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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Thursday, March 2, 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
(Not present)
- 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. Mr.

11 Wechsler.

12 MR. WECHSLER: Here. Unfortunately,
13 Mr. Gaughan is not able to attend the
14 meeting this evening. I'd like to make a
15 motion to move Item 5-B to Sixth and Seventh
16 Order for final vote based on attached
17 emergency certificate. There will be a
18 second opportunity to speak in Seventh Order
19 prior to final passage of this piece of
20 legislation.

21 MR. ROGAN: I make a motion to
22 appoint Councilman Perry as temporary chair
23 for the committee on Public Works.

24 MR. EVANS: Second.

25 MR. WECHSLER: On the question? All

1 those in favor signify by saying aye.

2 MR. PERRY: Aye.

3 MR. EVANS: Aye.

4 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

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

7 Dispense with the reading of the
8 minutes.

9 MS. REED: THIRD ORDER. 3-A. NO
10 BUSINESS AT THIS TIME.

11 MR. WECHSLER: Do any council
12 members have announcements at this time?

13 MR. PERRY: I have one announcement.
14 Tomorrow, March 3, NEPA Emerald Society will
15 have their annual St. Patrick's Day
16 gathering. It's going to be 6:00 p.m. to 10
17 p.m. It's going to be located at the
18 Scranton/Dunmore Fraternal Order of Police
19 Lodge at 401 Railroad Avenue in Scranton.
20 The event is going to catered by Castaldi's
21 Market in my Minooka. There will be
22 bagpipers, Irish step dancers. Music will
23 be provided by Dan the Piano Man. It's a
24 \$30 per person event and it is BYOB. That's
25 all I have.

1 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. The
2 Little Sisters of the Poor will have their
3 annual St. Patrick's Day dinner. It will be
4 Sunday, May 5. It's 12 to 4 and the cost is
5 \$12 at the door. I also was contacted by
6 the Bethel AME Church in Scranton and they
7 are currently planning an inspiring gospel
8 jazz outdoor experience. That will be held
9 on July 22, 2017, and they said in this
10 message: Our mission is to encourage
11 community and fellowship while raising much
12 needed funds for our church. Our event's
13 sound stage will be located at the church,
14 714-716 North Washington Avenue, Scranton,
15 PA. The street will be blocked off between
16 Pine and Gibson Streets during the event.

17 Bethel AME Church is looking for
18 sponsors who can assist with the startup of
19 this faith-based community venture. We are
20 a small church with a huge faith in the
21 Lord, community and as our partners in
22 creating event that will inspire and
23 encourage all. So we will be announcing
24 this more as the year goes on, but I'm very
25 excited for these -- this another great

1 downtown event and festival.

2 MS. REED: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'
3 PARTICIPATION.

4 MR. WECHSLER: Joan Hodowanitz.

5 MS. HODOWANITZ: Joan Hodowanitz,
6 citizen and taxpayer. I'd like to remind
7 everybody that the friends of the Scranton
8 Public Library are currently conducting
9 their quarterly book sale at the Marketplace
10 at Steamtown. Second floor right in front
11 of the Crunch Gymnasium and it will run
12 through Sunday at 5 p.m. It's a good deal
13 for everybody. All the proceeds will go to
14 support children's programs.

15 250 days to the general election on
16 November 7, do you know where your Arcadis
17 study is on storm water management costs.
18 Still waiting for that shoe to drop. 120
19 days to June 30, the deadline for the 2016
20 audit which ought to be a milestone, and I
21 would strongly encourage every member of the
22 public who has the time and the interest to
23 come to council chambers 6:30 p.m. on
24 Tuesday, March 7, if you have questions or
25 concerns regarding Scranton's financial

1 condition as PEL is holding a public hearing
2 and this effects every taxpayer in Scranton.

3 Have all five council members had an
4 opportunity to be briefed by the
5 administration with respect to the plan
6 distribution of the Sewer Authority sale
7 proceeds?

8 MR. WECHSLER: Not yet, no.

9 MS. HODOWANITZ: Do you know when
10 that will be completed that process?

11 MR. WECHSLER: Actually right now
12 what we are planning is a type of a public
13 session in lieu of those meetings.

14 MS. HODOWANITZ: Okay, do you have a
15 date?

16 MR. WECHSLER: The opportunity to
17 meet with the administration will still be
18 available to council people if they chose to
19 do it that way, but we are working on a plan
20 to come up with a public work session.

21 MS. HODOWANITZ: Have you had a date
22 in mind for the work session?

23 MR. WECHSLER: I do, but it's not
24 confirmed yet so I don't want to comment on
25 that.

1 MS. HODOWANITZ: Okay.

2 MR. WECHSLER: It will be soon
3 though.

4 MS. HODOWANITZ: Okay, looking
5 forward to that, and what about that magnum
6 opus of magnum opi, the RFP for the third
7 party administration of the pension plans?

8 MR. WECHSLER: It's moving at a
9 snail's pace but it is moving.

10 MS. HODOWANITZ: I remind you that
11 on March 18 it will one year since Mayor
12 Courtright made a press statement or
13 released a press statement that he would use
14 the third party administrator immediately.
15 I don't understand his definition of the
16 word immediately. I obviously don't have
17 enough education.

18 Okay, and any update on any
19 proposals for other pension reforms?
20 Disability pensions, anything?

21 MR. ROGAN: I have some information
22 on the double pensions I'll mention during
23 motions.

24 MS. HODOWANITZ: Please do. Please
25 do.

1 MR. EVANS: And we are going to
2 request a meeting with Mr. Durkin, the
3 attorney for the Pension Boards, as we
4 discussed in the caucus, and at this time we
5 are going to drill down on pension reforms
6 that he feels is necessary as well.

7 MS. HODOWANITZ: Okay, I appreciate
8 that. Hopefully that will come about within
9 the next week or two. I would also remind
10 the general public tomorrow morning at 10
11 a.m. here there will a special meeting of
12 the Nonuniform Pension Board and I
13 understand that Attorney Durkin will
14 announce the recommendations of the two
15 hearing officers with regards to the 22 or
16 so people who are still receiving double
17 pensions. That should be very interesting.
18 I can't be here, but I hope other members of
19 the public will attend.

20 And Granicus, Granicus, wherefore
21 art thou Granicus? Has the public got
22 access yet?

23 MR. EVANS: Are they?

24 MS. HODOWANITZ: Can we get a
25 refund?

1 MR. EVANS: I think next week is
2 when it goes on-line.

3 MS. REED: We're still testing.

4 MR. WECHSLER: Yeah, right now you
5 can see we brought all our laptops.

6 MS. HODOWANITZ: I know you have
7 the.

8 MR. WECHSLER: It's not to watch
9 television it is to practice using the new
10 agenda and backup so we are trying to see
11 how it works and kind of fumbling our way
12 through it.

13 MS. HODOWANITZ: I understand one of
14 the major objectives was to get the general
15 public access electronically.

16 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

17 MS. HODOWANITZ: And I'm still
18 waiting for that.

19 MR. EVANS: Yes. This is our
20 drivethrough tonight and then we expect it
21 by next week to be out to the public.

22 MS. HODOWANITZ: That's why
23 Mr. Gaughan's not here today, he didn't want
24 me to ask that question. And last time I
25 looked on the city's website and I did not

1 see the controller's latest report on their
2 website. Somebody please ask IT if they
3 could post that for the month of January.
4 The only one on their website is last posted
5 is December. I think they have it posted.
6 Thank you.

7 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Lenny
8 Serebro.

9 MR. SEREBRO: Lenny Serebro,
10 Scranton resident. I have some
11 entertainment for you guys tonight. Some
12 pictures. Geez, I'll bet you at least one
13 of you were thinking of me during the
14 storms Saturday. Well, it's the worst ever.
15 You know, next year I was planning on buying
16 a car, a new car, but I'm thinking about
17 getting a boat this time. I mean, it's
18 really flooding anymore. You know, like,
19 it's so bad. Now the worst thing that
20 happened is in those pictures the curb in
21 front of my house has a water drainage pipe
22 inside of the curb, like, on my property
23 there. I apologize for the poor quality
24 pictures. It's from a phone camera that my
25 granddaughter calls it a fossil, but anyway,

1 now that pipe broke and we had to -- and it
2 was like a gusher coming out. All that
3 water it's supposed to be draining down that
4 pipe now comes up and it doesn't even make
5 it to the retention pond where that 36-inch
6 pipe is blocked there.

7 Of course, it made its way right
8 into my cellar, you know, so all of the
9 water runoff was coming directly into the
10 cellar. I'm telling you, I had a six-inch
11 hole open up that the water is directly
12 coming in. Of course my cellar got flooded.
13 The pump I had ready happened to fail. I
14 called DPW about the gusher there and the
15 flooding. One of the guys from DPW
16 contacted the fire department to come and
17 pump out my cellar, nobody ever came, so
18 here I am in the middle of the storm running
19 up to Home Depot for another pump, you know,
20 what a mess.

21 Like I said, the DPW came out,
22 determined yeah, the pipe broke and it
23 ruptured and it is shooting up in the air so
24 you know what I got out of it instead of
25 repairing it in any way they told me they'd

1 bring sandbags. Now, you know what? They
2 brought sandbags not with sand in them so
3 now I got to go get sand. It's crazy
4 ridiculous. You know, I feel like I'm a
5 drowning victim and you guys are all
6 standing there and you won't even through my
7 a life preserve. I mean, that's what I feel
8 like. I'm not saying it's that way, but,
9 geez, how much do we have to go through to
10 get some kind of results? I always hear
11 that, you know, you are waiting to hear from
12 other power people but, geez, you know, this
13 has been going on 20 to 40 years depending
14 on the neighbors that you talk to, but only
15 in the last five years it's gotten so much
16 worse, especially since they finished the
17 Keyser Avenue project. Something has
18 changed that we get so much more water.

19 So what do I do now? The drainage
20 pipe that ruptured I'm going to get it all
21 next rain. It's going to come right into my
22 yard and open up another hole. I had to
23 poor modified down that hole. You could see
24 the pictures in my basement running down the
25 walls.

1 Now, on top of that what's happening
2 in that ally that's completely washed out
3 the garbage trucks are trying to avoid the
4 deep ruts and they are coming on my
5 property. It's really ruining the property
6 because those heavy garbage trucks now are
7 going on my saturated lawn and I'm telling
8 you it's a nightmare what I am putting up
9 with and I hear all of these, you know, we
10 are waiting to hear, but like I said, 20 to
11 40 years now. How much longer is it going
12 to take?

13 One has thing, during the storm my
14 brother came to help me pump out the cellar,
15 we took a video. I have a fire stick of the
16 actual storm, everything that was going on
17 there. All of the flooding and all of that.
18 I don't know how the caucuses work but can
19 we --

20 MR. EVANS: Can you leave that with
21 us? Can we have that?

22 MR. SEREBRO: Now, I really do want
23 this back. This is documenting the flood,
24 but can we set it up somehow to have a
25 caucus before the meeting. I don't know how

1 that works really, to view this and it's
2 only a five-minute video, but to view this
3 and I could explain what's going on in the
4 video.

5 MR. WECHSLER: We could probably
6 play it on the television in Mrs. Reed's
7 office.

8 MR. SEREBRO: Yeah, you need a USB
9 port to put that and it's a five-minute
10 video, but if I can be part of it I could
11 explain what you are looking at, you know.

12 MR. WECHSLER: And we'll follow-up
13 since DPW was there on did you say on
14 Saturday they came or Sunday?

15 MR. SEREBRO: Yeah, they came, you
16 know, like I said, I got that hole now, you
17 know, that next time it rains it's going to
18 come right into the yard.

19 MR. WECHSLER: We'll contact
20 Director Gallagher and find out who was
21 there and what they saw and see if it's a
22 repair it should be something if it's not
23 it's thawed, it's not really frozen anymore,
24 maybe we could get someone out at soon as
25 possible.

1 MR. SEREBRO: That's right, but like
2 I said, next time it rains I'm going to get
3 it again.

4 MR. PERRY: If you want to leave it
5 with Kathy and then you could pick it up
6 next week and we could definitely do that.

7 MR. SEREBRO: And if you even want
8 to view it on your own that's fine. Okay.
9 Thank you.

10 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Ann
11 Robinson.

12 MS. ROBINSON: Ann Robinson, North
13 Scranton homeowner. Mr. President and city
14 council members, good evening. I have a
15 concern. The lot adjacent to my house is an
16 empty lot. The woman who owned the property
17 is deceased, and I don't know the status of
18 the current owners, if there are any. I
19 have been in communication with Councilman
20 Gaughan since last summer with this concern
21 as last year the grass was over ten-feet
22 tall.

23 I have enclosed area in my yard for
24 my animals. I can sit out there. I can
25 read, I can crochet, I can drink my coffee,

1 I can say my rosary. Life is simple. I
2 know the grass is there. The grass is not
3 the problem, the problem is the snake
4 population. Last summer I had snakes coming
5 onto my property and they were also coming
6 onto my front hedges. Now, I can take
7 sulfur powder, I kind get some kind of snake
8 deterrent, sprinkle around my property on
9 this one side, but this is like a Band-Aid
10 treatment for the real problem. The snakes
11 have returned. Last Saturday we had
12 unusually warm temperatures, I had a snake
13 on my property. Unfortunately, my first
14 impulse was that I was go to catch it and
15 show it to you, but I decided against that
16 and I killed it and it was 13-inches long, a
17 good healthy size one.

18 The front of the property is very,
19 very active. Parents are walking their
20 children to grade school, to Francis
21 Willard. We have students going to West
22 Middle and West High School and they are
23 going right up this property. I know snakes
24 don't attack unless they are threatened,
25 but, you know, this could be an accident

1 waiting to happen. And I'm going to tell
2 you the next sunny day we have, please feel
3 free to come over to my house because when
4 the sun is shining and you can tell snakes
5 are out and about because the squirrels go
6 right up to the roof of the house, aim for
7 the lot and they start barking voraciously
8 so I know be careful where you walk.

9 Most people don't like snakes and I
10 get this, my sister included. They need to
11 live, they serve a purpose, but we don't
12 need to have them infecting our
13 neighborhood. I ask your help for the
14 following areas: Please help me identify
15 the owners of this property. If no one owns
16 it and the city owns it, then the city
17 should be responsible. If I maintained my
18 property like this, I would be cited. Also,
19 is there any type of program to help get the
20 grass cut? And then, thirdly, do you have
21 any type of program under the Animal Control
22 Act here at the city where they can come and
23 they can help eliminate the snakes? Thank
24 you for your time.

25 MR. EVANS: Before you go, I'm over

1 here. Right there. I know the sound in
2 here is terrible. Have you reported this to
3 the Licensing and Inspection Department at
4 all?

5 MS. ROBINSON: I had them at my
6 house last year, sir.

7 MR. EVANS: I'm sorry?

8 MS. ROBINSON: They were at my home
9 last.

10 MR. EVANS: We do have an animal
11 control officer, have they been out to the
12 property at all?

13 MS. ROBINSON: No.

14 MR. EVANS: Okay. Well, we can
15 contact them and see if snakes are in their
16 purview, I think they probably are so maybe
17 we can have them take a look at that for you
18 as well. Licensing and Inspections, if they
19 were out there, they should have did some
20 investigation to find out who owned the
21 property.

22 MS. ROBINSON: Sir, what they did
23 was the person on the other side of me they
24 decided to condemn their property. Is it
25 old and decrepit, yes, sir, but the snakes

1 aren't coming from that direction.

2 MR. EVANS: Right.

3 MS. ROBINSON: Snakes are cold
4 blooded animals and they need the sunshine
5 and his property he does maintain the grass
6 and it's, you know, where the snakes
7 wouldn't be. They are coming this way.
8 They are coming over from the empty lot.

9 MR. EVANS: Can we get the address?

10 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. If you could
11 give us the specific address because the
12 first thing we can need to check is if it's
13 in possession of a bank. If it's a
14 foreclosed property, the bank is responsible
15 for maintaining that property, so again --

16 MS. ROBINSON: The house next to it
17 was foreclosed and there is a real estate
18 company that does own that one, but as are
19 this empty lot it's like a lost child,
20 nobody wants it.

21 MR. WECHSLER: Well, that's the
22 first that I would start. If it's a
23 foreclosed property, it's part of that, then
24 the bank is responsible for taking care of
25 that. We have something in place now if

1 that happens so if you would leave the
2 specific address with Kathy.

3 MS. ROBINSON: Surely.

4 MR. WECHSLER: And then we can --
5 that's where I'll start to see if it's on
6 the foreclosed list.

7 MS. ROBINSON: I do thank you for
8 your time and your concern.

9 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Just one
10 more question before you go, I'm not sure if
11 it's appropriate to ask, would this be, this
12 abandoned lot, is it something that you
13 would be interested in purchasing?

14 MS. ROBINSON: No, but thank you,
15 sir, I have all I can do to pay my own
16 taxes. If I were physically able to cut the
17 grass, it would be cut of the.

18 MR. WECHSLER: Okay.

19 MS. ROBINSON: Okay. Thank you.

20 MR. WECHSLER: I just wanted to
21 double check. Jeff Zick.

22 MR. ZICK: Jeff Zick, Pennsylvania.
23 Mr. Gaughan isn't here. Mr. Perry, there is
24 a subsidence starting below the road on
25 Providence Avenue and West Olive Avenue near

1 a catch basin. A chunk of the blacktop is
2 gone, it looks like it's washing underneath
3 the road there. Thank you.

4 MR. PERRY: I heard Providence Road,
5 what was it again?

6 MR. ZICK: Oh, West Olive.

7 MR. PERRY: Oh, West Olive.

8 MR. ZICK: Because there is a little
9 concrete divider there right by the end of
10 the road is.

11 Cannabis and the gateway theory.
12 The basis of this myth where lab mice are
13 given a synthetic version of THC showed a
14 heightened behavioral response, most people
15 understand that synthetic THC is not natural
16 THC and mice are not humans, including the
17 District Attorney and the police chief. The
18 gateway theory is a proven myth. The NIH,
19 National Institute of Health and the
20 National Institute of drug addiction -- or
21 drug abuse, excuse me, even say the majority
22 of people who use marijuana do not go on to
23 use other harder substances, all right?

24 On the issue of the Edward Byrne --
25 or the Justice Assistance grant, JAG,

1 Homeland Security through the Department of
2 Justice federalizes your police with
3 programs like JAG. I quote Michelle
4 Alexander's book, "The New Jim Crow." "The
5 Byrne program was designed to encourage
6 every federal grant recipient to help fight
7 the war on drugs. Millions of dollars of
8 federal aid have been offered to the state
9 and local law enforcement agencies willing
10 to wage this war."

11 At the end of the fiscal year, the
12 state's criminal justice agency must submit
13 a state annual report to the federal
14 government indicating how the burn funds
15 were spent using certain performance
16 measures to show productivity and qualify
17 for renewed funding. Small possession of
18 cannabis is overall the most frequent
19 arrests and convictions cited as performance
20 measurements reported by states who use JAG.

21 JAG uses federal dollars as
22 incentive for local police forces to
23 continue prohibition of cannabis, a plant
24 that shouldn't be on a schedule of
25 controlled substances at all. It doesn't

1 even meet the definition of controlled
2 substance. The federal government holds
3 utility patents on medical cannabis, yet it
4 denies it's existence keeping it at a
5 Schedule I like we are dumb.

6 Scranton, you are treating your
7 cannabis users like heroin users. If you
8 want to be tough on heroin it would show in
9 your stats. The stats show your police
10 spend large chunks of their resources
11 violating cannabis users, especially the 6
12 percent of black citizens in this city that
13 make up 38 percent of the small possession
14 arrests last year. You are on record pace
15 with heroin deaths. You know what is wrong,
16 deflating heroin and cannabis for money.
17 Scranton should not involve itself with
18 filing mental health treatment center with
19 cannabis users because heroin hits home.

20 This use of federal grants to fight
21 heroin yet go after cannabis users is
22 deception. Cannabis should be excluded from
23 the JAG program scope. Once again, I urge
24 council to decriminalize small possession of
25 cannabis within the city. It's clogging up

1 the courthouse, jailhouse, treatment centers
2 and help needed by the heroin addicts, the
3 truth and once again your time.

4 We urge the Narcotics Division of
5 the Scranton Police to replace the badges
6 that include the cannabis leaf, needles and
7 the skull to something more professional
8 like over divisions. Scranton boasts both
9 more use of federal drug dollars. Today,
10 national news stations reported that seven
11 Baltimore police officers are in court for
12 stealing money off people, filing bogus
13 police search warrants, and falsifying
14 police reports. The Baltimore police
15 commissioner says, this is a "Pattern of
16 practice that undoubtedly existed within the
17 organization for many, many years. "

18 Don't let Scranton go down this
19 road. There is a solution and let's be part
20 of it. Thank you.

21 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Bob
22 Bolus.

23 MR. BOLUS: Good evening, Council.
24 Bob Bolus, Scranton. You know, today in the
25 paper the individual with the water issues,

1 I brought those people here. If you recall,
2 Mr. Wechsler, you told me I couldn't speak
3 on their behalf, I had sit here and be
4 silent. Well, they plead their issues, and
5 you see the issues they still have. It's a
6 travesty that this city does not take it
7 upon themselves to go in, do the repairs.
8 Judge Gibbons' hearing, who was responsible
9 for all of this nonsense? This is going on
10 for years. Go in and do the job. Finish
11 it, give them what they are entitled to as
12 taxpayers in this city and bill whoever is
13 the responsible party. I mean, let's get
14 forward. Let's get this mayor outside of
15 his little circle, let him look at what's
16 going on here and take care of the people in
17 this community.

18 I mean, they shouldn't have to be
19 the paper time and time after again, this
20 individual just left here. We got the
21 equipment and the manpower and we sure in
22 hell have all of the money now to spend all
23 over the stupid place. Go on, fix up the
24 people and take care of them. That's what
25 you need to start doing and that's what this

1 mayor needs to start doing instead of
2 running around playing stupid games that we
3 are doing here squandering millions on legal
4 fees and I don't know what the heck we are
5 signing.

6 You know, nothing is more disturbing
7 than to see a recovery plan that was signed
8 by Joe and the rest of the people here,
9 Gaughan, who is not here tonight, and then
10 see you guys in the paper, "We want
11 accountability. We want to know this. We
12 want to know that."

13 What do you want to know? You
14 should have known it before you ever let it
15 to get to where it is, okay? You are
16 squandering millions. You don't what legal
17 fees cost, you don't know what they are
18 charging in their hourly rates. Everybody
19 here is clueless. Now you want to have
20 backdoor meetings, back to the old City of
21 Scranton policy of let's talk in private,
22 let's talk in the back room. No, I want the
23 mayor's butt right here with this council
24 under those cameras, no more backdoor stuff,
25 because we are not informed. We are only

1 informed what you believe we should get,
2 what we should hear. We are the ones that
3 pay you people. You don't pay us, so I'm
4 here right now saying that I want, I insist
5 as a taxpayer and resident of this city that
6 no more backdoor meetings with one or two
7 councilmen or whatever the heck you guys
8 want to play. We want it right here. You
9 are squandering millions and millions of our
10 dollars. Gave Basalyga almost \$7 million.
11 Was that smart to do? You think that was
12 smart to help him compete in and rape the
13 people in the city, a city that's broke and
14 you give the guy the money to pay for his
15 mall and sell him a garage for a dollar and
16 pay two million plus dollars to help him fix
17 it? You think that's smart, intelligent
18 business? I think it's the dumbest, damn
19 thing I ever saw. And everything I'm seeing
20 here is pure ignorance of what it takes to
21 run a city, to take care of the people in
22 this community. You are blind. You guys
23 have no clue what is going on and sure in
24 hell the mayor doesn't because he wouldn't
25 be doing what he was doing if he was a mayor

1 who had any common sense to look and see
2 what's going wrong in this city.

3 Millions of dollars between the
4 Sewer Authority and the parking garage, you
5 guys are blown away. You have no plan, no
6 concept. Don't come now whining and say,
7 "We want accountability."

8 You were accountable. Don't look
9 for an excuse now for the screw ups you
10 people did. You blew the deal, you blew the
11 informational packages, you signed your
12 names to it. Don't whine about it now. I
13 don't want to hear no more. Stand up like
14 men, you screwed it up, figure out how to
15 fix it, but don't allow anymore money that
16 this mayor is spending needlessly and
17 stupidly without any direction.

18 What you should have did was order a
19 forensic audit day one before you spent one
20 bloody penny because you guys have no clue
21 what's going on, and the mayor sure in heck
22 doesn't and neither do the lawyers that are
23 there just writing checks. Bulzoni, what is
24 he? He is a banker. Bankers don't make
25 businesses. They sit there because it's

1 protected, it's safe. Remember that. They
2 don't invest, that's why they are there.
3 They are not out during their thing, they
4 are investing somebody else's capital, and
5 they don't know everything about everything.
6 They are not God, that's for sure.

7 You know, we come around and we do
8 all of this stuff, you need to turn around
9 and plan where we're going because the
10 assets are gone. And when they are gone,
11 Joe, no matter what you cry about, what
12 Gaughan cries about in the paper, it's a
13 reelection, whatever the heck it may be,
14 it's not the solution to the problems.

15 On Saturday, I'm holding and
16 sponsoring a pro-Trump rally at Lackawanna
17 County Courthouse Saturday from 12 to 4 and
18 everyone is invited whether you are a
19 Democrat or you are a Republican, but you
20 have a president, he is your commander in
21 chief and when I saw the other night with
22 those people, those women come in dressed in
23 white sitting on their butts like the parade
24 of the virgins, whatever it was, like they
25 had no sins about them --

1 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr. Bolus.

2 MR. BOLUS: -- disrespecting the

3 president of the United States --

4 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr. Bolus.

5 MR. BOLUS: -- I expect to see each
6 and every one of you people representing us
7 as Americans should stand up and follow
8 where we are going.

9 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr. Bolus.

10 MR. BOLUS: And do the job you were
11 put here to do and maybe we'll move forward
12 because you took us backwards.

13 MR. WECHSLER: Anyone else?

14 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,
15 citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians, I
16 hope I got the mic at the right spot this
17 time so we can all hear what I'm saying.

18 MR. PERRY: Sounds good so far.

19 MR. SBARAGLIA: That's all that
20 counts. It's not only you, I have been
21 stopped many times when people says we can't
22 quite understand what you are trying to come
23 across with because the mic is a little
24 muffled. As you know, there is a lot of
25 scuttlebutt about the Sewer Authority deal

1 moneywise, lawyers making huge fees and so
2 forth and so on having \$78 million instead
3 of 96, whatever, but believe me that's small
4 pittance compared to the parking. The
5 parking deal was the worst deal ever made.
6 You cannot believe how much it's going to
7 cost just in lost revenue. I can't repeat
8 it enough until I get into the citizen's
9 mind of what actually was done. We lost
10 over \$3 million in parking revenue in
11 parking fines for 40 years. That's \$120
12 million out of the coffers of the city. I
13 don't know who is responsible for the
14 \$300,000 a year we have to pay to the garage
15 that we sort of leased. Why we leased the
16 garage and turn around and tear down parts
17 of other garages is beyond me, but that's
18 the way the city works.

19 Somebody made out very well on these
20 deals but the citizens did not. I keep
21 saying it, contact your senator, state
22 legislature, even the governor and ask for
23 an investigation of this deal. The parking
24 garage that was sold for a dollar, half of
25 it was built at the same time as the mall

1 costing millions of dollars. We sold it for
2 a dollar. Now the Globe part of the mall,
3 that garage maybe was in disrepair, I don't
4 doubt that. Concrete cracks and so forth,
5 but the front part was. It was not
6 condemned. We had never condemned that
7 garage, but yet we sold it for a dollar.
8 Now, who benefited from that? The citizens
9 of Scranton or the owner of the mall? Who
10 benefited from the \$4.1 million we gave to
11 the mall owner? Who benefited from the
12 \$300,000 a year lease of that space? Not
13 only did we pay 4 1/2 -- 4.1 million, but we
14 promised them another \$300,000 a year. Now,
15 who in their right mind would do that? You
16 can't believe that deal was made. I don't
17 care what you say. There got to be a deal.
18 Nobody in their right mind would do what's
19 done without some kind of a deal.

20 I just hope the company that's
21 running the garages is a nonprofit, too, but
22 nobody ever come forward and said they are
23 nonprofit. The people that actually funded
24 the garage. I know you tell me that the
25 people who lease the garages is a nonprofit,

1 but the worst part of it is not one penny of
2 that man's money went into that project.
3 The city paid for the whole deal, one in a
4 lease and the other in the debt.

5 Now, when we figured it all out we
6 owe more money now than when we did before
7 we leased out the garages. If you can add
8 one and one and you will get two.
9 Apparently this administration and you
10 people couldn't add one and one to get two
11 because it was glaring right in front you.
12 Nothing happens by accident. This was a
13 dumb deal and there is no question about it
14 and you all have to take responsibility for
15 it. I just wish that the governor or one of
16 the legislatures would look into this deal.

17 And PEL should be replaced if they
18 stood by and gave sanction to this deal, the
19 guy running PEL, the administrator to the
20 city, should be replaced. Thank you.

21 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening, council.
22 Dave Dobrzyn, resident and taxes paid.
23 Okay, first to start off, I'd like to once
24 again request that someone find out or
25 include in their questioning why \$12 million

1 in sewer plant upgrades had no value in the
2 final settlement on the sewer plant. A lot
3 of money, the water company could have done
4 it cheaper, and how about a pro rata, but
5 \$12 million spent and \$12 million ignored is
6 just a big pill to swallow.

7 As far as mining once again, last
8 week, last Thursday night, it was miners
9 allowed to throw debris in the streams that
10 we are paying for the right to sit on the
11 throne in our houses. Thanks, federal
12 government. I grew up in a totally
13 devastated landscape. I grew up in a small
14 town in central Pennsylvania, a little south
15 of Knoeble's. You ever been to Knoeble's,
16 Wayne? Beautiful. Well, I went there when
17 it wasn't much bigger than the city block as
18 a kid, but the whole town was surrounded by
19 culm banks, and there were no streams.
20 There was no water, no drinkable water.
21 It's all piped in from the Bear Cap
22 watershed and, I mean, it was just miles of
23 culm dumps and strip mines and that's what
24 we are signing onto again, so contract your
25 federal government, tell them that this just

1 isn't acceptable. In fact, we have down in
2 the valley at the old Baker colliery they
3 had a culm retrievable operation and it
4 doesn't look like they ever backfilled or
5 did anything or leveled off the land at the
6 very least.

7 Now, this week we have some gun
8 lunacy, you might be qualified to sign your
9 own checks, but you can purchase a firearm.
10 Now, I'm a strong Second Amendment person,
11 but there is a limit. Give me a break. You
12 better watch out, they let Hinkley go.

13 Now, tax exempts. Once again, I
14 don't really believe in telling anybody what
15 they should believe or what they shouldn't
16 believe, but as far as tax exempts are
17 concern the only thing when I make these
18 comments like I did last week is that simply
19 if you are going to be that type of a person
20 that tells people what they should believe
21 or that we should have ethnic cleansing or
22 any kind of situation like that, you
23 certainly shouldn't be tax exempt and it's
24 high time that these people have their tax
25 exemptions lifted. Not on my dime. I don't

1 want to pay more property taxes for somebody
2 else to preach like that.

3 And the police, I don't know if
4 anybody seen the articles on out-of-town,
5 surrounding towns, rural towns being covered
6 by state police, and the fact that they
7 don't want to pay for a police force and, of
8 course, we are paying for that, too, and now
9 we have the federal government looking to
10 turn us into INS police and what have you, I
11 don't think so. We have to resist that. I
12 don't really feel that a sanctuary city is a
13 good idea and I don't think that paying all
14 the more taxes and putting all of the more
15 police on to enforce INS rules are -- they
16 let them in at the border and now we are
17 supposed to deal with them. I don't think
18 so.

19 And last week, Pat, you mentioned
20 about the money of the sale of the pensions,
21 well, I would recommend that some of that
22 money be put, or a lot of it, in a safe
23 savings until Wall Street, I think Wall
24 Street is about 6,000 points over the value
25 as far as the Dow and we are just going to

1 lose it all and be back here in two years
2 raising the taxes. Thank you and have a
3 good night.

4 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you.

5 MS. SCHUMACHER: Marie Schumacher.
6 You know, it's been a long time since I have
7 said this, but it's almost an embarrassment
8 to be a resident of this city. When I
9 opened the paper today and saw what this
10 city administration is trying to do to the
11 Youngs and what Mr. Serebro is having to put
12 up with and that other widow over there, God
13 love her, I don't know what happened to her
14 but I imagine about the same. You know,
15 we've moaned about the storm water issues
16 for many, many, many months and yet nothing
17 gets done.

18 And I know, Mr. Wechsler, you were
19 there, I'm not sure if Mr. Evans was, I
20 don't think anybody else was, when Scranton
21 Sewer Authority was trying to get people to
22 sign the rights of way. Presentations they
23 knew where everything was, they knew where
24 all of the storm water was, they knew where
25 all of the wastewater lines were and they

1 the budget. The payment to reduce the debt
2 was approved in the budget.

3 MS. SCHUMACHER: I'm not even going
4 to go there right now, but I'll pick that up
5 again. Believe me, I'll pick that up again.
6 Moving along then, Mr. Evans, did you check
7 yet to see whether all the Air bnb's are
8 paying the business privilege?

9 MR. EVANS: I'll discuss that in
10 motions tonight.

11 MS. SCHUMACHER: That will be fine,
12 and would you please share what you consider
13 the minimum reform to pensions for you to
14 put money from the sewer asset sale?

15 MR. EVANS: I'm still developing
16 those. There is more than minimums. I have
17 quite a long list and we are also going to
18 meet with Attorney Durkin. I want to get
19 his input as well on some other things that
20 need to be done. Obviously, third party
21 administrator is number one to ask his
22 advice, and his concentration has to be
23 relative to disability pensions. That's a
24 high priority.

25 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. I'll look

1 forward to the complete list. Now, back on
2 January 28, 2016, that's well over a year
3 ago, you authorized that contract, this is
4 about the fourth time I've brought it up,
5 with Muni Services and they were going to
6 provide online financial data presentment
7 services. As many times as I brought it up
8 has anybody checked it see what the status
9 of that is? Have you seen any presentment
10 of financial status in understandable
11 English for the average payer of taxes in
12 this city? Why do you rush into giving
13 contracts, multi-year contracts, and then
14 not even follow up to see if the work has
15 been done? I just don't understand what you
16 are about, it's crazy.

17 And the other one, in April of last
18 year you passed File of Council 21 defining
19 and authorizing tax exemptions from real
20 property tax in order to improve
21 deteriorating real property in certain areas
22 of the city, how many qualified permits are
23 been pulled?

24 MR. EVANS: I can check that for
25 you.

1 MS. SCHUMACHER: Pardon?

2 MR. EVANS: I'll check that and see
3 where we are at.

4 MS. SCHUMACHER: I think we should
5 get to know a regular basis.

6 MR. EVANS: Yeah, I asked for it,
7 but I don't think he are flooding in yet so
8 hopefully we had have some.

9 MS. SCHUMACHER: Be back next week,
10 hopefully with better voice. Thank you.

11 MR. WECHSLER: Anyone else?

12 MR. GONZILLA: Dominick Gonzilla,
13 Scranton. Good evening, gentlemen. I'm
14 just here on behalf of the Greenridge
15 Neighborhood Association. I'm the vice
16 president. I'm just here to show support
17 for the Kennedys and the Youngs. I think
18 everybody knows what's going on so I won't
19 stand here and rewrite it, but thank you.

20 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you.

21 MS. SEITZINGER: Good evening,
22 Council. Kara Seitzinger, city of Scranton
23 resident and member of the Greenridge
24 Neighborhood Association. It wasn't until
25 this afternoon that Mark Seitzinger, the

1 president of the neighborhood association,
2 who unable to be here tonight, was able to
3 send an e-mail trying to gather support for
4 the Youngs to come and attend the council
5 meeting. Obviously, our last update from
6 the Youngs at our neighborhood meeting was
7 that he did not think that the hearing was
8 going to occur yesterday because of the
9 planning commission, the codicil that they
10 had that the planning commission meeting
11 should have occurred first.

12 Without belaboring it, obviously if
13 that was the city's stance the planning
14 commission should have had a hearing a year
15 ago so it almost seems as if I know the
16 money was set aside and it appeared to
17 everybody that it was done in good faith,
18 but it appears as though it was just to
19 stall the process. We all know that the
20 flooding isn't in the past. People have
21 said, oh, Greenridge is only complaining
22 now, they haven't been and we know that the
23 flooding has occurred for over 30 years.
24 They're antiquated water systems, but now
25 the storm water system underneath the

1 Young's property, Riser Court, which would
2 be along where the late Harry McGrath lived,
3 that entire street may fall. The Kennedy's
4 property, the Young's property, it is the
5 size of their living room and it's very bad.

6 It was Phase II, obviously, of the
7 Meadowbrook construction project that never
8 occurred, but on behalf of our neighborhood
9 association we invite everybody to attend
10 citywide because I know at the summit
11 meeting many of our neighborhood groups
12 asked us for some input for Nick and Mark,
13 and they are all invited March 14, 625
14 Deacon Street in Scranton in Greenridge,
15 right up the street from Brunetti's Pizza.
16 I know Mr. Rogan was there, he knows where
17 that is, just to come and we are going to
18 discuss and see what we can do to help the
19 Youngs and see what other problems we do
20 have along that area.

21 I also want to point out that when I
22 came in tonight I saw a group of students
23 here, high school students. This is their
24 future. They are never going to come back
25 here. That's what we are facing. We can't

1 sell our homes, our streets are collapsing,
2 maybe that's the end game that you want us
3 underground, I don't know, but these kids
4 will have no home to come back to on the
5 holidays, so I do implore you to please be
6 very, very careful with the proceeds from
7 the Sewer Authority because the amount of
8 money that has been spent on attorney's fees
9 is unconscionable. Thank you.

10 MR. WECHSLER: Anyone else?

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

12 MOTIONS.

13 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Perry?

14 MR. PERRY: Yes. I just have
15 actually one thing if we could, on the
16 flooding in west side, Lenny is absolutely
17 right. I know I spoke to a couple of
18 council members this week about the
19 situation and, you know, that was the first
20 thing that we thought of so, Mrs. Reed, if
21 you could I know I spoke with Director
22 Gallagher about this and I know it was
23 scheduled to get done, if we could just send
24 a letter out to see when it's going to be
25 put on the schedule for the vacuum clean out

1 of that drainage pipe on Merrifield Avenue
2 that would be fantastic.

3 You know, we have variances with
4 warm weather, you know, a tornado in
5 February just doesn't happen, but that's not
6 an excuse not for us to keep us with what we
7 need to do as a city and this is something
8 that we need to get done. Could it have
9 held off a couple of weeks where we could
10 have got it? Absolutely. But, you know,
11 mother nature is mother nature and we can't
12 delay any longer. We need to get this taken
13 care of. It's just at that point now where,
14 you know, we just need to get it scheduled
15 to get it taken care of and move onto the
16 next project because it's just one thing
17 after another and after another. We need to
18 start prioritizing our work and taking care
19 of it.

20 You know, Lenny made a couple of
21 other comments, he brought us some pictures,
22 he has a video that I'm very interested in
23 looking at and, you know, there is no one up
24 here that wants this continue. I know that
25 wholeheartedly. We just have to get him to

1 the finish line and, you know, none of us
2 are going to stop working until we get him
3 there.

4 I did receive a letter from chief
5 Graziano. Earlier this week we made a
6 recommendation to take a look at 16 and
7 Division Street for some speeders and stop
8 signs. There has been numerous police
9 officers at different times and different
10 days inspecting that intersection. At the
11 time, there was no citations given. He did
12 not see any. There no speeding indicated.
13 There was no stop sign -- no one was running
14 stop signs. That's not to say that it
15 doesn't happen but during the times that
16 there has been police officers monitoring
17 that intersection there was not any
18 violations at the time so I just want to
19 give everybody a follow up on that. And
20 that's all I have this week.

21 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you.

22 Mr. Rogan?

23 MR. ROGAN: Yes, a number of items.
24 First, regarding the storm water situation,
25 and this pertains to west mountain and

1 Keyser Valley, I did receive a letter this
2 week and it's actually from a resident on
3 the west mountain paving to have an engineer
4 come out and do a study. So I'm not going
5 to read the whole thing because it is a
6 little bit lengthy, but in summary from this
7 engineer's report, and it is sealed, the
8 overall total to address the issue on the
9 mountain is about \$108,900. That's what
10 this one engineer believes. Obviously, the
11 issue in Keyser Valley starts on west
12 mountain. The water runs down and creates a
13 bigger problem. So this letter they do ask
14 that we use some of the sewer proceeds to
15 fix this issue. I will provide this after
16 the meeting. Mrs. Reed, if we could please
17 pass this along to the DPW as well as the
18 mayor's office asking that this is given
19 full consideration regarding the use of the
20 sewer proceeds because I do think relief on
21 west mountain will bring relieve to the
22 folks in the valley as well.

23 Also, regarding the storm on
24 Saturday, that was certainly one of the
25 worst storms I think we ever saw in

1 February, at least in my lifetime. I was at
2 a location in west side that, again, have
3 been notorious for flooding. As long as I
4 can remember, these areas would flood out
5 and you wouldn't be able to travel through
6 them. Our DPW did do a good job getting out
7 and trying to act as quickly as they can and
8 I have received a number of concerns from
9 residents following the storm where roads
10 were washed out, gutters were washed out,
11 they have all been passed along to the DPW
12 and I know fixing these issues have been a
13 top priority. I have seen DPW out making
14 some of these repairs already. I know is a
15 lot more that needs to be made.

16 Next, some bad news. I received a
17 memo from OECD this week and it says,
18 "Subject: Write off of loans for Steamtown
19 Mall Partners and Mall Associates in the
20 2016 audit. Due to the foreclosures against
21 Steamtown Mall Partners and Steamtown Mall
22 Associates, it's probably prudent to write
23 off the following loans for the 2016 audit:

24 Steamtown Mall Associates UDAG loan
25 in the amount of \$1.7 million. Steamtown

1 Mall Partners UDAG loan in the amount \$11.3
2 million. Steamtown Mall Associates CDBG
3 loan in the amount of \$1 million. Steamtown
4 Mall Associates EBZ loan in the amount of
5 \$750,000. Scranton Mall Associates DCA loan
6 in the amount of \$1.1 million, and another
7 mall partners DCA loan in the amount of \$7
8 point -- almost \$7.8 million."

9 The total for these loans is
10 \$23,698,500. It says, "The journal entry
11 will be made to credit loans receivable in
12 that amount and debit loan allowance for the
13 same amount."

14 It says, "It will have no effect on
15 net income for OECD. Due to the significant
16 amount of bad loans, OECD would like each
17 person receiving this memo to sign off."

18 So that's some bad news on the
19 economic development front from loans that I
20 have talked about quite a bit through the
21 years at these meetings.

22 Regarding pensions, and particularly
23 the double pension issue, we did receive a
24 very lengthy report. It is marked as
25 confidential as attorney/client privileged.

1 As we discussed in our caucus, we are going
2 to have Attorney Durkin come in from the
3 Pension Board to brief counsel and to brief
4 the public on what's going on with the
5 double pension issue, and as far as pension
6 reforms go, I know myself, and I'm sure my
7 colleagues will touch on this as well, were
8 very upset reading regarding a disabled
9 police officer doing police work in another
10 area. That shouldn't be the case. There is
11 many people that are on disability that are
12 truly disabled and bad apples that take
13 advantage of the system give them all a bad
14 name, so we need to make sure there is
15 processes in place so this does not happen
16 again. The pension funds are severely
17 distressed and we certainly can't have
18 somebody who is capable of doing police work
19 on a police disability pension doing police
20 work in another county, so that's something
21 I think need to be tighten up as far as
22 pension reforms go.

23 On the double pension issue,
24 obviously counsel has been working on this
25 for quite awhile and there is going to be

1 much more to come on that issue in coming
2 weeks.

3 Two other issues, it was brought up
4 and I did see a couple of e-mails, I know
5 the Scranton Times covered this already, I
6 know there petition going around to name
7 Scranton as a sanctuary city. A few people
8 contacted me asking what my position on that
9 was. I completely oppose the idea of making
10 Scranton a sanctuary city where we would
11 risk losing federal funds, and additionally,
12 our police department does an amazing job,
13 they are the professionals, they know what
14 they doing when it comes to these type of
15 policies so I think we need to be in
16 accordance with federal law.

17 The same thing for issues that were
18 raised regarding the City's position
19 regarding cannabis and other drug programs,
20 the city does not make laws regarding drugs.
21 We follow the federal guidelines and if the
22 federal government says a certain substance
23 is banned, it's banned. We don't have the
24 authority to supercede the federal
25 government.

1 And finally, one item, and I just
2 received a message on this, if we could a
3 send a letter to Director Hinton, the old
4 Pennswood Manor in South Scranton has been
5 operating as a rehab facility for a number
6 of years. It didn't go through the zoning
7 processes. They were given a drop dead date
8 of March 1 to wind down all of their
9 activities, and I did just receive a message
10 from one of the members of the South Side
11 Neighborhood Association that they are still
12 operating so we are into March 2 now and
13 they are still operating, so the city is
14 going to have go over there and take some
15 action. So that is all for now. Thank you.

16 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you.

17 Mr. Evans?

18 MR. EVANS: Thank you. Current
19 status of the rental registration ordinance
20 there are approximately 1,700 bills that
21 will be going out. There is some final
22 tweaks that are being done to the
23 registration form in the law department and
24 then they will be released so I'll have more
25 of an update on that next week.

1 Ms. Schumacher has been asking about
2 the Air bnb issue and the mercantile tax, a
3 letter has been sent to the Single Tax
4 Office inquiring about that, but I'll be
5 honest I don't expect that we are collecting
6 the mercantile tax and the reason why is,
7 number one, we don't define issues in our
8 zoning code. Secondly, most cities that
9 have Air bnb situations have a hotel tax and
10 Air bnb type companies collect the hotel tax
11 and pay it directly to the municipality, so
12 that might be how we have to go, but first
13 we have to update the zoning code because we
14 have to find a way to make sure that we
15 balance this issue, which isn't going away,
16 with protecting the neighborhoods because I
17 think the example in Greenridge is a perfect
18 example that there is a risk that they may
19 ultimately be approved because it's not in
20 the zoning code and that's a big concern of
21 mine, but I think it relates to if properly
22 put in place that protects the neighborhoods
23 along as recognizing the fact that this is
24 not going away and it is a business.

25 So I have a copy of several

1 ordinances throughout Pennsylvania, I'll be
2 looking at those as far as how to collect
3 revenue from these type of operations hoping
4 to see where that goes.

5 On the Young building, I'm going to
6 make some very brief comments. There is
7 hole in their yard that was created by storm
8 water. The city is responsible for storm
9 water. For God's sake, step up, fix it, and
10 let's get it done. I'm tired of this issue
11 and I feel bad for the Youngs. It's
12 embarrassing to this council, we have done
13 everything we could to get this done so,
14 please, put aside whatever the issues are
15 and get it done for this family. It's
16 incomprehensible.

17 On the disability pensions that
18 Councilman Rogan mentioned, as we found out
19 another disabled police officer is working
20 as a detective in Monroe County, and I've
21 been stating this has been an issue for
22 years. We need the necessary reforms to
23 ordinances, state law, and pension boards so
24 situations like this don't happen again. We
25 have to get control of the business, start

1 reducing the absolutely pathetic level of
2 disability pensions in Scranton. 52 percent
3 in the public sector -- or the public safety
4 sector, I should say, when other cities are
5 at the 4 to 6 percent range. This is a
6 disgrace and it's an embarrassment. I'll
7 take it one step further, until I see real
8 pension reform, until I see a third party
9 administrator on board whose primary focus
10 will be disability pensions, until I see new
11 laws and ordinances in place to protect and
12 avoid these situations in the future, I will
13 not vote to put any of the sewer proceeds in
14 any pension plans. As far as I'm concerned,
15 the proceeds that might have been put in the
16 pensions can remain parked in a savings
17 account in a local bank collecting interest
18 until these issues get the serious attention
19 that they truly deserve. That's all I have
20 tonight.

21 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr. Evans.
22 As was mentioned earlier, Pennsylvania
23 Economy League will hold a public hearing on
24 Tuesday, March 7, in city council chambers.
25 PEL is holding this hearing to receive

1 public comment on the court stating the
2 financial condition of the city of Scranton.
3 The public meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m.

4 The storm that occurred on Saturday,
5 as everyone mentioned, was quite a shock to
6 us. As a youth, I was told that you never
7 had to worry about a tornado in Scranton.
8 It got me through as a young boy over a fear
9 that I may have had, but the fact that the
10 storm went to the right of 81 instead of the
11 left of 81, the City of Scranton could have
12 been majorly impacted by that tornado. If
13 that tornado had touched down just two miles
14 to the left, it would have been at my house.
15 Another three miles to the left it would
16 have been in the middle of downtown
17 Scranton. It came upon us very quickly and
18 I'd like to congratulate the warning system
19 that went off. The national weather service
20 cell phones went off all over the place. I
21 was in the epicenter of the tornado, I was
22 in a Wal-Mart so tornados kind of find those
23 and everyone in the Wal-Mart, phones were
24 going of, people starting to scramble and I
25 think it made everyone prepared.

1 Saturday evening I went out, I came
2 down to fire headquarters, went out with
3 Mayor Courtright to provide around the city
4 to see where some of the major flooding
5 problems were. While we were there, one
6 scary event was about to take place. There
7 was a man missing at Lake Scranton. Right
8 when I got down there, the city was
9 preparing to put together a search party and
10 fortunately within the next few minutes of
11 that report the person showed up at the
12 emergency room.

13 Fire crews were out pumping
14 basements, police were out corning off the
15 flooded areas, firefighters were saving
16 people in disabled vehicles. I would
17 encourage people to look back at the storm
18 and think of what you are going to do.
19 Mayor Courtright and I were on Market Street
20 near McMullen's, the former McMullen's. The
21 road was barricaded off and yet someone
22 drove into the water while we were standing
23 there. Fortunately, they didn't go any far
24 enough to get caught, but I just don't
25 understand the logic behind people's small

1 car driving in there.

2 I would encourage that the DPW begin
3 to use some of the equipment that we did
4 receive from the sale of the Scranton Sewer
5 Authority. As we went through the city and
6 we saw a major part of the problem, and this
7 goes back to something we have been talking
8 about a long time, there were also a lot of
9 leaves, leaves in the storm drains, leaves
10 all over the place. I really do believe
11 that we have to come up with an effective
12 program to remove these leaves because they
13 are a detriment to the efficient use of even
14 though our storm water system is weak, the
15 leaves that are in the drainage areas are
16 causing huge problems and making this
17 problem much worse.

18 As Mr. Rogan said, the DPW was out
19 and actually they were out handling the
20 emergency situations first. I was over on
21 Phelps Street on Saturday night. By the
22 time I got over there, the water had
23 subsided and the residents were there doing
24 the cleanup themselves, and I think on
25 Monday DPW went over there first to try to

1 do it with the vacuum cleaner, then it did
2 require the use of heavy equipment and they
3 did go over and clean that up.

4 I just want to repeat, I
5 congratulate all of our city employees who
6 went out to this response, and I also want
7 to thank the residents that I saw out
8 cleaning gutters and trying to protect their
9 neighborhood. Fortunately, as I said, the
10 tornado did not touch down in Scranton, but
11 it does give you cause for alarm to think of
12 the possibility of how bad it could have
13 been.

14 Last week we had a request
15 concerning the naming of the Rockwell bridge
16 for General Wint. We have completed the
17 necessary paperwork to begin that process
18 and we will continue to keep following up on
19 that and moving it forward.

20 As was mentioned, the modeling plans
21 for the proceeds of the Sewer Authority have
22 not been complete and presented to us as far
23 as I know, I think it's been presented to
24 us. There was a suggestion that sessions be
25 held with individual council members as an

1 idea of preparing for any potential meeting.
2 As I said before, those sessions are
3 probably still going to be available to
4 council members if they chose to do that.
5 As the week went on and discussing it with
6 my colleagues, we did have a very successful
7 work session when we went through the sale
8 -- I'm sorry, the lease of the Scranton
9 Parking Authority. It's a model that my
10 colleagues seem to be very comfortable with.
11 It did produce a lot of information, so we
12 have been talking with the administration
13 and if we can put together something like
14 that that would be public, open to the
15 press, from talking to my colleagues it
16 would seem in general accord that that would
17 be a useful way to get this information out.

18 We are encouraging the
19 administration to get that session together
20 as quick as possible, there is a lot of
21 different players involved with the
22 administration's side and there is also
23 schedules amongst council members that also
24 have to be prepared, so we are trying to get
25 that together as fast as possible.

1 working on that and I'm also confident that
2 my colleagues are also working towards
3 getting this -- getting this done right.
4 And that's all I have.

5 MS. REED: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION -
6 AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL
7 NO. 95, 2015, AN ORDINANCE, ENTITLED
8 "AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 79, OF
9 2015, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING FILE OF THE
10 COUNCIL NO. 145 OF 2007 ENTITLED "AN
11 ORDINANCE RENAMING THE EMERGENCY AND
12 MUNICIPAL SERVICES TAX ("EMST") TO LOCAL
13 SERVICE TAX ("LST")" AND BY IMPOSING A
14 WITHHOLDING OF \$52.00 FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR
15 2015 AND THE SAME SHALL REMAIN IN FULL FORCE
16 AND EFFECT ANNUALLY THEREAFTER BY INCREASING
17 THE LOCAL SERVICES TAX WITHHOLDING FROM
18 \$52.00 TO \$156.00 FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR
19 2015, AND PROVIDING FOR AN EXEMPTION FROM
20 TAXATION FOR ANY PERSON WHOSE TOTAL EARNED
21 INCOME AND NET PROFITS FROM ALL SOURCES
22 WITHIN THE MUNICIPALITY IS LESS THAN
23 \$15,600.00 FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2015 UNDER
24 AND PURSUANT TO THE LOCAL TAX ENABLING ACT,
25 ACT 511 OF 1965, P.L. 1257, 53 P.S.

1 §6924.101 ET. SEQ., AND THE MUNICIPALITIES
2 RECOVERY ACT, ACT 47 OF 1987, P.L. 246, 53
3 P.S. § 11701.101 ET. SEQ. AND THEIR
4 RESPECTIVE AMENDMENTS, EFFECTIVE RETROACTIVE
5 TO JANUARY 1, 2016. THIS TAX IS EXPECTED TO
6 GENERATE APPROXIMATELY FOUR-MILLION
7 FIVE-HUNDRED NINETY-FIVE THOUSAND
8 (\$4,595,000.00) DOLLARS IN REVENUE IN
9 CALENDAR YEAR 2017" BY ENABLING THE CITY OF
10 SCRANTON TO CONTINUE TO LEVY THE LOCAL
11 SERVICES TAX AT THE FISCAL YEAR 2016 RATE
12 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017 FOR A TOTAL MAXIMUM
13 LOCAL SERVICES RATE OF ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-SIX
14 (\$156.00) DOLLARS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2017
15 EFFECTIVE RETROACTIVE TO JANUARY 1, 2017 AND
16 PROVIDING FOR AN EXEMPTION FROM TAXATION FOR
17 ANY PERSON WHOSE TOTAL EARNED INCOME AND NET
18 PROFITS FROM ALL SOURCES WITHIN THE
19 MUNICIPALITY IS LESS THAN \$15,600.00 FOR THE
20 CALENDAR YEAR 2017. (EMERGENCY CERTIFICATE
21 ATTACHED).

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

25 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

1 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

5 MR. PERRY: Aye.

6 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

7 MR. EVANS: Aye.

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

10 MR. EVANS: I make a motion to
11 suspend the Rules to move Item 5-B to Sixth
12 and Seventh Order to be considered for final
13 passage based on the attached emergency
14 certificate.

15 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

18 MR. PERRY: Aye.

19 MR. EVANS: Aye.

20 MR. ROGAN: 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 91, 2017 - AN ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE

1 SERVICE TAX ("LST")" AND BY IMPOSING A
2 WITHHOLDING OF \$52.00 FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR
3 2015 AND THE SAME SHALL REMAIN IN FULL FORCE
4 AND EFFECT ANNUALLY THEREAFTER BY INCREASING
5 THE LOCAL SERVICES TAX WITHHOLDING FROM
6 \$52.00 TO \$156.00 FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR
7 2015, AND PROVIDING FOR AN EXEMPTION FROM
8 TAXATION FOR ANY PERSON WHOSE TOTAL EARNED
9 INCOME AND NET PROFITS FROM ALL SOURCES
10 WITHIN THE MUNICIPALITY IS LESS THAN
11 \$15,600.00 FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2015 UNDER
12 AND PURSUANT TO THE LOCAL TAX ENABLING ACT,
13 ACT 511 OF 1965, P.L. 1257, 53 P.S.
14 §6924.101 ET. SEQ., AND THE MUNICIPALITIES
15 RECOVERY ACT, ACT 47 OF 1987, P.L. 246, 53
16 P.S. § 11701.101 ET. SEQ. AND THEIR
17 RESPECTIVE AMENDMENTS, EFFECTIVE RETROACTIVE
18 TO JANUARY 1, 2016. THIS TAX IS EXPECTED TO
19 GENERATE APPROXIMATELY FOUR-MILLION
20 FIVE-HUNDRED NINETY-FIVE THOUSAND
21 (\$4,595,000.00) DOLLARS IN REVENUE IN
22 CALENDAR YEAR 2017" BY ENABLING THE CITY OF
23 SCRANTON TO CONTINUE TO LEVY THE LOCAL
24 SERVICES TAX AT THE FISCAL YEAR 2016 RATE
25 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017 FOR A TOTAL MAXIMUM

1 LOCAL SERVICES RATE OF ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-SIX
2 (\$156.00) DOLLARS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2017
3 EFFECTIVE RETROACTIVE TO JANUARY 1, 2017 AND
4 PROVIDING FOR AN EXEMPTION FROM TAXATION FOR
5 ANY PERSON WHOSE TOTAL EARNED INCOME AND NET
6 PROFITS FROM ALL SOURCES WITHIN THE
7 MUNICIPALITY IS LESS THAN \$15,600.00 FOR THE
8 CALENDAR YEAR 2017. (EMERGENCY CERTIFICATE
9 ATTACHED).

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

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

14 MR. EVANS: 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. EVANS: Aye.

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

22 If there is anyone who would like to
23 address council on this emergency
24 legislation, you may do so at this time.

25 Please come up. Please just state

1 your name.

2 MS. JEFFRIES: Norma Jeffries, and
3 I'm just concerned I was making a lot of
4 notes as you were reading the "B" category,
5 you read it twice, and I was thinking when
6 did I get a chance to say something about
7 this because this deals with the increase,
8 is that what it's going to be? It's going
9 to be retroactive? Can you explain that?

10 MR. WECHSLER: It's actually
11 something that's been in place for about two
12 years, so it's a continuation of the \$3 tax
13 that is taken out of your pay each week.

14 MS. JEFFRIES: I have a part-time
15 job --

16 MR. WECHSLER: If you make less than
17 \$15,600 it won't apply to you.

18 MS. JEFFRIES: Okay, because I have
19 to pay \$18 additional I guess so I must --

20 MR. WECHSLER: If you make less than
21 \$15,600 you won't have to pay anything
22 additional, and if you have been working
23 it's already being taken out of your
24 paycheck.

25 MS. JEFFRIES: So what time do we

1 get to see when these are going to be
2 discussed prior to them appearing in this
3 paper?

4 MR. WECHSLER: This was passed in a
5 emergency certificate so this is your
6 opportunity.

7 MS. JEFFRIES: Oh, this is the
8 opportunity now. Okay, like I had spoken
9 with Councilman Rogan and I just wanted to
10 know the process because I am relatively new
11 to the city, returning really, I grew up
12 here, but returning and just want to know
13 the process because there are a few things
14 I'd like to discuss, but just wanted to know
15 exactly when to do that.

16 MR. WECHSLER: Yeah, for the
17 majority of items we do here you either get
18 one or two times to speak on it or three
19 times, so this is an emergency because it's
20 financial we have to go backwards and start
21 collecting. We were permitted to keep
22 collecting this tax, it's already been in
23 place, so for the most part you usually have
24 at least three opportunities to speak on
25 something.

1 MS. JEFFRIES: Okay. Well, I thank
2 you.

3 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you.

4 MR. ROGAN: Just as a follow up,
5 what I'd like to mention, normally WNEP is
6 pretty good with their coverage but they did
7 have an article that I would say was very
8 misleading. The headline was, "Scranton to
9 Triple LST Tax." But as Council President
10 Wechsler mentioned, the rate has been the
11 same for the past two years. This
12 legislation continues the rate at that
13 level, and was also mentioned, if you make
14 less than \$15,600 this tax did not apply to
15 you so it doesn't apply to most senior
16 citizens, people who are on fixed income and
17 social security, it doesn't apply those type
18 of earnings. It's only on earned income
19 within the city.

20 So for the vast majority of the
21 people watching, for a lot of people that
22 live in the city, this does not apply. Now,
23 if you live outside of the city and work in
24 the city and make over \$15,000 you would be
25 pay this tax, but as was mentioned, just to

1 reiterate it is not an increase.

2 MS. REED: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR
3 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
4 FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 90,
5 2017 - AN ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR
6 AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO
7 APPLY FOR AND EXECUTE A GRANT APPLICATION
8 AND IF SUCCESSFUL A GRANT AGREEMENT AND
9 ACCEPT THE FUNDS RELATED THERETO THROUGH THE
10 BJA FY 17 EDWARD BYRNE JUSTICE ASSISTANCE
11 GRANT ("JAG") PROGRAM SMART POLICING
12 INITIATIVE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$571,847.00 TO
13 IMPLEMENT THE ALTERNATIVE TO ARRESTING
14 ADDICTS PROGRAM.

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

18 MR. EVANS: As Chairperson for the
19 Committee on Finance, I recommend final
20 passage of Item 7-A.

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. Wechsler.

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

9 MS. REED: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION BY
10 THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FOR
11 ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 120, 2017 -
12 ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE
13 HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURE REVIEW BOARD
14 ("HARB") AND APPROVING THE CERTIFICATE OF
15 APPROPRIATENESS FOR PATRICK QUINN, 607
16 SUNSET ST., CLARKS SUMMIT, PA, FOR
17 INSTALLATION OF LETTERING THAT WILL BE
18 THERMOFORMED DIMENSIONAL CELLULOSE ACETATE
19 BUTYRATE PLASTIC PIN MOUNTED INDUSTRY
20 STANDARD, TIMES NEW ROMAN, COPPER COLORED
21 THAT WILL READ AV RESTAURANT & LOUNGE, 320
22 PENN AVE. FRONT DOOR APPROVED FOR CURRENT
23 RED COLOR OR MAY BE CHANGED TO BLACK OR
24 MAHOGANY WITHOUT HAVING TO GO BEFORE HARB
25 AGAIN.

1 MR. WECHSLER: What is the
2 recommendation of the Chairperson for the
3 Committee on Community Development?

4 MR. ROGAN: As Chair for the
5 Committee on Community Development, I
6 recommend final passage of Item 7-B.

7 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

11 MR. PERRY: Yes.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

13 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

14 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

15 MR. EVANS: Yes.

16 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

17 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby
18 declare Item 7-B legally and lawfully
19 adopted.

20 MS. REED: 7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION BY
21 THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS - FOR ADOPTION
22 - RESOLUTION. 121, 2017 - AUTHORIZING THE
23 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS
24 TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT FOR
25 THE WEST LACKAWANNA AVENUE BRIDGE DOCUMENT

1 NO. 04M173 BY AND BETWEEN THE COMMONWEALTH
2 OF PENNSYLVANIA, ACTING THROUGH THE
3 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION ("DEPARTMENT")
4 AND THE CITY OF SCRANTON ("CITY OF
5 SCRANTON") FOR COMMONWEALTH'S PERFORMANCE OF
6 CITY OF SCRANTON-OWNED BRIDGE PROJECT.

7 MR. WECHSLER: What is the
8 recommendation of the temporary Chairperson
9 for the Committee on Public Works?

10 MR. PERRY: As temporary Chair for
11 the Committee on Public Works, I recommend
12 final passage of Item 7-C.

13 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

16 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

17 MR. PERRY: Yes.

18 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

19 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

20 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

21 MR. EVANS: Yes.

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

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

1 MS. REED: 7-D. FOR CONSIDERATION
2 BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS - FOR
3 ADOPTION- RESOLUTION NO. 122, 2017 -
4 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE
5 CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO AN
6 AGREEMENT FOR THE ELM STREET BRIDGE DOCUMENT
7 NO. 04M171 BY AND BETWEEN THE COMMONWEALTH
8 OF PENNSYLVANIA, ACTING THROUGH THE
9 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION ("DEPARTMENT")
10 AND THE CITY OF SCRANTON ("CITY OF
11 SCRANTON") FOR COMMONWEALTH'S PERFORMANCE OF
12 CITY OF SCRANTON-OWNED BRIDGE PROJECT.

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

16 MR. PERRY: As temporary Chair for
17 the Committee on Public Works, I recommend
18 final passage of Item 7-D.

19 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

23 MR. PERRY: Yes.

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

25 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

2 MR. EVANS: Yes.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

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

7 MS. REED: 7-E. FOR CONSIDERATION BY
8 THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS - FOR ADOPTION
9 - RESOLUTION NO. 123, 2017 - AUTHORIZING THE
10 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS
11 TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT FOR
12 THE NORTH MAIN AVENUE BRIDGE DOCUMENT NO.
13 04M172 BY AND BETWEEN THE COMMONWEALTH OF
14 PENNSYLVANIA, ACTING THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT
15 OF TRANSPORTATION ("DEPARTMENT") AND THE
16 CITY OF SCRANTON ("CITY OF SCRANTON") FOR
17 COMMONWEALTH'S PERFORMANCE OF CITY OF
18 SCRANTON-OWNED BRIDGE PROJECT.

19 MR. WECHSLER: What is the
20 recommendation of the temporary Chairperson
21 for the Committee on Public Works?

22 MR. PERRY: As temporary Chair for
23 the Committee on Public Works, I recommend
24 final passage of Item 7-E.

25 MR. ROGAN: Second.

1 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

2 Roll call, please?

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

4 MR. PERRY: Yes.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

6 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

8 MR. EVANS: Yes.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

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

13 MS. REED: 7-F - FORMERLY 6-B - FOR
14 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE -
15 FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.
16 92-2017 - AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF
17 THE COUNCIL NO. 95, 2015, AN ORDINANCE,
18 ENTITLED "AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.
19 79, OF 2015, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING FILE OF
20 THE COUNCIL NO. 145 OF 2007 ENTITLED "AN
21 ORDINANCE RENAMING THE EMERGENCY AND
22 MUNICIPAL SERVICES TAX ("EMST") TO LOCAL
23 SERVICE TAX ("LST")" AND BY IMPOSING A
24 WITHHOLDING OF \$52.00 FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR
25 2015 AND THE SAME SHALL REMAIN IN FULL FORCE

1 AND EFFECT ANNUALLY THEREAFTER BY INCREASING
2 THE LOCAL SERVICES TAX WITHHOLDING FROM
3 \$52.00 TO \$156.00 FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR
4 2015, AND PROVIDING FOR AN EXEMPTION FROM
5 TAXATION FOR ANY PERSON WHOSE TOTAL EARNED
6 INCOME AND NET PROFITS FROM ALL SOURCES
7 WITHIN THE MUNICIPALITY IS LESS THAN
8 \$15,600.00 FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2015 UNDER
9 AND PURSUANT TO THE LOCAL TAX ENABLING ACT,
10 ACT 511 OF 1965, P.L. 1257, 53 P.S.
11 §6924.101 ET. SEQ., AND THE MUNICIPALITIES
12 RECOVERY ACT, ACT 47 OF 1987, P.L. 246, 53
13 P.S. § 11701.101 ET. SEQ. AND THEIR
14 RESPECTIVE AMENDMENTS, EFFECTIVE RETROACTIVE
15 TO JANUARY 1, 2016. THIS TAX IS EXPECTED TO
16 GENERATE APPROXIMATELY FOUR-MILLION
17 FIVE-HUNDRED NINETY-FIVE THOUSAND
18 (\$4,595,000.00) DOLLARS IN REVENUE IN
19 CALENDAR YEAR 2017" BY ENABLING THE CITY OF
20 SCRANTON TO CONTINUE TO LEVY THE LOCAL
21 SERVICES TAX AT THE FISCAL YEAR 2016 RATE
22 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017 FOR A TOTAL MAXIMUM
23 LOCAL SERVICES RATE OF ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-SIX
24 (\$156.00) DOLLARS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2017
25 EFFECTIVE RETROACTIVE TO JANUARY 1, 2017 AND

1 PROVIDING FOR AN EXEMPTION FROM TAXATION FOR
2 ANY PERSON WHOSE TOTAL EARNED INCOME AND NET
3 PROFITS FROM ALL SOURCES WITHIN THE
4 MUNICIPALITY IS LESS THAN \$15,600.00 FOR THE
5 CALENDAR YEAR 2017. (EMERGENCY CERTIFICATE
6 ATTACHED).

7 MR. WECHSLER: What is the
8 recommendation of the Chairperson for the
9 Committee on Finance?

10 MR. EVANS: As Chairperson for the
11 Committee on Finance, I recommend final
12 passage of Item 7-F.

13 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

16 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

17 MR. PERRY: Yes.

18 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

19 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

20 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

21 MR. EVANS: Yes.

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

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

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

MR. ROGAN: Motion to adjourn.

MR. WECHSLER: Meeting adjourned.

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