

SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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HELD:

Thursday, June 1, 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
2 moment of reflection 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.

14 MR. EVANS: I make a motion to table
15 Item 7-J.

16 MR. ROGAN: Second.

17 MR. EVANS: There's a motion on the
18 floor and a second to table Item 7-J, on the
19 question?

20 MR. PERRY: Yes, just on the
21 question, I'm glad that we are going to take
22 a look at this. This is in regard to the
23 the outside seating of the Posh Restaurant
24 downtown. There was a question about if
25 there was going to be adequate walkway space

1 and it just so happens that Mr. Sweeney and
2 Mr. Evans had an encounter this weekend
3 downtown and took a look at it, and just
4 revisit the plans on that and we hope to
5 have something next week to get this back on
6 the table.

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

9 MR. PERRY: Aye.

10 MR. EVANS: Aye.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

12 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

13 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The
14 ayes have it and so moved. Dispense with
15 the reading of the minutes.

16 MS. REED: THIRD ORDER. 3-A. MINUTES
17 OF THE SCRANTON-LACKAWANNA HEALTH AND
18 WELFARE AUTHORITY'S REGULAR MEETING HELD
19 MARCH 16, 2017.

20 MS. REED: Are there any comments? If
21 not, received and filed.

22 MR. WECHSLER: Do any council members
23 have announcements at this time?

24 MR. PERRY: I have one announcement.
25 Divine Mercy Church is having their annual

1 church picnic. It's going to be today,
2 tomorrow and Saturday, it starts at 6:00 to
3 11:00. It's always a good time, great food,
4 just like all our church picnic in the City
5 of Scranton are. This one is absolutely no
6 different. Please stop down and have a good
7 time with your kids. It's a lot of fun.
8 Thank you.

9 MR. WECHSLER: Scranton City Council
10 had hold a work session to discuss the
11 citywide graffiti issue. It has been
12 scheduled for this Monday, June 5, at 4:30
13 in the Governor's Room, second floor of city
14 hall. It is open to the public, however,
15 there will no time allocated for public
16 participation.

17 Another reminder of the electronic
18 recycling program that will begin June 12,
19 and extend through June 26. Your items
20 should be placed curbside for the DPW to
21 collect. Each household will be allowed one
22 television and one computer monitor. Please
23 be aware that pick up for these items may
24 occur at any time, not necessarily on your
25 garbage scheduled date. Please be prepared

1 to have your items ready and place curbside
2 for June 12.

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

5 MR. WECHSLER: Joan Hodowanitz.

6 MS. HODOWANITZ: Joan Hodowanitz,
7 Scranton resident and taxpayer. I'm wearing
8 my Friends of the Scranton Public Library
9 t-shirt. First thing I want to do is I want
10 to thank everyone from the council,
11 administration and the city who came out and
12 supported the library last Friday night at
13 Swingin' on Vine. It was a wonderful night
14 and we raised some money for the library so
15 thank you. Now, shame on you those who you
16 didn't come, okay? So it's every year the
17 last Friday in May. Put it on your calendar
18 for 2018. I want no excuses, no vacations,
19 I don't want to hear that jazz, and those of
20 you had failed to make it last Friday night
21 you will make amends at our next book sale
22 which will be at the Marketplace at
23 Steamtown, second floor in front of the gym,
24 June 6 through 11, Tuesday through Friday
25 the hours are 10 to 8, Saturday 10 to 5, and

1 Sunday 11 to 5. We sell books and DVD's and
2 CD's anywhere between one and two dollars.
3 It's a bargain for you and it's a bargain
4 for the library.

5 And speaking of the books, I hope
6 you saw the little article in the paper this
7 week about the community group installs a
8 little free library at Connors Park, these
9 things are extremely successful, so in in
10 case you haven't heard books rule, and it's
11 a great thing for children to during the
12 summer. For those who are you little
13 munchkins and carpet commandos, I'm talking
14 about you, Bill.

15 Okay, the Knowle's Insurance list,
16 is that still plotting it's way towards
17 corrections?

18 MR. WECHSLER: Yes, it is.

19 MS. HODOWANITZ: Okay, hopefully two
20 weeks from tonight we might have a list?

21 MR. WECHSLRE: Yes.

22 MS. HODOWANITZ: And I hope that's
23 going to be made shared with the public.

24 MR. WECHSLER: Business Administrator
25 Bulzoni was meeting with Roseann Novembrino

1 this week concerning it.

2 MS. HODOWANITZ: I suspect we won't
3 get any rebates for prior years, but I just
4 wonder how much money the city spent
5 insuring the Scranton Public Library since
6 2010 when they didn't own it, but that's the
7 way it goes.

8 Again, remind you about that annual
9 financial report which was due out in May
10 sitting somewhere in limbo because the
11 controllers' numbers don't match the
12 independent auditor's numbers. Maybe
13 something you want to think about because if
14 it's -- if the number of discrepancies are
15 significant enough that the controller won't
16 let it go forward, what kind of impact does
17 that have on the 2017 budget and the 2018
18 budget? Something you may want to think
19 about.

20 All right, the third party
21 administrator, and I would really like to
22 get an official idea of where we stand. I
23 went to the bid opening, there was own one
24 bidder, Access Medical Evaluations out of
25 Michigan formed in 2005 with the magnificent

1 staff of three people and an annual revenue
2 of -- not profit but revenue, of \$119,100.
3 This is our nationally recognized third
4 party administrator. I heard you mention in
5 caucus that they very well get the contract
6 even though they the only bidder.

7 MR. WECHSLER: No, you may have
8 misheard. What we are saying is they are
9 being determined if the bid was responsible
10 or not.

11 MS. HODOWANITZ: Well, they were
12 missing affidavits.

13 MR. WECHSLER: That's -- there is
14 nothing about award, it's just if they were
15 responsible.

16 MR. EVANS: That's up to the city
17 solicitor to review and determine and that's
18 where we are at now.

19 MS. HODOWANITZ: Okay, because I
20 understand that we are waiting on the trust
21 agreement based upon this third party
22 administrator so we're kind of in a holding
23 pattern and I don't think that's very good
24 for the city.

25 The town hall meeting, where and

1 when?

2 MR. WECHSLER: I contacted Mayor
3 Courtright today and he has not established
4 a date or place yet.

5 MS. HODOWANITZ: Okay, you might
6 want to chose a stadium. I think there is
7 is going to be a lot of public interest.
8 That's just my own opinion.

9 And any cost estimate on repairs to
10 the Nay Aug tree house?

11 MR. WECHSLER: I spoke to Director
12 Fallon this week and our city engineer is
13 still doing a review of the tree house.

14 MS. HODOWANITZ: And, remember, 29
15 days to June 30 when we should be seeing the
16 2016 audit. Has there been any change to
17 that projection?

18 MR. WECHSLER: Not that I'm aware of
19 the.

20 MS. HODOWANITZ: And it's only five
21 months and one week until the general
22 election and I do hope that everybody takes
23 the time to attend this town hall meeting
24 and ask the questions that are going to
25 effect their bills for years to come. Where

1 I live at the Forum our condo fee is going
2 up dramatically, sewer and water raises,
3 okay, we pay them, too. So people should
4 stand up for their own interest. Thank you.

5 MR. WECHSLER: Danielle Ratchko.

6 MS. RATCHKO: Hi. I'm here tonight
7 to speak because I'm the owner of 1120
8 Columbia Street, which from what I've heard
9 has been something that's come up every week
10 at this meeting. I purchased this property
11 in June of 2016 for a dollar off a close
12 family friend. The deed was recorded on
13 June 6, 2016, and all of the property taxes
14 were paid at this point and all of the
15 utilities were in service, and I received
16 the key for this property in August of 2016.

17 In October of 2016, I noticed a
18 condemned notice on the front window. This
19 was the only notice I received that there
20 were any issues with the property. When I
21 contacted the Office of Licensing,
22 Inspections and Permits, I was told to come
23 to the office to talk to someone in regards
24 to this matter. On Friday, October 28, I
25 came to the office and was informed that the

1 property was condemned since August 28 and
2 that it was because it was considered vacant
3 and abandoned and there were several
4 complaints from neighbors over several years
5 and that there were several notices sent
6 from the office.

7 The letter that was on top of the
8 file, which was the most recent
9 notification, was addressed to the prior
10 owners. The office informed me that since I
11 am now the current owner, I have to go
12 through the condemned property policy
13 process even though I only owned the
14 property for two months, never had any
15 warnings, and never knew about any of the
16 complaints that the property was going to be
17 condemned. If anyone had informed me of the
18 complaints or issues, I would have remedied
19 them immediately. Since I had already had
20 all of the mail for 1120 being forward to my
21 current address in South Scranton, I would
22 pick up any residual mail from the mailbox
23 on give them to the prior owners. So when I
24 saw that this was addressed to them I
25 contacted them and asked if I had given them

1 anything from the City of Scranton and she
2 said that I did and she gave me the unopened
3 envelope along with the certified mail slip.
4 The envelope had a postmark date on it of
5 September 29, 2016. This is 32 days after
6 the house was supposedly condemned or since
7 it was condemned. I shouldn't say
8 supposedly.

9 By mailing this 32 days late and to
10 the wrong people that's forfeited my right
11 to appeal the condemnation and also
12 forfeited my ability to prevent any
13 utilities from getting pulled. When I spoke
14 to PPL they said that the electric was
15 pulled on September 30, 2016. This was one
16 day after the notice was mailed. In June
17 2016, when the deed was originally
18 transferred, I had gone to Fidelity Bank to
19 secure financing to rehabilitate the house
20 so that my family and I could move in and
21 the bank informed me that because it was a
22 one dollar transaction that I would have to
23 become seasoned or own the property for six
24 months to a year to before they would do any
25 financing on it.

1 In the meantime, two months later,
2 the city turned around and condemned the
3 property which put any refinancing and
4 renovations to a standstill at this point.
5 I don't think that the house should have
6 been condemned due to being vacant and
7 abandoned in this case since I only owned it
8 for two months. All of the taxes and
9 utilities were paid and on and I wanted to
10 do some renovation work to it before my
11 family and I moved into it. It's not
12 uncommon for somebody to buy a house and not
13 move into it right away if they want to get
14 work done to it.

15 I have spoken to various attorneys
16 on this and nobody seems to want to respond
17 to me or address the matter. On Tuesday,
18 May 23, last week, I was contacted via
19 Facebook by one of the neighbors on Columbia
20 Street asking if I was the owner of the
21 property. She informed me via the message
22 that there were possums and racoons living
23 under the front porch. I would like to thank
24 her for informing me and I hired a company
25 to trap and remove these animals. Traps are

1 set out there now.

2 Last Friday, I received a letter in
3 my mailbox in South Side that was from the
4 City of Scranton and it was addressed to my
5 maiden name and the three prior owners. The
6 letter was a demolition notice that the
7 house would demolished if it is not fully
8 rehabilitated within the next 30 days and
9 that there would be a line put on me for the
10 demolition costs. It also states in the
11 letter that it's being up for condemnation
12 because it has not been at a regulated
13 temperature for the last nine months, which
14 in this case is the city's fault because I
15 never got notified of anything to even
16 prevent them from pulling the electricity.

17 I also received a fine in the
18 mailbox and that fine was addressed to the
19 prior owners, so again, I don't know who's
20 supposed to pay that and it states that the
21 grass and weeds were overgrown, but this
22 isn't possible because I had landscaping out
23 there on May 12, which was a week before May
24 19.

25 I haven't even owned this house a

1 year. I want it and still want the house to
2 be fully rehabilitated so my family and I
3 can live there. I want to raise my child in
4 a nice neighborhood and I do not want to be
5 the thorn on the side of everybody in that
6 neighborhood. I would like to have this
7 rectified.

8 MR. PERRY: Yeah, thank you for
9 coming tonight.

10 MR. RADTKO: Thank you.

11 MR. PERRY: I brought this up last
12 two weeks and I didn't get a chance to talk
13 to you today before the meeting, but I'm
14 glad you showed up and I hope you stick
15 around after so we can talk further.

16 MS. RADTKO: I will.

17 MR. PERRY: One of the issues that
18 you brought up that I'll have some back and
19 a forth questions on is some of the timeline
20 as far as, you know, if you moved in and the
21 utilities were up and running and taxes were
22 paid, you know, what triggered the
23 condemnation notice. You know, that would
24 be a question I would have for our director
25 and, you know, not knowing what the inside

1 of the property is or the condition of the
2 building itself I would have and that's a
3 legitimate question. If I was to buy a
4 house and taxes were paid and utilities are
5 on and, like you said, temperature was
6 regulated that's your time when you are
7 going to get stuff done to the house before
8 you move in. That's kind of -- I mean, we
9 have realtors on the board right now and
10 they would tell you the same thing.

11 So, yeah, I would like to talk more
12 with you on this because the last thing we
13 want to see is a homeowner come into the
14 city or move from one side of the city to
15 the other and, you know, not get every
16 possible chance, you know, to take advantage
17 of that.

18 MR. EVANS: Can I ask you were you
19 denied an opportunity to appeal the
20 condemnation?

21 MS. RADTKO: I was told by the city
22 that because it was so late that I had
23 gotten the condemnation notice that I would
24 have to go through all of the normal
25 condemnation policy procedures. I did speak

1 to the director and he said he would waive
2 the bond fee considering the circumstances,
3 but he still wanted me to go through and pay
4 for all of the inspections in order for the
5 electric to be put back in as well as go
6 through several inspections for the inside
7 of the house and the outside of the house.
8 I have never heard of anybody having to get
9 city inspections or being condemned after
10 only owning something two months. I mean, I
11 have my house in South Side, I hired my own
12 private --

13 MR. EVANS: No, I agree. You are
14 being penalized for happened prior to your
15 ownership and this is simply an example of a
16 policy that's going awry and it's being
17 enforced I think incorrectly, so we are
18 trying to look at this, but you are caught
19 in the cross hairs and it's simply not
20 right, so let's see what we can do.

21 MR. WECHSLER: I think one of the
22 things, Mrs. Reed, would you be able to
23 check on the demolition list and see where
24 it is currently because I believe you said
25 it's within the next 30 days.

1 MS. RADTKO: That's what the letter
2 said. I did up there to collect an appeal
3 form and they said it's not on the current
4 demolition, it's on the demolition list for
5 the fall.

6 MR. WECHSLER: We just want to make
7 sure that it doesn't get on the wrong list.

8 MR. EVANS: We had this stopped once
9 before, it was scheduled last year.

10 MR. WECHSLER: So the first thing we
11 can do is verify that it's not scheduled for
12 demolition any time soon and try to prevent
13 it from being -- get it off that list.

14 MS. RADTKO: Okay, and then the
15 reason, because I did speak to the director
16 at the end of October, and he basically --
17 his reasoning was because it was a point of
18 contention with the Neighborhood Association
19 for a ten years. I don't see how that
20 should apply to me.

21 MR. PERRY: Well, it's a new owner of
22 the building so they should have welcomed
23 that. Like, that would be my assumption.
24 Things might now happen as fast as they
25 would want it to, but, you know, they should

1 give the new owner every chance to get the
2 home up to where it should be to, you know,
3 just for the overall neighborhood because
4 that was one of the complaints they had a
5 couple of weeks ago and, you know, they even
6 came to me and said, "Look, the grass isn't
7 taken care of."

8 And then, you know, as far as any of
9 the animals that has been taken care of so,
10 you know, just based on that we can see
11 there is active ownership in the house going
12 on and, trust us, we have seen condemned
13 properties up and down the city and we know
14 where there is energy being put into
15 maintain that house and when there is just a
16 walkaway situation and this doesn't seem
17 like a walkaway situation so we want to make
18 sure that they -- as Mr. Wechsler said, we
19 slow down and stop the condemnation as far
20 as the demolition process and give us time
21 to sort this out and get you back on the
22 track that you want to be.

23 MR. RADTKO: I did speak to the
24 neighborhood association, they stated that
25 they never really wanted the house

1 condemned, they just wanted the outside
2 fixed up.

3 MR. WECHSLER: I think we all have
4 your contact information, but if you could
5 just leave it with Kathy so Mrs. Reed have
6 access to it. If you could just give it to
7 her after the meeting.

8 MS. RADTKO: Sure, no problem.
9 Thank you.

10 MR. PERRY: Thank you for coming. I
11 appreciate that.

12 MS. RADTKO: Thank you for listening.

13 MR. WECHSLER: Les Spindler.

14 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening, Council.
15 Les Spindler, city resident, homeowner and
16 taxpayer. I think it was three weeks ago a
17 gentleman was here and he talked about the
18 cleaning of Legget's Creek for years so it
19 was a large number of years, I forget how
20 many it was, and he talked about all of
21 things he has taken out of there and it
22 sound like a real environmental issue. I
23 didn't hear the end of his talk, did council
24 do anything about that?

25 MR. GAUGHAN: I actually spoke to him

1 today on the phone and I'm going to take a
2 ride up there, he is going to show me the
3 area, and I reached out to Bernie McGurl
4 from the River Corridor Association, haven't
5 heard back from him yet, but I have a really
6 interesting conversation with that gentleman
7 today.

8 MR. SPINDLER: That sounds like a
9 real environmental issue, some of the stuff
10 he has taken out of there.

11 MR. WECHSLER: Yeah, when he was here
12 he didn't request us to do anything. He just
13 wanted to inform of his situation.

14 MR. SPINDLER: Listen, I think a
15 letter should be sent to DEP to go and take
16 a look at that because I know where Legget's
17 Creek goes, and maybe it goes into
18 Lackawanna, I think it's a serious issue. I
19 think the DEP should definitely take a look
20 at that.

21 Okay. Next thing, finally the
22 blocks of North Sumner Avenue that I have
23 been complaining about for two years
24 probably were paved recently, just hope it
25 stays like that. I hope the utilities don't

1 come dig it up right away and I was
2 wondering does anyone know did the utilities
3 pay for that? I hope they did, not the
4 city.

5 MR. ROGAN: That was paid for by the
6 utilities.

7 MR. SPINDLER: Okay, that's a good
8 thing because they are the ones that dug it
9 all up. Beautiful now, I hope it stays that
10 way.

11 Next thing, another subject that I
12 have been talking on awhile now, Councilman
13 Perry, I spoke about this last time I was
14 here and you said you would look into
15 Dorothy Street, the whole there, and I said
16 it has subsided quite a bit since it was
17 filled in, did you hear anything?

18 MR. PERRY: No, Mr. Spindler, I
19 didn't hear anything else on that.

20 MR. SPINDLER: Yeah, because the
21 ground has subsided, you know, it's settled
22 around the storm drain. It's a pretty big
23 depression there and also by the sidewalk.

24 MR. PERRY: It's still like the
25 depression there it hasn't been --

1 MR. SPINDLER: There is no hole, but
2 the ground has sunk and maybe DPW, I think
3 all that -- just some good soil has to be
4 thrown in there and filled in probably.
5 Maybe DPW can do that.

6 Okay. Lastly tonight, a bone of
7 contention for years and years and years is
8 the illegal garbage tax, you know, give
9 people a break \$30 if you pay before a
10 certain time, \$60 if you own a double, which
11 I do, I couldn't come up with \$540 in one
12 shot to pay that. And, you know, being that
13 they are giving people a discount it just
14 proves they don't really need that money.
15 The only reason that was put in was to pay
16 off the tipping fees, and as I said many
17 times, the tipping fees were paid off last
18 year. Mayor Connors wanted to do away with
19 that fee when he was in office, but his
20 council wouldn't let him. Again, it's
21 another shot at the taxpayers and more money
22 taken out of their pockets, and I hope
23 something is done fairly soon because this
24 -- we pay our property taxes and have our
25 garbage picked up, I have said that for

1 about 12, 13 years now, but nobody listens.
2 You people just don't care. You don't do
3 anything for the people there and it showed
4 on election day. So I hope you finally do
5 something and get rid of this illegal
6 garbage tax. That's all I have tonight.
7 Thank you.

8 MR. ROGAN: Thank you.

9 MR. WECHSLER: Fay Franus.

10 MS. FRANUS: Speaking of the garbage
11 fee, Mr. Eavns, do you know how that study
12 is coming as far as what the rates will be?

13 MR. EVANS: I'm sorry?

14 MS. FRANUS: Do you know when the
15 study will be completed as far as when the
16 rates will be?

17 MR. EVANS: That's what will be
18 decided in the study. No, we don't know.
19 We will certain be able to participate in
20 that discussion when we have the time, the
21 opportunity.

22 MS. FRANUS: They have gotten the
23 money last June and it hasn't started yet?
24 You said --

25 MR. EVANS: Well, the study has been

1 started, we just haven't gotten the results
2 yet.

3 MS. FRANUS: Would you please check
4 this?

5 MR. EVANS: Definitely.

6 MS. FRANUS: Also, as far as the
7 election and the mayor, does anybody there
8 appear to know when the study will be done
9 for the storm water fee? I mean, from what
10 I understand Mayor Courtright want to have
11 that amount that the people probably will
12 have to pay for the storm water fee after
13 the election deliberately. So I hope every
14 member on council that really care about the
15 people, you will contact Mayor Courtright
16 and find out what's going on with that storm
17 water study because to have that study done
18 after the election is totally political.

19 Just like no taxes this year,
20 Mr. Wechsler, you said that has nothing to
21 do with the election. It had everything to
22 do with the election. Same with the street
23 paving. That's nice, but when you could
24 have used this money to put toward the storm
25 water to lessen the cost for the people

1 no reason for Mayor Courtright to say you
2 don't need an audit. If he has nothing to
3 hide, why not have an audit? There is
4 nothing to hide. This only tell me there is
5 plenty to hide.

6 Now, as far as the legal fees,
7 Attorney Ned Abrahamsen, going back to the
8 Parking Authority deal not so long ago along
9 with the Sewer Authority he sent an e-mail
10 to have \$200,000 disbursed without an
11 invoice, did any of you ever inquire about
12 the invoice for Ned Abrahamsen for the
13 Parking Authority deal?

14 MR. GAUGHAN: I have asked for all of
15 the invoices from that deal, haven't
16 received them yet.

17 MS. FRANUS: Haven't seen them, so
18 could you do whatever it takes to get them
19 as well as the Sewer Authority, look how
20 long it took the Sewer Authority. They are
21 definitely hiding something, and not just
22 that, the legal bills are part of it, what
23 about all of the other money that was spent
24 in the Sewer Authority that we know nothing
25 about, the invoices for everything bought,

1 everything there was. What about the \$12
2 million, where did that go to? Does anybody
3 know? Are they going to find out? How do
4 we find out where the \$12 million went?

5 MR. EVANS: Excuse me, we are going
6 to talk about that tonight in motions.

7 MS. FRANUS: You can't answer me now.

8 MR. EVANS: I don't want to take away
9 another councilman is going to make a motion
10 on so --

11 MS. FRANUS: You can't even just say
12 anything on that.

13 MR. EVANS: Well, yeah, my comment
14 would be is you're exactly right, we want to
15 know what happened to the other money, the
16 money that was spent during the contract
17 period. It could be as much as \$10, it
18 could be \$8, all we were told is was
19 mandated items. That's not acceptable. We
20 want to know every single line item that was
21 spent in that time frame.

22 MS. FRANUS: That's good.

23 MR. EVANS: As of today, we have not
24 received that.

25 MS. FRANUS: I'm glad you are

1 looking into that.

2 MR. EVANS: Absolutely.

3 MS. FRANU: It's very important.

4 Now, don't you feel that the clients are the
5 people?

6 MR. EVANS: Always.

7 Taxpayers/ratepayers are always.

8 MS. FRANUS: Well, then how come the
9 sewer deal we're saying as far as the
10 retracted deals client/ lawyer privilege.

11 MR. EVANS: They seemed to have
12 backed off on that, but we haven't had a
13 chance to review the documents.

14 MS. FRANUS: But how much weeks did
15 they say that?

16 MR. EVANS: Oh, I hear you. Yeah.
17 Certainly.

18 MS. FRANUS: Your attorney even said
19 it fully knowing it wasn't true.

20 MR. EVANS: Yeah, the legal
21 description probably is the client is the
22 Sewer Authority, you know --

23 MS. FRANUS: Oh, yeah --

24 MR. EVANS: The legal definition.

25 MR. FRANUS: They are there to

1 represent us.

2 MR. EVANS: I'm not saying I disagree
3 with that, but overall the
4 taxpayers/ratepayer should also be the end
5 result.

6 MS. FRANUS: That's right because we
7 are going to pay, you know? They there to
8 represent us.

9 MR. EVANS: I agree.

10 MS. FRANUS: And this is just
11 ridiculous. Thank you.

12 MR. WECHSLER: Anyone else?

13 MARIE SCHUMACHER: Marie Schumacher.
14 First, I'd like to say I was disappointed
15 last week when nobody announced the city
16 program for what been held annually for
17 Memorial Day with the VFW at Nay Aug Park.
18 Some of you may have been there, I didn't
19 see any of you, there were a lot of people.
20 Of course, the weather was bad, but it
21 still --

22 MR. WECHSLER: Councilman Evans and I
23 were at the Connors Park at that time.

24 MS. SCHUMACHER: Who?

25 MR. WECHSLER: At Connors Park.

1 Their ceremony was the same time as Connors
2 Park.

3 MS. SCHUMACHER: What time was that
4 just out of curiosity.

5 MR. EVANS: 12 noon.

6 MR. WECHSLER: 12 noon. Held at the
7 same time.

8 MS. SCHUMACHER: Because the paper
9 and I guess the mayor's office had stated
10 that the program at Nay Aug started at 11
11 and when people got there at 11 they had to
12 cool their heels and --

13 MR. WECHSLER: 11:00 was --

14 MS. SCHUMACHER: It was at 12:00 so I
15 would appreciate next year if somebody who
16 remains on council would please announce the
17 city sponsored event is held at Nay Aug at
18 noon. Mr. Perry, were you able to find out
19 if that one full-time regular retiree was
20 one of the six that were --

21 MR. PERRY: No, I didn't get any new
22 information we talked about last week, Ms.
23 Schumacher.

24 MS. SCHUMACHER: Thank you.
25 Mr. Evans, did you get the budgeted amount

1 for the TPA?

2 MR. EVANS: From what I understand,
3 they are putting an RFP out. They are not
4 putting an amount in until they see what
5 came in from the bidders. Of course, we
6 only have one, so there isn't a budgeted
7 amount. There is money in the --

8 MS. SCHUMACHER: No, wait, budget --
9 there must have been a budget?

10 MR. EVANS: Well, there is not a
11 budgeted amount for that, the third party
12 administrator, no. You are talking about
13 the third party administrator? Yeah, because
14 -- well, I was told that they are looking at
15 the Composite Board to pay that fee whatever
16 that fee might be. It could come out of the
17 proceeds of the pensions so we'll see. I
18 mean, we are still haven't had one yet so
19 we'll find out soon enough.

20 MS. SCHUMACHER: And where is that
21 trust agreement for the way the sewer asset
22 sale proceeds were going to be -- come to go
23 this body, sooner rather than later, which I
24 think was before now?

25 MR. WECHSLER: One of the

1 requirements is the TPA has to be approved
2 first, that's one of the requirements. They
3 have to a third party administrator. That's
4 all part of the trust agreement so until
5 that's in place there is no use.

6 MR. EVANS: We were adamant about
7 that, that we would not agree with any trust
8 agreement without a third party
9 administrator being part of that trust
10 agreement.

11 MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, it can be part
12 of the trust agreement without having a
13 physical body there; right?

14 MR. EVANS: Well, we could put the
15 language in there, but I'm not comfortable
16 doing that because then we'll never get the
17 third party administrator hired.

18 MR. WECHSLER: I think that's a bad
19 idea.

20 MR. EVANS: We still have some time.
21 We expected it, in all honesty, in June.
22 That was the time frame that I thought it
23 was going to be done in so it's June 1.

24 MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, I would guess
25 by the end of May, so when is the RFP going

1 to be reissued?

2 MR. EVANS: We haven't heard back
3 from the city solicitor yet what they're
4 doing?

5 MS. SCHUMACHER: Have you asked?

6 MR. EVANS: Yeah. Yeah. They are
7 looking at it.

8 MR. WECHSLER: She is still reviewing
9 to see if the bid was responsible or not.

10 MS. SCHUMACHER: She said that would
11 take a week, that was longer than a week.
12 And then when are the rest of the documents
13 going to be received from the director of
14 our Sewer Authority?

15 MR. WECHSLER: They provided us all
16 of the invoices today.

17 MS. SCHUMACHER: No, all of the rest
18 of the invoices.

19 MR. WECHSLER: We have been asking
20 that since January.

21 MR. EVANS: They provided the legal
22 --

23 MS. SCHUMACHER: Yeah, that's only
24 one part of it. I mean, it's a big chunk,
25 but there is still --

1 MR. EVANS: It's part of it exactly,
2 but we haven't received the other
3 information that's why we are going to take
4 another step tonight.

5 MS. SCHUMACHER: No, if we call the
6 office downstairs will we be allowed to go
7 in and look at the unredacted
8 correspondence? I've had a right to know,
9 me and myself, for a long time?

10 MR. EVANS: Well, we are going to
11 give a copy to the Scranton Times. We have
12 a copy for him. I'm sure we could get a
13 copy for -- or at least look at it.

14 MS. SCHUMACHER: No, that's the
15 invoices. That's not --I mean, yeah, I'll be
16 interested when it's posted on the Times'
17 website but there is it other things I'm
18 looking for that we are required by the
19 contract.

20 MR. EVANS: Yeah, we --

21 MS. SCHUMACHER: I don't have the
22 sections, but every time there was a change
23 made from the sale's agreement at the time
24 the agreement was signed was to have the
25 correspondence go to the PAWC from the Sewer

1 Authority and \$12 million should be hidden
2 in there and that's why I asked for all of
3 correspondence, which I have not received
4 yet, and I'm sure when I do it will be, you
5 know, more felt tip pens going by a quarter
6 a page.

7 MR. EVANS: Most likely. We have been
8 asking for the same things.

9 MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, when are we
10 going to get them, that's the question?

11 MR. EVANS: That's why we tried to
12 get the Auditor General in here, and again,
13 I don't want take another step --

14 MS. SCHUMACHER: I think you need to
15 ask the mayor to come in here and ask him
16 directly to ask his appointees to reconsider
17 that.

18 MR. WECHSLER: I think that's the
19 purpose of the town hall meeting, that's his
20 intention. That's the mayor's intention is
21 to answer questions like that.

22 MS. SCHUMACHER: No, that's just
23 pushing it out so we don't get anything done
24 before the election, come on, let's get
25 real. You guys are going on vacation in a

1 couple of months and, yeah.

2 MR. DOBRZYN: There you go. We
3 tabled it for tonight, how about changing
4 that around on the Posh, put it up to
5 Seventh Order and vote "no".

6 All right, I have a little poem I
7 wrote about Scranton. We're very astute so
8 we astutely study so we can astutely study
9 why are studies were not astute. Now, I'm
10 going back to 7-A last week. Trash. When
11 you look at the volume on the corner it's
12 called Packmaster that picks it up,
13 compresses it to uniform volume, so unless
14 you throw out a ton of lead you are not
15 going to fill that truck up before they have
16 to take it off and dump it. However,
17 recycle, never been enforced. Never been
18 enforced, so the idea is that they will
19 recycle it, we charge to throw. The cost of
20 the trucks and crew must run the route
21 irregardless of the amount of trash. If
22 nobody puts out their trash, they still have
23 to run that route and in case somebody puts
24 out their trash. Illegal dumps. People
25 tossed it on my lawn in different towns, I

1 don't want to pay a flat rate and have --
2 become a transfer station for the
3 neighborhood trash where I'm paying a flat
4 rate but, you know, slip it over on my lawn.
5 And years back just with disposal of trash,
6 we have the most toxic landfill in the world
7 in Old Forge. We had a DA that was more
8 interested in closing the dens of inequity
9 in Archbald than the Yackavazi landfill. It
10 could only be capped because if they
11 uncapped it I live in South Side a couple of
12 the blocks down from Moosic Street, and I
13 would have to evacuate my home and have
14 people with spacesuits vacuuming the floor
15 so that's how important it is to have proper
16 dumping. We should actually have
17 sequestering of things that don't -- aren't
18 really recyclable right now but somewhere in
19 the future they could be recyclable. Years
20 back I seen a sheet that actually turned
21 polymerized plastic into oil. It takes it,
22 but we don't enforce these ordinances and we
23 go after something else and, I mean, do you
24 really want to become like the televisions
25 and electronics where it's tossed in Connell

1 Park or it's tossed along some abandoned
2 rail line or anywhere else. I mean, we
3 don't want to have that situation. You
4 know, I was thoroughly flabbergasted last
5 week and, by the way, in Madisonville one
6 bag of garbage is \$5.25. So as the DPW
7 loses funds because people are throwing it
8 wherever they can get away with it, are we
9 going end up jacking up the bags and making
10 it worse on everybody. So enough of that.
11 I set a timer here and I have another
12 speech.

13 Comrades, artisans, we got Russian
14 spies in the White House, poison trolls in
15 the Congress, poison trolls in the PA
16 Assembly, despots. I have a solution for
17 you, if you don't like the candidates that
18 you have available to vote for, vote for
19 Dobrzyn for dictator, I'll solve all of
20 your problems. Tyranny and equality for
21 all. Thank you, Comrades. Thank you very
22 much and just right in whenever they don't
23 like the candidate just write in
24 D-O-B-R-Z-Y-N, Dobrzyn for dictator. Thank
25 you and have a good night.

1 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

2 MR. JACKOWITZ: Good evening,
3 Scranton City Council. Good evening, Kathy.
4 Good evening, Stenographer, Lori and Amil,
5 good evening to all of you. First of all,
6 last week I talked to two city councilmen
7 about some potholes in the 1400 block of
8 Hertz Court, well, they come up and they
9 patched the smallest one there and they left
10 all of the big ones untouched so we still
11 have a problem on 1400 block of Hertz Court,
12 so if you can remind them to come back up
13 there and get rid of the big craters that
14 are there.

15 MR. EVANS: We'll specify the big
16 ones this time.

17 MR. JACKOWITZ: Yeah. Tell them we
18 need the big ones done, the little ones are
19 taken care of, the big ones got to get done
20 now. Okay, first of all, as far as the town
21 hall meeting, I think it's just my personal
22 opinion, nothing more, nothing less, I think
23 the town hall meeting will be held after the
24 election. That's what I really think. I
25 think it will be held after the election if

1 it's held at all. I'm still 50/50 on
2 whether or not there will be a meeting. I
3 really don't think the town hall meeting is
4 the answer because all it's going to be is a
5 bunch of people getting there and asking
6 questions and getting spin on the answers
7 and not being told the truth. What we need
8 is we need the truth. We need to find out
9 exactly what happened and the only way
10 that's going to happen is to have the
11 independent audit come in and audit
12 everything happened in this transaction.
13 Town hall meetings aren't going to solve
14 nothing. This is just a publicity thing,
15 that's all it is. We need action. And I
16 hope city council doesn't forget about this
17 and continues to press Mayor Courtright into
18 approving the hiring -- not the hiring, but
19 the attorney coming in here to audit the
20 situation because it needs to be done of the
21 people are really upset offer this. I don't
22 know if you guys realize how upset people
23 are. I imagine you do because you probably
24 get more phone calls than I get. People
25 probably stop you on the street more than

1 they do me, but something has got to be
2 done. This cannot be forgotten. That's why
3 elections are so important, you know, and
4 local elections are probably more important
5 than national elections because the local
6 election actually affects people more than a
7 national election does or Congress does and
8 the Senate and the president do really
9 doesn't get down to level very often, but
10 what the mayor does and what city council
11 does and what the city controller does and
12 what the school board does that deals with
13 us directly, that deals with the people and
14 the residents directly and the taxpayers.
15 That's why it's so important in these local
16 elections not to go out and vote for your
17 friend or your brother-in-law or your cousin
18 or your nephew, they may not be the right
19 person. You need to look at the person who
20 is running and examine their, you know, what
21 do they have, the same likes and dislikes
22 like you have. You know, like, I get a kick
23 out of I saw signs, yard signs out, and I
24 seen yard signs side by side for one name
25 and a different name and these two people

1 totally disagree on everything. They don't
2 agree on everything, but yet their yard
3 signs are side by side, so that tells me
4 that that's a voter who is not paying
5 attention. He's just voting -- he or she is
6 just voting for someone because he knows
7 them or he is a relative or something like
8 that, so people really need to -- we have
9 six months left before the election and
10 people really need to take the time to
11 really look at who they are voting for and
12 why they are voting for, and that includes
13 the school board also because let's face it
14 the city's in dire distress 25 years, coming
15 up on 9,000 days.

16 I mean, now the school board. I
17 mean, look it, they are what \$33 million in
18 the hole or something like that? It's a
19 ridiculous number. I mean, does anybody
20 know exactly how deep of hole the City of
21 Scranton is in? Does anybody have a
22 guesstimate? How many millions is it?
23 Anybody willing to take shot?

24 MR. EVANS: It's a moving target.

25 MR. JACKOWITZ: What's that?

1 MR. EVANS: It's a moving target.

2 MR. JACKOWITZ: Okay. You know, I
3 mean, sooner or later that has got to end.
4 It's either going to end one or the other.
5 There is no longer going to be a City of
6 Scranton or someone is going to come in and
7 take charge and really do the right things
8 and get the city back on the right track
9 again, and it's not going to happen
10 overnight. It's going to take years and
11 years and years but, remember, when you go
12 out and vote this time pay attention to who
13 you're voting for and why you are voting for
14 them. Have a good reason for voting for
15 them.

16 MR. WECHSLER: Anyone else?

17 MS. REED: FIFTH ORDER. 5-A. MOTIONS.

18 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Perry?

19 MR. PERRY: Yeah, I just have two
20 quick items tonight. The first item that
21 Mr. Spindler brought up, Mrs. Reed, if we
22 could just send a letter to DPW and see if
23 there is anything that needs to be finished
24 at the depression, I guess we'll call it,
25 the depression on Dorothy Street by the park

1 and see if we can finally finish that job
2 off once and for all. I know they responded
3 to that very quickly at first and I just
4 want to get this work completed and get it
5 off our list so we can move onto something
6 else.

7 Second item I want to bring up is on
8 a very positive note about the property on
9 Maple Street that we got word on that has
10 been finally closed down and shut down for
11 good. We got our letter in, I'll just give
12 it a quick read. This is from the attorney
13 from the Manor on Maple Street. "This is to
14 advise you that all of the residents have
15 been vacated from the property on Cedar
16 Avenue in compliance with the Court's most
17 recent order. Also, please be advised that
18 this property was sold at the most recent
19 judicial tax sale and, therefore, no longer
20 owned by my client."

21 So everybody is out of this
22 facility, which as we all remember was right
23 by the school, which they kept reapplying
24 for extensions and the board had granted
25 extensions to operate basically illegally

1 without the proper zoning codes to operate
2 that facility, but they are all gone and I
3 just want thank the neighborhood for staying
4 involved and keeping that issue in the
5 public light and that really helped
6 facilitate things, and then I also have to
7 give credit to LIPS Department and Director
8 Hinton for seeing this through to the end.
9 I know when this was brought up to our
10 council a couple of the weeks ago we reached
11 out to him and he made sure that there be no
12 more extensions and, you know, we have to
13 give credit where credit is due and he made
14 sure there was no other extensions.

15 And I'll reserve all my comments for
16 agenda items. That's all I have tonight,
17 Mr. Wechsler.

18 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr. Perry.
19 Mr. Rogan?

20 MR. ROGAN: Two brief items and then
21 one I'll talk a little bit more at length.
22 Regarding Pennswood Manor, I agree with
23 Councilman Perry, I'm very happy to see that
24 that was shut down. I have heard from some
25 residents in South Scranton, and I don't

1 even want to say the address because at this
2 point they are just a rumor, that the
3 occupants of Pennswood Manor have moved to
4 another location still living in the same
5 general area in South Scranton, so that's
6 something that we are looking into. I
7 obviously, it is a small win -- or a large
8 actually that Pennswood is shut down and
9 hopefully they will do something productive
10 with that facility. It is a new owner and a
11 fresh start.

12 Regarding any changes with the
13 garbage fee, you know, I mentioned that I
14 favor the per bag or hybrid fee, something
15 to eliminate the \$300 flat fee, I believe it
16 was Mr. Dobrzyn that brought up paying for
17 recycling, speaking for myself, I would
18 never support any proposal where residents
19 would have to pay for recycling. Recycling
20 always should be free. It saves the city
21 money and it's good for the environment so I
22 certainly wouldn't ever support any proposal
23 that made recycling, you know, that have
24 residents have to pay for.

25 I want to talk a little bit at

1 length about something today, Councilman
2 Evans and myself had a meeting with
3 representatives from Neighbor Works
4 Northeastern Pennsylvania. If you recall,
5 awhile back, we passed legislation and
6 Councilman Evans will go a little more into
7 the history of how we got to where we are
8 today for Homebuyers' Assistance Program for
9 properties that need rehabilitation, so I
10 wanted to give a little update on where we
11 stand and talk a little bit about our
12 meeting today.

13 So the existing pilot program that
14 myself and Neighbor Works drew up, the first
15 five recipients, three projects are
16 completed, two are construction or progress
17 and there are seven more applications
18 pending that are waiting for funding.

19 Planning for Phase II of this
20 program is up and running and, again, this
21 will be for 2017/2018. Phase II funding has
22 dedicated approximately \$35,000 towards the
23 program in anticipating serving 12 clients
24 through the program within an additional
25 \$25,000 from Scranton. Neighbor Works

1 Northeastern Pennsylvania will be targeting
2 income buyers of West Scranton as part of
3 it's larger neighborhood rehabilitation
4 incentive proposed in another project.

5 If you recall, this is the
6 assistance for first time homebuyers who are
7 buying a blighted property to fix up the
8 property, so there is three of them that we
9 have actually great before and after
10 pictures. One is 545 Quincy Avenue. I know
11 you can't see it on TV, but really a great
12 job that was done on that property. The
13 second one is 2023 Price Street, which they
14 did a great job as well, and the third is
15 the most striking before and after, it's
16 1518 Luzerne Street, and if you look, I know
17 you can't see it, but on the left-hand side
18 you have an old dilapidated building with
19 basically there is no paint left on the
20 building it's in such bad shape, and then on
21 the right-hand side it's completely new with
22 vinyl siding and a beautiful American flag
23 hanging from the front.

24 I believe 1518 Luzerne Street wasn't
25 paying any taxes prior to this couple buying

1 the property and rehabbing it. So we did
2 talk about moving forward and trying to grow
3 this program using both city money, which
4 has already been allocated funding through
5 OECD, which the application period is just
6 opening up, so their 2017-2018 plan is not
7 only this program but to use this money
8 along with other funding streams that
9 Neighbor Works has to really leverage this
10 into a much bigger project for Scranton.

11 So the West Scranton Neighborhood
12 Revitalization Plan includes helping create
13 a pocket park collaborative to improve
14 neighborhood parks, undertake a significant
15 neighborhood plan in home repair projects
16 with volunteer groups. Working with the
17 newly founded Lackawanna County Land Bank to
18 identify clusters of blighted properties for
19 acquisition and development. Conducting
20 community impact measurement by canvassing
21 the residents and documenting their hopes
22 and goals for the neighborhood.

23 Additional grants that were received
24 are going to be used for three items, the
25 home matter repair initiative volunteer

1 services program. We will address health
2 and safety needs of aging homeowners by
3 hosting approximately four volunteer events
4 throughout the distressed neighborhood in
5 West Scranton. Installing 250 motion
6 activated solar powered lights through the
7 light our town program, and distributing 250
8 home battery repair kits.

9 What I love about this, and the next
10 two that I'm going to mention, is much of
11 the focus of what we are doing is always on
12 getting new home buyers and getting new
13 people in. These three items are going to
14 help existing homeowners in the City of
15 Scranton, particularly those in West
16 Scranton and older people who aren't able to
17 repair their homes. The solar-powered
18 security lights are great because it makes
19 the neighborhoods more bright and provides
20 an extra layer of the security in that
21 neighborhood.

22 Number two is the home matters
23 repair incentives that's an aging in place
24 program. They'll serve approximately 15
25 homeowners age 16 or older in West Scranton

1 with critical home repairs such as roof or
2 siding repair replacement, plumbing and
3 electrical updates, insulation and heating
4 system repair replacement as well as
5 modifications that impact aging in place
6 such as bathrooms, kitchen, hallway
7 modifications, wheelchair ramps, grab bars
8 and railing system.

9 This section of the program will,
10 again, help on the outside for keeping
11 properties in good condition, but especially
12 for older residents helping with
13 modifications, especially as residents age a
14 lot of time wheelchair ramps are needed and
15 different handicapped accessible bathrooms.

16 And, finally, the home matters
17 repair incentive, which is what I talked
18 about at the beginning with these three
19 examples of homes that were completely
20 transformed, they will provide approximately
21 12 new homebuyers in West Scranton \$5,000
22 grant assistance for use in making exterior
23 repairs and renovations immediately after
24 they're purchased.

25 I know Councilman Evans is going to

1 talk a little bit more about how we were
2 able to get to this point with this program,
3 but although the media doesn't like to
4 report about positive items this one
5 certainly has been a home run for the city
6 and it's going to continue to be an even
7 bigger and better project moving forward and
8 help other senior citizens and young
9 families. Thank you.

10 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr. Rogan.
11 Mr. Evans?

12 MR. EVANS: Thank you. So I'm going
13 to continue veer off a little bit and talk
14 about something that is completely positive,
15 as Councilman Rogan just discussed, the
16 meeting we had today and the update with
17 Neighbor Works. So I'm going to start at
18 the beginning about how this all started. As
19 some of you remember, Councilman Rogan
20 contacted a company that was interested in
21 doing a foreclosed property registration, so
22 we received the presentation and all council
23 decided it was a great opportunity for the
24 city. So the company would register all
25 foreclosed property and charge the banks a

1 \$200 fee for registration. The company
2 would receive \$100 as part of their work
3 they did and the city would receive \$100 for
4 it's share. It was estimated at the time
5 there was probably 300 foreclosed properties
6 in Scranton when the program first started.
7 This accomplished several things: First, it
8 gave License and Inspections a database for
9 these properties as well as contact
10 information with the banks that wasn't
11 previously available. Certainly gave us the
12 flexibility to respond to a problem of a
13 foreclosed property, for example, high grass
14 or snow removal or even security at the
15 property. It also gave the city about a
16 \$100,000 new revenue source.

17 This is where the second part of the
18 story begins. Councilman Rogan and I formed
19 a subcommittee to determine what might be a
20 better use of the funds than to put the
21 money into the black hole of inefficiency
22 that's also known as the general fund.

23 We came up with a strategy to use
24 funds for first time homebuyers in the city.
25 Another enticement if you were to purchase

1 the home in Scranton through a series of
2 \$5,000 grants to do improvements mainly to
3 the exterior of the home purchased. This
4 would certainly help first time homebuyers,
5 but it would also improve the exterior
6 appearance, which improves the block, which
7 improves the neighborhood, which also
8 improves the city as a whole.

9 We felt strongly that we should have
10 a public private partnership in this and
11 take this decision making process in
12 marketing the program outside the
13 bureaucratic walls of city hall. Through an
14 RFP process, Neighbor Works of Northeastern,
15 PA were selected.

16 That would leave us to part three,
17 which Councilman Rogan went over quite
18 in-depth, but the Scranton Homeowners
19 Assistance Program or SHAP has been
20 extremely successful. To date, there are
21 five recipients of grants, three are
22 completed, two are in the pipeline and
23 progress and seven additional applications
24 are pending review and additional funding.

25 The program is so successful that

1 Neighbor Works has now secured another
2 \$35,000 to move things forward even more.
3 This is an example of how government can
4 foster positive change, come up with a
5 strategic plan and then get out the way.
6 This city council conceived and backed this
7 vision almost a year ago and now it is a
8 true success story.

9 So that's my positive comments for
10 tonight. That's all I have.

11 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr. Evans.
12 Mr. Gaughan?

13 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, thank you. Just a
14 few items. I continue to get calls about
15 the garbage fee discount. Elderly people
16 have reached out to me over the last two or
17 three months, they come down to the Treasury
18 Department, they go to pay their garbage
19 bill, they expect a \$30 discount on it and
20 they are not getting it. So we discussed
21 this at length in caucus, again, because I
22 have so many people reaching out to me and
23 the administration has said that they are
24 not going to give these people the \$30
25 discount. So we did have our solicitor, Mr.

1 Minora, kind of look into and I think we are
2 going to come up with I guess an amendment
3 to the legislation, but can you explain a
4 little bit, Solicitor Minora, just kind of
5 where we are with us and what the
6 administration is -- what their position is
7 because, again, I keep getting phone calls
8 and e-mails about this issue?

9 MR. MINORA: As best I can
10 understand the position, and I just reread
11 the legislation, so I'm a little confused,
12 but evidently the bills were printed such
13 that if a building had more than one unit it
14 contained the total number of units. For
15 instance, there was a double bill, it was
16 \$300. The administration took the position
17 that if one-half was unoccupied you had to
18 prove that at the end of the year by bills
19 and then you wouldn't be charged for the
20 additional unit but that you were ineligible
21 for the discount on the unit you were
22 occupying. I'm sorry, I disagree with the
23 interpretation of how it was done. I'm not
24 sure why they chose to interpret it the way
25 they did, but as we were here tonight I'm

1 trying to make some changes and I'm going to
2 suggest to the solicitor and hopefully we
3 can have that back down to us in a week or
4 so.

5 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you very much.
6 Again, and I hate to dwell on this issue
7 and, you know, sound like broken record, but
8 it just defies logic that, you know, these
9 people come down to pay their garbage bill
10 and they are getting, I think, they are
11 getting ripped off from \$30. It may not
12 seem a like a lot of money to some people,
13 but it is to most people throughout the
14 city. So whatever this council can do to
15 rectify that we are going to look into it,
16 but I just can't believe the administration
17 is taking this position. It does not make
18 any sense to me.

19 Just a few citizen's requests. 523
20 North Rebecca Avenue, I know I brought that
21 property up before over in West Scranton and
22 it is on the demolition list. I'm not
23 exactly sure when it is going to be torn
24 down, but I continue to get phone calls
25 about that property. It's my belief that

1 neighbors should not have to live and suffer
2 next to that home which is literally falling
3 apart, the back porch just collapsed,
4 throughout the whole summer. The grass is a
5 mess, again, the house is falling apart, so
6 if we could send another letter to
7 Mr. Hinton asking that an emergency
8 demolition occur as soon as possible because
9 this property actually impacts public
10 safety.

11 The 900 block of Brook Street there
12 is a property that neighbors are complaining
13 about so we are going to forward that to
14 Licensing and Inspections. We sent another
15 request in for potholes at Crisp Avenue and
16 Jackson Street, Crisp Avenue and Frink
17 Street, Deto Court in West Scranton is also
18 in need of patching. I received several
19 complaints about 1125 West Locust Street in
20 West Scranton, neighbors are concerned about
21 that property as well so we are going to
22 send that along to Licensing and
23 Inspections.

24 We received a letter from residents
25 in the 900 block of Clearview Street where

1 we are having some major issues with backup
2 sewer water in basements after thunderstorms
3 due to blocked sewer lines so we are going
4 to forward that to the proper department and
5 hopefully that gets taken care of.

6 As for the town mall meeting that
7 mayor announced last week, I'm still kind of
8 mystified as to why we don't have a date yet
9 but, you know, we will continue to wait for
10 that. And I would like to ask, if my
11 colleagues would be willing in the spirit of
12 the transparency, to invite the mayor to use
13 council chambers for the town hall meeting
14 when he does come up with a date and ask
15 that that council meeting be televised for
16 the public for those people who cannot make
17 it, so hopefully my colleagues would agree
18 to that and we can send that request to
19 Mayor Courtright.

20 Now, I do plan on making a motion in
21 a second to ask the Attorney General to
22 examine the transaction between the Sewer
23 Authority and the Pennsylvania American
24 Water, but before I do that I'd like to read
25 two or three excerpts from a letter from

1 Governor Wolf to then Attorney General Bruce
2 Beemer, and this is concerning the
3 management of the Philadelphia Parking
4 Authority. Now, the Philadelphia Parking
5 Authority and what's going on with the Sewer
6 Authority I think are two different things,
7 but I just want to read some excerpts here
8 from Governor Wolf's letter to Attorney
9 General Beemer. He says, "The agency
10 remains uniquely opaque in state government.
11 It was established without significant
12 oversight and it remains largely so policed.

13 As you are aware, state law gives
14 the Attorney General the express authority
15 to examine the books, accounts and records
16 of municipal authorities. I believe it
17 would be appropriate for a thorough
18 examination of the financial dealings and
19 practices of the authority to be conducted
20 as soon as possible. As stewards of the
21 taxpayers resources, it is our job to make
22 sure every office of government is
23 delivering value honestly, efficiently and
24 effectively.

25 Recent events make it clear that we

1 cannot say with any certainty that the
2 Philadelphia Parking Authority is living up
3 to this standard."

4 So those are just some excerpts from
5 a letter that Governor Wolf sent to the then
6 Attorney General Bruce Beemer about the
7 Philadelphia Parking Authority, and I bring
8 that up because I agree with one statement
9 that he made here, that it's our job as
10 stewards of the taxpayer resources to make
11 sure that every office of government is
12 delivering value honestly, efficiently and
13 effectively. And I would say that in the
14 past six months, as Governor Wolf said, make
15 it clear that we cannot say with certainty,
16 with absolute certainty, that the Scranton
17 Sewer Authority is living up to this
18 standard, and some of the events that have
19 taken place, the stonewalling, the recent
20 Sewer Authority meeting, made me even more
21 concerned than I already was.

22 So I would like to make a motion
23 that Scranton City Council send
24 correspondence requesting that the Attorney
25 General of Pennsylvania examine the

1 transaction between the Scranton Sewer
2 Authority and Pennsylvania American Water.

3 MR. EVANS: Second.

4 MR. WECHSLER: There is a motion on
5 the floor and a second, on the question?

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.
7 Again, as I mentioned, I remain deeply
8 concerned about the lack of transparency
9 surrounding the sale of the Scranton Sewer
10 authority to Pennsylvania American Water.
11 The vote taken last week by the Sewer
12 Authority Board denying the Auditor General
13 the right to audit the transaction only
14 furthered my concerns, and as I mentioned
15 last week, it was one of the more bizarre
16 meetings that I have ever seen taking place.
17 Keep in mind, members of the Sewer Authority
18 Board are supposed to be independent and
19 have the best interest of the ratepayers in
20 mind. That vote taken last week in the
21 Governor's Room totally puts all of that
22 into question.

23 I was also stunned, absolutely
24 stunned to read Mayor Courtright's quote in
25 the paper recently that he didn't know that

1 there was so many questions about the Sewer
2 Authority deal. I have been asking
3 questions, along with my colleagues, now
4 publically for six months. Where is the
5 mayor? Now all of a sudden because of
6 public pressure he is going to have a town
7 hall meeting, date to be determined. It
8 just doesn't add up for me. It doesn't make
9 me feel comfortable about anything.

10 Also, we received at 5:00 this
11 afternoon unredacted invoices from legal
12 work that was done in relation to the sale
13 of Scranton Sewer Authority. Again, I
14 appreciate that, I haven't had a chance to
15 take a look at it, why did it take six
16 months? That's the question that I have to
17 ask. Why did it take six months? It's
18 absolutely absurd. The Scranton Sewer
19 Authority last week votes against allowing
20 the unredacted invoices to be released, then
21 the next day the chairman of the board says,
22 "It's okay, we'll release them."

23 For six months the answer that we
24 have gotten from this board is
25 attorney/client privilege so my question is

1 where is the attorney/client privilege now?
2 Where is the confidentiality that they were
3 stonewalling us for for six months?

4 So, again, in light of the lack of
5 transparency, in light of the unanswered
6 questions I believe that it would be
7 appropriate for the Attorney General to
8 examine this deal. Let me preface again all
9 of my comments by saying I'm accusing
10 anybody of any criminal action, which may be
11 associated with the Attorney General, I'm
12 simply asking the Attorney General to come
13 in and examine the books, the records and
14 the transaction. I would have liked the
15 Auditor General to do that, but obviously
16 the Scranton Sewer Authority Board shut the
17 door on that last week. So I do believe
18 that in light of the events of the past six
19 months this is the next logical step due to
20 the public outcry and concern and for me
21 this whole issue is about public trust. I'd
22 love nothing more to get this issue behind
23 us and focus on something else, but we could
24 have all the town hall meetings we want, we
25 could have all the invoices laid out on the

1 table six months later, but until an
2 independent third party takes a look at this
3 deal I certainly will not be comfortable
4 that it was done with the best interest of
5 the ratepayers of Scranton and Dunmore in
6 mind. Thank you.

7 MR. EVANS: On the question, excuse
8 me, I think we have obligation, I said this
9 before, to do whatever we can to get the
10 answers and five or six months later we are
11 still not there. Tonight was a good start,
12 we received the information on the
13 attorneys' fees and consulting fees
14 unredacted, I still haven't had a chance to
15 go through it, but missing in action still
16 is the explanation for the money that was
17 spent during the contract period, it could
18 be \$8 million, it could be \$9 million, it
19 could be \$10, we don't even know. We are
20 told that it was on mandated items, we don't
21 know that. We haven't seen any invoices to
22 support that, so we have take the
23 extraordinary step tonight to ask the
24 Attorney General to look at this and this is
25 an extraordinary step. I thought we would

1 never get to this point. The Auditor
2 General should have been the one to do it,
3 the SSA Board rebuffed that and here we are
4 tonight doing what we think is the right
5 thing to do to get the answers necessary.
6 So I will be voting for this motion and
7 support this motion. I will say that,
8 again, the process of the providing this
9 information to us both post-closing has been
10 nothing less a disaster so hopefully and
11 finally we will get it to the information we
12 need to make an informed decision as to what
13 happened to the money, so I'm voting "yes."

14 MR. PERRY: Yes, on the question.
15 At 4:00 today I would have been in support
16 of this motion, but with this new
17 information that we got when I walked in
18 council chambers today I was just personally
19 like time to review it. When I say this
20 stack of the papers is five inches high it
21 is, and I want time to read it over to see
22 what's actually in there before we
23 officially request the help from the AG to
24 take a look at this. Do I wish that it
25 didn't come to this? Absolutely. I thought

1 the SSA Board wouldn't do the right thing,
2 would have brought in the Auditor General
3 and have this just taken care of once and
4 for all. With that being said, before we
5 take this next step I just want to review
6 all of the information that I have at my
7 fingertips before I bring some else in right
8 now. I reserve the right to go ahead and
9 totally support this next week if I feel
10 like I'm not satisfied.

11 MR. WECHSLER: Yes, on the question,
12 as was stated we all would have preferred
13 the Auditor General to come in and do this.
14 I believe this is more his area of expertise
15 and the Attorney General, even though the
16 Attorney General does have the right to do
17 this. Unfortunately, city council does not
18 have standing to make that request. I am
19 concerned about bringing the Attorney
20 General's name into this whole discussion
21 just from the standpoint of people hear that
22 name there is a suggestion that there may be
23 some criminality involved in this. I don't
24 believe there is any criminality involved in
25 this, but the problems for us is that we

1 don't have any other alternative to get an
2 independent agency in here by our request.
3 And, once again, we are making this request
4 but it is going to be at the Attorney
5 General's discretion to come in and take a
6 look at this. So the fact tonight all we
7 are actually doing is writing a letter
8 asking the Attorney General to possibly come
9 in and take a look at this situation.

10 I don't think it's fair at this
11 point request information from people and
12 when they are provide it say it's suspect.
13 We requested this information since January,
14 it hasn't been provided, we all know that
15 it's public pressure that has resulted in
16 this information being released to us. I
17 believe public pressure is also going to
18 what's needed to release the clarification
19 and information on the difference of the
20 sale price and the proceeds price. That's
21 another matter that's going to have to be
22 cleared up.

23 I don't think that we can minimize
24 the fact that the town mall meeting is
25 taking place. Once again, it's public

1 pressure that's pushing this town meeting be
2 held. I don't think you can criticize
3 somebody for not doing something for months
4 and then when we decide to do something
5 criticize them for that. This is an attempt
6 to bring answers out. Most of us feel right
7 now we are going to need more than those
8 answers, we are going to need some third
9 party. Last week council kicked around an
10 idea of perhaps council coming up with
11 funding to hire an another independent audit
12 that would work for council. We are still
13 kicking that idea around, but we are not
14 sure if the Attorney General is going to
15 take us up on this question.

16 There also is a possibility that the
17 Sewer Authority could reconsider their vote
18 and ask the Auditor General to come in, and
19 as we see, as Mr. Gaughan mentioned, last
20 Friday there was one answer in terms of
21 releasing the documents, and this week there
22 is another answer, and we got one item. So
23 I would encourage the Sewer Authority to
24 reconsider their position on allowing the
25 Auditor General to come in on this vote.

1 As Mr. Perry stated, I don't believe
2 there is any benefit to waiting to write
3 this letter. The Auditor General will
4 decide on his own whether he will come in or
5 not, so I don't believe that the language in
6 the letter would make much difference.

7 MR. ROGAN: I would agree with much
8 of what's been said. Obviously, we would
9 much prefer the Auditor General to come in
10 because it would be the proper person to
11 conduct an audit, but as was mentioned by
12 Councilman Wechsler, you know, we want to
13 get this information out there and be able
14 to move on and continue to move forward with
15 what right now is it the most important use
16 of the proceeds, which I know hasn't been
17 talked about a whole lot, but there is tens
18 off millions of dollars waiting to be spent
19 in a way that benefits the taxpayers the
20 most, so I will support the motion to get
21 the information out there, but we need, you
22 know, turn that over to outside agencies and
23 then council needs to focus on how to get
24 the most bang for the buck for the taxpayers
25 because of the sale.

1 Obviously, without the sale you
2 would be looking at 100 percent tax increase
3 and the state taking over the city. Because
4 of the sale, it has thrown the city a
5 lifeline and it's our job to make sure that
6 that money is used in the way that is the
7 most possible, most bang for the buck but at
8 the same time we need to insure that every
9 dollar is accounted for within the deal as
10 well.

11 MR. WECHSLER: I would like to add
12 one thing, we will prepare the letter, but
13 I'd like Solicitor Minora to review it
14 before we submit it so we will get that done
15 as soon as possible and get it in the mail
16 as soon as possible, if it passes, I'm
17 sorry. All those in favor signify by saying
18 aye.

19 MR. EVANS: Aye.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

21 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

22 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed?

23 MR. PERRY: No.

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

1 MR. GAUGHAN: And that's all I have
2 this week. Thank you.

3 MR. WECHSLER: I forgot it was my
4 turn. Just a few items, I did contact
5 Business Administrator Bulzoni this week in
6 terms of preparing the request for a
7 proposal for engineering studies out at the
8 Young and Kennedy properties and Mr. Bulzoni
9 is preparing that information. As I
10 mentioned earlier on this evening, I did
11 talk to Director of Parks about the tree
12 house. He said the City Engineering
13 Department is doing an extensive review of
14 the tree house and at this time it has not
15 been completed yet.

16 I did attend two Memorial Day
17 services, both unique in their own ways. It
18 was the first year that I missed the Nay
19 Aug, which is very enjoyable, but this year
20 we went to the Connors Park. Bob Gattens
21 requested that I attend that ceremony, which
22 I was enthusiastic about doing. Mr. Gattens
23 is kind of the steward of that park, he
24 lives across the street from there, and the
25 park has come under a renaissance under the

1 watchful eye of those neighbors down there.
2 We heard this evening about the small
3 library at the park. Many uses, daily uses
4 of people so I would encourage anyone that
5 has any books that they could take down to
6 that library would be well appreciated.

7 The park is a memorial to our friend
8 Bob McGoff and it's just a testament that
9 Bob has come into that neighborhood and that
10 that park is striving.

11 The other service that I attend was
12 at Cathedral Cemetery held by the
13 Koch-Conley Post, and the most interesting
14 thing that happened there that day is that
15 the scheduled singer of the national anthem,
16 Paulette Costa I think is her name, was sick
17 that day so Colonel Albert, Colonel Joe
18 Albert asked me to lead the singing of the
19 national anthem at the ceremony. I declined
20 to say -- as fast as I could say no I said
21 no, but the most amazing thing happened that
22 day. Without a singer, Colonel Albert began
23 the singing of the national anthem on his
24 own, there was probably 75, 80 people there,
25 and all joined in and sang it and it was the

1 best rendering of the national anthem that I
2 have heard in several years. I commend
3 everyone that there was that day and made
4 that such an enjoyable experience.

5 And since we doing good news on
6 Thursday this week I would like to
7 congratulate the Oakmont Neighborhood
8 Association. The city provided -- Brian
9 Fallon, the city provided them mulch for the
10 playground and the Oakmont neighborhood
11 residents spread the mulch themselves in
12 their park, and congratulations to them for
13 that. And that is all I have.

14 MS. REED: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION - AN
15 ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING ONE (1) R6-IL
16 HORIZONTAL LEFT ONE-WAY SIGN AND ONE (1)
17 R6-IR HORIZONTAL RIGHT ONE-WAY SIGN BE
18 INSTALLED BACK TO BACK AT THE EASTERLY
19 CORNER OF VINE STREET AND MONROE AVENUE AND
20 THE EXISTING DO NOT ENTER SIGN AT THE
21 WESTERLY CORNER OF MONROE AVENUE AND VINE
22 STREET BE PLUMBED TO A VERTICAL POSITION.

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

1 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

2 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

6 MR. PERRY: Aye.

7 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

8 MR. EVANS: Aye.

9 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

12 MS. REED: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION – A
13 RESOLUTION – AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
14 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND
15 ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH JIM WILLIAMS
16 D/B/A JIM WILLIAMS SURPLUS FOR GRASS CUTTING
17 AT THE TAYLOR LANDFILL FOR CALENDAR YEAR
18 2017 CONTRACT TO EXPIRE NOVEMBER 30, 2017
19 FOR A LUMP SUM BID OF \$8,949.00.

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

23 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

24 MR. EVANS: Second.

25 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

1 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question, each
2 time this comes up there are questions about
3 why the city has to pay someone to cut the
4 grass at the Taylor Landfill, and just to
5 remind everyone, the city is mandated by the
6 Environmental Protection Agency to provide
7 maintenance to the fence and cut the grass
8 at the landfill. This city was assigned
9 permanent maintenance of that site, which
10 used to be an old city landfill and the city
11 is obligated through the settlement
12 agreement with the EPA and we award an
13 annual contract for these services, so we
14 are mandated to do this and that is why it
15 has to be done. Thank you.

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

18 MR. PERRY: Aye.

19 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

20 MR. EVANS: Aye.

21 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

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

1 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND
2 ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH DUNBAR'S
3 EVERGREEN LANDSCAPING, INC. FOR FLOOD
4 PROJECT LEVEE CUTTING OF SOUTH SCRANTON,
5 ALBRIGHT, PLOT AND GREEN RIDGE LEVEES FOR A
6 TWO (2) YEAR SEASONAL PERIOD BEGINNING MAY
7 15, 2017 THROUGH OCTOBER 31, 2017 AND MAY
8 15, 2018 THROUGH OCTOBER 31, 2018 FOR A
9 TOTAL BID PRICE OF \$29,000.00.

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

13 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

14 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

18 MR. PERRY: Aye.

19 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

20 MR. EVANS: Aye.

21 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

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

1 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND
2 ENTER INTO A CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CITY OF
3 SCRANTON AND THE SCRANTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
4 WITH JOSEPH M. ALU AND ASSOCIATES TO PERFORM
5 THE SCRANTON SINGLE TAX OFFICE INDEPENDENT
6 AUDIT FOR FISCAL YEARS ENDING DECEMBER 31,
7 2015 AND DECEMBER 31, 2016.

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

11 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

12 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

16 MR. PERRY: Aye.

17 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

18 MR. EVANS: Aye.

19 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

22 MS. REED: SIXTH ORDER. 6-A. NO
23 BUSINESS AT THIS TIME.

24 SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR
25 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC

1 WORKS - FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF THE COUNCIL
2 NO. 100, 2017 - AUTHORIZING THE SECRETARY OF
3 TRANSPORTATION TO ACQUIRE RIGHT-OF-WAY
4 NECESSARY FOR THE WEST LACKAWANNA AVENUE
5 BRIDGE DOCUMENT NO. 04M173 AS PART OF THE
6 CITY OF SCRANTON OWNED BRIDGE PROJECT.

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

10 MR. GAUGHAN: As Chairperson for the
11 Committee on Public Works, 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 declare

1 Item 7-A legally and lawfully adopted.

2 MS. REED: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION BY
3 THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS - FOR ADOPTION
4 - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 101, 2017 -
5 AUTHORIZING THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION
6 TO ACQUIRE RIGHT-OF-WAY NECESSARY FOR THE
7 ELM STREET BRIDGE DOCUMENT NO. 04M171 AS
8 PART OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON OWNED BRIDGE
9 PROJECT.

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

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

16 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

19 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

20 MR. PERRY: Yes.

21 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

22 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

23 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

24 MR. EVANS: Yes.

25 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

1 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

2 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

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

5 MS. REED: 7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION BY
6 THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS - FOR ADOPTION
7 - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 102, 2017 -
8 AUTHORIZING THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION
9 TO ACQUIRE RIGHT-OF-WAY NECESSARY FOR THE
10 NORTH MAIN AVENUE BRIDGE DOCUMENT NO. 04M172
11 AS PART OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON OWNED BRIDGE
12 PROJECT.

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

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

19 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

23 MR. PERRY: Yes.

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

25 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

2 MR. EVANS: Yes.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

4 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

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

8 MS. REED: 7-D. FOR CONSIDERATION BY
9 THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS - FOR ADOPTION
10 - RESOLUTION NO. 153, 2017 - AUTHORIZING THE
11 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS
12 TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT BY
13 AND BETWEEN THE LACKAWANNA HERITAGE VALLEY
14 AUTHORITY AND THE CITY OF SCRANTON
15 PERTAINING TO THE MAINTENANCE OF THE TWO (2)
16 STAMPED BITUMINOUS ASPHALT CROSSINGS AT THE
17 INTERSECTION OF OLIVE STREET CROSSINGS AND
18 THE LACKAWANNA RIVER HERITAGE TRAIL.

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

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

25 MR. ROGAN: Second.

1 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

2 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question, I
3 just want to use this as an opportunity to
4 commend everyone who works at the Lackawanna
5 Heritage Valley Authority. They have done
6 an outstanding job, as has been noted here
7 quite often, and I think that everyone in
8 Scranton is looking for a walkable community
9 and a bike friendly community and they are
10 certainly doing a wonderful job so I want to
11 commend them for their great work over the
12 last few years.

13 MR. WECHSLER: Roll call, please?

14 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

15 MR. PERRY: Yes.

16 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

17 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

18 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

19 MR. EVANS: Yes.

20 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

21 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

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

25 MS. REED: 7-E. FOR CONSIDERATION BY

1 THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS - FOR ADOPTION
2 - RESOLUTION NO. 154, 2017 - AUTHORIZING THE
3 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS
4 TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT BY
5 AND BETWEEN THE LACKAWANNA HERITAGE VALLEY
6 AUTHORITY AND THE CITY OF SCRANTON
7 PERTAINING TO THE MAINTENANCE OF THE STAMPED
8 BITUMINOUS ASPHALT CROSSING AT THE
9 INTERSECTION OF NAY AUG AVENUE CROSSING AND
10 THE LACKAWANNA RIVER HERITAGE TRAIL.

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

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

17 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

20 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

21 MR. PERRY: Yes.

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

23 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

25 MR. EVANS: Yes.

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

2 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

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

6 MS. REED: 7-F. FOR CONSIDERATION BY
7 THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS - FOR ADOPTION
8 - RESOLUTION NO. 155, 2017 - AUTHORIZING THE
9 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS
10 TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT BY
11 AND BETWEEN THE LACKAWANNA HERITAGE VALLEY
12 AUTHORITY AND THE CITY OF SCRANTON
13 PERTAINING TO THE MAINTENANCE OF THE STAMPED
14 BITUMINOUS ASPHALT CROSSING AT THE
15 INTERSECTION OF ALBRIGHT AVENUE CROSSING AND
16 THE LACKAWANNA RIVER HERITAGE TRAIL.

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

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

23 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

2 MR. PERRY: Yes.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

4 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

6 MR. EVANS: Yes.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

8 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

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

12 MS. REED: 7-G. FOR CONSIDERATION BY
13 THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS - FOR ADOPTION
14 - RESOLUTION NO. 156, 2017 - AUTHORIZING THE
15 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS
16 TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT BY
17 AND BETWEEN THE LACKAWANNA HERITAGE VALLEY
18 AUTHORITY AND THE CITY OF SCRANTON
19 PERTAINING TO THE MAINTENANCE OF THE STAMPED
20 BITUMINOUS ASPHALT CROSSING AT THE
21 INTERSECTION OF POPLAR STREET CROSSING AND
22 THE LACKAWANNA RIVER HERITAGE TRAIL.

23 MR. WECHSLER: What is the
24 recommendation of the Chairperson for the
25 Committee on Public Works?

1 MR. GAUGHAN: As Chairperson for the
2 Committee on Public Works, I recommend final
3 passage of Item 7-G.

4 MR. ROGAN: Second.

5 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?
6 Roll call, please?

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

8 MR. PERRY: Yes.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

10 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

12 MR. EVANS: Yes.

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

14 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

16 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby declare
17 Item 7-G legally and lawfully adopted.

18 MS. REED: 7-H. FOR CONSIDERATION BY
19 THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS - FOR ADOPTION
20 - RESOLUTION NO. 157, 2017 - AUTHORIZING THE
21 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS
22 TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT BY
23 AND BETWEEN THE LACKAWANNA HERITAGE VALLEY
24 AUTHORITY AND THE CITY OF SCRANTON
25 PERTAINING TO THE MAINTENANCE OF THE STAMPED

1 BITUMINOUS ASPHALT CROSSING AT THE
2 INTERSECTION OF EAST MARKET STREET CROSSING
3 AND THE LACKAWANNA RIVER HERITAGE TRAIL.

4 MR. WECHSLER: What is the
5 recommendation of the Chairperson for the
6 Committee on Public Works?

7 MR. GAUGHAN: As Chairperson for the
8 Committee on Public Works, I recommend final
9 passage of Item 7-H.

10 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

14 MR. PERRY: Yes.

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

16 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

17 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

18 MR. EVANS: Yes.

19 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

21 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

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

24 MS. REED: 7-I. FOR CONSIDERATION BY
25 THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS - FOR ADOPTION

1 - RESOLUTION NO. 158, 2017 - AUTHORIZING THE
2 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS
3 TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT BY
4 AND BETWEEN THE LACKAWANNA HERITAGE VALLEY
5 AUTHORITY AND THE CITY OF SCRANTON
6 PERTAINING TO THE MAINTENANCE OF THE TWO (2)
7 RECTANGULAR RAPID FLASHING BEACON'S
8 ("RRFB'S"), STAMPED BITUMINOUS ASPHALT
9 CROSSINGS AT THE INTERSECTION OF BROADWAY
10 STREET AND THE LACKAWANNA RIVER HERITAGE
11 TRAIL.

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-I.

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 declare
6 Item 7-I legally and lawfully adopted.

7 MS. REED: 7-J, previously tabled.

8 7-K. FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE
9 COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION -
10 RESOLUTION NO. 160, 2017 - AUTHORIZING THE
11 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS
12 TO GRANT A SPECIAL ENCROACHMENT PERMIT TO
13 DAVINCI'S PIZZA TO OPERATE AN OUTDOOR
14 RESTAURANT AT 505 LINDEN STREET, SCRANTON,
15 PENNSYLVANIA.

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

19 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

23 MR. PERRY: Yes.

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

25 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

2 MR. EVANS: Yes.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

4 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

6 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby declare

7 Item 7-K legally and lawfully adopted.

8 MS. REED: 7-L. FOR CONSIDERATION BY
9 THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION -
10 RESOLUTION NO. 161, 2017 - AUTHORIZING THE
11 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS
12 TO GRANT A SPECIAL ENCROACHMENT PERMIT TO
13 CAPAA C/O THE RITZ BUILDING TO OPERATE AN
14 OUTDOOR RESTAURANT AT 222 WYOMING AVENUE,
15 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA.

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

19 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

23 MR. PERRY: Yes.

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

25 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

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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-L 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.

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER