

SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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HELD:

Thursday, February 16, 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

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.

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 MINUTES OF THE SCRANTON FIREFIGHTERS PENSION  
17 COMMISSION MEETING HELD JANUARY 18, 2017.

18 MR. WECHSLER: Are there any  
19 comments? If not, received and filed.

20 MS. REED: 3-B. MINUTES OF THE  
21 NON-UNIFORM MUNICIPAL PENSION BOARD MEETING  
22 HELD JANUARY 18, 2017.

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

25 MS. REED: 3-C. MINUTES OF THE

1 SCRANTON POLICE PENSION COMMISSION MEETING  
2 HELD JANUARY 18, 2017.

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

5 MS. REED: 3-D. MINUTES OF THE  
6 COMPOSITE PENSION BOARD MEETING HELD JANUARY  
7 18, 2017.

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

10 MS. REED: 3-E. AGENDA FOR THE  
11 NON-UNIFORM MUNICIPAL PENSION BOARD MEETING  
12 HELD FEBRUARY 15, 2017.

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

15 Do any council members have  
16 announcements at this time?

17 MR. PERRY: Yes, I have two  
18 announcements. The NEPA Emerald Society is  
19 going to have their annual St. Patrick's Day  
20 gathering on Friday, March 3. It's going to  
21 be held at the FOP, Lodge No. 2, which is  
22 401 Railroad Avenue in Scranton. It's going  
23 to start at 6 and it's going to end at 10  
24 p.m. There will be Irish step dancers,  
25 bagpipers, Dan the Piano Man, there will be

1 plenty of entertainment. The cost is \$30 a  
2 person, which includes dinner which is  
3 catered by Castaldi's market. It's a BYOB  
4 event. There are tickets at the door or you  
5 can contact Mauri at 570-604-3605.

6 And secondly, the NEPA Emerald  
7 Society a having a second event, this one is  
8 going to be at the South Side Bowl, which is  
9 125 Meade Street, and that's going to be  
10 this Saturday, February 18. Registration  
11 starts at noon, bowling starts at 12:30.  
12 The cost is \$20 a bowler, and that's going  
13 to include two games and rentals. All ages  
14 are welcome. You can sign up as individuals  
15 or bring a team. Again, if you want more  
16 information you can contact Mauri Walsh at  
17 570-604-3605. Thank you.

18 MR. WECHSLER: Friday, February 17,  
19 is winter in the city. It will be held at  
20 Posh from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Tickets are \$20 at  
21 the door and proceeds benefit the projects  
22 of Scranton Tomorrow.

23 This Monday, February 20, City hall  
24 will be closed in observance of President's  
25 Day, but the DPW will be working on Monday.

1 Refuse and recycling collections will on  
2 schedule next week. In addition, all Colts  
3 buses will be running on the regular  
4 schedule on Monday.

5 And just one announcement before our  
6 meeting starts, as you are aware we did  
7 receive answers from Sewer Authority  
8 Director Shrive last night answering  
9 questions that counsel had presented in  
10 January. As of today, we than Director  
11 Shrive for those answers, but we also  
12 requested that he attend a public caucus and  
13 first date that would be available for a  
14 public caucus is February 23.

15 MS. REED: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'  
16 PARTICIPATION.

17 MR. WECHSLER: Joan Hodowanitz.

18 MS. HODOWANITZ: Joan Hodowanitz,  
19 city resident and taxpayer. Okay, it's 264  
20 days to November 7, the general election,  
21 and I'm hoping that we get the Arcadis study  
22 on the storm water costs long before that  
23 day. 144 days to June 30, which is the  
24 deadline for the 2016 audit. Hopefully,  
25 that will be on time.



1 public has a right to see that information  
2 and then we can decide whether or not it's  
3 credible on whether or not there is more  
4 questions to be asked. So hopefully when  
5 you get that thing up and running next week  
6 see if you can put those answers on, that  
7 would be nice.

8 The RFP for the third party  
9 administrator of the pension funds, still on  
10 the pipeline?

11 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

12 MS. HODOWANITZ: Yesterday I went to  
13 all of the Pension Board meetings and I  
14 asked each one of the boards the same  
15 question, has there been any dialogue  
16 between the boards and the administration in  
17 regard to that RFP, because it seems to me  
18 that the Pension Boards have a bit of  
19 expertise in that area, and you should take  
20 a look what they are putting out for a scope  
21 of work, but all boards told me the same  
22 thing, they haven't been contacted, so it  
23 looks like it's going to be the  
24 administration's call on what they want done  
25 and I'm not sure if that's going to answer

1 all of the problems we have with pensions.  
2 You realize, we are still waiting for a  
3 decision on the double pensions. It's been  
4 what, five months since the last hearings?  
5 Waiting on that.

6 Item 5-C, if you could during  
7 motions explain exactly what the cooperation  
8 agreement is between the University of  
9 Scranton and the city. Are we going to have  
10 interns at the Police Department, are police  
11 officers going to be taking courses at the  
12 University, exactly what are we talking  
13 about. I looked at the backup and the  
14 backup did not give a whole lot of insight  
15 on that. I'm totally in favor of any kind  
16 of partnership with any of the Universities  
17 of the city, but I'd like to know exactly  
18 what we are talking about here.

19 MR. PERRY: I'll explain a little  
20 bit about that in Fifth, but basically what  
21 it is it's an exchange of information and  
22 more or less just a community upkeep program  
23 informing, just getting the students and the  
24 police on the same page and also the law  
25 enforcement for the University of Scranton.

1 It's an information exchange.

2 MS. HODOWANITZ: Okay, so there  
3 won't be any interns down there and  
4 University isn't offering free tuition to  
5 the police officers?

6 MR. PERRY: There will be no  
7 financial exchange whatsoever on either  
8 side.

9 MS. HODOWANITZ: That's too bad.  
10 There are areas that they could expand that.  
11 The repair of the Fire Department  
12 headquarters next door, that projected  
13 \$160,000, do we still have that within that  
14 \$1.8 million from the parking sale in  
15 proceeds? Nobody knows? Okay. All right,  
16 I'll be back next week. Thank you.

17 MR. WECHSLER: Fay Franus.

18 MS. FRANUS: Fay Franus, Scranton.  
19 Do you know when you are going to find out  
20 when the money from the Sewer Authority is  
21 going to be disbursed?

22 MS. WECHSLER: As soon as possible.

23 MS. FRANUS: And you, most of you,  
24 will you be approving whatever the mayor  
25 wants on this?

1 MR. WECHSLER: It will be decided by  
2 the majority of council.

3 MS. FRANUS: Okay. Mr. Evans, last  
4 week you told Marie Schumacher about the  
5 disbursements.

6 MR. EVANS: Yes.

7 MS. FRANUS: But you didn't give her  
8 any disbursements.

9 MR. EVANS: Yes, I did.

10 MS. FRANUS: I asked --

11 MR. EVANS: Go ahead.

12 MS. FRANUS -- what were the  
13 disbursements from the garbage fee -- -

14 MR. EVANS: I'll read the answer  
15 again.

16 MS. FRANUS: No, no.

17 MR. EVANS: Well --

18 MS. FRANUS: No, I know what the  
19 answer was you Bulzoni told you that it goes  
20 into the general fund.

21 MR. EVANS: After the checks clear,  
22 it goes into the general fund.

23 MS. FRANUS: Yeah, but I want to  
24 know what accounts?

25 MR. EVANS: Well, we had a

1 discussion in caucus this evening about  
2 that, because we are getting more  
3 information, but I was advised by our  
4 solicitor as well as the city solicitor that  
5 we shouldn't discuss that because of the  
6 Court case.

7 MS. FRANUS: Oh, that's a good one.

8 MR. EVANS: Well, I'm only going by  
9 what I was told.

10 MS. FRANUS: That's a cop out.

11 MR. EVANS: Well, I'm only doing  
12 what my lawyer advised.

13 MS. FRANUS: Because last week you  
14 didn't know, but you still didn't give the  
15 answers.

16 MR. EVANS: It's not a cop out.

17 MS. FRANUS: Wayne, it is. Two  
18 weeks ago when I asked this question you  
19 weren't advised by lawyers not to say  
20 anything and two weeks ago and last week I  
21 asked you to find out and you told Marie,  
22 you didn't give her one disbursement that --  
23 asked and answered, right, Mr. Evans? Asked  
24 and answered.

25 MR. EVANS: I gave --

1 MS. FRANUS: Asked and not answered  
2 again just like two years of not answering  
3 me.

4 MR. EVANS: Fay, you are asking --

5 MS. FRANUS: Wayne --

6 MR. EVANS: You are yelling, not  
7 screaming.

8 MS. FRANUS: I'm sorry. Let me go  
9 like this. Wayne, I asked you to get  
10 disbursements and you didn't on purpose.  
11 You could have, but you chose not to.

12 MR. EVANS: So, I didn't give her  
13 the answer on purpose. That's what you are  
14 saying.

15 MS. FRANUS: Well, if you went to  
16 Mr. Bulzoni and asked --

17 MR. EVANS: I asked Mr. Bulzoni and  
18 that's the answer he gave me.

19 MS. FRANUS: And you didn't say,  
20 "Well, that's not the answer. That's not  
21 what the disbursement is"?

22 MR. EVANS: Fay, the money goes from  
23 the --

24 MS. FRANUS: I know what it does.

25 MR. EVANS: -- a single account and

1 it gets disbursed into the general fund.

2 MS. FRANUS: In what departments?

3 What accounts in that department?

4 MR. EVANS: In the general fund. It  
5 goes into the general fund.

6 MS. FRANUS: The general fund is all  
7 different accounts. I want to know what  
8 accounts the money goes to.

9 MR. EVANS: Again, I asked my  
10 solicitor this evening and --

11 MS. FRANUS: And don't answer that  
12 question. Isn't that convenient.

13 MR. EVANS: We are not able to  
14 answer that question.

15 MS. FRANUS: Isn't that convenience.  
16 Yet, two weeks when I asked that question,  
17 that wasn't told to you, to keep it quiet so  
18 you just didn't do it again on purpose.

19 MR. EVANS: I don't want to keep  
20 quiet, Fay, that's ridiculous. You know  
21 better.

22 MS. FRANUS: No, it's not. I don't  
23 know better because I know you for the last  
24 20 --

25 MR. EVANS: That's really, you know,

1 uncalled for and you should be --

2 MS. FRANUS: You want to keep  
3 talking to me, talking over me?

4 MR. EVANS: You have known me longer  
5 than that.

6 MS. FRANUS: It's my turn to talk.

7 MR. EVANS: Go ahead.

8 MS. FRANUS: You haven't answered  
9 any questions regarding the garbage fee for  
10 the last two years on purpose. You could  
11 have gotten the information in three seconds  
12 and you chose not to. That's very apparent.

13 MR. EVANS: That's not apparent at  
14 all. That's what I got you.

15 MS. FRANUS: When I get no answers  
16 for two years it's very apparent.

17 MR. EVANS: No, Fay, I have given  
18 you answers, but you don't like the answers,  
19 so therefore --

20 MS. FRANUS: Okay, name one  
21 disbursement that it went to?

22 MR. EVANS: Again, I told you it  
23 goes into the general fund.

24 MS. FRANUS: The general -- there is  
25 7,000 accounts in the general fund, which

1                   once did it go into?

2                   MR. EVANS: Including the general  
3 fund ledger.

4                   MS. FRANUS: Here we go. Everybody  
5 just listen to this, listen to this spin.  
6 Mr. Evans' constant spin.

7                   MR. EVANS: Fay, as you know, we are  
8 --

9                   MS. FRANUS: Wayne, I have other  
10 things I want to talk about.

11                   MR. EVANS: The Business  
12 Administrator is the executive branch. I  
13 asked the Business Administrator, that was  
14 the answer he gave me.

15                   MS. FRANUS: And that was good  
16 enough for you?

17                   MR. EVANS: Under the circumstances  
18 of the Court case, that was good enough for  
19 me right now.

20                   MS. FRANUS: Two weeks ago you  
21 weren't told that and you still didn't get  
22 the answer. People just need to know that  
23 you deliberately do not give answers about  
24 the garbage fee because you know they know  
25 the truth. You even said yourself it's too

1 much money. We should be getting this money  
2 back.

3 Now, back to Billy Courtright, how  
4 come you on council aren't doing anything as  
5 far as forcing him to help the people in the  
6 City of Scranton, like the people in  
7 Greenridge, and how about the people in  
8 Greenridge that have a hole in the yard, the  
9 Youngs. There is money in the budget, the  
10 emergency fund, why isn't that money being  
11 spent to fix their yard? The Meadow Brook  
12 Creek belongs to the city so that -- and  
13 they are saying the city is saying it  
14 doesn't that's a lie.

15 MR. WECHSLER: The reason why  
16 nothing is happening they can't get an  
17 agreement between Mr. Young and the city to  
18 get people on his property. That's what the  
19 hold up is right now.

20 MS. FRANUS: Well, that's not  
21 necessarily true.

22 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Young is trying  
23 to protect his property rights.

24 MS. FRANUS: Mr. Young would like  
25 the city to take care of this, I'm sure.

1 MR. WECHSLER: He also would like to  
2 have protection for himself on his property.  
3 That's what the holdup is right now.

4 MS. FRANUS: Well, I'll check into  
5 that.

6 MR. WECHSLER: Ask Mr. Young, he  
7 will tell you.

8 MS. FRANUS: I will. I will,  
9 because I don't know all of the facts, but I  
10 just want that Meadow Brook Creek does  
11 belong to the city.

12 MR. WECHSLER: We made arrangements  
13 to have an emergency declared, the money was  
14 set aside and right now we can't get the two  
15 parties together to agree on how we can get  
16 equipment on that property.

17 MS. FRANUS: And I'm sure the Youngs  
18 know what you're talking about.

19 MR. WECHSLER: I agree with you.  
20 Yes, they do.

21 MS. FRANUS: And I'm sure whatever  
22 they are saying is pretty fair and I'm sure  
23 the city, what Mayor Courtright is saying,  
24 is not fair. And I'd like to know how come  
25 you, Mr. Gaughan, is the only one that

1 speaks the truth about Mayor Courtright?  
2 Mr. Evans, you don't. Mr. Wechsler, you  
3 don't. Mr. Rogan, you don't. Tim, you  
4 never say too much.

5 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you.

6 MR. FRANUS: Bill, if you'd get a  
7 chance, I'd like the answer to that question  
8 some time and I appreciate all the things  
9 that you say.

10 MR. WECHSLER: Christine Patrick.

11 MS. PATRICK: Hi. My name is  
12 Christine Patrick and I have been working in  
13 pediatrics at Geisinger Community Medical  
14 Center for 11 1/2 years. I'm here tonight  
15 because I want to share some deep concerns  
16 about staffing at CMC and how this impacts  
17 the great Scranton community. I'm in the  
18 nurses' union and we have been fighting for  
19 improved staffing at CMC, but the management  
20 has refused to fix this problem.

21 Right now we are facing a staffing  
22 crises at our hospital. We never have  
23 enough nurses to be able to do our jobs and  
24 provide the patients with the care that they  
25 deserve. This is a life or death situation.

1 In the emergency room, nurses are taking up  
2 to six patients. The standard is three  
3 patients. This leads to medical errors,  
4 falls, injuries, and an incredibly dangerous  
5 environment for our patients. There is a  
6 wealth of research that shows safe staffing  
7 levels leads to less injuries, less  
8 mistakes, shorter stays and less staffs. I  
9 want to be able to do everything needed for  
10 my patients. Every nurse at CMC could tell  
11 you a horror story of being assigned too  
12 many patient. Mistakes get made, patients  
13 get injured and people die.

14 For any of you who have ever been  
15 admitted to CMC, I don't think this will  
16 come as a surprise. You face incredibly  
17 long waits and your nurse barely has time to  
18 spend at your bedside. I want to become a  
19 nurse to help me. I love nursing and I want  
20 to be able to provide the best care possible  
21 for my patients, but when I have too many  
22 patients it's impossible to provide that  
23 level of care. We are so short staffed that  
24 management has been illegally mandating  
25 nurses to stay way past their shifts. That

1 means that a nurse who has already worked  
2 her eight or 12-hour shift, often with no  
3 breaks, is forced to stay another few hours.  
4 It's absolutely illegal to mandate nurses to  
5 stay past their shift, but Geisinger is  
6 doing it anyway. Do you want your nurse to  
7 be on their 14th hour with no real break? I  
8 wouldn't wanted want my family member to be  
9 treated that way and every single patient at  
10 CMC deserves better.

11 I'm here to ask for the support of  
12 city council and the community. Safe  
13 staffing levels impact all of Scranton and I  
14 believe that Scranton deserves better. Your  
15 family members deserve the best care  
16 possible when they come to CMC. That's why  
17 we are asking the city council for a  
18 resolution in support of the safe staffing  
19 at CMC and we are inviting members of the  
20 council to attend and speak at our Safe  
21 Staffing Saves Lives press conference on  
22 March 1 at 4 p.m. outside of the hospital.  
23 Thank you in advance for your support and  
24 thank you for everything you do for our  
25 community.

1 MR. EVANS: Thank you.

2 MR. GAUGHAN: Just one comment, I  
3 will definitely speak at that press  
4 conference. I have a one-year-old and a  
5 three-month-old so I know how important  
6 nurses are, and if wasn't for the nurses in  
7 that room I would have hit the floor and  
8 passed out, but you guys have an important  
9 job and thank you for coming and speaking.

10 MS. PATRICK: Thank you.

11 MR. WECHSLER: Gerard Hetman.

12 MR. HETMAN: Good evening, Council.  
13 Gerard Hetman from the Lackawanna County  
14 Commissioner's Office. To begin this  
15 evening, the Lackawanna County Department of  
16 Economic Development now has funding  
17 available for winter emergency home repairs.  
18 These repairs covered include window  
19 replacement, roofing work, chimney repair,  
20 plumbing and other services as reviewed upon  
21 request. Interested parties must be current  
22 on all properties taxes, have a valid  
23 homeowners' insurance policy and must meet  
24 income eligibility guidelines.

25 For more information contact Laura

1 in our Department of Economic Development at  
2 570-963-6830, extension 1373.

3 Second, the Penn State Extension is  
4 now offering their Food Safety Certification  
5 course for food service workers. Classes  
6 are held at Penn State Worthington Scranton  
7 on February 23 and March 2. Successfully  
8 passing the course, meets the Pennsylvania  
9 Department of Agriculture's requirements for  
10 food safety certification. The cost is  
11 \$175. Registration deadline is tomorrow,  
12 February 17. You can register online at  
13 [www.foodsafety.psu.edu](http://www.foodsafety.psu.edu) or call Nicole at  
14 570-421-6430 or e-mail Nicole at  
15 [MND5140@psu.edu](mailto:MND5140@psu.edu).

16 Third, the Lackawanna County Area  
17 Agency on Aging is offering assistance with  
18 completing the Pennsylvania Department of  
19 Revenue's property tax and rent rebate  
20 forms. To qualify, seniors must be age 65  
21 or older. Widows or widowers must be age 50  
22 or older, and persons with disabilities age  
23 18 or older. Income limits are \$35,000 for  
24 homeowners and \$15,000 for renters to  
25 qualify for assistance with the rebate

1 forms. To learn more, contact Howard  
2 McIntosh at 570-290-0578 or 570-961-1950.

3 And last, but not least, just a  
4 reminder while we still have snow and if we  
5 get any more snow during this winter season  
6 our sledding hill at McDade Park is open to  
7 the public for use and this is an area that  
8 we have had set up I think the fourth year  
9 running that we have this place. In the  
10 past, folks used to about to McDade Park and  
11 if you go to the area on the left as you  
12 drive through after the turn for the coal  
13 mine tour and the anthracite museum just in  
14 back of the 9/11 memorial there is that big  
15 hill people just to sled down there and it  
16 was prohibited in the past, but for several  
17 years running we have built I guess you  
18 would call it a safe area there with  
19 barricades and designed engineered to offer  
20 safe sledding. So it's open for public use  
21 during regular park hours, dawn to dusk,  
22 seven days a week, we just ask that visitors  
23 obey all posted park rules when they visit  
24 to do their sledding. That's all we have  
25 for tonight. Thank you.

1 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Lee  
2 Morgan.

3 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.  
4 The first thing I have here I appreciate  
5 these nurses coming in here today. You  
6 know, I lost one of my children to medical  
7 malpractice and I do know that the health  
8 care system is broken in this country, but I  
9 guess you can't expect politicians to make  
10 any changes because I don't think they see  
11 reality and we have a lot of problems in  
12 this country but for some reason, I don't  
13 know, I just think we elect the wrong people  
14 and, you know, I'm really troubled about the  
15 upcoming election because we definitely need  
16 a replacement for every office, the  
17 councilmen and the mayor and the City of  
18 Scranton. It's just mind boggling the stuff  
19 that takes place here. I find the whole  
20 system to be corrupt. That's my opinion.

21 I have come here a long time, but  
22 the most troubling thing is how scared the  
23 people are of their own government and they  
24 aren't willing to throw these people off us  
25 because, you know, for a city to be in

1 distressed status for over 25 years it's  
2 mind boggling, and for the debt the city has  
3 incurred and the lack of leadership this  
4 city has and the decline it has gone through  
5 and all of the millions and millions of  
6 dollars pumped in the downtown, now we've  
7 got a new partner for the downtown and, you  
8 know, the truth of the matter is that we  
9 have gone through such a steep population  
10 decline and the people we elect just can't  
11 seem to get it that's it's not important  
12 what kind of suit you wear or blouse, it's  
13 what's going on in your head and whether you  
14 respect the people who elect you or you  
15 don't, and there is no answers coming from  
16 this council and, Mr. Wechsler, you know, I  
17 don't know if arrogance is your major thing  
18 in life or just total disrespect for the  
19 people who have elected you, but it's very  
20 apparent that the rest of the council agrees  
21 with your demeanor, and I don't know, I find  
22 it very troubling.

23 I find it troubling that we have  
24 sold off the Sewer Authority and I think the  
25 people in the city don't really realize how

1 bad a decision that really was, and for Mr.  
2 Evans to be a businessman and to have signed  
3 onto that and for the council president to  
4 not agree with it and yet to introduce it is  
5 troubling.

6 But, you know, the other thing I  
7 have here is that, you know, we have a Sewer  
8 Authority, we have a director of the Sewer  
9 Authority, I just really can't see any need  
10 for that because all of the debts and  
11 everything that the Sewer Authority was  
12 responsible for comes now to the city so I  
13 just don't understand why his position even  
14 is there. And as far as the board itself, I  
15 can't see that either. I mean, it's just  
16 ridiculous. It's just another frivolous  
17 waste of money. It's just -- it's really  
18 unbelievable.

19 And, you know, the LST tax and they  
20 brought that judge here for a reason, okay,  
21 and I really think that if goes the wrong  
22 way there has to be an appeal done in the  
23 higher court because in the end the high  
24 court is going to have to overturn the lower  
25 court because law is going to have to stand

1            somewhere, and for the city to keep just  
2            pounding the hell of the residents in one  
3            layer of taxation after another, I mean, the  
4            residents really haven't had an opportunity  
5            to understand just what's going to happen  
6            with the storm water collection system and  
7            for the council to allow the sale of an  
8            authority without removing the funds  
9            necessary from the rate to maintain the  
10           storm system, even though it was built into  
11           the rate, just goes to prove how incompetent  
12           Scranton's elected government is because the  
13           money to maintain the storm water collection  
14           system was built into that rate and we just  
15           keep chasing silly, silly things.

16                        We are going to take over the Army  
17                        reserve center. I really think the city  
18                        should really look into selling city hall.  
19                        Downsizing government to a level that's  
20                        almost beyond the comprehension of the  
21                        average Scrantonian because we have a very,  
22                        very, very serious debt problem and we need  
23                        remove the mayor, the council, and every  
24                        elected official, and it's not going to  
25                        happen overnight, but something has got to

1           happen in this city before there is nothing  
2           left and really there is nothing left now,  
3           and the retirees that just lost this hearing  
4           in Court they need to appeal because  
5           somebody needs to ask what responsibility  
6           did the city have to make sure that those  
7           funds were there and it was solvent. That's  
8           a question.

9           MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

10          MR. WECHSLER: Ron Ellman.

11          MR. ELLMAN: Hello, Council. In  
12          yesterday's paper I noticed an obituary for  
13          a local gentleman that was formally in the  
14          Flying Tigers. That during World War II was  
15          a limited the elite of the elite. I was  
16          very fortunate to have known one for years.  
17          I serviced his swimming pool in Los Angeles,  
18          Robert Prescott, who was at this time was  
19          president of the Flying Tigers airlines, but  
20          you people are not going to believe this but  
21          I'm telling you the absolute truth that man  
22          had an unbelievable hatred for me. He would  
23          go into a rage and he hated me so much he  
24          wouldn't fire me. This went on for years.  
25          I don't know how I got under his skin so

1 much. Well, enough for Robert Prescott.

2 Allow me to say something about our  
3 esteemed newspaper, letters to the editor  
4 that I read every day from Patrick McKenna's  
5 I guess responsibility. I feel about him  
6 like Robert Prescott felt about me. It  
7 seems this newspaper just can't wait to  
8 print the repetitive, hate-filled, extreme  
9 leftist agenda week after week. Ever day  
10 it's in there one or the other, writes the  
11 same stuff over and over. They just won't  
12 let go. Just a bunch of losers, but  
13 yesterday, I believe it was yesterday it was  
14 -- to me it was a very disturbing letter  
15 comparing our president to Adolph Hitler. I  
16 didn't vote for Obama and I didn't like him,  
17 but when he as elected I always respected  
18 him as our president, and I'd feel the same  
19 way if someone had said the same thing about  
20 Mr. Obama. You don't compare an elected  
21 leader to Adolph Hitler. I don't care what  
22 party he is in, I don't care who it is.  
23 That we have a bunch of over-the-hill has  
24 beens yelling for the White House to be  
25 bombed. It just doesn't seem to stop, it

1           seems to get worse. There is people are  
2           protesting, they're rioting. Those fools in  
3           California, my cousin teaches at the  
4           University in Berkley. They burned down  
5           their library. Now the state is going to  
6           have to build a library. What's sense is  
7           there in that? And that's what they --  
8           that's how they their brain seems to go.

9                        I think it was completely  
10           unnecessary for the Times to print such  
11           useless dribble from some loser that just  
12           won't give up that his agenda and just keeps  
13           going against the government. I have some  
14           other things to say, but I don't need to  
15           alienate anybody else, I guess. This was a  
16           -- I have talked to so many people that have  
17           told me they mailed in intelligent written  
18           letters that are never printed. You phone,  
19           "Where is my letter?"

20                        "Oh, we must have lost it or  
21           misplaced it."

22                        That's censoring. Censoring is the  
23           direct enemy of a newspaper and that's what  
24           Mr. McKenna does over and over. I got into  
25           some words with him when they were building

1 the high school. He told me never submit  
2 another letter. That's censoring me. He is  
3 afraid of my letters, this has been going on  
4 what 15 years since high school? That's why  
5 I don't understand it, but I have written  
6 letters that he has caught. What are you  
7 going to do? Thank you.

8 MR. WECHSLER: Anyone else?

9 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,  
10 citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians,  
11 well, the Sewer Authority did make the  
12 headline costs of the lawyers but people  
13 don't realize that money is coming into the  
14 city, but yet they turn their back on the  
15 Parking Authority. That money is going out  
16 from the city, and I estimate it to be close  
17 to \$200 million we lost on this deal. First  
18 of all, we gave NDC \$28 million in the form  
19 of a lease. That's a lease we are  
20 responsible for, and then we arrange for him  
21 to borrow on that lease and then we turned  
22 around \$30 million added onto that, and then  
23 there is the lawyers' costs. Then there is  
24 the parking. Parking fees and parking  
25 revenue and fines amounted to about \$3,000 a

1 year. Over 40 years that's another \$120  
2 million gone down the drain, and then we get  
3 into the parking lease of spaces in the  
4 parking garage knowing we are ripping spaces  
5 down on our existing parking. And then  
6 that's \$4.1 million gift, and then we turned  
7 around and sold a garage that was built at  
8 the same time as the mall for \$1 at cost.

9 And then the worst part about it, I  
10 never found out who was responsible for the  
11 \$300,000 a year we have to give to the mall  
12 owners. You add them all up and it's over  
13 \$200 million lost from the city treasury  
14 over the years and this is what they did to  
15 us and you cannot sit there and say this was  
16 a great deal for the city. Just look at the  
17 total cost. I don't know how you look at  
18 it. You must have had blinders on. You had  
19 to have blinders on. And then the nerve to  
20 say this was the best deal the city can get.  
21 What was the other deal that was offered?  
22 This is the worst deal the city can get plus  
23 it's a nonprofit. I don't know how they can  
24 even be a nonprofit. They certainly are  
25 going to make money and they sublet it out.

1 I don't know if the subperson that runs the  
2 garage is a nonprofit, no one ever said  
3 that. We know NDC is a nonprofit but then  
4 they leased it out. Is that lessee a  
5 nonprofit, too? We don't know. I won't  
6 know until I start looking at the financial  
7 reports for people getting elected. That  
8 money is going to turn in just like the  
9 lighting turned in.

10 Did we need lighting? Yeah, we did,  
11 but not at this time. There is nothing  
12 wrong with the sodium vapor lights that we  
13 had in. I know they said ten years they'll  
14 pay for themselves, but we haven't gotten  
15 ten years of financial liability left in the  
16 city. What are you going to do? How often  
17 are you going to go to the well? There is a  
18 limit as to how much water is in the well.  
19 I don't know how can do what you did. I  
20 don't know how you can sit there and then  
21 run on that. I know the family will support  
22 you, but the people won't. Thank you.

23 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening.  
24 Marie Schumacher. I'm happy to learn that  
25 it wasn't my error that I could not get the

1 back up to the agenda tonight, and did you  
2 say, Mr. Gaughan, that it will be available  
3 next week?

4 MR. GAUGHAN: That's what the IT  
5 Department told us, yes.

6 MS. SCHUMACHER: Thank you, and we  
7 won't have to download the whole thing  
8 because --

9 MR. GAUGHAN: No.

10 MS. SCHUMACHER: It will be each  
11 item separately?

12 MR. GAUGHAN: Yeah, it will be  
13 similar to the what county does.

14 MS. SCHUMACHER: Thank you. During  
15 motions may we all learn what is holding up  
16 the double pension subpoenas? And a point  
17 of clarification, Item 7-A last week, the  
18 Serrenti Memorial Army Reserve, are we  
19 purchasing the entire approximately almost  
20 two acres, 1.93 acres, and if so will we be  
21 purchasing that on an as-is basis?

22 MR. EVANS: Well, that wasn't part  
23 of the purchase yet, that still hasn't  
24 happened yet.

25 MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, you

1 authorized something last week. What did  
2 you authorize?

3 MR. EVANS: The grant and also the  
4 continuation of using the property which  
5 allows the city to use the property almost  
6 like a lease, you know, a dollar lease, but  
7 the purchase will come down at a later time.

8 MR. ROGAN: The purchase is still  
9 with the BRAC Commission with the federal  
10 government.

11 MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, I understand  
12 we are not buying it with the Army, yes,  
13 okay so we are not buying it we are just  
14 going to use it, so it's a rent?

15 MR. EVANS: Yeah. Well, I don't if  
16 there is even a transaction.

17 MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, could you  
18 maybe next tell us what the legal agreement  
19 is with the BRAC for utilization of that  
20 property?

21 MR. EVANS: Well, the BRAC --yeah.

22 MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, the US Army  
23 actually, yes. And, Mr. Evans, also, while  
24 I've got you, last week I asked that you go  
25 to the Single Tax Office and find out how

1 much we have received on business privilege  
2 and mercantile tax from the all of the bed  
3 and breakfasts.

4 MR. EVANS: Yeah, I didn't get a  
5 chance to do that, sorry.

6 MS. SCHUMACHER: Pardon?

7 MR. EVANS: I didn't get a chance to  
8 get that done yet, I'm sorry.

9 MS. SCHUMACHER: Would you try  
10 again?

11 MR. EVANS: I won't be here next  
12 week, but I'll try and get it for you.

13 MS. SCHUMACHER: Not just the  
14 dollars and cents, how many there are and  
15 how many are actually paying that is what's  
16 desired. While I appreciate in inclusion in  
17 the Scranton Sewer Authority questions of  
18 the cost and fees, I think you gentlemen  
19 missed a lot and I hope that my  
20 Right-to-Know request that I submitted last  
21 Friday will help to clear up some things  
22 unless you can all answer them during  
23 motions tonight that would also be time  
24 efficient.

25 There are certain items that have to

1 be completed before we can shut that baby  
2 down and I don't know why you didn't  
3 specifically ask. I know some of them are  
4 how much -- well, I'll go down the list of  
5 what I asked for. The amount of the  
6 proceeds from the Scranton Sewer Authority  
7 asset sale that have been placed in escrow  
8 by account. Do we know how many escrow  
9 accounts there are and how much is in each?

10 MR. EVANS: Well, one account is for  
11 \$12 million, that's the account --

12 MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, no, I don't  
13 mean -- do you have the total list?

14 MR. EVANS: No, I don't want to --  
15 yeah.

16 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay, if you want  
17 to do it during motions, but yes, if you  
18 have that, and I'd like know the amount of  
19 the city's share of the asset sale  
20 transactions costs? The complete list of  
21 the properties with pending rights-of-way  
22 settlement that are still open, and then I  
23 think that should be with -- in the monthly  
24 report how many they have worked off every  
25 month or however often you are going to get

1 reports because those all have to be  
2 completed before it can shut down. The list  
3 of the open bills at the closing and what is  
4 current as of tonight actually. A copy of  
5 the written correspondence from the seller  
6 to the buyer in compliance with Section 9.03  
7 of the asset purchase agreement, which to  
8 notify the buyers of representation of  
9 warranties that have changed from the time  
10 that document was signed.

11 Now, Kara Seitzinger was here last  
12 week and she also talked about this, and  
13 while we could have done it any time the  
14 terms of the agreement were that it be  
15 provided to the buyer within three days  
16 before the closing, so that should have been  
17 what, the 26th of December, so either  
18 Mr. Shrive didn't tell his boss, which I  
19 find unlikely, or the mayor knew, and I'm  
20 rather surprised that all of you when you  
21 read through that asset purchase agreement  
22 didn't note that and asked to be included as  
23 a carbon copy on when those transactions  
24 took place because then we would have known  
25 what was happening a long time before the

1 big woopsie. I'll finish up on the list  
2 next week. Thank you.

3 MR. WECHSLER: Anyone else?

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

5 MOTIONS.

6 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Perry?

7 MR. PERRY: Thank you. Yes. I have  
8 a couple of things I just want to touch on,  
9 a couple of agenda items real quick, and I  
10 have one comment at the end.

11 5-B, which is coming before us  
12 tonight, is Justice Assistance Grant, or the  
13 JAG for the smart policing initiative.  
14 That's going to go to Chief Graziano's  
15 alternate to arresting addict program, which  
16 we touched on, I believe, a couple of weeks  
17 ago. The chief was in a caucus and  
18 explained to us that there were federal  
19 funds available to us to apply for where  
20 instead of putting addicts in jail we can  
21 get them the help they actually need where  
22 they could just sign a waiver to come clean  
23 in lieu of an arrest, which I believe that's  
24 definitely progressive thinking and the way  
25 to go instead of putting addicts in jail

1           where there is absolutely no help for them  
2           we can actually make the steps and get them  
3           clean is really what they need.

4                         5-C, which was touched on tonight,  
5           just to give a little bit more information  
6           on 5-C, which is an agreement between the  
7           city and University, I'll just read right  
8           here. "The University and the city wish to  
9           enter an agreement to foster academic  
10          cooperation and exchange of information,  
11          scholarship and learning opportunities for  
12          students and police officers. Based on  
13          principles of mutual benefit, the parties  
14          will promote the exchange of information,  
15          scholarship and learning opportunities as  
16          well as the exchange of faculty and scholars  
17          along with other interparty collaborations,  
18          including joint research projects, programs,  
19          circular development grants and exchange of  
20          academic materials."

21                         It's basically what that -- all that  
22          sums up to is a cooperative agreement  
23          between the police and the university to use  
24          the assets that the city has and the  
25          university has to make our city safer, and

1 to get not only our police continued  
2 involved in the University, but get the  
3 University involved in our city. It's going  
4 to be a five-year agreement with the  
5 possibility to renew five years after that.

6 The other thing, 7-D, we had  
7 Solicitor Boyles in our office today to talk  
8 about Remedy Analytics, which is a company  
9 that uses software to help drive down the  
10 cost of our prescription costs within the  
11 City of Scranton. Now, how the program  
12 works this company is going to work for us  
13 at zero cost. Their benefit of this any  
14 savings we get as the city is going to come  
15 back to them with a 15 percent take on the  
16 savings that we get. If they don't save us  
17 a thing, they don't get paid at all. So  
18 it's really up to them to do their  
19 diligence, use the software that they have  
20 and push the savings towards us.

21 Based on -- they right now they have  
22 60 companies as clients, and based on the  
23 numbers that they ran they expect a ballpark  
24 figure of 10 percent or 30 percent annual  
25 savings on what we have right now and this

1 in no way is going to change any of the  
2 benefits that we have to our city employees.  
3 City employees benefits will not change with  
4 the prescription costs, it's just a simple  
5 software program that's going to run some  
6 algorithms to help us get the very best  
7 price of prescriptions around.

8 The comment I have is for the nurses  
9 from CMC that came in, if you want to talk  
10 about something that's going to get me  
11 involved, well, let's talk about nurses. My  
12 mother worked as a nurse for the better part  
13 of five decades as well as raising of  
14 children and let me tell you, I know all  
15 about nurses being understaffed, overworked,  
16 and they were without a doubt the unsung  
17 hero of the medical industry, and I don't  
18 think there is anybody here that's going to  
19 disagree with that. When you go in the  
20 hospital who is the first person you see?  
21 Who is the last person you see? It's the  
22 nurses. Who are those that do follow-up  
23 care? It's the nurses. They are out there  
24 working as hard as they possibly could just  
25 because they got in that industry to do good

1 and help others.

2 So if there is absolutely anything I  
3 could do, and I'm sure I share that  
4 sentiment with the rest of my colleagues to  
5 help them, you know, I'll put my chips into  
6 a pot for that. There is absolutely nothing  
7 I wouldn't do to help that nursing industry.  
8 It's just a tough -- it's a very tough job  
9 to begin with and then when you are  
10 understaffed that full-heatedly, I know.

11 So again, they are going to have a  
12 rally on March 1 at 4 p.m. in front of CMC  
13 just to get the word out and just to get  
14 everybody's understanding of what they go  
15 through on a daily basis, and for those of  
16 you who may not be close to somebody that  
17 works in that field as a nurse just show up  
18 and kind of get their understanding of what  
19 they go through because they are there to  
20 help us and we should be there to help them  
21 when they need it. That's all I have  
22 tonight. Thank you.

23 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr. Perry.  
24 Mr. Rogan?

25 MR. ROGAN: Yes, a couple of brief

1 items. First, I had the honor of attending  
2 the South Side Neighborhood Association  
3 meeting last night. They did have some  
4 changes in their leadership. There are some  
5 new members that came on board. I'm working  
6 on a number of citizens' request that came  
7 out of that meeting, but it was very  
8 productive and I would like to thank our  
9 police chief Carl Graziano for attending as  
10 well as two of our beat officers who were  
11 very helpful with a number of citizen's  
12 issues, as well as a number of questions  
13 that came from members of association.

14 A number of the items I'm going to  
15 talk about were all mentioned by Mr. Perry.

16 MR. PERRY: Sorry about that. I  
17 gave you a little bit of leeway last week.  
18 I let you go first.

19 MR. ROGAN: Unfortunately, it's a  
20 common theme, but I'm glad that we are in  
21 agreement, so I'd much rather be reinforcing  
22 the points that you're making than  
23 disagreeing. Regarding CMC, I agree  
24 wholeheartedly with the comments that were  
25 made. Unfortunately, over the last years to

1 two years I spent quite a bit of time in the  
2 CMC when my father was sick, and my  
3 grandmother, and I will have to say anyone  
4 who has been in the hospital or has a  
5 relative that has been in the hospital knows  
6 that the nurses do probably 90, 95 percent  
7 of the work that you see. Unfortunately,  
8 they are not compensated anywhere near as  
9 well as the doctors who are in and out in a  
10 two-minute brief visit and it's the nurses  
11 that are doing all of that care, and the  
12 idea of working 14 hours on your feet  
13 working with patients I would hate to be the  
14 last patient on a nurses 14-hour shift  
15 without a break.

16 So I would like to mention my  
17 support for the nurses, for their union, for  
18 everything they are pushing for and I also  
19 will try to attend that press conference if  
20 my schedule is available on March 1. This  
21 is the first I'm hearing of the press  
22 conference, but I do want to say that  
23 without nurses the medical field would not  
24 even exist. They really are the backbone of  
25 our hospital and they deserve a thank you

1 for everything they do to keep the people  
2 safe and to try and keep us healthy.

3 The double pension issue was brought  
4 up regarding our subpoenas at the podium,  
5 Attorney Minora, I hate to put you on the  
6 spot, but would you be able to get an update  
7 on the double pension subpoenas?

8 MR. MINORA: I can. We have not  
9 received a briefing schedule or an argument  
10 schedule from the Court Administrator. I  
11 did call down, gosh, it might be a week and  
12 a half going or two weeks ago, and I didn't  
13 have an answer then, so I still have not  
14 received that.

15 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. And for  
16 those in the audience and those that are  
17 watching, please don't think that this is a  
18 forgotten about issue. Attorney Minora can  
19 attest, and I feel that sometimes I'm  
20 annoying him with multiple calls per week  
21 asking the status of the --

22 MR. MINORA: Not at all. Not at  
23 all. Not at all.

24 MR. ROGAN: But it is something that  
25 is very important to this council. There

1 are millions of dollars missing out of our  
2 pension funds because of this scandal and we  
3 are still working to do everything we can to  
4 get to the bottom of it, and I'll have much  
5 more to say on pensions in the coming weeks.

6 Also, brought up by Mr. Perry is the  
7 pre-arrest intervention program. Chief  
8 Graziano did brief on this quickly at a  
9 caucus a few weeks ago, and he actually did  
10 explain it a little bit more in-depth at the  
11 Neighborhood Association meeting that I  
12 attended last night, and it really is a  
13 great program to try to help out people who  
14 have made a mistake. It's not a program for  
15 repeat offenders. It's not a program for  
16 violent criminals. It is a program for  
17 first-time offenders and first-time  
18 offenders only. I think the chief said it  
19 was 80 percent of the property crimes within  
20 the City of Scranton are because of drug use  
21 or somehow related to drugs.

22 So I know there has been a number of  
23 efforts by the District Attorney's Office,  
24 by other groups really to crack down on drug  
25 use within our community and our police

1 chief is a very forward thinking individual  
2 and really there are only a few other cities  
3 in the United States that have this type  
4 program and I firmly believe people deserve  
5 a second chance. Now, a third and a fourth,  
6 I wouldn't go that far, but everyone makes a  
7 mistake and I certainly hate to see  
8 somebody's life ruined over a small  
9 possession charge or something of that  
10 nature. It's just not fair and many times  
11 it's discriminatory, so this is program  
12 really will help the community. I am very  
13 excited, the chief is excited about it, and  
14 we are applying for this grant and he did  
15 say that even if we don't get the grant we  
16 going to look to do this program maybe in  
17 the smaller scale back version, but it is  
18 something that really can give people a  
19 chance to turn their life around if they  
20 made couple of mistakes.

21 And, again, I do want to reiterate  
22 because I know there are people out there  
23 that will say this, this is not for repeat  
24 offenders. Repeat offenders are going to be  
25 arrested, locked up and prosecuted to the

1           fullest extent of the law.

2                   MR. PERRY: And not necessarily that  
3           this program wouldn't put someone in jail as  
4           well. This is a commitment to come clean.  
5           So if they sign that commitment to come  
6           clean and they don't honor their end of the  
7           bargain, they are going to jail.

8                   MR. ROGAN: And that's a great point  
9           that Mr. Perry brought up, it's not a get  
10          out of jail free card, but it is an  
11          opportunity. So, again, I think this is  
12          something that council is fully going to  
13          support and we are anxious to see this  
14          program get put in action.

15                   The prescription savings legislation  
16          was also brought up tonight, we did have a  
17          caucus, brief caucus regarding this with  
18          some questions that members of council have  
19          had. The program, as was mentioned, is at  
20          no cost to the city. There will be savings  
21          and this firm will only receive compensation  
22          as a percentage of the savings. I think  
23          it's a good idea, actually think it's a  
24          great idea. My only concern, and it's not a  
25          concern with this legislation specifically,

1 but my only concern is that this is a  
2 function that could be or should be provided  
3 or paid for by our broker of record for our  
4 health insurance. That's something I think  
5 that needs to be used as a negotiating tool  
6 when that comes up. Because this is being  
7 done by an outside firm, the commission firm  
8 broker of record should be reduced, saving  
9 the taxpayers some money.

10 With that being said, I will vote  
11 "yes" on this proposal. There is a chance  
12 of substantial savings so I think we need to  
13 save every penny we can so I will be voting  
14 "yes" on that legislation.

15 Finally, we did receive a letter  
16 regarding handicap signs within the city. I  
17 number of years ago an ordinance was passed  
18 that required people to register their  
19 handicapped signs. Now, the intention of  
20 the ordinance I do believe it was a good  
21 intention and the consequences haven't been  
22 exactly what we are looking for. The reason  
23 why this was instituted, and I will add for  
24 the record when this was voted on a number  
25 of years ago I did oppose it for a number of

1 different grounds, but there are people who  
2 are receiving fines for not registering  
3 their handicapped signs. Again, it's a very  
4 small fee, but for a person who is  
5 handicapped to begin with and having  
6 difficulties getting around and being able  
7 to go to the police station and take care of  
8 this paperwork can sometimes be much more  
9 challenging for somebody who is handicapped  
10 than an able bodied person.

11 I hope this is something that the  
12 city can reconsider. There does have to be  
13 a way to track handicapped license plates  
14 within the city because you will find it on some  
15 blocks where there are signs that are up for  
16 many years that aren't being used, so there  
17 does need to be a tracking system, but I  
18 firmly believe, as I have and when I voted  
19 against this fee, that charging a fee to  
20 handicapped residents in the city isn't  
21 something that we should be doing, and I'm  
22 hopeful that we can work with our chief and  
23 the Law Department to find another way to  
24 track these license -- handicapped placards  
25 without charging a fee. That is all. Thank

1           you .

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

4                       MR. EVANS: Thank you. I discussed  
5           the status of our rental registration  
6           program with Tom Oleski this morning. He is  
7           actually the point person for the program.  
8           This are the in the process of merging  
9           various lists and eliminating the  
10          duplicates. The plan is to get mailers out  
11          and bills out by March 1. That's where we  
12          are at with that.

13                      Councilman Gaughan and myself  
14          attended a meeting today with Smart City  
15          Media. It's a very innovative program  
16          that's popping up all over the country,  
17          specifically Kansas City, Missouri, was one  
18          of the first to do it. They have kiosks  
19          that provide information, advertising  
20          opportunities for small businesses, upcoming  
21          events throughout the community. They are  
22          looking at possibly putting up to 80 screens  
23          downtown in the form of kiosks and attached  
24          to light poles. It may generate as much as  
25          \$158,000 per year for the City's coffers so

1           that's very positive and I think it will be  
2           positive all around and I know Councilman  
3           Gaughan will touch on that as well.

4                        About the sewer meeting, first of  
5           all, I have to say I felt it was successful,  
6           the information we received and what we have  
7           been asking for all along and we did receive  
8           additional info which I requested to receive  
9           monthly reports an all of the expenditures  
10          and receivable the authority -- for the  
11          authority meeting in March and I asked that  
12          it be dated back to the closing date.  
13          That's something that I think Ms. Schumacher  
14          mentioned we would like to see everything  
15          from the closing date currently and then  
16          from a going forward basis in the beginning  
17          of March, but I'd like to give some  
18          perspective on why I went to the meeting in  
19          the first place. As someone who has spent  
20          40 years in the private sector, working for  
21          a Fortune 500 country and as an independent  
22          contractor and a small business person. I  
23          rarely see these things through a political  
24          prism so I think that was the case in this  
25          case. I looked at it simply as opportunity

1 to get answers to our questions and in a  
2 timely manner and without delay.

3 And in being realistic in what that  
4 approach was, I felt it was wishful thinking  
5 that a Right-to-Know letter and subpoenas  
6 would actually not be met with ole's and I  
7 didn't even want to, at this point, try to  
8 create animosity with the new director  
9 without giving him a chance to get us the  
10 information that we wanted, and all of the  
11 questions were posed by all five councilmen.

12 Additionally, I felt that it was  
13 sort of wishful thinking Mr. Shrive would  
14 appear for a public caucus and, in fact,  
15 during our meeting I asked him point-blank  
16 and he declined, so contrary to popular  
17 belief we cannot just waive a magic wand and  
18 make someone appear before us. There is a  
19 process and not everybody wants to come  
20 before us for that type of public scrutiny.

21 Now, should he? Certainly, and I  
22 think President Wechsler mentioned before  
23 that we asked him and we just asked so  
24 that's all we could that.

25 Also, at the meeting I asked if the

1 press could come in, which he declined as  
2 well, but at the end of the day Councilman  
3 Wechsler and myself were in that meeting for  
4 answers and a framework for answers and I  
5 feel we achieved that goal and even if that  
6 means politically I have to take a public  
7 relations hit every now and then and maybe  
8 even get an occasional cartoon in the paper  
9 in the search for the information that we  
10 think is important and that's fine with me,  
11 I never really thought I was much of a  
12 politician anyway, so maybe that's a good  
13 thing.

14 On another matter, I would like to  
15 reinforce my opinion and positions on some  
16 issues that I feel may need some clarity  
17 because time has gone by on some of these  
18 issues and we are hear different things and  
19 sometimes it isn't exactly true on where we  
20 stand on a particular issue. On the  
21 expansion of the Keystone Landfill, I was  
22 the first councilman to bring this up to my  
23 colleagues and I continue to be on record  
24 against the expansion.

25 On the leachate line, I have

1 repeatedly and consistently been on the  
2 record as wanting to get this before a judge  
3 for a ruling. While I am disappointed that  
4 city council could not take a more active  
5 role in this, we made effort to prod the  
6 administration take a more active role and  
7 they did not, and we are hopeful that others  
8 that will take up that original stated goal  
9 and we support or I support their goals and  
10 those efforts.

11 On the Young property, the hole in  
12 the yard, I have had numerous conversations  
13 with the Youngs, in fact, I talked to  
14 Mr. Young last night. I had business sight  
15 and brokered a deal with the administration  
16 for the funding to solve the problem.  
17 Sadly, it's still tied up with attorneys but  
18 not because of lack of effort from the city  
19 council.

20 And on the Air bnb issue, my  
21 position has been the same right along, the  
22 24-year zoning code needs to be rewritten  
23 and replaced. There are too many uses like  
24 this and others that didn't exist 24 years  
25 ago and are silent in our code. It is my

1 opinion and the opinion of many others that  
2 when a use is not specifically addressed in  
3 the zoning code they have a better chance to  
4 be ultimately approved than denied, so a new  
5 zoning code would absolutely protect the  
6 neighbors far more than a dated ordinance in  
7 existence from 24 years. With that said,  
8 sometimes local issues get a little muddled  
9 and sometimes taken out of context so I  
10 think it's important once in awhile to  
11 reinform exactly on where we stand on those  
12 issues. That's all I have for tonight.

13 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr. Evans.  
14 Mr. Gaughan.

15 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes. Thank you. Just  
16 a few items. First of all, the 1700 block  
17 of Elizabeth Street had a couple of  
18 complaints about a foreclosed home there  
19 with windows that are broken and rental  
20 property issues so we did send that to the  
21 Licensing and Inspections Department.

22 Also, there is a continuing problem  
23 on Maple and Cedar Avenue with snowy and icy  
24 sidewalks and that is the main thoroughfare  
25 for the students at South Intermediate, very

1 dangerous situation. There is also a  
2 condemned home across the street from this  
3 school that I'd like the Licensing and  
4 Inspections Department to take a look at.  
5 Hopefully it's on the demolition list so  
6 we'll check that out.

7 The last few weeks as I have been  
8 attending the neighborhood meetings, really  
9 since I have been on council, the street  
10 sign issue has come up time and time again.  
11 We did each reach out to our DPW director  
12 and we actually do not keep an inventory of  
13 our street signs. I think that we need to  
14 make this a priority, whether we look for  
15 grant money to replace every faded and  
16 damaged street sign in the city. It is an  
17 major public safety issue.

18 One of the neighborhoods that I'd  
19 like to zero in on is the Hill section.  
20 There is a major, major problem with the  
21 lack of street signs in the Hill, so we do  
22 need to address it. I think, and I would  
23 urge the DPW and the administration, to come  
24 up with a program, a way to inventory the  
25 signs that are being put out and that we

1           currently have because we do pay for them,  
2           the taxpayers pay for them, so I think that  
3           is important.

4                       Onto the -- Mr. Evans had mentioned  
5           the meeting that took place with Mr. Shrive  
6           between Councilman Wechsler and Councilman  
7           Evans, and Councilman Evans mentioned that  
8           he wasn't looking at this through a  
9           political prism. I wasn't either, but I am  
10          still opposed to the way that that meeting  
11          went down for the simple fact that I was  
12          looking at it from a public service  
13          perspective. We are all public officials up  
14          here and I did not think it was appropriate  
15          for two councilmen to go and meet with the  
16          executive director of the Sewer Authority in  
17          a closed meeting in private without the  
18          press, even though I'll give Mr. Evans  
19          credit, he did invite the press and I don't  
20          think it was their intention to hide  
21          anything, but the appearance looks pretty  
22          terrible to me.

23                       We all have questions and concerns  
24          about this deal and the fact that it wasn't  
25          in an open meeting and it wasn't able to be

1           seen by the public and we all weren't able  
2           to ask questions is troubling to me, so I  
3           don't look at this issue as a politician, I  
4           look at it as a citizen, as somebody who  
5           represents the public and it should have  
6           been held in council chambers in a public  
7           caucus. Bottom line, end of story.

8                       Onto the legal fees of the Sewer  
9           Authority, in my opinion they seem excessive  
10          and outrageous and I have additional  
11          questions that I would like answered based  
12          on the information that we received from  
13          Mr. Shrive. First of all, I would like all  
14          invoices in relation to the legal fees to  
15          see a description of the time and service  
16          that were rendered, and I would like to know  
17          what the hourly rates from each law firm or  
18          the lawyer that was involved. I'd also like  
19          to know are their legal costs -- are those  
20          legal costs inclusive of any fees related to  
21          the bond transaction, and what were the fees  
22          related to the bond transaction and who was  
23          the bond council on the deal?

24                      Also, the \$1.6 million that was  
25          given to Buchanan, Ingersoll and Rooney, I'd

1           like to know if this was just a pay off for  
2           the firm or were there other attorneys who  
3           received a cut of this for services that  
4           they performed for Buchanan, Ingersoll and  
5           Rooney. I'd also like to know what role the  
6           city's special counsel, Ned Abrahamasen,  
7           played in the sewer deal and his firm,  
8           Abrahamsen, Conaboy and Abrahamsen. He  
9           received \$200,000. I'd like to know how  
10          much money that law firm has made from the  
11          city doing work from the city since January  
12          1, 2014.

13                   I have also posed numerous questions  
14                   sent by myself on behalf of Mrs. Reed about  
15                   the hiring of Mr. Shrive as the executive  
16                   director and attorney for the Scranton Sewer  
17                   Authority, and I would like those questions  
18                   answered. The public has a right to know  
19                   this information, and I know Mr. Evans and  
20                   Mr. Wechsler met with Mr. Shrive. I just  
21                   don't understand what the meeting was about.  
22                   Answer the questions and just give us the  
23                   information, and I think we all should have  
24                   had an opportunity to be there and ask any  
25                   questions that we are so passionate about.

1                   So, again, I find these fees  
2                   extraordinary, outrageous, I would like  
3                   additional information on them, and I find  
4                   them particularly extraordinary in light of  
5                   the fact that, you know, these are fees that  
6                   are coming from the seller and usually I  
7                   think in these type of dealers the buyer has  
8                   to do their due diligence and usually has  
9                   the high costs, so I would like more  
10                  information on this and hopefully we can  
11                  receive this by next week. And that is all  
12                  I have for this week. Thank you.

13                   MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr.  
14                  Gaughan.

15                   MR. WECHSLER: Touching on the  
16                  events of the meeting that we had on Friday  
17                  and each person that proceeded me talked  
18                  about how they approached it, I approached  
19                  it as the president of the Scranton City  
20                  Council. My job as president of Scranton  
21                  City Council is to get questions answered  
22                  for my colleagues and also get questions  
23                  answered for the citizens. In January, the  
24                  questions that were answered were prepared  
25                  by all five councilmen. There were no

1 additional questions raised. We sent the  
2 letter, those were the questions that were  
3 asked by councilmen.

4 The reason why I wanted to have a  
5 meeting and sit down with Mr. Shrive is to  
6 make sure that all of the questions were  
7 answered. I asked Councilman Evans to come  
8 with me because he is the Finance Chair. We  
9 sat down with Mr. Shrive, went through the  
10 questions one by one, he answered to us  
11 verbally. We each took notes then we  
12 requested that all of his answers be put  
13 into writing, which he did.

14 We could have skipped the meeting if  
15 we thought that Director Shrive would have  
16 just mailed us the answers back. We sent  
17 the questions out in January to Attorney  
18 Conaboy, and if the letter was just returned  
19 to us with answers we would have no need to  
20 this meeting, but it was my job as president  
21 of the council I had to make sure those  
22 questions were going to get answered.

23 I did not agree with the route of  
24 going with a Freedom of Information Act  
25 because the clock would still be ticking on

1           that and we would have no answers. Same  
2           thing with the subpoenas, subpoenas are a  
3           long, drawn out process that we are seeing  
4           when we send subpoenas requesting  
5           information from the state police we still  
6           don't have an answer on that.

7                         Yesterday afternoon we requested  
8           that the answers be provided to us by  
9           Wednesday. The answers were provided to us  
10          yesterday afternoon I think around 4:20.  
11          Mrs. Reed scanned them, sent them to all  
12          Councilmen as soon as they became available.  
13          As soon as they became available to me, I  
14          provided them to the Scranton Times so they  
15          could start ingesting the information and  
16          get it out there as soon as possible.

17                        Later on in the evening, Attorney  
18          Shrive sent me some further information that  
19          I immediately distributed to all councilmen  
20          and also distributed again to the Scranton  
21          Times. Our role in this was to get the  
22          answers, and as Mr. Evans said, we did take  
23          a little bit of political heat, but I give  
24          my comments to Mr. Cole because he drew a  
25          slender Joe Wechsler, which I thought was

1 very good.

2 As Mr. Gaughan said though, there is  
3 more questions from the information that we  
4 got and this is going to be an ongoing  
5 process with this. What you have to  
6 remember is that the Sewer Authority is  
7 still in existence and it has a director  
8 that's responsible for answering questions.  
9 On February 24 is their first meeting, it  
10 will be at 4 p.m. and for all council  
11 people, all citizens, all concerned parties  
12 that meeting is it open to the public and  
13 questions should be entertained. Back when  
14 the issue first came out with the easements,  
15 I attended the Scranton Sewer Authority  
16 meeting and asked questions, so it's not the  
17 responsibility of council, per se, to get  
18 these answers. We try to do it as best we  
19 can, but that does not relieve the Sewer  
20 Authority or Mr. Shrive from still having to  
21 answer questions from the public.

22 Like I said, I'm happy that we were  
23 able to get the answers. I wasn't sure how  
24 they were going to be presented to us, but  
25 we've got a lot of information that's been

1 put out there and it's a starting point now  
2 to get more satisfactory answers and  
3 responses from the Sewer Authority.

4 This evening we heard from the CMC  
5 nurses, they were here, I invited them to  
6 come and speak. I met with them a few weeks  
7 ago to understand what their situation is,  
8 and since my colleagues were anxious to  
9 support them I do have a letter that they  
10 had sent to us in preparing support for them  
11 so we will make that available for council  
12 to read if they are interested in doing a  
13 group letter or a separate letter, but we do  
14 have a letter prepared for that and get that  
15 out this week.

16 In regard to the double pension  
17 issue, we have had some contact with  
18 Solicitor Durkin and he is anticipating some  
19 answers on the resolution on that question  
20 within a few weeks.

21 In terms of what Mr. Gaughan brought  
22 up about with the street signs in the city,  
23 and we hear the same concerns, we spoke to  
24 Director Gallagher last week, we are waiting  
25 to see if we are going to get another

1 Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board grant.  
2 Last year we used that to purchase stop  
3 signs, and I'm not sure if the cost involved  
4 with street signs, but this may be a good  
5 starting point for some funding at least to  
6 get an idea and put together a proposal to  
7 replace those signs, and I agree with you,  
8 Mr. Gaughan, that's an urgent issue.

9 This evening concerning the  
10 investigation in our pharmacy bills, I'd  
11 like to compliment Solicitor Boyles on this,  
12 I think she started this as she was in the  
13 HR director previously to this, and I  
14 congratulate her for bringing some outside  
15 of the box thinking to our city government.  
16 Mr. Evans constantly talks about, you know,  
17 the way that we do business and looking for  
18 new ideas and I would like to congratulate  
19 her for bringing this to us and even if we  
20 save \$500 it was well worth the effort that  
21 she put forward.

22 Each week our meeting starts off  
23 with Ms. Hodowanitz wants talk with the  
24 audit, so I have some information about the  
25 audit here. There are some preliminary

1            dates coming out for audit. According to  
2            Business Administrator Dave Bulzoni,  
3            preliminary field work should be done the  
4            week of March 6. Rainey and Rainey hope to  
5            have the books closed on May 31. Final  
6            field work should be completed the week of  
7            June 5, and the issue of the financial  
8            statement should be June 30 so it's a very  
9            aggressive audit schedule than we had in the  
10           past and I congratulate everyone that's  
11           working on that.

12                            This week PennDOT has entered into  
13                            some agreements for some bridge work that's  
14                            going to be done in the city. There has  
15                            been agreement reached for bridge repair and  
16                            construction on the West Lackawanna Avenue  
17                            bridge, the Elm Street bridge, and the North  
18                            Main Avenue bridge. These agreements will  
19                            allow PennDOT to begin the design process.  
20                            Preliminary estimated costs for design and  
21                            construction is \$17,400,000. The city  
22                            shares about 5 percent of this, which is  
23                            \$870,000, which we all know how serious the  
24                            bridge conditions are in our city and  
25                            anything we could do repair that is well

1           worth it. That's all I have.

2                   MR. GAUGHAN: Can I make one  
3 additional point just to disagree with you  
4 for a second. I disagree with what  
5 Mr. Wechsler said in this respect, I think  
6 it is our responsibility to get these  
7 answers and these questions and I, you know,  
8 appreciate the fact that the Sewer Authority  
9 Board has meetings but we are the  
10 legislative body of the City of Scranton. I  
11 shouldn't have go to a Sewer Authority Board  
12 meeting to get answers on anything. I  
13 represent the taxpayers and the ratepayers  
14 of the city, as we all do, and quite  
15 frankly, this whole think is absurd. It is  
16 absolutely absurd. I can't even believe it.

17                   And everybody I talk to when I go to  
18 these neighborhood meeting they bring their  
19 sewer bills in, their water bills in, so  
20 many people have been upset over this thing  
21 and to add insult to injury we still don't  
22 know how much storm water management is  
23 going to cost. You have two PUC judges say  
24 that that should have been a condition of  
25 the deal. We have no idea. I have asked

1 for months what is our storm water  
2 management plan? What procedures, what  
3 policies do we currently have in place?  
4 Crickets. Maybe they don't know, but nobody  
5 has told me so far, so I think it is our  
6 responsibility. I mean, someone has to  
7 question these things. It's stinks. Thank  
8 you.

9 MR. WECHSLER: The goal should be  
10 the answers, not the questions. If you sit  
11 here and wait for somebody to give you an  
12 answer, it's not going to come. You have to  
13 go to a meeting and you have to go to an  
14 office, if you have to call somebody on the  
15 phone, if you have to go to their house.  
16 Our goal should be to get the answers and  
17 asking questions and not getting answers  
18 doesn't do any good. We got the answers.  
19 We got the answers. That's the bottom line  
20 on it.

21 MS. REED: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
22 AN ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND  
23 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO APPLY  
24 FOR AND EXECUTE A GRANT APPLICATION AND IF  
25 SUCCESSFUL A GRANT AGREEMENT AND ACCEPT THE

1 FUNDS RELATED THERETO THROUGH THE BJA FY 17  
2 EDWARD BYRNE JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT  
3 ("JAG") PROGRAM SMART POLICING INITIATIVE IN  
4 THE AMOUNT OF \$571,847.00 TO IMPLEMENT THE  
5 ALTERNATIVE TO ARRESTING ADDICTS PROGRAM.

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

9 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

10 MR. EVANS: Second.

11 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

12 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.

13 I just want to say that I am in full support  
14 of this program and I commend Chief Graziano  
15 and the Scranton Police Department for  
16 having the foresight to get involved with  
17 something as innovative, something that's as  
18 collaborative as this program is and I think  
19 it's going to be a major solution to the  
20 City of Scranton's drug problem. As I was  
21 looking through the backup, some of the  
22 things that stick out to me, some of the  
23 statistics that were included, the United  
24 States makes up only 4.6 six percent of the  
25 world's population, but it consumes 80

1 percent of it's opioids. Opioids cause 58  
2 percent of overdose deaths in Lackawanna  
3 County. 2010 and 2011, there was a 225  
4 percent increase in the total number of  
5 overdose deaths, so I think that this  
6 program will save lives through prevention  
7 of further drug abuse and I think in  
8 particular, what's particularly noteworthy,  
9 is the fact that they are going to  
10 collaborate with the University of Scranton  
11 on a lot of the research. So this isn't  
12 just going to be a shot in the dark, we are  
13 actually going to be able to look at  
14 specific hard data and I think we are going  
15 to be able to use those statistical  
16 techniques to analyze past and current  
17 police reports that clarify the nature of  
18 the drug problem and the crime problems in  
19 the City of Scranton and they are going to  
20 be report those findings to the Scranton  
21 Police Department.

22 I have known people that have had a  
23 drug problem, friends of mine who have went  
24 to jail and it doesn't work because they go  
25 to jail and then they get out and they can't

1 get a job and they still have a drug  
2 problem, so I think this initiative will try  
3 to help them recover from that, put them on  
4 a different path and I support that 100  
5 percent. Thank you.

6 MR. EVANS: On the question, I  
7 couldn't agree more. Hopefully this will  
8 become a model for other communities to  
9 follow, but more than that I think we've all  
10 been impacted by this, you know, I stood  
11 with my best friend, one of my best friends  
12 as we buried his daughter, and so we have  
13 all been extremely effected by this and I  
14 think it's going to very, very important  
15 that we get ourselves involved.

16 MR. WECHSLER: All those in favor of  
17 introduction signify by saying aye.

18 MR. PERRY: Aye.

19 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

20 MR. EVANS: Aye.

21 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

22 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The  
23 ayes have it and so moved.

24 MS. REED: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION - A  
25 RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER

1 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND  
2 ENTER INTO AN ACADEMIC COOPERATION AGREEMENT  
3 BETWEEN THE UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON  
4 ("UNIVERSITY") AND THE CITY OF SCRANTON  
5 ("CITY") TO ENCOURAGE ACTIVITIES,  
6 EXPERIENCES AND PROCESSES THAT FACILITATE  
7 GREATER UNDERSTANDING AND APPRECIATION OF  
8 CRIME PREVENTION AND POLICING IN THE CITY OF  
9 SCRANTON.

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

13 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

14 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

18 MR. PERRY: Aye.

19 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

20 MR. EVANS: Aye.

21 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

22 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The  
23 ayes have it and so moved.

24 MS. REED: 5-D. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
25 A RESOLUTION - APPOINTMENT OF OM TIMSINA,

1 2105 CROWN AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA,  
2 18505, AS A MEMBER OF THE HUMAN RELATIONS  
3 COMMISSION, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 13, 2017. MR.  
4 TIMSINA WILL BE REPLACING ALEXANDER LESTER  
5 WHO RESIGNED FROM THE BOARD ON OCTOBER 16,  
6 2016. MR. TIMSINA WILL FILL THE UNEXPIRED  
7 TERM OF ALEXANDER LESTER THAT IS SCHEDULED  
8 TO EXPIRE ON SEPTEMBER 16, 2018.

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

12 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

13 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

17 MR. PERRY: Aye.

18 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

19 MR. EVANS: Aye.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

21 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The  
22 ayes have it and so moved.

23 MS. REED: 5-E. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
24 A RESOLUTION - APPOINTMENT OF LARRY J.  
25 BOCCADORI, 2130 FARR STREET, APARTMENT #2

1 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18504 AS A MEMBER OF  
2 THE BOARD OF THE SCRANTON SEWER AUTHORITY  
3 EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 8, 2017. MR. BOCCADORI  
4 WILL BE REPLACING STUART RENDA WHO RESIGNED  
5 JANUARY 20, 2017. MR. BOCCADORI WILL FILL  
6 THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF STUART RENDA, WHOSE  
7 TERM IS SCHEDULED TO EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 31,  
8 2017.

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

12 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

13 MR. EVANS: Second.

14 MR. WECHSLER: On the question? On  
15 the question, both candidates have submitted  
16 letters of interest to council.

17 All those in favor of introduction  
18 signify by saying aye.

19 MR. PERRY: Aye.

20 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

21 MR. EVANS: Aye.

22 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

25 MS. REED: 5-F. FOR INTRODUCTION -

1 A RESOLUTION - ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATION  
2 OF THE HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURE REVIEW BOARD  
3 ("HARB") AND APPROVING THE CERTIFICATE OF  
4 APPROPRIATENESS TO ALLOW EMERGENCY REPAIR  
5 WORK FOR TEMPORARY REMOVAL AND BUILDING IN  
6 KIND OF SECTIONS OF THE PARAPET AT SCRANTON  
7 FIRE STATION HEADQUARTERS, 518 MULBERRY ST.,  
8 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA.

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

12 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

13 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

17 MR. PERRY: Aye.

18 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

19 MR. EVANS: Aye.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

21 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The  
22 ayes have it and so moved.

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

24 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.  
25 87, 2017 - AN ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE

1                   REMOVAL OF THREE (3) EXISTING SIGNS IN FRONT  
2                   OF 637-639 MADISON AVENUE AND INSTALLATION  
3                   OF AN R7-302 NO PARKING SYMBOL/ARROW SIGN  
4                   (RIGHT) AND THREE (3) R7-3-1 NO PARKING  
5                   RESTRICTED DAYS SIGNS WITH R-8-3HP-1 NO  
6                   PARKING RESTRICTED HOURS PLAQUE MOUNTED  
7                   DIRECTLY BELOW THE R7-3-1 ALONG THE WESTERLY  
8                   CURBLINE OF MADISON AVENUE, WITH FINAL  
9                   LOCATIONS TO BE DETERMINED IN FIELD FROM  
10                  R7-302 SIGN TO SOUTHERLY PROPERTY LINE OF  
11                  PROPERTY LINE OF HEAD START.

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

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

16                   MR. EVANS: Second.

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

19                   MR. PERRY: Aye.

20                   MR. ROGAN: Aye.

21                   MR. EVANS: Aye.

22                   MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

23                   MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The  
24                   eyes have it and so moved.

25                   MS. REED: 6-B. READING BY TITLE -

1 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 88, 2017 - AN  
2 ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.  
3 126, 2015, AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED "GENERAL  
4 CITY OPERATING BUDGET 2016" BY TRANSFERRING  
5 \$3,000.00 FROM ACCOUNT NO. 01.040.00040.6009  
6 (DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION -  
7 BUREAU OF ADMINISTRATION OPR TSFR-WORKERS  
8 COMP) TO ACCOUNT NO. 01.020.00000.4210  
9 (OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK/CITY COUNCIL - SVC  
10 AND MAINTENANCE FEE) TO PROVIDE SUFFICIENT  
11 FUNDING FOR SERVICE AND MAINTENANCE ACCOUNT  
12 THROUGH THE 2016 BUDGET PERIOD.

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

15 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-B  
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. PERRY: Aye.

21 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

22 MR. EVANS: Aye.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

1 MS. REED: 6-C. READING BY TITLE -  
2 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 89, 2017 - AN  
3 ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.  
4 126, 2015, AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED "GENERAL  
5 CITY OPERATING BUDGET 2016" BY TRANSFERRING  
6 \$50,000.00 FROM ACCOUNT NO.  
7 01.040.00040.6009 (DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS  
8 ADMINISTRATION - BUREAU OF ADMINISTRATION  
9 OPR TSFR-WORKERS COMP) TO ACCOUNT NO.  
10 01.060.00000.4201 (LAW  
11 DEPARTMENT-PROFESSIONAL SERVICES ACCOUNT) TO  
12 PROVIDE SUFFICIENT FUNDING FOR REMAINING  
13 PROFESSIONAL SERVICE BILLS THROUGH THE 2016  
14 BUDGET PERIOD.

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

17 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-C  
18 pass reading by title.

19 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

22 MR. PERRY: Aye.

23 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

24 MR. EVANS: Aye.

25 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

3 MS. REED: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR  
4 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC  
5 WORKS - FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF THE COUNCIL  
6 NO. 86, 2017 - AN ORDINANCE - CLOSING AND  
7 VACATING PORTIONS OF S. IRVING AVENUE AND  
8 CROWN AVENUE, BETWEEN SAGINAW STREET AND  
9 CONNELL STREET.

10 MR. WECHSLER: What is the  
11 recommendation of the Chairperson for the  
12 Committee on Public Works?

13 MR. GAUGHAN: As Chairperson for the  
14 Committee on Public Works, I recommend final  
15 passage of Item 7-A.

16 MR. ROGAN: Second.

17 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?  
18 Roll call, please?

19 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

20 MR. PERRY: Yes.

21 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

22 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

23 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

24 MR. EVANS: Yes.

25 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

1 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

2 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

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

6 MS. REED: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION BY  
7 THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS- FOR ADOPTION  
8 - RESOLUTION NO. 113, 2017- AUTHORIZING THE  
9 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS  
10 TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A SUPPLEMENTAL  
11 REIMBURSEMENT AGREEMENT NO. 041222-F WITH  
12 THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA FOR THE  
13 PURPOSE OF INCREASING CONSTRUCTION FUNDING  
14 FOR THE ROCKWELL AVENUE BRIDGE PROJECT.

15 MR. WECHSLER: What is the  
16 recommendation of the Chairperson for the  
17 Committee on Public Works?

18 MR. GAUGHAN: As Chairperson for the  
19 Committee on Public Works, I recommend final  
20 passage of Item 7-B.

21 MR. ROGAN: Second.

22 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?  
23 Roll call, please?

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

25 MR. PERRY: Yes.

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

2 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

4 MR. EVANS: Yes.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

8 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby  
9 declare Item 7-B legally and lawfully  
10 adopted.

11 MS. REED: 7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION BY  
12 THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION -  
13 RESOLUTION NO. 114, 2017 - APPOINTMENT OF  
14 DANIELLE E. KENNEDY, 1034 WOODLAWN STREET,  
15 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, TO THE POSITION OF  
16 DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES/ASSISTANT  
17 BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 6,  
18 2017. MS. KENNEDY WILL BE REPLACING JESSICA  
19 L. BOYLES, ESQUIRE WHO TOOK ANOTHER POSITION  
20 WITH THE CITY.

21 MR. WECHSLER: As Chairperson for  
22 the Committee on Rules, I recommend final  
23 passage of Item 7-C.

24 MR. ROGAN: Second.

25 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

1 Roll call, please?

2 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

3 MR. PERRY: Yes.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

5 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

7 MR. EVANS: Yes.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

9 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

11 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby  
12 declare Item 7-C legally and lawfully  
13 adopted.

14 MS. REED: 7-D. FOR CONSIDERATION BY  
15 THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION -  
16 RESOLUTION NO. 115, 2017 - AUTHORIZING THE  
17 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS  
18 TO ENTER INTO A MASTER SERVICES AGREEMENT BY  
19 AND BETWEEN REMEDY ANALYTICS, INC., A  
20 DELAWARE CORPORATION ("REMEDY") AND THE CITY  
21 OF SCRANTON ("CLIENT") TO AID THE CITY IN  
22 ANALYZING CLAIMS DATA AND NEGOTIATING  
23 CONTRACTUAL LANGUAGE FOR THE CITY'S PHARMACY  
24 BENEFITS MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR THE PURPOSE  
25 OF ACHIEVING SAVINGS ON PHARMACY BENEFITS.

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

4 MR. ROGAN: Second.

5 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

6 MR. PERRY: Yes, just on the  
7 question, something I didn't add before in  
8 motions, I made a request for the cost  
9 savings on an ongoing basis so we can  
10 measure the impact off this company, in  
11 order to determine if we want to continue to  
12 services in the future.

13 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Roll  
14 call, please?

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

16 MR. PERRY: Yes.

17 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

18 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

19 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

20 MR. EVANS: Yes.

21 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

22 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

23 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

24 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby  
25 declare Item 7-D legally and lawfully

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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.

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CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR  
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER