

SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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HELD:

Thursday, April 28, 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

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CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

JOSEPH WECHSLER, PRESIDENT

PATRICK ROGAN, VICE-PRESIDENT

WAYNE EVANS

WILLIAM GAUGHAN

TIM PERRY

LORI REED, CITY CLERK

KATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

AMIL MINORA, SOLICITOR

1 MR. WECHSLER: Please stand for the
2 Pledge of Allegiance.

3 (Pledge 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 this week in our community.

9 (Moment of silence observed.)

10 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Roll
11 call, please?

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry?

13 MR. PERRY: Here.

14 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan?

15 MR. ROGAN: Here.

16 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans?

17 MR. EVANS: Here.

18 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan?

19 MR. GAUGHAN: Here.

20 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler?

21 MR. WECHSLER: Here. 3A, there is
22 no business at this time?

23 MS. REED: THIRD ORDER. 3A. NO
24 BUSINESS AT THIS TIME.

25 MR. WECHSLER: Council members have

1 any announcements?

2 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, I have a few.
3 First announcement is the Elijah Strong
4 Zumba Thon benefiting Elijah Sabo. It's
5 going to be held Saturday, April 30th at the
6 Dickson City Civic Center, 935 Albert
7 Street. And I'd just like to read a brief
8 excerpt about what this benefit entails. In
9 February of 2015, Elijah Sabo was diagnosed
10 with stage five neuroblastoma, a rare
11 pediatric cancer that has no cure. Since
12 that time, Elijah has been receiving his
13 treatments and battling this disease at
14 Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. The
15 fundraiser has been organized to help
16 alleviate some of the financial burden the
17 family has endured and to support Elijah as
18 he continues to stay strong and fight for
19 his life. There are basket raffles, 50/50
20 raffles, food and refreshments provided.
21 Check in is at 6 to 6:30. Zumba starts at
22 6:30. So I would encourage everyone to get
23 out to that event. The second thing I'd
24 like to mention is that the Armed Forces
25 Parade is May 21st of this year on Saturday

1 starting at 11 a.m. at the Gino Merli
2 Veterans Center on Vine Street and Penn
3 Avenue. The parade will travel south to
4 Lackawanna Avenue, then east to North
5 Washington Avenue and finish up going north
6 to Linden Street. Eight local marching
7 bands and the Army and Material Support Band
8 will play before and after the parade. And
9 there will be many other military and
10 non-profit organizations participating in
11 the parade. And that is all I have. Thank
12 you.

13 MR. WECHSLER: I do have one
14 announcement that next week's scheduled
15 meeting will be held on Wednesday at 6 p.m.
16 There's a few of us that have conflicts on
17 Thursday. So we will not be able to attend.
18 So we will have our meeting on Wednesday
19 next week at 6:30. Caucus at 6, meeting at
20 6:30. Anyone else?

21 MS. REED: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS
22 PARTICIPATION.

23 MR. WECHSLER: Bill Jackowitz?

24 MR. JACKOWITZ: Bill Jackowitz,
25 South Scranton resident. Good evening, City

1 Council. Good evening, Kathy, Stenographer,
2 Lori and Amil. You know, it's been a long
3 time since I've been here. I guess I hit my
4 head harder than I thought I did because I
5 came back. So, we'll just go from there.
6 I've been paying attention though. I've
7 been watching the meeting every week on
8 television and so on and so forth. I'm
9 still waiting for the shoe to drop in the
10 citizens favor. One of these days, I know
11 it's going to happen. You know, we've been
12 distressed for 1,684 days. That's a long
13 time. That's a lot of days, 1,686. You
14 know, it's about time that we get out of
15 this. My personal philosophy is borrowing
16 money is not going to get us out of it.
17 Borrowing money is just going to extend the
18 distressed city status longer and longer and
19 longer again. We somehow, someday, we have
20 to become a more friendlier city. More
21 business friendly, more citizens friendly.
22 Because we're losing population. We're
23 losing businesses. I see where Weiss's in
24 South Side is moving out now. So there's
25 another 55 jobs and another big building

1 that's going to be vacant. From what I
2 understand that the beer distributor place
3 on South Washington Avenue that I can't
4 remember the name of it right now, they're
5 going to be moving out. So, we as a
6 population and as a community, you know,
7 community stands for communications and
8 unity. And we don't have communications or
9 unity in this city. All the meetings are
10 basically held behind closed doors. The
11 only open and public meeting that's on a
12 regular basis is the City Council meeting.
13 And then, sometimes they open up some of the
14 other meetings, but they don't allow the
15 citizens to speak at them. So we have to
16 become an open community. And you know,
17 like I said, community stands for
18 communications where politicians communicate
19 with citizens and the citizens communicate
20 with politicians in unity where we all work
21 together, we work as one like a team, okay.
22 And that's what we're missing from in this
23 city in my opinion. That's just my opinion.
24 But, I mean, it's just been going on for so
25 long. I mean, it's going to be nice to pay

1 off that debt to the police and the firemen.
2 But if it's borrowed money, are you really
3 paying the debt off? Or are you creating a
4 bigger debt? I mean, yes, you're paying off
5 the court award which we have to. But in
6 the long run, I mean, are we creating more
7 debt for the citizens or are we creating
8 less debt for the citizens? In my opinion,
9 we're creating more debt. So how are we
10 helping out the citizens of Scranton? We're
11 not. You know, taxes are getting raised
12 every year. They'll probably get raised
13 again for next year. I mean, I hope not.
14 I'd like to see a tax reduction come our way
15 one time. But if it happens, it happens.
16 You know, we choose to live in this city.
17 Again, I choose to live in the community. I
18 choose to live in someplace where people
19 communicate and there's unity and they stick
20 together and they work with each other and
21 they don't work behind each other's back.
22 And sometimes, I wonder what City Council's
23 job really is? I know it is to pass the
24 legislation. But most of the time when
25 someone comes before this body with a

1 problem, they're told we don't handle that,
2 we don't deal with that, you have to take
3 that here, you have to take that here, you
4 have to take that here. So why do we have
5 weekly City Council meetings? Maybe we
6 should go to monthly City Council meetings
7 instead of weekly because it seems like your
8 hands are tied in a lot of areas that--and
9 people don't have anywhere else to go to.
10 You know, where is the Mayor at? If I was
11 on City Council, I'd be giving the Mayor an
12 open invitation every week to come to the
13 meeting. Every single week, I would send
14 him an invitation. Because that was one of
15 his campaign promises. And that was one of
16 the things he said during his campaign, that
17 he was going attend City Council meetings
18 and answer questions from the citizens.
19 Well, where is he? I can't make him come.
20 Probably, you can't make him come either.
21 But you have more power as a City Councilman
22 than I have than just as a regular citizen.
23 Because you're a citizen and an elected
24 official, elected City Council. So let's
25 get the Mayor in here. Let's get the Mayor

1 in here and let's get the Mayor to answer
2 some questions. Not just to come in here
3 and to Council people asking the questions.
4 Let the citizens ask him the questions, you
5 know. And let's get some answers. Because
6 there's a lot of people really disgusted in
7 the city. I know you all probably know that
8 already because you're out in the public
9 everyday. You're talking to the same people
10 that I talk to or you talk to me, which they
11 haven't been recently because I've been laid
12 up for six months. But, anyway, oh, and I'd
13 like to thank all the people that sent me
14 cards and telephone calls, especially Marie
15 Schumacher. She sent me cards on a regular
16 basis. And it's nice to be back.

17 MR. EVANS: Thank you.

18 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Fay
19 Franus?

20 MS. FRANUS: Fay Franus, Scranton.
21 I'd like to ask a question of Mr. Wechsler.
22 How come the meeting Wednesday night wasn't
23 held in Council chambers for the people to
24 see?

25 MR. WECHSLER: It was a work

1 session.

2 MS. FRANUS: So what? It was open
3 to the public, so why wasn't it in this room
4 being filmed?

5 MR. WECHSLER: It was a work
6 session. We chose not to televise it.

7 MS. FRANUS: Why did you choose not
8 to televise it though? Why didn't you want
9 the people to know what was being said back
10 there?

11 MR. WECHSLER: It was open to the
12 public. The press was there.

13 MS. FRANUS: It was open to the
14 public, but you could have had it in Council
15 chambers and had EC TV film it and you chose
16 not to. This makes no sense. Mark
17 Migliore, he could have filmed it. But
18 nobody asked him. So, there's another
19 meeting that you don't want the people to
20 know.

21 MR. WECHSLER: I totally disagree.
22 The meeting was open to the public. There
23 was people there. It was not intended to
24 be--

25 MS. FRANUS: Then, why didn't you

1 have it here like you have all the other
2 places?

3 MR. WECHSLER: Maybe the next one
4 will be, but right now that was the first
5 work session we ever did like that, so.

6 MS. FRANUS: Well, the next work
7 session, I suggest you have it in Council
8 chambers filmed so the people at home could
9 see it.

10 MR. WECHSLER: Maybe we will.

11 MS. FRANUS: Yes, maybe you won't.
12 Now, another thing, last week in the caucus,
13 Mr. Bulzoni and somebody else was back
14 there. I thought at the beginning of this
15 year you were going to have anybody from the
16 caucus that came to visit to speak were
17 going to be in Council chambers so it could
18 be--

19 MR. WECHSLER: No, we never said
20 that.

21 MS. FRANUS: Mr. Evans?

22 MR. EVANS: Well, we talked about
23 that and we had Mr. Durkin I think at the
24 first meeting.

25 MS. FRANUS: So do all the members

1 disagree? They shouldn't have the people
2 from caucus come out here? Mr. Wechsler?
3 Do you even speak for all of them?

4 MR. WECHSLER: No, but let me just
5 say. While last week was a short caucus, by
6 the time we got out here, we had everything
7 arranged. We would have got nothing done.
8 That's why we have work session.

9 MS. FRANUS: The caucus that week
10 had nothing to do with the work session.

11 MR. WECHSLER: It did. It--it would
12 come at the same time.

13 MS. EVANS: It led to the work
14 session because we wanted--

15 MS. FRANUS: Well, Mr. Bulzoni could
16 have come out here. He chose not to. Now,
17 another thing, the garbage fee. Mr. Perry,
18 you said you couldn't get the records? I
19 think that's what you said. You couldn't
20 get the records or something from the labor
21 or something to figure out the garbage fee,
22 the figures?

23 MR. PERRY: I don't remember exactly
24 what I said. But I know what we want to do
25 is, I know Wayne Evans--

1 MS. FRANUS: I know what you want to
2 do, I want to know how come you
3 couldn't--how come there's no records for
4 the DPW as far as what the costs are?

5 MR. PERRY: Not that there's no
6 records. It's all intermingled within the
7 DPW, whether it's paving roads or collecting
8 your garbage.

9 MS. FRANUS: So they have it
10 itemized, don't they?

11 MR. PERRY: I don't know if they
12 have it itemized.

13 MS. FRANUS: Pardon me?

14 MR. PERRY: I don't know. We want
15 it itemized. That's what we want. We want
16 it itemized.

17 MS. FRANUS: Well, let me ask you
18 this. How did you figure out the garbage
19 fee for last year, this past year right now,
20 if you didn't have figures? If they didn't
21 have it itemized or whatever. What did you
22 base it on for this year's garbage fee if
23 you didn't have figures?

24 MR. PERRY: What it was based on
25 was, I believe in the previous

1 administration, there was a shortcoming. So
2 it was raised to \$300. And that's a \$300
3 standard rate going forward. And we, as a
4 Council, we don't know if that's a correct
5 fee. I don't think it's a correct fee.

6 MS. FRANUS: So you charge the
7 people even though you don't know it's a
8 correct fee?

9 MR. PERRY: That's what's happening.

10 MS. FRANUS: And it could be a tax
11 versus a fee which would be illegal. People
12 are still paying. Because I just paid mine.
13 But we might not have to. So are the people
14 going to get their money back if they find
15 out that it's too much? Or are you going to
16 say, going forward we won't have to pay that
17 much because you made a mistake?

18 MR. PERRY: That's what we want to
19 find out.

20 MS. FRANUS: Well, we want to find
21 out if the people get their money back for
22 the last couple years that they were charged
23 too much. Because I don't think we should
24 take money from the state grant to help you
25 people figure it out when that's what you

1 have people hired to do. Bulzoni, he's the
2 business administrator, Treasurer's Office.
3 All these people, DPW officials, that's
4 their job. What are we paying them for?
5 You could get a state grant to help. You
6 have consultants to help you.

7 MR. EVANS: Well, the study will be
8 far reaching phase. Not just going to be
9 finding out what the true cost is. We'll
10 have to find out what the proper way to move
11 forward is. Is it per bag, a hybrid plan,
12 what we're doing now? So we want to look at
13 this in total. You're not happy with that
14 answer.

15 MS. FRANUS: I don't know what to
16 say. We need to find out why we're paying
17 the garbage fee now. Not to find out if we
18 should go per bag or what we should do in
19 the future. I want to find out why we're
20 paying what we're paying now.

21 MR. EVANS: You want to find out a
22 true accounting of what it costs.

23 MS. FRANUS: Right now, what we're
24 paying for.

25 MR. EVANS: That's what we're trying

1 to find out.

2 MS. FRANUS: But we're not paying--I
3 don't care about whether we should pay
4 someone to find out whether we go per
5 garbage bag or not.

6 MR. EVANS: The only way to do it is
7 find out through a consultant or a study to
8 find out what the true cost is. The
9 information is not available now because the
10 accounts do not allow us to get that
11 information.

12 MS. FRANUS: Well, say, for example,
13 you get a price per bag, right? What has
14 that got to do with the fee now? Nothing.

15 MR. EVANS: Sure, it will. It might
16 reduce the fee in half or it might be zero
17 and just be per bag.

18 MS. FRANUS: I understand and that's
19 a good thing to do. But that's not helping
20 what the price is right now. We need to
21 find out what is the price.

22 MR. EVANS: None of us are happy
23 with what the price is right now.

24 MS. FRANUS: Pardon me?

25 MR. EVANS: No one is happy with

1 what the price is right now. That's why
2 we're trying to find out what the true cost
3 is so we can move forward with this thing.

4 MS. FRANUS: All I'm asking for is
5 what were the costs for this year.

6 MR. EVANS: We've asked for it.

7 MS. FRANUS: And you can't get them?

8 MR. EVANS: Can't get the answer
9 because the accounts don't allow for us to
10 get a true accounting of what it costs.

11 MS. FRANUS: Why?

12 MR. EVANS: That's the answer I
13 received.

14 MS. FRANUS: Mr. Gaughan, you're
15 head of DPW, you asked them and you can't
16 get the--

17 MR. GAUGHAN: When you say cost,
18 what does that mean?

19 MS. FRANUS: Whatever was figured
20 into the garbage fee, what made it \$300 per
21 household.

22 MR. GAUGHAN: I don't know that
23 that's available. If you're asking me--

24 MS. FRANUS: They had to get the
25 figures someplace to make it \$300.

1 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay, but if you're
2 asking me how much it costs to maintain the
3 truck? We get a report every month from the
4 controller that shows exactly what's being
5 expended out of all of those accounts.

6 MS. FRANUS: Is there a way for us
7 to get a copy of that?

8 MR. GAUGHAN: Yeah, it's a public
9 document.

10 MR. WECHSLER: Put in a right to
11 know.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: It's the controller's
13 report you can get--

14 MS. FRANUS: Sorry. Mr. Wechsler,
15 you said put a right to know in. Well,
16 people have put a right to know in. And
17 after 30 days, they got nothing. What do
18 they do then?

19 MR. WECHSLER: Then, you appeal it
20 to the state. If you file a freedom of
21 information and it's denied, it's up to you
22 to file with the state.

23 MS. FRANUS: That's because you're
24 asking us to do a right to know to get
25 questions and you people won't answer us.

1 So we have to do a right to know and we
2 don't get an answer, so then we have to go
3 to the state. All because none of you want
4 to answer us. That's nuts. Marie
5 Schumacher, how many right to knows hasn't
6 she gotten? Because they don't want us to
7 know. Same with that meeting you had last
8 night and the same reason that we had people
9 in the back room who don't come out front.
10 You don't want them to the know truth.

11 MR. WECHSLER: Jeff Zick?

12 MR. ZICK: Hi Council. I'm here to
13 be assistance to Council. Last week, I came
14 in talking about medical cannabis. Whether
15 people agree with it or not, it's going to
16 be law by May 17th in this state that people
17 can source from out-of-state regular
18 medicinal markets or recreational markets to
19 get their cannabis if they need it. It's
20 time that Scranton leads as Pennsylvania's
21 progressive city. I watched the gentleman
22 from the American Lung Association come in
23 last week and his proposal is being
24 considered this week. If you're looking to
25 solve a real problem, please instruct your

1 police to stop ruining people's lives over a
2 harmless plant and by offering a simple
3 civil disorderly conduct fine instead of a
4 misdemeanor criminal complaint. Is it
5 something that Council is willing to do?
6 May I remind you that folks are being
7 arrested under your watch? Fourteen last
8 month just for simple possession. We urge
9 you to please put a stop to this and be part
10 of the solution. It's time to decriminalize
11 small amounts of cannabis. Thank you.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

13 MR. EVANS: Thank you.

14 MR. WECHSLER: Lee Morgan?

15 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council,
16 Lee Morgan. Well, I really enjoyed the give
17 and take between Council and Fay. But you
18 know, when you see what's taking place here,
19 this city has existed since--well, the
20 newspaper puts it out as 1866, the
21 Scranton's charter. But you know, it's
22 pretty amazing the city has no idea what the
23 cost of government is and how to run a
24 meeting and how to be open to the public and
25 how to create a progressive city and how to

1 manage a city. In all this time, the
2 Council and the city hasn't learned that.
3 It's the most amazing thing you'll ever see.
4 You know, when you take a look at what Mr.
5 Blake's done allowing the city to keep
6 collecting a local service tax, you know,
7 that's just wonderful. But the city--not
8 only the city, but the state and most of the
9 other states in the nation and a majority
10 probably of all the cities, their pension
11 debt is enough to choke every person in this
12 country to death. And I blame the people we
13 elect. And you know, with all due respect
14 to council, I don't think that--I think that
15 99 percent of the city's business should be
16 done here in the light, not in a caucus in
17 the back room. There are some issues that
18 maybe shouldn't be discussed in public if
19 they're issues that are legal or if there's
20 some legitimate reason not to discuss them.
21 But we're in a dying city that's been dying
22 since '92. And we still haven't figured it
23 out yet. Because what we've done is pound
24 the living hell out of every resident who
25 lives in this city and tried to get our

1 hands into every person who comes in here to
2 work. And if you watch what's happening to
3 the city, it's in a major decline. People
4 are ripping buildings down to avoid
5 taxation. And people are fleeing the city
6 to avoid taxation to the point where people
7 are abandoning their properties. And we
8 can't seem to figure out what's taking
9 place? It's ridiculous. You know, there
10 should be no garbage fee. That should be in
11 the tax revenue. And you know what? We're
12 trying to determine the cost that's taking
13 place. When this legislation, if my memory
14 serves me well, it was only to pay the
15 tipping fees. Now what? We're taking on
16 the whole cost of DPW? How ludicrous is
17 that? And, you know, if people were to read
18 the Scranton Times here, it was talking
19 about pensions fail on stocks. It's from a
20 couple of days ago, I think April 25th.
21 Look at, everything in our country is being
22 mismanaged, including the cities. And the
23 most troubling thing of all is that the
24 Council's hiding, the administration's
25 hiding. We're all playing games. And all

1 the ordinary people are losing everything
2 they own. Think about the average wage in
3 this city and how much of it is consumed by
4 taxation and how many people that are
5 earning an extremely low wage that was
6 caused by mismanagement of the city. Just
7 take a look around. You know, there's
8 rumors out there the reason the Novembrino
9 Complex is closed and can't reopen is
10 because so much of the infrastructure of the
11 pool complex has been stripped and I guess
12 stolen. And it doesn't surprise me because
13 I remember doing a right to know about the
14 cages from Nay Aug Park just disappearing
15 and nobody wanted to talk about it. You
16 know, so, when you take a look at this
17 Council, you know, you can be an elected
18 official in this city and be ignorant. And
19 we've dealt with that for a long time and be
20 disrespectful. But then, you wonder why
21 nobody has respect for their government?
22 And you have to look at yourself. And when
23 a city government tells you that they don't
24 know how much things cost and the city's
25 been in existence since 1866, that's the

1 most pathetic thing I've ever heard in my
2 life. And to say that you want more grant
3 money to figure something out? It's just
4 graft. It's one bit of graft after another.
5 And take a look at the Globe store, now that
6 the county's going to buy that. Look at the
7 downtown. It's mostly vacant. Look at all
8 the millions and millions and millions of
9 dollars that have been spun into the
10 downtown. It's pathetic. Thank you.

11 MR. WECHSLER: Anyone else like to
12 address Council?

13 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,
14 citizen of Scranton, fellow Scrantonian. I
15 attended your meeting in the back room and I
16 was enlightened by it. But I was also
17 confused. For some reason, I thought the
18 recovery plan was to sell assets to pay off
19 debt or lease assets to pay off debt. But
20 all I heard from you was how to increase the
21 debt. The main question you had asked the
22 Mayor was how much of that \$95 million he
23 was going to use to back up the pension
24 plans. And the rest of that could have been
25 used instead of borrowing \$40 million, up to

1 \$49 million, 7 percent up to 8 percent for
2 God knows how many years. But the basic is,
3 you usually double it. If the thing went
4 for \$40 million, the citizens of Scranton
5 would have to pay back \$80 million. There's
6 no question about that. So how you can say
7 selling assets off to pay off debt really
8 doesn't matter. Because you're increasing
9 that. Every time you're here, like I told
10 you many times before, when you go on
11 vacation in the summer, stay away for half a
12 year, we'd be better off and we'd get by a
13 lot cheaper. You haven't done nothing to
14 really stem the problems. When they come up
15 Tuesday night and start explaining the deal
16 with the parking, I hope you attend, but I
17 doubt if you'll be around. But that parking
18 authority is another millstone around the
19 city. You never check to see who voted for
20 all these things that made us responsible
21 for these projects. I'd like to name them,
22 but I'll hold off naming them. But there's
23 so many deals that were made that cost the
24 city millions and millions of dollars. So
25 where are we today? We're playing shuffle

1 board. Like I don't know if Courtright's
2 plan is the same as Doherty? Because the
3 plans he's using the same thing Mayor
4 Doherty used. I think he's using the same
5 blue print. And that's disaster for the
6 city. That's what brought us where we are
7 now and it's going to keep us there. I
8 don't see any point in borrowing \$40 million
9 or \$49 million if money is available from
10 the sale of the sewer authority. That was
11 supposedly to pay off debt, not increase
12 debt. I don't know how you can sit there
13 and even contemplate adding on \$80 million
14 debt to the citizens of Scranton. I don't
15 know how you do it, in all fairness. Or are
16 you planning to move out when your term
17 expires? That would probably be very
18 feasible. I wish everybody could move out
19 if they could. But we can't sell our
20 properties. It's very difficult. Things in
21 this city is becoming more and more
22 difficult. When people come up to me and
23 says, I can't afford to pay my taxes, I'm
24 thinking of just leaving the house and
25 going, what are you doing to Scranton? I

1 mean, you had to look at that \$95 million as
2 a God sent. Not as a prelude to increasing
3 our debt. But yet, you did it or are going
4 to do it. And when the legislation comes
5 down for this leasing of the parking garage,
6 we're going to lose 16--40 years, we're
7 going to lose \$16 million just in revenue
8 from the parking meters. And then, we're
9 not sure about what liability we're taking
10 on in repairing the garages. In 40 years,
11 them garages are going to be junk. You know
12 that. I know that. You cannot close your
13 eyes to that. I mean, I mention a lot of
14 names. Maybe you don't like the people I
15 name. That's up to you. But you're voting
16 record is public knowledge. Anything you
17 vote on, people have a right to come back at
18 you. Remember that. You're not insulated
19 one way or the other. You have to stand by
20 your voting record. And when people realize
21 that you're increasing the debt instead of
22 helping move it away, you have it. Bye.

23 MS. HODAWANITZ: Joan Hodawanitz,
24 resident and taxpayer. Mr. Wechsler, I
25 believe I was the third signature on your

1 sign-in sheet.

2 MR. WECHSLER: Oh, I'm very sorry.
3 I didn't do that intentionally.

4 MS. HODAWANITZ: Okay, alright,
5 thank you. I have to agree with the tenure
6 of many of the comments that have already
7 been offered tonight. When Mr. McGoff was
8 the President of Council, he would on
9 occasion tell me at the podium that I should
10 really take my questions to the city
11 leadership and the various department heads.
12 Let me explain to you some of my
13 frustration. On March 21st, I gave a
14 written letter to the Business
15 Administrator's Office with my questions
16 concerning the 2014 audit as instructed in
17 the audit that I was to do. The audit says,
18 if you have questions, address them to the
19 Business Administrator's Office. I did it
20 on March 21st. I've had no reply. On March
21 16th, I requested appointments with both the
22 Mayor and Mr. Bulzoni. No reply. Monday, I
23 stopped at the Mayor's Office. I wanted to
24 know when the State of the City address was
25 going to be given. And I said, oh, by the

1 way, what's the status of my request for an
2 appointment? A girl took my number. She
3 says, we'll call you. No phone call back.
4 Okay, I know I'm on the black list. But
5 this is ridiculous. If Mr. Bulzoni can get
6 an indefinite waiver for not living in the
7 city, I, at least, deserve the courtesy of
8 some kind of response. When he was at your
9 caucus last week, I confronted him and said,
10 where is my answer to my memo on March 21st?
11 He wouldn't even say squat to me. This man
12 you gave an indefinite waiver. Be that as
13 it may. I noticed in the paper in the legal
14 section on April 26th, Newton Township and
15 West Abington Township publishes summaries
16 of their 2015 audits. We're still waiting
17 for City Council per Home Rule Charter to
18 publish the 2014 summary of fiscal affairs.
19 Has there been an exit briefing with the
20 independent auditor yet? Can anybody answer
21 that?

22 MR. WECHSLER: No, there has not
23 been. We spoke to Mr. Bulzoni today and
24 they're still scheduling more of a telephone
25 conference.

1 MS. HODAWANITZ: Oh okay. Hopefully
2 that will work out. I also attended last
3 night's working session as part of the
4 peanut gallery. And I was impressed. Now,
5 I couldn't hear some of the conversation
6 exchanged, nor could I see any of your
7 handouts. But I think it's a very good
8 idea. And I think that is a practice that
9 you should continue anything that is
10 budgetary. Be it, the 2017 operating budget
11 when you have to discuss that, labor union
12 contracts, how you're going handle the storm
13 water fees and on and on. There are a
14 number of things. But I also think that you
15 should have these working sessions and I
16 agree with Ms. Franus that they, if
17 possible, should be televised so that a
18 larger percentage of the taxpayer base can
19 be privy to them. Not everybody can come
20 down here. And because--I'm telling you,
21 the city leadership does not know the
22 meaning of the words leadership,
23 accountability and transparency. And I
24 stand behind that comment. Now, did any of
25 you know what the city's current long term

1 debt is? Mr. Gaughan? Ding, ding, ding,
2 ding.

3 MR. GAUGHAN: I did ask Mr. Bulzoni
4 last night. He did get back to me with a
5 really lengthy answer. And I just received
6 it late this afternoon, so I didn't have a
7 chance to really go through this. It's two
8 pages, but--

9 MS. HODAWANITZ: Well, I'll tell you
10 on the 2014 audit on Page 49, it was--came
11 in at \$407 million plus. Now, that's a 16
12 month old figure. So, when you start
13 discussing things like \$49 million bonds,
14 you need to look at the big picture and to
15 say, you know, how does this factor into the
16 city's total long term debt? Now, if it
17 helps your credit rating, you can refinance
18 to a lower interest rate, that may be a good
19 thing. But you don't know that. We don't
20 know that. But the citizens have a right to
21 know what they are going to be picking up as
22 long term debt and what their kids and their
23 grand kids are going to be picking up. And
24 I'd love to know--if the 2015 audit were on
25 time, we'd have a better understanding of

1 what your long term debt would be. Thank
2 you.

3 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

4 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening, Marie
5 Schumacher. I'd like to start off with a
6 couple of questions tonight. And since we
7 talked about right to know several times, I
8 would like to go back to the 21st--no
9 29th--this is from the 21st of January. And
10 I said, addressed to Mr. Wechsler, "I would
11 like to ask when or if I'm ever going to get
12 an answer to the budget questions that I had
13 on 2016 budget that I submitted in
14 mid-November 2015." Mr. Wechsler, you
15 replied, "Right now, we have those questions
16 and I don't have an answer for you right
17 now. I have never gotten those. Now, that
18 doesn't--and that's something that doesn't
19 fall under the right to know. Because those
20 were always questions on back up of how the
21 numbers that were there were derived. And
22 that does not fall under the right to know.
23 So, I still would like to have some of
24 those. And then, quickly, Mr. Gaughan, do
25 you have the number of retention ponds that

1 the city has?

2 MR. GAUGHAN: Yeah, we spoke to Don
3 King, the city planner. And he didn't have
4 an exact number. But he said he was going
5 to get back to us with that.

6 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay, thank you.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: So I should have that
8 by hopefully next week.

9 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay, thank you.
10 And then, anybody during Fifth Order, if you
11 would tell me what additional pension reform
12 we should expect before the end of this year
13 or before you decide how you're going to
14 distribute the sewer authority proceeds.
15 Again, going back to another question. On
16 the 2nd of December of last year, I asked
17 Mr. Evans, "Now, the answer to my question
18 on the dollars required to bring the pension
19 fund to 50 percent level?" Mr. Evans
20 replied, "\$75 million." So, from there, now
21 with this new--with what Mr. Blake has come
22 up with that we can continue to charge the
23 triple tax and the increase from the 52 to
24 the tripling can go to the pension fund. I
25 would like to know if that \$104 per LST

1 taxpayer is over and above the \$75 million
2 that we need to bring the funding to 50
3 percent. And is that included or excluded?

4 MR. EVANS: Well, it wasn't
5 included. That's speculative as far as
6 how--the pension is different now than it
7 was back when you originally asked the
8 question as well because of the loses and
9 the performance hasn't been as great. But
10 let me look into that a little bit and see
11 what I can find out for you.

12 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay and then, how
13 is the underwriters fee calculated? Nobody
14 asked that question last time and I would
15 like an answer to that.

16 MR. EVANS: We can find out.
17 Normally, it's a percentage, but we can find
18 out.

19 MS. SCHUMACHER: And then, do you
20 have a breakdown of the \$341,000 worth of
21 other costs of issuances that you could
22 share?

23 MR. WECHSLER: Those are currently
24 estimates. There is no breakdown yet.
25 They're estimates.

1 MR. EVANS: We'll receive a rate
2 sheet on the entire--

3 MS. SCHUMACHER: After the fact?

4 MR. EVANS: Well, prior to closing,
5 there should be a rate sheet.

6 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay, now, also,
7 each of you is provided a bar graph last
8 night that--at the working session that
9 showed the debt now and the debt after all
10 of these initiatives, the sewer authority,
11 the parking garages, the privately placed
12 bond and whatever else might be. I would
13 like to know if I could get a copy of that
14 graph after the meeting?

15 MR. EVANS: Sure.

16 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay and what
17 is--what will be our debt at the end of
18 2016?

19 MR. EVANS: What will be our debt at
20 the end of 2016?

21 MS. SCHUMACHER: Uh-huh.

22 MR. EVANS: I'm not sure at this
23 point, but we'll certainly find that out.
24 And that, again, that's a projection.

25 MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, yeah.

1 MR. EVANS: Yeah.

2 MS. SCHUMACHER: And how does the
3 amount that's still owed on that similar
4 transaction in 2004 fall into the plan of
5 sale of the sewer authority. I believe, I
6 thought I brought the page from the budget.
7 It's over \$600,000--excuse me, over \$600,000
8 I believe in the budget. Was that just put
9 in as sort of a slush fund? Or do we really
10 owe the Scranton Redevelopment Authority
11 \$636,539?

12 MR. EVANS: I'm not sure. That may
13 have been a placeholder for this, but I'm
14 not sure.

15 MS. SCHUMACHER: And how does that
16 fit in?

17 MR. EVANS: Yeah.

18 MS. SCHUMACHER: I'm going to be
19 very disappointed if you come back and tell
20 me that's a placeholder. That's a lot of
21 places to hold. I'll finish up next week.
22 And I would like to get more on the pensions
23 next week. Thank you.

24 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening, Council,
25 Dave Dobrzyn, resident. Today, I got my

1 second call claiming to be from the IRS.
2 And I have a technique where the type of
3 language I use while they're making that
4 announcement is--would not be permissible in
5 public. I'd get arrested. So, my advice is
6 to do the same because the IRS never calls
7 someone on the phone and tells them that
8 they're filing legal proceedings against
9 them. Furthermore, all my tax returns are
10 insured anyway. So it's their problem.
11 Finally and I'm going to turn this over to
12 you, on recycling newspapers, magazines,
13 catalogs, mail, envelopes, cereal boxes,
14 cracker boxes, pizza boxes, paper rolls,
15 construction papers, light weight boxes,
16 cardboard boxes, glass bottles and jars,
17 aluminum steel cans, beverage and food
18 containers, plastic bottles and jars and
19 tubs with tops, milk, yogurt, soda, water,
20 soups, margarine. Specialty items: Leaves,
21 brush, glass, electronics, motor oil, tires,
22 Styrofoam, contacts, fluorescent lamps and
23 household hazardous waste. So, about 90
24 percent of this stuff that is probably
25 supposed to be free on the tipping charge is

1 being sent to DeNaples Landfill. Please
2 reprint that. And all of you guys get a
3 copy because I'm real tired of spending time
4 on this trash issue. And illegal dumping, I
5 mean, we should put in our ordinance if we
6 go to a pay per bag that I could invoke the
7 castle doctrine for people tossing bags of
8 garbage on my lawn. I'm fed up. Now, on
9 this issue with the borrowing, you know,
10 I've been through basically four different
11 Council Presidents, Councils. And, you
12 know, everything from the administration or
13 the business people in the administration or
14 the Chamber of Commerce asked you poor guys
15 to fall on your swords. And people have
16 gone along with it. And that's why people
17 come up here and they beat the heck out of
18 everybody. They're frustrated and they're
19 just tired of a Council that's willing to
20 fall on your swords. Think of your future
21 and what you want to hear in the future. I
22 agree that the sewer sale was supposed to
23 take care of the pensions and the back
24 thing. And I can't understand why after
25 that. And the caucus--last week with Bernie

1 McGurl, you received some criticism, Joe,
2 and that I regarded as an important issue.
3 Just follow the caucus and start it at 6:30.
4 And you know, whoever has a problem with
5 somebody talking for a half hour when
6 they're invited to a caucus, tell them to
7 shut up, you know. It's like, go away. We
8 need to know what we're going to be
9 obligated to pay. And I mean, it's just
10 ridiculous when somebody comes up here and
11 starts that. And on 6A, I'm concerned that
12 this--on the smoking in the parks, is this
13 going to be specific zones? And if so,
14 let's amend it that it stays in those
15 specific zones unless you enact another new
16 ordinance that people have a chance to
17 comment. I don't want to see a loose
18 ratchet-able situation. I intend to get in
19 touch with the Red Barons and find out what
20 the problem was with their attendance. And
21 I do remember a hoopla, keeping in mind that
22 our county taxes were raised 38 percent for
23 the baseball field, reconstruction. And we
24 have nothing to say about it. We don't even
25 know if--they didn't even know if you're

1 interested in baseball. Well, don't forget
2 guys, don't fall on your swords. You're a
3 nice bunch of guys. I mean, you're not
4 monsters. And I hate to see every year,
5 year in and year out people getting abused
6 because they got asked to fall on their
7 swords and they did so. Thank you. Have a
8 good night.

9 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you.

10 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

11 MR. WECHSLER: Anyone else?

12 MS. REED: FIFTH ORDER. 5A.

13 MOTIONS.

14 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Perry?

15 MR. PERRY: Yeah, I just have two
16 quick things. The first thing is in regards
17 to the work session we had last night, I was
18 happy to have it. I gained a lot of
19 information from it. And, so much
20 information that I haven't had time to put
21 everything together for a presentation for
22 you tonight because there's just so many
23 moving pieces. And even next week, I'll
24 have something very thought out to provide.
25 But basically, it's--I believe, as written,

1 it's going to be a good deal for the city
2 going forward. And I know based on last
3 week, we hear about debt and borrowing and
4 that's something that we don't like to do.
5 But there's also plans in place to pay off
6 very high interest rate debt which is going
7 to actually down the road eliminate our debt
8 eventually. And without actually raising it
9 to the current rate that we're paying per
10 year. But again, I'll get into that more
11 next week. The only other thing I have is
12 it's almost holy season. Next week starts
13 pretty much all the kids will be out, the
14 boys, the girls; play hard, play safe. I
15 know some of the best memories I have were
16 on a baseball diamond that I actually loved
17 doing it. And for the adults out there,
18 remember, it's just a game. The coaches are
19 volunteering their time. And the umpires
20 are volunteering their time. So let the
21 kids play. And just enjoy the youth of the
22 game and the actual--the natural beauty of
23 it instead of getting caught up. Thank you.
24 That's all I have.

25 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Mr.

1 Rogan?

2 MR. ROGAN: Yes, I wasn't planning
3 on mentioning this. But since Mr. Perry
4 brought it up, I was honored last week to
5 throw one of the first pitches in and to
6 speak to some of the Little Leaguers at West
7 Scranton Little League. And I'd just like
8 to thank all the organizers over there,
9 League President Frank Rodney, who's doing a
10 great job. And all the coaches involved in
11 this as well who continue a great tradition
12 in West Side and we have great leagues
13 throughout this city. Just two issues I
14 want to bring up. The first issue is--it
15 was discussed quite a bit tonight, was the
16 garbage. And everybody knows my position
17 when it comes to garbage. I believe the
18 current fee is very unfair. It's
19 particularly not fair to people who live
20 alone, widows, widowers, even a single
21 couple when you have large families that are
22 paying the same price. I could say it till
23 I'm blue in the face. Regarding the actual
24 cost of collecting garbage, it is very
25 difficult to gather what the actual cost is

1 because of how the DPW budget and how the
2 DPW operations are done. For instance, if
3 there's a shortage of refuse workers,
4 workers from the parks will then backfill
5 into refuse. So even though the parks--the
6 workers listed as DPW Parks in the budget,
7 they're spending a portion of their time
8 working with DPW refuse. Also, as far as
9 mechanics go, it's hard to quantify how much
10 time they spend working on the actual
11 garbage collection issues versus general DPW
12 issues; fixing the, you know, other
13 vehicles, police vehicles, oil changes. So
14 there's a number of moving parts with that.
15 There are parts that are very easy to figure
16 out; the tipping fee. That's a bill we get
17 every year. We know exactly how much that
18 costs. Some of the salaries are very easy
19 to determine as well, but then you also have
20 to include the health care. You have to
21 include pension costs. So there's a number
22 of cost that are included in your garbage
23 collection besides those couple items that
24 you see. So, I am very interested to see
25 what the true cost is. And then, look at

1 what our best option is moving forward;
2 whether that is a hybrid system, whether it
3 is a straight per bag fee or whether it's
4 privatization which is something that I've
5 also mentioned numerous times. Finally, one
6 last issue, bids were opened regarding the
7 demolition of hazardous structures project.
8 And these are the properties that are going
9 to be torn down this year: 2006 Edna
10 Avenue, 1306 and 1308 South Webster, 1224
11 Washburn Street, 119 South Dewey Avenue, 131
12 Morris Court and then 822 and 826 South
13 Webster Avenue. Now, obviously, this is a
14 good start, but there are many, many
15 hazardous properties throughout the city
16 that do need to be torn down and are a
17 blight on neighborhoods. And I would also
18 like to note that each one of these
19 properties also had a large asbestos removal
20 cost. So it's not just a vacant building.
21 These are hazardous because of that asbestos
22 and when it does particle-ize and gets into
23 the environment, it's very dangerous. So
24 we're looking forward to this project and
25 helping some of the neighbors around these

1 properties. Thank you.

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

4 MR. EVANS: Thank you. One of the
5 speakers tonight mentioned that Scranton
6 needs to be more business friendly. And I
7 couldn't agree more. One of the initiatives
8 we took last week when we passed the tax
9 abatement ordinance, I think it's going to
10 help bring some growth within the city
11 hopefully. We're going to work on the
12 rental registration. The revisions should
13 be ready within the next week or so. That
14 is also going to be more business friendly.
15 We're going to look at the condemnation
16 policy and look at some ways to make that
17 more business friendly. And as well as
18 consolidate and eliminate many of the
19 cumbersome fees in the License and
20 Inspection Department should be looked at.
21 Because there's fees in there that should be
22 gathered. They're collecting \$1,000 a year
23 or \$50 a year. And it's just more nuisance
24 fees and more nuisance problems for our
25 businesses. Another speaker mentioned what

1 we would want to see as far as pension
2 reform as part of the sewer deal. And as I
3 said all along, you know, I want to see true
4 pension reform before any money is to be put
5 into the pensions. And I will come up with
6 my own list. I've had several variations of
7 the list over the last six months to a year.
8 And I'll do that again, well before that
9 deal closes in probably the fourth quarter
10 of this year. I want to speak a little bit
11 about last week. Our Council meeting last
12 week was not unlike many of the meetings I
13 have attended since I've been here when I
14 was appointed and then elected to the seat.
15 Yet, there was comments made during the
16 public participation segment of that meeting
17 that, in my opinion, went well beyond what I
18 consider appropriate. Similar comments were
19 made several times in the past weeks. I'm
20 not sure where all this has gone so wrong or
21 when the wheels actually fell off the
22 ability to have civil discourse or
23 discussion, but I think it really can't
24 stand. While several speakers come before
25 us weekly and truly talk about agenda items

1 and city issues and while their questions
2 and comments are sometimes pointed, they are
3 fair and they are justified. But to hear
4 week in and week out that sometimes reckless
5 statements and inappropriate comments that
6 Council and this government is corrupt or
7 insinuate that wrong doing with no basis in
8 fact or offer personal attacks on an
9 individual that is no longer here to defend
10 themselves, an individual who all of us had
11 the utmost respect for and who has taught us
12 plenty about being civil and being a
13 gentleman in the most adverse situations.
14 Those attacks go beyond the pale of decency.
15 I would never ever stifle free speech. And
16 I truly welcome the sharing of ideas as well
17 as the debate that makes our democratic
18 process the best in the world. We are at a
19 point in our city where we should have a
20 robust conversation on many of the issues we
21 face. But when the debate degenerates into
22 personal attacks and unfounded allegations
23 and bizarre insinuations, nothing is
24 accomplished and we are left just wasting
25 time. Civility costs us nothing. The lack

1 of civility can cost us everything. We can
2 all do a little better. That's all I have.
3 Alright, thank you.

4 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr. Evans.
5 Mr. Gaughan?

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, thank you. Just
7 a couple of things. I received a complaint
8 about street lights out on Van Buren and
9 Washburn Street and Morris Court and
10 Washburn Street. Several residents have
11 contacted me about that. So I do have the
12 pole numbers and we will submit that to the
13 DPW and the company that takes care of the
14 maintenance of the street lights. Also,
15 received a complaint about Morris Court.
16 There's several major potholes that need to
17 be patched. So, we'll send that along to
18 the DPW. The request for a street light in
19 the 2100 block of Wyoming Avenue has been
20 approved by the city engineer. The woman
21 was here, I think, three weeks ago. And the
22 city engineer is going to coordinate that
23 installation with the DPW. A gentlemen
24 requested a stop sign at Cedar Avenue and
25 McDonough Street. So, we sent that request

1 to the city engineer. A site reconnaissance
2 was performed. The Police Department
3 reported that there were no crashes in the
4 last two years at this intersection. An
5 additional stop sign is not warranted
6 according to the city engineer. And we sent
7 that along to the gentleman that requested
8 it. According to meeting minutes, the
9 paving project should be starting by the end
10 of this week in the Keyser Valley section on
11 Division Street. The 100, 200 blocks of
12 Fillmore Avenue were removed from the paving
13 list due to conflicting water company work.
14 I'd also ask if we can get an update from
15 the city solicitor on the leachate issue and
16 where we are with the opinion from Attorney
17 Shrive. So hopefully, we'll have that by
18 next week. Also, I'd like if my colleagues
19 would agree to send correspondence to the
20 Mayor asking if any progress has been made
21 on the creation of a shared services
22 committee. This was a recommendation in our
23 recovery plan when Mayor Courtright was
24 here, I think, a year or two ago for a
25 caucus. I did ask him. And there had been

1 no progress at that point. And why I bring
2 this up is because a shared services
3 committee--and if the Mayor took a
4 leadership role on this and the city
5 spearheaded it, we would be looking at an
6 efficiency and possible cost savings by
7 working with other municipalities. Another
8 reason why it's really important is as we
9 now delve into the storm water management
10 issue in working with Dunmore and possibly
11 other municipalities, so a shared services
12 committee, I believe, the city should
13 spearhead that effort and follow the
14 recovery plan. So I would ask if we could
15 send correspondence to Mayor Courtright and
16 see if there has been any progress made and
17 if he plans on being a part of that
18 committee in creating it. And that is all I
19 have this week. Thank you.

20 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr.
21 Gaughan. Just a few things. The 2016
22 refuse bill payments are due next week, May
23 the 1st. Payments are accepted in City Hall
24 in the Treasurer's Office Monday through
25 Friday between the hours of 8 and 4:30 p.m.

1 If payment is not received by May 31st, a 12
2 percent penalty will be applied to the first
3 payment. And just as a reminder, this is
4 the only bill that you will receive this
5 year. So please keep track of it. I had to
6 find mine today. The second payment is due
7 on September 1st. And that has to also be
8 in by September 30th to avoid a 12 percent
9 penalty. I would like to congratulate
10 Scranton Tomorrow, especially under the
11 leadership of Andrea Mulrine and Leslie
12 Collins. They did an excellent job with
13 their committee in organizing the 150th
14 Anniversary for the city. Last weekend, I
15 attended many of the events. And it was a
16 short period in Scranton when we all could
17 be proud of our city and our history. And
18 it was nice to take a look back, but also it
19 was a nice time to look forward also. So
20 once again, I congratulate Scranton
21 Tomorrow. To follow up on what Mr. Gaughan
22 had said, we did contact the city
23 solicitor's office in regards to the status
24 of our request for information concerning
25 the leachate line. I know that Mr. Shrive

1 this week was quite committed with the
2 refinancing. But we still need to get an
3 answer regardless of how busy the office is.
4 And one of the questions that's asked that
5 Dave Bulzoni contacted me this week is that
6 the audit prep began this week. Not that
7 it's perfect, but it is four months earlier
8 than last year. Last year, our prep began
9 in August. Audit prep began this year in
10 April. So, it is an improvement. We're not
11 there yet, but we are improving. That's all
12 I have right now.

13 MR. GAUGHAN: Could I add one more
14 thing? I forgot to mention this. I'd like
15 us to forward this along to OECD and the
16 Mayor if they're not already aware of it. I
17 saw this article. It was printed April 11th
18 that the United States Department of Housing
19 and Urban Development is making more than
20 \$100 million in grants available to help
21 eliminate dangerous lead based paint hazard
22 from the homes of lower income families.
23 These grants are intended to protect young
24 children from lead poisoning and provide an
25 opportunity for states and local communities

1 to establish programs that control health
2 and safety hazards by assessing and
3 remediating lead based paint and other
4 housing related health hazards. So I would
5 like us to forward this, if they haven't
6 already seen it, to OECD and the Mayor and
7 possibly create a program for this and try
8 to get grant money to help remediate those
9 hazards. Thank you.

10 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you.

11 MS. REED: 5B. FOR INTRODUCTION -
12 AN ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE INSTALLATION
13 OF A STOP SIGN AT THE NORTHERLY APPROACH OF
14 DURKIN AVENUE AT GILBERT STREET.

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

18 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

19 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

23 MR. PERRY: Aye.

24 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

25 MR. EVANS: Aye.

1 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

4 MS. REED: SIXTH ORDER. 6A. READING
5 BY TITLE - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 23, 2016
6 - AN ORDINANCE - CREATING TOBACCO-FREE AREAS
7 AT LOCAL PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS IN THE CITY
8 OF SCRANTON.

9 MR. WECHSLER: You've heard reading
10 by title of Item 6A. What is your pleasure?

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

13 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

16 MR. PERRY: Aye.

17 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

18 MR. EVANS: Aye.

19 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

22 MS. REED: 6B. READING BY TITLE -
23 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 24, 2016 - AN
24 ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE LEASE OF CERTAIN
25 REAL PROPERTY TO THE REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

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

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

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

16 MR. WECHSLER: You heard reading by
17 title of Item 6B. What is your pleasure?

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

20 MR. EVANS: Second.

21 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

22 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.
23 I'm still digesting all of this information
24 as Mr. Perry also mentioned before. One of
25 the questions at the executive session that

1 I had last night was concerning fees and how
2 the fees will be paid out. And just for
3 clarification, no member of the
4 administration will receive any fees from
5 this deal. The only person that's tied to
6 the administration that will receive any
7 fees is the solicitor for the Scranton
8 Redevelopment Authority. And the fee for
9 the trustee is \$7,000 for each series of
10 bond. So we're looking at roughly \$14,000
11 in fees. So I will be voting yes to move
12 this along to a final vote next week.
13 That's all I have. Thank you.

14 MR. WECHSLER: I would like to thank
15 Dave Bulzoni, Brian Kozlowski and Scott
16 Shearer for their participation in the work
17 session last night. They provided an
18 overview of the ordinance and the process
19 that would be followed as we try to secure
20 financing to meet our obligation to satisfy
21 the police and fire judgment. This exercise
22 to financing will be a true test as to how
23 Scranton is doing in its efforts to regain
24 the trust of the financial community. It
25 will be the first time we had tested the

1 market in many years. If this bond issue is
2 successful, it demonstrates that a key part
3 of our recovery efforts is working. In 2014
4 when this Council and the administration
5 came to office, it would have been
6 impossible to execute this bond issue.

7 Within the last three years, we have started
8 to get our financial house in order and soon
9 we may be accepted into normal financial
10 markets and be able to generate savings with
11 lower interest rates. The successful
12 execution of this bond issue will go a long
13 way toward removing us from the distressed
14 status that we now endure. And follow up to
15 what Mr. Gaughan had stated, we did send the
16 Chairman of the SRA a letter today asking
17 that, if possible, to keep the fee for their
18 solicitor as low as possible or to waive the
19 fee. In light of the cost that the city is
20 incurring with this, we'd like to keep all
21 those costs down. And if the SRA is able to
22 either minimize the cost or eliminate the
23 cost, it would be greatly appreciated. All
24 these in favor, signify by saying aye?

25 MR. PERRY: Aye.

1 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

2 MR. EVANS: Aye.

3 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

6 MS. REED: SEVENTH ORDER. 7A. FOR
7 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES -
8 FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 23, 2016 -
9 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE
10 CITY OFFICIALS TO GRANT A SPECIAL
11 ENCROACHMENT PERMIT TO LEVELS BAR & GRILL TO
12 OPERATE AN OUTDOOR BAR AND RESTAURANT AT 519
13 LINDEN STREET, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA.

14 MR. WECHSLER: As Chairperson for
15 the Committee on Rules, I recommend final
16 passage of Item 7A.

17 MR. ROGAN: Second.

18 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

19 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.
20 I'd just like to wish the owners of this
21 establishment good luck. And from what I
22 can see from all the plans, it looks like a
23 great project.

24 MR. EVANS: On the question, I feel
25 the same way. I've a big fan of outdoor

1 cafes and I wish them well as well as the
2 operation on 7B, Steamtown 300 LLC that's
3 going to be operating in the mall. I think
4 it's going to be a positive for the city. I
5 think the more of these we have, the more
6 progressive we're going to feel and it's
7 going to be a very positive feeling
8 downtown.

9 MR. WECHSLER: Roll call, please?

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry?

11 MR. PERRY: Yes.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan?

13 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

14 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans?

15 MR. EVANS: Yes.

16 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan?

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

18 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler?

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

22 MS. REED: 7B. FOR CONSIDERATION BY
23 THE COMMITTEE ON RULES – FOR ADOPTION -
24 RESOLUTION NO. 24, 2016 – AUTHORIZING THE
25 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS

1 TO GRANT A SPECIAL ENCROACHMENT PERMIT TO
2 STEAMTOWN 300 LLC TO OPERATE AN OUTDOOR BAR
3 AND RESTAURANT AT 300 LACKAWANNA AVENUE,
4 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA.

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

8 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry?

12 MR. PERRY: Yes.

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan?

14 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans?

16 MR. EVANS: Yes.

17 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan?

18 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

19 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler?

20 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby
21 declare Item 7B legally and lawfully
22 adopted. Just as a reminder again that next
23 week's meeting; caucus will be 6, meeting at
24 6:30. Motion to adjourn?

25 MR. ROGAN: Motion to adjourn.

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MR. WECHSLER: Meeting is adjourned.
(WHEREUPON, the proceedings
concluded.)

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

COUNTY OF LACKAWANNA

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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

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