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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Thursday, February 23, 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
(Not present)

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. Mr.

9 Gaughan.

10 MR. GAUGHAN: Here.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

12 MR. WECHSLER: Here.

13 MR. ROGAN: I make a motion to name
14 Councilman Perry as temporary chair for the
15 Committee on Finance.

16 MR. GAUGHAN: Second.

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

19 MR. PERRY: Aye.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

21 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

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

24 Dispense with the reading of the
25 minutes.

1 MS. REED: THIRD ORDER. 3-A. TAX
2 ASSESSOR'S REPORT FOR HEARING DATE TO BE
3 HELD MARCH 1, 2017.

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

6 MS. REED: 3-B. CONTROLLER'S REPORT
7 FOR MONTH ENDING JANUARY 31, 2017.

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

10 MS. REED: 3-C. AGENDA FOR THE CITY
11 PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING HELD FEBRUARY
12 22, 2017.

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

15 MS. REED: 3-D. TAX ASSESSOR'S
16 RESULTS REPORT FOR HEARING DATE HELD
17 FEBRUARY 8, 2017.

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

20 MS. REED: 3-E. AGENDA FOR THE BOARD
21 OF ZONING APPEALS MEETING TO BE HELD MARCH
22 8, 2017.

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

25 Do any council members have

1 announcements at this time?

2 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, I have one.

3 There will be a free home repair from
4 Neighbor Works of Northeastern Pennsylvania
5 and Group Cares, Incorporated, July 21
6 through July 24, 2017. This will be for
7 homeowners in the Hill Section of Scranton
8 with difficulty maintaining their home and
9 you may also nominate a homeowner from East
10 Scranton to be included in this project.
11 You can pick up an application at
12 Representative Marty Flynn's office, 409
13 North Main Avenue in Scranton or at NWEPA,
14 1510 North Main Avenue in Scranton, and
15 these applications have to be in by February
16 25, 2017. Thank you.

17 MR. WECHSLER: There was an
18 executive session held this evening for
19 tonight's meeting to discuss a matter of
20 litigation. I also would like to offer
21 congratulations to the NET Credit Union for
22 their grand opening of their new facility
23 down on Mulberry Street. They do make a
24 nice edition to the gateway to our city and
25 I wish them the best of luck there.

1 This evening we did receive
2 notification that Judge Braxton has granted
3 the City's petition to enact the LST tax and
4 we will be getting legislation on that next
5 week.

6 MS. REED: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'
7 PARTICIPATION.

8 MR. WECHSLER: Jim Kuchwara.

9 MR. KUCHWARA: Council members and
10 ladies here in the council chamber and
11 Attorney Amil Minora, I really appreciate
12 this and thank you for the opportunity to
13 come here and speak. What we are here to
14 talk about is the way the Rockwell Avenue
15 bridge looks like it's really progressing
16 every day, and if it's not done way before
17 July 1, I mean, I think that's a reality
18 that it's going to be. What we are here to
19 ask you, and we go and ask this in writing,
20 we have letters for each one of you
21 councilmen to have, and it's a request that
22 when the opening of the bridge comes that we
23 could have a name put on that bridge named
24 after Brigadier General Theodore J. Wint.
25 He was born right here in Scranton,

1 Pennsylvania. They still have home right
2 over on East Market Street. He was born
3 believe it or not March 8, 1845, and he died
4 and was buried in Arlington National
5 Cemetery with full honors. I mean, think of
6 that, with full honors. If you ever go to
7 the cemetery he has if not the largest
8 monument, one of the largest monuments in
9 national cemetery. What we are here to ask
10 you for is to name that bridge. We do not
11 know the procedure of it is, but I do know
12 we have to go through city council.

13 You people, you councilmen, can be
14 part of such an honor and tribute that we
15 can bestow and give to General Theodore
16 Wint. What you do not know is in October
17 2017, which it will be this year, we are
18 having our 100th anniversary of VF General
19 Theodore VFW Post 25. Gentlemen, we are a
20 100 years old. What a tribute and an honor
21 that we can give this gentleman. General
22 Theodore J. Wint his whole life with
23 dedicated to the military. There is nothing
24 better than I would love to drive across
25 that bridge knowing it was dedicated and

1 named after General Theodore J. Wint and
2 when you go right up the road just a little
3 way another comrade, which Rockwell Park was
4 named after, James Pine McLane, another very
5 well honored soldier and if I do not let you
6 knows that he was a marine and his son Jimmy
7 is also a marine, we all know Jimmy, Jimmy
8 would be mad at me if I didn't mention he
9 was a marine, but General Theodore J. Wint
10 was Army.

11 So, gentlemen, I'm not going to keep
12 you any longer, it will be your job, and I
13 hope you bestow the honor that would be
14 given to this man born right in Scranton.
15 They have a home and it's still built. It's
16 still down there on East Market Street where
17 people live in. I'm going to have my
18 quartermaster pass out those letters and
19 requests.

20 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you.

21 MR. GAUGHAN: Mr. Kuchwara, I want
22 to thank you for coming tonight and thank
23 all of you gentlemen for being here. Thank
24 you for your service and you have my support
25 100 percent on naming this bridge after our

1 fallen hero. Thank you very much.

2 MR. KUCHWARA: We appreciate this
3 and, gentlemen, when you make your decision
4 on this you, too, can be part of such an
5 honor. What an honor knowing that, you
6 know, we are involved into the Scranton
7 Veteran's Memorial Park and that will coming
8 later on this year, but the message that I
9 could say to other people be part of leaving
10 something for all of those who gave their
11 all, and I thank each and every one and
12 ladies for your time. Thank you.

13 MR. WECHSLER: We thank you for
14 coming and it's an honor for us to
15 participate in this and we will work on this
16 and get it done as quick as possible.

17 MR. KUCHWARA: Thank you.
18 Appreciate it.

19 MR. ROGAN: We really appreciate you
20 bringing this to us so we can it to the
21 finish line and as somebody who all of us
22 here have fought for another bridge to be
23 named for a veteran just recently, this is a
24 good honor and it certainly is well deserved
25 and I firmly believe bridges, monuments,

1 parks, need to be named after those who
2 fought for our country.

3 MR. KUCHWARA: I appreciate that and
4 we'll be waiting to hear from you so we
5 could start planning this dedication as
6 well. You know, the people up there have
7 waited so long for in bridge to be opened
8 and to have it opened and know it's named
9 after one of their own I think will be a
10 plus. Thank you.

11 MR. PERRY: We'll see you at the
12 ribbon cutting ceremony.

13 MR. KUCHWARA: Okay, thank you.

14 MR. WECHSLER: Joan Hodowanitz.

15 MS. HODOWANITZ: Joan Hodowanitz,
16 city resident and taxpayer. Well, it's that
17 time again, February 28, Tuesday through
18 Sunday, March 5, is the Friends of the
19 Scranton Public Library's next book sale
20 which will be held at the Marketplace at
21 Steamtown, pretty much the same hours as the
22 mall has. Now, I was at the County
23 Commissioners meeting yesterday, and the
24 commissioners promised me that they are
25 coming to our book sale, so I don't want you

1 to be shamed by not coming so I expect to
2 see all four of you and bring Wayne when he
3 gets back. Remember, that the proceeds of
4 our book sales go to support the Scranton
5 Public Library which serves the entire
6 community, so it's a good deal for
7 everybody. It's a win-win.

8 257 days to the general election on
9 November 7, still waiting for the Arcadis
10 study on storm water management costs. 127
11 days until June 30, the date of the 2016
12 audit, and March 7 I hope that many people
13 will come out for the public hearing that
14 PEL is hosting on the financial condition of
15 Scranton and whether or not it's going to be
16 coming out of distressed status over the
17 next three years. March 7 is an important
18 date for us to mark on our calendars and
19 it's also rather ironic because many people
20 were hoping that we would be able to attend
21 that meeting with knowledge in hand of how
22 the city proposes to spend the proceeds from
23 the Sewer authority sale, but as I sat in
24 your caucus tonight and I realized that we
25 will be lucky to have that information

1 between mid-March and early April and that I
2 find that really disappointing and
3 bothersome because how can a citizen go to
4 this public hearing on March 7 and express
5 an opinion on the City's financial condition
6 if we have no clue as to how the proceeds of
7 the Sewer Authority sale are going to be
8 distributed? How much is going to the
9 pensions and the impact on the pension
10 funds, short term and long term? How much
11 is going to retired debt and the impact on
12 budget? How much is going into capital
13 improvements? This makes a great deal of --
14 this matters to the way the city is going to
15 look financially three years down the road
16 and beyond.

17 Now, I was happy to hear from Jim in
18 caucus tonight that the city did get it's
19 LST tax approved so that prevents you from
20 having a \$3 million hole in the budget.

21 I would remind everybody that on
22 March 1 there will be another pension board
23 meeting for the police and firefighters and
24 they will decide whether they will continue
25 their litigation against the city for

1 retiree raises. That will impact the
2 pension funds and the budget. We are still
3 hanging fire on those darn double pensions
4 and that's another thing to be looking at on
5 March 1.

6 And I'm still looking for that
7 famous pipeline, the RFP for the third party
8 administration and pension funds, any idea?
9 That's another thing we need.

10 MR. GAUGHAN: As far as I know they
11 are still working on it.

12 MS. HODOWANITZ: Oh, it's got to be
13 a beauty. At the rate they're going, it's
14 going to be a masterpiece.

15 MR. GAUGHAN: Yeah, can't wait to
16 see it.

17 MS. HODOWANITZ: And in addition to
18 any other pension reforms that might be
19 hanging in the wind of which many are
20 needed. And, of course, Billy, next week
21 Granicus? Got my fingers crossed.

22 MR. GAUGHAN: That's what I've been
23 told so I have my fingers crossed, too.

24 MS. HODOWANITZ: Okay, but I just
25 want to say one has thing that I encourage

1 citizens who have the time and the interest,
2 these public hearings, these pension board
3 meetings, city council meetings, county
4 commissioner meetings, authority and board
5 meetings, if you have the time and the
6 interest please attend. At the least, watch
7 it on ECTV. This is your city and it will
8 only be as healthy and sound as we make it.
9 Thank you.

10 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

11 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Lenny
12 Serebro.

13 MR. SEREBRO: Lenny Serebro,
14 Scranton resident. Good evening, Council.
15 You know, I'm not here every week to bug you
16 guys, but, you know, I come in every couple
17 of the weeks to try and find out anything
18 being done on flushing that drainage pipe?

19 MR. PERRY: Just this weekend I had
20 a long conversation with Director Gallagher
21 and the pipe is absolutely going to get
22 flushed out. It's actually going to be
23 flushed out on a regular basis as needed.
24 The issue with the pipe is that when it was
25 installed it was installed at the wrong

1 pitch and it's allowing that, you know,
2 for --

3 MR. SEREBRO: That sediment --

4 MR. PERRY: -- from backing into it.
5 There is a possible quick fix which is just
6 to put on a type of backflow device that if
7 the water rises to that level the backflow
8 will kick in and it will only let water out
9 one way as opposed to letting all of that
10 sediment back, backup and cause the issue.

11 The other long-term alternative is
12 to be -- redig it and reset it at the right
13 pitch. That's something that they are right
14 now discussing what is the better option to
15 take care of that problem, but as far the
16 initial setting that's in there now that is
17 scheduled, I don't have a date for you,
18 unfortunately, but they are going to flush
19 it and they are going to have an ongoing
20 assessment of that.

21 MR. SEREBRO: So there is no date
22 set for the flushing?

23 MR. PERRY: If there is, I don't
24 have one, but I will work on it this week to
25 see if I can pin it down for you.

1 MR. SEREBRO: And I appreciate it.
2 You know, really, the spring rains will be
3 coming, you know?

4 MR. PERRY: The snow pelts, the rain
5 comes and that's -- there is issues.

6 MR. SEREBRO: You know, I just
7 wanted to ask a question what I noticed
8 what's going on in the neighborhood is they
9 are replacing all of the streetlights there.
10 You know, I don't know why they are, I mean,
11 everybody wants an improvement, but just
12 last night was the first time all of these
13 new streetlights, I don't think they are any
14 brighter it's just like, you know, when you
15 are buying a florescent bulb you could get
16 natural light or soft light, but to do all
17 of that, you know, all of that costly stuff,
18 hire contractors to do them streetlights --

19 MR. PERRY: Well, that particular
20 TEN project that are you speaking of, when
21 that was talked about at council and passed
22 legislation there was liquid fuel money that
23 helped pay for that. It didn't come out of
24 the general fund, and the contractor, the
25 company that's doing that was guaranteed

1 savings so putting in and replacing the
2 regular incandescent bulb with the LED bulb
3 not only last 30 years without replacement,
4 there is also going to be sensors on them to
5 let the city know when the bulb does go
6 faulty or goes out so we don't have to worry
7 about having people, you know, call in or
8 leave a message on which pole number the
9 light is out, that will taken care of
10 automatically. And also with the conversion
11 to LED there is going to an approximately a
12 \$400,000 a year savings just on our
13 electrical bill, so that was kind of the
14 mentality behind it.

15 MR. SEREBRO: Okay, I just thought,
16 you know, I didn't know anything until I
17 seen them changing all of the lights and was
18 wondering what's going on. Once again, I
19 was wondering well, geez, if they are
20 affording to do all of these streetlights
21 how about the hiring a contractor to --

22 MR. PERRY: I got you.

23 MR. SEREBRO: -- to flush that drain,
24 you know, that's what I thought about.

25 Okay, I understand there was another

1 meeting set up that they were going to have
2 some people there and to discuss the problem
3 recently, but how do I know when this
4 meeting is going to be?

5 MR. PERRY: Yeah, and I don't know
6 either. I know we had the original one set
7 up, which there was a later date --

8 MR. SEREBRO: There was the original
9 one and the second one.

10 MR. PERRY: There was supposed to be
11 another one, but I wasn't added if there was
12 one. I spoke to Director Gallagher on a
13 one-on-one basis over the weekend.

14 MR. SEREBRO: Okay. Yeah, I
15 understand it was another weather problem we
16 got snow and ice there so it was cancelled
17 at the last minute I understand.

18 MR. PERRY: But as of right now I'm
19 not aware of anything else that's going to
20 be happening as far as the meeting with
21 anybody.

22 MR. SEREBRO: Okay, well, if and
23 when it comes up like the third time then --

24 MR. PERRY: Absolutely.

25 MR. SEREBRO: How can I know about

1 when they are going to have that --

2 MR. PERRY: If I can kind out I can
3 get in touch with you and let you know, for
4 sure.

5 MR. SEREBRO: Say that again?

6 MR. PERRY: I can let you know when
7 I hear about a date for a meeting I will let
8 you know for sure.

9 MR. SEREBRO: Okay, so how would you
10 let me know?

11 MR. WECHSLER: If you leave your
12 contact information, we will have that on
13 hand and then Councilman Perry can get ahold
14 of you.

15 MR. SEREBRO: Okay.

16 MR. PERRY: I think we actually
17 spoke before so I might still have your
18 number, but I'll --

19 MR. SEREBRO: I'll give it to her
20 again. Okay, thank you.

21 MR. WECHSLER: Les Spindler.

22 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening,
23 Council. Les Spindler, city resident and
24 homeowner and taxpayer. That's one thing I
25 want to talk about tonight. I got home from

1 work the other night, saw my street lit up,
2 it was almost like a stadium. It was
3 beautiful and my wife said they were out
4 there all day. I live on the corner and
5 there was one on my corner, one at the alley
6 in back of my house, one on the next corner.
7 It's really nice. It makes the neighborhood
8 seem a lot safer. Did a great job.

9 Once again, Councilmen Perry, I
10 commend you and the quick action that hole
11 down on the Doherty Street complex. A few
12 weeks ago I walked by and I guess the water
13 company was probably there and they have it
14 all sectioned off. It looks like they
15 probably are going to dig. Painted on the
16 street it says PA-One-Call. I don't know
17 what that means, but I guess they are
18 probably going to dig and for the fence out
19 to the street it's all painted off and
20 marked off so --

21 MR. PERRY: Well, thank you, but the
22 credit goes to the Department of Public
23 Works. They are the ones that actually take
24 care of it, but thank you.

25 MR. SPINDLER: You can thank Dennis

1 selling stocks and bonds 30 years and he
2 reads about all of this going on here, he
3 said he has never in 30 years seen such a
4 screwed up deal. And the other shoe hasn't
5 fell. You know, we don't know what the end
6 is going to be. Want to revitalize downtown
7 for the umpteenth time. Give tax
8 initiatives to the same people. This has
9 got to stop somewhere. Downtown is a
10 dinosaur. The mall was a dinosaur before it
11 was built. I heard that over and over and
12 over again and you probably have, too.

13 You people are just -- you have
14 milked the taxpayers of this city dry.
15 6,000 foreclosures last August and they
16 didn't seem to impress anybody. I would
17 like to know who National Resources Network
18 is and who owns it and how much we pay them
19 because this article said we hired them.
20 Does anybody know anything about it? They
21 are handling our \$500,000 according to this.
22 Mr. Lockwood wrote part of this article, he
23 ought to know something about it. He
24 probably knows more about it than the mayor
25 and the city. What are you all going to do?

1 This can't go on.

2 Well, I guess it will always go on.
3 I guess it will. It'll just never stop in
4 this city. Never. It's ashamed. It's
5 ashamed what this city has come to and how
6 badly we need help and don't get it. There
7 is five of you up there and we get help, a
8 minimal amount of help from one.

9 And to change the subject about the
10 elections, there was a lady, Sally Lewis,
11 wrote an article, a little letter, she wants
12 to -- she belongs to the, I wrote it down
13 here, the Industrial Workers of the World.
14 This sound like someone from Russia from the
15 1920's. She wants to come with a petition
16 to make a sanctuary city. We are about one
17 step above Hazelton as it is, you know,
18 maybe she should run for mayor to get things
19 straightened out because we are not getting
20 any help from anybody. Here the mayor
21 sticks Bulzoni in a \$100,000 a year salary
22 and him and Amoroso live like royalty
23 compared to half of this city. I don't
24 think half the city makes money like that
25 and I'd like to know three years what --

1 tell me something positive out of Amoroso
2 and Bulzoni. Nobody can tell me something
3 positive these two gentlemen have done.

4 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you,
5 Mr. Ellman.

6 MR. ELLMAN: It's just time somebody
7 wises up and helps the people of this city
8 and quit worrying about downtown because
9 downtown is over with.

10 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you,
11 Mr. Ellman. Is there anyone else?

12 MS. SCHUMACHER: Marie Schumacher.
13 Another day that I went to the agenda and
14 found no backup. When?

15 MR. GAUGHAN: Well, I hate to say
16 next week because I have been 0 for 2 so
17 far, but apparently there is a piece of
18 equipment we are waiting on to be able to
19 scan the document in and read the text so
20 I'm hoping by next week.

21 MS. SCHUMACHER: Who planned this?

22 MR. GAUGHAN: The IT guys.

23 MS. SCHUMACHER: You guys did it;
24 right? You said you were trained and you
25 had no problem accessing it; right?

1 MR. GAUGHAN: Right, and the staff
2 has been trained, but there's a piece of
3 equipment that has to go on the scanner so
4 that when you scan the document in it reads
5 the text.

6 MS. SCHUMACHER: And they didn't
7 know that?

8 MR. GAUGHAN: Well, they did but the
9 equipment hasn't arrived yet. That's the
10 message from the IT Department. So it's out
11 of my control at this point.

12 MS. SCHUMACHER: Unbelievable. And
13 I notice Mr. Evans isn't here tonight, does
14 anybody follow-up and check with the
15 administration on whether or not we are
16 collecting the business privilege and
17 mercantile tax for all of those B and B's
18 and similarly run? Does anybody care?
19 Didn't we hire somebody to do this and here
20 they are in our lap and we don't even verify
21 whether they are being -- whether those
22 people are paying. I find that a little bit
23 strange. Actually, I find it a lot strange,
24 but that's true of a lot. What about the
25 refuse study, who is actually doing that, is

1 that DCED?

2 MR. GAUGHAN: I believe it was an
3 Act 47 grant, so DCED.

4 MS. SCHUMACHER: They are paying for
5 it or they are performing it?

6 MR. GAUGHAN: They are paying for
7 it, I'm not sure who is performing it.

8 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. I guess I
9 can do another Right to Know. Agenda items
10 7-E and F, have resumes been received from
11 these two people and has it been verified
12 that there are no tax delinquencies?

13 MR. WECHSLER: They have both
14 submitted letters of interests, which we
15 consider the same as a resume, and when they
16 are sent down they administration certifies
17 that they are up to date.

18 MS. SCHUMACHER: Thank you. Now,
19 agenda item -- well, before I go to that
20 one, is the administration planning on
21 preparing a budget for the next three years
22 that matches what PEL is trying to push that
23 we can see whether they are in sync and we
24 can judge the credibility based on that
25 budget?

1 MR. WECHSLER: Not that I'm aware
2 of, no.

3 MS. SCHUMACHER: I would like to
4 suggest that you ask Mr. Bulzoni to do that.
5 I think it's only fair to we taxpayers.

6 Okay, agenda Item 6-A, would
7 somebody please give me a breakdown of how
8 these funds would be disbursed? Also, as
9 the Affordable Care Act requires every
10 person to have health care coverage please
11 assure me that individual addict's treatment
12 will be paid for with their own health
13 insurance. How will it -- questions I have
14 tonight and then I'll come back and if
15 anybody can answer them, how will the
16 treatments -- how will the treatment center
17 select the addict -- select which facility
18 the addict will go? Will this program be
19 available to all first time addicts or only
20 some? If only some, what will be the
21 criteria for making the cut? Is there a
22 ceiling on the length of the time the addict
23 will be given to recover? How will this
24 program be funded after these initial funds
25 are depleted? Are we creating a brand new

1 budget expense item? Will police officers
2 be assigned to this effort full-time, and if
3 so how many officers? Will additional
4 employees be required? Must the addict be
5 Scranton residents? You know, this whole
6 program has enough similarities to the
7 Luzerne County Kids for Cash program that
8 transparency is definitely going to be
9 required if this goes forward.

10 MR. PERRY: Did you say kids for
11 cash?

12 MS. SCHUMACHER: Yeah.

13 MR. PERRY: Okay.

14 MS. SCHUMACHER: The potential, I'm
15 sorry. What are the plans to measure the
16 effectiveness of this program and the cost
17 the effectiveness? I'll be back next week.
18 Thank you.

19 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening, Council.
20 Dave Dobrzyn, resident, taxpayer. On 6-A, I
21 could say I'd support the program but a few
22 weeks ago there were some people in here on
23 marijuana issues and I'd like to remind you
24 at this time that a few years ago our former
25 chief stopped over a parked car and maybe

1 smelled some marijuana or something had been
2 burnt in the apartment and that couple was
3 arrested and which is the current situation,
4 but they were locked out of their apartment
5 for six months and that to me unacceptable.
6 That probably exceeds the punishment they
7 would get from the Courts, so I wish you
8 would consider that.

9 As far the opioid abuse program with
10 illegal pain killers I could support that,
11 and it's not too severe, but then Ma
12 Schumacher did express some concerns. It
13 may cost a lot of money.

14 On the sewer, one of my questions, I
15 was unable to attend last week, was the \$12
16 million in upgrades that was performed by
17 the former Sewer Authority, worthless to the
18 water company and why. I could see if maybe
19 they had their own crew and they felt they
20 could do it for less or whatever, but if
21 there are required upgrades they are
22 absolutely necessary then there is a little
23 kink in the negotiating process there, and
24 I'd like to know why is \$12 million in
25 upgrades were performed and we didn't get

1 any consideration with the money that was
2 spent.

3 Once again, also, on 6-A, if we get
4 too excessive with punishments we may find
5 ourselves the subject of serious lawsuits.
6 Please don't get us sued.

7 Now, also, on the sewer, last
8 Thursday night the federal government has
9 authorized strip miners to toss breaker rock
10 and drainage into mountain streams. Now,
11 the mining situation here goes all the way
12 to Fell Township, so I would like to thank
13 the administration for requiring me to spend
14 \$40 a month, and possibly probably more in
15 the future and only to allow somebody to
16 toss their breaker rock into the stream that
17 I'm supposed to be cleaning up. It's right
18 nice of them.

19 And, once again, on 501-C-3's and
20 C-4's, I'd like to remind any candidates
21 that under Pennsylvania law and federal law
22 it's illegal to require them to pay
23 anything. However, here I have a church
24 official, I'm a happy warrior for the
25 church. Now, this person is quite political

1 and under the 501-C-3 law in 1958, it was
2 stated that they had to be strictly for
3 public welfare and not politically active
4 and then somebody slipped in primarily,
5 probably some bureaucrat, and they have been
6 getting away with it for years and it keeps
7 getting worse when you have people up on
8 stage with presidential candidates
9 advocating for executions and crazy things
10 like this. It's really wrong and I think
11 it's time that they be come down upon and
12 that's my opinion. I don't care who doesn't
13 like it. Thank you and have a good night.

14 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia.

15 Citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians.
16 I was reading in the paper where there the
17 mayor was touting how great we are
18 financially off since he has been in there.
19 One of the things he was touting was the
20 police and firemen arbitration awards. He
21 didn't say that we almost doubled the debt
22 of that award by borrowing the money. You
23 cannot borrow \$25 million and say that's a
24 great thing to do and then have to pay back
25 \$56 million or something like that. You

1 don't take credit for something like that.
2 That's something you do because maybe you
3 have to do it, but you do not take credit
4 for something like that.

5 I read again big tout about the
6 South Side Complex down there. People
7 realize that was sold on a lie. Our Mayor
8 Doherty went down to Harrisburg, hired
9 people to tout saying how bad it was. I'll
10 never forgive the University of that kind of
11 deal, to dirty their hands in something like
12 that. True, the improvements is a lot
13 better than the city could ever do, but the
14 way they went about it is not very good,
15 then touts what are we doing with religion
16 and civil servants hand-in-hand and what
17 they are doing. That's not a good precedent
18 either.

19 We got a lot of things wrong with
20 this city. We didn't get into distress by
21 being frugal. We got into distress by being
22 overly generous. There is no question about
23 it. You got to do something with the city
24 employees. There is no way out of it. I'm
25 a union person, I don't like to think of it,

1 but we are at crossroads. We can't -- the
2 double pensions is small compared to the
3 people who went out on disability. There is
4 where all of money is going. That is why
5 our pension fund is so depleted. Nobody
6 looked after the taxpayers when this thing
7 came out. They didn't look into it because
8 there was one good, happy family. Everybody
9 is related. You and I know that. Now we
10 are suffering for it and it's a sad state of
11 affairs that if you bought a house in the
12 city ten years ago, 15 years ago for say
13 \$60,000 you are lucky to get 30,000 today.
14 That's how bad the people think of Scranton,
15 and it's not the people in Scranton, it's
16 the politicians we elect in Scranton that
17 place us where we at, and no one seems to
18 look at it and try to do something about it.

19 Even PEL, now a three-year plan.
20 First you had a five-year plan. They never
21 really accomplished anything in a five-year
22 plans and I doubt Scranton is going to do
23 anything in the three-year plan. It's just
24 going to get worse and worse. No one seems
25 to really care about the financial viability

1 of the city. We do not have enough high
2 paying jobs to cover all a lot of things in
3 the city, and people who really make the
4 good buck get out of the city and that's the
5 sad thing.

6 I love Scranton. You may think I
7 don't, but I do. I grew up here and I have
8 always touted Scranton was a wonderful city
9 to grow up in, especially at the time I grew
10 up. Everything was reasonable because we
11 were coming out of the depression and you
12 could make it. If you earned a \$1.50 an
13 hour you could live. Not anymore in
14 Scranton. The taxes alone break your back
15 and you just got to come up with some way of
16 either reducing the cost of the city
17 government or just getting out of the city
18 government at all. Find a different way of
19 doing things, maybe a new government, form a
20 new way of governing, but you got to do
21 something. You can't just sit on the fence.
22 That's \$70 million that we are getting is a
23 drop in the bucket. You go to what, \$138
24 million a year just in finances coming in?
25 When you say 32 percent of the money coming

1 in from the our taxes go to pay off debt.
2 That's not a very good way of paying off
3 debt. 32 percent. That's a lot. That's
4 every 32 cents of every dollar we give to
5 the city goes for debt. We just can't stand
6 and we will never survive it. Bye.

7 MR. WECHSLER: Anyone else.

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

9 MOTIONS.

10 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Perry?

11 MR. PERRY: Yes, I just have a
12 couple of things. The first thing is just
13 some things I'm getting in my e-mail box,
14 one of them is about the contractors and
15 obtaining license to operate in the City of
16 Scranton, mostly from, believe it or not,
17 mechanical workers, so I have a copy of the
18 requirements. I'm not going to go in great
19 detail of it, but it's easily accessible at
20 the Licensing Department, but you just need
21 a notarized application, proof of property
22 and damage liability insurance, your resume,
23 photo ID, proof of field experience, which
24 is W-2's, going back four years, and then
25 proof of passing a test in your field and

1 there are lists numerous testing that
2 qualifies, and then pay your fee.

3 So it's not as complicated as it
4 used to be and, again, I know going back
5 years it was always difficult for
6 contractors to get in the city and do
7 business. One of the things we do want to
8 do is make it easier at the same time making
9 it safe and I think with this particular
10 field I think we managed to achieve that.
11 This copy is going to somebody that
12 requested it tomorrow morning and hopefully,
13 you know, by tomorrow he will be working in
14 the City of Scranton which, you know, he
15 definitely wants to do.

16 I already made comments about Keyser
17 Valley with the flooding and the drainage
18 pipe and the resolution with that.

19 Something else from my inbox, Mrs.
20 Reed, if you would make a note just to get
21 to Chief Graziano, there has been numerous
22 e-mails sent to me about speeding on 16th
23 and Division, going through the stop sign,
24 and the fear there is with the weather
25 starting to get warmer, more kids being out

1 after school hours it just poses an eminent
2 threat they feel in the neighborhood, so if
3 we can just s make a request to do a patrol
4 or do some type of traffic I don't want to
5 say study, but just kind of a saturation
6 especially during the in and out of school
7 hours just to make sure that if this is an
8 issue that we can put something in place to
9 slow them down.

10 We talked a little about the LST tax
11 approval and I'm very thankful for that
12 being approved. That does alleviate a \$3
13 million hole in our budget that would,
14 again, would have been made up by the
15 property owners of the City of Scranton, and
16 as a property owner in the City of Scranton
17 there is not much more I can give. I'm sure
18 we are all in that same boat and so that's
19 why I was very, very happy to see this
20 disbursement to anybody involved and
21 everybody using the city, and not go back,
22 right back on the property owners.

23 You know, it's too often I feel like
24 we are the first people that take the brunt
25 and being punished for actually taking

1 ownership in the city, and while we do use
2 the city and we own the property we do need
3 to pay our share. You know, we, too, pay
4 our fair share and so I was very happy to
5 see the LST get approved again and a \$3
6 million in the budget takes care of itself.

7 And I really don't have anything
8 else, I'll cut my list a little short today
9 because I don't want to take anything that
10 Pat might have written down. I know
11 Councilman Rogan doesn't like when I jump
12 all over the place, so I'll leave one or two
13 things that I know you're going to talk
14 about aside and that's all I have for
15 tonight.

16 MR. ROGAN: I appreciate it, Mr.
17 Perry, and I think we need to switch seats.
18 A lot of times we have the same items. I
19 only have a couple of brief items.
20 Councilman Gaughan mentioned about Neighbor
21 Works NEPA doing a project in the Hill this
22 year, and I just want to say what a great
23 organization they are. They have been doing
24 projects throughout the city, Paint the Town
25 is one of the more popular ones where

1 volunteers paint homes for senior citizens
2 and people who are unable to do it
3 themselves. They do minor repairs on the
4 outside of the home so it makes the
5 neighborhood nicer and gives those
6 improvements. It's particularly older
7 citizens that are unable to do the work
8 themselves or can't afford to pay to have
9 somebody do it so it's a great organization.
10 The city has partnered with them on a number
11 of projects that have all been very
12 successful and I'm glad to see another
13 neighborhood in the city getting this
14 service.

15 Next, we did receive a memo, on
16 March 15 bids will be opening for road
17 paving in the Pennswood Development. I'll
18 ready off quickly the list of the streets
19 that will be paved under this OECD project.
20 South -- and it's portions of these streets,
21 portions of the South Webster Avenue,
22 Campbell Street, Park Drive, Garwood Drive,
23 Pequest Drive, Cemetery Street and Bengar
24 Drive. Anyone that lives in this area or
25 travels in that area knows that these roads

1 are in deplorable condition and they are in
2 need of major repairs, so I'm really looking
3 forward to this project. The bids coming
4 back hopefully they will continue to be
5 favorable luckily because of the lower cost
6 of oil in previous years and we have been
7 able to pave more with our dollars and
8 hopefully that will continue.

9 I did receive a memo from Business
10 Administrator Dave Bulzoni today just prior
11 to the meeting regarding some large amounts
12 of debt that were paid off. As part of the
13 budget that was passed, there was provisions
14 for debt repayment, debt paydown using some
15 of the Sewer Authority proceeds and there
16 were five series of debt issuance that have
17 been made, will be paid off. The series
18 2006, 2012-A, 2012-B, 2012-C and 2013-A.
19 Particularly, the 2012 and '13 debt I
20 believe they're at a very high rate of six,
21 renege percent interest so by having that
22 paid off that does save nearly a million
23 dollars a year in our budget, and it was
24 debated in our caucus will be having
25 discussions with the administration

1 regarding the usage of the sale of the sewer
2 proceeds. Formulations are being computed
3 by our Business Administrator, and I'm sure
4 PEL is involved as well, on a number of
5 scenarios on how to get the most bang for
6 the buck for the taxpayers with those
7 proceeds.

8 As I have been stating for quite
9 awhile now, I'm a firm believer that debt
10 repayment needs to be a major component of
11 those proceeds. By paying down debt we
12 could have dedicated millage go away and the
13 residents can have a small tax decrease and
14 the city's budget will be shored up. I see
15 just by paying these couple items here, that
16 saves the city a million dollars a year, and
17 the nice thing about paying down debt once
18 it's paid off, it's paid off.

19 The investments in the pension fund,
20 while are certainly needed, if the stock
21 market has a correction the very next day we
22 could see big losses. So I am anxious to
23 see what these -- how these different
24 scenarios play out and what the analysis are
25 and how to get the most bang for the buck,

1 but it's definitely something that I know we
2 are going to be looking at very carefully.

3 And, finally, it wouldn't be a
4 council meeting if I didn't agree with
5 Mr. Perry on something, I was also pleased
6 to hear regarding the LST tax. There are
7 very few taxes that anyone in the City of
8 Scranton is a fan of. The only positive
9 things about this tax, two positives is one
10 it's paid by out-of-city residents as well
11 as in-city residents, and if you make less
12 than \$20,000 a year you are exempt from this
13 tax. So it really doesn't effect working
14 people that are making a salary of under
15 \$20,000, senior citizens who are retired do
16 not pay this tax if are you not working, and
17 those who commute into the city will pay the
18 tax.

19 If it was struck down by the Courts
20 the fear, as was mentioned previously, if
21 this was struck down it would unfortunately
22 result in more property taxes or wage tax,
23 so by having the commuters pay a portion of
24 their share it does help keep the burden
25 down on the residents of Scranton. So that

1 is good news, particularly for the senior
2 citizens in the city who are not working and
3 do not pay a right to work tax. That is all
4 for tonight. Thank you.

5 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr. Rogan.
6 Mr. Gaughan?

7 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, thank you. Just
8 a few updates. First, the street lighting
9 project, nearly 70 percent of the project is
10 complete and nearly 4,000 lights have been
11 replaced throughout the city so that's good
12 news it's moving along very nicely.

13 There is a streetlight out on Short
14 Avenue in the Bulls Head section. I went to
15 a neighborhood meeting this week, it's been
16 out for nearly a month. We were assured
17 this week that this would be taken care of.
18 A new LED light will be installed.

19 Got a couple of complaints about
20 Hamm Court off of Kane Street, very large
21 potholes that need to be patched and if that
22 portion could be paved it's heavy traveled
23 by neighbors in the area.

24 Also received a complaint about an
25 abandoned car on Winfield Avenue so we

1 reported that to the Police Department.

2 I would like to find out if we can
3 have Joyce Hatala come in for a caucus and
4 give us an update on the recycling
5 initiatives and how that program is
6 progressing. I'd also like an update from
7 our business administrator, progress made
8 with Turnkey Taxes and the examination of
9 our low collection rate on the business
10 privilege and the mercantile tax.

11 The modeling for the how we spend
12 the proceeds from the sale of the Sewer
13 Authority came up in the caucus. It's my
14 belief that the administration should
15 present their finding and their modeling to
16 council in a public caucus. I don't think
17 it's so much about us understanding it as it
18 is the public seeing how this money is
19 potentially going to be spent so I do think
20 we should make that -- we should push for
21 that to happen. I do think it needs to
22 happen in public caucus so that the mayor
23 and the business administrator, PEL and
24 whoever else should come in and give us an
25 update and show us what the modeling looks

1 like.

2 Also, the disability pensions were
3 brought up and I have had a conversation
4 with Solicitor Minora and we had a
5 conversation in the caucus tonight. I would
6 like to know what has been done in the last
7 two years in regards to the city using
8 safeguards against any abuses of our
9 disability pensions. It's no secret, I
10 think Mr. Sbaraglia mentioned it tonight,
11 that we have over 50 of retired policemen
12 and 50 percent of retired firemen that are
13 receiving disability pension and that is an
14 unbelievably high number as has been
15 reported in the newspaper and has been
16 discussed over the last two years.

17 But I do remember in 2015 and 2016
18 officials from the city saying that they
19 were discussing it and looking into it and
20 they were going to do something about it and
21 take action, so I would like an update to
22 know what has been done on that front, and
23 also another update on the third party
24 administrator. I know we have heard that
25 there is progress there, but that remains to

1 be seen, we haven't seen anything from this
2 yet.

3 On the sale of the Scranton Sewer
4 Authority, I'm still waiting for answers
5 from Attorney Shrive on a number of
6 different issues and looking for invoices
7 for all legal work that was done on the
8 Scranton Sewer Authority sale. I would also
9 like to request the copy of the minutes from
10 the Scranton Sewer Authority meetings where
11 these fees were authorized.

12 I'd also like to know how much is
13 accounts receivable Pennsylvania American
14 Water received when the sale closed, so
15 there are additional questions that I would
16 like answered. I posed questions to
17 Attorney Shrive back in January, they still
18 haven't been answered yet. You know, these
19 questions are important. There are many
20 people throughout the city that want answers
21 to these questions, so I'm hoping that I can
22 get these answers by next week's meeting.

23 And I also have to take issue with
24 the Sewer Authority having a meeting, public
25 a meeting and it's scheduled on a Friday at

1 4:30. I mean, it's -- or 4:00, which I find
2 ridiculous. I think that it should be held
3 when people can attend in the public. I
4 just think it's weird that they have it on a
5 Friday at 4:00 in the afternoon.

6 Also, the report that was issued by
7 the Pennsylvania Economy League and their
8 recommendation for a three-year exit plan
9 for the city, you know, there was a lot of
10 things in there that were troubling, nothing
11 really that was too surprising, but I just
12 want to read briefly a paragraph, the
13 finding in the report. "It is a
14 coordinator's finding although the city has
15 made noteworthy progress on a number of
16 fronts, that burden of it's legacy cost
17 obligations continue to stress the city's
18 annual finances and hinders it's ability to
19 achieve long-term financial sustainability.

20 Therefore, the coordinator
21 recommends that a three-year exit plan to be
22 prepared for the city that will include the
23 initial stages of the strategy designed to
24 moderate the impact of the city's legacy
25 costs. The coordinator's baseline operating

1 budget projections for the next three years,
2 project the city's baseline operating
3 expenditures to increase annually on average
4 of 2.3 percent while the city's baseline
5 operating revenue over the next three years
6 is projected to decrease slightly or remain
7 flat annually.

8 Consequently, the city is projected
9 to incur baseline operating budget deficits
10 over the next three years in the absence of
11 a financial planner. The coordinator will
12 be providing recommendations to the city to
13 eliminate these projected operating deficits
14 in the recommended exit plan.

15 Along with the projected operating
16 budget deficits, the outstanding legacy
17 costs notated in this report will continue
18 to confront the city. The city's retiree
19 health care obligation is projected increase
20 from \$8 million in 2017 to roughly \$9 1/2
21 million in 2020. And in addition, the
22 city's annual minimum pension obligations
23 are also projected to increase from \$19
24 million in 2017 to roughly \$20 1/2 million
25 in a 2020. The city's debt service is also

1 projected to increase from roughly \$9 1/2
2 million in 2017 to roughly \$12 million in
3 2020. Thus, during the 2017 and 2020
4 operating budget projected period, the
5 city's totally legacy costs will continue to
6 increase. In 2017, the city's total legacy
7 costs are projected to be roughly \$37
8 million or 38.5 percent of the city's 2017
9 operating expenditures with the city's total
10 legacy costs increasing to roughly \$43
11 million or 41.1 percent of the city's 2020
12 operating expenditures."

13 So as of this point, according to
14 this report, we are looking down the barrel
15 in 2017 at roughly half a million dollar
16 deficit. 2018, 5 1/2 million deficit.
17 2019, nearly a \$10 million deficit, and 2020
18 roughly a \$12 million deficit. Now, it
19 remains to be seen how the sale the Sewer
20 Authority proceeds will effect these
21 deficits, but we still obviously have a
22 major problem with legacy costs, so it
23 continues to a concern of mine and I'll be
24 interested to have the conversation on March
25 7 with the Pennsylvania Economy League and

1 be interested to hear what they have to say.
2 And that's all I have this week. Thank you.

3 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you,
4 Mr. Gaughan. Just a few things, my
5 colleagues did a good job of covering all of
6 news this evening, I just want to go back to
7 a couple of things. Mrs. Reed, Mr. Perry's
8 request to the chief, Chief Graziano they
9 now have a speed timing device that monitors
10 speed. As far as that, if they could deploy
11 one of the speed timing devices on that
12 extra data. Part of problem is that people
13 call and complain about speeding, when
14 according to Chief Graziano when the
15 measurements were really taken, a lot of the
16 speeds are within the tolerance even though
17 they are going fast. Running stop signs is
18 a different issue, but the data that they
19 are receiving from this is that people
20 really do travel to the maximum end of the
21 speed limit and it makes look like they are
22 going a lot faster, so these timing devices
23 get physical data and for studies to
24 identify the truly bad areas for speeding
25 and they are a useful tool for the city.

1 Mr. Rogan touched on the fact that
2 we are going to use approximately \$2 million
3 of the sewer proceeds to pay down long-term
4 debt. The urgency is our next payment is
5 due on March 1, so this payment will be paid
6 I believe tomorrow. That, as Mr. Rogan
7 said, will lead us to a savings about
8 \$977,000 in terms of our payments of our
9 debt services. If we did not have this
10 completed by March 1, the next time that we
11 were be able to make a payment to save money
12 would have been in September, so this was
13 critical that this got done at this time.
14 This was planned for in our budget and it is
15 a good use of initial use of Sewer Authority
16 money that's already resulted in savings of
17 almost a million dollars.

18 In regards to the LST tax, it was
19 good news received this evening, I also am
20 quite happy that there was a hearing held,
21 citizens were given the opportunity to
22 present their feelings in terms of
23 opposition to the tax. Judge Braxton, it
24 seems to me, did a careful review of the
25 case presented and I believe that his

1 approval of the tax indicates that we are
2 doing things the right way here in the city.

3 Over the past few months we have
4 been -- actually did a lot of talk about our
5 finances and we don't much talk about
6 economic development, and although this
7 particular company I'm going to speak about
8 is up in Jessup, it's actually going to have
9 a huge impact on the City of Scranton.
10 There is a company called DART Drones and
11 DART Drones is on the cutting edge of the
12 drone technology. Training pilots, using --
13 finding different uses in -- we saw down in
14 Old Forge they used a drone in searching for
15 a missing man down there. Actually, DART
16 Drones tomorrow night is going to appear on
17 Shark Tank and we don't know the results
18 because it's a secret, like all reality
19 shows are, but DART Drones is going to
20 present their case on the Shark Tank
21 tomorrow night. The CEO of DART Drones is
22 Abby Speicher. She has had a great career
23 for a young woman. She's won some
24 competitions and this something for the city
25 and area because even though it's in Jessup,

1 how the area goes, Scranton makes sure how
2 the area progresses and I wish her the best
3 of luck in the competition.

4 And one last thing, we had a
5 discussion, I had a discussion today with
6 Ron Koldjeski from the county. Part of the
7 problems in our city for properties that are
8 purchased for rehab and condemned is people
9 are required to put down a \$10,000 bond
10 before they can begin repair. A lot of us
11 here agree that is very excessive. We would
12 rather see that \$10,000 be invested in the
13 rehab of the property instead of being held
14 in escrow while something goes on.

15 Mr. Koldjeski has asked us to take a look at
16 our condemnation policy to see that if the
17 properties are sold at the tax sale could be
18 possibly given a grace period for this bond.
19 I think he's suggesting that we give them a
20 six-month grace period to get the repairs
21 done and get the property fixed up. If it's
22 not, not repaired within that time, the bond
23 would have to be issued and I think this is
24 another idea of some creative thinking to
25 try and get some of our properties back on

1 the tax rolls, and we just got today, and I
2 will pass it on to Solicitor Minora and also
3 to Solicitor Boyles to see if there is
4 something that we can do to amend the
5 condemnation property list, a solution for
6 that. That's it.

7 MS. REED: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION -
8 AN ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE INSTALLATION
9 OF TWO (2) "TWO HOUR PARKING ONLY"
10 RESTRICTIONS MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY ON THE
11 500 BLOCK OF CLAY AVENUE DIRECTLY IN FRONT
12 OF THE BETH SHALOM CONGREGATION.

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

16 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Second.

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

21 MR. PERRY: Aye.

22 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

1 MS. REED: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION - A
2 RESOLUTION - ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATION OF
3 THE HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURE REVIEW BOARD
4 ("HARB") AND APPROVING THE CERTIFICATE OF
5 APPROPRIATENESS FOR PATRICK QUINN, 607
6 SUNSET ST., CLARKS SUMMIT, PA, FOR
7 INSTALLATION OF LETTERING THAT WILL BE
8 THERMOFORMED DIMENSIONAL CELLULOSE ACETATE
9 BUTYRATE PLASTIC PIN MOUNTED INDUSTRY
10 STANDARD, TIMES NEW ROMAN, COPPER COLORED
11 THAT WILL READ AV RESTAURANT & LOUNGE, 320
12 PENN AVE. FRONT DOOR APPROVED FOR CURRENT
13 RED COLOR OR MAY BE CHANGED TO BLACK OR
14 MAHOGANY WITHOUT HAVING TO GO BEFORE HARB
15 AGAIN.

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

19 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: Second.

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

24 MR. PERRY: Aye.

25 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

1 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

4 MS. REED: 5-D. FOR INTRODUCTION - A
5 RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
6 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND
7 ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT FOR THE WEST
8 LACKAWANNA AVENUE BRIDGE DOCUMENT NO. 04M173
9 BY AND BETWEEN THE COMMONWEALTH OF
10 PENNSYLVANIA, ACTING THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT
11 OF TRANSPORTATION ("DEPARTMENT") AND THE
12 CITY OF SCRANTON ("CITY OF SCRANTON") FOR
13 COMMONWEALTH'S PERFORMANCE OF CITY OF
14 SCRANTON-OWNED BRIDGE PROJECT.

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

18 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

19 MR. GAUGHAN: Second.

20 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

21 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.
22 Just to give a brief kind of outline of
23 what's going on here and with the next two
24 pieces of legislation, so this is the West
25 Lackawanna bridge, Elm Street bridge and the

1 North Main Avenue bridge. These three
2 bridges need to be fixed and replaced. The
3 preliminary estimated cost for the design
4 and construction for all three bridges is
5 \$17,400,000. The city will have to pay a 5
6 percent share of that which will be roughly
7 \$870,000. I talked to our city engineer
8 today, and the city administration is not
9 sure where that money is going to come out
10 of yet. The interesting thing with this
11 legislation is that we are essentially
12 transferring the responsibilities of these
13 three projects to PennDOT, so that they can
14 handle it. It's far more efficient for it
15 to work this way, for PennDOT to undertake
16 these projects because of PennDOT's
17 expertise and their resources rather than
18 the city handling it itself, and then
19 PennDOT providing the funds to reimburse or
20 pay us as we incur project expenses.

21 A great example of this whole thing
22 is the Rockwell Avenue bridge project. It
23 went through three mayoral administrations.
24 It almost died, we almost lost the funding
25 for it, so I agree with what the

1 administration is doing here. I think it's
2 a great thing to transfer the responsibility
3 to PennDOT so that he can handle this
4 project. These three bridges are critical
5 in the city. When I talked to Mr. Pocius we
6 are looking at the timeline of three to five
7 years once you design it and implement
8 everything so this isn't going to happen
9 overnight, but I commend him and the
10 administration for getting the ball rolling
11 and doing this in a pretty creative way to
12 get these projects done and get them
13 started. Thank you.

14 MR. WECHSLER: Just one additional
15 comment to Mr. Gaughan's, I'd like to thank
16 Senator Blake. He was instrumental in
17 coordinating this with the state, and as
18 Mr. Gaughan said, this is a very creative
19 for the city to handle this because we all
20 know that we just don't have the finances
21 right now to fix these bridges.

22 MR. ROGAN: Regarding the West
23 Lackawanna specifically, that bridge really
24 -- and they are all important, but that
25 bridge really is one of the main

1 thoroughfares in the city. It's no real
2 question it's in disrepair. A portion of
3 the sidewalk fell off years ago. I did see
4 crews up there actually doing some repairs
5 on the bridge, obviously, they are
6 temporary, and also the lighting is an issue
7 because many of the lines were underneath
8 and once the sidewalks collapsed, so you
9 will notice it's not the most well-lit
10 bridge as well, but all these are very
11 important, but the West Lackawanna
12 specifically.

13 MR. PERRY: Yes, and, I mean, I know
14 it's been said but to have three city
15 bridges fixed at 5 percent of the cost is
16 what the city's going to be kicking in is
17 unbelievable so it's a great project.

18 MR. WECHSLER: All those in favor of
19 introduction signify by saying aye.

20 MR. PERRY: Aye.

21 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

22 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

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

1 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
2 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE
3 AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT FOR THE ELM
4 STREET BRIDGE DOCUMENT NO. 04M171 BY AND
5 BETWEEN THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA,
6 ACTING THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF
7 TRANSPORTATION ("DEPARTMENT") AND THE CITY
8 OF SCRANTON ("CITY OF SCRANTON") FOR
9 COMMONWEALTH'S PERFORMANCE OF CITY OF
10 SCRANTON-OWNED BRIDGE PROJECT.

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

14 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

15 MR. GAUGHAN: Second.

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

19 MR. PERRY: Aye.

20 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

21 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

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

1 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE
2 AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT FOR THE NORTH
3 MAIN AVENUE BRIDGE DOCUMENT NO. 04M172 BY
4 AND BETWEEN THE COMMONWEALTH OF
5 PENNSYLVANIA, ACTING THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT
6 OF TRANSPORTATION ("DEPARTMENT") AND THE
7 CITY OF SCRANTON ("CITY OF SCRANTON") FOR
8 COMMONWEALTH'S PERFORMANCE OF CITY OF
9 SCRANTON-OWNED BRIDGE PROJECT.

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

13 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

14 MR. GAUGHAN: 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. 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 90, 2017 - AN ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE

1 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS
2 TO APPLY FOR AND EXECUTE A GRANT APPLICATION
3 AND IF SUCCESSFUL A GRANT AGREEMENT AND
4 ACCEPT THE FUNDS RELATED THERETO THROUGH THE
5 BJA FY 17 EDWARD BYRNE JUSTICE ASSISTANCE
6 GRANT ("JAG") PROGRAM SMART POLICING
7 INITIATIVE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$571,847.00 TO
8 IMPLEMENT THE ALTERNATIVE TO ARRESTING
9 ADDICTS PROGRAM.

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

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

14 MR. GAUGHAN: Second.

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

17 MR. PERRY: Aye.

18 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

19 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

22 MS. REED: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR
23 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC
24 WORKS - FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF THE COUNCIL
25 NO. 87, 2017 - AN ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING

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

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

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

18 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

21 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

22 MR. PERRY: Yes.

23 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

24 MR. ROGAN: 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 FINANCE - FOR ADOPTION-
8 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 88, 2017 - AMENDING
9 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 126, 2015, AN
10 ORDINANCE ENTITLED "GENERAL CITY OPERATING
11 BUDGET 2016" BY TRANSFERRING \$3,000.00 FROM
12 ACCOUNT NO. 01.040.00040.6009 (DEPARTMENT OF
13 BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION - BUREAU OF
14 ADMINISTRATION OPR TSFR-WORKERS COMP) TO
15 ACCOUNT NO. 01.020.00000.4210 (OFFICE OF THE
16 CITY CLERK/CITY COUNCIL - SVC AND
17 MAINTENANCE FEE) TO PROVIDE SUFFICIENT
18 FUNDING FOR SERVICE AND MAINTENANCE ACCOUNT
19 THROUGH THE 2016 BUDGET PERIOD.

20 MR. WECHSLER: What is the
21 recommendation of the Chairperson for the
22 Committee on Finance.

23 MR. PERRY: As temporary Chair for
24 the Committee on Finance, I recommend final
25 passage of Item 7-B.

1 MR. ROGAN: Second.

2 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

3 Roll call, please?

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

5 MR. PERRY: Yes.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

7 MR. ROGAN: 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-B legally and lawfully
13 adopted.

14 MS. REED: 7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION
15 BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE - FOR ADOPTION -
16 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 89, 2017 - AMENDING
17 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 126, 2015, AN
18 ORDINANCE ENTITLED "GENERAL CITY OPERATING
19 BUDGET 2016" BY TRANSFERRING \$50,000.00 FROM
20 ACCOUNT NO. 01.040.00040.6009 (DEPARTMENT OF
21 BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION - BUREAU OF
22 ADMINISTRATION OPR TSFR-WORKERS COMP) TO
23 ACCOUNT NO. 01.060.00000.4201 (LAW
24 DEPARTMENT-PROFESSIONAL SERVICES ACCOUNT) TO
25 PROVIDE SUFFICIENT FUNDING FOR REMAINING

1 PROFESSIONAL SERVICE BILLS THROUGH THE 2016
2 BUDGET PERIOD.

3 MR. WECHSLER: What is the
4 recommendation of the Chairperson for the
5 Committee on Finance?

6 MR. PERRY: As temporary Chair for
7 the Committee on Finance, I recommend final
8 passage of Item 7-C.

9 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

13 MR. PERRY: Yes.

14 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

15 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

16 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

18 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

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

22 MS. REED: 7-D. FOR CONSIDERATION
23 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION -
24 RESOLUTION NO. 116, 2017 - AUTHORIZING THE
25 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS

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

9 MR. WECHSLER: As Chairperson for
10 the Committee on Rules, I recommend final
11 passage of Item 7-D.

12 MR. ROGAN: Second.

13 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?
14 Roll call, please?

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

16 MR. PERRY: Yes.

17 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

18 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

19 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

21 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

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

25 MR. ROGAN: 7-E. FOR CONSIDERATION

1 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION -
2 RESOLUTION NO. 117, 2017 - APPOINTMENT OF OM
3 TIMSINA, 2105 CROWN AVENUE, SCRANTON,
4 PENNSYLVANIA, 18505, AS A MEMBER OF THE
5 HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION, EFFECTIVE
6 JANUARY 13, 2017. MR. TIMSINA WILL BE
7 REPLACING ALEXANDER LESTER WHO RESIGNED FROM
8 THE BOARD ON OCTOBER 16, 2016. MR. TIMSINA
9 WILL FILL THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF ALEXANDER
10 LESTER THAT IS SCHEDULED TO EXPIRE ON
11 SEPTEMBER 16, 2018.

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

15 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

18 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

19 MR. PERRY: Yes.

20 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

21 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

25 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby

1 declare Item 7-E legally and lawfully
2 adopted.

3 MS. REED: 7-F. FOR CONSIDERATION BY
4 THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION-
5 RESOLUTION NO. 118, 2017 - APPOINTMENT OF
6 LARRY J. BOCCADORI, 2130 FARR STREET,
7 APARTMENT #2 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18504
8 AS A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF THE SCRANTON
9 SEWER AUTHORITY EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 8, 2017.
10 MR. BOCCADORI WILL BE REPLACING STUART RENDA
11 WHO RESIGNED JANUARY 20, 2017. MR.
12 BOCCADORI WILL FILL THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF
13 STUART RENDA, WHOSE TERM IS SCHEDULED TO
14 EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 31, 2017.

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

18 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

21 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

22 MR. PERRY: Yes.

23 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

24 MR. ROGAN: 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-F legally and lawfully
5 adopted.

6 MS. REED: 7-G. FOR CONSIDERATION BY
7 THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - FOR
8 ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 119, 2017 -
9 ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE
10 HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURE REVIEW BOARD
11 ("HARB") AND APPROVING THE CERTIFICATE OF
12 APPROPRIATENESS TO ALLOW EMERGENCY REPAIR
13 WORK FOR TEMPORARY REMOVAL AND BUILDING IN
14 KIND OF SECTIONS OF THE PARAPET AT SCRANTON
15 FIRE STATION HEADQUARTERS, 518 MULBERRY ST.,
16 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA.

17 MR. WECHSLER: What is the
18 recommendation of the Chairperson for the
19 Committee on Community Development?

20 MR. ROGAN: As Chair for the
21 Committee on Community Development, I
22 recommend final passage of Item 7-G.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: Second.

24 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?
25 Roll call, please?

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

2 MR. PERRY: Yes.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

4 MR. ROGAN: 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-G legally and lawfully
10 adopted.

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

13 MR. ROGAN: Motion to adjourn.

14 MR. WECHSLER: Meeting adjourned.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER