10 water and green infrastructure authority can  
11 be established and should be established.  
12 The storm water infrastructure and easements  
13 can be transferred to that authority along  
14 with the permanent jurisdictions that are  
15 now held by the municipality and a  
16 meaningful portion of the proceeds from the  
17 sale of the sanitary system. Building on an  
18 already completed phase one assessment  
19 study, the management plan that we laid out  
20 can provide the resources for an immediate  
21 start up of operations and a completion of  
22 financial studies to establish a fair and  
23 equitable rate structure going forward. The  
24 rate structures for the City of Lancaster  
25 are very affordable to that community. And

1 not only the rate structures, but the entire  
2 practices that are being engaged in by the  
3 City of Lancaster and some of it's adjoining  
4 municipalities I think are an extremely  
5 useful model for our consideration. And I  
6 know in my discussions with the Mayor and  
7 his staff that they are looking into that.  
8 There's an ongoing critical need to  
9 integrate many of the elements of the  
10 court-mandated long term control plan to  
11 reduce and eliminate the combined sewer  
12 overflows that are part of the  
13 responsibility that will be going to the  
14 water company. The newly--a newly  
15 reconstituted storm water authority can have  
16 a more robust financial and managerial  
17 capacity than our municipal governments and  
18 will be better able to work with the  
19 Pennsylvania American Water Company to  
20 expeditiously address mutual needs as they  
21 may arise. And obviously time is of the  
22 essence. The LRCA supports the basic  
23 elements of the sale of the sanitary system.  
24 And I don't think we would if we didn't  
25 recognize that the city and the financial

1 condition and the benefits that will be  
2 accruing to the city are a critical issue.  
3 And we also recognize that the Pennsylvania  
4 American Water Company offers many benefits  
5 to municipalities. The long term control of  
6 rate increases over time will help make  
7 system compliance with the consent decree  
8 more affordable for rate payers. The  
9 Pennsylvania American Water Company has a  
10 good record of compliance with federal and  
11 state regulators and a commitment to bring  
12 additional managerial positions to Scranton  
13 is certainly to be welcomed. While we  
14 recognize the urgency of continuing  
15 concluding this transaction, we also believe  
16 that the reconstitution of the existing  
17 authority or the establishment of a new  
18 authority is in the best interest of the  
19 public and the environment. And  
20 importantly, needs to be integrated into the  
21 transaction. The establishment of a  
22 stakeholders advisory board to work with the  
23 new authority, confirm the strength and  
24 transparency and the efficiency of that  
25 authority. The authority will then be ready

1 to perform at the level needed so that  
2 Scranton and Dunmore can remain in  
3 compliance with their Clean Water Act  
4 responsibilities. And the authority can  
5 also become an increasingly valuable public  
6 works asset in the very near future. It can  
7 become the vehicle to facilitate addressing  
8 nearly a 100 year long backlog in  
9 infrastructure repairs to our municipal  
10 drainage systems. Damages from the coal  
11 mining industry, collapsed culverts,  
12 dysfunctional streams; like Meadowbrook out  
13 in Greenridge, Minooka Run out in Minooka.  
14 There is actually a creek out there. It  
15 shows up on the topographic maps of 100  
16 years ago. And you'd be hard-pressed to  
17 find it today. But the neighbors know it's  
18 a culvert or a ditch in somebody's backyard  
19 that causes a lot of flooding and icing in  
20 O'Hara Street in the winter time. And it  
21 did actually run into the Lackawanna River  
22 under a beautiful stone arch culvert at one  
23 time. The culvert is still there, but it's  
24 a dry creek bed. And there's another creek  
25 that we call Philo Creek up in Bull's Head

1            underneath Philo Street, there was a creek  
2            that came down. And that's typical, I  
3            think, of some of the infrastructure  
4            problems where we have a KLG development up  
5            there that had a lot of drainage issues and  
6            it resulted in a lawsuit and bankruptcy of  
7            the developer because down stream neighbors  
8            were flooded out because the culvert system  
9            in what used to be a natural creek was  
10           insufficient to handle the flows that were  
11           generated there. So, we believe that a new  
12           infrastructure authority could begin to  
13           address all these issues. Not just here in  
14           Scranton and Dunmore. But I think it really  
15           has a potential benefit for all the  
16           communities up that way. And we've been  
17           discussing this for the last couple years  
18           and we've had opportunities. I've had a  
19           similar conversation with Carbondale Council  
20           and Carbondale Mayor. They're quite  
21           interested and open to the idea of  
22           investigating a larger watershed based  
23           authority and several of the other boroughs,  
24           Blakely and Archbald, I still have to get  
25           out to Olyphant and Jessup and some of the

1 other folks up there. But from what I hear,  
2 there seems to be a lot of interest. So if  
3 Scranton and Dunmore can go ahead and come  
4 to an agreement to either, you know,  
5 reconstitute a portion of the sewer  
6 authority as a storm water authority or have  
7 to create a new one, get it funded, get it  
8 adequately established, do the rate  
9 structure analysis and get that implemented,  
10 I think we could--we could see an asset  
11 being created where we lose one asset in  
12 some respects by selling it to the private  
13 sector, we're creating another asset that  
14 will look at all of the capital needs that  
15 we have in the city related to drainage.  
16 And this could perhaps be extended to flood  
17 control needs and to bridges and culverts  
18 and things of that nature. We could create  
19 something of real lasting value for the  
20 community for the taxpayers and have some  
21 openness and transparency by having a  
22 community advisory board along with the  
23 appointed members of the authority board.  
24 So, I think we obviously want to continue  
25 the dialogue. I believe that the

1 administration, you know, needs to reach out  
2 and talk. But, I think they're at the stage  
3 where the complexities of the transaction is  
4 going on and the number of groups and  
5 individuals that are involved has sort of  
6 focused on completing that major portion of  
7 the transaction. But I think now it's time  
8 to move this issue front and center and get  
9 more of a consensus on it, expand the  
10 dialogue between council and the Mayor and  
11 Dunmore Council as well. So I'm hoping to  
12 have an opportunity to share this message  
13 with Dunmore Council in the next month or  
14 so. And we'll continue to collaborate on a  
15 dialogue with Scranton and we look forward  
16 to trying to build something here that's  
17 going to be of lasting value for us. So  
18 welcome any comments that you may have.

19 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. McGurl, did you  
20 say that the Baltimore study had a cost  
21 associated with the project, did you say?

22 MR. B. MCGURL: No, the Center for  
23 Environmental Finance, no, they developed a  
24 baseline asset management program that  
25 would--it would basically give us a formula

1 to help assess and develop what those costs  
2 would be. But we didn't have enough  
3 funding. And I think we did this study for  
4 about, I think 60 or \$70,000. To do the  
5 financial analysis would require a good bit  
6 more engineering and then, you know,  
7 developing, I think, a more sophisticated  
8 computerized database of what all of our  
9 assets are. Frankly, that's one of the  
10 problems. Like, we have perhaps 16 to  
11 18,000 catch basins in Scranton. Nobody  
12 really knows the numbers. And it might grow  
13 on a weekly basis. And then, some of them  
14 are so old and dysfunctional that they've  
15 been forgotten. We've got culverts that  
16 nobody knows where they are or maybe public  
17 works has responded to a complaint by a  
18 local home and opened up the drainage swale  
19 or something like that. But nobody's really  
20 got a handle on it. This assessment begins  
21 that work, but this is just a first of what  
22 I think needs to be a more sophisticated  
23 study.

24 MR. WECHSLER: The other question I  
25 had and I'd just like to ask you, did you

1 say that your recommendation would be that  
2 this is settled as part of the transaction?

3 MR. B. MCGURL: Well, I don't think  
4 it needs to be settled specifically as part,  
5 but I think my organization and I think the  
6 public would want to see a solid road map, a  
7 consensus among the Council and Mayor and  
8 Dunmore Council that we have a way to move  
9 ahead. And if it meant that we would come  
10 to an agreement or an understanding that we  
11 will either reconstitute the existing  
12 authority before it becomes more abundant  
13 and is actually dissolved by legislative  
14 action by both municipalities, I think the  
15 solicitors are going to have to confer on  
16 that and get some legal opinions on what's  
17 the best way forward. Does it make sense to  
18 try and reconstitute the existing authority  
19 or create a brand new authority and just  
20 transfer all the assets? So there's some  
21 legal questions and questions, is it more  
22 expeditious to do one thing or the other.

23 MR. WECHSLER: What would you  
24 envision in the interim between the sale and  
25 the establishment of the new authority if

1           that happens? What do you envision on how  
2           it working?

3                   MR. B. MCGURL: Well, legally it  
4           becomes the jurisdiction of the city as a  
5           whole. And all of that responsibility falls  
6           on the shoulders of the Department of Public  
7           Works. And, I know Denny Gallagher is a  
8           great guy. In fact, I want to compliment  
9           Denny and his crews. They've been a big  
10          assistance for us over our development work  
11          over at Sweeney's beach site as has the  
12          sewer authority and some of their crews.  
13          But, they're already overtaxed doing their  
14          work load. So I think actually, you know,  
15          the city planner, Don King, public works and  
16          the city engineer would really have to form  
17          a stronger action team to be on top of it.  
18          And some sort of interim arrangement to look  
19          at what work had been accomplished by sewer  
20          authority crews at the request of the public  
21          works director, that if that system could be  
22          continued on an interim basis with  
23          Pennsylvania American jurisdiction over  
24          there, that would be something I think needs  
25          to be in there as an interim step. But I

1 think the real crux of the issue is a firm  
2 commitment on all parties to proceed  
3 forthwith with the development of a new  
4 authority or reconstitution of the existing  
5 authority.

6 MR. WECHSLER: Anyone else have any  
7 questions?

8 MR. PERRY: Yes, Mr. McGurl, first  
9 of all, thank you for coming out and not  
10 only educating Council but the rest of the  
11 City of Scranton on our storm water topic.  
12 But I do have a question, you said Scranton  
13 along with 13 other municipalities in  
14 Lackawanna County in 2013 received, I guess  
15 you could say, a nasty letter from the  
16 federal government. And in your words,  
17 these letters indicate, "Insufficient levels  
18 of compliance and advise local governments  
19 to improve a wide range of compliance  
20 practices to avoid future problems and  
21 enforcement actions."

22 MR. B. MCGURL: Yes.

23 MR. PERRY: So my question is, what  
24 problems and/or enforcement actions is the  
25 city looking at if we do not get to

1 compliance?

2 MR. B. MCGURL: Well, not having the  
3 statute or code of federal regulations and  
4 CFR's in front of me, I know there are fines  
5 that could be recommended by EPA to be  
6 levied. There could be a joint action with  
7 the Department of Justice to seek  
8 enforcement. And initially, it would be at  
9 the administration level. I believe and I  
10 mentioned the City of Lancaster before and  
11 they really are a poster child along with  
12 Philadelphia and Philadelphia Water  
13 Department on good urban compliance in  
14 Pennsylvania. The City of Lancaster was  
15 assessed a \$40,000 penalty. And that  
16 really--and they were moving ahead. They  
17 were in a good position. I was surprised  
18 that they were assessed that. And DEP has  
19 sort of been running cover and they've been  
20 a mother hen for a lot of the Pennsylvania  
21 Municipalities there and sort of keep the  
22 EPA wolf away from the door. But that's not  
23 going to last forever.

24 MR. PERRY: Thank you, very much.

25 MR. ROGAN: I would just like to

1 echo what Mr. Perry said. Thank you for  
2 coming in. And it's very refreshing to hear  
3 an opinion on this subject from somebody  
4 with credibility regarding the Lackawanna  
5 River where up to this point really we've  
6 only been hearing from the Scranton Times.  
7 And the media certainly doesn't have the  
8 expertise that you or your organization do  
9 regarding the river and how best to keep it  
10 clean and make it cleaner than it currently  
11 is. So thank you.

12 MR. B. MCGURL: Yes.

13 MR. EVANS: Bernie, first of all,  
14 again, thank you for coming in. Thank you  
15 for bringing clarity to this issue that we  
16 haven't seen up to this point. It seems to  
17 me that Act 68 was adopted in 2013  
18 telegraphed what we should be doing by  
19 providing and created funding for storm  
20 water authorities. It's really not that  
21 complicated.

22 MR. B. MCGURL: No.

23 MR. EVANS: So I'm not sure what the  
24 wait is and what the problem is and what the  
25 downside is for planning for that moment.

1 MR. B. MCGURL: Yeah.

2 MR. EVANS: Which is day one after  
3 the authority is sold. So that's what we're  
4 prodding the administration to do. I think  
5 council wants to see that happen. I'm not  
6 sure if that's usual, but I think it's  
7 certainly something that I would consider.  
8 And I think it's a proper course of action.  
9 Would it be better if Dunmore came in?  
10 Absolutely. It would be better if Blakely  
11 came in and Peckville and Throop and Dickson  
12 City, certainly. But we know that the small  
13 towns and boroughs are very difficult to get  
14 a cooperative agreement with for something  
15 as large as this. But I think Scranton, we  
16 definitely have to look at this either  
17 through reconstituting the Sewer Authority  
18 into a storm water authority or creating a  
19 new one. If funding is available and  
20 expertise is available and Lancaster has  
21 shown the way through their authority, why  
22 reinvent the wheel? And I agree with what  
23 you said before, the Public Works Department  
24 has too much on their plate to day one pick  
25 up a shovel and go clean a catch basin. It

1 just doesn't work that way. So again, I  
2 appreciate your time and bringing the  
3 clarity that we didn't have up to this  
4 point. Thank you.

5 MR. B. MCGURL: Thank you, Wayne.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you for coming  
7 in, Mr. McGurl. I just have two questions.  
8 The first is, can you just explain? There  
9 was a recommendation in your report from  
10 2013 that said the city should transfer the  
11 MS-4 permit to the sewer authority. So,  
12 obviously if we sell the sewer authority,  
13 that becomes a moot point.

14 MR. B. MCGURL: Yeah.

15 MR. GAUGHAN: If the authority is  
16 sold or the system is sold, can we transfer  
17 the permit to American Water? And do you  
18 know anything about that?

19 MR. B. MCGURL: I don't know and I  
20 don't believe they want it. It's more of a  
21 municipal responsibility that the processing  
22 and operation of the waste water system is a  
23 little bit more succinct. Storm water, it  
24 really extends out from that. I mean, you  
25 could talk with them about it, but I think

1           that we would be much better off to  
2           establish our own authority, then we would  
3           have an opportunity obviously and a need to  
4           work with them. But, this authority could  
5           address, you know, and it could be  
6           structured to address the management of our  
7           flood control works as well which are a big  
8           chunk of Public Works work load. And, you  
9           know, put all of the other infrastructure  
10          that's not part of the sanitary system  
11          within the purview of this new authority.  
12          We're looking at a green infrastructure, the  
13          creation of things like rain gardens in  
14          places where storm water can infiltrate into  
15          the ground, the development of green streets  
16          and green alleyways where you can use  
17          pervious pavers and you'd have gravel beds  
18          underground to focus the infiltration of the  
19          storm water. And they have a need to divert  
20          a lot of storm water out of the sanitary  
21          system, so that puts it back on the street.  
22          So, they also, as part of the long term  
23          control plan, there was an understanding  
24          that about \$5 to \$10 million of that \$140  
25          million would be allocated by whoever is

1 operating the sewer authority for green  
2 infrastructure purposes. So I think they  
3 have a strong role to play, especially where  
4 they may be diverting water or a good  
5 justifiable need and a feasibility to divert  
6 flows from that system. And then, the city  
7 has a place to put it, either directly into  
8 the river through some sort of filtration  
9 mechanism or through some infiltration of  
10 land along the river bank or parks, city  
11 parks. We can look at the City Parks and  
12 Recreation as a component of this as well.  
13 The city actually owns extensive land along  
14 some of our streams. Leggetts Creek. And  
15 there's--nobody's watching the store there.  
16 We've done clean ups on there, removed  
17 refrigerators and stuff like that.  
18 Fortunately, with the price of metal, most  
19 of that stuff is out of there. But we're  
20 still seeing couches and chairs and tires  
21 and TV's. So, the city's green space has  
22 just been neglected for so long. And we all  
23 need an entity that just can focus on that.  
24 And I think it will build the value for this  
25 community like you haven't seen because

1 we've ignored this for 100 years basically.  
2 So this would give us an opportunity to make  
3 Scranton a competitive progressive community  
4 that's going to be attractive for people who  
5 want to both come back here and raise their  
6 kids here, folks that grew up here and for  
7 new business and industries that want to  
8 relocate here. It's going to give us an  
9 edge.

10 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. And my  
11 second question is, there's a number of  
12 recommendations in this report from 2013.  
13 Have we seen--have you seen any progress on  
14 these recommendations specifically as it  
15 relates to public education and public  
16 outreach to explain to the public what this  
17 is and how it works?

18 MR. B. MCGURL: A little bit. We  
19 had been, actually, fair disclosure, we have  
20 been working with the sewer authority as an  
21 education contract provider. And some of  
22 this material--well, actually this material  
23 was developed with another contract that we  
24 had with Lackawanna River Basin. But we  
25 have a whole series of booklets. Again,

1           they're available on their website. There's  
2           a better way to manage storm water that show  
3           people how to do--install a rain barrel at  
4           their home, build a rain garden, disconnect  
5           the downspouts. And we're still doing that.  
6           We're not currently under contract with the  
7           authority to do that work, but we still have  
8           the materials that were developed. And for  
9           instance, we will be doing a rain barrel  
10          demonstration tomorrow over at our Earth Day  
11          event. So, yeah, it's still going on. But  
12          it needs to be funded. So--

13                   MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, appreciate  
14                   it.

15                   MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr.  
16                   McGurl. We look forward to hearing from you  
17                   again and we do appreciate your comments and  
18                   your lesson in teaching us.

19                   MR. B. MCGURL: Thank you, very  
20                   much, for the opportunity. And my  
21                   organization really looks forward to  
22                   continuing to work with the city and the  
23                   borough on this. And I think we have an  
24                   opportunity if we can create a structure  
25                   that is open-ended that can involve other

1           municipalities coming into it, I think that  
2           would be something to look at as well. So  
3           we look forward to working with you. Thank  
4           you.

5                       MR. WECHSLER: Thanks again. Just  
6           for information purposes, City Council  
7           invited Mr. McGurl to speak. He was not a  
8           part of public comment. That's why he was  
9           allowed more time for us to gather  
10          information.

11                     MR. SPINDLER: It's not fair.

12                     MR. WECHSLER: Dispense with the  
13          reading of the minutes.

14                     MS. REED: THIRD ORDER. 3A.  
15          MINUTES OF THE FIREFIGHTERS PENSION  
16          COMMISSION. MEETING HELD MARCH 16, 2016.

17                     MR. WECHSLER: Any comments? If  
18          not, received and filed.

19                     MS. REED: 3B. MINUTES OF THE  
20          NON-UNIFORM MUNICIPAL PENSION BOARD. MEETING  
21          HELD MARCH 16, 2016.

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

24                     MS. REED: 3C. MINUTES OF THE  
25          COMPOSITE PENSION BOARD MEETING HELD MARCH

1 16, 2016.

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

4 MS. REED: 3D. AGENDA FOR THE  
5 NON-UNIFORM MUNICIPAL PENSION MEETING HELD  
6 APRIL 13, 2016.

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

9 MS. REED: 3E. TAX ASSESSOR'S  
10 REPORT FOR HEARING DATE TO BE HELD MAY 18,  
11 2016.

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

14 MS. REED: 3F. CONTROLLER'S REPORT  
15 FOR MONTH ENDING MARCH 31, 2016.

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

18 MS. REED: 3G. TAX ASSESSOR'S  
19 RESULTS REPORT FOR HEARING DATE HELD APRIL  
20 6, 2016.

21 MR. WECHSLER: Are there any  
22 comments? If not, received and filed. Do  
23 Council members have announcements at this  
24 time? Guess it's just me. This weekend,  
25 the City of Scranton will mark it's 150th

1           Anniversary. There's several different  
2           events planned for the city. And you can  
3           consult the Scranton Tomorrow website for  
4           the information. But the main things that  
5           are going on is there's a luncheon at noon  
6           to 2. And then, in the evening, there is a  
7           sesquicentennial birthday bash to be held at  
8           the Radisson Hotel. The event is free to  
9           attend. It will be a cash bar and food.  
10          And there will be also be fireworks later on  
11          that evening. So everyone should come out  
12          an enjoy the milestone of Scranton reaching  
13          150-years-old.

14                   MS. REED:   FOURTH ORDER.   CITIZEN  
15                   PARTICIPATION.

16                   MR. WECHSLER:   Bob Gattens?

17                   MR. GATTENS:   Good evening, Council.  
18                   My name is Bob Gattens. I'm a  
19                   representative of the Friends of Conners  
20                   Park Association. The group has asked me to  
21                   come before Council tonight to just speak on  
22                   a few items. I'll begin by telling you who  
23                   the group is and what they're about. The  
24                   group was formed in 2014. It's a group of  
25                   friends and neighbors, some who live by the

1 park and some of us who don't live by the  
2 park. We have members as far away as the  
3 Abingtons who come and help when we have  
4 something going on in the park. We got  
5 together because the park was built in  
6 2007-2008 by Mayor Chris Doherty. And due  
7 to the financial constraints in the city  
8 which we all know and the limited staff of  
9 Public Works--or not Public Works, the Park  
10 and Rec Department, we could see the park  
11 starting to just go downhill a little bit.  
12 So the group got together the idea before  
13 the park got too far along to save the park  
14 and basically take the park over from the  
15 city. The group maintains the park  
16 throughout summer, cutting grass, trimming  
17 it, picking up the trash. In the winter  
18 months, they clean the sidewalks, treat the  
19 sidewalks, they make general repairs  
20 throughout the park. They have installed a  
21 Veterans Memorial as you enter the park.  
22 They sold over 350 paver bricks to finance  
23 it. In doing so, they put a beautiful  
24 memorial in the park of stone that honors  
25 the veterans and their families for the

1 sacrifice they made so that we can enjoy our  
2 freedom. They've also installed a 30 foot  
3 flag pole which probably flies a 4 by 6 flag  
4 7 days a week 24 hours a day by also  
5 installing a light that shines on that flag.  
6 The group has installed lighting in the  
7 gazebo. The purpose of extending the hours  
8 of the park so the families coming there can  
9 enjoy a little bit longer and it also serves  
10 as a bit of security. We did have some  
11 problems with the park after dark and this  
12 give the neighbors a better eye on the park  
13 as well as police that patrol the area a  
14 better shot of seeing into the park and  
15 seeing if there's problems in there. Since  
16 the group has taken over the park, it's  
17 invested over \$22,000 into the park between  
18 the memorial, the light, the storage shed  
19 they built to keep the equipment for the  
20 park onsite, repairs to the fence and just,  
21 again, general repairs throughout it. And  
22 the funds were raised without help from the  
23 city, the county, the state or federal  
24 government. It's just grass roots  
25 fundraising that's done by the neighbors of

1 the park and throughout the city and the  
2 county I could probably say. They offer  
3 different events throughout the park and  
4 this year will be no exception. They have  
5 numerous events planned. Some is  
6 fundraisers. But the next capital project  
7 they want to do in the park is to install  
8 handicap accessible play area in the park.  
9 And again, it's going to be a grassroots  
10 fundraising effort that they want to try to  
11 take and have this put in place. It's  
12 become a sense of pride in the community,  
13 that park has. It is used on a weekend.  
14 There could be upwards of sometimes 50 to 75  
15 people in that park, all ages from toddlers  
16 up to older people just sitting there and  
17 relaxing and enjoying themselves. So, the  
18 other issue I wanted to talk about was  
19 cooperation we do receive from the  
20 administration, Mayor Courtright, his staff  
21 and Council. We can't thank Council enough  
22 for the support that's been given to us to  
23 make this a reality. The encouragement  
24 received when someone reaches out if we have  
25 a problem over there, if we have an event

1 over there, our Council people are there  
2 whether it's to attend an event, purchase a  
3 brick or just offer support. And it can  
4 never be more appreciated than what the  
5 group feels right now. We have an excellent  
6 relationship with the Park and Recs when Tom  
7 Lynch was there, a good working relationship  
8 when Mr. Brian Fallon is taking over. And  
9 the same thing has happened. So, everything  
10 is there, it's working. And we're hoping  
11 that it continues and can pass on throughout  
12 the rest of the city. I mean, the parks in  
13 West Side are being developed. And again,  
14 it's neighbors working with us. If I  
15 understand Greenridge is in the process of  
16 the same thing. But it's not all neglect in  
17 the city. There's a lot of positive going  
18 on. And sometimes the light in here is  
19 maybe a little bit too much focused on the  
20 negative. But there are positive things  
21 going on in the city that still make the  
22 city a good place to live. And it's  
23 cooperation between our administration, our  
24 council and in our case our members that we  
25 feel is working. The second item I wanted

1 to touch base with was I wanted to thank  
2 Council--the group wants to thank Council  
3 for the legislation you put forward allowing  
4 us to dedicate the gazebo in memory of Bob  
5 McGoff. It meant an awful lot to the group.  
6 We're not honoring Bob McGoff the  
7 politician. Not everyone agrees with Bob's  
8 views or his decisions or anything like  
9 that. We're honoring Bob McGoff the man,  
10 the family man, the teacher, the coach, the  
11 neighbor. And in my case, a friend. And it  
12 means an awful lot to everyone in our  
13 community over there because Bob was born  
14 and raised right there and in his early many  
15 years he lived across the street and he  
16 didn't move too far. He stayed in our  
17 community. And we're just proud that we're  
18 able to do that and Council will let us do  
19 that. So in closing, I just want to thank  
20 everyone for the support. If you want to  
21 continue supporting us, you can go to the  
22 Friends of Connors Park Association on  
23 Facebook. We do have a lot of events  
24 planned throughout the year. Majority are  
25 free. Some involve vendors and craft fair.

1 They're doing a chicken barbecue to help  
2 raise funds for our next project. And any  
3 support we receive, we appreciate. And  
4 before I leave, I want to thank Mr. Minora  
5 because when we did our brick paver program,  
6 he was the first brick purchase. So and  
7 that happened during a council meeting when  
8 Mr. McGoff announced it in December of 2014.  
9 Within seconds, there was a text message  
10 sent. So thank you. With that said, thank  
11 you for letting me come here tonight and  
12 thanks for your support again.

13 MR. EVANS: Thank you, Bob, for  
14 everything that you do.

15 MR. WECHSLER: Thanks, Bob, for  
16 everything. Thank you, very much. Tony  
17 Delanto?

18 MR. DELONTI: Delonti.

19 MR. WECHSLER: Delonti, I'm sorry.

20 MR. DELONTI: I am Tony Delonti.  
21 I'm a program specialist for the American  
22 Lung Association in Pennsylvania. It's an  
23 important addition because as a state  
24 organization, we do things not really  
25 separate from the main organization, but to

1 be recognized for what we do. We all say,  
2 American Lung Association in Pennsylvania.  
3 And the reason I'm here is in regards to the  
4 ordinance that has--that is going to be  
5 introduced tonight in regards to the parks.  
6 It's going to be a perfect night to talk  
7 about parks between Mr. McGurl's talking  
8 about green space and storm. And just  
9 talking about Conners Park too. We have  
10 beautiful parks here in Scranton. And one  
11 of the things that take away from that  
12 beauty is when they're polluted by tobacco  
13 products, tobacco smoke, aerosols. And as a  
14 result of this, the American Lung  
15 Association in Pennsylvania is pleased to  
16 support the efforts to eliminate this in the  
17 parks. Young Lungs at Play is beneficial  
18 for several reasons. Young Lungs at Play is  
19 a program that has been in effect for, I'd  
20 say, about maybe 7 years. Actually, it got  
21 started in the Luzerne County area. And the  
22 idea was to make parks safe for children to  
23 play in away from the pollution dealing from  
24 tobacco use. And there are about 506 parks  
25 in the state now. In every county, we have

1 Young Lungs at Play. Recently, we got  
2 Clifford--the Clifford area up in  
3 Susquehanna to give that designation to  
4 them. Their ballparks now is Young Lungs at  
5 Play. And we're expanding this program very  
6 rapidly. And the City of Scranton enacting  
7 something like this which we hope will  
8 happen will definitely have a domino effect  
9 in the rest of the area. Some of the towns  
10 already have this in effect, some don't.  
11 But we feel this is going to really get the  
12 movement going. We know that second-hand  
13 smoke is a Class A carcinogen. Exposure to  
14 this even for 30 minutes has an affect on  
15 the body. And our children deserve to be  
16 able to play in parks that are free of the  
17 harmful effects of this exposure. Not only  
18 that, the dropped butts that kids can pick  
19 up and even animals can eat, the smell, the  
20 fire hazard. And if you remember that in  
21 different types of products, there are  
22 particulates that people breathe in. So  
23 that's why we're hoping for this all  
24 encompassing ordinance that we have here.  
25 In the American Lung Association of

1 Pennsylvania, of course, we support healthy  
2 air. Anybody who is involved in trying to  
3 make, you know, have a better environment  
4 definitely should support healthy air. So,  
5 this is a public initiative, Young Lungs at  
6 Play that has been implemented. And it's  
7 been supported by the Department of Health  
8 and this program is a policy initiative that  
9 protects children and anyone who go into  
10 these parks from the exposure to these  
11 items. So we're just hoping that in a few  
12 weeks we will have this law, this ordinance  
13 put into effect. There will be signs that  
14 are available, free signs that will be  
15 available for all the parks. And we look  
16 forward to working with you on this. So  
17 thank you, very much, for considering this  
18 ordinance.

19 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

20 MR. DELONTI: Any questions?

21 Nothing, okay, thank you. And we'll be  
22 seeing you.

23 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. James  
24 McGurl?

25 MR. J. MCGURL: I got some paperwork

1 for you guys I'm just going to bring over.  
2 That's a proposed, you know, rough draft  
3 format of a decriminalization order. It's  
4 for a small amount of possession of medical  
5 marijuana. To the best of my ability, I  
6 haven't gone to school for any of that  
7 stuff. But that's why I'm here today.  
8 Decriminalization of marijuana, in my  
9 opinion--legalization also is the biggest  
10 issue we have in the country, let alone in  
11 our area. But decriminalization is  
12 something that we can handle as a community.  
13 And it's very important. Scranton, for  
14 example, has--from personal experience, look  
15 around the obituaries and stuff, we have a  
16 horrible heroin problem. Really, really  
17 bad. I've known three people in the past  
18 month who've recently passed away from  
19 heroin. I myself am two years clean off all  
20 drugs and alcohol thanks to medical  
21 marijuana. Unfortunately, people in this  
22 area, you know, have no option, you know  
23 what I mean? As far as like what happens  
24 when they get arrested, they go to jail.  
25 Which does not really like match up to the

1 offense, you know. This is something that  
2 we need to be cognizant of as a community  
3 and start to make changes immediately  
4 because this is something that destroys  
5 people's lives, puts them into a system that  
6 half the time teaches them more about  
7 illegality and more about drugs. See, I  
8 know this because I'm the product of the  
9 drug war, you know. I was entered into  
10 rehab at a young age. And it's just  
11 not--like it's not where people should be  
12 who get caught smoking marijuana. We as a  
13 city celebrate alcohol which is whatever,  
14 you know. I don't drink. I'm all about  
15 freedom, you know. But like someone just  
16 died again at the parade. And this is--and  
17 that's allowed. You know, this is something  
18 that's allowed to happen, you know. And  
19 this is--there's other avenues that are  
20 possible for us that we need to look into.  
21 The amount of taxpayer money that's spent on  
22 non-violent crimes, that people are going to  
23 jail for non-violent crimes for smoking  
24 marijuana. It's ridiculous, the amount of  
25 money that we're wasting on that.

1 Philadelphia decriminalized, they saved  
2 approximately \$4.5 million in the first  
3 year. Although, we're not as big as  
4 Philadelphia, I think that's a good example  
5 of how much money we could be saving. With  
6 the recent passing of the SB3 medical bill  
7 in our state May 17th, we will have the  
8 effective--that will be effective date for  
9 when medical marijuana will start. Just  
10 like, you know, prescription drugs and  
11 stuff, we need to realize that like medical  
12 marijuana is going to be out on the streets.  
13 It already is. We cannot continue to keep  
14 ruining people's lives. We just can't.  
15 Inside the ordinance that I gave you, you  
16 know, I outlined a few things. It's not  
17 like we're looking for legalization. We  
18 can't do that. We're just a city or a  
19 county. This is something that the county  
20 should do in general. But like, you know,  
21 let's see, as a note, a lot of marijuana  
22 users are productive citizens in society. I  
23 know this because I speak to a lot of people  
24 who I know smoke marijuana. Some of them  
25 are lawyers, politicians, doctors, police

1 officers. It's ridiculous, you know. And  
2 people need to either align themselves with  
3 the truth or then align yourselves with the  
4 industry that continues to purport lies and  
5 misinformation. So at least then we can  
6 know it so we won't reelect you. Because I  
7 speak to a lot of the people and the  
8 consensus is out there. We just had the  
9 Cannabis rally in Nay Aug Park. There was a  
10 lot of support. We had police officers  
11 there that I spoke with. It's just  
12 ridiculous. You know, I don't understand  
13 how somebody could, like I said, like  
14 myself, two years clean and like I'm facing  
15 possible jail time right now. And it's just  
16 really unfortunate to me. If I wasn't so  
17 spiritually resilient and that's something  
18 that's so concerning to people like  
19 spirituality and stuff like that. You know,  
20 we pledge allegiance to the flag and we end  
21 up dedicating that to God. People don't  
22 realize the severity of this. Long term  
23 risk of--health risk of drug abuse including  
24 from the abuse of marijuana, it's not like  
25 people can't abuse this product. You could

1 abuse anything just like people who shop too  
2 much. You know, it's not--it's not a  
3 disease. It's a mental thing. You know, it  
4 needs to be looked at as that and it needs  
5 to be stop being treated as a crime. It's  
6 just not fair. I'd also like to point out  
7 the fact that we need to, if in fact, we can  
8 move forward with this, we need the city's  
9 continued support and implementation of  
10 evidence based substance abuse and violence  
11 prevention programs. We need to go across  
12 the board. This is like the School  
13 Districts, the Mayor's Office, you know, the  
14 Arch Diocese. This is a massive campaign  
15 that needs to happen so we inform the  
16 public. This is not legalization. This is  
17 simple decriminalization. We need to stop  
18 ruining people's lives. It's a very serious  
19 issue. Somebody tomorrow could go to jail  
20 for marijuana and lives could literally be  
21 ruined. Does that mean I'm talking too  
22 much? Okay, well, thank you, very much. I  
23 don't know if you guys have any questions or  
24 whatever, but it's really important. I  
25 don't think there's anything more important

1 than stop putting innocent people in prison.  
2 So, thank you.

3 MR. EVANS: Thank you.

4 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Jeff  
5 Zick?

6 MR. ZINK: Hi Council. My name is  
7 Jeff Zick. I'm going to read straight from  
8 the script here too so I don't get off  
9 script. I am the organizer of the  
10 Northeastern Pennsylvania Cannabis Rally.  
11 Last Sunday, we had 1,200 people estimated  
12 join us in the park in Nay Aug for a  
13 combination of Earth Day and the  
14 Northeastern Pennsylvania Cannabis Rally.  
15 We scoured the bandstand area and grounds  
16 the weekend before picking up cigarette  
17 butts and trash, glass bottles. We  
18 collected twenty trash bags in four hours.  
19 The day of the rally, we hauled four pick up  
20 trucks worth of garbage out of the parks so  
21 we could have the rally. There was no  
22 fighting. No arrests. No disturbances in  
23 any way. Music, food, family, pets, arts  
24 and smiles. This is the motto of how  
25 society can be under freedom and individual

1 responsibility. We no longer use words that  
2 are derogatory and hateful towards other  
3 groups of people yet the words marijuana,  
4 doper, stoner and pot are often thrown and  
5 spoken to alienate a group of tax paying  
6 citizens, patients and advocates. The  
7 racism and hate that plagued our country is  
8 dying. Terms like marijuana were crafted to  
9 demonize certain cultures and is still used  
10 today. Cannibis sativa, Cannibis indica,  
11 Cannibis ruderalis. It has been that way  
12 since native Indian hemp or aromatic cane,  
13 KBSS, found in the Bible. The same healing  
14 plant that was used in the holy anointed  
15 oils. The same plant that helped win our  
16 wars with the clothing of our soldiers and  
17 replace petroleum products within a century.  
18 This plan is no more than miraculous. Yet,  
19 we can't grow it, use it, possess it or even  
20 sometimes talk about it. Cannibis will be  
21 medicine to patients in the State of  
22 Pennsylvania as soon as May 15th--or 17th  
23 excuse me. We encourage quick action.  
24 People are illegally healing themselves and  
25 treating themselves everyday. They live in

1 fear of arrest and permanent criminal  
2 records just to treat themselves naturally  
3 with a nontoxic substance. The city's  
4 Police Department should not be involved in  
5 arrested citizens or patients, nor should  
6 they have to be experts on medical devices  
7 and/or Cannabis concentrates. This should  
8 be--they should be instructed to treat small  
9 amounts of Cannabis as summary disorderly  
10 conduct instead of misdemeanor level  
11 criminal complaint. Doing so will free up  
12 law enforcement resources. And at all  
13 times, police will retain their full  
14 authority under state law. No one can force  
15 them to not charge for small amounts. But  
16 simply put it at the lowest level of their  
17 priority by offering them a better route to  
18 deal with this issue other than the current  
19 policy. Philadelphia and Pittsburgh has  
20 decriminalized small amounts of Cannabis and  
21 use with great success. Harrisburg,  
22 Wilkes-Barre, Pottsville, Stroudsburg, State  
23 College, Lancaster and Reading are currently  
24 tackling this issue. Scranton should lead  
25 as Pennsylvania's progressive city, not

1 follow. We emphasize consenting between  
2 City Council, Mayor Courtright, District  
3 Attorney Scanlon and Chief Graziano.  
4 Protecting people from collateral  
5 consequences that are grossly  
6 disproportionate to the offense is our  
7 number one priority meanwhile furthering  
8 individual liberty and freeing limited law  
9 enforcement resources. Not to mention the  
10 money saved by the taxpayer with the Rand  
11 Corporation's estimate of \$1,200 per every  
12 arrest made in this city. If anybody here  
13 needs an education on Cannibis, I would be  
14 glad to sit down and have a fact based  
15 conversation. I am submitting the  
16 signatures of Scranton residents only that  
17 attended our rally along with  
18 recommendations on the decriminalization of  
19 Cannibis. Thank you for your time.

20 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Zick, could you  
21 leave your contact information with Jamie,  
22 please?

23 MR. ZICK: Absolutely.

24 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. And I  
25 heard the concert. I live across the river.

1                   So I heard the whole show.

2                   MR. ZICK: Nice.

3                   MR. WECHSLER: Gerard Hetman.

4                   MR. HETMAN: Good evening, Council.  
5 Gerard Hetman, Lackawanna County's Community  
6 Relations Department. To begin this  
7 evening, one of our most popular events on  
8 our yearly calendar is coming up. It's the  
9 Lackawanna County Commissioner's Fourth  
10 Annual Bicycle Safety Fair for children.  
11 This year's date is Saturday, May 14th, 10  
12 a.m. to noon at PNC field. We moved it back  
13 a little bit this year. Normally, it's been  
14 the last weekend in April. We wanted to get  
15 a little bit warmer weather and we also  
16 wanted to avoid the open dates for little  
17 leagues, softball leagues and other youth  
18 sports. So this year, Saturday, May 14th,  
19 10 a.m. to noon at PNC field. We'll have  
20 bike safety lessons for all attendants of  
21 the Scranton Police Department. Lieutenant  
22 Mecca has been a big help with that. We had  
23 him in the past, Officer Sofka, we're hoping  
24 to get some of the other bicycle trained  
25 officers there this year to give some bike

1 safety lessons. Free bike helmets for all  
2 children in attendance donated by PNC Bank  
3 and also free refreshments donated by  
4 Gerrity's Supermarkets. And we also have a  
5 coloring contest open. This is the sample  
6 of the entry blank. This could be  
7 downloaded on the county's website,  
8 [www.LackawannaCounty.org](http://www.LackawannaCounty.org). And parents,  
9 children, we just ask you color it in.  
10 Parents can mail it in or drop it off at the  
11 Commissioner's Office, 200 Adams Avenue, 6th  
12 Floor, Scranton, PA. On Wednesday, May  
13 11th, the Commissioner's will pick one male,  
14 one female winner from among the coloring  
15 contest entries. Those kids win a free  
16 bicycle compliments of Sickler's Bike and  
17 Sports Shop. And all the kids that attend  
18 the events the day of the bike fair, except  
19 for the coloring contest winners, we draw  
20 their names at random to win one bicycle,  
21 also donated by Sickler's. It's a free  
22 event. It's the first event that our  
23 department plans this year. So we're  
24 looking forward to seeing a great crowd for  
25 that. Second, observance of Earth month,

1 electronics recycling at the Lackawanna  
2 County Recycling Center will be free of  
3 charge for the month of April for Lackawanna  
4 County residents. Beginning May 2nd, a one  
5 dollar per pound fee will be assessed for  
6 all electronics recycled at the Recycling  
7 Center. So for the month of April, we can  
8 still take the electronics to the Recycling  
9 Center and recycle them free of charge if  
10 you live in Lackawanna and provide proof of  
11 county residency such as a utility bill,  
12 driver's license, any documentation that has  
13 your address on it. So it'll be a chance to  
14 get rid of your old TVs, VCRs, computer  
15 monitors. I know some of the council  
16 members and myself have some old videogame  
17 consoles laying around. That's how we know  
18 we're getting old here, our systems are  
19 ancient history. So it's a good chance to  
20 get rid of those before the fee is assessed.  
21 Hours of operation at the center, Monday  
22 through Friday 7 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. The  
23 Center closes from 12 to 12:30 for lunch for  
24 the crew. And Saturday 7 a.m. to noon. We  
25 try to advise people to get there about 15

1 to 30 minutes early before the center closes  
2 just because the crew's trying to rap up  
3 closing the doors and wind down operations.  
4 So try to give everyone enough time to  
5 unload safely and at your leisure. Also,  
6 the Live Well 2016 is a seminar in healthy  
7 living for adults age 55 years and older.  
8 That's coming up on Wednesday May 18th, 4  
9 p.m. at Lackawanna College. It's presented  
10 by Prime Time Health along with the  
11 Voluntary Action Center and the Lackawanna  
12 County Area Agency on Aging. It's described  
13 as a free evening with learning, a light  
14 dinner, door prizes and interactive  
15 discussions. Again, for adult ages 55 years  
16 older dealing with health and nutrition for  
17 senior--well, I'm don't want to say senior  
18 living. I don't want to say that. But age  
19 55 and up, health and wellness topics for  
20 that population. They request registration  
21 in advance. And to do that, please call  
22 570-347-5616 before May 4th. And just one  
23 last note, last week we had our first  
24 offsite after--I'm saying after hours--after  
25 business hours Commissioner's meeting in

1 quite some time, certainly since I've been  
2 here since 2012. And that's a trend that  
3 we'll do more in the future. When our  
4 Commissioner's organized this year, they  
5 agreed to have four of those meetings. The  
6 first one was Clarks Summit Borough. We  
7 have the second one coming up in the month  
8 of June at the Greenfield Township building.  
9 And we continue to move those around.  
10 Certainly, there will be sites in the city  
11 in the future. Of course, all of our  
12 regular meetings are downtown. But they're  
13 during the day time hours. So we saw great  
14 attendance at that. A lot of issues  
15 discussed. I think, as you saw here tonight  
16 and see again tonight, different items  
17 brought up, questions as well as suggestions  
18 on items of importance to our community. So  
19 we'll certainly let you know of the dates of  
20 those meetings. And of course, anyone on  
21 Council or any of the residents are more  
22 than welcome to attend. It's just part of  
23 our initiative especially in the new  
24 administration to make county government  
25 continually more accessible to the public.

1 So thank you all.

2 MR. ROGAN: I would like to say  
3 that's a great idea. I'm glad to see the  
4 Commissioner's are moving toward moving some  
5 meetings to the night time. And I'm sure my  
6 colleagues would agree that we would be  
7 willing to let the Commissioner's use our  
8 facilities with the cameras with Scranton  
9 being the county seat.

10 MR. HETMAN: Sure, thank you.

11 MR. ROGAN: It would be nice to see  
12 a night time Commissioner's meeting in  
13 Scranton.

14 MR. HETMAN: Thank you. And if I  
15 may, just one note I have before I finish;  
16 EC TV did tape the meeting last night.  
17 Normally, they tape the Commissioner's  
18 meeting and then rebroadcast them often  
19 after the City Council meetings. So that  
20 will be on EC TV. In the future, of course,  
21 if we had it here, that it's possible to  
22 broadcast live. So we'll certainly take  
23 that under consideration.

24 MR. EVANS: They can be live.  
25 That's fun.

1 MR. HETMAN: Absolutely. Thank you,  
2 Ladies and Gentlemen.

3 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Les  
4 Spindler?

5 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening,  
6 Council, Les Spindler, city resident,  
7 homeowner, taxpayer. First of all, I just  
8 want to say President Wechsler, I think it's  
9 very unfair to invite someone, nothing  
10 personally again the first speaker, you set  
11 a precedent. That speaker spoke for about  
12 30 minutes, took up a lot of our time. We  
13 can only speak for 5 minutes. You got in an  
14 argument with Bob Bolus a while back because  
15 he wanted to speak about a minute longer.  
16 And let someone speak for 30 minutes?  
17 That's wrong. You set a precedent. If I go  
18 over five minutes tonight, I'm not leaving  
19 here until I'm done. And I don't think  
20 anybody else should in the future. It was  
21 wrong and you made a mistaken.

22 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Spindler, he was  
23 an invited guest of Council.

24 MR. SPINDLER: I don't care what it  
25 was. He took up Council's time.

1 MR. WECHSLER: He's--

2 MR. SPINDLER: It's a Council  
3 meeting. It's against Council rules.

4 MR. WECHSLER: It is not.

5 MR. SPINDLER: Council rules is 5  
6 minutes.

7 MR. WECHSLER: No.

8 MR. SPINDLER: Yes, it is.

9 MR. WECHSLER: He's a guest speaker.

10 MR. SPINDLER: I've been coming here  
11 for 14 years now, I think I know a little  
12 bit more than you do.

13 MR. WECHSLER: Well, that's  
14 fortunate.

15 MR. SPINDLER: And I will go over 5  
16 minutes.

17 MR. WECHSLER: You'll be asked to  
18 stop if you do.

19 MR. SPINDLER: Well, I'll be  
20 contacting my lawyer too because that's  
21 wrong.

22 MR. WECHSLER: You'll be asked to  
23 stop. So please continue.

24 MR. SPINDLER: Well, I won't stop.  
25 Anyway, on the agenda, 5D and 5E, the two

1 restaurants asking for outdoor seating, I  
2 think Council should definitely pass that.  
3 Especially 5E because that's a new  
4 restaurant that wants to go into the mall.  
5 And there are restaurants already in that  
6 outdoor seating like Carl Von Luger's, the  
7 deli on Spruce Street and Penn. So I think  
8 this is a no-brainer. Especially the one at  
9 the mall. And I read in the paper they're  
10 contingent on moving into the mall that they  
11 have outdoor seating. I think this is a  
12 no-brainer. It should definitely be passed.  
13 This is something I have talked about many,  
14 many times: Firefighter John Rivers. And  
15 Councilman Perry, I don't know if you're  
16 aware of this. It's the Sandone tire fire  
17 where this man saved three lives. There  
18 were three firefighters trapped with hardly  
19 any air left, this man went in and got them  
20 all out to safety. And I've asked since  
21 that time for a proclamation. People who  
22 are brought here for this reason or for that  
23 reasons, there were people from the church  
24 brought in by a proclamation. What lives  
25 have they saved? And I don't like speaking

1                   when somebody can't defend himself now,  
2                   but you honored Bob McGoff. And all Bob  
3                   McGoff did was raise our taxes.

4                   MR. GAUGHAN: You know what, that is  
5                   disrespectful. I'm sorry, you should be  
6                   gavelled out of words for saying something  
7                   like that.

8                   MR. SPINDLER: Let me speak. You  
9                   have your time and I have my time.

10                  MR. GAUGHAN: You're wrong about  
11                  that.

12                  MR. SPINDLER: That's your opinion.

13                  MR. GAUGHAN: No, it's a fact.

14                  MR. SPINDLER: All he did was rubber  
15                  stamp everything Chris Doherty ever sent to  
16                  this Council.

17                  MR. EVANS: If you're going to--

18                  MR. GAUGHAN: You're a disgrace for  
19                  saying that.

20                  MR. SPINDLER: It's a disgrace that  
21                  you people don't honor John Rivers. He  
22                  saved three lives.

23                  MR. GAUGHAN: Give me a break.

24                  MR. SPINDLER: He saved three lives  
25                  and you people won't give a proclamation.

1           That's a sin. Moving on, talk about storm  
2           water. I read where the Mayor said there  
3           could be a \$30 tax per resident. \$30 might  
4           not seem a lot for a year, but we're  
5           overtaxed as it is. We don't need anymore  
6           taxes. Let them take the \$30 out of the  
7           illegal \$300 garbage fee we have to pay.  
8           And lastly, I've spoke about this before,  
9           Luzerne Street, Councilman Rogan, I know you  
10          know that area well. And it's just terrible  
11          driving on that street. I don't know what--

12                   MR. ROGAN: We have sent  
13          correspondence. And again, I know you know  
14          this, it's not a city project. Even with  
15          the line replacement throughout the city.  
16          We will contact them again. And the road is  
17          a disaster.

18                   MR. SPINDLER: Well, whatever  
19          utility dug that up, they should be  
20          responsible to fix it. It's like a mine  
21          field. It's ridiculous. You have to go  
22          about five miles an hour down that hill.  
23          And lastly, this is another thing, this same  
24          thing. Utility dug up Farr Street. Only  
25          paved half the street. They told the

1 Mayor--the Mayor told me they were going to  
2 pave the street. And that's why the city  
3 didn't do it. So I think the city should  
4 file a lawsuit against this company that dug  
5 that up and didn't pave it. But, that's my  
6 opinion. I think it's wrong. I've never  
7 seen half a street being paved. I just  
8 think it's ridiculous and it should be done  
9 the right way. And that's all I have.  
10 Thank you.

11 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Spindler, I just  
12 want you to hear one thing. I did contact  
13 Chief DeSarno based upon your request for a  
14 proclamation. And Chief DeSarno has written  
15 me this letter. "It has come to my  
16 attention that some well meaning citizens  
17 have been, for lack of a better word,  
18 admonishing City Council for a perceived  
19 slight against the Scranton Fire Department  
20 and a highly commendable action of a few of  
21 its members. I'd like to take this  
22 opportunity to assure these citizens that  
23 this is absolutely not the case. It is true  
24 that certain feats were performed at both  
25 the fairly recent Clubhouse and Sandone

1 fires which would be considered beyond the  
2 norm. But rising to the occasion and going  
3 above and beyond are actions expected of  
4 firefighters. And every member of SFD  
5 embraces their duty with pride and  
6 commitment with no exception of special  
7 recognition. As a matter of fact, one of  
8 Scranton's largest merchants on business and  
9 property fronts approached several  
10 individuals involved in the Sandone fire  
11 with a general offer of recognition. To a  
12 man, these individuals graciously declined.  
13 To our fellow citizens, let me offer thanks  
14 for your concerns. It is heartening to know  
15 that there are people in our great city who  
16 appreciate the best Fire Department in the  
17 country. And I'll ask that you let City  
18 Council off the hook on this one. We are  
19 pretty sure that they share the same  
20 sentiments." I think the fire--the members  
21 the Fire Department should be commended for  
22 their selflessness. Chief DeSarno has  
23 spoken on this. You could continue to  
24 request the proclamation. That is your  
25 opportunity as a citizen. But Chief DeSarno

1 has asked us not to do that, so we will not  
2 be doing that. Thank you. Steve Wallace?

3 MR. WALLACE: Evening Council, Steve  
4 Wallace, South Side resident. How are you  
5 guys doing tonight? Good. Because I'm  
6 tired of watching you be picked on. And Mr.  
7 Spindler, that wasn't cool. I'm here to  
8 inform you that the watch has reinvested  
9 itself. We're now the South Scranton  
10 Neighborhood Association. The watch still  
11 exists, but it's a subcommittee now. And we  
12 intend to expand out and do community  
13 relations projects, events such as similar  
14 to what Bob does at Friends of Connors Park.  
15 Expand as much as we can and get the  
16 community to start acting like a community,  
17 like a neighborhood again. People will  
18 forget. They keep talking about, in the old  
19 days, in the old days. Nobody wants to go  
20 back that way. Nobody wants to clean up the  
21 rivers and brooks, you know. So he was  
22 talking about storm water run off. I'll get  
23 a group together and go down and clean  
24 Meadowbrook. I'll go down and clean  
25 Leggett's Creek. If that's what you need,

1 let us know. Okay, because we're here to  
2 help you like you guys help us. So thank  
3 you again for your service and help you give  
4 to the watch and the association.

5 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. We do  
6 appreciate what you do over there. Thank  
7 you, very much.

8 MR. WALLACE: Thank you.

9 MR. WECHSLER: Ruth Burke?

10 MS. BURKE: Hi. My name is Ruth  
11 Burke. I'm a Scranton resident. I just  
12 have a couple of comments and I wanted to  
13 just be sure that you know that citizens do,  
14 as speaking for myself, strongly support the  
15 suggestions made by the speaker tonight  
16 about the Lackawanna River Corridor  
17 recommendations for the storm water  
18 authority. It seems like, you know, might  
19 be someone we need to listen to and very  
20 well informed. The second thing I'd like to  
21 comment on is asking about if you'd consider  
22 republishing the items for--that the city  
23 picks up in the regular recycling. I know  
24 I've gotten a piece of documentation, I  
25 think from the Lackawanna County level, but

1           it says basically what the county will pick  
2           up as a whole. But I know each municipality  
3           picks up their own trash. So it just occurs  
4           to me that each, people forget, you know,  
5           what exactly is recycling. And I think it's  
6           something we need to be promoting a little  
7           bit stronger so people in the city, you  
8           know, at the turn of each season every  
9           spring or whatever republish from the city's  
10          point of view what we want people to  
11          recycle. You know, we have a pretty good  
12          recycling program. But if more people  
13          participate, you know, it would go really  
14          far. And I think annual notification of  
15          that--

16                   MR. EVANS: I think it's something  
17                   we should put on the website actually.

18                   MS. BURKE: Well, the website,  
19                   people have to go to, you know.

20                   MR. EVANS: Well, what they could do  
21                   as well is to send a reminder with the  
22                   garbage bill.

23                   MS. BURKE: There's a great idea.

24                   MR. EVANS: It's not a great gift  
25                   you receive, but at least you get some

1 information with it.

2 MS. BURKE: That's an excellent  
3 idea.

4 MR. ROGAN: What Dunmore does--and  
5 it actually works very well up there. And  
6 it costs taxpayers nothing is; they publish,  
7 they send out a schedule of the garbage and  
8 recycling pick ups and it's sponsored by a  
9 local pharmacy. They pay for it, their  
10 advertisement is at the bottom. Something  
11 like that would be a great public/private  
12 partnership we can do to have a schedule.  
13 Also, have the list of items because a lot  
14 of people don't know you can recycle  
15 cardboard. You can put cardboard and other  
16 papers.

17 MS. BURKE: And the tops on water  
18 bottles. They want them now.

19 MR. ROGAN: Right because when we  
20 first had the program, you had to take the  
21 tops off.

22 MS. BURKE: Right, the list has  
23 expanded quite a lot. And a lot of paper,  
24 all your junk mail, cardboard. It's a  
25 longer list than it used to be. My third

1 item that I'd like speak about is just how  
2 strongly I feel about the issue with the  
3 sewer authority and the city's agreement  
4 that they made a change to in regard to  
5 using the leachate mine. I just feel really  
6 strongly that the city really needs to  
7 continue to look into what legal action  
8 needs to be taken to address this. It's  
9 just not something that should be ignored.  
10 And I want you to know that a lot of people  
11 in the city feel that way, myself included.  
12 Alright, thank you, very much.

13 MR. GAUGHAN: And Mrs. Burke, if I  
14 could, I've been--we have a recycling  
15 consultant. And I've been in several  
16 meetings with her and members of the  
17 administration. And one of her  
18 recommendations as you just mentioned and is  
19 very important is educating the public about  
20 how we recycle, what we should recycle. So  
21 I'm going to get an update on that. But  
22 they were supposed to send out a brochure or  
23 some kind of pamphlet. But I know they were  
24 working on it.

25 MS. BURKE: Very good. Thank you,

1 very much.

2 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

3 MR. WECHSLER: Ron Eilman?

4 MR. ELLMAN: Yes, Council, this  
5 Council is supposed to represent the people  
6 and you don't. You're supposed to be  
7 thinking of our future generations and you  
8 don't. You know, like I always say, I seem  
9 to be associated with the lower income  
10 people in town. And all I hear are these  
11 stories, they can't afford this and they  
12 can't afford that. It's, every time there's  
13 a meeting, it's about something adverse to  
14 the taxpayers of the city. Now, you're  
15 talking about selling the one entity that's  
16 made money year after year. It's been  
17 profitable. It's been almost trouble free.  
18 And what are we going to get out of it?  
19 We're not going to get any sidewalks. We're  
20 not going to get any tax reduction. The  
21 people of this city aren't going to get a  
22 thing from the sale except the bills for the  
23 sewage are going to soar and you know it.  
24 There's no way of keeping them in line like  
25 they are now. And to me, one of the last

1 things we need is another authority. Like  
2 this is no disrespect for this gentleman  
3 that spoke tonight. But we--we're selling  
4 an authority. What do you need to replace  
5 it with another one for? We went through  
6 this is a couple years ago with the library  
7 authority. I don't know, to change the  
8 subject, I read about a meeting, a forum at  
9 the university. Here, we had Mr. Blake  
10 there, Mr. Bulzoni, Mr. Durkin, the overpaid  
11 pre-madonna from the School Board. Not a  
12 one of them lives in the city. Not a one of  
13 them pays taxes and knows what's going on  
14 here. And they, of all things, they're  
15 having a meeting at the university that is  
16 taking 150 pieces of property off our tax  
17 rolls, millions of dollars. And here we  
18 have the Mayor's consultant, he is being  
19 paid to ensure that there's no legislation  
20 against non-profits. He's being paid to  
21 advocate the raising of the taxes that  
22 he's--that keeps going on and on. And he's  
23 being paid to sell everything. And I'll  
24 tell you what, that man has done a hell of a  
25 job. He's done a better job than anybody

1 else in the city. Because all of those  
2 things have happened. And all those things  
3 are nothing but an adversity against the  
4 taxpayers and the people that are paying for  
5 everything, the people that you people don't  
6 represent no more. Then, to change the  
7 subject again, I think in yesterday's paper,  
8 Mr. Courtright wants to go forth with this  
9 nonsense about building a railroad from here  
10 to New York City. I guess he thinks people  
11 are going to come to Boscov's to shop. But  
12 the paper said this feasibility will cost  
13 three or four million dollars and the locals  
14 have to pay for it. Isn't it time to stop  
15 and help the people of this city somehow  
16 instead of all these ridiculous adversities  
17 that go on and on and on. Like I keep  
18 saying, you're just not in touch with the  
19 man on the street. Not a one of you is in  
20 touch with the man on the street. And Mr.  
21 Perry, you wrote me such a nice letter that  
22 that's what you were going to do and you  
23 failed.

24 MR. PERRY: I disagree that I  
25 failed.

1 MR. ELLMAN: Yeah, well, you wrote a  
2 letter and that was nonsense to me. You  
3 failed me.

4 MR. PERRY: I disagree. Well, I  
5 apologize that you feel that way, but I tell  
6 you that I work very hard, very honest and I  
7 have no intentions of changing that.

8 MR. ELLMAN: The first thing you did  
9 was vote against the city and that we talked  
10 about it right here with me standing right  
11 here. Thank you, people.

12 MR. PERRY: I assume you're talking  
13 about Mr. Bulzoni?

14 MR. ELLMAN: Pardon?

15 MR. PERRY: Was it about Mr. Bulzoni  
16 and keeping him on?

17 MR. ELLMAN: I don't remember now,  
18 but it's the first thing that happened.

19 MR. PERRY: Well, I cannot help if  
20 you don't remember. Okay, thank you.

21 MR. ELLMAN: It was the vote and it  
22 didn't help the taxpayers a bit.

23 MR. WECHSLER: Lee Morgan?

24 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.  
25 You know, the first thing I have here today

1 is two gentlemen, I guess, came up here  
2 about marijuana. And I'd just like to say  
3 that being 57-years-old, I remember being a  
4 child, I lived in--by the pool. And I guess  
5 you'd call it lower Greenridge. And I have  
6 to be real honest, when I was a kid,  
7 everybody was smoking pot. I'm not trying  
8 to be silly. Here I am, 57, people were  
9 coming back from Vietnam smoking that and  
10 people were. And all the way through high  
11 school, most times the police would stop  
12 somebody smoking pot, they would take the  
13 bag of pot and leave the car going. My  
14 point is, you know, maybe it's time to  
15 reconsider some of the things that take  
16 place. But I guess that's on Council. You  
17 know, the other thing I'd like to say is,  
18 you know, the city is going to celebrate its  
19 150th, well, anniversary kind of. Even  
20 though the city has been here probably  
21 longer than that one way or another. But  
22 the city has been in decline for 75 when you  
23 look at the population base and the decline  
24 of the population base. We need some smart  
25 decisions. I really don't feel that the

1 Scranton Sewer Authority sale is in  
2 anybody's interest. You know, everybody  
3 understands that the storm system is just a  
4 chaotic mess and it needs--they've tossed a  
5 lot of different numbers around. But I  
6 think it's going to be hundreds and hundreds  
7 of millions of dollars of repair work that  
8 it's going to need. Not only to separate  
9 it, but to repair it. And I think the thing  
10 that people fail to realize is the Scranton  
11 Sewer Authority served a lot of functions.  
12 And to try to bail--use the Scranton Sewer  
13 Authority as a catalyst for a  
14 reconfiguration of the city is a failed plan  
15 because it can't work. And I think really  
16 what needs to take place is, I think Council  
17 needs to open its eyes, take a look and ask,  
18 where did all the contributions to the  
19 pension plan go? I think that's the thing  
20 to ask. I mean, look, there's 101 different  
21 things to ask. But the other thing I'd ask  
22 is, with all the hundreds and hundreds of  
23 millions of dollars that we put into  
24 downtown, why is the downtown vacant? Do  
25 you think that we're solving problems that

1 don't exist and creating problems that we do  
2 have now existing? And do you think it's  
3 time for the City of Scranton to do a real  
4 hard look at itself and reorganize the city  
5 itself? And to make the changes necessary  
6 to make Scranton a progressive city? I  
7 mean, I've come to this podium for a few  
8 decades now. And I've watched a lot of  
9 things come through this council. And I've  
10 actually heard people that were councilman  
11 say, boy, we really blew it, we should have  
12 did this, we should have did that. Well,  
13 you know, sometimes it's time to stop, it's  
14 time to study, it's time to think. And I  
15 think that we failed to do that for too  
16 long. And the sheep, well, I should say the  
17 voters in this city, they think going to the  
18 polls is just voting for the most popular  
19 candidate. And you know, that's really  
20 good, I don't know, in some categories of  
21 life. But in others, it's a detriment. And  
22 it's been a detriment to this city for 75  
23 years plus. And I think that when the sale  
24 of the Scranton Sewer Authority comes up to  
25 this Council, this Council should vote no to

1 dissolve the Scranton Sewer Authority  
2 because there's just too many issues here  
3 that haven't been addressed. And when you  
4 start sending people a rain tax, it gets to  
5 the point where it's almost ridiculous.  
6 Because down the road, don't forget, the  
7 sewer authority wasn't designed to make a  
8 profit. There's a reason why Pennsylvania  
9 American Water doesn't want a storm water  
10 system. And the other thing is, maybe the  
11 Scranton Sewer Authority when the vote is  
12 determined not to dissolve it, maybe they  
13 should build very vast retention ponds and  
14 treat every ounce of storm water before they  
15 reintroduce it into the streams and rivers  
16 around the city. Because that's the real  
17 purpose of the Scranton Sewer Authority  
18 beyond sewage. And when you take a look at  
19 Chicago who built the first sanitary system  
20 in this country and you see why they did it,  
21 you'll know why maybe they city shouldn't  
22 divest itself of its. Because what happened  
23 in the city has been a lack of leadership.  
24 That's what happened in this city. And I  
25 just think that if this city had a hope to

1           recover and turn it itself around, it has to  
2           vote no to dissolve the Scranton Sewer  
3           Authority. It needs to take a look and see  
4           where all the money's gone and make smart  
5           decisions. Thank you.

6                       MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Kara  
7           Seitzinger?

8                       MS. SEITZINGER: Good evening,  
9           Council. Kara Seitzinger, city resident and  
10          taxpayer. I first want to thank Mr. McGurl  
11          for his presentation very, very much. And I  
12          disagree with Mr. Morgan. I think that this  
13          city does have a lot of hope. The last time  
14          I spoke with this body, it was regarding the  
15          Highmark Blue Cross versus Delta Medix issue  
16          which has since been favorably resolved  
17          thanks to the over 58,000 people across this  
18          city and country who joined, shared and  
19          commented on the Facebook page that I  
20          created. People care about their health,  
21          their family, their community. Today, I  
22          speak again on behalf of my family, my  
23          neighbors, my community, specifically the  
24          Greenridge Neighborhood Association  
25          regarding the egregious error of the

1 amendment that was made to the permit issued  
2 to KSL by the Scranton Sewer Authority in  
3 December 2015. Both of these lines that are  
4 now dedicated, undedicated, run underneath  
5 both my homestead and the home I went on to  
6 purchase, another home in the City of  
7 Scranton. I was born in October of 1967,  
8 raised on Richmond Street and purchased a  
9 home on Columbus Street. So I am a life  
10 long Greenridge resident right in that area.  
11 I was raised in the neighborhood that you  
12 have all forgotten about. The host of  
13 illnesses, among them cancer, that can be  
14 caused by treating leachate has stricken  
15 many of my neighbors and family members.  
16 And I will not begin to surmise or  
17 investigate what untreated leachate has  
18 done. The Department of Environmental  
19 Quality or DEQ is equivalent to the  
20 Pennsylvania DEP in that they handle air,  
21 land, water and waste for the State of  
22 Michigan. Mike Prysby, if you don't know  
23 Mr. Prysby's name after today's national  
24 news, I certainly would suggest that you  
25 read the information and reports relative to

1 his culpability and the criminal culpability  
2 in a permit issuance in the State of  
3 Michigan. I suspect Michigan Governor Rick  
4 Snyder's apology means little to nothing to  
5 the residents of Flint. I implore you. I  
6 warn you as a taxpayer to do everything to  
7 not share in any culpability. You have been  
8 put on notice by the Greenridge Neighborhood  
9 Association and the taxpayers via the  
10 petition that was presented to this body  
11 last week. Please don't face the same  
12 indictments after the fact by passing the  
13 buck to the administration. Our county  
14 official is putting out her own fires that  
15 she created. Our other county councilman,  
16 like many elected officials and the city  
17 administration, are hiding, hoping that it  
18 will go away. I will not go away. My  
19 neighbors will not go away. And this issue  
20 will not go away. The residents of  
21 Greenridge and Lower Greenridge and the  
22 neighboring sections most definitely will  
23 not go away. It's a disgrace that we are  
24 almost in May, yet it was only recently  
25 discovered that a permit change was made in

1 December. I asked if this was overlooked  
2 because of the potential sale of the  
3 Scranton Sewer Authority to PA American  
4 Water and the potential legal ramifications  
5 both by and to the City of Scranton. I'm  
6 certain that Mr. Evans as a real estate  
7 agent is aware of disclosures and  
8 non-disclosure in any sale agreement. I  
9 know that I am. I'm sure Attorneys Minora,  
10 Shrive and Mulligan are or they should be.  
11 Finally, I would ask that you also reach out  
12 to State Representative Marty Flynn because  
13 he has turned a deaf ear and buried his head  
14 in the sand as well. I thank you for your  
15 time.

16 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you.

17 MR. EVANS: Thank you.

18 MR. WECHSLER: Joan Hodawanitz?

19 MS. HODAWANITZ: Joan Hodawanitz,  
20 resident and taxpayer. Mr. McGurl, I was  
21 very impressed by your presentation. But I  
22 must point out to Council that the storm  
23 water management issue was first raised many  
24 weeks ago by Marie Schumacher. She's  
25 addressed it from this podium several times

1 very cogently and with great expertise. She  
2 even provided every member of council with  
3 written materials which covered much of the  
4 same material. So, there are people in  
5 addition to Mr. McGurl who brought this to  
6 your attention and to the city's attention.  
7 I sometimes wonder how much attention you  
8 pay to us when we speak here. Now, with  
9 regard to Item 5C, this ordinance  
10 authorizing release of certain real  
11 property, et cetera, et cetera and the  
12 incurrence of lease rental debt not to  
13 exceed \$49 million. This ordinance, as its  
14 written, covers two pages and it's one  
15 sentence. And it says very, very little in  
16 specifics. So I looked at the background  
17 material on the City Clerk's desk. And was  
18 no further--I got no other information  
19 really of any use until I sat in the caucus  
20 you had next to Marie and she went, that's  
21 court award. And I said, well, what's the  
22 property? She says, that's DPW. You know,  
23 we as citizens who do pay attention to  
24 these, your agendas, and even bother to look  
25 at the background material do so because we

1 want an opportunity to comment on  
2 legislation. That's our right as taxpayers.  
3 But I'll tell you, I would like someone in  
4 Fifth Order during motions to explain this,  
5 that this has to do with the court award  
6 where we owe \$31.7 million and how this is  
7 going to help finance that. Because you  
8 would not get it from reading these two  
9 pages, this one sentence of gobbledygook and  
10 the background material in the Clerk's  
11 Office. And I think that's a shame because  
12 that's a disservice to the citizens of this  
13 city. The 2014 audit is still not on the  
14 city's website. Why am I not surprised?  
15 Just keep going downhill on accountability  
16 for that issue. April 16th, there was an  
17 article in the paper, "City still working  
18 out specifics of pension administrators  
19 role. Officials can't take action until  
20 backpay award is finalized." That's April  
21 16th. Yet on March 11th, the Mayor puts out  
22 a press release how he is ensuring real game  
23 changing pension reforms as an absolute  
24 non-negotiable condition for his approval of  
25 this deal. This deal , being the court

1           award settlement. On March 18th, he says  
2           from this point onward, the city's pension  
3           funds will be managed by a nationally  
4           recognized third party. And I ask you, if  
5           pension reforms are non-negotiable, why must  
6           the city secure financing before it works  
7           out the administrator's exact role? Isn't  
8           this putting the cart before the horse? Why  
9           did the Mayor state that the administrator  
10          would begin managing pension funds on March  
11          18th when we don't even have one let alone  
12          know what his role's going to be. How are  
13          we going to find this nationally recognized  
14          administrator? Is there going to be an RFP  
15          or is it some Philly firm that we've already  
16          preselected and we are just going to rubber  
17          stamp. What will this service cost us and  
18          when will it start? And one of the members  
19          of the firefighters pension board told me  
20          that this person will do nothing more than  
21          comment on the legality of their actions.  
22          So why does the board have it's own  
23          solicitor? I mean, that's a duplication of  
24          effort and cost. You've just got to wonder.  
25          But then, you know, you look at the sewer

1 authority sale and this whole storm water  
2 issue. And it's much of the same thing. I  
3 mean, first you sell the sewer authority and  
4 then you figure out what to do with storm  
5 water management. So, I see no difference  
6 there. I was impressed, though, I saw a  
7 letter that Gary DiBileo had published in  
8 the Times on April 18th where he talked  
9 about the county's Fraud Waste and Abuse  
10 Hotline that received 13 tips in 2015. Do  
11 we have a hot line for the city?

12 MR. WECHSLER: No, not that I'm  
13 aware of.

14 MS. HODAWANITZ: Well, we sure as  
15 hell need one. Maybe Mrs. Seitzinger would  
16 help you and maybe we wouldn't have double  
17 pensions this late in the game.

18 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Anyone  
19 else?

20 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,  
21 citizen of Scranton, fellow Scrantonian. I  
22 guess the citizens are a little confused how  
23 the city government actually works. The  
24 city government is a family and they run it  
25 as a family. If you got a relative that you

1 want a job, you get him on the School Board.  
2 If the School Board won't hire him, we get  
3 him into the county government. If the  
4 county government won't hire him, maybe we  
5 can get him over into the state. And maybe  
6 the state--federal's a little harder. But  
7 this is how the city works. Why do we have  
8 so many authorities? It's obvious. We get  
9 to hire more of our relatives and our  
10 family. So, I don't know why the city  
11 should sit there and complain about all  
12 these authorities. It's great for the  
13 politicians. That's why they exist. The  
14 city is supposed to be--I guess the  
15 residents of the city are supposed to all  
16 wear dark glasses so they can't actually see  
17 what's happening. And this is how it's  
18 been. I seen leases for 198 years given out  
19 for a dollar a year. But the city's great  
20 for that. I seen an authority build a lot  
21 of parking garages that we didn't need. And  
22 I seen the council saying them stupid people  
23 in the city can pay for it. Why not?  
24 Because we know we can't pay for it. Do you  
25 ever find fault in any of the Council

1 members that preceded you? Not a sound out  
2 of you. What happened in the past, forget.  
3 We're just going to add to whatever they  
4 cost you. This is what's wrong with the  
5 city. All it is is one big cess pool. The  
6 politicians really don't know what the  
7 hell's going on. You get another authority  
8 for storm water, you know that most of the  
9 cause of storm water is caused by central  
10 city in all our paved streets. Now, if you  
11 want to put a little tax on paved streets, I  
12 can see it. Because that's where the  
13 water's coming from. 99 percent of my water  
14 stays on my property. And probably a lot of  
15 other residents in the city too. But still,  
16 you don't look at that. You look at an  
17 authority. But authority is good. Like I  
18 said before, how many jobs could you get to  
19 that authority? Nothing in the city happens  
20 by accident. That's what you've got to  
21 realize. It's all created by the people you  
22 elect. Many, many times I came before you  
23 and said, stop voting your name or your  
24 party. Look at every individual as an  
25 individual. And maybe you'll get an open,

1                   honest government in Scranton. Thank you.

2                   MR. WECHSLER: Anyone else?

3                   MS. SCHUMACHER: Marie Schumacher.  
4                   One of these weeks in the not too distant  
5                   future, I'd like to discuss the city's  
6                   nepotism policy or lack thereof. But for  
7                   tonight, I'll start by commenting on the  
8                   disconnect that I see time and time again  
9                   between Council and the Mayor. It was  
10                  especially evident last week when Mr.  
11                  Wechsler again referred to the working  
12                  relationship between the Council and the  
13                  Mayor in a positive manner. Especially, as  
14                  it followed Mr. Evans comments reflecting  
15                  frustration and/or discontent that members  
16                  of the public and the Times Tribune had  
17                  copies of the sewer authority's asset  
18                  purchase agreement weeks in advance of  
19                  Council obtaining copies. If the  
20                  Mayor/Council's relationship was healthy, I  
21                  believe the Mayor or his solicitor who sat  
22                  at the table during that authority's meeting  
23                  would have briefed the council members and  
24                  providing the agreement prior to that  
25                  meeting. Again, last week, a day after

1 council met comes a legal notice of a  
2 special parking authority meeting to approve  
3 the lease of their parking assets. Yet, no  
4 councilman I was able to reach had seen or  
5 could provide a copy for public review. I  
6 later learned the lease had not even been  
7 finalized. And thanks to Jim Lockwood, we  
8 know the meeting will be rescheduled. Did  
9 you receive copies of the proposed lease  
10 agreement from the administration?

11 MR. WECHSLER: The executive session  
12 was cancelled.

13 MS. SCHUMACHER: How does that  
14 comport with a good working relationship?  
15 Time after time Councilman Gaughan has asked  
16 the clerk to write follow up letters asking  
17 the Mayor to provide information he has  
18 requested. Taxpayer Joan Hodawanitz for  
19 over a month has been seeking help to get  
20 answers to the 2014 audit questions. But  
21 Council has apparently not only elected not  
22 to intervene, but no exit interview has  
23 apparently been scheduled six weeks after  
24 the date of the audit itself. Michelle  
25 Dempsey Cunningham and others have asked for

1 help resolving the one versus two leachate  
2 lines. And initially, the council appeared  
3 to be compliant, but that appears to have  
4 dissipated. For that matter, I still await  
5 the substantiation questions of the many 26  
6 budget items that I submitted in November of  
7 2015. Therefore, I must conclude that the  
8 Courtright--or that the Council  
9 administration relationship seems heavily  
10 weighted in the Mayor's favor and perhaps  
11 against the taxpayers. Moving onto current  
12 items, the 2016 budget includes an operating  
13 transfer to the Scranton Sewer Authority of  
14 \$636,539 for the sale lease back of the DPW  
15 facility. How is this amount being treated  
16 in the proposed sale and will answers to my  
17 questions about the asset purchase agreement  
18 be answered in Fifth Order as you met? Now,  
19 I find out you did not meet with the Mayor  
20 on Tuesday evening. And then, I do have a  
21 couple of questions since I have some time  
22 left. Mr. Gaughan, could you--do you know  
23 or could you find out how many retention  
24 ponds the city has ownership of? I know of  
25 at least three on East Mountain, but I would

1           like to know the totality.

2                   MR. GAUGHAN: I don't have that  
3 information off-hand, but I can get that.

4                   MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. And Mr.  
5 Rogan, quite a long time ago now, you were  
6 going to find out something about that  
7 building that's down by the river, railroad,  
8 former railroad, that we the taxpayers  
9 invested a lot of money in to put a new  
10 slate roof on many years ago. What is the  
11 status of that? And blight, we talk about  
12 blight, the Laceworks is a mess. I had gone  
13 by there and I don't know that it's even  
14 saveable. What is happening there?

15                   MR. ROGAN: The Laceworks, I can  
16 call the owner and find out. He is very  
17 open with myself. On the other, the  
18 railroad building on--I believe it's on  
19 Lackawanna, that hasn't come before this  
20 City Council. And I did, I believe it was  
21 probably two years ago requested information  
22 from Linda Aebli on that. And I do remember  
23 reporting on it. And to be honest with you,  
24 it was so long ago, I don't remember what  
25 was in the documents. But I do know that

1           there weren't any city dollars involved in  
2           that project. There wasn't anything in  
3           front of this Council.

4                   MS. SCHUMACHER: Oh, in front of  
5           them. But there were promises that were  
6           made when--I'll be back, thank you, next  
7           week, Lord willing. Thank you.

8                   MR. WECHSLER: Ms. Schumacher, just  
9           one moment, I just want to comment on  
10          something that you said. I think you're  
11          confusing communication with agreement. We  
12          have open communications with the Mayor's  
13          Office. Mr. Gaughan disagrees with some of  
14          his ideas. Mr. Evans disagrees. But there  
15          is a communication. Mr. Bulzoni attends our  
16          meetings. The specifics from Mayor  
17          Courtright addressing our answers, I'm sure  
18          that he could do a better job at that, but  
19          all of the administrators are available to  
20          us for information. And we don't agree all  
21          the time, but there is an open flow of  
22          communication.

23                   MS. SCHUMACHER: If I can, have you  
24          asked the Mayor to come here and explain?

25                   MR. GAUGHAN: I've asked. I've

1           asked for a meeting with Mayor Courtright.  
2           I can't get an answer.

3                       MR. ROGAN: I will say this, echoing  
4           what Councilman Wechsler mentioned, I've  
5           been on Council under two Mayors and three  
6           different Council presidents. The last--my  
7           second term with Mayor Courtright and  
8           Council President Wechsler and McGoff, we've  
9           had more caucuses with administration  
10          officials in a month than in four years in  
11          my first term under previous administration  
12          and our previous Council president. So,  
13          speaking from the two terms I've been on  
14          City Council, the relationship is much  
15          better. There certainly are disagreements  
16          on issues. And that's going to happen. But  
17          I know at least in speaking for myself and I  
18          think the vast majority of Council, when  
19          citizens requests are submitted, they are  
20          taken care of. When we put in for  
21          information, generally, it is received. Not  
22          always. But the relationship is, speaking  
23          from my own personal experience,  
24          significantly better than the first term of  
25          me being on Council.

1 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening, Council.  
2 Dave Dobrzyn, resident. I'm a little  
3 surprised or I have a question. So, on this  
4 financing issue, how does the DPW--I seem to  
5 hear something about the DPW there. And I  
6 wasn't in the caucus. But I'd like to talk  
7 about the DPW tonight once again. Trash and  
8 the expenses of getting rid of it. Are the  
9 trucks full to capacity, overweight or just  
10 maxed out by volume? A few weeks ago, I  
11 seen a trash truck caught on fire. I think  
12 it was down in Kingston and half of it was  
13 recyclable cardboard. And it had to be  
14 dumped out in the middle of the street and  
15 the fire put out. That caused a lot of  
16 merchants some aggravation, nobody wanted to  
17 go there. And I'd also like to point out  
18 people that think you only have one little  
19 bag of garbage, you have facilities, trucks,  
20 fuel, crew. The weight at the landfill,  
21 again, and mileage on those trucks. And we  
22 have to send that team up there every week  
23 to remove one bag or three bags. So some of  
24 that would have to be considered in with the  
25 cost of that one little bag. And not just

1           picking on a guy with a larger family. And  
2           on larger families, I see a lot of people.  
3           I walk my pooch through the courts. And I  
4           see a lot of families with teens and  
5           preteens and tweens and little queens. And  
6           they, they're full of recyclables. So what  
7           I propose and I'll try to get--I gave Mr.  
8           Hetman, we received a card from the county  
9           years back. It was revised recycling list.  
10          And he's promised to get me one. And also  
11          noted that to you people, so you could be a  
12          little better informed. And then, to get to  
13          the subject of illegal dumping. If anybody  
14          has to pay per volume, what's to stop them  
15          from going up the street or down the street  
16          and just tossing it on somebody else's lawn  
17          and somebody else's problem? Call the  
18          police. Did you see them put it there? I  
19          don't know. You know, stare out your window  
20          24/7 make sure? Because I am not kidding, I  
21          lived at Chapman Lake and I lived in Hop  
22          Bottom in Susquehanna County. A total of 21  
23          years between the two of them. And almost  
24          every year of that time, I had problems with  
25          neighbors not able to pay for their trash to

1 be removed or just didn't consider it  
2 important to pay to remove it. And it just  
3 piled up. And the next thing you know, it's  
4 over on your lawn or whatever. So, I'm not  
5 lying about that. I'm not telling fibs.  
6 And so it's a considerable problem when  
7 you're paying \$2.25 a bag at that time.  
8 That was like 1988 I moved out of--or 2000 I  
9 moved out of the country. But 1988, I moved  
10 up to Susquehanna County. And for the whole  
11 13 years, I had this problem with various  
12 neighbors. And it just never went away.  
13 Local rain water collection, a little tip  
14 for people with gardens, I get a water  
15 secured garden trash barrel and new one and  
16 I put vegetable oil on top because you'll  
17 start to breed mosquitos very quickly and a  
18 shot of vegetable oil and there will be  
19 hundreds of mosquitos stuck in that  
20 vegetable oil. Won't be causing a mosquito  
21 problem. And you certainly, whether you get  
22 your garden hose out and water your garden,  
23 you're paying for sewer and everything else  
24 on top of it. And I'll just make it quick,  
25 I hope with the parks and the smoking issue

1           that it is considered that people pay taxes  
2           for that park whether they smoke or they  
3           don't. And certain areas should be secured  
4           from smoking and other areas, please don't  
5           litter, that includes dirty baby diapers and  
6           buggies up there by Brooks Mining. Thank  
7           you, Council.

8                         MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr.  
9           Dobryzn. Anyone else?

10                        MS. REED: FIFTH ORDER. 5A.  
11           MOTIONS.

12                        MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Perry?

13                        MR. PERRY: Yeah, I just have one  
14           comment. And I just want to address  
15           something a speaker made about Mr. McGurl's  
16           appearance here tonight in defense of my  
17           colleague, Mr. Wechsler. As an entity, we  
18           offer Mr. McGurl, an expert in storm water  
19           run off, to speak for the sole purpose of  
20           educating Council as well as the city  
21           residents as an expert to answer questions  
22           that we all have and we all are still  
23           looking for more information. And I think  
24           it was said that we set the precedent. And  
25           I think he's right. I think we did set a

1 precedent. As a Council, we're going to  
2 continue to seek information from any and  
3 all sources that we think is going to help  
4 us make our decision and inform the public.  
5 So for that, I do agree with that one  
6 speaker and it wasn't fair that Mr. Wechsler  
7 took the brunt of that because that was made  
8 as a decision as a whole. That's all I  
9 have.

10 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Mr.  
11 Rogan?

12 MR. ROGAN: Yes, just a couple brief  
13 comments. We certainly covered a lot of  
14 ground tonight. I probably could mention a  
15 whole bunch of things we discussed. But I  
16 just want to hit on a couple of things that  
17 weren't brought up and a few that were.  
18 First, I'd like--it was reported in the  
19 Scranton Times this week that the Lackawanna  
20 County District Attorney has decided to  
21 charge the criminals who killed Officer  
22 Wilding as adults. I commend this decision.  
23 There is no room in society for individuals  
24 who place those who protect us in harm's  
25 way. My hope is after a trial if they are

1 convicted, which I believe they will, they  
2 are locked up and the key is thrown away.  
3 Onto some other items, a number of residents  
4 contacted me this week--and actually my  
5 mother is one of them--who received a letter  
6 that looked like it came from the City of  
7 Scranton from Service Line Warranties of  
8 America. Yep. And thank you, Mr. Wechsler.  
9 And Tuesday of this week, the program is  
10 administered by Utility Service Partners Inc  
11 headquarters in Canonsburg, Pennsylvania.  
12 Utility Service Partners are an independent  
13 provider of service lines warranties and  
14 heater rentals in the United States. This  
15 service provides home protection that can  
16 save residents on repairing broken or water  
17 pipes. It is an option. There is no cost  
18 assigned to the City of Scranton. And it's  
19 not a bill. That was the part that I was  
20 very upset about. It was very misleading,  
21 if you received that letter, it looked like  
22 you received a letter from the City of  
23 Scranton. The city's logo was on it. And  
24 the bottom actually said the City of  
25 Scranton. So, if you do have--and I get

1           them, I know people get them, also come in  
2           the mail, looking like they're from the  
3           water company when they're not actually from  
4           the water company. So I think my colleague  
5           who actually already had the information, I  
6           was going to request sending this out. But  
7           just so people know that it is not something  
8           required by the city or billed from the  
9           city. And maybe it's something that we  
10          should look into having some regulations on  
11          when and where the city's logo can be used  
12          and how it can be used. Because that letter  
13          was certainly very deceiving. And many  
14          residents thought they were receiving a  
15          letter or bill from the City of Scranton. A  
16          couple other things. I'd like to thank the  
17          DPW on very quick work on repairing pot  
18          holes on Farr Street as was mentioned  
19          earlier. Unfortunately, Farr Street, when  
20          new gas lines were put in, only half the  
21          street was paved. And I unsuccessfully  
22          tried working with our DPW Director and the  
23          contractor, to no fault of the city's, to  
24          get that entire street paved. But they were  
25          very quick on going and repairing the side

1 that was repaired after the utility company  
2 did their work. And finally, Council did  
3 receive a letter, a lengthy letter regarding  
4 the \$300 annual garbage fee. And I know  
5 we've talked about this quite a bit at City  
6 Council meetings over the last--specifically  
7 over the last month, month and a half. And  
8 this is from a resident who puts out maybe  
9 one bag a week and is paying \$300. And she  
10 writes of neighbors who are renters who are  
11 putting out 5, 10, 12 bags. Something needs  
12 to be done. There's absolutely no fairness  
13 in how our garbage fee is distributed. The  
14 single widow with one bag of garbage  
15 certainly should not be paying the same fee  
16 as a family of four, a family of eight who  
17 obviously has much more garbage. So we need  
18 to work out some sort of system, whether  
19 it's a hybrid, a hybrid system much like how  
20 your sewer bill is calculated based  
21 partially on usage and partially on just the  
22 general service fee. But it's certainly not  
23 fair to the senior citizens and individuals  
24 who live alone who have to pay \$300 just for  
25 their garbage. And that is all. Thank you.

1 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr. Rogan.  
2 Mr. Evans?

3 MR. EVANS: Thank you. Tough night.  
4 First of all, I would be remiss if I didn't  
5 wish the City of Scranton a very happy  
6 anniversary this weekend. As a City  
7 Councilman, more importantly a third  
8 generation Scrantonian who has raised a  
9 fourth generation of Scrantonians who are  
10 now raising a fifth generation of  
11 Scrantonians, I couldn't be prouder that all  
12 my children and my grandchildren live in  
13 Scranton and call it their home in reaching  
14 this 150th year of our city. On the  
15 leachate line, this City Council is not  
16 going anywhere until we have an answer. So  
17 we will have an answer. On the  
18 administration and our role at the Mayor's  
19 Office, I will say my primary point of  
20 contact is Dave Bulzoni. And we've had our  
21 conversations and debates and what some  
22 might call them fights here and there. But  
23 he's responsive. We've had a great  
24 relationship since he's been here. I think  
25 it's a star on the administration. And I

1 really don't feel slighted that, you know,  
2 if the Mayor and I aren't all warm and fuzzy  
3 all the time. I just don't think that's  
4 that important. I have enough friends. And  
5 I don't need anymore friends. I think it's  
6 actually a healthy thing sometimes to have  
7 Council and the executive branch have a  
8 little bit of separation. If I need to talk  
9 to the Mayor, I'll call him. If he needs to  
10 talk to me, he'll call me. We don't have a  
11 bad relationship. But I think some people  
12 think we do. And we don't. But I don't  
13 just feel it's that important. And  
14 Councilman Wechsler meets with the Mayor on  
15 a regular basis and we get reports back from  
16 him. So and more importantly, the  
17 administration has all of their cabinet  
18 members available to us as councilmen. And  
19 they've been nothing but responsive. So I  
20 will say that much. I will thank the Mayor  
21 though for reenforcing my comments last week  
22 in his op-ed in the times on Sunday. He  
23 certainly made it clear that at this time we  
24 don't have a plan for storm water  
25 management. And I want to make it clear

1           that I want a plan for storm water  
2           management. We need to know what the city  
3           is going to do on day one after this sale  
4           and on day one after six months of the sale  
5           and day one after one year of the sale and  
6           day one five years after the sale. We have  
7           a 2013 review we talked about tonight to use  
8           as part of our basis. We also have language  
9           in recovery plan that calls and discusses  
10          that the city should secure an Act 47 grant  
11          in the amount of \$35,000 to review the  
12          feasibility of the creation of a storm water  
13          management authority. It's in the recovery  
14          plan. And it's a mandate in the recovery  
15          plan. So because of the impending sewer  
16          sale, I would suggest that the  
17          administration should immediately apply for  
18          that grant and let's get the ball rolling on  
19          this. Time is of the essence. All my other  
20          comments will be on agenda items. Thank  
21          you, very much.

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

24                       MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, thank you. First  
25                       of all, I don't usually do this, but I do

1           feel like I have to respond, although I  
2           already did, to Mr. Spindler. You know,  
3           discrediting and disparaging a former  
4           colleague of ours who is no longer here who  
5           has passed way, Mr. McGoff, is in my opinion  
6           disgraceful and I was appalled tonight.  
7           I'll be honest with you. I was appalled.  
8           In these chambers, a person that sat right  
9           next to me who was a gentleman. Whether you  
10          disagree with him or not, for someone to  
11          come up here and continually bring his name  
12          up drives me crazy. Keep in mind that he  
13          may have family watching and he was a friend  
14          of all of ours. So whether you disagree  
15          with him or not. So that's where I disagree  
16          with Mr. Spindler very strongly. And maybe  
17          we were raised differently. But I was  
18          always taught when somebody's not here,  
19          especially when they passed away, you don't  
20          disparage them from a podium when they can't  
21          respond. So that's all I have on that  
22          issue. To respond to the storm water issue,  
23          you know, I sent a letter and tried to make  
24          contact with Mayor Courtright to discuss the  
25          storm water issues with him and DPW Director

1           Gallagher last week. And I still have not  
2           received a response. I do find this  
3           troubling for a number of different reasons.  
4           Because as Mr. Evans mentioned, the Mayor  
5           seems to be able to respond to a letter to  
6           the editor in the Scranton Times, but not  
7           his fellow councilmen. And as it relates to  
8           the relationship between Council and the  
9           Mayor, I have no problem with Mayor  
10          Courtright, I have a problem with his  
11          leadership style because I think it's  
12          absent. We need leadership in this city.  
13          This is an important issue, storm water,  
14          among leachate and other things. And in my  
15          opinion, my colleagues may disagree, members  
16          of the public may disagree, Mayor Courtright  
17          has been absent in my opinion. I haven't  
18          seen him. I have no problem with him. I  
19          just have a problem with the way that he  
20          leads the city because I don't think he's  
21          leading. And we need leadership. That's  
22          why you have the Mayor. He's in the  
23          executive branch of government. We have a  
24          strong Mayor form of government. We need  
25          strong leadership. I don't see it. As it

1 relates to the leachate issue, I would agree  
2 with Councilman Evans that we have taken a  
3 lead on this and we do want answers. I'd  
4 like to read a letter that was sent to Mayor  
5 Courtright last week. And I'll read this  
6 into the record. "At the Scranton City  
7 Council meeting held on Thursday, April  
8 14th, 2016, Council unanimously agreed to  
9 forward a petition to you signed by city  
10 residents and members of the Greenridge  
11 Neighborhood Association. The petition  
12 which was presented to Council at last  
13 night's meeting objects to the discharge of  
14 leachate through the sewer lines that run  
15 from Dunmore through Scranton's Greenridge  
16 section. The petition further states the  
17 1990 settlement agreement between the City  
18 of Scranton, the Scranton Sewer Authority  
19 and Keystone Landfill calls for the  
20 discharge of all pretreated leachate from  
21 the landfill to be limited to the dedicated  
22 sanitary sewer line. Council would like an  
23 official legal opinion rendering by City  
24 Solicitor, Jason A. Shrive, Esquire, on the  
25 issues presented in the petition.

1 Specifically, whether or not Keystone  
2 Sanitary Landfill is in violation of the  
3 1990 settlement agreement. Since this is a  
4 critical matter as expressed by the  
5 residents in that time is of the essence, a  
6 prompt response would be greatly  
7 appreciated. As always, thank you for your  
8 time." We did receive a response from  
9 Solicitor Shrive, which I appreciate. And  
10 I'd also like to read into the record. This  
11 came via email. "Dear Amil and Lori, I am  
12 in receipt of City Council's letter of April  
13 15th, 2016 wherein Council requested that I  
14 provide a legal opinion with regard to  
15 Keystone Sanitary Landfill and the leachate  
16 issue. Upon receipt of said letter, I  
17 drafted the attached letter to the Scranton  
18 Sewer Authority Solicitor, Paul J. Walker,  
19 Esquire, and requested that he review this  
20 matter and provide me with an explanation  
21 and a position of the Scranton Sewer  
22 Authority. When I receive Attorney Walker's  
23 letter, I will review and analyze the same  
24 as well as all necessary documentation and  
25 provide the Mayor with my legal opinion and

1 Council with the position of the  
2 administration. Please advise and update  
3 the Council members accordingly. Thank you  
4 for your time and consideration. Jason  
5 Shrive." And I'd like to read Attorney  
6 Shrive's letter to Attorney Walker from the  
7 Scranton Sewer Authority. It says, "Dear  
8 Attorney Walker, as you may have read in  
9 today's newspaper report, Scranton City  
10 Council has requested that I review and  
11 opine on the legality of the recent change  
12 in the sewer permit status of Keystone  
13 Sanitary Landfill with regard to the  
14 permitted discharge of leachate and whether  
15 the same constitutes violation of the 1990  
16 settlement agreement. A copy of Council's  
17 request dated April 15th, 2016 is enclosed  
18 herein for your review. To that end, I am  
19 hereby requesting that you provide me an  
20 historical background and explanation  
21 regarding this matter on behalf of the  
22 Scranton Sewer Authority; including but not  
23 limited to the authority's position on the  
24 legality of said sewer permit change. Upon  
25 receipt, I will review and analyze the same

1 and then provide my legal opinion to the  
2 Mayor and the position of the administration  
3 to City Council. If you should have any  
4 question, please do not hesitate to contact  
5 me. Thank you for your time and thoughtful  
6 consideration. Very truly yours, Jason A.  
7 Shrive, Esquire, City Solicitor." So I  
8 wanted to make sure that I read that into  
9 the record. Now, key point there, time is  
10 of the essence. So what I don't want to  
11 happen is that we volleyball this thing back  
12 and forth. I've received all the  
13 information, all the legal documents.  
14 However, I'm not a lawyer. But I do think  
15 that in the mean time with whatever Attorney  
16 Walker is going to do that Attorney Shrive  
17 get on this and research the documents.  
18 Hopefully we are not waiting weeks to get an  
19 opinion on this. Time is of the essence.  
20 There's a few Greenridge residents here  
21 tonight and there are many more out there  
22 who are deeply concerned about this issue as  
23 am I. So, we want answers on this and we  
24 are going to stay on it until we get  
25 answers. And just a few more briefs items.

1 I would like to ask for an update on  
2 residents for an additional parking study  
3 for permit parking in the 1000 block of  
4 Myrtle Street. Council sent a letter out  
5 February 23rd, but we have not received a  
6 response. We received a letter about  
7 speeding on South Lincoln Avenue and cars  
8 going the wrong way. I would request that  
9 we send correspondence to Chief Graziano and  
10 ask him that this issue be addressed as soon  
11 as possible. There's several residents that  
12 are concerned. Last week, a resident from  
13 Wyoming Avenue was here at Council  
14 requesting a street light on her block.  
15 Council received a petition and we sent it  
16 along to the city engineer and we will await  
17 his recommendation. And we also requested  
18 that signage be placed on Morrell Street  
19 leading into Park Gardens to warn people  
20 about speeding because that has become a  
21 major issue in that area. I did receive an  
22 email from a resident concerning a condition  
23 on Luzerne Street from South Main to  
24 Meridian. Utility companies have ripped the  
25 street up and it is now a nightmare to drive

1 on. We spoke to the DPW Director this week  
2 who has been in contact with the utility  
3 company. The street is scheduled to be  
4 milled and then paved and he is supposed to  
5 get back to us with firm dates on when the  
6 paving will occur. The city received its  
7 annual liquid fuels reimbursement from the  
8 state in the amount of \$2,127,000 on April  
9 5th. So that was good news. I received a  
10 few calls from people who are very curious  
11 where exactly the spraying will be of gypsy  
12 moths that will take place in the city. We  
13 did receive information this week from the  
14 county that the spraying will occur at  
15 Oakwood Estates, Fawnwood, Park Edge near  
16 McDade Park, all East Mountain, Interstate  
17 81, Lake Scranton, Cherry Street to Elmhurst  
18 Boulevard in the Phillips Street area. And  
19 that is all I have for this week. Thank  
20 you.

21 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr.  
22 Gaughan. Just to touch base on the concern  
23 of the leachate line. Once again, Scranton  
24 City Council has been the leader on this.  
25 And I'm a bit concerned because people don't

1 think we're going to follow through on this.  
2 We're the ones that started it. Once the  
3 neighbors came to us, we started the ball  
4 rolling. I spoke to Michelle Dempsey the  
5 other night at an affair, got her up to date  
6 on where we're at. And we have been  
7 pursuing this. And I don't think it's fair  
8 to say that we haven't or we won't. I think  
9 you have to give us the opportunity to do  
10 our job. But you also have to give Attorney  
11 Shrive the opportunity to do his job.  
12 That's his job is to give the opinion. We  
13 do want to move it along faster, but he has  
14 to gather all the information. This is a  
15 legal matter. So I'm not a lawyer as we all  
16 keep saying. But legal matters move at that  
17 pace. And an answer just to give an answer  
18 may not be what we want to hear. We don't  
19 want to get into a situation where we make  
20 the wrong step and all of a sudden we're in  
21 a lawsuit. Well, we are pursuing this and  
22 we have been pursuing this. And I don't  
23 think it's fair to say that we aren't or we  
24 won't. Because we are. That's all I have  
25 to say about that. Chief Graziano also

1           contacted me about, there is a problem  
2           that's--and I'll read it in his words. He  
3           said it best. He says, "It's come to my  
4           attention that some citizens, businesses  
5           more so than individuals it seems, have been  
6           receiving phone solicitation for a  
7           fundraising project. The implication is  
8           that it's being done under the sanction of  
9           the Scranton Fire Department. Chief DeSarno  
10          says, I can assure you that the SFD is not  
11          sanctioning and supporting sponsoring  
12          anything of this sort. Should anyone  
13          receive a call from any entity reporting to  
14          be acting on behalf of the Scranton Fire  
15          Department, I suggest you ask them for their  
16          contact information and then report it to my  
17          office at 570-348-4132." In regards to our  
18          efforts tonight to have Mr. McGurl come and  
19          speak to us, the reason why we decided to  
20          have Mr. McGurl come and speak to us is I  
21          believe City Council has to come up with a  
22          strategy on how we want to handle storm  
23          water management. We've been asking the  
24          Mayor for a plan. And so far he has a  
25          response that he's not ready to give us an

1           idea yet. But I think it's up to us to use  
2           the information that's been provided in the  
3           studies. And I think it's up to City  
4           Council to get ready to start making our own  
5           plan and see how it dovetails with Mayor  
6           Courtright's plan. I don't think it's wise  
7           for us to wait for someone else to do our  
8           work. So I think we really should start  
9           coming up with as much information as  
10          possible in getting ready for our own plan.  
11          I'm trying to get my words together  
12          correctly to address what was said tonight  
13          about Mr. McGoff. Unfortunately, I can't  
14          gavel speakers for being wrong. There is  
15          free speech in America and you have a right  
16          to say what's wrong no matter how idiotic it  
17          is. Mr. McGoff worked for this city  
18          tirelessly. He never took anything but his  
19          compensation that he received from the city.  
20          And to discourage him as has been going on  
21          for the last couple weeks, it's just  
22          unacceptable. There's five of us sitting  
23          here. If you want to abuse people, we're  
24          here. Please abuse us. And leave Mr.  
25          McGoff alone. Thank you. That's all I

1 have.

2 MS. REED: 5B. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
3 AN ORDINANCE - CREATING TOBACCO FREE AREAS  
4 AT LOCAL PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS IN THE CITY  
5 OF SCRANTON.

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

9 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

10 MR. EVANS: Second.

11 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

12 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.

13 I've been working with the American Lung  
14 Association, the administration and my  
15 colleagues for the past few months in order  
16 to be able to vote on this legislation  
17 creating tobacco free areas in our city  
18 parks and playgrounds. It's my belief that  
19 our playgrounds and parks should be a safe  
20 and healthy place for our children to play.  
21 Banning smoking will cut down on unsightly  
22 cigarette butts which litter green space and  
23 sidewalks and protect our children from  
24 secondhand smoke which is responsible for  
25 the premature deaths of over 430,000

1 Americans each year. As a new parent to an  
2 8-month-old, I feel very strongly the city  
3 should do everything in its power to make  
4 sure our parks and playgrounds are safe for  
5 our children and our citizens. So I am very  
6 pleased to see this legislation and I look  
7 forward to voting for it. Thank you.

8 MR. EVANS: On the question, I would  
9 also like to thank Councilman Gaughan for  
10 bringing this issue to the forefront and all  
11 of our colleagues because we all supported  
12 it from the very beginning.

13 MR. WECHSLER: Anybody else? 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: 5C. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
23 AN ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE LEASE OF  
24 CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY TO THE REDEVELOPMENT  
25 AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON,

1 PENNSYLVANIA (THE "AUTHORITY") PURSUANT TO A  
2 LEASE AGREEMENT; AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING  
3 THE INCURRENCE OF LEASE RENTAL DEBT IN THE  
4 MAXIMUM PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF FORTY NINE  
5 MILLION DOLLARS (\$49,000,000), PURSUANT TO  
6 THE ACT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE  
7 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, 53 PA.C.S.,  
8 CHAPTERS 80-82, AS AMENDED, KNOWN AS THE  
9 LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT DEBT ACT; DETERMINING  
10 THAT SUCH DEBT SHALL BE INCURRED UNDER THE  
11 DEBT ACT AS LEASE RENTAL DEBT TO BE  
12 EVIDENCED BY A CERTAIN SUBLEASE AND GUARANTY  
13 AGREEMENT OF THE CITY SECURING GUARANTEED  
14 LEASE REVENUE BONDS OF THE AUTHORITY TO  
15 FINANCE A PROJECT FOR THE AUTHORITY  
16 CONSISTING OF ALL OR ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:  
17 (1) ACQUIRING THE AUTHORITY'S LEASEHOLD  
18 INTEREST IN SUCH REAL PROPERTY SUBJECT TO  
19 THE LEASE AGREEMENT FROM THE CITY AND IN  
20 CONNECTION THEREWITH CURRENTLY REFUNDING THE  
21 AUTHORITY'S GUARANTEED VARIABLE RATE DEMAND  
22 LEASE REVENUE BONDS, SERIES OF 2008; AND (2)  
23 PAYING THE COSTS AND EXPENSES OF FINANCING  
24 SUCH PROJECT; BRIEFLY DESCRIBING SUCH  
25 PROJECT FOR WHICH SUCH DEBT IS TO BE

1 INCURRED; DECLARING THE GUARANTY OF SAID  
2 AUTHORITY'S GUARANTEED LEASE REVENUE BONDS  
3 TO BE A PROJECT OF THE CITY FOR WHICH LEASE  
4 RENTAL DEBT IS TO BE INCURRED; AUTHORIZING  
5 CERTAIN CITY OFFICERS TO PREPARE, CERTIFY  
6 AND FILE WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY  
7 AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT THE DEBT STATEMENT  
8 REQUIRED BY SECTION 8110 OF THE LOCAL  
9 GOVERNMENT UNIT DEBT ACT AND AUTHORIZING THE  
10 PREPARATION OF A DEBT STATEMENT AND  
11 BORROWING BASE CERTIFICATE; APPROVING THE  
12 FORM OF, AND AUTHORIZING, SUBJECT TO CERTAIN  
13 CONDITIONS, EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF THE  
14 AFORESAID LEASE AGREEMENT AND SUBLEASE AND  
15 GUARANTY AGREEMENT; SPECIFYING THE AMOUNT OF  
16 THE GUARANTY OBLIGATION OF THE CITY PURSUANT  
17 TO SUCH SUBLEASE AND GUARANTY AGREEMENT AND  
18 THE SOURCES OF PAYMENT OF SUCH GUARANTY  
19 OBLIGATION; REPEALING INCONSISTENT PRIOR  
20 ORDINANCES; SETTING FORTH CERTAIN CONDITIONS  
21 TO THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF THE  
22 AFORESAID LEASE AGREEMENT AND SUBLEASE AND  
23 GUARANTY AGREEMENT; AUTHORIZING THE PROPER  
24 OFFICERS OF THE CITY TO TAKE ALL REQUIRED,  
25 NECESSARY OR DESIRABLE RELATED ACTION IN

1 CONNECTION WITH SUCH PROJECT AND THE  
2 EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF THE LEASE  
3 AGREEMENT AND SUBLEASE AND GUARANTY  
4 AGREEMENT; APPROVING THE FORM AND  
5 DISTRIBUTION OF A PRELIMINARY OFFICIAL  
6 STATEMENT OR PRELIMINARY LIMITED OFFERING  
7 MEMORANDUM AND AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT OR  
8 LIMITED OFFERING MEMORANDUM WITH REGARD TO  
9 THE GUARANTEED LEASE REVENUE BONDS;  
10 APPOINTING VARIOUS PROFESSIONALS; PROVIDING  
11 FOR THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THIS ORDINANCE; AND  
12 DECLARING SAID PROJECT DESIRABLE FOR THE  
13 HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE OF THE RESIDENTS  
14 OF THE CITY.

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

18 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

19 MR. EVANS: Second.

20 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

21 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.

22 You might need a break after that, Mrs.  
23 Reed.

24 MR. EVANS: You have to read it two  
25 more times.

1 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes. We had a caucus  
2 in the back. And it was only for a half  
3 hour. And I'll be honest with you, I don't  
4 think that that does this legislation  
5 justice. I would request, if my colleagues  
6 would agree, that we have a public caucus  
7 and schedule it for an hour so that the  
8 business administrator and the bond council  
9 can give a presentation as they gave. I  
10 don't think they might have gotten through  
11 the whole thing in a half hour because we  
12 had to start the meeting. You know, I'm  
13 just still reviewing this and the documents  
14 given to us in the back. But I do have just  
15 at first glance one question about Section  
16 14 as it relates to fees. It says, "The  
17 Mayor, the Controller or Deputy Controller  
18 and the City Clerk and of the city are  
19 hereby authorized and directed to execute,  
20 attest and deliver any and all necessary or  
21 appropriate documents and to do any and all  
22 necessary or appropriate things in  
23 connection with the transactions hereby  
24 contemplated, including without limitation,  
25 the appointment of additional professionals

1 and/or consultants in the city and the  
2 payment and the cost thereof in approving  
3 the commitment letters relating to the 2016  
4 bond to the underwriter and any credit  
5 enhancer of the 2016 bonds presented to the  
6 authority in the city." I would like  
7 clarification on this. We did ask in the  
8 back about the fees, what the fees would be,  
9 but apparently we won't get that information  
10 until the closing. So again, I do think we  
11 need to schedule a caucus that is a bit  
12 longer.

13 MR. WECHSLER: Let me just interrupt  
14 you for one second. What I'd like to do is  
15 request an executive session? The executive  
16 session, the reason I feel more comfortable  
17 with that, is it would allow more people to  
18 attend from the administration side and the  
19 professional side and it would allow us to  
20 interchange our questions without a time  
21 limit. I do agree with Mr. Gaughan that a  
22 public caucus would be required after that.  
23 But I do believe that an executive session  
24 is required just because of the depth of  
25 this issue. I sat in the same room as Mr.

1 Gaughan did and the rest of us and you can't  
2 absorb this in a 20 minute presentation.

3 MR. GAUGHAN: Right, I would just  
4 say, I think we can have a public caucus  
5 without the executive session because this  
6 is--we are going to be voting on this and  
7 this is a public document.

8 MR. EVANS: I think, I agree with  
9 Councilman Wechsler. I think this is  
10 actually more in depth to do both. Because,  
11 an executive session will allow us to have  
12 all the time we need without a clock ticking  
13 to answer all the questions we want. And  
14 then, still have an opportunity for the  
15 public to hear everything. So it's actually  
16 more than your requesting really.

17 MR. WECHSLER: Yeah, I'd actually  
18 like to make that request. Tuesday is  
19 Election Day. I'd like to make a request  
20 that we could have it Tuesday--or I'm sorry,  
21 Wednesday. Wednesday sometime after 6:30 or  
22 so, so everyone can attend.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: Can we have an  
24 executive session solely on this though,  
25 Solicitor Minora? Because this is a public

1 document. I don't understand.

2 MR. MINORA: Well, maybe I  
3 misunderstood, I thought the question that  
4 was going to be raised at the executive  
5 session was contracts with professionals.  
6 So, I'm not sure if you're just talking  
7 about amounts?

8 MR. GAUGHAN: Well, no, I just am  
9 confused. I mean, I could understand having  
10 an executive session. But I thought an  
11 executive session was for matters only  
12 pertaining to something that was, you know,  
13 under legal review or there was a lawsuit.  
14 I mean, this is something that we're voting  
15 to introduce tonight. That's what I don't  
16 understand.

17 MR. ROGAN: It's, I believe, sale or  
18 lease of the property.

19 MR. GAUGHAN: Right, but--

20 MR. MINORA: There are questions  
21 that might be subject to an executive  
22 session and questions that might not be.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: Right.

24 MR. MINORA: As far as this thing is  
25 concerned. So I'm just not sure what we

1 want to do. I am going to talk to Mr.  
2 Wechsler afterwards and see what exactly we  
3 wanted to get done.

4 MR. WECHSLER: My intention is just  
5 to have discussion about this either  
6 publicly or in executive session separate  
7 from a meeting. Because this is not  
8 something that we can cover with a time  
9 constraint to get back in here at 6:30. We  
10 can even schedule a caucus for 5:30, we're  
11 still limited to one hour to discuss it. So  
12 I'm just interested in finding a way to  
13 discuss this with the administration that's  
14 not constrained by time.

15 MR. PERRY: Yeah, I don't even know  
16 if we actually got through half the  
17 presentation and we all didn't get to ask  
18 the questions that we have, so. So there  
19 definitely needs to be more time allotted.

20 MR. ROGAN: I would agree with what  
21 you're proposing. You know, I think for the  
22 members, obviously, there's a lot here. And  
23 I think we all agree on that. After our  
24 portion, you know, we obviously have to have  
25 an open-ended limit on the time to be able

1 to ask and to get answers to all the  
2 questions we have. The public portion I  
3 would like to see more just the information  
4 being presented to the public as to the ins  
5 and the outs of what, you know, what the  
6 proposal is.

7 MR. WECHSLER: The one thing that--

8 MR. GAUGHAN: I'm confused, I'm  
9 sorry.

10 MR. WECHSLER: Well, the one thing  
11 that was discussed is the deadline of June  
12 the 30th has been imposed on this deal. We  
13 have to read it three times. So I think the  
14 timeline that we're getting in puts that  
15 around the first week of May. Then, the  
16 state has 30 days to issue its approval or  
17 disapproval. Which that puts us at the  
18 first week of June. Which leaves three  
19 weeks to get it done to be approved. So,  
20 once the time is of the essence, but we  
21 can't use time as an excuse not to get this  
22 right.

23 MR. EVANS: So, I guess what we have  
24 to find out is maybe Attorney Minora can  
25 research this a little bit.

1 MR. MINORA: Well, let me  
2 understand. An executive session has a  
3 particular meaning in the Sunshine Act. And  
4 that's the public is excluded from that.  
5 And that's limited to certain things that  
6 you could talk about. So, if it was going  
7 to be a broad-based discussion of everything  
8 in this ordinance, I'd say we probably can't  
9 have an executive session. If it had to do  
10 with several items that are intrinsic in  
11 this whole deal, then we might have. So  
12 that's why I said, I'd like to talk to--

13 MR. WECHSLER: Is a better  
14 terminology a work session then?

15 MR. MINORA: It can be a work  
16 session, but that's open.

17 MR. WECHSLER: That's open.

18 MR. MINORA: Yeah. When you say  
19 executive session, that has one meaning.  
20 Work session is--

21 MR. WECHSLER: So maybe I used the  
22 wrong terminology. Maybe work session would  
23 be better. I'm not trying to exclude the  
24 public. I'm trying to get enough time that  
25 we don't have to squeeze it in in an hour.

1 MR. MINORA: No, I understand.

2 MR. WECHSLER: This is longer than  
3 an hour. We spent half an hour and got  
4 through two pages of a six page  
5 presentation. So that's as far as we got.

6 MR. MINORA: We can do a work  
7 session all day long.

8 MR. WECHSLER: I don't know if we'll  
9 do it all day long. But if that's what it  
10 takes. But Mrs. Reed, would you please  
11 contact the administration and see if  
12 they're available for a work session at the  
13 earliest I think would be Wednesday for us,  
14 I think. And I think that would give us  
15 time to get information for the next vote  
16 next week and then a third vote two weeks  
17 from then. My goal is to just to get enough  
18 information to Council members so that we  
19 can fully understand this. I mean, I agree  
20 with Ms. Hodawanitz. You can't get anything  
21 from this whole--even though you did a good  
22 job reading it, that's not what we're  
23 getting out of it.

24 MR. EVANS: Unlike anything you've  
25 ever seen before.

1 MR. WECHSLER: Is it all one  
2 sentence?

3 MR. EVANS: It's one sentence,  
4 that's right.

5 MR. WECHSLER: Our stenographer is  
6 having a bonanza tonight down there.  
7 Anybody else? All those in fair of  
8 instruction signify by saying aye?

9 MR. PERRY: Aye.

10 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

11 MR. EVANS: Aye.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

15 MS. REED: 5D. FOR INTRODUCTION - A  
16 RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER  
17 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO GRANT A  
18 SPECIAL ENCROACHMENT PERMIT TO LEVELS BAR &  
19 GRILL TO OPERATE AN OUTDOOR BAR AND  
20 RESTAURANT AT 519 LINDEN STREET, SCRANTON,  
21 PENNSYLVANIA.

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

25 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

1 MR. EVANS: Second.

2 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

3 MR. PERRY: Yeah, on the question.  
4 The D and E, I mean, I think someone said it  
5 was a no-brainer. This is just to enhance  
6 someone's business and someone's operation  
7 especially coming to a nice time and asking  
8 them to help prosper this business. Far be  
9 it from me to stand in their way.

10 MR. WECHSLER: Anyone else? All  
11 those in favor of introduction signify by  
12 saying aye?

13 MR. PERRY: Aye.

14 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

15 MR. EVANS: Aye.

16 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

19 MS. REED: 5E. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
20 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND  
21 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO GRANT A  
22 SPECIAL ENCROACHMENT PERMIT TO STEAMTOWN 300  
23 LLC TO OPERATE AN OUTDOOR BAR AND RESTAURANT  
24 AT 300 LACKAWANNA AVENUE, SCRANTON,  
25 PENNSYLVANIA.

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

4 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

5 MR. EVANS: Second.

6 MR. WECHSLER: On the question? All  
7 those in favor of introduction signify by  
8 saying aye?

9 MR. PERRY: Aye.

10 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

11 MR. EVANS: Aye.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

15 MS. REED: SIXTH ORDER. 6A. NO  
16 BUSINESS AT THIS TIME. SEVENTH ORDER. 7A.  
17 FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES  
18 - FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 21,  
19 2016 - DEFINING AND AUTHORIZING TAX  
20 EXEMPTIONS FROM REAL PROPERTY TAX IN ORDER  
21 TO IMPROVE DETERIORATING REAL PROPERTY IN  
22 CERTAIN AREAS IN THE CITY OF SCRANTON,  
23 ESTABLISHING AN EXEMPTION SCHEDULE AND  
24 PROCEDURES FOR OBTAINING EXEMPTIONS, AND  
25 PROVIDING FOR NON-PERMISSIBLE EXEMPTIONS AND

1                   LIMITING AMENDMENT THERETO.

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

5                   MR. ROGAN: Second.

6                   MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

7                   MR. PERRY: Yes, on the question,  
8 this is a zero cost, zero loss legislation  
9 that's going to create an avenue for  
10 property tax growth. And growth is good.  
11 I'm very proud of this legislation as well  
12 as my fellow Councilmen, staff and Mr.  
13 Minora. This was a very thoughtful process  
14 that we took on this. And I think we nailed  
15 it. I think this is really good legislation  
16 and I'm proud of it.

17                   MR. ROGAN: And for those of you  
18 watching, come buy some land in Scranton,  
19 build a house.

20                   MR. EVANS: On the question, I know  
21 it's been a long night. But I can't let  
22 this one slide by. The impact on growing  
23 your tax base can be seen sometimes as  
24 dramatic. The assessed value for the last  
25 decade reflects little growth and the

1           assessed value of the properties in the city  
2           has seen little growth. In fact, the  
3           assessed value for improvements of property  
4           in Scranton is actually less in 2015 than it  
5           was in 2014. There is a direct correlation  
6           between an environment of no growth and  
7           archaic unfair assessment of property in  
8           Lackawanna County and particularly in the  
9           City of Scranton. The lack of a  
10          reassessment hurts the ability to grow,  
11          particularly through new construction. New  
12          construction of homes and business has  
13          effectively stopped over the past decade.  
14          And while a reassessment would do much to  
15          change that, our effort tonight in passing  
16          this legislation is our attempt to jump  
17          start new construction in the city and begin  
18          to grow and expand our tax base while we  
19          continue to put pressure on the county for  
20          reassessment. Let me give you an example of  
21          what I believe can be used and how this  
22          abatement could have a dramatic effect. If  
23          the building downtown currently had 80  
24          apartment units, the property tax might  
25          total \$80,000 or \$60,000 for that building.

1           If those 80 apartments were converted to  
2           condominiums, the tax obligations could then  
3           become \$300,000 per year or more. So this  
4           scenario could very well happen because of  
5           the forward thinking of the City Council to  
6           recommend changes to the ordinances such as  
7           expansion of the zoning areas for the  
8           abatement, an additional year of the  
9           abatement, as well as an expansion of the  
10          eligible types of projects that could  
11          receive a tax abatement. Additionally, it  
12          was this City Council that brokered a  
13          meeting and the ultimate buying of a  
14          partnership in the Scranton School District  
15          and Lackawanna County. It should be noted  
16          that we had previously had an environment  
17          for growth in conjunction with reassessment.  
18          We could have been in a position where tax  
19          increases would have been substantially  
20          minimized. And that's my view point. But I  
21          think that's a reality. So for more  
22          property owners, for more business owners,  
23          it all means paying less taxes. So that's  
24          why I am absolutely in support of this  
25          pro-growth legislation and will be voting

1           yes tonight on all three pieces of  
2           legislation. Thank you.

3                   MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question,  
4           I would agree with my colleagues. I think  
5           that this legislation is going to be a tool  
6           for the city to help stimulate economic  
7           activity and it's going to be incentive for  
8           residents and businesses. And in the  
9           economic climate that we find ourselves in,  
10          any time that we can give incentives to  
11          people to build in the city, it would help  
12          them out, I think that we should do that.  
13          So I'm hopeful that this program will work  
14          and I think that every six months or so, we  
15          should ask for--and I think we discussed  
16          this, an update to see how we're progressing  
17          and people are taking permits out and make  
18          sure that we monitor this over the next  
19          three years. And then, at the end of the  
20          three years, if it is successful, we can  
21          extend it and maybe even modify it. Thank  
22          you.

23                   MR. WECHSLER: Yes. To echo what  
24          has already been said, I do want to thank  
25          our partners in the Scranton School

1           Districts and Lackawanna County. I hope  
2           that this is the first of many other  
3           opportunities that we could take and work  
4           together on for the improvement of all of  
5           our citizens of the county. So, I would  
6           like to thank the administration also for  
7           starting this, City Council took it and  
8           improved on it, added the School District  
9           and the county. And now, we have something  
10          that I think really will be a true tool for  
11          improvements in our city. Anybody else?  
12          Roll call, please?

13                   MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Perry?

14                   MR. PERRY: Yes.

15                   MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan?

16                   MR. ROGAN: Yes.

17                   MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Evans?

18                   MR. EVANS: Yes.

19                   MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan?

20                   MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

21                   MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler?

22                   MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby

23                   declare Item 7A legally and lawfully

24                   adopted.

25                   MS. REED: 7B. FOR CONSIDERATION BY

1 THE COMMITTEE ON RULES – FOR ADOPTION –FILE  
2 OF THE COUNCIL NO. 22, 2016 – DEFINING AND  
3 AUTHORIZING TAX EXEMPTIONS FROM REAL  
4 PROPERTY TAX IN ORDER TO STIMULATE  
5 RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL AND OTHER BUSINESS  
6 ACTIVITY IN CERTAIN AREAS IN THE CITY OF  
7 SCRANTON, ESTABLISHING AN EXEMPTION SCHEDULE  
8 AND PROCEDURES FOR OBTAINING EXEMPTIONS,  
9 PROVIDING FOR NON-PERMISSIBLE EXEMPTIONS AND  
10 LIMITING AMENDMENT THERETO.

11 MR. WECHSLER: As Chairperson for  
12 the Committee on Rules, I recommend final  
13 passage of Item 7B.

14 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

17 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Perry?

18 MR. PERRY: Yes.

19 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan?

20 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

21 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Evans?

22 MR. EVANS: Yes.

23 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan?

24 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

25 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler?

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

4 MS. REED: 7C. FOR CONSIDERATION BY  
5 THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION - FILE  
6 OF THE COUNCIL NO. 6, 2016 (AS AMENDED) -  
7 "AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 57 OF 1996  
8 (AS AMENDED), ENTITLED "DEFINING AND  
9 AUTHORIZING TAX EXEMPTIONS FROM REAL  
10 PROPERTY TAX IN ORDER TO STIMULATE  
11 RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT IN CERTAIN AREAS IN  
12 THE CITY OF SCRANTON, ESTABLISHING AN  
13 EXEMPTION SCHEDULE AND PROCEDURES FOR  
14 OBTAINING EXEMPTIONS, PROVIDING FOR  
15 NON-PERMISSIBLE EXEMPTIONS, AND LIMITING  
16 AMENDMENTS HERETO" BY INCREASING THE  
17 ASSESSMENT VALUATION IN SECTION 2 PARAGRAPH  
18 1.B. FROM \$250,000.00 TO \$500,000.00 AND  
19 EXTENDING THE EXEMPTION PERIOD IN SECTION  
20 11. AUTOMATIC TERMINATION TO AN ADDITIONAL  
21 TEN (10) YEARS FROM THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF  
22 THIS ORDINANCE, ADDING SECTIONS 3. EXEMPTION  
23 SCHEDULE AND SECTION 5. ELIGIBLE AREAS AND  
24 CHANGING SECTION 11. AUTOMATIC TERMINATION  
25 BY INCREASING THE EXEMPTION PERIOD.

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

4 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

7 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Perry?

8 MR. PERRY: Yes.

9 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan?

10 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

11 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Evans?

12 MR. EVANS: Yes.

13 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan?

14 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

15 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler?

16 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby  
17 declare Item 7C as amended legally and  
18 lawfully adopted. If there's no further  
19 business, I'll entertain a motion to  
20 adjourn.

21 MR. GAUGHAN: I have one thing.  
22 Don't kill me. I forgot to mention it.  
23 It's only going to take me a second. I just  
24 want to recognize five people from the City  
25 of Scranton who ran and competed in the

1 Boston Marathon on Monday. They're Paul  
2 O'Hora who is a city employee, Caitlin  
3 Gaughan who we honored with a proclamation  
4 for winning the Baltimore Marathon. Mark  
5 Noll, Leslie Moran and Jim Richardson. So  
6 good job to those five people who  
7 represented the city very well in Boston.  
8 Thank you.

9 MR. WECHSLER: Once again, if  
10 there's no further business, I'll entertain  
11 a motion to adjourn.

12 MR. ROGAN: Motion to adjourn.

13 MR. WECHSLER: Meeting is adjourned.  
14 (WHEREUPON, the proceedings  
15 concluded.)  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

COUNTY OF LACKAWANNA

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

I, Elizabeth V Kedrick, Notary Public, in and for the County of Wayne, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby certify:

That said testimony was taken down by me and thereafter transcribed into typewriting, and I hereby certify the foregoing testimony is a full, true and correct transcription of my shorthand notes so taken.

I further certify that I am neither counsel for nor related to any party to said action, nor in anyway interested in the outcome thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed my seal this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2016.

-----  
Elizabeth V Kedrick,  
Notary Public,  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania,  
Honesdale Borough, Wayne County  
My commission expires 11/14/19

(The foregoing certificate of this transcript does not apply to any reproduction of the same by any means unless under the direct control and/or supervision of the certifying reporter.)