

SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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HELD:

Thursday, April 27, 2017

LOCATION:

Council Chambers

Scranton City Hall

340 North Washington Avenue

Scranton, Pennsylvania

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

JOSEPH WECHSLER, PRESIDENT

PATRICK ROGAN, VICE-PRESIDENT

WAYNE EVANS

WILLIAM GAUGHAN

TIM PERRY

LORI REED, CITY CLERK

KATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

AMIL MINORA, ESQUIRE - SOLICITOR

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

3 MR. WECHSLER: Roll call, please.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

5 MR. PERRY: Here.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

7 MR. ROGAN: Here.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

9 MR. EVANS: Here.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Here.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

13 MR. WECHSLER: Here. Dispense with  
14 the reading of the minutes.

15 MS. REED: THIRD ORDER. 3-A.

16 AGENDA FOR THE CITY PLANNING COMMISSION  
17 MEETING HELD APRIL 26, 2017.

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

20 MS. REED: 3-B. CHECK RECEIVED IN  
21 THE AMOUNT OF \$16,651.96 THAT REPRESENTS  
22 REIMBURSEMENT FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT SAFER  
23 GRANT 2012 BALANCE.

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

1 MS. REED: 3-C. AGENDA FOR THE  
2 BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS MEETING TO BE HELD  
3 MAY 10, 2017.

4 MR. WECHSLER: Are there any  
5 comments? If not, received and filed. Do  
6 any council members have announcements at  
7 this time?

8 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

9 MR. PERRY: Go ahead.

10 MR. GAUGHAN: The Armed Services Day  
11 parade is for our veterans, the Army, the  
12 Navy, the Air Force, the Marine Corp and the  
13 Coast Guard. It will be held May 20 at 11  
14 a.m., Saturday, in downtown Scranton. The  
15 parade will begin at Vine Street and Penn  
16 Avenue continuing to the courthouse. Colts  
17 buses will be running free all day and  
18 everybody is urged to get out and show the  
19 veterans in our community your thanks for  
20 their services to this country.

21 Also, as an addition to that, local  
22 students can enter into a essay writing  
23 contest. The topic is the sacrifice of our  
24 veterans. It has to be a thousand words and  
25 they are to drop off the essay in the red,

1 white and blue box on the corner of  
2 Lackawanna Avenue and North Washington  
3 Avenue at the parade. They have to include  
4 their name, phone number and age on the  
5 essay. First prize is \$100, second prize is  
6 \$75 and third and fourth prizes are \$50. So  
7 I urge any young people, any students in the  
8 community to take part in that essay. Than  
9 you.

10 MR. PERRY: Yes, I have one  
11 announcement to make. This Saturday, April  
12 29, from 6:00 to 11:00 the Minooka Lions  
13 will hold their 12th annual Autism Awareness  
14 Drive. They have had 11 very successful  
15 years in a row raising money for autism.  
16 It's a great cause. It's near and due to my  
17 heart. It has effected my family, like I'm  
18 sure a lot of yours, and the Lion's Club  
19 they do a really good job. The tickets at  
20 the door are \$20. All the proceeds stay  
21 locally to help the Autism Awareness Drive  
22 in our community. Thank you.

23 MS. REED: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'  
24 PARTICIPATION.

25 MR. WECHSLER: Joan Hodowanitz.

1 MS. HODOWANITZ: I wasn't the first  
2 one.

3 MR. WECHSLER: It's a miracle.

4 MS. HODOWANITZ: Fay put my name  
5 first, okay. Joan Hodowanitz, Scranton city  
6 resident and taxpayer. Okay, 64 days to  
7 June 30, deadline for our 2016 audit. I  
8 will remind you that this gem is the  
9 Lackawanna County Library System and member  
10 library's audit for 2016. Member libraries  
11 in seven different municipalities including  
12 Scranton. It was completed on January 27,  
13 27 days it took to due and that's without  
14 the benefit of Rainey & Rainey.

15 Okay, 194 days to November 7th's  
16 General Election, do you know where your  
17 Arcadis study is on the storm water  
18 management? And we are rapidly approaching  
19 May 16, I hope every citizen gets out to  
20 vote in their primary.

21 With regard to the City's website, I  
22 have mentioned this several weeks now on the  
23 Controller's page there is only one  
24 Controller's report, that is for March 2017.  
25 December and February have somehow gone to

1 the big cyber cemetery in the sky, totally  
2 gone, and the RFP's, they created a page for  
3 RFP's, the RFP for rental registration is  
4 one-page long. It's the initial cover  
5 sheet. Now, if it weren't for Jim Lockwood  
6 and the Times-Tribune, Jim very politely  
7 scanned in the entire RFP so that if you  
8 Google his article on the RFP for rental  
9 registration you will get the entire  
10 document, but it needs to be added to the  
11 city's website, and there is no RFP for the  
12 third party administrator as of yet, and I  
13 don't know how many years that will take  
14 because it's been over one year since the  
15 mayor told us that he would from this point  
16 onward have a third party administrator.

17 Speaking of the third party  
18 administrator for the pension plans, I am  
19 very curious to see how he is going to  
20 advertise for a nationally recognized  
21 administrator. How are we advertising other  
22 than the RFP that's on our website? How do  
23 we put that out? If you can find out from  
24 the administration how they are canvassing  
25 nationwide, I'd like it know.

1                   Have we had any update on the status  
2                   of the Knowell's insurance list? You passed  
3                   the ordinance for the insurance with a  
4                   resolution and they are supposed to go back  
5                   and scrub the list. The list included the  
6                   Scranton Public Library, Nancy Kay Holmes  
7                   Library. Do we know when that list will be  
8                   available for the public to see the  
9                   corrected list?

10                   MR. GAUGHAN: We requested it, but  
11                   we have not received it yet.

12                   MS. HODOWANITZ: Okay, I'm sure that  
13                   will be right behind the third party  
14                   administrator. I'm watching.

15                   Speaking of pensions, the third  
16                   party administrator is one piece of the  
17                   puzzle, but I'm interested in what other  
18                   pension reforms are being pursued. I would  
19                   -- it would be my position that the city is  
20                   in need of a system of internal controls so  
21                   that we never have another double pension  
22                   fiasco or anything like it. Are any pension  
23                   reforms in the work other than the RFP?

24                   MR. EVANS: Well, when we see the  
25                   RFP that may be part of the RFP so we will



1           have to see about that. We also want to  
2           reduce the rate of return and make sure  
3           that's part of the ordinance that's going to  
4           be done as well.

5                   MS. HODOWANITZ: I understand that.

6                   MR. EVANS: And I want to see some  
7           improvements in the pension boards but there  
8           are some state statutes that allow us not to  
9           do certain things.

10                   MS. HODOWANITZ: Well, see, I still  
11           don't understand how the double pension  
12           fiasco really happened and I would tell you  
13           that the whole system needs to be looked at  
14           closely and internal controls need to be  
15           developed and implemented.

16                   MR. ROGAN: Regarding the double  
17           pension issue, there is a number of controls  
18           I think that need to be put in. A couple of  
19           the things that I am thinking about, I would  
20           like to see the state police first, which is  
21           -- we are still --

22                   MS. HODOWANITZ: I would, too.

23                   MR. ROGAN: -- trying to --

24                   MR. MINORA: The argument on the  
25           subpoenas is scheduled or June 28.

1 MS. HODOWANITZ: -- whether we get  
2 that or not --

3 MR. ROGAN: What was that, Attorney  
4 Minora?

5 MR. MINORA: Argument on the  
6 subpoena is scheduled for June 28. I just  
7 received that. I didn't have time to talk  
8 about it in caucus.

9 MS. HODOWANITZ: We're making  
10 progress.

11 MR. ROGAN: That's some good news.

12 MS. HODOWANITZ: But whether or not  
13 you can get the state police report I still  
14 think that we need to develop other  
15 controls.

16 MR. ROGAN: Absolutely.

17 MS. HODOWANITZ: And, finally, have  
18 we got any update on the accounting for the  
19 Sewer Authority sale?

20 MR. GAUGHAN: No, we have not  
21 received that.

22 MS. HODOWANITZ: And the beat goes  
23 on. Thank you.

24 MR. WECHSLER: Fay Franus.

25 MS. FRANUS: Fay Franus, Scranton.

1 I hope everybody listens to everything I say  
2 now because this is very important. The  
3 election is coming up and it's very  
4 important as to who you people vote for.  
5 Now, I got this in the mail, Pat Rogan, no  
6 tax increases in Scranton. Not only that,  
7 he says he has done -- small business owner  
8 and he has --

9 MR. ROGAN: Ms. Franus, I don't want  
10 to stop you, but I did not send that out.  
11 If you look at the "paid for" line that was  
12 not from me or my campaign.

13 MS. FRANUS: Are you trying to say  
14 that you don't agree with no tax increase?

15 MR. ROGAN: I'm just saying I did  
16 not send that out.

17 MS. FRANUS: I know that, but --

18 MR. ROGAN: I just want you to know  
19 that.

20 MS. FRANUS: But you agree with  
21 what's on here, don't you?

22 MR. ROGAN: I had nothing to do with  
23 it being put together.

24 MS. FRANUS: Well, you should  
25 certainly have some say as to what's going

1 on in your ad. I'm sure you would like to  
2 say there is no tax increase this year and  
3 take credit for it; right, Pat?

4 MR. ROGAN: It's not my ad.

5 MS. FRANUS: Okay, well, let me go  
6 further. Just like, Mr. Wechsler, you say  
7 there is no taxes and Mr. Wechsler says --  
8 you say it here in the paper, no taxes this  
9 year. But, Mr. Rogan, 2014, 2015, 2016, you  
10 -- well, let's go back to 2013 December, 57  
11 percent tax increase. Janet Evans, Jack  
12 Loscombe voted no and you voted no, but come  
13 January of 2014 when Billy Courtright became  
14 the mayor instead of Mayor Doherty you voted  
15 for a 57 percent tax increase, the highest  
16 ever in the City of Scranton and between  
17 that and now taxes have been raised 87  
18 percent between then and now and you have  
19 voted for every one of those tax increases.  
20 You have done it single-handedly. And you  
21 also are the only council person in the  
22 history of Scranton to raise taxes that much  
23 so that's because Mayor Courtright is the  
24 mayor, your buddy.

25 And you also say in this newspaper

1 article, I don't know if it's misquoted  
2 wrong or not, that you are interested in the  
3 garbage fee, you are hoping to get a senior  
4 citizen discount. Same thing with  
5 Mr. Wechsler, you are both saying you are  
6 interested in the garbage fee but you sat  
7 there for two years and have not done one  
8 thing to lower the garbage fee. It's  
9 election year this year so now all of a  
10 sudden you are big garbage fee advocates.

11 You didn't do one -- you could have  
12 gone down to Dave Bulzoni or go up wherever  
13 he is and talk to him about the garbage fee,  
14 what money comes in and what money goes out,  
15 but you never did it. It could have been in  
16 the budget for this year but you didn't want  
17 it to be because you just didn't want to do  
18 it. So now all of a sudden you want for  
19 next year to get a senior citizen discount.  
20 Mr. Evans says that's not plausible, I  
21 guess, because he didn't do anything about  
22 it either.

23 It sounds good in the paper. It  
24 sounds good when you are running for  
25 election. You could have done it a year and

1 a half ago, so it could have been in this  
2 budget this year for the garbage fee would  
3 be less than 300 and the senior citizen  
4 would get a discount, but, no, now you are  
5 running for election so it's a disgrace.

6 And the fact that you, Mr. Rogan,  
7 sit up there and take credit for no taxes  
8 this year and Mr. Wechsler, no taxes, I hope  
9 the three men or four men, whoever is  
10 running for city council, beat you or Mr.  
11 Wechsler because either one of you have to  
12 go, both of you I wish would go.

13 Mr. Gaughan has been wonderful. He  
14 has been for the people. He pointed out  
15 where Billy Courtright has done nothing for  
16 the people and hides everything and doesn't  
17 get back to him on anything. He is not  
18 answerable to anybody, plus he doesn't know  
19 how to answer any questions, but Mr. Gaughan  
20 always says it like it is. He may not get  
21 the vote he wants, but at least he brings it  
22 out to the public, so I would say if anybody  
23 would want to vote for Bill Gaughan  
24 absolutely. But as far as you, Mr. Rogan,  
25 the highest, highest person on city council

1 ever to raise taxes as much as you did.

2 And, Mr. Wechsler, for you to say,  
3 oh, we are not raising taxes, there is no  
4 taxes this year, it has nothing to do with  
5 the election, and the one of you state no  
6 taxes, no taxes in the paper. You are  
7 taking credit for it, but you want to get  
8 elected, but next year wait and see, Mr.  
9 Rogan and Mr. Wechsler, if they get elected  
10 again they will be raising taxes sky high.  
11 Let's see if we don't have taxes raised next  
12 year if you get in. Let's see if you really  
13 sincere about not raising taxes. Next year  
14 it's going to be astronomical because it's  
15 not an election year for you.

16 And what about the storm water  
17 thing? How come you are not demanding to  
18 know how much the storm water is going to  
19 cost the people? But Bill Courtright  
20 doesn't want that study to come out until  
21 after the election and you sit there and  
22 don't say a word about it. You should be  
23 demanding to know what the garbage -- what  
24 the storm water fee is going to be for the  
25 people. You should be demanding the answers

1 to that, but yet you are not.

2 And then the money for all of the  
3 lawyers, the lawyers. There is no  
4 accountability as to how they got that  
5 money. There is no invoices and yet you're  
6 still not doing anything about letting the  
7 people -- I believe that's public record  
8 since April 10. Have you gone to that  
9 office and made an appointment to see what  
10 those invoices stated? Have you done it yet  
11 either one of you? Mr. Wechsler and  
12 Mr. Rogan?

13 MR. WECHSLER: The reason why we  
14 have the invoices is that we went to the  
15 meeting and got the information from the  
16 director.

17 MS. FRANUS: Well, then how come  
18 when people ask you the questions about how  
19 the invoices -- what were they? What were  
20 the bills for? You didn't answer them.

21 MR. WECHSLER: Well, the invoices we  
22 were provided are all redacted.

23 MS. FRANUS: Well, that's what I'm  
24 saying, but isn't that public record that  
25 they say you have to make an appointment?



1 How come you haven't? I'm sure it's not  
2 redacted if it's public record.

3 MR. WECHSLER: All of the invoices  
4 are redacted.

5 MS. FRANUS: Pardon me?

6 MR. WECHSLER: All of the  
7 information provided is redacted, yes.

8 MS. FRANUS: So you don't have a  
9 right to find out what the real bills what  
10 they were for, you are saying that? Nobody  
11 has a right in city council, Finance Chair,  
12 nobody has a right to know?

13 MR. WECHSLER: We requested the  
14 information and that's how it was provided  
15 to us. Now, we have to find a better way to  
16 get those answers. I mean, we can only ask  
17 the questions so many ways.

18 MR. EVANS: We asked for them to  
19 waive client privilege and -- go ahead.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: No, that's okay. I  
21 was going to say, I filed an appeal with the  
22 Office of Open Records to get that  
23 information so --

24 MS. FRANUS: Well, it's ashame. So  
25 Billy Courtright is behind this again.

1 MR. WECHSLER: Lenny Srebro.

2 MR. SREBRO: Good evening, Council.  
3 Lenny Srebro, Scranton resident. You know,  
4 the flooding problem in my neighborhood, you  
5 know, they started doing something about --  
6 which I'm very pleased that things are  
7 starting to get done, but I really don't  
8 think it's enough. That's my opinion. Now,  
9 I do want to give a couple of the council  
10 members some credit. Tim Perry who has been  
11 calling me and double checking, you know,  
12 seeing how things are going and Mr. Gaughan  
13 once or twice, but I don't think it's enough  
14 that's the bottom line.

15 What I do have to mention with all  
16 of my trying to get something done with the  
17 flooding problem there I do want to mention  
18 there are some people that really I'm  
19 telling you have been doing a lot to inform  
20 me, to try to explain things to me, and I  
21 want to mention their names, they are all  
22 from DPW. One guy is David Weidow. Another  
23 guy is Ken Levandowski. There is Dennis  
24 Gallagher that have been explaining things  
25 to me and really letting me see what's going

1 on here. All of the messages I was always  
2 calling and leaving with the problems with  
3 the flooding, etcetera, you know, have been  
4 to DPW but until I actually went there  
5 personally. You know, I tried to get some  
6 information with Sam Vitris, I'm telling you  
7 these people have really been helping. To  
8 the average guy, you know, like that people  
9 are concerned, you know, means a lot at  
10 voting time, I want to tell you guys that,  
11 you know, just that you are interested in  
12 finding out stuff or see how things are  
13 going that you are really looking into it.

14 I have been through with the former  
15 Sewer Authority supervisors an telling you  
16 the bull just what you want to hear and then  
17 you never hear from them again. I heard all  
18 of the excuses in the book, but I do want to  
19 say I can't forget the idea that something  
20 is being done, but I'll tell you that was  
21 three weeks ago that they started flushing  
22 that big drain, they never finished it, and  
23 that's the end of it, you know, I haven't  
24 seen them back.

25 Now, they put in a section of the

1 ruptured pipe in front of my property, they  
2 put that section in and it's just like left  
3 dead. It really is a mess and the curb is  
4 gone. They were supposed to put a curb back  
5 in. Thank God that we haven't had any  
6 really bad storms lately, but with that curb  
7 missing, you know, that water that -- the  
8 drainage system can't handle it. It comes  
9 down the streets in the neighborhoods so  
10 without that curb there, once again, the  
11 front of my house is going to be flooded at  
12 the next bad storm.

13 See, that's what I'm afraid of that  
14 now that something got done, you know, it  
15 will make me happy more or less. I don't  
16 know if they are going to come back, but I  
17 am patient, you know, and I really am  
18 because after 20 years of all of the  
19 neighbors trying to get something done I  
20 think we are all patient in the  
21 neighborhood, but I want to tell you that  
22 the latest neighborhood talk going on is  
23 with that new power plant, the transfer  
24 plant or whatever you call it that's up  
25 above Keyser Avenue where the North/South

1 Road meets Keyser Avenue, I'd like to know  
2 where the water is going to go now from that  
3 plant that the mountain is being taken down,  
4 all of the foliage is being cleared away.  
5 As far as I understand, that water is going  
6 to come down to Keyser Avenue and nobody  
7 really knows where it's going to go after  
8 that except more than likely Keyser Creek.  
9 Keyser Creek can't handle the runoff now,  
10 now there is going to be so much more. I'm  
11 telling you, we are in there for a nightmare  
12 now with this drainage system. I'd  
13 appreciate it if you could look into, you  
14 know, where this water is going to go. If  
15 it's going into Keyser Creek, it's going to  
16 be a nightmare for the neighborhood there.  
17 Thank you.

18 MR. PERRY: Mr. Srebro, I'm going to  
19 follow-up with Director Gallagher after the  
20 meeting and I'll be in touch with you  
21 shortly and see when that drain pipe is  
22 going to be finished. I'll even swing by on  
23 Monday to take a look at that curb you are  
24 talking about and see what we can done for  
25 you.

1 MR. SREBRO: Yeah. Like I said, now  
2 the most important thing is where that water  
3 is going to go from that power plant. You  
4 know, if it goes --

5 MR. PERRY: Yeah, I'd be interested  
6 to hear from the engineer on that project.

7 MR. WECHSLER: We have contacted the  
8 Solicitor's Office, we had some concerns  
9 about that. We had some concerns about that  
10 earlier this year when the lights kind of  
11 appeared in that area. We are going to  
12 follow up with the solicitor and the city  
13 planner, Don King.

14 MR. SREBRO: Thank you.

15 MR. WECHSLER: Bob Bolus.

16 MR. BOLUS: Good evening, Council.  
17 Bob Bolus, Scranton. First off, I would  
18 like to introduce council to a Norwegian  
19 television station that's been traveling  
20 with me. They are going to here today,  
21 tomorrow, and they are going to Harrisburg  
22 at the Trump rallies. They are just one of  
23 the countries that I brought here during the  
24 Trump rally and we brought them here to  
25 Scranton, Pennsylvania, today. They

1           traveled throughout the city with me and I  
2           invited them to come here to the council,  
3           and I applaud them that they wanted to take  
4           a risk even coming here.

5                         What we need to do here, and I've  
6           listened to everybody time and time and time  
7           again, you know, what you got to understand  
8           the horse has left the barn, guys. Mr.  
9           Gaughan, Mr. Wechsler, whining and crying  
10          about transparency and we want to know this  
11          and know that, where the heck were you when  
12          you signed the recovery plan before you  
13          signed it? You were selling the Sewer  
14          Authority, you were selling the Parking  
15          garages, why didn't you say something then?  
16          Let's see what legal fees will cost. Let's  
17          see what this will cost. Let's see where we  
18          are going. What are we going to net.  
19          What's the expenses? What's the debits?  
20          What's the credits? Nobody asked that. Now  
21          you want transparency. Now you want to know  
22          where it's gone. Gentlemen, it's gone.  
23          G-O-N-E. Down the toilet. That's where  
24          it's gone and you did nothing about it. You  
25          have been here for four years.

1                   The issue is you gave the parking  
2                   garages away, they are nonprofit. Great  
3                   deal. You gave the meters away and,  
4                   Mr. Wechsler, I'm going to just go along  
5                   with you on something when you had made the  
6                   comment about the snow removal. I'll take a  
7                   little quote from George Carlin. You go to  
8                   an airport, you buy a ticket, you are a  
9                   customer. You get on the plane you are  
10                  passenger. The plane crashes you are a  
11                  castaway. You die, you are a victim, and so  
12                  on and so forth. When the Parking Authority  
13                  took over the meters they took over metered  
14                  parking spaces. They are not the city's  
15                  anymore. You don't own them. You don't own  
16                  those parking spaces and it's no way in hell  
17                  your obligation to plow and clean those  
18                  parking spaces for a private business, so  
19                  what I want you to do is understand the  
20                  logistics. Go for the money, don't sit here  
21                  crying about transparency because let me  
22                  tell the pot is going to go dry and it's  
23                  going darn quick. You didn't raise issues  
24                  about -- and I brought them up. Conaboy, a  
25                  million and a half dollars, where were yas?



1           200,000 Abrahamsen. Millions to the Sewer  
2           Authority and God knows what else down  
3           there. Where were you? Don't come around  
4           saying you want transparency. You are the  
5           council. You control the mayor because if  
6           you don't sign nothing he can't do it.  
7           Remember? You are the watch dogs for us and  
8           you didn't watch us. Now you are sitting  
9           here saying, oh, we want to fund it. And I  
10          read some of the stuff, I was this Florida,  
11          I came back and I picked up the stuff where  
12          Mr. Wechsler is talking about saving on  
13          interest payments and everything else. You  
14          gave business away. You haven't gone after  
15          a single nonprofit. You have done nothing  
16          to build the neighborhoods here. You have  
17          done nothing to build the businesses here  
18          other than the legal cronyism is what you  
19          guys built because you got the money to do  
20          it, and it's going to go and then what are  
21          you going to do later on? You did not  
22          protect our assets. You didn't protect the  
23          300 and some thousand that the councils  
24          before you and everything blew from the sale  
25          of the golf course. Look what you are doing

1 over on Novembrino Park. Just look at all  
2 of the things that you haven't accomplished  
3 and now you want us to sit here and say,  
4 geez, guys, why are you whining. You want  
5 me to bring a roll of paper towels for a  
6 crying towel? You screwed up here. You  
7 shouldn't have gave the farm away. You  
8 didn't do a thing about going after the  
9 mall, a \$3 million assessment. Where are  
10 you, Mr. Wechsler and Mr. Gaughan? Go after  
11 them if you want to put money into the  
12 neighborhoods? You gave them almost \$7  
13 million. You bought the mall. You are as  
14 bad as the county buying the Globe Store.  
15 Where is your transparency? You're confused  
16 or we are incompetent. That's the only  
17 thing that enters here. Why aren't you  
18 whining about that?

19 Mr. Wechsler, you're yapping about  
20 the landfill, how many meetings did you guys  
21 come to? I testified about the landfill,  
22 where were you guys?

23 MR. WECHSLER: I was there.

24 MR. BOLUS: Were you at every  
25 meeting?

1 MR. WECHSLER: No, I was not, but I  
2 was at the hearing, yes.

3 MR. BOLUS: Yes. Did you testify at  
4 hearing? Did you say what it was? Mr.  
5 Gaughan, did you show up there and testify?

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, I did.

7 MR. BOLUS: Did you come there and  
8 go on the record with DEP?

9 MR. BOLUS: Do you live near the  
10 landfill?

11 MR. GAUGHAN: No, I don't.

12 MR. BOLUS: Then what is your issue?

13 MR. GAUGHAN: I'm a city councilman.

14 MR. BOLUS: What are going to do  
15 with your garbage when we have no where to  
16 dump it, did you make resolutions and  
17 provisions if Mr. DeNaples tells you  
18 tomorrow, "We are not taking your garbage  
19 anymore."

20 What are you going to do with it?  
21 You know how much garbage costs to dispose  
22 of elsewhere? I'm in the business. I can  
23 tell you, you will bankrupt the city, so  
24 before you put your foot in something you  
25 better know what you got an alternative

1 plan. Right now you guys have no  
2 alternatives. You are not worried about  
3 neighborhoods, you are not worried about  
4 what's here. You sold the assets, you sunk  
5 the ship. Don't come whining. Real men  
6 know how to stand up and say, "I screwed up  
7 and we do we go from here?"

8 So if you want to be here stand up  
9 and be is man --

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

11 MR. BOLUS: Don't thank me again,  
12 Mr. Wechsler, I told you that in the past  
13 there is nothing to thank me for.

14 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Bolus, just  
15 because the cameras --

16 MR. BOLUS: Listen, I could care  
17 less. I'm here for accountability, and as a  
18 taxpayer in this city I'm holding you  
19 accountable --

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

21 MR. BOLUS: And you're sitting here  
22 giving me rhetoric.

23 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Bolus --

24 MR. BOLUS: And give me a straight  
25 answer, what you are doing with the city?

1 Are you going to stand up as a real man--

2 MR. WECHSLER: Your time is up.

3 MR. BOLUS: You and Mr. Gaughan and  
4 take responsibility for a screw up?

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

6 MR. BOLUS: Are you going to stand  
7 up as a man?

8 MR. WECHSLER: I know this plays  
9 well in Norway.

10 MR. BOLUS: Forget what it is.

11 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you.

12 MR. BOLUS: Don't make excuses and  
13 try and bury it. I was on the East Mountain  
14 neighborhood with you, remember?

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

16 MR. BOLUS: And I quit because of  
17 your dictorial attitude and it's the same  
18 damn attitude that you have here.

19 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr. Bolus.  
20 Your time is up.

21 MR. BOLUS: Become responsible and  
22 maybe you will become accountable. I just  
23 hope voters have a better sense and get rid  
24 of people like you.

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

1 Gerard Hetman.

2 MR. HETMAN: Good evening, Council.  
3 Gerard Hetman from the Lackawanna County  
4 Commissioners Office. To begin this  
5 evening, the Lackawanna County Commissioners  
6 Bike Safety Fair will be held Saturday, May  
7 13, 2017, 10 a.m. to noon at McDade Park.  
8 We will have free bike helmets for all  
9 children in attendance along with free  
10 refreshments and fingerprinting by the  
11 Lackawanna County District Attorney's  
12 Office. We'll also have free bike safety  
13 lesson and advice from our local police  
14 departments, including the Scranton Police  
15 Department. Lieutenant Namoetka will be  
16 there again this year. Always look forward  
17 to having him.

18 Also, along with Bike Safety Fair we  
19 have our annual bike helmet coloring contest  
20 active again. This is one of our entry  
21 blanks. Children can color and submit the  
22 bike helmet with their own design. The form  
23 is available for download at  
24 [www.lackawannacounty.org](http://www.lackawannacounty.org) and also at any  
25 Lackawanna County library system library.

1 All they are have to do is mail it in to the  
2 commissioner's office, the address is on the  
3 back. Drop it off in person or scan an  
4 e-mail the entry in and we'll supply them  
5 all. The commissioners chose one male and  
6 one female winner to win a free bike. We  
7 also will have a bike available the day of  
8 the event. It's a door prize for any child  
9 that does not win the helmet coloring  
10 contest. So we look forward to seeing  
11 everyone at McDade Park.

12 Secondly, the fifth annual  
13 Lackawanna County Job Fair will take place  
14 on the Thursday, May 25, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at  
15 PNC Field. Once again, we'll have over 60  
16 local employees present bringing full-time,  
17 part-time, and seasonal job opportunities as  
18 well as internships that are available. We  
19 should note that we moved the event a little  
20 bit earlier on the schedule during the year  
21 because over the past few years we have seen  
22 more and more attendees of high school and  
23 college age looking for summer work. It  
24 seems like the full-time jobs and part-time  
25 aren't as numerous as they were the first

1            few years so we moved it ahead to try and  
2            accommodate the crowd that we have seen in  
3            recent years in terms of their demands.  
4            Lackawanna County is hosting a job fair  
5            preparation workshop. It's Wednesday, May  
6            17, 11 a.m. at the Career Link Office, 135  
7            Franklin Avenue in Scranton. Their tag line  
8            is make the most of your job fair  
9            experience. They will offer tips and advice  
10           on things such as developing your elevator  
11           speech, questions to ask, follow up with the  
12           potential employers and much more. It's a  
13           really good program that is put together. I  
14           think this is their third year doing this in  
15           conjunction with the job fair. If someone  
16           hasn't been to a job fair before it's a good  
17           opportunity to know what to expect when you  
18           walk in.

19                            Also, our Parks and Recreation  
20           Spring Fishing Derby at McDade Park will be  
21           held on Saturday, May 6, 10:30 a.m. for ages  
22           4 through 8 and then 1:00 p.m. for ages 9  
23           through 12. The registration cost is \$5.  
24           They want us to know that no spinners are  
25           allowed to be used. For information you can



1 call Parks and Recreation at 570-963-6764.

2 Also, our Parks and Recreation Youth  
3 Tennis Clinic Series is now open for  
4 registration. We always offer a variety of  
5 locations around the county with this. This  
6 year we have 11 different spots that offer  
7 the clinic. Same instruction, we'll try to  
8 get this out in the neighborhoods around the  
9 county as much as we can because we get a  
10 good turnout and folks like to go to their  
11 nearest tennis court to get the lessons.  
12 It's open to children ages 8 through 16.  
13 The cost is \$15 to register. It's giving  
14 you 60 to 90 minutes lessons for the course  
15 of the clinic. They ask you to register by  
16 Friday, June 9. You can do so by calling  
17 570-963-6764.

18 And last, but not least, we have the  
19 Ride the Trolley attraction going this year  
20 from the Electric City Trolley Museum to the  
21 Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Railriders games at  
22 PNC Field. This year there are nine game  
23 dates available. The first one is May 7 and  
24 the last one is August 27. The trolley  
25 departs at 12:15 for all games. Each of

1           those games has a 1:05 start, so you have  
2           just under an hour to get there on the  
3           trolley. The cost is \$20 if you don't have  
4           a ticket already. That will get you the  
5           trolley ride and the ticket or if you come  
6           from your own game ticket it's \$11 just for  
7           the trolley ride. They ask to RSVP by  
8           calling the Trolley Museum at 570-963-6590.  
9           And that's all we have for this month.  
10          Thank you.

11                       MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Norma  
12                       Jefferies.

13                       MS. JEFFERIES: Norma Jefferies,  
14                       Scranton resident.

15                       MR. WECHSLER: Norma, if you want to  
16                       just pull the mic up a little bit.

17                       MS. JEFFERIES: Sure. Is that  
18                       better?

19                       MR. WECHSLER: We can hear you.

20                       MS. JEFFERIES: Again, Norma  
21                       Jefferies, Scranton Resident, and I was  
22                       raised here in Scranton, graduated from Tech  
23                       High School and Lackawanna County Business  
24                       College at the time that I was going there  
25                       and got married and moved to Philadelphia

1 and then to Norman, New Jersey, where we  
2 raised two boys. After 38 years of  
3 marriage, and I'm a widow now, so I came  
4 back to Scranton and I live in the Hill  
5 Section and I have four sisters here and we  
6 all live within five minutes of each other.

7 We call to get together for dinner  
8 and I was always late because I got lost  
9 because I couldn't find my way to Prescott  
10 Avenue, to Richter Drive, to Olive Street  
11 from where I live on Harrison -- on Wheeler  
12 Avenue. So my main way of traveling is down  
13 Ash Street and Gibson Street. Those are the  
14 two streets I go down. I never thought my  
15 car was going to make it when I looked at  
16 Ash Street from Wyoming you look up, you  
17 know, my car is never going to make that,  
18 but it did.

19 But after getting lost and my  
20 sisters laughing at me, oh, she must be lost  
21 because she is not there, I wind up at the  
22 tank down there on wherever that is. I  
23 always wound up down there and I'd call and  
24 they will help direct me to back to where  
25 I'm supposed to be so this became my mission

1 to get street signs. So over the -- I do  
2 have some -- can I give these to you?

3 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

4 MS. JEFFERIES: I did make some  
5 copies of streets signs that I go up and  
6 down every day and you will see that the "X"  
7 marks say that those are the street signs  
8 that are missing. My one sister lives on  
9 Prescott so I was always getting lost there  
10 because there is no street sign, and so this  
11 Sunday in the paper the little article on  
12 the side was an article on the editorial  
13 page from a lady from Buffalo, New York, and  
14 she was concerned about the fading signs.  
15 That's my next project is to make a list of  
16 the faded signs that's to continue with  
17 this.

18 So my concern, and why I decided to  
19 do this, that if I'm frustrated and I think,  
20 Mr. Gaughan, you were at a Hill Section  
21 meeting where there was another concern  
22 there about them, if I'm getting lost, I'm  
23 better now because I have been here awhile,  
24 so if I'm getting lost there are certainly  
25 others that are getting lost as well.

1                   So I come tonight to ask if signs  
2                   can be put up and some kind of directional  
3                   signs for people like me and other people  
4                   that are also in the city. Thank you.

5                   MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you so much.

6                   MR. WECHSLER: Thank you for your  
7                   hard work. Lee Morgan.

8                   MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.  
9                   I guess the first thing I'll say is I'd like  
10                  to touch on something the last speaker spoke  
11                  about and those are street signs. There  
12                  were street signs in our city that were  
13                  legible, and I don't know how old those signs  
14                  were. I would have to guess they were  
15                  probably there 50 or 60 years, but politics  
16                  being what politics is, instead of replacing  
17                  a couple of signs and having a sign  
18                  department inside of the city we decided we  
19                  were going to spend money and these signs  
20                  aren't very old and a lot of them are faded  
21                  because there is no quality to them. They  
22                  are just cheap, disposal and somebody made a  
23                  lot of money, but I'm going to say this, the  
24                  people who -- I'm a truck driver so I'm in a  
25                  lot of places. I was on Route 2061 the

1 other day and somebody on their porch has a  
2 Scranton street sign, okay? It says Larch  
3 and Sanderson. That sign will be there for  
4 100 years and people will be able to read  
5 it, so I just think the residents of this  
6 city really have to realize what's happened  
7 to this city over an extended period of time  
8 considering we have been distressed for 25  
9 years and now the city is in worse shape  
10 than it was when it went into this process.

11 And last week I gave my number,  
12 which I'll give again, 570-604-1212 because  
13 I'm looking for three council candidates to  
14 run a write-in against whoever comes out for  
15 council and I think they can win.

16 I had the opportunity to talk to a  
17 lady who had an assessment done on her  
18 house, she was thinking about selling it.  
19 She thought it was worth \$80,000 and when  
20 the assessment was coming through, and  
21 believe me, that's a really lowball price, I  
22 have seen the house, this lady spent a lot  
23 of money there, it's obscene. It came in at  
24 \$48,500. She almost had a heart attack, but  
25 she has another house outside of the city.



1 people to realize one thing the Democratic  
2 and Republican parties they are the problem  
3 and the ordinary people, especially the ones  
4 in this city, I don't know, imagine paying  
5 \$600 of rent and another \$400 for your  
6 water, your sewer, your heat, you know, your  
7 utilities, that's \$1,000. Most people are  
8 making ten bucks an hour here, so how do  
9 they feed themselves? How do they buy a car  
10 and how do they do any of the other things  
11 they need to do? They don't. And this  
12 council is responsible for that and previous  
13 ones.

14 You know, Janet Evans was right when  
15 she sent the Scranton Parking Authority into  
16 receivership because it should have stopped  
17 the borrowing, but it didn't because the  
18 council here, you are on the lowest rung of  
19 politics, and the people up over the top of  
20 you may be state senators, state  
21 representatives, they tell you people what  
22 to do. They send the money down here to you  
23 and tell you spend it and that's what you  
24 do, but as far as anything that has any  
25 value to the average Scrantonian it doesn't



1           happen here, and the Sewer Authority money  
2           it's gone. And how much went into the  
3           pension? I don't think anything yet, and  
4           I'm not so sure anything will go into it  
5           and, you know, the sad part is the city  
6           employees are so my naive and so silly  
7           because they backed all of the political  
8           candidates for council and in the end they  
9           have gotten nothing. The pensions are under  
10          water so severely it's obscene, and the  
11          residents, their houses aren't worth  
12          anything, and the rental registration that's  
13          nice, but tons of rentals are empty because  
14          people won't come here, they won't rent here  
15          and they won't live here.

16                   And there is so many people I have  
17                   come across that are trying to sell their  
18                   properties and get out of here it's  
19                   ridiculous. You know, what we really need  
20                   is we need a bell for the council, okay, but  
21                   what we really need that bell to do is to  
22                   basically politically knock these candidates  
23                   out and bring people in here that understand  
24                   that in order to turn this city around the  
25                   politics has to end, but it has to end in

1 Harrisburg first. Thank you.

2 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you,  
3 Mr. Morgan. Bill Jackowitz.

4 MR. JACKOWITZ: Good evening,  
5 Scranton City Council, Kathy, stenographer,  
6 Lori, Amil. Do any of you remember when  
7 Mayor Doherty -- or, excuse me, Mayor  
8 Courtright was running for mayor and he  
9 uttered the same words that Mayor Doherty  
10 uttered that he would be the sixth  
11 councilman? Any of you remember that where  
12 he said that he would be attending city  
13 council meetings?

14 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

15 MR. JACKOWITZ: Okay, because he did  
16 say he was going to attending city council  
17 meeting and he would be having staff members  
18 attend city council meetings. Just think  
19 how much easier it would be on you five if  
20 the mayor came once a month and answered  
21 questions from the citizens or answered  
22 questions from the city council or if once a  
23 week one of the members of his staff, his  
24 administration, would attend city council to  
25 answer questions, also. Just think how much

1 easier of a job you would have and how much  
2 less headaches you would have. I really  
3 think you ought to try to do something about  
4 that. You know, at least give him invites  
5 every month. I know you can't force him or  
6 twist his arm to come, but at least do  
7 something, you know, because let's face it,  
8 we just don't get very many answers from  
9 city council, and I understand that because  
10 you don't have the answers, because you are  
11 not the administration, you are the  
12 legislative branch, and I understand that,  
13 but what I'm saying let's get administration  
14 here. You know, at least give them the  
15 opportunity to attend the council meeting  
16 and talk with the citizens, you know, that's  
17 all I'm asking. You know, all you can do is  
18 say no every month and if he says no every  
19 month then you make that public that he was  
20 invited and he said no. You know, it's as  
21 simple as this, but because, like I said,  
22 there is too many unanswered questions, and  
23 my next question is how much revenue do we  
24 generate from the parking meters, the City  
25 of Scranton? How much money does the city

1 of Scranton actually get from the parking  
2 meters?

3 MR. ROGAN: Zero.

4 MR. JACKOWITZ: Zero. That's what I  
5 thought so why are we plowing for them?

6 MR. WECHSLER: The parking spots are  
7 part of the street. We are responsible for  
8 plowing the streets.

9 MR. JACKOWITZ: Well, if we are  
10 responsible for plowing the streets from  
11 curb to curb why isn't that done in the  
12 neighborhoods?

13 MR. WECHSLER: It's done when there  
14 aren't parked cars.

15 MR. JACKOWITZ: It's not done in the  
16 neighborhoods.

17 MR. WECHSLER: They plow where they  
18 can in the neighborhoods. If there is  
19 parked cars on the streets -- we don't  
20 remove cars from the street so we can't plow  
21 curb to curb in the neighborhoods because  
22 people are parked on the streets.

23 MR. JACKOWITZ: Well, maybe we  
24 should start removing cars from the street,  
25 towing them and having them pay a fine.

1 MR. WECHSLER: I agree with you.

2 MR. JACKOWITZ: And that's another  
3 way to generate revenue.

4 MR. WECHSLER: I agree with you.

5 MR. JACKOWITZ: Because, you know,  
6 it seems to me are always -- you know, it  
7 seems to me like we are giving away the farm  
8 again. We are going to plow for them but  
9 yet they get all the revenue, they get all  
10 the money.

11 MR. WECHSLER: Just one thing about  
12 that, also. The Parking Authority is  
13 leasing the space from city. The city still  
14 owns, although it's leasing it, we are still  
15 responsible for plowing the streets and the  
16 parking spots.

17 MR. JACKOWITZ: How much does the --  
18 approximately how much does the Parking  
19 Authority pay on the lease?

20 MR. WECHSLER: That they lent us  
21 money up front and we are paying them back  
22 over a 40-year term.

23 MR. JACKOWITZ: Okay. So are we  
24 making out on the deal or are we losing on  
25 the deal?

1 MR. WECHSLER: Personally, I believe  
2 that it got us out of the default and it got  
3 us out of the parking business so right now  
4 I think it was a good deal for the city.

5 MR. JACKOWITZ: Okay. And, you  
6 know, like I said, the main thing is, you  
7 know, we got an election coming up, I hope  
8 people pay attention, I hope people pay  
9 attention to what's been going on. I mean,  
10 you know, the gentleman up here who has the  
11 problem with the runoff, you know, they  
12 removed his curb. That was one of the worst  
13 things they could do to remove his curb  
14 because now he has really got a major  
15 problem and that's what we should be doing  
16 all over the city is putting curbs in.

17 You know, you can pave all you want,  
18 pave the streets, but if you don't put any  
19 curbs in the water is going run down under  
20 and form at the bottom and next thing you  
21 know you could have floods. So that's  
22 another thing that you guys really need to  
23 look at is and talk with the administration  
24 about or whoever, DPW or whoever you need to  
25 talk to to get curbs put in because there is

1 no curbs at all in the City of Scranton and  
2 that's one of the biggest problems. I mean  
3 I'm 69 years old and the same areas have  
4 been flooded for 69 years and they are still  
5 flooded, you know, and if go over to those  
6 areas you will see no curbs in the area, so  
7 we really need to, you know, somebody needs  
8 to do something, whether it be the  
9 administration, whether it be city council,  
10 you guys are the seven elected officials in  
11 the City of Scranton, including the city  
12 controller and you are elected for a reason  
13 and you are there to work for the people and  
14 to do the people's work for them because the  
15 people can't do it because we don't have the  
16 power, but when you are elected you were  
17 given that power to do certain things, and I  
18 really think we need to get on the ball  
19 because we are approaching 9,000 days of  
20 being distressed. Think about it, 9,000.

21 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. John  
22 Foley.

23 MR. FOLEY: Gentlemen, I have three  
24 issues. I'll try and be brief. The Sewer  
25 Authority deal, the rental registration fee

1 and the 2017 budget. The sewer deal, I  
2 think I found \$5 million of the \$12 million.  
3 I'd loved to tell you what it is but only if  
4 you will agree to four conditions.

5 First, I will do a forensic audit  
6 for free. You must give me complete and  
7 unfettered access to the records. You must  
8 waive attorney/client privilege, that's easy  
9 to do, dissolve the authority. You have the  
10 power to do it. Any money recovered has to  
11 go into the union pension plans. And three,  
12 the report must be made public. Very  
13 simple.

14 The second issue, the rental  
15 registration fee, at some point you have to  
16 realize the people appointed by the mayor do  
17 not have the depth and breadth of experience  
18 in the department. That's why you need to  
19 seek outside consultants to try and fix your  
20 problem. Not necessary. I'm reluctant to  
21 do this but I'm going to do it anyway. You  
22 want to fix the problem? First, take  
23 everybody who paid, make a list and the  
24 people in the LIPS can make that list now.

25 Two, and this is the easy one,



1 during the Civil War the federal government  
2 instituted a law which they call the Whistle  
3 Blower Action. It was an essentially asking  
4 people to come forward and show fraud, waste  
5 and abuse, and they actually got a taste, a  
6 percentage of the recovery. The Medicare  
7 program has a similar law in place. What I  
8 would urge the city to do is to initiate a  
9 penalty, could be doubles, could be triples.  
10 It could be whatever is collected on a daily  
11 basis by unregistered rentals, and then you  
12 advertise it. You tell the public that if  
13 they come forward and they tell you who  
14 these properties are and where they are and  
15 if, in fact, you are able to recover  
16 registration fees and any penalties you will  
17 split money with them. I would dare say  
18 that you might have 70,000 whistle blowers  
19 in the City of Scranton. The simple way to  
20 do it. You don't get a consultant to do  
21 that. All you need to do is have the will  
22 to do it and let the people in the  
23 department do what they are supposed to do  
24 instead of hiring outside consultants.

25 The third item is the 2017 budget /I

1           have written to the city business  
2           administrator pointing out at least one  
3           issue in the budget. There is an error, a  
4           material error in the projection of health  
5           insurance costs. I have not heard anything  
6           about it. It doesn't appear that anybody  
7           wants to deal with it, but that is not the  
8           only issue. There are other issues, and if  
9           the budget was done correctly you would have  
10          had to raise taxes this year. If anybody  
11          would like to see the letter that I wrote  
12          it's on the Greenridge Neighborhood  
13          Association website. The other issues that  
14          I have identified I will send a similar  
15          letter, Mr. Wechsler, you have been copied  
16          on the letter. I will point it out, these  
17          are not political letters. These letters  
18          deal with, I would not call it incompetent,  
19          I will call it that there are serious  
20          mistakes in the budget. They will also be  
21          posted on the Greenridge Neighborhood  
22          Association website, so if anybody would  
23          like to see them they are there. With that,  
24          gentlemen, you have a great evening.

25                           MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

1 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Anyone  
2 else?

3 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening.  
4 Marie Schumacher. I guess, Mr. Wechsler,  
5 it's your birthday today so happy birthday.

6 MR. WECHSLER: I'm having a ball.

7 MS. SCHUMACHER: A clerical  
8 contract, do we have a contract with the  
9 clerical union yet?

10 MR. EVANS: No, not yet.

11 MS. SCHUMACHER: How long has it  
12 been?

13 MR. EVANS: A long time.

14 MR. WECHSLER: It's been in  
15 negotiations.

16 MR. EVANS: They were supposed to  
17 meet this week my understanding. I don't  
18 know what the results of that were. I know  
19 it's supposed to this week.

20 MS. SCHUMACHER: Unbelievable. What  
21 about the double pension subpoenas? What is  
22 the status --

23 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Minora has told  
24 us this evening that it's June 28 for a  
25 hearing.

1 MR. MINORA: The argument is June  
2 28, yes.

3 MS. SCHUMACHER: Whose Court? Do we  
4 know?

5 MR. MINORA: I'm sorry?

6 MS. SCHUMACHER: Whose Court?

7 MR. MINORA: Call me at the office  
8 next week, I don't remember.

9 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay, thank you.  
10 Did anybody notice the picture that was in  
11 the paper of the Young's property a couple  
12 of the weeks ago where they shot it from the  
13 street behind the property? Did you notice  
14 how that wall was sort of leaning in?

15 MR. EVANS: That's a concern.

16 MS. SCHUMACHER: Has there been a  
17 weight restriction put on that road?

18 MR. EVANS: Not that I'm aware of,  
19 but I don't think there is -- is that a dead  
20 end? I think it's a dead end.

21 MS. SCHUMACHER: Yeah, it's a dead  
22 end, yeah.

23 MR. EVANS: But, yeah, that's one  
24 they should do, I agree.

25 MS. SCHUMACHER: And while we're in

1 DPW kinds of things when are the vacuum and  
2 sweeper trucks going to come out? I mean, I  
3 have a swept all 194 feet of my property and  
4 put a pile there and I can tell you there's  
5 an awful lot of silt in with that.

6 MR. WECHSLER: I just got the list  
7 today from the mayor so I just got it before  
8 the meeting so we'll pass it on.

9 MS. SCHUMACHER: So when are they  
10 starting?

11 MR. WECHSLER: I haven't had a  
12 chance to read it, I just go it today.

13 MS. SCHUMACHER: I mean, you talk  
14 storm water and what that does to drains  
15 when all of that gravel and silt goes down  
16 there, and how many trucks? We have two  
17 trucks?

18 MR. WECHSLER: We had --

19 MS. SCHUMACHER: Oh, which reminds  
20 me --

21 MR. WECHSLER: -- two and with the  
22 sewer deal --

23 MS. SCHUMACHER: -- I said two  
24 because that's that I saw on the list of  
25 what we are insuring, why did we pay the

1 full premium when we took properties off  
2 that?

3 MR. GAUGHAN: For the insurance  
4 contract?

5 MS. SCHUMACHER: Um-hum.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: From what I understand  
7 from talking to the business administrator  
8 we are going to get a credit back.

9 MR. WECHSLER: At the end --

10 MS. SCHUMACHER: Credit toward what?  
11 You mean, we are going to get cash back?

12 MR. GAUGHAN: That's what I  
13 understand from speaking with --

14 MS. SCHUMACHER: When?

15 MR. WECHSLER: The policy is audited  
16 every year and funds either -- we either  
17 have an increase or money returned to us.

18 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay, and then,  
19 again, the better late than never I would  
20 say rental registration, I don't know why we  
21 are, again, spending money for that. How  
22 many times did I come to this podium after  
23 -- sometimes after attending a 6:30 Scranton  
24 Sewer Authority meeting to tell you they  
25 hired a person who did nothing but go out

1 and check all of the properties. They knew,  
2 they know who how many properties are  
3 rentals. Why don't we get that from the  
4 Scranton Sewer Authority? Why didn't we do  
5 that when we were -- when it was the  
6 Authority? I don't even know how we can  
7 have a Sewer Authority when we don't own a  
8 sewer system, but you people saw differently  
9 than I did on that.

10 MR. WECHSLER: There is still  
11 lawsuits pending against the Sewer Authority  
12 that's why it still exists. There is still  
13 issues with the easements that still exists.

