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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Thursday, January 12, 2017

LOCATION:

Council Chambers
Scranton City Hall
340 North Washington Avenue
Scranton, Pennsylvania

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

- 1 CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:
- 2
- 3 JOSEPH WECHSLER, PRESIDENT
- 4 PATRICK ROGAN, VICE-PRESIDENT
- 5 WAYNE EVANS
- 6 WILLIAM GAUGHAN
- 7 TIM PERRY
- 8
- 9 LORI REED, CITY CLERK
- 10 KATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK
- 11 AMIL MINORA, SOLICITOR
- 12
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1 (Pledge of Allegiance recited and
2 moment of reflection observed.)
3 MR. WECHSLER: Roll call, please.
4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.
5 MR. PERRY: Here.
6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.
7 MR. ROGAN: Here.
8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.
9 MR. EVANS: Here.
10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.
11 MR. GAUGHAN: Here.
12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.
13 MR. WECHSLER: Here. Dispense with
14 the reading of the minutes.
15 MS. REED: THIRD ORDER. 3-A.
16 BREAKDOWN OF ELIGIBLE SALARIES FOR THE
17 LIQUID FUELS ACCOUNT FOR THE MONTHS OF
18 OCTOBER, NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2016.
19 MR. WECHSLER: Are there any
20 comments? If not, received and filed.
21 MS. REED: 3-B. AGENDA FOR THE BOARD
22 OF ZONING APPEALS MEETING TO BE HELD JANUARY
23 18, 2017.
24 MR. WECHSLER: Are there any
25 comments? If not, received and filed.

4

1 MS. REED: 3-C. SINGLE TAX OFFICE
2 CITY FUNDS DISTRIBUTED COMPARISON REPORT
3 2015-2016 YEAR TO DATE DECEMBER 31, 2016.
4 MR. WECHSLER: Are there any
5 comments? If not, received and filed. Do
6 any council members have any announcements
7 at this time?
8 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, I have two. Just
9 a reminder that the Friends of Shannon
10 McDonough will be holding the event titled
11 "Splashing with Compassion." They will hold
12 the fourth annual polar plunge on Saturday,
13 January 28, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Montage
14 Mountain in Scranton. The Friends of
15 Shannon McDonough Splashing with Compassion
16 is a local 501-C organization that supports
17 young individuals battling cancer in
18 Northeastern Pennsylvania.
19 And the second announcement, the
20 Scranton High boys basketball team will be
21 holding a pasta dinner Wednesday, February
22 1, from 4 to 7 p.m. at La Trattoria
23 Restaurant, 522 Moosic Street. It will be
24 \$10 per ticket and includes salad, pasta,
25 meatballs and dessert. Thank you.

5

1 MR. WECHSLER: On Monday, January
2 16, city hall will be closed in observance
3 of Martin Luther King Junior Day. The DPW
4 will not be working this day. Refuse and
5 recycling pick up will delayed one day next
6 week.
7 Also, tomorrow evening is the annual
8 winter in the city event. It will be held
9 at Posh, and tickets are \$20 at the door.
10 It will be from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. Music will
11 be by Paul LaBelle and Exact Change.
12 MS. REED: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'
13 PARTICIPATION.
14 MR. WECHSLER: Joan Hodowanitz.
15 MS. HODOWANITZ: Joan Hodowanitz,
16 city resident and taxpayer. If you get the
17 opportunity would you, please, plant a bug
18 in the administration's ear to get them to
19 put the 2017 budget on their webpage, it
20 would be nice.
21 With regard to 5-C, the contract for
22 our Arcadis to do the preliminary storm
23 water analysis. I couldn't find it, but if
24 you can say in Fifth Order is there is any
25 kind of deadline for them to complete this

6

1 analysis so we have a sense of when we are
2 going to get that kind of information. If
3 it's at the end of the year, it's going to
4 be after election and I would like to see
5 this information before we go to the polls.
6 With regard to the Items 5-D and
7 5-E, correct me if I'm wrong, but on
8 December 15 didn't council vote to approve
9 termination of the Scranton Sewer Authority?
10 MR. WECHSLER: It was conditional
11 based upon all of the closing requirements
12 being met by the Sewer Authority of the
13 Pennsylvania American Water.
14 MS. HODOWANITZ: Have they been met?
15 MR. WECHSLER: They still have the
16 lawsuit, they still have the easement cases,
17 so there is still some outstanding bills and
18 other issues.
19 MS. HODOWANITZ: So basically we are
20 still going to have the Scranton Sewer
21 Authority board --
22 MR. WECHSLER: Correct.
23 MS. HODOWANITZ: -- potentially
24 until 2022.
25 MR. WECHSLER: Possibly. Probably

1 not.

2 MS. HODOWANITZ: God help us. Okay.

3 I saw in the paper that the RFQ for third

4 party administration self-insured worker's

5 comp and heart and lung claims third party

6 administration, do we have any kind of

7 status on when the RFP for the third party

8 administrator of the pension funds?

9 MR. WECHSLER: Not at this time.

10 MS. HODOWANITZ: Okay. Do we have

11 any kind of status on potential pension

12 reforms prior to any of the future of cash

13 into the pension fund from the City of Sewer

14 Authority?

15 MR. EVANS: Well, the status would

16 be that in my opinion there won't be any

17 infusion in the pensions until there are

18 further pension reforms.

19 MS. HODOWANITZ: So it will be

20 interesting. Also, with regard to the Sewer

21 Authority sale, I remember last week you

22 also all asking questions about who, what

23 and when, have you gotten any information

24 from the administration that you can share

25 with us tonight?

1 MR. WECHSLER: No. We actually

2 requested the information from the Sewer

3 Authority, their counsel. We submitted a

4 letter to them, I believe, on January 12,

5 and we requested them to respond to our

6 questions by the 18th.

7 MS. HODOWANITZ: All right. So

8 hopefully next week. Do we have any idea of

9 the impact on the 2017 budget with the

10 reduced sale price of the proceeds? Has

11 anybody taken a look at how that will effect

12 the budget?

13 MR. WECHSLER: I don't think it

14 will.

15 MR. EVANS: The only thing that

16 would effect the budget would be if we don't

17 pay off the high interest debt that was

18 assumed in the budget and that is absolutely

19 requirement number one, and then there is

20 certainly plenty of money to do that.

21 MS. HODOWANITZ: Okay, but we don't

22 have any specific breakdown of whatever

23 proceeds we get, what will a portion of

24 what?

25 MR. EVANS: Well, the modeling is

1 continuing, it's going to be part of the

2 revised recovery plan, but it will done

3 before that.

4 MS. HODOWANITZ: Okay, and yesterday

5 with the little ice storm that we had, I was

6 tramping over to the Cathedral at 6:00 in

7 the morning, did anybody see any salt trucks

8 anywhere in the city yesterday morning?

9 MR. WECHSLER: They were on East

10 Mountain.

11 MS. HODOWANITZ: Say again?

12 MR. WECHSLER: They were on East

13 Mountain.

14 MS. HODOWANITZ: They were on East

15 Mountain. I didn't see anybody downtown,

16 was there anybody else in any other section

17 shun of the city? It was pretty

18 treacherous. All right, thank you.

19 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

20 MR. WECHSLER: Les Spindler.

21 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening,

22 Council. Les Spindler, city resident,

23 homeowner and taxpayer. Well, I have been

24 coming up here for years, and years and

25 years talking about the illegal garbage fee

1 and I was thrilled to see that somebody has

2 finally a lawsuit against the city. It's

3 unfortunate for the city because we can't

4 afford to pay off another lawsuit, but I

5 blame this council, I blame previous

6 councils, previous mayors that have been

7 coming here for countless years saying it's

8 illegal, nobody listened and now we are

9 being sued. You people last year said you

10 were going to talk about different ways to

11 do away with it, you did nothing. The only

12 person I heard that had one idea is

13 Councilman Rogan, at least he had an idea.

14 I don't agree with his per bag fee, but at

15 least he had an idea. You people are to

16 blame for this lawsuit, you and previous

17 councils. Nobody wants to listen. It's

18 just going to cost the city money and that's

19 unfortunate.

20 Moving on, I was a little upset to

21 see that two more sores are moving out of

22 the Mall, Victoria Secret and Bath and Body

23 Works, two of the main staples in that

24 store, and it was on the news that they are

25 going to be replaced. Well, you know, I did

1 agree with Mr. Basalyga when he took over
 2 the mall, I thought he was doing a good job,
 3 but I disagree with what he is doing. I
 4 think he is trying to make that an office
 5 building instead of a mall. Instead of
 6 finding replacements, why didn't he do his
 7 best to keep these two businesses in the
 8 mall? He should have given them incentives
 9 to stay there instead of saying goodbye and
 10 trying to get new businesses. I was
 11 impressed in the beginning, but I'm not
 12 anymore. I don't know think he is the one
 13 for the job.

14 The safety issue now, I live in
 15 Tripp Park I walk my dog down Dorothy Street
 16 ever day by the ball fields. At the very
 17 end of the ball fields, there is batting
 18 cages. At the end of the fence, there is a
 19 storm drain, right next to the storm drain
 20 about two weeks ago a big hole opened up.
 21 It's about two-feet wide, two-feet deep, and
 22 it's right off the sidewalk. I think that's
 23 a safety issue. When I saw it, I wasn't
 24 sure if anybody called. I figured I'd
 25 mention while I came here. You know, it's

1 right at the end of the ball field on the
 2 grass, you can't miss it, just past the
 3 batting cages.

4 Next thing, I think it was last
 5 month, Councilman Perry, you made a motion
 6 to adjust legislation about the left-turn
 7 lane on Oram Street and Main Avenue, I
 8 think, I know I spoke about that. There is
 9 another one I also spoke about it's on
 10 Jackson Street Main Avenue, we need a left
 11 turn lane there going south.

12 MR. PERRY: I'm familiar with it
 13 right on the intersection?

14 MR. SPINDLER: Yes. It's headed
 15 south. There used to be one there then
 16 after they paved it they never put one
 17 there. I have brought that up before. And
 18 lastly, I know in Tripp Park people put
 19 their Christmas trees out, they used to have
 20 them down at the end of Bulworth Street by
 21 the ball fields, I don't know if they still
 22 have that anymore, but I noticed the people
 23 in my area they are just putting them out on
 24 their lawns waiting for garbage pickup. I
 25 don't think the garbage men will take them,

1 but I'm not sure. I don't know if anybody
 2 knows anything about that. For years they
 3 have been put down by the ball fields. They
 4 only have to go to one spot to pick them up
 5 and recycle them. I don't think they should
 6 be taken by the garbage, I think they should
 7 be taken somewhere and recycled.

8 MR. EVANS: I agree.

9 MR. SPINDLER: If we could look into
 10 that.

11 MR. ROGAN: I did see in my
 12 neighborhood a couple of trees get thrown in
 13 the back of the garbage truck,
 14 unfortunately, and --

15 MR. SPINDLER: That's not right.

16 MR. ROGAN: No, it's not.

17 MR. SPINDLER: They used to grind
 18 them up and use it for mulch and stuff like
 19 that.

20 MR. EVANS: Right. I thought I read
 21 somewhere in the paper that that's what they
 22 were instructing everybody to do was put
 23 them out on the curb. I agree they should
 24 be recycled.

25 MR. SPINDLER: For years, like I

1 said, where I live they have been taking
 2 them down by the ball fields.

3 MR. EVANS: They should at least
 4 give somebody the option of doing what
 5 exactly what you are saying, take them some
 6 place in a central area, if you want to, so
 7 they will be recycled.

8 MR. SPINDLER: All right. If you
 9 can look into that. Thank you.

10 MR. WECHSLER: Bob Bolus.

11 MR. BOLUS: Good evening, Council.
 12 Bob Bolus, Scranton. You know, I was out of
 13 town and I come back here and, you know, I
 14 started reading some of the things that went
 15 on here, I have never seen more inefficient
 16 leadership than what we are seeing now.
 17 Your business administrator, the guru of
 18 finances, doesn't know what the heck we are
 19 getting, how much it cost, doesn't
 20 understand debit and credit, two plus two is
 21 two, two minus two is zero, to know how much
 22 money we are getting out of these sales? We
 23 are totally clueless. Nobody has a
 24 direction of what we are going to do, where
 25 we are going to do, how we are going to pay

1 it off. What are we going to do in the
 2 future?
 3 And then simplicity, and the
 4 absolute joke in I don't know what that is,
 5 I can't even read it, "D" and "E", we have
 6 two authorities, what are we doing with the
 7 Sewer Authority? I thought we sold
 8 everything. What incompetent individuals
 9 sold the assets and then you have an
 10 Authority that you are going to beg people
 11 or have people on a payroll.
 12 MR. WECHSLER: There is no one on
 13 the payroll. It's just a board.
 14 MR. BOLUS: Why do we have even have
 15 the authority at all?
 16 MR. WECHSLER: Because there is
 17 outstanding -- outstanding litigation and
 18 outstanding bills.
 19 MR. BOLUS: That passes onto the
 20 other end. You don't need people in the
 21 Authority to sit there on outstanding bills
 22 and issues. That's your business
 23 administrator should know what the hell he
 24 is doing.
 25 You also got the same issue with

1 your Parking Authority, keeping the Parking
 2 Authorities. What do we need all of these
 3 authorities for those operations? It's
 4 ludicrous. On this here, I'd like see \$3.5
 5 million put back into where the golf course
 6 money came out, like it should have stayed
 7 there perpetually and the interest only
 8 perpetually to be used for park and
 9 recreation. That's common sense.
 10 You know, it's like asking you guys,
 11 how many of you guys have millions of
 12 dollars to throw around and just squander it
 13 here and squander it there and then wonder
 14 if you are broke tomorrow. That's what we
 15 are doing here. I just get sick to my
 16 stomach watching stupidity that goes on with
 17 this administration downstairs. Your
 18 business administration is a great guru, he
 19 can save this. You don't sell assets that
 20 can make you money and then squander the
 21 money after you get more assets other than
 22 the Taj Mahal here of higher learning, is
 23 that what this is? You know, I hate to come
 24 in and insult people, but I have lived in
 25 this community my whole life. I have been a

1 business here, I know what it takes to be a
 2 builder, and what I see here between counsel
 3 the administration you are not builders, you
 4 are actually destroyers of our tax base.
 5 You are destroying it. You gave \$5 million
 6 to the mall for parking. Who the heck cares
 7 if somebody comes to Scranton and parks in
 8 the mall? Put it towards your pension fund,
 9 put it towards something else. Put it
 10 towards tax reduction to the people. You
 11 give it to the mall? You give him almost \$2
 12 million to pick up a parking garage to fix
 13 it? That's \$7 million. Would you spend
 14 your 7 million bucks like that? I don't
 15 think so, but this is what's wrong with
 16 what's going on, so let look at it a little
 17 differently. It's up to you gentlemen and
 18 the mayor to reassess the mall. It's still
 19 assessed at \$3 million. Complete ludicrous
 20 actions of what we are doing. I don't know
 21 care how much Basalyga makes, all the money
 22 he makes doesn't put it in your pocket,
 23 doesn't give you a million dollars. Doesn't
 24 give anybody out here a million bucks or
 25 \$1,000 or anybody to go anywhere else, but

1 he will buy more and more and more because
 2 of our stupidity and our leadership and the
 3 trust we put in people. I'm asking here and
 4 now that you people push to reassess that
 5 mall at what it should be.
 6 When I bought the Holy Cross Church,
 7 just like that they reassessed it at a half
 8 a million bucks. A church they were going
 9 to tear it down, a hall that I let the kids
 10 play free in, yet, nobody said nothing about
 11 it. I want the mall reassessed. That's our
 12 right in this community and that's your job.
 13 Your job is to build a tax base, not
 14 decrease it, and you just can't keep doing
 15 and doing what's going on here. I mean, we
 16 are going bullied every day we walk into the
 17 city.
 18 Now, as you know, I brought the
 19 Trump organization to Scranton, I brought us
 20 into the limelight worldwide, not locally,
 21 worldwide. I was proud to say I was from
 22 Scranton, but let me tell you something,
 23 what I can see now, I'm ashamed of myself to
 24 say I'm from Scranton when I see the
 25 incompetence of the leadership and there he

1 wants to drain the swamp. Here we need to
2 drain the mines and get action, get
3 aggressive, and do what leadership is
4 supposed to do, that's lead by example. You
5 are not doing it.

6 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you.

7 MR. BOLUS: Assess the mall, let's
8 be fair for everybody in this town and
9 that's your job to do and I think the mayor
10 has got to get off his butt and start doing
11 something instead of talking. And as far as
12 Amoroso goes, I wish he went back to Newark
13 where he belongs because he's not the kind
14 of guy to build this city. You do not get
15 rid of your assets, be left with a pension
16 debt and a future debt. You guys have no
17 idea how much you are going to pay it.
18 Thank you.

19 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr. Bolus.
20 Ron Ellman.

21 MR. ELLMAN: Hello, Council. I
22 phoned a friend of mine last night in
23 Hawaii, it was 84 degrees. I just thought
24 I'd throw that in. In the paper last week
25 was a little article from 50 years ago it

1 says the Scranton School Board and the
2 Council were trying to get together to
3 figure out how to recover some lost taxes.
4 Fifty years went by, still nothing is done.
5 That Pennwood Manor is full. I don't know
6 how many been through there, they owe
7 \$52,000, why won't somebody just close it?
8 They are never going to pay us. Why don't
9 you close it and squeeze some money out of
10 them. That bad D & D is over 100 real
11 estate companies in developers, some of them
12 are receiving our taxpayer money in gold and
13 grants and loan forgiveness. They owe
14 hundreds of thousands of dollars, some of
15 you saw it in the paper. Why don't they do
16 something? Why can't these houses be
17 condemned until they pay us for these
18 properties. You go after somebody who was
19 in the same paper for \$300 while these
20 people owe hundreds of thousands. You guys
21 need to do something to earn your keep up
22 there. I don't know. I don't know what we
23 are getting for our dollar. I'm not
24 scolding you, it just comes out.

25 Our mayor mistakenly shouts praises

1 for the Amoroso plan. This is one of the
2 biggest causes of the whole mess financially
3 that we are in. From the rooftops the other
4 day everything was the Amoroso plan and how
5 great it is, how great the city is doing.
6 It's not. You know, all I hear you're just
7 interested in wasting more money downtown
8 and taking care of the mall. You don't take
9 of our neighborhoods. My neighbor pays \$100
10 (unintelligible), he is out of Avoca. You
11 have allowed him to destroy a whole
12 neighborhood without lifting a finger.
13 Nothing, and nothing is being done about all
14 of these people and there is no doubt that
15 the people are just going to be hit terrible
16 by the new skyrocketing rates. You won't be
17 able to flush a toilet or something, it's
18 going to be -- this deal is just rushed
19 through without any thinking, without all of
20 the knowledgeable people that were involved
21 and gave advice and knew what to do.

22 This is the Amoroso plan at work,
23 6,000 people in foreclosures. Money just
24 being wasted, just like the giving away of
25 the parking garage. Our voices aren't

1 heard. People tell you things up here week
2 after week and they just go in one ear and
3 out the other. This administration doesn't
4 hear a thing that people say or do or
5 comment. It's like a factious regime down
6 there that just won't hear the individuals
7 no more. We put you in those seats and you
8 don't care. You don't care what everybody
9 says in here. There is all kinds of great
10 suggestions week after week after week that
11 go nowhere. They are not even mentioned in
12 the paper. This is a -- this no way to run
13 a city, I tell you.

14 I get the Memphis paper every so
15 often and they don't have problems like
16 this. They don't have the runaway,
17 out-of-control school board, there is over
18 800 teachers for over 10,000 people, pupils.
19 What's that like, a dozen pupils for every
20 teacher and all they do is whine and
21 complain they can't handle what's going on
22 and then we have to listen to this nonsense
23 about pensions. They create poverty. They
24 create these problems just like you have
25 done up there. You are not taking care of

1 the city like it should be. Thank you.

2 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

3 MR. ELLMAN: And I expected to see
4 you at the blight meeting and you weren't
5 there. It was very good and I really
6 learned a few things I didn't know nothing
7 about, you know. It was a very good meeting
8 and you need to congratulate them. It's a
9 good plan.

10 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

11 MR. WECHSLER: Lee Morgan.

12 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.
13 You know, tonight, you know, I just hope
14 that the residents of this city would pay
15 attention to the things I'm going to say
16 tonight, not that you don't generally pay
17 attention to every speaker, but there is an
18 election year coming and it's so vitally
19 important and, look it, don't let
20 personalities come into this, you got to
21 clean house this time. The three council
22 members that are seated are going to be up
23 have to go. The mayor has to go. We just
24 can't create another authority in this city
25 and we have got to realize from the give and

1 take that we have had here in this chamber
2 that none of the people that were elected to
3 represent us had any idea what this deal
4 meant or how it was structured.

5 Now, I will acknowledge that, you
6 know, they probably didn't have the
7 experience necessary to understand that, but
8 they could have reached out to the people
9 and they never should have even introduced
10 this legislation and that goes to the
11 council president because I don't think a
12 council president should introduce
13 legislation he doesn't understand, and I
14 don't think that legislators should vote on
15 something they don't understand.

16 And what's happened in this city for
17 a long time is too many people in this city
18 came up with excuses why we kept following
19 this train and there was really no need for
20 it because the decline in our neighborhoods
21 was caused by the voters, and it's time
22 really, really time to stand up and vote all
23 of these people out of office and everybody
24 over the top of them.

25 Now, we just through Hillary Clinton

1 in the water nationally, okay? She never
2 should have come out, Bernie Sanders should
3 have come out but, you know, they are
4 talking about how the Russians hacked us.
5 You know, look it, America has been playing
6 in other people's elections for decades, but
7 now we really know the stuff that's going on
8 behind the scenes. All of the pay-to-play
9 politics and all of the corruption, and I
10 have to say to the seniors and the young
11 people in this community, why do you have to
12 live like this? Why do we have all of this
13 blight in the neighborhood? Why is all of
14 the money going into the downtown? Where
15 did Mr. Amoroso come from? Why were these
16 assets sold? Why are we trying to discuss
17 where the proceeds from this sale are going
18 to go when the pension is so severely
19 underfunded? Why? I don't even understand
20 why a lot of these things even took place
21 considering that they haven't made the city
22 solvent and they haven't answered one
23 financial problem this city has, and I have
24 to ask why we are not cutting the budget.

25 And the city doesn't even have a

1 plan for the storm water collection system,
2 as a matter of fact, in the deal they gave
3 away the money to maintain the storm water
4 collection system because it was already in
5 the old rate, but then we have elected
6 officials here who have no concern for the
7 people who elect them, have no concern for
8 the legislation they introduced in this
9 chamber, and the damage they do to our city
10 and our neighborhoods, and they all look
11 good with their little pretty suits on, but
12 like I said here once before at this podium,
13 we sent the monkey around the earth in a
14 space suit but he wasn't an astronaut.

15 And, you know, when you listen to
16 the silliness and the questions asked here
17 week after week and no answers, why would
18 they care what the surfs say as long you do
19 what you are told? And that's exactly what
20 it's come to in our country, is that our
21 elected government thinks that we are their
22 servant. They take our pay, they tax it,
23 they waste every dime they collect and then
24 we put people in cheap suits in front of us,
25 well, probably expensive suits, but they

1 offer no meaningful legislation, and here's
 2 the city that's been distressed for over 25
 3 years and don't have one answer and neither
 4 does our state representatives or our state
 5 senators, and what did our federal senators
 6 and federal congressmen have to offer us?
 7 Nothing. It's very troubling, extremely
 8 troubling. So do we really have an elected
 9 government by the people for the people, or
 10 are we just cash cows that you roll out and
 11 patronize at election time and rob us the
 12 rest of the time? Because we still have no
 13 storm water collection plan ahead of us, and
 14 the truth of the matter is the city has to
 15 cut it's budget to fund that, okay? We
 16 don't need another authority, we don't need
 17 anybody else borrowing and borrowing and
 18 piling more debt on us, look at the average
 19 homeowner in this city, their properties are
 20 worthless basically, and then we have a
 21 council that's talks about reassessment.
 22 Well, Mr. Bolus just brought that up at the
 23 mall, but I guess it's who you are connected
 24 to and whether things work for you or not.
 25 Thank you, and I hope the people vote all of

1 these people out of office.
 2 MR. WECHSLER: Anyone else?
 3 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening.
 4 Marie Schumacher. I, too, was confused when
 5 I opened the paper and saw in the legal
 6 section that the Scranton Sewer Authority's
 7 meetings, they're quarterly meetings now
 8 instead of monthly for the Year 2017. I
 9 think you are sending mixed messages to us.
 10 You terminated it, are you trying to tell us
 11 that this sewer deal is going to go on
 12 through 2017 or God forbid five years?
 13 MR. WECHSLER: The obligation of the
 14 Sewer Authority will, yes.
 15 MS. SCHUMACHER: They will do what?
 16 MR. WECHSLER: The obligation for
 17 the Sewer Authority, I'll read an
 18 explanation later on.
 19 MS. SCHUMACHER: Thank you. I hope
 20 you are available for questions after that.
 21 The list of the questions last week you said
 22 that you were going to ask the mayor whether
 23 or not he knew about the shortfall before
 24 the -- second before it hit the papers and
 25 we found out at the closing that we were

1 short, why was the letter sent to the
 2 Scranton Sewer Authority instead of the
 3 mayor?
 4 MR. WECHSLER: Because the questions
 5 that were generated from council were really
 6 questions for the Sewer Authority because
 7 they handle the negotiations.
 8 MS. SCHUMACHER: Can we get a copy
 9 of those questions?
 10 MR. WECHSLER: If council doesn't
 11 mind, yes.
 12 MR. GAUGHAN: Well, it's a public
 13 document, so --
 14 MR. WECHSLER: And we just give them
 15 the courtesy to get the questions answered.
 16 MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, I would like
 17 a copy. Also, can we get a copy of the RFP
 18 or at least the statement of the work for
 19 the 5-C contract that you will be voting in
 20 favor of next week for the storm water? I'd
 21 like to know what's in that and a
 22 Right-to-Know isn't going to do anything, so
 23 if you have that I would like to get a copy
 24 of that to review. Thank you.
 25 It's been a couple of the weeks

1 since I reported on the home sales, or the
 2 sales of property I should say. Through
 3 today's paper, there have been 2,129
 4 properties in the county that have been
 5 sold. Of those 489 or 23 percent of them
 6 have been Scranton properties and of those
 7 489, 48 percent have been below the common
 8 level ratio. I mean, that's been pretty
 9 consistent, but what blew me away is when I
 10 posted the sale of the Samter's building.
 11 Now, I was happy that Mr. Jefferson got it
 12 because he seems to do very good job with
 13 every property that he has, but that
 14 property, improvements on that property with
 15 just the building itself \$10,000. Now, if
 16 that doesn't scream for reassessment I'd
 17 like to know what does. I mean, he
 18 bought -- first of all, he buys the building
 19 for 5.3, an actual ratio of 5.3, not even
 20 close to the 6.94 CLR and, I mean, that is
 21 totally crazy.
 22 Now, what I'm going to ask you
 23 people to do you, as a taxing authority,
 24 have the ability to go to any of those
 25 meetings, you have the ability to ask for a

1 reassessment of any property up or down,
2 would you start taking advantage of that?
3 This is crazy. I mean, I just -- I'm going
4 to go down and check the card because I
5 can't believe that posting would be real.

6 MR. EVANS: Yeah, I can't either.
7 That can't be right.

8 MS. SCHUMACHER: Do you have the
9 breakdown of the costs of the parking lease
10 transaction that were associated with that
11 and the Sewer Authority sale to date?

12 MR. EVANS: Well, some of the -- we
13 are working on those costs for the Sewer
14 Authority, but I don't have it for the
15 Parking Authority. That was one of
16 questions in our letter.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Someone with the
18 Parking Authority, and we just got it in our
19 mail tonight, somebody sent us this. I'm
20 just looked at it briefly before the
21 meeting, but someone sent us a breakdown of
22 the legal fees for the Parking Authority.
23 Is that what you looking for?

24 MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, all of
25 incidentals, whether it was legal fees or

1 financially, anything that was associated,
2 what we paid for that.

3 MR. GAUGHAN: I believe this is it,
4 but I'd have to look at it for you.

5 MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, I don't know,
6 I mean, I don't know where they got that --
7 you received it. I would prefer that you
8 validate that first with the authorities
9 before you do that.

10 Also, you approve over the course of
11 a year a lot of grant applications
12 submittals, if I may finish this, I would
13 like to request that you start tracking
14 those and let us know what happens so that
15 we can -- whether those grants are actually
16 obtained or whether they expired. I don't
17 know, does a grant applications expire? I
18 would assume there is a closure date?

19 MR. WECHSLER: It depends. It
20 depends where you're applying.

21 MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, could we
22 start tracking those and having the office
23 keep a log of those?

24 MR. ROGAN: They don't expire. They
25 are either approved or denied at the end of

1 the grant, particularly the LSA's or the -

2 MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, that's what I
3 just said. So, okay, if that's true then I
4 would ask that you would start tracking
5 those. If I approve them, we should track
6 them. Thank you. I'll be back next week
7 with the rest, good Lord willing.

8 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening, Council.
9 Dave Dobrzyn, resident, taxpayer. First,
10 I'd like to mention tonight our Lackawanna
11 and Wyoming "T" in the road by the mall,
12 something has got to get done with that.

13 MR. EVANS: You know, I agree 100
14 percent.

15 MR. DOBRZYN: People got -- knocked
16 over a guy with--

17 MR. EVANS: I understand that, but
18 if you're going down Wyoming Avenue, the
19 light turns green, people walking across
20 Wyoming the light is green, if you're
21 walking across Lackawanna you have the walk
22 sign. It's bizarre. I know they made some
23 changes but that --

24 MR. DOBRZYN: I had a lady, I had
25 about three or four feet to stop in a week

1 or so.

2 MR. EVANS: I don't know why they
3 can't do what they did at the University of
4 Scranton and Linden Street and Jefferson,
5 just stop traffic from all points of that
6 intersection --

7 MR. DOBRZYN: It's a must.

8 MR. EVANS: -- for people to walk.

9 MR. DOBRZYN: It's a must. It's
10 gone too far. I have a big foot and it
11 seems like the design of my car, the size 12
12 shoe fits right over both brakes and
13 accelerator and I have to watch that all of
14 the time, but that lady had about five feet
15 and I was already making the turn. It's
16 bad.

17 One of the things I caught in the
18 sewer thing was there was -- out of that 38
19 million there was 12 million allegedly done
20 in upgrades, and I don't know why, but
21 apparently the water company didn't consider
22 that work paid for, there's a little concern
23 there 12 million.

24 And with these trash lawsuits from
25 landlords, first of all, we still don't know

1 how many units they have in many cases, so
 2 I'll mention that on behalf of the city, we
 3 have to find out, but landlords especially
 4 have a lot -- or potentially a lot of people
 5 to the school system, and it's very
 6 expensive. We had two families move into a
 7 four-unit that I was renting years ago and
 8 that's when the consternation started, and
 9 up in the country it's not the Sewer
 10 Authority, it's the septic tank, so we are
 11 getting really to a point where there were
 12 ready to just shut us down and tell us we
 13 had to move over, and when I heard between
 14 the lines, because I got to know a lot of
 15 people in town, I live here about 13 years,
 16 lucky number, but the house caught fire in
 17 13 years, it was more of an issue of a lot
 18 of people moving in with children. They
 19 didn't want the amount of children
 20 increasing in the school district thanks to
 21 a landlord, so -- which it is an expense and
 22 it's not spread out very well, the whole
 23 system isn't.

24 Now, just briefly, I have a little
 25 thing here, I got some bad news I'm okay,

1 but I had to stress test because I don't
 2 know what's going to be happening with
 3 insurance in the future, so I thought I
 4 would take advantage of it, it's been a long
 5 time since I had one, but I got this little
 6 form on Geisinger, "You may qualify for
 7 assistance if your household income is 300
 8 percent or less than current federal poverty
 9 guidelines. To determine if you qualify for
 10 financial assistance, here's the income
 11 matrix book as a guide to determine whether
 12 your income is less than -- " well, yada,
 13 yada. Household size 1, 35,640 -- \$36,640,
 14 so the point is our Congress is messing
 15 around with the insurance and plans to
 16 repeal and whatever, but this is based on a
 17 law that was enacted during Ronald Reagan
 18 years and because people were laying out in
 19 the ER room and not dying, you know, outside
 20 of the ER room. I'll try and bring this
 21 back next week, but the point being get
 22 ready and if that be the case you might be
 23 going to a third rate hospital some day even
 24 though you are paying off a grand for
 25 insurance. Thank you and have a good night.

1 Don't believe everything you hear.

2 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,
 3 citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians,
 4 you claim that had nothing to do with the
 5 sale of the Sewer authority, didn't you,
 6 every one of your members vote for the
 7 recovery plan, and didn't the recovery plan
 8 call for the sell of the Sewer authority?

9 MR. WECHSLER: Yes, it did.

10 MR. SBARAGLIA: Selling the assets
 11 and leasing the assets, so you can't wash
 12 your hands of it. Your hands are in there
 13 just as well as anyone else, plus you
 14 concurred with the people that are put on
 15 the Board that did sell the Sewer Authority.

16 And another thing is you cannot
 17 dissolve the Sewer Authority unless they
 18 dissolve it themselves. I was told the only
 19 way an Authority can be dissolved is they
 20 have to do it, and they were given \$5
 21 million to forget about doing it until that
 22 money is gone. This is what I mean. That
 23 deal was not a great deal. I just got a
 24 letter, I guess every resident in Scranton
 25 got one, too, saying you will not be billed

1 once a month for the sewer cost. Now, I
 2 haven't seen the actual cost of it, but I
 3 don't know, as you know, there is a fixed
 4 cost associated with it. Currently we're
 5 paying \$5 a month for the fixed cost. I
 6 don't know what the fixed cost will be under
 7 the water company. Did you ever ask what
 8 the fixed cost would be? No, I don't think
 9 you did. You weren't interested.

10 You got to look at or the citizens a
 11 lot better than you are doing. There is lot
 12 of elderly in Scranton, many, many of you
 13 got mothers, I don't know how you can turn
 14 your back on them. You got to look at
 15 everything associated with costs. I don't
 16 know how bad the water costs would be for
 17 the storm drains. I'm mentioned it last
 18 meeting, you said there will be not costs,
 19 but the thing is maybe I didn't explain it
 20 properly. I was talking about the dedicated
 21 lines for the water, not the sanitary, but
 22 for the water and they have plans to charge
 23 us for any work they do on them lines. Did
 24 you not know that? I told you about it, you
 25 should have looked into it a little better

1 or pay a little more attention to it because
2 if we get costs for any of them lines that
3 has to be repaired, and we have no way of
4 repairing them at the present time because
5 we do not have the equipment. The equipment
6 was all sold off, and if you have any idea
7 what kind of equipment we are going to need
8 for that storm drain all you have to do is
9 ask what equipment we sold and we are going
10 to need some of them, maybe not as many, but
11 we are going to need the same type of
12 equipment.

13 And then you plan to come up with
14 another Authority, Scranton needs more
15 authorities, there is no question about it,
16 we don't have enough authorities. We need
17 more and more independent governments hiring
18 more people and more lawyers and bringing
19 the cost of living in this city to a sky
20 high amount. I don't know how you can do
21 that. I don't know how you can look at an
22 elderly person and say, "We are going to
23 increase the costs of you living in the city
24 so you can't live in the city."

25 I hope none of you buy any property

1 from the land bank when they go up for sale.
2 That was awful bad if you raised the taxes
3 real high and then got property from the
4 land bank. That wouldn't sit too right with
5 the people of Scranton. There is no more to
6 say, the damage is done.

7 I told you before, selling the
8 garages for a dollar, like Mr. Bolus pointed
9 out, is -- his church cost was \$500,000
10 something or like that he said, but we sold
11 the garage that it costs million to build
12 for a dollar, and plus gave we gave another
13 \$2 1/2 million to repair the garage, and
14 that gave them 4.1 million for leasing space
15 in that garage, and I told you the liability
16 we have is tremendous. If for some reason
17 that mall should close, we are responsible
18 to keep that garage open. We are
19 responsible for keeping all of the garages
20 open even if they fall apart. How are they
21 going to be in 10 years, 15 years? No one
22 knows, but we going to be stuck with the
23 costs.

24 MR. WECHSLER: Anyone else?

25 MS. GAUGHAN: Good evening. Mary

1 Gaughan, Adams Avenue, Scranton. Since the
2 last council meeting another pedestrian has
3 been killed in the City of Scranton. If
4 that is not indicative that something needs
5 to be done, I don't know what is. We had
6 someone killed in front of the mall last
7 year, we had someone in the last two months
8 die in the hospital that was hit by a
9 vehicle at Court and Main.

10 Now, I don't know and I'm not here
11 to say who is responsible, but I think that
12 the police they have lot of on their plate
13 but they better look to see the way the
14 people drive around the city. Sometimes I
15 think we are at the Pocono 500, and it's not
16 fair to anyone and there are far too many
17 people who try to squeeze the yellow out of
18 the yellow out light to the point that they
19 going through red lights. Recently, a woman
20 hit the Trifecta down at the courthouse.
21 She breezed through a light, hit an off-duty
22 state trooper that was on his way to testify
23 at the courthouse, and then some other
24 driver, so I don't know what the answer is
25 but I think someone should seriously think

1 about it.

2 And tonight I traveled on Cedar
3 Avenue in the vicinity of Pennswood Manor,
4 that is probably a state highway, but it was
5 like somebody bombed the street. Someone
6 suggested it was PAWC pave cuts. Whatever
7 it is, it should be addressed.

8 And, also, there are still far too
9 many streetlights out in the City of
10 Scranton. I'm not applying for the job, but
11 maybe you should have a temporary
12 streetlight inspector that goes out in the
13 evening and sees where all of the lights are
14 out because they are considerable.

15 And on a positive note, I was at the
16 mall today, I want to commend the city
17 fathers because things are definitely
18 looking up, and all of the time you receive
19 blame but in this instance I think you
20 should get kudos. Somebody is doing
21 something right. Thank you.

22 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

23 MR. WECHSLER: Mary, we did submit
24 your list that you provided to me, I gave it
25 to Mrs. Reed and she submitted it to

1 Director Hinton.

2 MS. GAUGHAN: Now, I noticed this
3 evening there were lights out in the block
4 of Wyoming Avenue, I guess it's the 300
5 where the Cathedral is. I think we owe it to
6 our pedestrians and our drivers they could
7 see at night in the winter.

8 MR. WECHSLER: Just for your own
9 information, that Wyoming Avenue section
10 there by St. Luke's Church and the
11 Cathedral, that's all being reevaluated for
12 a whole new system there.

13 MS. GAUGHAN: Well, what do you in
14 the mean time? Let people hit people with
15 their vehicles? I'm not being sarcastic.

16 MR. WECHSLER: No, that is
17 something, the light fixtures themselves are
18 broken so replacing the lights aren't an
19 option.

20 MS. GAUGHAN: Well, I'm telling you,
21 travel around the city in the evening and
22 you are going to be quite surprised. There
23 are lights out on Wyoming Avenue down by
24 that Freidman Electrical. I'm not speaking
25 of one or two lights, I'm speaking of maybe

1 50.

2 MR. WECHSLER: Right.

3 MS. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

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

6 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Perry?

7 MR. PERRY: Yes, thank you. A
8 couple of things to talk about from last
9 week, there was a gentleman here from Keyser
10 Valley that spoke on the ongoing flooding
11 issues that they are having, so I promised
12 him I would like into the two new pumps that
13 were installed on Merrifield Avenue and the
14 drainage pipe issue, too. I had time to
15 speak with director of the DPW, Mr. Rendell
16 -- or Mr. Gallagher, there was a "G" stuck
17 in my head somewhere, Dennis Gallagher, and
18 he did say that when they did tests on the
19 two pumps there was one pump that was
20 working at 100 percent and the other pump
21 that was only working at 15 percent, so the
22 pump that was working at 15 percent has to
23 be replaced with a brand new pump. Both
24 pumps have been tested. They are now
25 operating at 100 percent and there should be

1 no problem moving water from that retention
2 pond into the creek close by.

3 The drainage pipe, that's the other
4 situation that we need to get to. My
5 colleagues and I in caucus discussed the
6 drainage pipe and what the best action to go
7 at right now we need to determine is it a
8 sewer line, drainage line or dual usage. It
9 is dual usage, it will fall under the
10 American Water Company responsibility to
11 maintain, fix, repair, what have you.

12 So, Ms. Reed, if you would, if we
13 can have a letter sent out to the American
14 Water Company, I believe it was Jerry Hall,
15 if I'm not mistaken, to find out if that
16 drainage pipe on Merrifield is, in fact,
17 their responsibility. If so, then we can
18 move forward with the fix on that.

19 Some new business, Doherty Street
20 was brought up with the ball field, a hole
21 opened up, and that's something that's a
22 little bit more time sensitive. If we can
23 make a call in the morning to DPW about that
24 situation just to we can get some boots on
25 the ground over there to see what the

1 situation is if it actually needs something
2 immediately done, I don't want that to go on
3 a couple of days or over the weekend if
4 there is an issue, especially if it's at
5 that field, and if we could maybe send
6 something out, copy Mr. Fallon at parks and
7 Rec to get him involved just so he knows
8 there is an issue there as well.

9 And as far as the turning lane on
10 Jackson Street, Jackson and Main, is that
11 the corner there where the old bank was?
12 Okay, if we can send a letter out to the
13 engineering problem and Mr. Pocius and see
14 if we can follow the same line that we did
15 to get the one by Oram Street corrected,
16 maybe we can get this one resolved in a
17 timely fashion like we did the other one.

18 A bit of good news, I have had my
19 e-mail filled up a little bit with people
20 having some issues with TV's, computers not
21 being picked up, some people have TV's on
22 the side of the road that's outside of their
23 house that's been unsightly, I sent some
24 communications to the mayor, he has gotten
25 back to me. What the Department of Public

1 Works is going to offer in this spring they
 2 are going to do it one time in the spring
 3 and one time in the fall, they are going to
 4 put a dumpster outside and that's going to
 5 be used free of charge for Scranton
 6 residents to get rid of old TV's and
 7 computers and big electronic that garbage
 8 men won't take and there is nothing they can
 9 do with it. So, again, it's going to be set
 10 up, it's going to be free of charge and
 11 that's going to be -- the date hasn't been
 12 set, but it's going to one for spring
 13 cleaning and then right before the winter
 14 hits they are going to set the dumpster up
 15 again outside the DPW facility. All we need
 16 to do is show our Scranton badge, Scranton
 17 ID, what have you, and it's going to be free
 18 of charge. That's all I have this week.

19 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Mr.
 20 Rogan?

21 MR. ROGAN: Yes, thank you. A
 22 couple of items. The first one is the
 23 double pension issue regarding the subpoenas
 24 that city council issued probably over two
 25 months ago at this point. I did have a

1 lengthy conversation with Attorney Minora
 2 about this earlier in the week, him being an
 3 attorney he can explain much better than I
 4 can a summary of that conversation and where
 5 we can stand so I'll turn it over to
 6 Attorney Minora at this point.

7 MR. MINORA: The counsel for the
 8 state police filed a motion to quash the
 9 subpoenas, I think I mentioned this to
 10 council last week, and today we filed our
 11 answer to the motion to quash. The council
 12 for the state police cited what's called
 13 Criminal History and Information Records Act
 14 as a bar to just releasing that without a
 15 Court order, so in producing the motion and
 16 our answer we have brought that issue to a
 17 Court, I presume we are going to have a
 18 briefing schedule and perhaps an argument in
 19 which case the Court will either issue an
 20 order or not based on the act that I just
 21 talked about, and if so then we -- the state
 22 police would be obligated to either turn
 23 that over to us or take an appeal. I can't
 24 speak for them, so I don't know and the flip
 25 side of that is if we are denied an order

1 our choices are to either take an appeal or
 2 abandon the effort. So I'll keep you
 3 abreast of anything further, the answer was
 4 just filed today.

5 MR. ROGAN: Thank you very much,
 6 Attorney Minora. And again, this has been a
 7 longstanding issue that we have been trying
 8 to get answers on, I think there is maybe
 9 light at the end of the tunnel following our
 10 day in Court, but I'm very anxious to see
 11 what is in those state police reports. I
 12 know the public is, and it's something that
 13 the whole double pension issue is something
 14 I'll be keep pushing hard on regardless of
 15 the outcome of that Court case.

16 Next, it was reported in the paper
 17 this week with the Lincoln Jackson school in
 18 West Scranton, and I was contacted by a
 19 number of residents in that part of West
 20 Side following that article. Those who
 21 don't know, the Lincoln Jackson school
 22 closed many years ago and it has since
 23 become an eyesore in that neighborhood. The
 24 school district, I believe, it was about
 25 five or six years ago actually offered that

1 building to the city to make a park.
 2 Obviously, the city being as cash strapped
 3 as we are, and to boot the neighbors weren't
 4 in support of having a park. They wanted
 5 the building to remain and have it be
 6 rehabbed. There is much sentimental value
 7 in that building where a lot of people in
 8 that neighborhood actually went to school
 9 there and also it's, you know, a sturdy
 10 building. There is nothing wrong with the
 11 building as far as the structure goes.

12 The school district did have an
 13 assessment done on the building, an
 14 appraisal. Bids were received, but they
 15 were far below what that appraisal was. The
 16 building was reappraised so from talking to
 17 Attorney John Minora over at the Scranton
 18 School District, it seems there is a very
 19 good chance that it's going to go back out
 20 to bid, and I hear the neighbors are very
 21 excited to have somebody purchase that
 22 building and rehab it and have something in
 23 there again.

24 So if my colleagues are agreeable,
 25 I'd like to send a letter to the Scranton

1 school directors at the request of the
 2 neighbors in part of West Scranton asking
 3 that they do pursue as quickly as possible
 4 getting the Lincoln Jackson school back out
 5 to bid so a buyer can be found and that
 6 property can get back on the tax rolls,
 7 number one, and to eliminate that blight in
 8 that neighborhood. So if everyone is in
 9 agreement, if we can please send that
 10 letter.

11 Next, following up on something that
 12 Mr. Spindler mentioned and Mr. Perry as
 13 well, the Christmas tree issue I was
 14 planning on addressing this. In my
 15 neighborhood garbage is picked up on
 16 Mondays, and as I was going to work I
 17 noticed one of my neighbors had a tree out
 18 and went in the back in the same garbage
 19 truck that my garbage just went into. I was
 20 very upset to see this, and I remember being
 21 younger that there was a certain date when
 22 the trees would go out and they would
 23 actually go through the neighborhood and
 24 mulch them and I would like to correspond
 25 with the DPW director and first see what the

1 current DPW policy is on Christmas trees.
 2 What I would like to see happen is these
 3 trees can be made into mulch, and the city
 4 and Parks and Recreation are spending money
 5 on mulch every year in the parks, so it
 6 sounds like it really could one of those
 7 situations where we can save money at the
 8 dump, help the environment and save the cost
 9 on purchasing mulch for our parks in the
 10 city, so that's something that I hope that
 11 we can get to the bottom of and come up with
 12 a solution whether it's, you know, certain
 13 neighborhoods, dumped in certain parts, or a
 14 citywide pickup.

15 And, I'm also very pleased with Mr.
 16 Perry reporting about the city we are now
 17 going to electronics. The garbage dump will
 18 not accept old TV's, and you may notice
 19 throughout a lot of the neighborhoods the
 20 garbage men do not take TV's, where if you
 21 put one out for -- in your garbage, and it's
 22 not that they don't want to do it or they
 23 can't do it because the dump won't accept
 24 them. So I think this is definitely a step
 25 in the right direction to allow the city

1 residents a couple of the times a year a
 2 place to dump electronics legally and/or
 3 hopefully they will get recycled, again, to
 4 help the environment and to make it easier
 5 for the residents to dispose of these items.
 6 That is all for tonight. Thank you very
 7 much.

8 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr. Rogan.
 9 Mr. Evans?

10 MR. EVANS: Thank you. Councilman
 11 Rogan and I received an e-mail from Jennifer
 12 Spitler, Director of the Neighborhood
 13 Development for Neighbor Works with an
 14 update on the Scranton Homebuyer Assistance
 15 Program. If you recall, this is the program
 16 that was developed to use the proceeds from
 17 the foreclosure registration fee to assist
 18 new homebuyers with exterior improvements to
 19 their homes in Scranton. To date, we have
 20 approximately \$30,000 in the account for the
 21 program and the e-mail reads in part, "We
 22 have four applicants in progress, two
 23 applicants are approved, one for roof
 24 replacements and one for siding replacement.
 25 Work for both homes likely to begin by the

1 end of the month, but the first two
 2 approvals both are first time home buyers in
 3 Scranton, and both applicants explained that
 4 the funds they will be awarded was a major
 5 factor in their decision to purchase their
 6 homes in Scranton."

7 So if anybody wants more information
 8 on the program, you can call Jennifer
 9 Spitler at 570-558-2490. This is a great
 10 program and all of us should be proud that
 11 the initiative came from this city council.

12 On the arts, I don't want to comment
 13 directly on the arts in today's paper, but I
 14 would like to at least express my viewpoint
 15 on the arts and culture. First of all, a
 16 vital art and culture climate brings
 17 vitality to a community. Some of the direct
 18 outputs that are arts and culture bring to a
 19 community are, it will improve a community's
 20 competitive edge. It creates a foundation
 21 for defining a sense of place. It attracts
 22 new and visiting populations, also, known as
 23 tourists, and that's a good thing. It can
 24 also help to integrate a vision for the
 25 community. The America Planning Association

1 cites in a briefing paper on this subject
 2 that "Economic development is enhanced by
 3 concentrating on creativity through physical
 4 density and human capital. By creating a
 5 concentration in firms, artists, cultural
 6 facilities together an economic multiplier
 7 effect can result. The recognition of a
 8 community's art and culture assets and
 9 marketing of them is an important element
 10 and driver of economic development."

11 So we should never take light of the
 12 value and impact that comes from a strong
 13 arts and culture community. In many ways,
 14 that's who we are as a community today and
 15 who we want to be in the future, so I'll be
 16 keeping an eye on what's happening over at
 17 then county courthouse, or the county
 18 administration building, but, again, we'll
 19 let them sort this out, but I want to
 20 express my viewpoint that the arts and
 21 culture in the City of Scranton are alive
 22 and well and need to be fostered and
 23 continue to be fostered by all of us.
 24 That's all I have.

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

1 Mr. Gaughan?

2 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, thank you. Just
 3 on Mr. Evans' point, I would agree with him
 4 100 percent. I, too, think that art and
 5 culture is so very important not only to our
 6 city but to our county and to our region,
 7 and I actually think that we should put even
 8 more of the focus on arts and culture in
 9 Scranton and Lackawanna County and, you
 10 know, when you look at all of the downtown
 11 events that we have and the events
 12 throughout the county and we have a lot of
 13 talented people in this area, and I think
 14 that we should invest in them and not cut
 15 any funding for arts and culture.

16 Just a couple of updates on a few
 17 things. First is I received numerous
 18 complaints from residents in Minooka about
 19 Colliery Avenue and the condition of that
 20 street, so we did hear from our pave cut
 21 inspector and he reported that the 2600
 22 through 3000 block of Colliery Avenue have
 23 permanent restoration to the trenches that
 24 were created on that street. Leeward
 25 Construction was able to do that work

1 because they have their own blacktop plant,
 2 in case anyone was curious.
 3 The 2800 through 3100 block of Cedar
 4 Avenue has gas company work and that's going
 5 to be paved in the spring, so there is a few
 6 other rods in Minooka that are in pretty
 7 rough shape, but we were assured that they
 8 are going to be paved in the spring.

9 Second thing, last week I mentioned
 10 that they there were couple of dangerous
 11 trees up on Wintermantle Avenue on East
 12 Mountain and our city forester did make it
 13 up there and he marked 10 to 12 trees that
 14 are very dangerous and will probably have to
 15 come down, and I'd like to thank our city
 16 forester. I know his name has been brought
 17 up here before, Tony Santoli, and he
 18 actually volunteers his time, he does not
 19 get paid a salary, and for all of the work
 20 that he does and how efficient he is and
 21 responsive he is to this council and the
 22 people in the neighborhoods, he is
 23 invaluable to this city.

24 I did discuss back in the caucus and
 25 few weeks ago a letter that we sent to

1 PennDOT about the dangerous conditions on
 2 Birney Avenue in Minooka. It basically is a
 3 two-lane speedway and I have been approached
 4 numerous times by residents and businesses
 5 that are located on that block. We did
 6 receive a letter back from PennDOT and they
 7 told us that the city would be able to put
 8 crosswalks there and other measures to
 9 increase public safety so we are going to
 10 reach out again to the city engineer to see
 11 if we can get started on that possibly in
 12 the spring.

13 Councilman Wechsler and I attended a
 14 Greenridge Neighborhood meeting Tuesday
 15 night and, again, the issue of crosswalks
 16 was brought up, especially in the area of
 17 Woodlawn and Penn Avenue there is a school
 18 there and there needs to be increased safety
 19 measures in that area. Also, there was a
 20 dangerous speeding brought up on Electric
 21 Street. Chief Graziano was there and he did
 22 address many of the neighborhood group's
 23 concerns, so we want to thank him for that.

24 I would like to read the questions
 25 that were sent January 10 to Attorney

1 Conaboy of Buchanan, Ingersoll and Rooney.
 2 The law firm that worked on the Scranton
 3 Sewer Authority transactions. These are
 4 some of the questions that my colleagues and
 5 I had been bringing up in the last few
 6 weeks. The questions that we posed, the
 7 first one was an accounting of how the \$12
 8 million in Scranton Sewer Authority cash
 9 reserves was expended since the start of the
 10 Sewer Authority sale. Also, we would like a
 11 breakdown of legal and consultant fees that
 12 were paid out in connection with the Sewer
 13 Authority sale transaction. Copies of
 14 correspondence between the Scranton Sewer
 15 Authority and any law firm or consultant who
 16 worked in connection with the sewer sale
 17 transaction. A detailed breakdown of the
 18 amount expended on legal fees and consultant
 19 fees in connection with the transaction.

20 Also, was a payout of approximately
 21 \$1,000 made to Sewer authority employees
 22 prior to January 1, 2017? If so, from that
 23 account did this money come from and what
 24 was the total cost and reason for this
 25 payment? And a list of all of the equipment

1 that the city received from this Scranton
 2 Sewer authority as result of the sale, and
 3 we asked that these questions and
 4 information be furnished by January 18.

5 Not included in the letter, but I
 6 would like to follow up on this, if my
 7 colleagues would agree, is I mentioned last
 8 week, I would like to ask Mayor Courtright
 9 when he knew that the sewer sale proceeds
 10 would be lower than had been touted for the
 11 last year. I am still concerned that this
 12 council was left in the dark by Mayor
 13 Courtright. If you remember, I asked for
 14 the dissolution of the Authority to be put
 15 on hold because the transaction had been put
 16 on hold for at least a week or two, so I was
 17 concerned about those issues and I did ask
 18 for that to be tabled, but it failed, so
 19 this notion that nobody was asking
 20 questions, I have been asking questions for
 21 weeks about this deal, but we have not
 22 received any.

23 Also, the question about the
 24 dissolution of the Authority, I'd also ask
 25 that week because we did find out from the

1 Solicitor Minora in his discussion with
 2 Solicitor Shrive that there was other
 3 business that the Sewer Authority would have
 4 to conduct. So I did ask what other
 5 business was that and what the timeline was
 6 for the final dissolution. Mrs. Reed sent
 7 us an e-mail, she had a discussion with
 8 Attorney Shrive and confirmed that the Board
 9 and Authority are not actually dissolved.
 10 They may be required to stay active for
 11 possibly two more years. There is a board
 12 and solicitor only, there are no employees.
 13 The Sewer Authority still has liabilities,
 14 outstanding indebtedness, accounts
 15 receivables, old uncollected bills, vendors.
 16 They still have outstanding easements that
 17 they have to procure and the Authority, as
 18 we all know, is part of the class action
 19 lawsuit by the residents of Greenridge over
 20 the easements, and the city Sewer Authority
 21 and the water company have recently been
 22 sued by the Greenridge Neighborhood
 23 Association. So those are the facts that we
 24 received from Solicitor Shrive this week.

25 You know, when we are at this

1 neighborhood meeting on Tuesday night, the
 2 sale of the Sewer Authority had come up and
 3 there was some intense discussion about it
 4 and various questions that were posed. I
 5 have also been receiving phone calls and
 6 e-mails about different things related to
 7 the sale, and one of them, and I have been
 8 asking this for months, but I would like to
 9 know at this point since the sale is
 10 complete, what controls, procedures are the
 11 city DPW currently under? What do they have
 12 in place to manage storm water? Many
 13 residents are concerned because we have a
 14 lapse in coverage, I guess you could say,
 15 because the Sewer Authority was taking care
 16 of most of these issues, so should we get a
 17 flood the residents in Greenridge, the
 18 residents down in Weston Field and other
 19 places in Pinebrook are very concerned.

20 So my question is very simple, what
 21 are we going to do between now and the time
 22 when a Storm Water Authority or something in
 23 this realm is completed? I would like to
 24 get an answer by next week, if we could.

25 We did receive a letter announcing

1 that Allied Services Geisinger and
 2 Lackawanna College are funding the continued
 3 retention of Henry Amoroso and HJ Strategies
 4 as a financial consultant for 2017. I did
 5 request, and I would like to request again,
 6 to see a contract if one is in place, so
 7 basically what I'd like to know is what are
 8 the deliverable for this year, what is their
 9 specific role, and how did they play in the
 10 day-to-day operations in the city?

11 I also received a question from a
 12 citizen about our exit, possible exit from
 13 Act 47, and what the timeline would look
 14 like. If you are remember, back when we
 15 passed the last Recovery Plan in 2015 there
 16 was a clock that started ticking on whether
 17 or not we would exit Act 47, so I did e-mail
 18 Jerry Cross from PEL and he provided the
 19 following response:

20 "The 2014 amendments to Act 47
 21 require that the coordinator report to the
 22 secretary of DCED within 180 days from the
 23 beginning of the last year of the five-year
 24 period from the adoption of the last plan
 25 prior to December 2014. For the City of

1 Scranton, that means that the coordinator
 2 must report to the secretary in February of
 3 this year. The Act requires the coordinator
 4 to report on the City's current financial
 5 condition and to recommend either
 6 termination of Act 47 status, a distinct
 7 corporation of the municipality," which is
 8 not applicable in our case," and declaration
 9 of a fiscal emergency or a three-year exit
 10 plan from Act 47."

11 The coordinator has been in contact
 12 with DCED officials and a determination on
 13 this issue is likely to come very soon as
 14 has been reported. And, I think as
 15 Mr. Evans had mentioned, PEL will be
 16 presenting their revised Recovery Plan to
 17 council very soon so we should be seeing
 18 that on our agenda.

19 Somebody mentioned land banks, I
 20 attended the meeting that was held, public
 21 meeting that was held at North Scranton
 22 Junior High School concerning land banks and
 23 I came out of that meeting also very
 24 impressed. There was a number of
 25 neighborhood groups, officials from the

1 county, and other people that are interested
 2 and have a stake in the City of Scranton.

3 I mentioned this before, but if even
 4 furthered my understanding that this program
 5 is going to make a major impact in this city
 6 in the areas of blight, neighborhood
 7 stabilization, affordable housing and
 8 economic development. The most interesting
 9 part of this presentation was the large map
 10 that they had of the City of Scranton, and
 11 in red you can see each property that was in
 12 tax foreclosure in the repository, and
 13 everybody knows that you have one property
 14 on your block or your neighborhood that you
 15 wonder who owns it, is anything ever going
 16 to be done with it, the grass is six-feet
 17 high, this program is going to address that.

18 And what I heard from George Kelly
 19 who, again, I think is an invaluable asset
 20 to the city and to the county, is that they
 21 are going to take a strategic look at the
 22 City of Scranton, so we are not dumping all
 23 of the properties from the repository into a
 24 land bank and picking things out like we
 25 would pick numbers from a lottery. There is

1 going to be a strategic move here to make
 2 these properties reusable and get them back
 3 on the tax rolls.

4 And particularly exciting to me and
 5 other people that have been following this
 6 land bank project is the side lot program.
 7 I know in my own neighborhood in North
 8 Scranton over in Minooka, West Side, all
 9 throughout the city, there are lots that are
 10 not big enough to build a house on at this
 11 point, so the houses have been torn down,
 12 the lots sit there vacant. So the side lot
 13 program will work with adjoining property
 14 owners to get that property back on the tax
 15 rolls and to do something with them.

16 The other interesting thing that I
 17 think people should know about this is that
 18 there is a website for the land bank, so
 19 this is all public information. You can see
 20 the properties that are being put into the
 21 land bank, how you bid on these properties
 22 and how the procedures are being put into
 23 place. I would ask if we could reach out to
 24 the administration this week and see if we
 25 can put a link on our website so that people

1 can get to this land bank website and take a
2 look at it.

3 Also, something pretty interesting
4 about the streetlighting program. I will be
5 attending a meeting in the near future on an
6 initiative that I have been involved with
7 since 2014 and that is something called
8 Smart City. It was a component, if you
9 remember, of the streetlighting program, and
10 it was an optional component, but one I
11 think that we should seriously consider.

12 So what is smart city? Smart city
13 enables communities to be better connected
14 to their citizens. This platform uses
15 information kiosks to create a better
16 connected community where citizens can
17 easily discovery events, programs, deals and
18 other relevant and important information as
19 they walk down the street, and you see many
20 cities across the United States that have
21 these type of the things in their down and
22 it's been a great success.

23 The system also allows public safety
24 and Homeland Security officials to not only
25 see and assess emergency situations, but

1 also to broadcast alerts and provide mobile
2 updates to residents in targeted locations.
3 The most exciting part of this whole deal
4 for me is that this program can serve as a
5 significant revenue generator for the City
6 of Scranton. There is an opportunity for
7 the city to generate revenue with this
8 program. Advertisers can develop targeting
9 content and pay premium fees to broadcast
10 there individual content and this revenue
11 opportunity can net up to several hundreds
12 of thousands of dollars for the city that
13 can be used to pay for lighting,
14 infrastructure improvements, public
15 services, or it can be reinvested into the
16 smart streetlight system. So, again, I'll
17 update everyone once I have attended that
18 meeting, but, like I said, it is pretty
19 exciting and I think it's something that the
20 city should seriously consider.

21 My last point here is I would like
22 to remind everyone, as Mr. Wechsler did in
23 the beginning of the meeting, that Monday is
24 Martin Luther King Junior Day, and in a
25 light of the volatile, violent and

1 unpredictable world that we live in, I would
2 like to read one of my favorite quotes from
3 Martin Luther King Junior, and he said that
4 we must develop and maintain the capacity to
5 forgive. He who is devoid of the power to
6 forgive is devoid of the power to love.
7 There is some good in the worst of us and
8 evil in the best of us. When we discover
9 this, we are less prone to hate our enemies.
10 Thank you.

11 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you,
12 Mr. Gaughan. Most of the topics I had were
13 covered. I don't have to talk about that so
14 I like that. Also, part one of the
15 questions we did request information from
16 the Lackawanna County Tax Assessor's Office
17 to determine if the properties that have
18 transferred from the Sewer Authority perhaps
19 will become now taxable entities so we just
20 want to get confirmation on that. I'm not
21 sure, since they are a utility, if any of
22 those properties would be taxable, so we are
23 trying to determine that.

24 As Mr. Gaughan referenced, there are
25 several Martin Luther King Day events

1 planned for our city on Sunday. I plan on
2 participating in the Martin Luther King
3 walk, which is on Monday evening, and I
4 think everyone should show their respect for
5 our country and for Dr. King by
6 participating in some type of celebration of
7 his life on Monday.

8 Just one other issue, if my
9 colleagues agrees, I would like to write a
10 letter to the Department of Correction, not
11 about any of you guys, but concerning the
12 closure of the State Correctional Institute
13 in Waymart. There are several Scrantonians
14 who are employed at that facility, and I
15 would like to go on record supporting the --
16 the council supporting those employees.

17 MR. ROGAN: I would agree if we can
18 actually go a step further with it, and I'm
19 glad you mentioned it. I know a few
20 employees also at the correctional institute
21 at Dallas as well that live in the city, so
22 all of these prison within the area employ a
23 number of local residents and also, you
24 know, if prisons are closing the people in
25 the prisons have to go somewhere so for a

1 matter of public safety I think it's
2 critical that Governor Wolf reverse his
3 decision on closing these facilities.

4 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. These employees
5 are highly trained professionals who do a
6 tremendous service for our community and
7 really go unnoticed until there is a
8 problem, so we would like to give our
9 support to them the best that we can.
10 That's all I have.

11 MS. REED: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION -
12 AN ORDINANCE - APPROVING THE TRANSFER OF A
13 RESTAURANT LIQUOR LICENSE CURRENTLY OWNED BY
14 ANOTHER TIME RESTAURANT, LLC T/A AV
15 RESTAURANT, MOOSIC BOROUGH, LICENSE NO.
16 R-10827 TO ANOTHER TIME RESTAURANT, LLC T/A
17 AV RESTAURANT FOR USE AT 320 PENN AVENUE,
18 SCRANTON, LACKAWANNA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA AS
19 REQUIRED BY THE PENNSYLVANIA LIQUOR CONTROL
20 BOARD.

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

24 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

25 MR. EVANS: Second.

1 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

2 MR. ROGAN: On the question, I'd
3 just like to say for anyone who hasn't eaten
4 at the AV Restaurant to definitely put it on
5 your to-do list. It's one of the best
6 restaurants in the area I'm thrilled that
7 it's going to be moving from it's old
8 location, which isn't the most desirable
9 part Minooka near the Roadway Hotel and the
10 Trotter's Motel.

11 MR. PERRY: Just to clarify, it's
12 Moosic.

13 MR. ROGAN: Moosic. Thank you.

14 MR. PERRY: I want to make that very
15 clear. Moosic.

16 MR. EVANS: You are going to get a
17 lot of letters from people.

18 MR. WECHSLER: You just woke
19 everybody up.

20 MR. ROGAN: I apologize. It is in
21 Moosic. But, again, it's a great restaurant
22 and it's moving to a great block in the
23 downtown, so I urge everyone to try to it
24 out when it moves in the city. Wait a
25 couple of weeks.

1 MR. EVANS: On the question, we
2 talked about this a little bit in caucus,
3 and I will concur because it's one of my
4 personal favorites restaurant, and this is a
5 big win for downtown Scranton, and it's
6 going to bring more people downtown, it's an
7 upscale restaurant, it's going to do very
8 well and we are looking forward to going.

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

11 MR. PERRY: Aye.

12 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

13 MR. EVANS: Aye.

14 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

15 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The
16 ayes have it and so moved.

17 MS. REED: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION -
18 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
19 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE
20 AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH ARCADIS U.S.,
21 INC. TO PERFORM CITY OF SCRANTON PRELIMINARY
22 STORM WATER ANALYSIS.

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

1 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

2 MR. EVANS: Second.

3 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

4 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question,
5 just a couple of things on this legislation.
6 First of all, as I have said for the past
7 few weeks, I really do believe that this
8 analysis should have preceded the sale and
9 the Authority. I think that once we find
10 out how much it is going to cost us and
11 everything that encompasses storm water
12 management it will devalue the sale of the
13 Authority, so common sense will tell you
14 that this should have taken place before the
15 sale of the Authority.

16 But with that being said, I received
17 a lot of questions from the public at
18 different neighborhood meetings about what
19 storm water management is and what this
20 analysis encompasses, so I'd like to just
21 take a minute and go over some of the things
22 that are in this legislation.

23 So just a little bit of background
24 information. The Commonwealth of
25 Pennsylvania adopted Act 68 of 2013

1 facilitating the creation and funding of the
 2 storm water authorities by local governments
 3 as a viable alternative to managing the
 4 NPDES regulatory requirements. So the city
 5 recently sought proposals from an
 6 engineering firm to undertake a detailed
 7 preliminary storm water analysis. A
 8 committee was created within the city and
 9 those employees from the city looked at all
 10 of these firms and what they were going to
 11 provide and they picked Arcadis Engineering.
 12 Now, the one thing that is probably
 13 going to come up in all of this is that the
 14 firm that was picked submitted a much higher
 15 price than any other firm. The total price
 16 is \$124,000. Now, keep in mind, that we
 17 have a \$35,000 grant from -- through the Act
 18 47 program, and I spoke to Mr. Bulzoni today
 19 via e-mail and he is expecting we will be
 20 able to get further grant money that will
 21 probably take care of the rest of the bill
 22 here, so we are probably going to end up
 23 paying nothing for this analysis, but why
 24 would we pick a firm that would ask for so
 25 much more money? Well, Mr. Bulzoni details

1 in his letter, and I want to make this
 2 point. He says that while Arcadis' fee is
 3 greater, the firm provides what may be
 4 considered a complete comprehensive approach
 5 to the evaluation of storm water
 6 optionality, including the development of
 7 the utility. Therefore, while the cost may
 8 be greater, the proposal offers the greatest
 9 dollar to the city. The firm also provided
 10 the only proposal to address each of the
 11 request's criteria in detail and according
 12 to the format requested by the city.
 13 And I can attest to that, in looking
 14 through the different proposals, this one
 15 was much more detailed than the other ones
 16 and they have dealt with a lot of
 17 communities and helping them create a
 18 utility or an authority and dealing with a
 19 different storm water management issues that
 20 are continuing to crop up, so I would agree
 21 with that.
 22 I think Mrs. Hodowanitz asked what
 23 the timeline was. The proposed timeline for
 24 the project completion provides a draft
 25 identifying seven major project components,

1 and it will take roughly nine months to
 2 complete those components.
 3 I would just like to read a little
 4 bit more from this analysis. The City of
 5 Scranton, like many other communities
 6 throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
 7 and the United States, possess a storm water
 8 and flood control management infrastructure
 9 that is under capacity and is reached or is
 10 reaching the end of it's useful life. This
 11 infrastructure needs to be rehabilitated or
 12 replaced and in some cases new systems must
 13 be built to improve storm water conveyance
 14 and maintain flood control management
 15 services.
 16 To develop a comprehensive program
 17 for providing storm water management
 18 services to address current and future water
 19 quantity and quality issue, a dedicated
 20 funding mechanism for storm water must be
 21 developed and appropriately supports both
 22 regulatory and performance requirements.
 23 This funding mechanism is critical to the
 24 future stability of the storm water and/or
 25 flood control management program.

1 Recent changes to legislation in
 2 Pennsylvania and the organizational
 3 structure within the City of Scranton Sewer
 4 Authority, have provided the city with the
 5 opportunity to restructure it's storm water
 6 program. Arcadis has extensive experience
 7 developing storm water utility and utility
 8 fee programs across the United States,
 9 including integration of GI storm water and
 10 billing data basis and forging an active
 11 connection with storm water management
 12 departments, so just a little built of
 13 background.
 14 Now, if we are looking at what other
 15 stakeholders are going to be involved here,
 16 there are subconsultants that are going to
 17 be a part of this team, Penn Strategies,
 18 LLC, and Lackawanna River Corridor
 19 Association. As we brought up many times at
 20 these meetings, the Lackawanna River
 21 Corridor Association had done an evaluation,
 22 an initial evaluation of these storm water
 23 issues back in 2013, so this analysis will
 24 use some of that information and build off
 25 of it, so I thought that was important to

1 mention.

2 If we are looking at what's involved
3 in this analysis and what's involved in the
4 scope of work, there are seven tasks that I
5 mentioned at the beginning of my remarks. I
6 just like to run through these pretty
7 quickly.

8 The first task in the scope of the
9 work is review of current storm water
10 services and activities, and again, some of
11 this had been completed in the initial
12 report in 2013. So upon initiation of this
13 project, this group is going to meet with
14 the City of Scranton staff to determine what
15 the program looks like, what they currently
16 do, which is what I have been asking, and
17 they are also going to interview staff, look
18 at available documents, permits and budget
19 information among a number of other
20 different things.

21 The second task is to form an
22 incorporation of new storm water management
23 service provider.

24 Task number three is a storm water
25 management program development, which will

1 be the crux of the whole analysis, so they
2 will be looking at program priorities and
3 requirements, and a financial planner on how
4 of all of this get funded. In the financial
5 planner, basically it's going to be based on
6 all of the information that this analysis
7 requires, so they are going to prepare a
8 financial plan presenting five years of
9 available requirements for the proposed
10 storm water program including costs
11 associated with the converted storm water
12 assets, and the financial plan will include
13 the following elements: Capital
14 improvements program, debt analysis, funding
15 sources, and revenue unless.

16 Task number four is a Stakeholder
17 Advisory Committee, so they will be
18 convening all of the different stakeholders
19 across the city, and possibly outside of the
20 city, to discuss how they can work together.

21 Task number five, which has come up
22 many times here in these meetings and in the
23 newspaper, is the rate structure, so the
24 basis of billing. This company typically
25 recommends using as the basis for their

1 storm water program fees impervious land
2 area of an equivalent residential unit, so
3 they may use that methodology or other ones
4 that are mentioned in this report.

5 Also, they are going to look at rate
6 structure alternatives, so they are go to
7 discuss when the city the option of using
8 uniform rate or tiered rates for residential
9 customers, and they are also going to talk
10 about the credit system.

11 And, finally, they are going to
12 evaluate the city park system for a green
13 infrastructure, which I know has been a
14 topic of interest for a number of people
15 that I have talked to. Now, back in 2013
16 when the Lackawanna River Corridor
17 Association created that report, they looked
18 extensively at the city park system and how
19 we can incorporate green infrastructure into
20 that, so they are going to build off of that
21 in this analysis.

22 Also, they are going to create and
23 organize and workshop to present all of
24 these findings and from the basis of billing
25 analysis reviewing of all alternative rate

1 structure, the development of credit
2 policies and the comparison to other storm
3 water fees across the state and across the
4 country and potential for installation of
5 green infrastructure, as I've said, in the
6 city park system, so the workshop is going
7 to look at an review the advantage and
8 disadvantage of all of these different
9 methodologies and rate structures and the
10 preferred organizational models.

11 Task number six is going to be
12 appeals process, so this company is going to
13 work with the city to develop a set of
14 guidelines for allowing ratepayers an
15 opportunity to appeal the storm water
16 utility fee if that's what the city decides
17 to go with, and so they are going to review
18 existing appeal policies for the city to
19 determine if those processes are potentially
20 applicable to the storm water fee appeals
21 process.

22 And finally, one of the optional
23 services and one of the services that I
24 think is most important in all of this, is
25 public education and outreach. You know,

1 when I was at the Greenridge Neighborhood
 2 meeting the other night and I go to the
 3 other neighborhood meetings, people need to
 4 be educated on what this is and what how the
 5 city is going to handle this. Community
 6 acceptance of this program and whatever
 7 funding concept the city chooses, is
 8 essential to the program's success and to
 9 gain an endorsement and ultimate adoption of
 10 the storm water program and the fee, again,
 11 if that's what the city chooses, so this
 12 team is going to develop specific strategies
 13 along with the city for communicating the
 14 benefits, alternatives of the storm water
 15 program to various segments of the
 16 community, and I do think that the
 17 Lackawanna County River Corridor Association
 18 and Bernie McGurl has started this, but
 19 there is much work that needs to be done.

20 So I hope I didn't bore everybody
 21 with that presentation, but I know that a
 22 lot of people have been asking about this
 23 again. Hopefully we can put this analysis
 24 -- for this legislation, rather, on the
 25 City's website so people can take a look at

1 it. It is coming down the pike, we are
 2 going to have to deal with it. Is this the
 3 way that I would have liked to have done it?
 4 No, but I do think that people should be
 5 educated, and you should know what is coming
 6 down the pike, and that is it all.

7 MR. EVANS: On the question, I think
 8 all of us feel the same way. We are all
 9 disappointed that this study didn't take
 10 place long before this point in time but
 11 with that said, I am extremely encouraged by
 12 the credentials, the background, the
 13 qualifications of Arcadis, and I think that,
 14 you know, we will get it right the first
 15 time. I think if we had a lesser consultant
 16 or somebody doing this for us I think it
 17 would have been a real problem, and I think
 18 at the end of the day, believe it or not,
 19 this may be a good thing. That's all I have
 20 for now.

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

23 MR. PERRY: Aye.

24 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

25 MR. EVANS: Aye.

1 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

4 MS. REED: 5-D. FOR INTRODUCTION - A
 5 RESOLUTION - RE-APPOINTMENT OF KEVIN WHELAN,
 6 1111 DELAWARE STREET, SCRANTON,
 7 PENNSYLVANIA, 18509 AS A MEMBER OF THE BOARD
 8 OF THE SCRANTON SEWER AUTHORITY FOR AN
 9 ADDITIONAL FIVE (5) YEAR TERM EFFECTIVE
 10 JANUARY 4, 2017. MR. WHELAN'S PRIOR TERM
 11 EXPIRED ON DECEMBER 31, 2016 AND HIS NEW
 12 TERM WILL EXPIRE ON JANUARY 4, 2022.

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

16 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

17 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

21 MR. PERRY: Aye.

22 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

23 MR. EVANS: Aye.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

25 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The

1 ayes have it and so moved.

2 MS. REED: 5-E. FOR INTRODUCTION - A
 3 RESOLUTION - RE-APPOINTMENT OF PATRICK J.
 4 HUGHES, 15 FAWNWOOD DRIVE, SCRANTON,
 5 PENNSYLVANIA, 18504 AS A MEMBER OF THE BOARD
 6 OF THE SCRANTON SEWER AUTHORITY FOR AN
 7 ADDITIONAL FIVE (5) YEAR TERM EFFECTIVE
 8 JANUARY 4, 2017. MR. HUGHES' PRIOR TERM
 9 EXPIRED DECEMBER 31, 2016 AND HIS NEW TERM
 10 WILL EXPIRE ON JANUARY 4, 2022.

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

14 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

15 MR. EVANS: Second.

16 MR. WECHSLER: On the question? All
 17 those in favor of introduction signify by
 18 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.

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

1 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.
2 80, 2017 - AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF
3 THE COUNCIL NO. 126, 2015, AN ORDINANCE
4 ENTITLED "GENERAL CITY OPERATING BUDGET
5 2016" BY TRANSFERRING \$21,000.00 FROM
6 ACCOUNT NO. 01.040.00040.4201 (DEPARTMENT OF
7 BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION - BUREAU OF
8 ADMINISTRATION PROFESSIONAL SERVICES) TO
9 ACCOUNT NO. 01.020.00000.4201 (OFFICE OF THE
10 CITY CLERK/CITY COUNCIL- PROFESSIONAL
11 SERVICES) TO PROVIDE SUFFICIENT FUNDING FOR
12 THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES ACCOUNT THROUGH
13 THE 2016 BUDGET PERIOD.

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

16 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-A
17 pass reading by title.

18 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

21 MR. PERRY: Aye.

22 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

23 MR. EVANS: Aye.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

25 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The

1 ayes have it and so moved.

2 MS. REED: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. NO
3 BUSINESS AT THIS TIME.

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

7 MR. ROGAN: Motion to adjourn.

8 MR. WECHSLER: Meeting adjourned.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER