

SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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HELD:

Thursday, February 9, 2017

LOCATION:

Council Chambers

Scranton City Hall

340 North Washington Avenue

Scranton, Pennsylvania

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

JOSEPH WECHSLER, PRESIDENT

PATRICK ROGAN, VICE-PRESIDENT

WAYNE EVANS

WILLIAM GAUGHAN

TIM PERRY
(Not present)

LORI REED, CITY CLERK

KATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

AMIL MINORA, SOLICITOR

1 (Pledge of Allegiance recited and moment of reflection
2 observed.)

3 MR. WECHSLER: Roll call, please.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry. Mr. Rogan.

5 MR. ROGAN: Here.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

7 MR. EVANS: Here.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

9 MR. GAUGHAN: Here.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

11 MR. WECHSLER: Here.

12 MR. EVANS: I would make a motion to
13 appoint Councilman Rogan as temporary
14 chairperson for the Committee on Public
15 Safety.

16 MR. GAUGHAN: Second.

17 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?
18 Mr. Perry is absent tonight due to a work
19 conflict. All those in favor signify by
20 saying aye.

21 MR. EVANS: Aye.

22 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

23 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

24 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The
25 ayes have it and so moved.

1 This evening, an executive session
2 was held prior to the meeting to discuss a
3 matter of litigation, and also due to some
4 extenuating circumstances within the IT
5 Department that prevented agenda from being
6 posted to the City's website. The agenda
7 was posted in city hall and a copy was
8 available in the City Clerk's Office, 24
9 hours prior to the meeting as required.

10 Dispense with the reading of the
11 minutes.

12 MS. REED: THIRD ORDER. 3-A. CHECK
13 RECEIVED FEBRUARY 6, 2017, FROM COMCAST IN
14 THE AMOUNT OF \$259,073.63 FOR FRANCHISE FEE
15 AGREEMENT.

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

18 MS. REED: 3-B. MINUTES OF THE
19 REGULAR MEETING OF THE LACKAWANNA COUNTY
20 LAND BANK HELD JANUARY 13, 2017.

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

23 Do any council members have
24 announcements at this time?

25 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, I have one. The

1 North Scranton Rotary first annual ham
2 dinner at the Apartments at North, which is
3 the old North Scranton Junior High School
4 will be held Sunday, March 12, from 12 to 4
5 p.m. \$12 for adults, and \$8 for children
6 and you can buy the ticket at the door.
7 There will be basket raffles and door
8 prizes. Thank you.

9 MS. REED: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'
10 PARTICIPATION.

11 MR. WECHSLER: Joan Hodowanitz.

12 MS. HODOWANITZ: Joan Hodowanitz,
13 Scranton citizen and taxpayer. 271 days
14 until the general election. Still waiting
15 the results of the Arcadis study on the
16 storm water management costs. 141 days
17 until the June 30 deadline for the 2016
18 audit.

19 I was very pleased to read in this
20 morning's paper that Scranton made the list
21 of the best places to live. It was number
22 81 out of 100 nationwide. That was really
23 neat.

24 I will not be able to attend the
25 hearing on February 13 on the LST tax, I

1 hope some citizens do attend that and see
2 how that comes down, whether or not the city
3 is going to have to have a Plan B for all of
4 that revenue if it doesn't come to pass. I
5 understood what you said this evening about
6 the troubles with the IT, but how are we
7 making progress on Granicus and getting the
8 councils web page up?

9 MR. GAUGHAN: Yeah, we are trained
10 on that this week, on the program so it
11 should be up and running by next week.

12 MS. HODOWANITZ: So when we click on
13 city council page we'll see a different type
14 page with more --

15 MR. GAUGHAN: You will go to the
16 city council page and then there will
17 another link within the actual council web
18 page and then you will be to see all of the
19 Third Order items and all of the backup
20 legislation.

21 MS. HODOWANITZ: Will that have like
22 a label that will say Granicus or it will
23 say --what will it say?

24 MR. EVANS: Probably just be the
25 agenda, I would imagine. Probably going to

1 say the agenda for this week.

2 MR. GAUGHAN: You'll just see the
3 name of the agenda, the date and then you
4 will be able to click on it, everything we
5 see you will be able to see.

6 MS. HODOWANITZ: Okay. Yeah,
7 because right now we can click on the agenda
8 and the minutes, but that's all we see.

9 MR. GAUGHAN: And that will be in
10 the same place, this will just be an
11 additional link.

12 MS. HODOWANITZ: Okay. Thank you.
13 Looking forward to that. Any progress on
14 when we are going to see the RFP for the
15 third party administration of the pension
16 plans? Is that in the pipeline yet?

17 MR. EVANS: That's my understanding.
18 I was told it will be next week.

19 MR. WECHSLER: In the pipeline.
20 That's a good way to say it.

21 MS. HODOWANITZ: Okay, is that like
22 that, you know, Sewer Authority where we got
23 to go it post out.

24 MR. WECHSLER: It's a narrow line.

25 MS. HODOWANITZ: And like many

1 people I'm anxious to hear what information
2 you get tomorrow when you meet with Director
3 Shrive, the questions you've asked with
4 regard to the Sewer Authority sale. I'm
5 hoping that at the latest you will be able
6 to share with us that information with us
7 next Thursday night. Anything in the
8 pipeline on rental registration legislation?

9 MR. EVANS: Yeah, I talked to one of
10 the employees that are responsible for it
11 and they are working meshing some of the
12 systems between the Assessor's Office and
13 their information and we are looking at
14 maybe two weeks before they mail out the --
15 hopefully two weeks we are going to start
16 mailing out the so-called bills.

17 MS. HODOWANITZ: Okay. With regard
18 to today's snowstorm, I was watching the
19 WNEP weather forecast and he said they got 6
20 1/2 inches at their station up near Montage
21 Mountain, do we have a storm -- winter storm
22 emergency or not?

23 MR. GAUGHAN: One was declared by
24 the mayor.

25 MS. HODOWANITZ: Can you explain to

1 the public during Fifth Order, you know,
2 what was done, what the public should have
3 done, you know, what changes you might make
4 for the next storm so that we can get on top
5 of this.

6 And with regard to 5-G, this
7 contract on the pharmacy benefits management
8 services, do we have a ballpark figure on
9 the type of savings we are talking about?

10 MR. EVANS: There was one estimate
11 as much as \$2 million.

12 MS. HODOWANITZ: Say again?

13 MR. EVANS: As much as \$2 million.

14 MS. HODOWANITZ: As much as \$2
15 million.

16 MR. EVANS: We are going to have our
17 city solicitor in for a caucus next week.

18 MS. HODOWANITZ: Do we have an idea
19 of what we are currently paying annually for
20 pharmacy benefits?

21 MR. EVANS: No, we'll go over that
22 with you next week.

23 MS. HODOWANITZ: \$2 million --

24 MR. EVANS: It's significant --

25 MS. HODOWANITZ: You must be having

1 a lot of pharmacy bills.

2 MR. EVANS: That's for sure.

3 MS. HODOWANITZ: Does that include
4 retirees?

5 MR. EVANS: I'm sure it does, yeah.
6 I'll find out. We'll have all those
7 questions answered next week once she stops
8 in for a visit.

9 MS. HODOWANITZ: Yeah, it's a
10 resolution so you only have one week to get
11 clarification.

12 MR. EVANS: Right.

13 MS. HODOWANITZ: Thank you.

14 MR. WECHSLER: Bob Bolus. Good
15 evening, Council. Bob Bolus, Scranton. You
16 know, I kind of hate to even come here to be
17 honest with you because we look to you
18 people to give us information and all we get
19 is no information, no answer when we come to
20 council. We ask for accountability, we
21 don't get it. And, Mr. Wechsler, people say
22 geez, I'm picking on you. I don't pick on
23 anybody. I speak factually and truthfully
24 about anything I do and the council
25 president has -- a fire truck, wait -- has a

1 duty to the people to decipher and give us
2 accurate information, not a little
3 information but truthful information and
4 that's what I'm upset about. When I asked
5 you about Conaboy getting a million five I
6 asked what his hourly rate was and nobody
7 could answer that. You know, you go to a
8 closing, you are doing agreements, you are
9 -- whether the Authority does it or not you
10 have to ask questions and give us answers
11 because we are the ones that are getting
12 harmed in this whole deal.

13 With the parking garage, you people
14 authorize over \$4 1/2 million just for
15 Basalyga to park cars not counting the \$2
16 million plus that you gave them to fix the
17 garage and approved here. You guys have to
18 be held accountable. He bought it. Are we
19 receiving a benefit from him for the money
20 we gave him? Absolutely not. And that's
21 where I'm coming from. It's not about you
22 or who you want to be. Mr. Gaughan, you
23 claim this, that and the other, you
24 signed -- you agreed to it, it was in what
25 we did, you guys were all part it. Take

1 responsibility. I take responsibility every
2 day for what goes on in my companies, and
3 you people have to be held accountable for
4 what you do or you don't do.

5 Tomorrow you are going to have a
6 meeting, I'm appalled at the fact,
7 Mr. Wechsler, that you didn't say you wanted
8 the meeting right here publically and only
9 two people are going. I believe it's a
10 violation, it could be considered a
11 violation because we are only going to get a
12 part of the information and only what you
13 and with Mr. Evans decide to tell us what
14 goes on. We are not going to get verbatim.
15 We are not going to have an individual doing
16 a transcript, we are not getting any of
17 that. There should be no less than three
18 people there and that meeting should be
19 cancelled and you should hold it right here.
20 It should have been held last week.

21 These are the things that the people
22 say anything going on in this city there is
23 a stench attached to it. Look at the mayor,
24 the people that contribute to his campaign.
25 He has got \$200,000. They're all the

1 lawyers, all of the professional people that
2 he does business with. Job security. And
3 that's the problem we are having here. You
4 guys got to understand respect is earned not
5 demanded and, Joe, I told you that in the
6 past, you got to sit here, you got to
7 govern, but you got to govern putting
8 everything else to the side. Each and every
9 one of you, you took an oath here. You have
10 to be accountable for your actions and
11 what's going on in this city is being
12 destroyed.

13 You approved the parking garage.
14 You won't do nothing about reassessing it,
15 at least get some of our money back. You
16 won't go and put it in the legislation or
17 ask the mayor for nonprofits to contribute,
18 yet, you take it out of the pockets of the
19 people. Those are the reasons I come here.

20 I have a stupid church I wish I
21 never even bought that owes \$50,000 in taxes
22 and I paid \$35,000 for it because of who I
23 am, because of the vendettas against me this
24 the city because I speak out. I'm an
25 individual that's not for sale. Never was,

1 never will be, and I speak honestly and
2 straight forward and if anybody wants to
3 debate me or dispute it I'm wide open for
4 it. I don't run from anybody, I don't hide,
5 but my tax dollars are going down, and I see
6 you guys give all of this money to the
7 parking garage and you get zero in return.
8 The people get zero.

9 Come on. You got to pay attention.
10 You want to run for are you election, but
11 show us something, all three of you that are
12 running. Show us something concrete. Show
13 us credibility. Show us integrity that you
14 have done everything in the best interest of
15 the people. The deal with the Sewer
16 Authority has a stench attached. The deal
17 with the parking garages has a stench
18 attached and you are all part of that
19 stench. You need to make a change if you
20 are going to continue to want to represent
21 us in the city.

22 Other than that, I would ask that
23 you don't even waste your time because you
24 have not justified to sit here by allowing
25 what has happened, you've squandered

1 millions and millions of dollars on a city
2 that's broke and you have no conceptual
3 idea, including this mayor, what you are
4 going to do next because there are no more
5 assets and there are no more deep pockets in
6 the city. The only thing left you are
7 kicking the people out of here, the people
8 and the businesses. Thank you.

9 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr. Bolus.
10 Kara Seitzinger.

11 MS. SEITZINGER: Good evening,
12 Council. Kara Seitzinger, City of Scranton
13 resident. As many of you know, I am
14 ashamed, Joan is here every week, as is
15 Marie and many speakers, and I have not come
16 for litigation reasons with the Greenridge
17 Neighborhood Association and some personal
18 reasons, so I prepared a little quick
19 statement.

20 I'm here to speak tonight relative
21 to tomorrow's meeting between SSA Director
22 Shrive and Councilmen Evans and Wechsler.
23 It's not a secret that we, the Greenridge
24 Neighborhood Association, and the entire
25 city knows about the sale of the SSA to

1 Pennsylvania American Water. We have done
2 our research. That's no secret either. You
3 gentlemen, however, purport to believe that
4 we, the taxpayers and ratepayers, do not
5 know that one plus one does not equal three.
6 Three days prior to the SSA closing, the
7 sale that is, there was a codicil that all
8 receivables must be known as a conduit to
9 that closing and finalization of the sale.

10 The citizens are tired of leachate,
11 flooding, secrets, backdoor deals, cash
12 grabs, and the list goes on and certain
13 officials are meeting the back rooms of
14 establishments with the KSL head. Make no
15 mistake, someone is watching and they see
16 you, and that would be you gentlemen in
17 particular.

18 Mr. Evans, Mr. Wechsler, I'm
19 astounded to have voted for two men, who I
20 deeply respected, who would partake in
21 tomorrow's meeting with Mr. Shrive alone.
22 Such a meeting leads all of us, the
23 ratepayers and taxpayers, to believe that
24 you have something to hide. At the very
25 least, I implore you to allow multiple press

1 outlets to be a party and privy to that
2 meeting.

3 Regarding the SSA and leachate, I
4 received an EOv yesterday from Highmark
5 insurance stating that my husband's
6 precertified procedure in November was not
7 covered. I ask you, gentlemen, how many
8 times that any of you are under went a
9 cystoscopy for you bladder? My husband
10 endured countless, every three months for
11 several years and then every six months, ten
12 years in total. I urge you to Google that
13 procedure, look for it, e-mail it -- or, I'm
14 sorry, not e-mail, look at the procedure
15 online or look at what it entails. It's not
16 pretty, and I have been there for every
17 single one of his procedures for 10 years,
18 and after that procedure he must endure
19 medications. He must endure a regiment of
20 prescription antibiotics to avoid infection
21 and then we have to sit and wait for a week
22 or two for a biopsy. That, again, is not
23 pretty and it's a stress on a family.

24 Finally, if any of you are free on
25 Tuesday, Valentine's Day, I invite each of

1 you to accompany myself and my young
2 daughter to Delaware. My daughter must
3 endure, check into the hospital, Dupont
4 Hospital in Delaware, that morning for
5 multiple procedures. She will be placed
6 into chamber for an hour and a half to
7 undergo breathing tests because her
8 bronchial airway has been so compromised by
9 the air she breathes, not by her allergies,
10 but by the air she breathes in my
11 neighborhood and in this city.

12 She will then go onto see a
13 doctor who will stick a tube down each
14 nostril with a camera attached. They will
15 view her vocal cord and the cysts on her
16 vocal cords and they will determine what
17 surgeries that she will need and then we
18 will have decisions to make. She will be
19 missing her final cheerleading game with
20 Scranton Prep.

21 Mr. Evans and Mr. Wechsler, feel
22 free to please, I implore you, share with
23 Mr. Shrive, the mayor, Mr. DeNaples, or
24 whoever is privy to your secret meeting to
25 also join us. For the record, her doctor's

1 names or Dr. Hyman, Dr. Mancini and
2 Dr. Barth, and I hope that the both of you
3 and Mr. Shrive sleep very well on
4 Valentine's night knowing what my daughter
5 has had to endure.

6 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Is there
7 anyone else in?

8 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening, Council.
9 Dave Dobrzyn, resident, taxpayer. Well,
10 today we have a lawsuit. Now, there is some
11 people that may reside in Scranton, but I
12 have to question it because I have happen to
13 know that some of the people involved in
14 that suit on the EMT tax are University
15 students. It's a too much to ask the
16 employees of the University to pay along
17 with the EMT tax like everybody else is my
18 question.

19 All too often when I talk about 501
20 (c)(3's) and (c) (4's), they are at the
21 front of the picture, also, involved in
22 politics. A few years back I seen in the
23 paper Mr. Santorum was talking and an issue
24 was privatizing social security and they had
25 their little cheerleading section, and I'd

1 like to remind them that 501 (c) (3) they
2 have no opposing point of view so that's
3 just after politicking along with this. I'm
4 very sorry that people have to pay the
5 enhanced EMS tax. If you are a high wage
6 earner, it's a pittance anyway, and with 35
7 percent tax exempts -- excuse me, I can't
8 keep affording to see my property taxes go
9 up and up and up year in and year out.

10 I'd love to see some day an
11 undevelopable lot have a flat rate on it of
12 \$200 a year or something. I'll gladly pay
13 that compared to what it is now and I could
14 not sell that and put a structure on it.

15 And storm water is up again and I'm
16 wondering, you know, 135 grand is a nice
17 salary to earn. I certainly hope that we
18 are not going to be charging hours after
19 that for any work performed, the person
20 that's representing the storm water
21 authority that's now forming because if that
22 is the case then they could wind up paying
23 hundreds of thousands of dollars more on top
24 of the 135 grand a year or whatever it is
25 and that's unacceptable, especially for the

1 type of the work that was performed. I
2 mean, that's a chinese fire drill, the sale
3 of that authority in the first place.

4 And a little note on regulations,
5 you are paying a generous amount of money
6 every month or every two months for sewer
7 water and we are going to be paying for
8 storm water, well, the strip mining
9 interests in the United States they have
10 just rescinded the regulations on throwing
11 strip mining waste into streams in the
12 mountains. So, gee, thanks, guys, you know.
13 That's freedom for you. Freedom. Makes my
14 heart warm. And I have a little question on
15 6-A, if somebody could explain this a little
16 more.

17 And don't forget, Wayne, I'm not
18 seeing those signs yet on the way into town,
19 DINKS, INKS and HINKS welcome. Dual income
20 no kids, high income no kids, and income no
21 kids. So, you know, I want to see those
22 signs up soon or I'm going to have to -- you
23 know, if you are going to be around another
24 two years I'll be trouble. Thank you and
25 have a good night.

1 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening.
2 Marie Schumacher. Wayne, last week you said
3 you would get for Fay the accounts and
4 amounts which received disbursements from
5 that special account, do you have that
6 tonight?

7 MR. EVANS: I'll read the
8 information in motions.

9 MS. SCHUMACHER: Oh, during your
10 Fifth Order?

11 MR. EVANS: Yeah, I won't take your
12 time.

13 MS. SCHUMACHER: Thank you.

14 MR. EVANS: You're welcome.

15 MS. SCHUMACHER: Last week,
16 Mr. Wechsler, you announced that public
17 comment was for comment only, no questions.
18 Not only was that a procedural error, I
19 believe, according to Robert's Rules, and
20 our freedom of speech, but I would like to
21 note that had council paid attention to
22 questions you could have avoided one of the
23 first woopsies of 2017.

24 Reading from the 8 December 2016,
25 before the budget was finalized, this is

1 what I said. "And last week I thought -- I
2 said that I thought the real estate tax
3 revenue was fictitious because we are not
4 going to meet this years and yet we are
5 setting the same and ask if somebody would
6 get the residential property assessments for
7 this time of the year and last year."

8 And I said, "Did anybody do that?"

9 And the answer was, "No."

10 It would have been very obvious had
11 those numbers been received that there was a
12 significant error.

13 And while I'm on woopsies, I guess
14 we will find out shortly after next month's
15 hearing whether or not that is going to be
16 woopsie number three of the year and the
17 first one of 2017 or not, and that's a big
18 item.

19 On 7-A, I still believe that should
20 be tabled. The fact that the school board
21 said they found contamination, Mr. Wechsler,
22 you said that there was contamination, but
23 not on the building on parts of it. I do
24 know that the policy of the government was
25 to mitigate any contamination prior to

1 transfer, and if that has not been done, and
2 that is still on the property which you want
3 to buy, even it's not harming anybody, we
4 could still be liable, and I think unless
5 resolved, and sometimes that doesn't -- I
6 mean, they don't have to, the government
7 didn't have to if they agreed with the
8 recipient, the buyer, to something else and
9 I think we taxpayers deserve to know whether
10 or not we are taking that contamination
11 clean up on before you vote for that and
12 that should be fairly easily obtained.

13 And I'm troubled about the Scranton
14 Sewer Authority monetization effort, I
15 believe within 24 hours of the Scranton
16 Parking Authority agreement being reached it
17 was all of the costs and fees were in the
18 Scranton Times-Tribune, why is the Scranton
19 Sewer Authority any different? Are we still
20 calculating them? And that makes me very
21 uneasy that two of you are going to be going
22 to this meeting behind closed doors. I
23 really, really am troubled by it. Not
24 questioning your integrity, I'm not
25 questioning anybody's, but it's just the

1 wrong thing to do. We all paid those rates,
2 the money that transferred was from rates
3 that we paid and for services to be
4 performed and I do believe that that should
5 be held in an open meeting, and I think we
6 should even be, if we are not satisfied with
7 the questions that you people come up with
8 that we should be able to ask our own.

9 Back to Air bNb for just a minute.
10 Again, I am so opposed to the policy of we
11 don't enforce an ordinance unless somebody
12 complains, but aside from that, Mr. Evans,
13 we have been trying -- you have been trying,
14 council has been trying to get the business
15 privilege and mercantile taxes up to where
16 you could change the system and do away with
17 both of those taxes. Have we at least
18 gotten the business privilege and mercantile
19 taxes from every one of these operators?

20 MR. EVANS: That's an ongoing
21 process. That company called Turnkey is in
22 the process of doing that, you know, trying
23 to find that have them.

24 MS. SCHUMACHER: But specifically
25 the Air bNb?

1 MR. EVANS: I'm sure they are part
2 of it.

3 MS. SCHUMACHER: I'm sorry?

4 MR. EVANS: I'm sure they are part
5 of that. I would think they are.

6 MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, I would like
7 a verification. We know they exist, we know
8 they are available online --

9 MR. EVANS: Well, that's what this
10 company is doing. They are to root out all
11 people that aren't paying their share of the
12 mercantile business privilege tax.

13 MS. SCHUMACHER: But it may take
14 them awhile to get there so I think if you
15 would ask the Single Tax Office whether they
16 are collecting them from all of those Air
17 bNb's I would like to hear the answer to
18 that question.

19 MR. EVANS: All right, I can see
20 what we can find out.

21 MR. WECHSLER: Anyone else?

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

23 MOTIONS.

24 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Rogan?

25 MR. ROGAN: Yes. I'm not used to

1 going first. A couple of items, number of
2 items, all very brief. As Councilman
3 Gaughan mentioned, we did have training on
4 the new paperless system the council is
5 going to be converting over to, and was
6 mentioned numerous times at our meetings,
7 the amount of paper that we use on a weekly
8 basis is ridiculous. I found the program to
9 be extremely easy to use. Councilman Evans
10 and myself went through training on Monday,
11 I believe. My colleagues did follow later
12 in the day. It was very easy to use and in
13 the following weeks you will see us with
14 iPads in front of us instead of stacks and
15 stacks of paper, so something I know we are
16 all looking forward to and it's certainly
17 environmentally friendly.

18 Regarding the meeting with the Sewer
19 Authority, a number of people did ask me
20 about this meeting through the course of
21 week and why I wasn't attending, I wasn't
22 invited to the meeting that's the reason why
23 I'm not attending. Only two members were
24 invited. I believe that was to stay in
25 accordance with the Sunshine Act. I do

1 believe something publically needs to be
2 done following that meeting, and I know
3 Councilman Wechsler did assure us in caucus
4 that all of the information will be relayed
5 to the rest of us.

6 Next, a few weeks ago I was speaking
7 about recycling, particularly recycling in
8 the Scranton Housing Authority. Numerous
9 residents in the Housing Authority have
10 voiced complaints to city council over
11 number of years that there is not recycling
12 within those complexes. We did receive a
13 response from a letter that was sent and
14 I'll read it briefly. It says, "This letter
15 is in response to your correspondence dated
16 February 1, 2017. The Scranton Housing
17 Authority has met several times in recent
18 months with the City of Scranton's recycling
19 coordinator, Mr. Thomas Lynch. Mr. Lynch
20 has met with Michael Morrison, the
21 maintenance foreman with the SHA.

22 The SHA and the City of Scranton are
23 considering several options at some of our
24 high-rise buildings with regard to
25 participation in the city's recycling

1 program."

2 So that's very good news that this
3 can finally get off the ground where some of
4 the largest housing complexes in the city
5 are not recycling. That's something that
6 certainly go a long way to help the city.

7 Next, I'd like to give a shout out
8 to the DPW, particularly Larry Wynn, again,
9 helping with a number of requests during the
10 course of the week. I did have a resident
11 contact me with some street sign issues that
12 were taken care of in a very quick manner,
13 and I know driving out now in the streets
14 may not look the best but anyone who was out
15 this morning would have noticed that our
16 city streets were actually cleaner than many
17 of the state routes. As the temperatures
18 dropped and the wind blew more snow onto the
19 roads, you know, I'm sure our crews are out
20 there, but this morning I was pleasantly
21 surprised when I went to work that I was
22 actually able to get through many of the
23 city roads.

24 And, finally, just an update, a
25 positive update on an item that I spoke at

1 length about last week, which is the new
2 Harrison Avenue bridge, also named the
3 Colonel Duffy bridge, Representative
4 Haggerty, as has been reported in the media,
5 has changed his mind regarding his bridge to
6 -- regarding his proposal to change the name
7 of the bridge, so I'd like to give a big
8 thank you to all people who contacted
9 Representative Haggerty. We deal with a
10 number of issues on a weekly basis here, but
11 I will say this one certainly struck a nerve
12 with lot of people within the veteran
13 community, particularly in the Hill Section
14 and South Scranton around the bridge, but
15 I'm glad that Representative Haggerty
16 reconsidered. I do know he is working on an
17 alternative way to honor Vice President
18 Biden, but I think most people are in
19 agreement that this location was not the
20 proper location to do that, and I am pleased
21 to report that the bridge will remain the
22 Colonel Frank Duffy Memorial Bridge.

23 A couple of comments on agenda
24 items, and I will mention as they come up,
25 but that is all for now. Thank you.

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

3 MR. EVANS: A couple of short
4 comments, last week the speaker asked about
5 the disbursements from the waste disposal
6 fee, this is from the ordinance, just to
7 bring us up-to-date. All fees shall be
8 deposited in a special city interest bearing
9 account to be established by the Business
10 Administrator. This account will be used to
11 reimburse the general operating fund for
12 costs incurred directly for the disposal of
13 refuse.

14 And then according to BA, all fees
15 are deposited into a separate special
16 account. The deposits go into a refuse
17 account which allows them to be accounted
18 for all refuse receipts separately, but once
19 cleared they automatically flow into the
20 general fund. So that's how they are
21 disbursed. So we'll talk after the meeting,
22 I'm sure there is other questions that that
23 will bring as well.

24 A brief comment on Mr. and Mrs.
25 Seitzinger, first of all, I'm sorry Mark has

1 continued the problem and I am certainly
2 sorry about your daughter. My thoughts and
3 prayers will be with both of you because I
4 consider you both my friends, despite any
5 issues we have from time to time. I can
6 assure you this meeting is about getting
7 answers, nothing else. If we get them by
8 meeting with Attorney Shrive, that will be
9 great. If we need to have a public caucus,
10 we'll do it. If I can meet somebody in a
11 phone booth to get answers, I'll do it. It
12 means -- we got to get to the root cause and
13 we got to get the answers to the questions.
14 If you do have other questions that you
15 think are pertinent that we should ask,
16 please forward them to me and I will ask
17 them. Nothing is going to go unasked. If
18 we get stonewalled, are going to the mat on
19 this issue. We are going to find out what
20 happened to the \$12 million between the time
21 the deal was signed and the time the deal
22 was closed, and every single nickle that is
23 being spent on the wind down of the Sewer
24 Authority will be accounted for, and we'll
25 find out tomorrow what the process is going

1 to be, and if they don't have a process in
2 place, they are going to get a process in a
3 hurry. So we all want to achieve the same
4 thing. We may not agree, you know, we may
5 have some civil discourse on how we get
6 there, this is the opportunity in front of
7 us now and we are going to do our best to
8 get the answers that we can but, again, if
9 we don't get the answers we are going to the
10 mat and use every possible tool we can to
11 get them. We are not going away. I said
12 that in caucus. All five of us are
13 committed to getting the answers. We cannot
14 allow that to happen.

15 So that's all I have for tonight on
16 and that issue. Again, you will be in my
17 thoughts, is all I can tell you. Thank you.

18 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr. Evans.
19 Mr. Gaughan.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, thank you, just a
21 few items. First of all, I received several
22 reports about dumping off of Legget Street
23 near Legget's Creek, so we sent that to the
24 Licensing and Inspections Department and the
25 chief of police. I know several residents

1 in North Scranton are concerned about the
2 condition of the creek in that area.

3 Councilman Wechsler and I attended a
4 North Scranton Neighborhood meeting, very
5 well attended. This week there were several
6 issues that were brought up. There are a
7 number of stray cats on Green Street that
8 are causing residents difficulty, and there
9 are some quality of life issues on McDonough
10 avenue and so we will be reporting those.

11 Just a streetlighting project
12 update, as a February of 6th, 3,471 fixtures
13 have been completed and retrofitted and the
14 company is continuing work in the southern
15 and eastern region of the city.

16 I was getting numerous complaints
17 the past few weeks about speeding on 16th
18 and Division Street so if we could send
19 something to the police department on that.

20 And I will ask again one more time
21 can we please have an update provided to
22 city council on how the city is currently
23 handling storm water management, what
24 policies and procedures are currently place
25 so I would like an answer on that by next

1 week.

2 Regarding the meeting that's going
3 to be held tomorrow between Councilman
4 Wechsler, Councilman Evans and Director
5 Shrive, as I mentioned last week, I'm deeply
6 troubled by this meeting. Tonight I'm going
7 to ask again, Councilman Wechsler, that you
8 cancel this meeting with the executive
9 director tomorrow regarding the questions
10 over the sale of the Scranton Sewer
11 Authority. This meeting should be
12 reschedule in council chambers and open to
13 the public and all council members should be
14 in attendance.

15 What is the purpose of the closed
16 door meeting? They are either going to
17 answer the questions that we have asked and
18 supply us with the information we have
19 requested, or they aren't. And I, quite
20 frankly, want everything in writing as it
21 should be. We have been requesting this
22 information now for nearly a month. We sent
23 out a request on January 10 and I would
24 remind everybody that we are supposed to be
25 a body of virtue who works for and on behalf

1 of the ratepayers and the taxpayers of the
2 city. This is their money. This was their
3 asset, and there are serious questions and
4 serious concerns that need to be answered in
5 public, not behind closed doors.

6 There has been a very questionable
7 pattern of lack of transparency and openness
8 from Mayor Courtright and his administration
9 since I took office three years ago, and it
10 is extremely troubling to me. Whenever the
11 mayor or anyone in his administration is
12 asked the question, whether it be from
13 council or the press, the mayor either
14 doesn't know the answer or he acts like he
15 had no clue. For example, he didn't know
16 that Attorney Shrive was going to be hired
17 as the executive director of the Sewer
18 Authority. He appoints the members of the
19 Sewer Authority. I find that hard to
20 believe. He doesn't remember when he knew
21 the city would be receiving millions of
22 dollars less from the sale, and there is
23 many other instances. I could go on and on
24 about select amnesia from the mayor. He is
25 beginning to remind me of Sergeant Schultz

1 from the old show Hogan's Heros and his
2 famous line, "I hear nothing, I see nothing,
3 I know nothing."

4 Where is the accountability? Where
5 is the transparency? Where is the
6 commitment to work for the people and not
7 live off of them? What is Mayor Courtright
8 and the Scranton Sewer Authority and his
9 administration hiding? We are asking for
10 information that, quite frankly, should be
11 readily available and easy to produce. If
12 you are telling me that \$12 million has been
13 expended from an account over the past year,
14 standard accounting procedures will tell
15 you, you should have the paper trail. We
16 want to see it.

17 So I am demanding on behalf of the
18 ratepayers of this city and the taxpayers of
19 this city that this backroom, closed door
20 meeting be held out in the open in the
21 public so that all council members can
22 attend. Thank you.

23 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you,
24 Mr. Gaughan. I have to say, this is the
25 worst secret meeting ever. We have been

1 telling everybody that we have been having
2 this meeting. Would it have been easier for
3 me to file a Freedom of Information Act?
4 Yes. Would it have been easier for me to
5 issue subpoenas? Yes. Would that have got
6 the answers any sooner? Right now, I don't
7 think.

8 As Council President, I decided that
9 if we have an opportunity to sit down with
10 Director Shrive and get some information on
11 the letters that we sent, we are going to
12 have an opportunity without delay of the
13 Freedom of Information Act for the delay of
14 the subpoena. Do we still have those
15 available to us? Yes, we do.

16 As Councilman Evans says, if after
17 the meeting we decide that we weren't
18 provide with the information that we are
19 requesting or it wasn't sufficient, we have
20 the avenues for that. We can have a -- we
21 can invite Director Shrive to a caucus.
22 Does he have to come? No, he doesn't have
23 to come. So I'm looking at this is an
24 opportunity for myself and Mr. Evans to ask
25 these questions to get the answers. The

1 questions aren't the important part of it,
2 the answers are the important part, and I
3 just feel that this is the best way at this
4 time to get them.

5 Could we change our mind on Monday?
6 Yes, we can change our mind whatever we want
7 to, so I have taken a lot of heat on this,
8 also, and if anybody knows I'm readily
9 available. I'm not -- I consider myself
10 very transparent and available, and I agree
11 that the answer should be readily available,
12 but that's why we are having this meeting,
13 so if I made the wrong call that will be on
14 me, but if we get some progress on this and
15 get the answers that we are looking for then
16 the risk that I took was worth it.

17 And I do feel bad for the Seitzinger
18 family, and I hope things work out for you.

19 Last week, a speaker asked us about
20 the liens, for the garbage tax liens that
21 were filed. On June 20, there were 2,420
22 liens filed for garbage bills that go back
23 to 2011 and 2013. The dollar value
24 represented there was \$1,468,332. I'm still
25 requesting an update on if any of those were

1 collected. I also contacted City Business
2 Administrator Bulzoni, if that's something
3 that perhaps could be marked on bad taxes so
4 he is going to look into that.

5 They are also sending out notices
6 letters this month for tax bills -- I'm
7 sorry, garbage fees that were delinquent in
8 2014 and 2015, and if there is no response
9 to that additional liens will be filed
10 either in March or April.

11 At the beginning of the year when
12 the Sewer Authority was sold, we inquired
13 with the Lackawanna County Assessor's Office
14 if there is a possibility that now that the
15 Sewer Authority is owned by Pennsylvania
16 American Water Company. If those real
17 estate that they now possess if that's
18 taxable. There is a possibility. We
19 received a letter from the Perry law firm
20 that did the investigation and it is a
21 possibility that these properties now could
22 be taxable as a Sewer Authority purchase so
23 we will be looking into that further with
24 the County to see if perhaps those
25 properties can be taxed.

1 Last year we took some Pennsylvania
2 Liquor Control Board money and we purchased
3 stop signs with that. We contacted Director
4 Gallagher, and an update with that, he
5 purchased 700 stop signs with the money. We
6 are going to check to see with him if those
7 all were dispersed and if there is any left.
8 We also will be receiving or anticipating
9 receiving some additional PLCB money this
10 year and we will take a look at either doing
11 additional stop signs or seeing how much
12 bang we can get for a buck in terms of
13 street signs for that, also.

14 We had received a complaint about a
15 trash issue on Synder Avenue and that was
16 taken care of, but we also got a call about
17 a quality of life issue on Oak Street and we
18 are also looking into that.

19 Yesterday was the first declared
20 snow emergency in downtown since the parking
21 garages were under the new lease agreement.
22 Part of the lease agreement was the plan to
23 get street parkers into to the parking
24 garages during these emergencies for a \$5
25 fee that they could be used. The plan was

1 in place, and probably should have been
2 better advertised, and I'm looking for some
3 feedback from ABM Management Company to see
4 if actually anyone used that service last
5 night.

6 In regards to Mr. Gaughan having a
7 complaint about speeding, the police
8 department has purchased some monitors that
9 you can do a survey and see if there
10 actually is a true speeding problem in
11 certain areas or not, so Chief Graziano is
12 purchasing two more of those machines that
13 will come into use as soon as possible.

14 The last thing I have this evening
15 in regard to pension reform, each week we
16 hear that the city should be doing more in
17 terms of the pension reform and we are
18 working on that. The other day the state
19 budget was announced and it did not contain
20 any true pension reform. We are doing our
21 little bit here, but really where we need
22 the help is from the state, and I'm a bit
23 disappointed that the governor decided that
24 -- this is a news article from today, that
25 he wanted to focus on the budget and not get

1 sidetracked with the pension proposals.
2 Part of our problem is no one wants to get
3 sidetracked with pension proposals. We need
4 a concentrated effort from the state working
5 with the county, working with the city,
6 working with school districts to achieve
7 pension reform because without that
8 everything that we are trying to do here is
9 kind of fruitless. That's all I have.

10 MS. REED: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION -
11 AN ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE REMOVAL OF
12 THREE (3) EXISTING SIGNS IN FRONT OF 637-
13 639 MADISON AVENUE AND INSTALLATION OF AN
14 R7-302 NO PARKING SYMBOL/ARROW SIGN (RIGHT)
15 AND THREE (3) R7-3-1 NO PARKING RESTRICTED
16 DAYS SIGNS WITH R-8-3HP-1 NO PARKING
17 RESTRICTED HOURS PLAQUE MOUNTED DIRECTLY
18 BELOW THE R7-3-1 ALONG THE WESTERLY CURBLINE
19 OF MADISON AVENUE, WITH FINAL LOCATIONS TO
20 BE DETERMINED IN FIELD FROM R7-302 SIGN TO
21 SOUTHERLY PROPERTY LINE OF PROPERTY LINE OF
22 HEAD START.

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? All
4 those in favor of introduction signify by
5 saying aye.

6 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

7 MR. EVANS: Aye.

8 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

9 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The
10 ayes have it and so moved.

11 MS. REED: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION -
12 AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL
13 NO. 126, 2015, AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED
14 "GENERAL CITY OPERATING BUDGET 2016" BY
15 TRANSFERRING \$3,000.00 FROM ACCOUNT NO.
16 01.040.00040.6009 (DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS
17 ADMINISTRATION - BUREAU OF ADMINISTRATION
18 OPR TSFR-WORKERS COMP) TO ACCOUNT NO.
19 01.020.00000.4210 (OFFICE OF THE CITY
20 CLERK/CITY COUNCIL - SVC AND MAINTENANCE
21 FEE) TO PROVIDE SUFFICIENT FUNDING FOR
22 SERVICE AND MAINTENANCE ACCOUNT THROUGH THE
23 2016 BUDGET PERIOD.

24 MR. WECHSLER: At this time, I'll
25 entertain a motion that Item 5-C be

1 introduced into its proper committee.

2 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

3 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

7 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

8 MR. EVANS: Aye.

9 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

10 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The
11 ayes have it and so moved.

12 MS. REED: 5-D. FOR INTRODUCTION -
13 AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL
14 NO. 126, 2015, AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED
15 "GENERAL CITY OPERATING BUDGET 2016" BY
16 TRANSFERRING \$50,000.00 FROM ACCOUNT NO.
17 01.040.00040.6009 (DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS
18 ADMINISTRATION - BUREAU OF ADMINISTRATION
19 OPR TSFR-WORKERS COMP) TO ACCOUNT NO.
20 01.060.00000.4201 (LAW DEPARTMENT -
21 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES ACCOUNT) TO PROVIDE
22 SUFFICIENT FUNDING FOR REMAINING
23 PROFESSIONAL SERVICE BILLS THROUGH THE 2016
24 BUDGET PERIOD.

25 MR. WECHSLER: At this time, I'll

1 entertain a motion that Item 5-D be
2 introduced into its proper committee.

3 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

4 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

8 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

9 MR. EVANS: Aye.

10 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

11 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The
12 ayes have it and so moved.

13 MS. REED: 5-E. FOR INTRODUCTION -
14 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
15 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE
16 AND ENTER INTO A SUPPLEMENTAL REIMBURSEMENT
17 AGREEMENT NO. 041222-F WITH THE COMMONWEALTH
18 OF PENNSYLVANIA FOR THE PURPOSE OF
19 INCREASING CONSTRUCTION FUNDING FOR THE
20 ROCKWELL AVENUE BRIDGE PROJECT.

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

24 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

25 MR. EVANS: Second.

1 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

2 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.

3 The additional costs included in this
4 legislation is all of the remaining work
5 orders and costs to complete the actual
6 project. Thank you.

7 MR. WECHSLER: All those in favor of
8 introduction signify by saying aye.

9 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

10 MR. EVANS: Aye.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

14 MS. REED: 5-F. FOR INTRODUCTION -
15 A RESOLUTION - APPOINTMENT OF DANIELLE E.
16 KENNEDY, 1034 WOODLAWN STREET, SCRANTON,
17 PENNSYLVANIA, TO THE POSITION OF DIRECTOR OF
18 HUMAN RESOURCES/ASSISTANT BUSINESS
19 ADMINISTRATOR EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 6, 2017.
20 MS. KENNEDY WILL BE REPLACING JESSICA L.
21 BOYLES, ESQUIRE WHO TOOK ANOTHER POSITION
22 WITH THE CITY.

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

1 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

2 MR. EVANS: Second.

3 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

4 Yes, on the question, we have spoken to the
5 mayor about this appointment and Ms. Kennedy
6 comes very prepared for this task. She has
7 quite a background in HR management and I
8 think she will be a true asset to our city.

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

11 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

12 MR. EVANS: Aye.

13 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

16 MS. REED: 5-G. FOR INTRODUCTION -
17 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
18 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO ENTER
19 INTO A MASTER SERVICES AGREEMENT BY AND
20 BETWEEN REMEDY ANALYTICS, INC., A DELAWARE
21 CORPORATION ("REMEDY") AND THE CITY OF
22 SCRANTON ("CLIENT") TO AID THE CITY IN
23 ANALYZING CLAIMS DATA AND NEGOTIATING
24 CONTRACTUAL LANGUAGE FOR THE CITY'S PHARMACY
25 BENEFITS MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR THE PURPOSE

1 OF ACHIEVING SAVINGS ON PHARMACY BENEFITS.

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

5 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

6 MR. EVANS: Second.

7 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

8 MR. ROGAN: Yes. I know we did
9 discuss this in caucus a little bit and it
10 will be discussed further next week, but
11 what I would do want to find out is if our
12 health insurance broker can provide these
13 services. They are being paid a handsome
14 fee to act as our broker, and I would like
15 to see if this service can be provided as
16 part of the current package that we are
17 already paying for without paying any
18 additional fees.

19 Also, this is a Delaware
20 Corporation, I would find it hard to believe
21 that there is not a local firm that could do
22 some similar service so I would like to see
23 if there are any other local firms that
24 offer something similar.

25 MR. WECHSLER: All those in favor of

1 introduction signify by saying aye.

2 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

3 MR. EVANS: Aye.

4 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

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

8 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.
9 86, 2017 - AN ORDINANCE - CLOSING AND
10 VACATING PORTIONS OF S. IRVING AVENUE AND
11 CROWN AVENUE, BETWEEN SAGINAW STREET AND
12 CONNELL STREET.

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

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

17 MR. EVANS: Second.

18 MR. WECHSLER: On the question? All
19 those in favor signify by saying 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: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR

1 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC
2 SAFETY FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF THE COUNCIL
3 NO. 85, 2017 - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
4 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO ACCEPT
5 THE LOCAL SHARE ACCOUNT GRANT FUNDING
6 THROUGH THE PENNSYLVANIA GAMING LOCAL SHARE
7 ACCOUNT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$250,000.00 AWARDED
8 THROUGH THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF
9 COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ("DCED")
10 AND TO EXECUTE THE LOCAL SHARE ACCOUNT GRANT
11 CONTRACT AND DISBURSE THE FUNDS FOR THE
12 CONVERSION OF THE SERRENTI MEMORIAL ARMY
13 RESERVE CENTER, A/K/A/ CSM SAMUEL P.
14 SERRENTI U.S. ARMY RESERVE CENTER (USARC)
15 LOCATED AT 1801 PINE STREET, INTO AN
16 EMERGENCY SERVICES CENTER TO BE USED BY THE
17 SCRANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT AND FOR STORAGE
18 OF LARGE/EXPENSIVE VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT
19 THAT CANNOT BE SAFELY STORED IN ANY OTHER
20 FACILITY CURRENTLY OWNED OR OPERATED BY THE
21 CITY.

22 MR. WECHSLER: What is the
23 recommendation of the temporary Chairperson
24 for the Committee on Public Safety?

25 MR. ROGAN: As temporary Chair for

1 the Committee on Public Safety, I recommend
2 final passage of Item 7-A.

3 MR. EVANS: Second.

4 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

5 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.

6 As I mentioned a few weeks ago and a few
7 months ago when this first came up, I think
8 that the intent of this project is
9 commendable. If we knew and had an analysis
10 of how much it would cost us every year to
11 heat the building and cool it with air
12 conditioning and run the building so I don't
13 know what the impact is going to be on your
14 budget moving forward. I don't think we
15 should be getting ourselves into acquiring a
16 new building and one that's as big as that
17 one so I'm going to be voting against this,
18 but like I said, I do think that the intent
19 of it is commendable. I understand the idea
20 behind it, I just am worried that, as I
21 mentioned a few weeks ago, this will end up
22 being a money pit and something that we
23 won't be able to sustain into the future.
24 Thank you.

25 MR. EVANS: On the question, I do

1 understand Councilman Gaughan's concerns,
2 that's why I suggested that we put Engine 15
3 on the market on Ash Street and take the
4 proceeds from the sale and create a special
5 account for utility costs for the Serrenti
6 building on an ongoing basis. I think with
7 the first grant taking care of the heating
8 system and high efficiency furnaces in there
9 and changing over to LED lights I think the
10 costs will be minimal at best and covered by
11 the sale to a lease for many, many year.

12 MR. WECHSLER: The one cost that we
13 do not is the valuable investment that we
14 made in the equipment that's going to be
15 stored there and we do have to protect that
16 equipment. We would not be doing our job if
17 we let that fall into disrepair.

18 MR. ROGAN: I would just add that it
19 was also noted when Chief Graziano did meet
20 with us that the cost of building a new
21 basically a shed, a pole barn structure, to
22 house that equipment that Councilman
23 Wechsler mentioned would cost for than this
24 proposal. I was for this from the
25 beginning, but after taking the tour with

1 Councilman Evans and Councilman Perry I
2 became even -- you know, I was really
3 surprised at the condition of the building
4 that it was in as good of shape as it is. I
5 know Councilman Wechsler toured the building
6 as well, and besides the equipment that's in
7 there this will increase the police presence
8 in the Hill Section and the Hill
9 Neighborhood Association President did reach
10 out to us with relaying some comments that
11 were made to her for her group and they were
12 favorable in having a greater police
13 presence in the Hill Section through this
14 project.

15 And, finally, I firmly believe that
16 if our police chief thinks this is the right
17 path to increase public safety within our
18 city, I am behind him 100 percent.

19 MR. WECHSLER: Roll call, please.

20 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

21 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

23 MR. EVANS: Yes.

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

25 MR. GAUGHAN: No.

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

2 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby
3 declare Item 7-A legally and lawfully
4 adopted.

5 MS. REED: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION
6 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES FOR ADOPTION -
7 RESOLUTION NO. 112, 2017 - APPOINTMENT OF
8 JESSICA L. BOYLES, ESQUIRE, 801 PRESCOTT
9 AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18510 AS
10 CITY SOLICITOR AND ACTING DIRECTOR OF HUMAN
11 RESOURCES/ASSISTANT BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR
12 EFFECTIVE JANUARY 23, 2017. MS. BOYLES WILL
13 BE REPLACING JASON A. SHRIVE, ESQUIRE WHO
14 RESIGNED AS CITY SOLICITOR.

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

18 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

21 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

22 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

23 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

24 MR. EVANS: Yes.

25 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

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MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby
declare Item 7-A legally and lawfully
adopted.

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

MR. ROGAN: Motion to adjourn.

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