14 MS. SCHUMACHER: Oh, well, I  
15 understand that but that could have been  
16 done by -- that could have been done by  
17 contact. The way I look at it is giving  
18 somebody a --

19 MR. WECHSLER: There's a possibility  
20 the easements --

21 MS. SCHUMACHER: -- a hundred and  
22 some thousand dollar -- over \$100,000 for  
23 three years and that's the real purpose.

24 MR. WECHSLER: I disagree.

25 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay, you have that

1 right. Okay, do you still have the Monday  
2 meeting or weekly meetings with PEL?

3 MR. EVANS: Yes.

4 MS. SCHUMACHER: When are they going  
5 to bring forth that trust agreement of how  
6 the proceeds from the Scranton Sewer  
7 Authority assets sale.

8 MR. EVANS: Well, that's actually in  
9 the Law Department, that's going to be  
10 written in the Law Department.

11 MS. SCHUMACHER: So when?

12 MR. EVANS: I thought we were  
13 looking at June is the time frame that we  
14 were looking at to get that done.

15 MS. SCHUMACHER: That was sooner  
16 rather than later from March 10?

17 MR. EVANS: Well, it's government.  
18 I think you should be used to that by now,  
19 Marie. Three months is actually lighting  
20 speed around here.

21 MS. SCHUMACHER: And then just  
22 finish up with one quick one, how much is  
23 the budget for the third party  
24 administrator? Are we giving somebody an  
25 annual contract or is that going to be by



1 event?

2 MR. EVANS: We don't know yet. We  
3 didn't see it yet.

4 MS. SCHUMACHER: You are kidding.  
5 You don't know what's in the budget for  
6 that?

7 MR. EVANS: Well, it's an RFP.

8 MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, yeah, but  
9 there has got to be money in the budget to  
10 show the RFP, right?

11 MR. EVANS: I'll have to check and  
12 see if it's in the budget or not.  
13 Professional services, so it may be, it may  
14 not be.

15 MS. SCHUMACHER: I'll check back  
16 with you on that next week. Thank you.

17 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening, Council.  
18 Dave Dobrzyn, resident of Scranton and  
19 taxpayer. Today on the way down I noticed  
20 the Cedar Avenue block, the 300 block was  
21 lengthy paved right into the city, our  
22 entrance to the city and it's on it's way to  
23 certain destruction already thanks to our  
24 utility companies so I don't know who is  
25 doing it, but shame, shame, shame. We have

1 get after these people and stay after them.

2 Also, with the Scranton Sewer  
3 Authority trucks, they did some work on 611  
4 Crown, they broke our final antique curb  
5 slate and it's just standing there like that  
6 so it looks like they put in a new water  
7 valve so I wish they would start repairing  
8 what they break and not just take advantage  
9 of the people.

10 Last week I was too ill to attend  
11 but I heard on trash once again, I heard it  
12 again this week. Paid my trash bill today,  
13 got 30 bucks off, but the point being I  
14 don't -- I could just scream when I hear per  
15 bag. I don't need people throwing -- and  
16 this went on for 21 years I lived up the  
17 country and whoever didn't have the money or  
18 whatever to pay for their per bag fee they  
19 just tossed it over there on our lawn and it  
20 went on at two different locations for 21  
21 years. The landlord didn't want to hear  
22 about it, he just didn't want to see it  
23 happening. He is up complaining about it,  
24 well, I'm not there all day and,  
25 furthermore, he rented it to him, but if we

1           have a disabled or seniors discount why  
2           can't we just have a barrel similar to our  
3           recycling barrel with Scranton's name on it  
4           and those people that have it passed out to  
5           them when they pay the bill and that's what  
6           they would put out every week and have it  
7           removed and when it comes time, you know,  
8           they could pay the \$10 the first year or  
9           whatever and have it replaced for when it  
10          needs to be replaced, but bags are bad news.  
11          People were stealing labels off of bags and,  
12          furthermore, with the recycling if you have  
13          to haulers and the people picking up the  
14          trash keeping an open eye and just had some  
15          kind of sticker that looked -- or whatever.  
16          There is too many recyclables in this barrel  
17          no fine, no nothing, just a little prod to  
18          get them to recycle because we are paying  
19          for that, too, and it goes up the landfill  
20          instead of -- but I am in no means  
21          complaining about the trash fee because I  
22          know what it costs up there. Two bags  
23          easily a week would easily put you at about  
24          \$500.

25                           I had a little brainstorm on

1 pensions, competing plans. Maybe we should  
2 find two pension administrators and put them  
3 in competition with each other to see who  
4 could earn the most money for a change  
5 because, one, you're putting all your eyes  
6 eggs in one basket and when that basket  
7 break, well, so do the eggs.

8 I also heard about bike path, my  
9 concern is our city congested enough and we  
10 are given up parking meter spaces, etcetera,  
11 and then coping with bikes. I could hardly  
12 get in here today. I had to sit right  
13 through a red light or a green light because  
14 the traffic was right across Washington  
15 Avenue and it's a concern. I'm not against  
16 green space or whatever, but we are crowded  
17 down here and we -- by the way, it would  
18 drive people into parking garages. It costs  
19 me \$7 to come to a meeting if I can't get a  
20 space. And I'll make it fast, by the way,  
21 the elevators in the Washington garage still  
22 aren't repaired. None of them are working,  
23 three or four flights of steps up and down  
24 so --

25 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Dobrzyn, I --

1 MR. DOBRZYN: -- it's time people do  
2 what they promised. Thank you.

3 MR. WECHSLER: I spoke to  
4 Mr. Michael Gaughan, who is my contact at  
5 NDC who is the leaser of it, they are  
6 working on getting the RFP out for the  
7 repair of the garages. I'm due to check  
8 with him tomorrow. Originally he gave me an  
9 issue day of May 1st, which is Monday. I  
10 will be getting with him tomorrow to see if  
11 he made progress on that.

12 MR. DOBRZYN: Hopefully soon.

13 MR. WECHSLER: Yeah, I check with  
14 him every other week and every other week  
15 May 1 has remained the constant for a month,  
16 but May 1 is Monday so we'll see if it  
17 happens. But we are aware of it and trying  
18 to get that because I know it's a hardship.

19 MR. DOBRZYN: Yeah, it's needed, and  
20 you have a Medical Arts building across the  
21 street. There is a lot of people that have  
22 trouble getting up and down. Thank you.  
23 Have a good night.

24 MR. WECHSLER: Anyone else?

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

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MOTIONS.

MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Perry?

MR. PERRY: Yes, thank you,  
Mr. Wechsler, and happy birthday.

MR. WECHSLER: Thank you.

MR. PERRY: Yes, I have a couple of  
things tonight. The first I want to touch  
on was about the public hearing we had today  
before the meeting, just to give you a  
sum-up on what's taking place there.  
Attorney Moran and Mr. Mancinelli, I hope I  
didn't mess that name up too bad, Mr.  
Mancinelli, who is an engineer on the  
project came to speak with us about what's  
happening. We are going to be vacating an  
alley behind North Main Street in West  
Scranton for the purpose of a trying to get  
Phase II of a RACP project going. If you  
remember, this is project over in West  
Scranton where there is going to be some  
major economic growth happening over there  
with some mixed use properties. There is  
going to be some medical institutions, some  
apartment houses upstairs and some office  
spaces. This is going to take place on both

1 sides of the street. It's going to be quite  
2 a big issue and quite a big to-do over  
3 there. I know the residents there are happy  
4 for the most part that this is taking place.

5 There was some issues brought up  
6 about some kids hanging around the alley  
7 that we're about to vacate, but I feel as  
8 though that once we give this to this  
9 project company that once it's developed  
10 that's going to take away their place to  
11 hang out. I don't see any issue with that.  
12 They are looking for a target completion  
13 date of between March and April of 2018. I  
14 asked the question, I know how many Main  
15 Street is busy, but they said they do not  
16 anticipate any traffic pattern disruptions  
17 during the time of either demolition or the  
18 construction of this property. And, again,  
19 this going to bring some jobs into the city  
20 and it's going to look nice when it's  
21 finished so I'm very happy that this project  
22 is moving further.

23 Some update on the sink hole on  
24 Dorothy Street, we got some correspondence  
25 back from Director Gallagher in the Tripp

1 Park area that has been completed. Last  
2 week I reported they had the PA One Call in  
3 to mark it off, everything so that they  
4 could fix what happened, and the issue was a  
5 pipe got disconnected and that obviously  
6 with the water running just created a  
7 sinkhole. The pipe is reconnected and fixed  
8 and they top soiled and seeded it and that  
9 project should be done and over with, so I  
10 want to thank Director Gallagher and DPW for  
11 taking care of that.

12 Also, Mrs. Reed, if we could with  
13 Mr. Srebro let's just do a follow-up on his  
14 situation. I know that curb issue news  
15 isn't the first time I heard about the curb  
16 not being replaced if it was there, so let's  
17 just get a letter out to the director and  
18 see if that curb is going to be replaced and  
19 if it's not I really do think it should be,  
20 as well as where we are with allocating  
21 equipment to finish that main drain line  
22 that needs to be cleaned out. And, Srebro,  
23 my next day is off is Monday so I'll take a  
24 swing by, I'll stop by and see the progress  
25 that was made and we can touch base and see



1 if anything happened on Friday or Monday  
2 morning before I get there.

3 There was two other things brought  
4 up, the street signs, which I can't agree  
5 more. I know traveling in the city all of  
6 the time, you know, Hill Section I believe  
7 is where you're from. I'm from Minooka even  
8 if I go further to South Side and you start  
9 to get up in that area you have to slow down  
10 to almost a stop before you can actually --  
11 you have get almost right top of that sign  
12 and even then maybe, maybe you can read it  
13 if the sign is there. It's a large city,  
14 geographically it's huge, a lot of  
15 intersections, but that's not an excuse not  
16 to have those signage's. So, you know, I  
17 know Councilman Gaughan also brought this up  
18 many times.

19 A lot of times when we hit something  
20 it's funding and where does that funding lie  
21 within the prioritization of the  
22 administration. So I am going to -- let's  
23 reach out to the mayor, Mrs. Reed, and ask  
24 him maybe if he can set up a meeting with me  
25 sometime next week or the week after that

1           and I just want to touch base with him on  
2           where he feels these street signs within his  
3           scope right now, so I know funding is an  
4           issue, but that doesn't -- you know, it  
5           still should be there. We should have the  
6           direction between council and administration  
7           to come with something to get these taken  
8           care even if -- - it doesn't have to be all  
9           at once, but if we just change them out  
10          street after street every so often and we  
11          start making some progress instead of  
12          letting what's there go, and that's my  
13          philosophy that.

14                        And, finally, with Ms. Hodowanitz, I  
15          also am very interested to see how the third  
16          party administrator is being advertised and  
17          what avenues they are using. If you want  
18          the biggest, best and the brightest, you  
19          know, you have to go get them. They are not  
20          always going to come to you, especially if  
21          they don't know the job is there. So if we  
22          can make a call or send a letter to  
23          Solicitor Boyles, and just it doesn't have  
24          to be anything formal, if she can just give  
25          us a call back at the office I'm just very

1 interested to know on how is this being --  
2 how is this being advertised and what  
3 avenues are they taking to find our TPA. I  
4 know we are all pretty much -- as this  
5 point, we are all ready to get a TPA that  
6 will work and we would like to know how they  
7 are going about finding that. And I believe  
8 that is all I have for today. Thank you.

9 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Mr.  
10 Rogan?

11 MR. ROGAN: Yes, thank you. A  
12 couple of items on agenda items and a couple  
13 of non-agenda items as well. I guess I'll  
14 follow up where Mr. Perry left off with the  
15 street signs. This is very helpful to have  
16 a list like this and along with Mr. Perry's  
17 letter if we can include a list and,  
18 obviously, funding is one of the biggest  
19 issues. As part of that letter, if we can  
20 also include either -- actually maybe send a  
21 letter to the OECD Director Linda Aebli and  
22 also to Mr. Gallagher. I would like to see  
23 if the DPW director would be willing to put  
24 an application in for CDBG funding for  
25 street signs. Now, that being said, if that

1 happens and it's approved it can only be  
2 used in certain areas in the city that fit  
3 the low to moderate income threshold before  
4 we can use our CDBG money. We have paved a  
5 lot of roads using the CDBG funding and  
6 there is some areas that have been, you  
7 know, fully paved but you don't know what  
8 road you are on, so it's definitely  
9 something that we need to do.

10 And, also, curbs were brought up and  
11 one thing that's really starting to get  
12 under my skin is some of the roads that have  
13 been paved in the city they don't have a  
14 curb and/or a drainage system where the  
15 newly paved street is running out. West  
16 Mountain Road is the perfect example and I  
17 know there is a ton of water problems form  
18 West Mountain all the way down to Keyser  
19 Valley, so that's something as well that as  
20 roads are paved we need to make sure they  
21 are maintained. We can't let roads get  
22 eroded out from underneath. So that's it on  
23 the street signs.

24 Regarding the CDBG application, I  
25 actually -- I can pull the e-mail back up,

1 but I did speak with Mr. Preambo earlier  
2 this week and the normal opening period is  
3 normally the first week of June through the  
4 first week of August for CDBG applications  
5 so if any of the nonprofits that are out  
6 there or other agencies, neighborhood groups  
7 that do want to apply for CDBG funding  
8 through the city that application period is  
9 going to be in the next few week. There  
10 will be a notice placed in the paper and on  
11 the website. That will be in the first week  
12 of June, and applications will be available  
13 on the city's website as well, so just  
14 wanted to get word out there and if there  
15 are any organizations that are interested in  
16 complying to please consider putting in an  
17 application. We would like see some new  
18 organizations apply this year. It seems  
19 every year it's the same groups that keep  
20 applying, and many of them do great work,  
21 but we would like to fund some other  
22 activity as well with our CDBG allotment.

23 Regarding Item 5-C, if we could --  
24 this is regarding the streetlight  
25 maintenance, and I don't see a dollar sign

1 on here, but one thing I do want to mention  
2 is because we now have -- shortly we will  
3 have all LED lights in the city. I do want  
4 to see the maintenance contract if the cost  
5 is going to be significant -- it should be  
6 significantly less what the city is actually  
7 paying. The LED's were billed to the city  
8 as being a big cost savings both on electric  
9 use, which we know is true, and on  
10 maintenance as well, but I would like to see  
11 what the comparison is for what we are  
12 currently paying and what this bid is at,  
13 and also if the new technology is more  
14 expensive maintain. Often times, you know,  
15 something may be newer, but it would be more  
16 expensive to maintain as well, so I do want  
17 to take a look at that. Luckily, this is  
18 Fifth Order so we do have a couple of more  
19 weeks to look into that.

20 And Mr. Perry also brought this up  
21 as well regarding the corner, the 1200 block  
22 of South Avenue. I did have some concerns  
23 brought to me by residents. I will be in  
24 touch with them to make sure we get all of  
25 that straightened out prior to a final vote

1 next week so I will coordinate with those  
2 residents that have concerns and report back  
3 to my colleagues if there are any issues.  
4 At that point, if we have any we can  
5 consider tabling it, but again, I think they  
6 should be able to be sorted out.

7 And, finally, this was in our  
8 mailbox today, and it's a bit of good news.  
9 It's from the Steamtown National Historic  
10 Site, and I'm not going to read the entire  
11 report, but it says "Tourism to Steamtown  
12 National Historic Site brings \$7.4 in  
13 economic benefits. Reports show the  
14 spending supported 86 jobs in the local  
15 economy."

16 And first paragraph goes onto say,  
17 "New National Park Service reports shows  
18 that 99,600 visitors to Scranton's National  
19 Historic Site in 2016 spent \$5,403,500 in  
20 communities near the park. That spending  
21 supported 86 jobs in the local area and can  
22 have a cumulative benefit to local economy  
23 of \$7.4 million."

24 So I do want to mention that. I do  
25 want to mention the Steamtown Historic Site

1 is a hidden gem in the city, even though we  
2 are Steamtown so many residents don't know  
3 it exists and don't it's out there, so  
4 definitely go in and check it out and it's  
5 definitely a historical park that I support  
6 and I hope everyone can get a chance to go  
7 see it because it is in our hometown. I  
8 think the coal mine tour gets a lot of  
9 attention and that's a great tour as well,  
10 but the National Historic Site deserves some  
11 credit as well. And that is all. Thank  
12 you.

13 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr. Rogan.  
14 Mr. Evans?

15 MR. EVANS: Thank you. Marie  
16 recently asked about MUNI Services, I'm not  
17 sure if I answered that fully, but the State  
18 through DECD contracted with open.gov to  
19 provide their services to municipalities of  
20 Pennsylvania. Act 47 cities, which of  
21 course we are, were allowed to be first in  
22 as part of a trial, so open.gov to my  
23 knowledge is a much more robust project than  
24 what MUNI Services was going to provide and  
25 it's going to be provided at no cost, so



1            hopefully -- and at that time MUNI Services  
2            basically their contract never started, so  
3            we are saving approximately \$70,000 a year  
4            by not going with MUNI Services, but we do  
5            expect open.gov to be up and running most  
6            likely over the next few weeks. They are  
7            inputting some information now so we'll keep  
8            an eye on that.

9                       On the third party rental  
10           registration RFP, I would like to thank BA  
11           Bulzoni for taking the lead on this and  
12           getting it done finally. I guess better  
13           late than never, although, I didn't think it  
14           was going to take 20 years of failure to  
15           finally put out an RFP for the actual  
16           registration and identification process of  
17           the rental registration ordinance.

18                      When I talk about government, and I  
19           touched on this a little bit before,  
20           government moves at a glacial pace, I mean,  
21           a glacial pace, but even I didn't anticipate  
22           20 years of utility before action was taken.  
23           It's important to reach out to every source  
24           for information that would help this  
25           process. Last week at city council, I

1           discussed the information that the county  
2           had since the abandonment of the 2009  
3           reassessment. Every parcel, every home,  
4           every multi-family unit, every commercial  
5           building was inventoried in the City of  
6           Scranton by 21st Century Appraisals, the  
7           company that was doing the reassessment. In  
8           2009, we knew what those parcels were, how  
9           big those buildings were, the use of those  
10          buildings and the condition at that time.  
11          Valuable information that would have been  
12          extremely helpful to the Licensing and  
13          Inspections Department in their quest to  
14          register rental unit and will be helpful to  
15          a third party who will be hired to assist  
16          LIPS.

17                       Despite my prodding for nearly eight  
18                       years, no one ever asked for the  
19                       information. That ended this week as a  
20                       formal letter was sent from this council at  
21                       my request to the Lackawanna County  
22                       Commissioners asking that the information  
23                       that taxpayers paid unless of dollars for be  
24                       finally shared with the City of Scranton, o,  
25                       I eagerly await their response.

1 I want to talk about one of my other  
2 favorite subjects which is fees. I  
3 requested this in the past, but I'd like  
4 make a more formal request to the Director  
5 of LIPS to review every current fee that is  
6 being charged through their department. I  
7 would like a report on each fee and  
8 justification for the amount currently being  
9 charged. And, finally, recommendations to  
10 reduce, consolidate and eliminate fees where  
11 appropriate, so hopefully I'll have more  
12 about that next week.

13 This a page out of our 2017 budge,  
14 and I think I have shown this at council  
15 before, there is 40 fees that the License  
16 and Inspections Department is responsible  
17 for to generate \$2.3 million in the 2017  
18 budget. Seventeen of those fees generate  
19 less than \$10,000 each. So the question I  
20 would like to ask is this truly the list of  
21 a business friendly city, so hopefully we  
22 will get a response. I did ask for it  
23 informally before, but I'm putting that into  
24 a formal request and we'll see where that  
25 goes.

1                   And, finally, I'm very concerned  
2                   with the recent proliferation of graffiti in  
3                   our city both on public property and private  
4                   property. Many years ago, I formed a small  
5                   group of volunteers under the name of the  
6                   Anti-Graffiti Network. For months and  
7                   months, we removed and painted over graffiti  
8                   on the primarily public areas that were  
9                   being ignored by those who were responsible  
10                  for them. At the time, we also helped draft  
11                  a graffiti ordinance which today has become  
12                  part of the quality of life ticket program.  
13                  Not many people know this, but the owners of  
14                  the private property that have been tagged  
15                  with graffiti are ultimately responsible for  
16                  removing the graffiti in a reasonable  
17                  timeframe. While I recognize these property  
18                  owners are also victims of vandalism, and  
19                  that is what graffiti is, vandalism, the  
20                  only way to ultimately combat this blight is  
21                  continually remove it and remove it quickly.

22                  So I would like also to request from  
23                  LIPS that they provide me with a list of how  
24                  many quality of life tickets or warnings  
25                  have been issued this year relative to the

1 graffiti ordinance.

2 And, finally, I would like to also  
3 ask LIPS to remember that the goal is to  
4 remove graffiti, not necessarily make money  
5 on the backs of the victims. I would prefer  
6 that where appropriate warnings be given to  
7 the effected property owners prior to any  
8 issuance of a quality of life ticket.  
9 That's all I have for tonight. Thank you.

10 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr. Evans.  
11 Mr. Gaughan.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, thank you, quite  
13 a few items tonight. First of all, I want  
14 to thank Mrs. Jefferies for providing us  
15 with this list, I really appreciate it. I  
16 have been on this issue now for the last  
17 three and a half years and sometimes I feel  
18 like I'm banging my head against the wall.  
19 As you mentioned, not only at the Hill  
20 Neighborhood Association meeting that I  
21 attended but all over the city there are  
22 problems with the street signs, so I would  
23 love to be a part of the meeting with the  
24 mayor and Mr. Perry to further investigate  
25 it and come up with a solution that works

1 for everybody because this is not only a  
2 public safety issue, but it is a DPW issue  
3 and a citywide issue. So, again, I would  
4 love to be part of that meeting and see what  
5 the mayor has to say.

6 As I mentioned last week, I have  
7 been getting inundated, and I continue to  
8 get inundated with e-mails and phone calls  
9 and I get stopped on the street about the  
10 garbage fee discount. When I mentioned last  
11 week about the gentleman who came down to  
12 city hall and tried to get the 10 percent  
13 discount on his garbage fee and he was  
14 turned away because he lives in a double  
15 home and they told him that they were doing  
16 him a favor by not charging him \$600 instead  
17 of \$300, and nobody lives in the other side  
18 of the house, so what the administration is  
19 saying and the Treasurer Department is  
20 saying if you own a double home and the  
21 other side is empty you don't qualify for  
22 the discount, and that makes absolutely no  
23 sense.

24 So there are several people now that  
25 have come forward that I believe are

1           rightfully owed th is 10 percent discount  
2           and they got ripped off, so I have been in  
3           contact, Mrs. Reed has been working on this  
4           diligently and I would hope that this issue  
5           is going to be taken care of and taken of  
6           soon and that these checks are issued,  
7           refund checks are issued to these people  
8           along with a letter of apology to them for  
9           their inconvenience, because several of them  
10          have told me that they were not treated very  
11          kindly when they went down on the first  
12          floor, so I'm not too happy about that.

13                    Another issue that has come up and I  
14          was out on North Rebecca Avenue this past  
15          week, 524 North Rebecca Avenue, this house  
16          is about to fall down. The back porch just  
17          recently collapsed. Neighbors are extremely  
18          concerned and rightfully so. They have been  
19          getting the same story from what they tell  
20          me that the house is condemned, it may be  
21          torn down, it may not be torn down, but it's  
22          a major issue so I would like council to  
23          send a letter to the Licensing and  
24          Inspections Department asking for this house  
25          to be torn down immediately. It needs to be

1 a priority for the city to take this house  
2 down. Everywhere I went on this block that  
3 was the one house that everybody talked  
4 about, and I feel really bad for the people  
5 who live on both sides because they have  
6 been living a nightmare for the past ten  
7 years. So if we could put extra emphasis  
8 and priority on that I would really  
9 appreciate it.

10 I also spoke to neighbors down in  
11 the 400 block of Phelps Street. They  
12 continue to be concerned about flooding. I  
13 know Councilman Wechsler and I were out  
14 there several times, we have seen the  
15 pictures, we have seen the aftermath. If  
16 anyone can believe it, when we get a very  
17 heavy rain the 400 block of Phelps Street is  
18 completely under water. Their cars are  
19 literally floating in the middle of the  
20 block, and Councilman Wechsler can attest to  
21 that. Now, neighbors were told that since  
22 the Sewer Authority was sold that the city  
23 is now responsible. So, again, I'd like to  
24 send a letter to the DPW and ask what is it  
25 going to be done on that problem.



1           The landfill came up tonight and the  
2 news that a county judge ruled against -- an  
3 out-of-county judge ruled against the  
4 Friends of Lackawanna zoning appeal and I  
5 hope, I pray, that the Friends of Lackawanna  
6 are successful in appealing that zoning  
7 decision and I think that we need to stand  
8 together as a community to help them and do  
9 whatever we can in their fight against the  
10 expansion of the landfill, and in my opinion  
11 this expansion, if successful, will be one  
12 of the great injustices ever in our region's  
13 history, and my fear for my children and  
14 your children, your grandchildren, your  
15 families is that our region is going to be a  
16 symbol for out-of-state trash, and I hope  
17 and I pray to God that they are successful  
18 in their fight and I stand behind them 100  
19 percent.

20           I did attend this past week a Hill  
21 Section neighborhood meeting. There were  
22 several concerns from neighbors, one of them  
23 is that there is no recycling taking place  
24 in alleys. Several residents are concerned,  
25 they feel discriminated against because they

1 live in an alley and DPW doesn't pick up  
2 their recyclables, so I'm going to touch  
3 base with Director Gallagher tomorrow or  
4 next week.

5 Two other things, the 900 block of  
6 Farber Court is in awful condition, needs to  
7 be patched and put on a paving list, and  
8 Stipp Court needs to be paved and patched.

9 Also, several complaints about Nay  
10 Aug Park. Volleyball courts are overgrown  
11 and the park in general needs to be  
12 maintained, it needs to be raked. Several  
13 people who go up there all of the time have  
14 complained to me several times now.

15 On the street sweeping program,  
16 Councilman Wechsler got the list. I think  
17 and I continue to ask the administration to  
18 be more efficient with this program. Again,  
19 this came up at the neighborhood meeting  
20 last night that I was at the Hill Section.  
21 I think the people that, you know, take  
22 part, the employees, do a wonderful job, I'm  
23 not saying that they don't, but I think that  
24 the people need to know when they are coming  
25 out so they can either move their cars and

1 be prepared so they can successfully clean  
2 the streets. I talked to the administration  
3 about this, I don't know why they are not  
4 willing to do something that's more  
5 efficient. I have looked at other cities up  
6 and down the east coast, it can be done.  
7 So, again, I would implore them to be more  
8 efficient with this program.

9 Another issue up on East Mountain, I  
10 was actually approached last night about it,  
11 there is confusion between Yesu Lane and  
12 Yesu Drive on East Mountain. A woman had  
13 called an ambulance and she had to wait  
14 because they went to the wrong street. So  
15 Yesu Drive is about three blocks long  
16 apparently while Yesu Lane is only one house  
17 on that street so I'm going to reach out to  
18 the city engineer, the DPW, the Fire  
19 Department and see what remedy we can take  
20 to help that woman out.

21 Just a little update on the lighting  
22 program. We have roughly 5,500 fixtures  
23 that have been retrofitted so 90 percent of  
24 the project has been complete. Right now  
25 the contractors are over in West Scranton.

1           There have been several reports of  
2           streetlights that have been retrofitted that  
3           have then gone out between -- anywhere  
4           between five to 20 to half an hour, and I  
5           have gotten several complaints about that.  
6           The answer that I got from the  
7           administration is that once a control system  
8           is in place, which will be relatively soon,  
9           the lighting fixtures will end up reporting  
10          themselves, so it's still to be determined  
11          exactly who will be receiving these  
12          reporting updates, but they are working on  
13          these issues and working through them so  
14          that will be taken care of.

15                 One of the items that I received,  
16                 one of the requests, was Merry Street and  
17                 Lindy Lane. There is a streetlight that  
18                 keeps go out in the middle of the night  
19                 between two and 15 minutes.

20                 The last issue that I have tonight  
21                 is about the museum downstairs. I'm not  
22                 sure many people know that there is a museum  
23                 in the basement of city hall, but it's run  
24                 by the Sons of the Unions Veterans of the  
25                 Civil War, a fraternal organization

1           dedicated to preserving the history and the  
2           legacy of heros who fought and worked to  
3           save the union. It was organized in 1881,  
4           it was chartered by Congress in 1954, and they  
5           are the legal successor to the Grand Army of  
6           the Republic.

7                         So these gentlemen put a museum down  
8           in the basement of city hall and it's -- I  
9           mean, anybody who not seen it needs to go  
10          and see it. There is a ton of history down  
11          there, it's really well run, and there is  
12          one problem. I have been contacted by this  
13          organization, their lease is about to be up.  
14          They had a 10-year lease that was signed  
15          back in 2007 and it's going to be up in  
16          November. They tried repeatedly to get in  
17          touch with the mayor. Apparently, there is  
18          some talk that the mayor wants to kick them  
19          out of the basement, the museum, throw the  
20          museum out of city hall and put in some kind  
21          of storage, so I'm not exactly sure what  
22          that's all about, but I would like, Mrs.  
23          Reed, to set up a meeting immediately with  
24          the mayor to find out what his plans are for  
25          the basement of city hall; and secondly, and

1 I'm going to advocate to him should we meet  
2 that the museum should stay in the basement  
3 of city hall and I want to for a minute, I  
4 was sent a letter by this group detailing  
5 some of the things that they do.

6 "Our museum and library houses many  
7 artifacts, letters, various correspondence  
8 and over 1,000 books with the main theme  
9 being clear ties to local Civil War  
10 veterans. We recently became part of the  
11 Lackawanna County Library System and the  
12 Lackawanna County Historical Society with  
13 links to our library from theirs for the  
14 purpose of Civil War research providing the  
15 opportunity for local schools and  
16 universities to use our materials for  
17 research. Admission is free for anyone who  
18 would like to visit to our large historical  
19 artifacts, weaponry, among a ton of other  
20 things and access our extensive records for  
21 research purpose."

22 The organization exists to keep  
23 green the memory of the Civil War soldiers  
24 and to assist like-minded organizations in  
25 this endeavor. Their mission is

1           accomplished through service to Lackawanna  
2           County and surrounding communities providing  
3           a facility for research, education and by  
4           being accessible to schools, universities,  
5           and other fraternal organizations.

6                        I won't go through the rest of the  
7           letter, but during their nearly ten years at  
8           city hall they have contributed to the  
9           community in a number of the different  
10          waste. So they would like us to put on our  
11          agenda an ordinance that would authorize  
12          them for another ten-year term and I will  
13          definitely be in favor of that, but again, I  
14          would like to set up with a meeting with  
15          Mayor Courtright immediately to find out  
16          what his plans are and why this has lagged  
17          and dragged on the way it has. And that is  
18          all I have for this week. Thank you.

19                      MR. WECHSLER: Thank you,  
20          Mr. Gaughan. In regards to the street  
21          signs, last year Scranton was awarded a  
22          grant from the Pennsylvania Liquor Control  
23          Board. There is money that comes into the  
24          city based on some fines that are generated  
25          against bars for underage drinking or loud

1 noise or whatever. Last year, we were able  
2 to take that money at council's discretion  
3 and we bought stop signs with that money.  
4 So I'm thinking in terms on a small scale I  
5 know there wouldn't be enough money to do  
6 all of the street signs in the city, but the  
7 Liquor Control Board money that comes into  
8 us I think this year it will probably be  
9 targeted for street signs for that and get  
10 an idea on the cost of the program.

11 I know Scranton is a big city, every  
12 corner has signs on it, so I would have to  
13 see what could be done immediately but that  
14 Liquor Control money comes in very quickly  
15 and last year, like I said, we were able to  
16 do stop signs with it so hopefully we could  
17 something with street signs with that money.

18 This evening we heard a lot of  
19 criticism about the city on how bad it's  
20 doing and it's never been worst, but I  
21 attended a meeting today that had a totally  
22 different perspective on that. The  
23 University of Scranton had a series called,  
24 "The State of Scranton" and today the  
25 discussion was lead by Senator John Blake.



1           Senator Blake talked about many projects  
2           that are ongoing in the city. One of them  
3           we heard about tonight, the development on  
4           Main Avenue in West Scranton. That  
5           represents a huge investment in the City of  
6           Scranton. And in the paper yesterday the  
7           announcement that there is going to be over  
8           \$80 million spent on building new hospital  
9           facilities in the city. We talked about  
10          today developments along Cedar Avenue,  
11          developments at the Steamtown Mall.

12                   I understand there is frustration  
13           amongst people in the city, I understand  
14           that, we hear it every Thursday. Could  
15           Scranton do a better job on services?  
16           Probably. It's a big city with a lot of  
17           people, but the constant, negative shooting  
18           of Scranton down does no good for anybody.  
19           The five of us are paid here to sit and  
20           listen to it, which we do, but I think the  
21           critics should get out and go talk to some  
22           of these investors that are coming to our  
23           area, talk to some of the financial people  
24           that are coming inline to do business with  
25           us. You cannot underestimate an \$80 million

1 project in the city. If Scranton was so  
2 terrible, as we hear every Thursday, no one  
3 would be investing that money in the city.

4 I think sometimes we need to hear  
5 little more of the positive. I think  
6 sometimes Scrantonians are very hard on  
7 themselves. I think it goes back to our  
8 history, we have always kind of been a  
9 little bit down on ourselves, but I really  
10 believe that we have to shed a light on some  
11 of the positive things that are going on  
12 here and not ignore the dangers and not  
13 ignore the problems, but work together and  
14 enjoy some of our success at least.

15 Last Friday I attended a meeting of  
16 the -- I'm sorry, a presentation of the  
17 opening of the first property being  
18 advertised in the land bank. Throughout the  
19 city the county has put up "For Sale" signs  
20 on land bank properties. Last evening the  
21 commissioners had a session for all  
22 municipalities, 40 municipalities within the  
23 county to go and exchange ideas about the  
24 land bank, about recycling, about  
25 construction. We are trying to be a more

1 regional area. From speaking to the  
2 commissioners, the land bank already has  
3 interest I believe in 26 properties, so the  
4 land bank is going to be a successful  
5 program getting properties back onto the tax  
6 rolls.

7 We also in the paper this week  
8 Senator Blake was able to start working on  
9 an anti-blight legislation in Harrisburg.  
10 This is another tool that we need to help  
11 control the -- as Mr. Gaughan mentioned this  
12 evening, there is properties in the city  
13 that have blight issues that effect the  
14 whole neighborhood. One house on a block  
15 can ruin the whole neighborhood and the more  
16 that we can do the better we can avoid  
17 blight in the area.

18 Now, in regards to two weeks ago I  
19 was at the Greenridge Neighborhood meeting  
20 speaking with Mr. Young there and I had told  
21 Mr. Young that I would get in contact with  
22 City Solicitor Price, Joe Price. I did get  
23 in touch with Mr. Price. They are trying to  
24 get the situation under control. We  
25 understand how bad the problem is. We would

1           like to get the repairs done as quickly as  
2           possible. Right now as of today I spoke to  
3           Larry West from Senator Blake's office.  
4           Senator Blake is working with the Department  
5           of DEP, and there is a concern that once  
6           Scranton does any repairs to that hole that  
7           we put ourselves into jeopardy of becoming  
8           responsible for the whole \$13 million  
9           project. That is a real concern and  
10          something that has to be addressed before we  
11          can do this repair. Everyone wants to do  
12          the repair, but we can't run the risk of  
13          exposing Scranton to a \$13 million debt.

14                         In regards to the issue that Mr.  
15          Gaughan just mentioned about the Civil War  
16          Museum, I have been working on this, also.  
17          I have contacted the mayor about this issue.  
18          The mayor has assured me that the Civil War  
19          Museum will be not just be tossed out on  
20          it's ear. I have contacted the Historical  
21          Society, they are aware of the situation.  
22          They want to find a place if the museum has  
23          to move from city hall, they also want to  
24          find a place for him, for a place to go.  
25          The situation with the city is right now we

1 have to store documents. Documents are  
2 stored over in the firehouse and all over  
3 the place. A few years ago we had a water  
4 leak that ruined some of the documents so  
5 there is a need for space within city hall,  
6 but in speaking to the mayor, the mayor has  
7 been in contact with the city solicitor and  
8 as of right now there is no plans to expel  
9 the museum from city hall.

10 I agree with Mr. Gaughan that it's a  
11 valuable service to the city, but there is  
12 some need for storage space and space within  
13 the city and we do want to bring this to an  
14 agreeable condition.

15 My last comments are on the problems  
16 that we're encountering with the discount of  
17 the garbage fee. It was city council's  
18 intention that anyone that paid a garbage  
19 fee would receive a discount if they paid it  
20 before May 1. Actually, before this evening  
21 we kind of were kicking around some ideas  
22 and why this is a problem. Part of the  
23 things that came to my attention, because I  
24 only have a single family home, is if you  
25 have two units in your -- that you are

1            paying on, the bill - the face of the bill  
2            is actually \$600, it's not \$300 per unit  
3            your bill is \$600. I understand that that's  
4            why there may be some confusion in the  
5            Treasurer's Office that they can't offer a  
6            discount on half the bill, so we are in  
7            contact with the city solicitor and we are  
8            in contact Treasurer Beck to try and get  
9            this resolved because I do agree that if you  
10           pay one bill and you are going to have to  
11           keep your apartment vacant or it may be  
12           vacant at this time, I don't believe that  
13           you should be penalized for not paying on  
14           the property, that's your option, so we are  
15           working to an understanding between  
16           council's intention, which was to have a  
17           discount, and the way it's being handled in  
18           the Treasurer's Office and hopefully we'll  
19           get that resolution. And I agree with Mr.  
20           Gaughan, if people are charged in there we  
21           will try to get them their refund back.  
22           That's all have.

23                            MR. GAUGHAN: Can I can just add one  
24                            thing on top of what you said? With the  
25                            museum, in talking to the gentlemen that run

1 the thing, if the mayor wants to do  
2 something different with it that's fine, but  
3 don't dodge the group for months, that's  
4 what drives me crazy and that's why I want  
5 to set a meeting up so we can hammer down  
6 exactly. If it's storage, okay, but the  
7 group their lease is up, so let them know  
8 what you are going to do. And, again, they  
9 were concerned, and that's why they  
10 contacted me, because they couldn't get an  
11 answer from anybody in city hall. They  
12 called the mayor's office repeatedly and he  
13 never returned their call, so that's the  
14 concern.

15 And the second thing is I misspoke  
16 before about the streetlights, it's actually  
17 on Merry Lane and Lilac Lane up on East  
18 Mountain. Thank you.

19 MS. REED: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
20 AN ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND  
21 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO DISBURSE  
22 EIGHTY-NINE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$89,000.00)  
23 FROM THE ACCOUNT INTO WHICH REPAYMENT OF  
24 URBAN DEVELOPMENT ACTION GRANTS (UDAG) ARE  
25 DEPOSITED (UDAG REPAYMENT ACCOUNT) TO BE

1                   USED FOR THE PURCHASE OF PAVING MATERIALS  
2                   FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON'S PAVING PROGRAM.

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

6                   MR. ROGAN: So moved.

7                   MR. EVANS: Second.

8                   MR. WECHSLER: On the question? All  
9                   those in favor of introduction signify by  
10                  saying aye.

11                  MR. PERRY: Aye.

12                  MR. ROGAN: Aye.

13                  MR. EVANS: Aye.

14                  MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

17                  MS. REED: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
18                  A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND  
19                  OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE  
20                  AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH URBAN  
21                  ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS, INC. TO PERFORM  
22                  MAINTENANCE OF STREET LIGHTS FOR A TWELVE  
23                  (12) MONTH PERIOD FROM MAY 1, 2017 THROUGH  
24                  APRIL 30, 2018.

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



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

3 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

4 MR. EVANS: Second.

5 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.

7 I did talk with the business administrator  
8 today about this because we do have the LED  
9 lighting project going on so, of course, the  
10 obvious would be why you would you need a  
11 maintenance contractor. A few things, first  
12 of all, the price for all of this it goes by  
13 -- it's an hourly rate so man hours is \$62 n  
14 hour if they get called out. A truck would  
15 be \$50 an hour. If it's an emergency  
16 service other than any time that it's  
17 delineated in the contract it would be \$93  
18 an hour for an emergency outside of the time  
19 specified and, again, \$15 for the truck.

20 Now, the business administrator told  
21 me that the scope of the responsibilities  
22 will be extremely limited because we have  
23 these LED lights that eventually are going  
24 to be self-reporting, and the retrofitted  
25 lights that we currently have are under

1           warranty so any deficiencies are going to be  
2           taken care by Commonwealth Energy, which is  
3           a company. There may be other work that has  
4           to be done by this maintenance company, but  
5           it will be very limited. Thank you.

6                   MR. ROGAN: Just to add on that, I  
7           would like to see how the hourly rate  
8           compares to last year's. Again, if it is a  
9           higher rate I guess I could understand that  
10          if the LED technology is more expensive to  
11          work on, but, you know, as Mr. Gaughan  
12          mentioned the obvious question is we are  
13          putting in lights that are supposed to last  
14          decades. There shouldn't be a lot of work  
15          on this contract and I definitely would like  
16          to monitor it through the course of the  
17          year. There should be a significant savings  
18          over the previous lighting contract, and  
19          this has been one of my pet peeves as  
20          through my years on counsel that whoever  
21          gets this contract, and it's not a knock on  
22          this contractor, but whoever gets the  
23          streetlight repair contract does not doing  
24          their job. We have had contractor after  
25          contractor win this bid and each one of them

1 has done an awful job at responding to  
2 residents to get streetlights repaired.  
3 When a light goes out, it should be repaired  
4 in a timely manner. Residents shouldn't be  
5 having to call council members after waiting  
6 months, so I'm hopeful that with the  
7 combination of the LED's, the warranty and  
8 this we should have very bright city for the  
9 next number of years, but it's something  
10 we'll certainly be watching closely.

11 MR. WECHSLER: All those in favor of  
12 introduction signify by saying aye.

13 MR. PERRY: Aye.

14 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

15 MR. EVANS: Aye.

16 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

17 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The  
18 ayes have it and so moved.

19 MS. REED: 5-D. FOR INTRODUCTION – A  
20 RESOLUTION – ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATION  
21 OF THE HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURE REVIEW BOARD  
22 (“HARB”) AND APPROVING THE CERTIFICATE OF  
23 APPROPRIATENESS FOR MARK J. SOBECK  
24 ROOF CONSULTING, INC., 15 SOUTH FRANKLIN  
25 STREET, SUITE 210, WILKES-BARRE, PA, FOR

1 EXTERIOR MASONRY CLEANING AND RESTORATION  
2 AND THE PAINTING OF EXTERIOR WOOD AND METAL  
3 ARCHITECTURAL ELEMENTS AT THE DIOCESE OF  
4 SCRANTON'S SAINT PETER'S CATHEDRAL, RECTORY,  
5 AND CHANCERY AT 315 WYOMING AVENUE,  
6 SCRANTON, PA 18503.

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

10 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

11 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

15 MR. PERRY: Aye.

16 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

17 MR. EVANS: Aye.

18 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

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

22 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.  
23 96, 2017 - AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF  
24 THE COUNCIL NO. 65, 2016, AN ORDINANCE  
25 ENTITLED "GENERAL CITY OPERATING BUDGET

1           2017" BY TRANSFERRING \$296,895.00 FROM  
2           ACCOUNT NO. 01.401.13090.4299 (NON  
3           DEPARTMENTAL EXPENDITURES – CONTINGENCY) TO  
4           ACCOUNT NO. 01.080.00083.4260 (DEPARTMENT OF  
5           PUBLIC WORKS BUREAU OF HIGHWAYS - RENTAL  
6           VEHICLES & EQUIPMENT) TO PROVIDE SUFFICIENT  
7           FUNDING FOR THE RENTAL VEHICLES AND  
8           EQUIPMENT ACCOUNT THROUGH THE 2017 BUDGET  
9           PERIOD.

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. 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. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

23                   MS. REED: 6-B. READING BY TITLE -  
24                   FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 97, 2017 - AN  
25                   ORDINANCE – CLOSING AND VACATING A PORTION

1 OF AN UNNAMED ALLEYWAY BETWEEN SOUTH MAIN  
2 AVENUE AND HALSEY COURT IN THE 1200 BLOCK OF  
3 SOUTH MAIN AVENUE.

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

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

8 MR. EVANS: Second.

9 MR. WECHSLER: On the question? As  
10 Councilman Rogan mentioned, we were  
11 approached by some of the neighbors with  
12 some concerns about this project. I am glad  
13 that they stepped up and brought these to  
14 our attention. We had a great response from  
15 the project people that came to our meeting  
16 this evening and presented what they had  
17 available and we will be providing that to  
18 the concerned neighbors.

19 All those in favor signify by saying  
20 aye.

21 MR. PERRY: Aye.

22 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

23 MR. EVANS: Aye.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

25 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The

1 ayes have it and so moved.

2 MS. REED: 6-C. READING BY TITLE -  
3 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 98, 2017 - AN  
4 ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.  
5 63, 2016, AN ORDINANCE, AS AMENDED, ENTITLED  
6 "AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 155, 1999,  
7 AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED "PROVIDING FOR THE  
8 LICENSING AND REGULATING OF CONTRACTORS  
9 DOING BUSINESS IN THE CITY OF SCRANTON  
10 INCLUDING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE GRANTING OF  
11 PERMITS AND FEES FOR SAME; PROVIDING  
12 PENALTIES AND RIGHTS OF APPEAL" BY ADDING  
13 AND DELETING DEFINITIONS, UPDATING THE  
14 DEPARTMENT NAME AND DIRECTOR'S TITLE,  
15 UPDATING APPLICATION FORMS, THE REQUIREMENTS  
16 FOR CONTRACTORS LICENSE, LICENSE FEES,  
17 ISSUANCE OF PERMITS, CONFORMANCE TO CODE,  
18 REVOCATION, SUSPENSION, DENIAL, PROHIBITED  
19 ACTS, STOP WORK, CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY  
20 AND TEMPORARY CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY,  
21 PERMIT FEES, INSPECTIONS, FINES FOR  
22 VIOLATIONS AND APPEALS PROCEDURE AND  
23 DELETION OF SECTIONS 17 AND 22 IN THEIR  
24 ENTIRETY", BY ADDING UNDER SECTION 1,  
25 DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATIONS, THE

1 DEFINITION FOR SPECIALTY CONTRACTOR'S  
2 LICENSE; ADDING THE LETTER L, UNDER NUMBER 3  
3 IN SECTION 2, CONTRACTORS LICENSE, ADDING  
4 SPECIALTY CONTRACTOR; UNDER SECTION 3,  
5 APPLICATION FOR LICENSE, ADDING M.  
6 REQUIREMENTS FOR A SPECIALTY CONTRACTOR; AND  
7 UNDER SECTION 6, LICENSE FEES, ADDING THE  
8 FEES FOR MASONRY CONTRACTOR LICENSE,  
9 RESIDENTIAL CONTRACTOR LICENSE, AND  
10 SPECIALTY CONTRACTOR LICENSE.

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

13 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-C  
14 pass reading by title.

15 MR. EVANS: Second.

16 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?  
17 This evening, Director Hinton attended our  
18 caucus, provided some answers to question  
19 that council had, and I do thank him for  
20 doing that. All those in favor signify by  
21 saying aye.

22 MR. PERRY: Aye.

23 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

24 MR. EVANS: Aye.

25 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.



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

3 MS. REED: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR  
4 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES -  
5 FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 142, 2017 -  
6 NAMING THE RECENTLY INSTALLED ROCKWELL  
7 AVENUE BRIDGE IN THE NORTH SCRANTON SECTION  
8 OF THE CITY IN HONOR OF GENERAL THEODORE J.  
9 WINT.

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

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. Gaughan.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

25 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby

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

3 MS. REED: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION  
4 BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS - FOR  
5 ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 143, 2017-  
6 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE  
7 CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A  
8 CONTRACT WITH MAIN POOL AND CHEMICAL  
9 COMPANY, INC. FOR SEASONAL CHEMICALS FOR  
10 SWIMMING POOLS EXCLUDING NAY AUG POOL FOR  
11 THE CALENDAR YEAR 2017.

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-B.

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. Evans.

1 MR. EVANS: Yes.

2 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

3 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

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

8 MS. REED: 7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION BY  
9 THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS - FOR  
10 ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 144, 2017 -  
11 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE  
12 CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A  
13 GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE COMMONWEALTH OF  
14 PENNSYLVANIA, DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL  
15 PROTECTION ("DEP") FLOOD PROTECTION GRANT  
16 PROGRAM TO ACCEPT GRANT FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT  
17 OF UP TO \$30,600.00 FOR REHABILITATION  
18 ASSISTANCE FOR DAMAGE FROM RAIN FALL TO  
19 LINDY CREEK IN 2016.

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

23 MR. GAUGHAN: As Chairperson for the  
24 Committee on Public Works, I recommend final  
25 passage of Item 7-C.

1 MR. ROGAN: Second.

2 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

3 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.

4 I believe that it was asked last week where  
5 exactly this was and I spoke to Mr. Pocius  
6 today, our city engineer, the repairs are  
7 going to be to the distilling base -- the  
8 distilling basin, excuse me, along Frick  
9 Street just west of South Keyser Avenue.  
10 The repair is going to consist of placing  
11 large rip rap in the washout area and  
12 removing the gravel bank down stream and  
13 this is going to be at no cost to the city.

14 MR. WECHSLER: 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. Evans.

20 MR. EVANS: Yes.

21 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

22 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

23 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

24 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby

25 declare Item 7-E legally and lawfully

1 adopted. If there is no further --

2 MS. REED: It's 7-C, Councilman  
3 Wechsler.

4 MR. WECHSLER: It's my birthday. I  
5 want to get to the party. 7-C. I hereby  
6 declare 7-C legally and lawfully adopted.

7 MS. REED: 7-D. FOR CONSIDERATION BY  
8 THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS - RESOLUTION  
9 NO. 145, 2017 - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND  
10 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE  
11 AND ENTER INTO A COOPERATION AGREEMENT  
12 BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND  
13 THE CITY OF SCRANTON FOR REHABILITATION OF  
14 NON-FEDERAL FLOOD CONTROL WORK IN SCRANTON,  
15 PENNSYLVANIA ON LINDY CREEK.

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

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

22 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

25 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

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MR. PERRY: Yes.

MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

MR. ROGAN: Yes.

MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

MR. EVANS: Yes.

MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

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

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

MR. ROGAN: Motion to adjourn.

MR. WECHSLER: Meeting adjourned.

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.

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CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR  
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER