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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Thursday, September 7, 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. There will be  
14 a motion to move Item 5-B to Seventh Order  
15 for final vote based on the attached  
16 emergency certificate. There will be a  
17 second opportunity to speak in Seventh Order  
18 prior to the final passage of this piece of  
19 legislation.

20 Dispense with the reading of the  
21 minutes.

22 Ms REED: THIRD ORDER. 3-A. MINUTES  
23 OF THE REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE LACKAWANNA  
24 COUNTY LAND BANK HELD JUNE 8 AND JULY 20,  
25 2017.

1 MR. WECHSLER: Are there any  
2 comments? If not, received and filed.

3 MS. REED: 3-B. TAX ASSESSOR'S  
4 REPORTS FOR HEARING DATES HELD AUGUST 23,  
5 AUGUST 30 AND SEPTEMBER 6, 2017.

6 MR. WECHSLER: Are there any  
7 comments? If not, received and filed.

8 MS. REED: 3-C. SINGLE TAX OFFICE  
9 CITY FUNDS DISTRIBUTED COMPARISON REPORT  
10 2016-2017 YEAR TO DATE JULY 31, 2017.

11 MR. WECHSLER: Are there any  
12 comments? If not, received and filed.

13 MS. REED: 3-D. CHECK RECEIVED  
14 AUGUST 8, 2017 FROM COMCAST IN THE AMOUNT OF  
15 \$271,106.87 FOR QUARTERLY FRANCHISE FEE  
16 PAYMENT.

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

19 MS. REED: 3-E. TAX ASSESSOR'S  
20 RESULTS REPORT FOR HEARING HELD AUGUST 2,  
21 2017.

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

24 MS. REED: 3-F. CONTROLLER'S REPORT  
25 FOR MONTH ENDING JULY 31, 2017.

1 MR. WECHSLER: Are there any  
2 comments? If not, received and filed.

3 MS. REED: 3-G. MINUTES OF THE  
4 SCRANTON FIREFIGHTERS PENSION COMMISSION  
5 MEETING HELD JULY 19, 2017.

6 MR. WECHSLER: Are there any  
7 comments? If not, received and filed.

8 MS. REED: 3-H. MINUTES OF THE  
9 NON-UNIFORM MUNICIPAL PENSION BOARD MEETING  
10 HELD JULY 19, 2017.

11 MR. WECHSLER: Are there any  
12 comments? If not, received and filed.

13 MS. REED: 3-I. MINUTES OF THE  
14 SCRANTON POLICE PENSION COMMISSION MEETING  
15 HELD JULY 19, 2017.

16 MR. WECHSLER: Are there any  
17 comments? If not, received and filed.

18 MS. REED: 3-J. MINUTES OF THE  
19 COMPOSITE PENSION BOARD MEETING HELD JULY  
20 19, 2017.

21 MR. WECHSLER: Are there any  
22 comments? If not, received and filed.

23 MS. REED: 3-K. AGENDA FOR THE  
24 NON-UNIFORM MUNICIPAL PENSION BOARD MEETING  
25 HELD AUGUST 16, 2017.

1 MR. WECHSLER: Are there any  
2 comments? If not, received and filed.

3 MS. REED: 3-L. AGENDA FOR THE CITY  
4 PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING HELD AUGUST  
5 23, 2017.

6 MR. WECHSLER: Are there any  
7 comments? If not, received and filed.

8 Do any council members have reports  
9 at this time?

10 MR. PERRY: I have one announcement  
11 to make. The Scranton Police Department  
12 will be hosting Fighting for a Cure  
13 spaghetti dinner. It's going to be at  
14 Fratelli's restaurant on Providence Road.  
15 It's going to be October 8 and it's going to  
16 run through October 22. It's going to be 11  
17 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily. Tickets are on sale  
18 now for \$12. It includes spaghetti,  
19 meatball, salad and bread, eat in or  
20 takeout. Tickets are available at police  
21 headquarters or you can call 348-4139 or  
22 558-8301. There is also t-shirts available.  
23 They can be picked up at headquarters as  
24 well, and like always all of the proceeds  
25 for this go to the American Cancer Society.

1 Thank you.

2 MR. WECHSLER: Anyone else?

3 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, I have one.

4 Mayor Shirley Barrett has announced that the  
5 Archbald Borough will be organizing a  
6 Hurricane Harvey Relief Drive and inviting  
7 participation of all municipalities in  
8 Lackawanna County. This collection is made  
9 possible through Kane Trucking's generous  
10 contribution of a trailer for transportation  
11 to effected victims. Items that will be  
12 collected are cleaning supplies such as  
13 brooms, mops, Clorox, detergents, paper  
14 towels, diapers, toilet paper, first aid  
15 kits, blankets, bedsheets, bath towels,  
16 personal care items, soap and winter  
17 clothing.

18 Beginning Thursday, September 7  
19 items maybe be dropped off at the trailer at  
20 the Archbald Borough Municipal building, 400  
21 Church Street, Archbald weekdays between the  
22 hours of 8:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. Any  
23 municipality that needs special collections  
24 can make arrangements by calling Mayor  
25 Shirley Barrett at the Archbald Municipal

1 building. Monetary donations will also be  
2 accepted. Checks should be paid payable to  
3 the American Red Cross and if you need  
4 further information you can call  
5 570-876-1800.

6 I also plan on reaching out to Mayor  
7 Barrett and Mayor Courtright and other city  
8 officials, we discussed this back in the  
9 caucus, so that we can be involved in this  
10 relief drive not only for Hurricane Harvey  
11 but for the impending Hurricane Irma that is  
12 going to hit the coast of Florida very soon.  
13 So hopefully we will have something set up  
14 in the near future and the city will provide  
15 that information. Thank you.

16 MR. WECHSLER: October 19, 2017, at  
17 the Scranton Cultural Center, there will be  
18 a program to provide information about  
19 Alzheimer's issues including caregiving,  
20 research, early diagnosis and clinical  
21 trials. At this event, it will be attended  
22 Kim Campbell, the wife of country music  
23 singer and legend Glenn Campbell. Also  
24 attending will be Theresa Osborne,  
25 Pennsylvania Secretary of Aging, Janine



1 Sarinsky, Oakwood Terrace Memory Care and  
2 Nancy Lynn from Bright Focus Foundation. It  
3 will be moderated by Jim Coles of Channel  
4 16, and if you are familiar with  
5 Mr. Campbell and his battle with Alzheimer's  
6 this should be a quite an interesting  
7 seminar.

8 MS. REED: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'  
9 PARTICIPATION.

10 MR. WECHSLER: Fay Franus.

11 MS. FRANUS: Fay Franus, Scranton.  
12 Council, when were you aware that  
13 Pennsylvania American Water wasn't taking on  
14 the \$140 million unfunded projects from the  
15 Sewer Authority as the mayor stated? When  
16 you were all aware of that?

17 MR. WECHSLER: We were aware -- I  
18 was aware that they were taking  
19 responsibility for the balance of the work  
20 that had to be done. We were told it was  
21 \$140 million.

22 MS. FRANUS: But that was wrong.  
23 Not that you knew it was wrong, you didn't  
24 know it was wrong then because Mayor  
25 Courtright didn't -- you know, he lied about

1           it. You have heard from the Attorney  
2           General's Office regarding the sewer sale?

3                   MR. WECHSLER: The only thing I saw  
4           was Mr. Kelly from the Times had been in  
5           contact with him. They have not gotten back  
6           to us at all.

7                   MS. FRANUS: Do you know if Mayor  
8           Courtright or Jason Shrive has had any  
9           communication with them?

10                   MR. WECHSLER: No, I do not.

11                   MS. FRANUS: Do you know if they've  
12           gotten any files from the Attorney General  
13           or requested any files? You don't know?

14                   MR. WECHSLER: No.

15                   MS. FRANUS: Well, you made a  
16           statement about Chris Kelly, well, you are  
17           aware that -- were you also aware that Mayor  
18           Courtright's wife works for the Attorney  
19           General's Office? Were you aware of this?

20                   MR. WECHSLER: I know that, yes.

21                   MS. FRANUS: You don't think this is  
22           a conflict of interest?

23                   MR. WECHSLER: That's to be  
24           determined by the Attorney General, not us.

25                   MS. FRANUS: Shouldn't somebody

1 bring that to their attention? That would  
2 make it a conflict. I mean, they won't know  
3 that on their own.

4 MR. WECHSLER: I would think they  
5 know that his wife works in the office.

6 MS. FRANUS: Well, I think it's a  
7 big conflict, and I also -- as everybody  
8 knows, Attorney Cummings from Dunmore got  
9 \$200,000, did he ever submit any bills?

10 MR. WECHSLER: I think that's a  
11 different Attorney Cummings. That's his  
12 son, I believe.

13 MS. FRANUS: Isn't that the Attorney  
14 Cummings the man from Dunmore whose son  
15 works for the Bureau of Consumer Protection?

16 MR. WECHSLER: His son does, yes.

17 MS. FRANUS: His son does. Attorney  
18 Cummings is the father of the son that works  
19 for the Bureau of Consumer Protection, there  
20 is another conflict, and now I ask did you  
21 ever get the bills that he submitted for the  
22 \$200,000, the lawyer fees? Did anybody get  
23 them in Dunmore?

24 MR. WECHSLER: We received all of  
25 the invoices from the sewer transaction,

1                   yes.

2                   MS. FRANUS: You got Ned Abrahamsen,  
3 did you get to see Cummings?

4                   MR. WECHSLER: They give us all of  
5 the bills.

6                   MS. FRANUS: Okay. Now, the state  
7 law that I quoted July 27, I believe, 2012,  
8 that Governor Corbett said that any money  
9 received from a sale of a municipality like  
10 a Sewer Authority cannot be spent on any  
11 city government, and you have passed  
12 ordinances, and whatever it was that you  
13 passed, that allowed the mayor to pay off  
14 million of dollars in bank loans, etcetera,  
15 and you said to me when I spoke to you,  
16 Mr. Wechsler, that that was according to  
17 your lawyer and that it was your job to  
18 follow his advice, which I understand you  
19 have to listen to him, but in my mind I  
20 can't see where the Home Rule Charter or any  
21 city code would supercede a state law, so  
22 what I'm asking is this -- may I ask  
23 Attorney Minora a question?

24                   MR. WECHSLER: No, you could ask me.

25                   MS. FRANUS: Okay, then, I want to

1 know what legal authority, cases, statutes  
2 that he found that backs up that statement  
3 that you are allowed to do this? And  
4 actually I don't believe, I think it's  
5 illegal.

6 MR. WECHSLER: He gave us a  
7 narrative before recess that explained to us  
8 why he felt that way.

9 MS. FRANUS: I'd like to hear the  
10 legal, not just his opinion, a legal  
11 opinion, where he is getting it from that  
12 says that --

13 MR. WECHSLER: It doesn't matter  
14 where he gets it from that's the advice that  
15 he gave us.

16 MS. FRANUS: I'd like to see it.  
17 I'd like to know, I'd like the people to  
18 know where this lawyer for the city could  
19 say that the Home Rule Charter supercedes  
20 the state law and that this city council has  
21 a right to pay off loans that the state says  
22 is illegal to do unless the Sewer Authority  
23 is dissolved and it is not. Now, to me,  
24 there is a great big conflict.

25 MR. WECHSLER: But as we discussed,

1           there is a lawsuit that's going to put an  
2           end to all of that. It will either be  
3           decided it was proper or improper.

4                   MS. FRANUS: But in the mean time,  
5           I'd still like to know where Mr. Minora got  
6           his information, legal in writing where it  
7           says the city could make payment when the  
8           state says that it can't. Mayor Courtright  
9           is breaking the law, and you keep on  
10          skirting this issue.

11                   Now, another thing, when Judge Moyle  
12          got recused from this lawsuit you had Judge  
13          Minora, who is the lawyer for the city  
14          council's brother. Now, if that's not a  
15          conflict of interest what it? So I guess  
16          somebody is going to have to challenge that,  
17          but, boy, talk about connecting the dots.  
18          Cummings and his son works for the Bureau of  
19          Consumer Protection. The mayor's wife works  
20          for the Attorney General's Office. The  
21          lawyer for city council's brother is the  
22          judge who is going to oversee the sewer  
23          sale, the lawsuit, and then you, and you  
24          still have other things to sell, give back  
25          from the sale for the city like the pensions

1 that would be illegal as well, and I don't  
2 where you are going to get this money to  
3 replace once you find out that the state law  
4 is -- you told me Mr. -- one thing I want to  
5 say, Mr. Wechsler, you told me if that's  
6 proven than that the state is right and the  
7 city was wrong in releasing this money to  
8 the city that it wasn't illegal. If it's a  
9 law and you don't follow it how could it not  
10 be illegal? That's the question I would  
11 like answered. Thank you.

12 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Joan  
13 Hodowanitz.

14 MS. HODOWANITZ: Joan Hodowanitz,  
15 Scranton. It looks like there are 61 days  
16 left to the general election on November 8  
17 and last we spoke we had a number of issues  
18 that were left dangling, so to speak, almost  
19 like a dangling participle, and I think many  
20 of these issues that have not been resolved  
21 are going to impact the preparation of the  
22 2018 budget, at least the assumptions that  
23 have to be built into the budget process as  
24 the city determines their numbers and  
25 figures so in no particular order let's go

1 down this list of things I just pulled from  
2 the top of my head. The double pension  
3 fiasco. Do we know where we stand with  
4 getting a release of the information on the  
5 pension state police report?

6 MR. ROGAN: I've discussed that with  
7 Attorney Minora over the recess. He would  
8 probably word it a little bit better than  
9 mine, but right now it's still between  
10 Attorney Minora on our behalf and the State  
11 Police to have an agreement drafted  
12 regarding who can and who can't see those  
13 items. As I have stated, I'd like it to be  
14 released publically, I don't know if that's  
15 going to happen. I don't know if Attorney  
16 Minora had anything to add.

17 MR. MINORA: I'm awaiting a draft of  
18 a proposed order from the state police.  
19 They have agreed in spite of legislation to  
20 the contrary to allow us to look at this  
21 information but with certain restrictions  
22 and the Court felt that they would sign an  
23 order that was conforming to State Police  
24 mandates. I'm awaiting that from them. I  
25 will give them another call. He had that



1 after that last Court date. He was on an  
2 extended vacation for three or four weeks  
3 and told me he would not be get back to me  
4 before that, and I have not heard from him  
5 yet but I will call and find out the exact  
6 point where it's at.

7 MS. HODOWANITZ: It's just that I  
8 think this whole double pension issue is  
9 dragging on far too long from the day it  
10 first became public, and it also bothers me  
11 that until many of those questions are  
12 answered the public has no assurance that  
13 there are proper internal controls in place  
14 within the system so that no such disaster  
15 will happen again, but that's that.

16 The council has the responsibility  
17 for publishing the summary of the 2016 audit  
18 in the local newspaper, did I miss that or  
19 has that not hit the papers yet?

20 MR. WECHSLER: No, we are working on  
21 that.

22 MS. HODOWANITZ: Okay, be looking  
23 forward to seeing that. Let's see, oh, I  
24 went to County Commissioner's meeting  
25 yesterday and Chief of Staff Andy Wallace

1           said that the next meeting they have on  
2           September 20 they will announce I believe  
3           five dates in which there will be public  
4           discussions of the referendum question on  
5           reassessment, and I think this should engage  
6           many Scrantonians since I think we are going  
7           do have a major impact whatever happens on  
8           this question. I would hope whether or not  
9           you are going to be here next year that we  
10          will all attend one or more of these  
11          sessions. I intend to be there myself.

12                     Let's see, the ARCADIS study, we  
13                     never talked about that. I know it's  
14                     supposed to be completed at the end of the  
15                     year, is there any chance in Hates that that  
16                     thing might come out before the November 8  
17                     election and get a sensing of storm water  
18                     management costs?

19                     MR. EVANS: I would love to see  
20                     that. We will keep on pressuring that that  
21                     be done.

22                     MS. HODOWANITZ: See, I don't  
23                     understand how you can put together a  
24                     reasonable budget without being able to wrap  
25                     your arms around costs of that.

1 MR. EVANS: Yes.

2 MS. HODOWANITZ: You're good just  
3 for 2018.

4 MR. EVANS: Well, that as well as  
5 the garbage study that we're waiting for.

6 MS. HODOWANITZ: And the list goes  
7 on. I saw that the third party  
8 administrator RFP has now become the  
9 Independent Medical Examiner Coordinator,  
10 that they are still trying to get that  
11 going. I hope there is a Plan B if they get  
12 no valid proposals the second time around  
13 because when is the money from the sewer  
14 sale ever going to move into the pension  
15 funds? They have lost a considerable amount  
16 of money they could have made in interest so  
17 far and this is just stagnating. You know,  
18 I mean, something has got to give.

19 That's true, but I think it was  
20 prudent on our part to wait and make sure  
21 the third party administrator was on board.  
22 Otherwise, there probably would never be a  
23 third party administrator.

24 MS. HODOWANITZ: But the third party  
25 administrator issue was announced in March

1 of 2016.

2 MR. EVANS: I don't disagree with  
3 that.

4 MS. HODOWANITZ: So, I mean, there  
5 is a reasonable wait and an unreasonable.  
6 More next week. Thank you.

7 MR. WECHSLER: Lenny Srebro.

8 MR. SREBRO: Good evening, Council.  
9 Lenny Srebro, Scranton resident. Here I am  
10 again with the same topic. Why can't we  
11 flush out a 36-inche drain pipe? I have  
12 been fighting this -- fighting, I don't know  
13 about, but bringing it up for going on two  
14 years now, but this problem has existed for  
15 20 plus years. Recently, you know, I really  
16 appreciated that they did some paving in the  
17 neighborhood, but I'll tell you what all of  
18 that milling, all of that digging up the  
19 road, guess where it's all at? Right in  
20 front of that drainage pipe.

21 Mr. Perry, you know, you were  
22 supposed to look into why they never  
23 finished flushing that pipe last year.

24 MR. PERRY: Yeah, right now,  
25 Mr. Srebro, I'm at the exact same place

1           where you are, I can't get a definitive  
2           answer. I have been made requests I don't  
3           know how many times, how many weeks and I'm  
4           getting the same answers that you are right  
5           now which is nothing.

6                       MR. SREBRO: I don't understand why  
7           after 20 years you can't get an answer of  
8           that. Like, isn't that regular city  
9           maintenance to flush that drainage pipe?

10                      MR. PERRY: I think that's the  
11           question, is it regular city maintenance  
12           because that was installed by somebody who  
13           owned that property years back.

14                      So, Mrs Reed, could we get a  
15           definitive answer for Mr. Srebro, is there  
16           any attention to the city actually taking  
17           care of this, it's just going on too long.  
18           I mean, Lenny, he deserves an answer to this  
19           one way or the other instead of just another  
20           no answer.

21                      MR. SREBRO: Thank you.

22                      MR. PERRY: You know, it may not be  
23           the answer we want, but it's better than  
24           just not getting an answer.

25                      MR. SREBRO: That's right.

1 MR. PERRY: I think that's we  
2 obviously want it fixed, but if the city is  
3 not going to take ownership of it, let's  
4 hear that out of their mouths.

5 MR. SREBRO: See, I'd like to know  
6 if the water company that should be  
7 taking -- at least that's right if I could  
8 get an answer of whose responsible for that.  
9 Now, here' what --

10 MR. PERRY: I totally agree.

11 MR. SREBRO: Here's what happened  
12 last week, I was out of town but when I came  
13 back one of the neighbors told me there was  
14 somebody back there, a company, trucks, they  
15 pumped out the water that -- the stagnant  
16 water that lays in that pond when it doesn't  
17 drain. I don't know how it was you. Boy, I  
18 wish I was there I would tell them.

19 MR. PERRY: Where would they pump  
20 it? There is really no where to pump it  
21 from there?

22 MR. SREBRO: See, I wasn't there.

23 MR. PERRY: It will roll right back  
24 down I would think.

25 MR. SREBRO: Yeah, I would have said

1           that's a waste of taxpayer's money whoever  
2           is doing that because the next time it rains  
3           it's going to fill up and it's not going to  
4           go -- somebody was there last week, the  
5           neighbors said I didn't look at the name of  
6           the truck, you know, but it was a big piece  
7           of equipment that pumped -- and I'm telling  
8           you I went and I looked and, yeah, it was  
9           dry. You know, but I'm telling you that  
10          sediment from all of the paving and milling  
11          now that pipe is plugged solid. Well, we  
12          did get somebody to open it up somewhat, you  
13          know, a year ago. Right now with the colder  
14          weather on it's way and the ground gets  
15          harder it's going to be a nightmare, you  
16          know. Like I said, I don't know why we  
17          can't get somebody -- see, that was money  
18          that was wasted when it could have been used  
19          towards pumping that drain.

20                 Now, I don't dispute that eventually  
21                 it does drain, but like if we have an all  
22                 day rain, like yesterday, and it backs up  
23                 because it can't handle it then the area  
24                 gets flooded, it backs up. Now, overnight  
25                 it does eventually drain, but in the

1            meantime, there is all of this flooding  
2            going on. Like I said, somebody came back  
3            to flush half of it and they never came  
4            back. Why was that, they didn't get paid  
5            for that whole flushing and then not come  
6            back? You can do something to look into it.  
7            Yeah, I would like to know who is  
8            responsible for that flushing. Okay, that's  
9            all I got to say, that drainage pipe, if  
10           something can be found out about draining  
11           it. Thank you.

12                        MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Ron  
13                        Ellman.

14                        MR. ELLMAN: Relax, guys, I'm not  
15                        after you tonight. I, too, got to comment  
16                        like Fay made about our Attorney General.  
17                        Good evening, Council.

18                        MR. GAUGHAN: Good evening.

19                        MR. ELLMAN: My few friends out  
20                        there that still talk to me. I enjoy  
21                        reading Mr. Kelly lately his comments about  
22                        the city, but right under his nose is this  
23                        behavior, is that a good word, the mayor's  
24                        wife and Mr. Cumming's son working in the  
25                        Attorney General's Office and his failure to



1           come to the city there is an utmost need for  
2           him here. This could only happen in  
3           Scranton, I guess.

4                        What I really had on my mind tonight  
5           is about our friends at American Water  
6           again. Not to rehash what has been going on  
7           for six months now, but a new revelation.  
8           Back in the renege 80's the PUC, which I  
9           consider another enemy of the people, the  
10          PUC granted all of the utilities a cart  
11          blanch on coming programs, which has  
12          resulted in, I'm trying to weigh my words so  
13          I won't get everybody made at me, this has  
14          resulted in the water company, Penn Water,  
15          participating in a program for the whole  
16          state, are you listening to me, for the  
17          whole state to put a simple gate valve in  
18          houses starting last year. This is bills  
19          from them. You can't imagine what nonsense  
20          is right here. A gate valve cost 10 or 15  
21          dollars at Lowe's, you have to buy it from  
22          them, \$550. Then you have to have a  
23          registered plumber put it in, and besides  
24          that, they got some nonsense it has to be  
25          inspected by a member of the state. This is

1 going too far. You know how many houses and  
2 properties in the State of Pennsylvania and  
3 what is the government going to get out of  
4 this? \$550 plus this inspection fee for  
5 everybody that's got a water meter. It's  
6 right here. I started to make you all  
7 copies, but I figured you wouldn't give a  
8 hoot about it really, and besides that I  
9 don't know what anyone can do. I guess the  
10 people of Scranton just may as well get  
11 ready for another \$800,000 plus from the  
12 American Water. It just never going to stop  
13 with these people.

14 You know, my friend in Little Rock  
15 told me a year ago to buy some stock in  
16 American Water, now everybody can see why.  
17 It will never stop with these greedy people.  
18 Like I said, I don't have any idea what can  
19 be done about a program like this, I'm not  
20 even worried about the rest of the state. I  
21 care about the people of Scranton having to  
22 get involved and having to participate in  
23 such utter nonsense and have a simple gate  
24 valve to keep your overflow from going back  
25 into their system from the house. Does that

1 make sense to anybody?

2 Mr. Evans, do you know what I'm  
3 talking about?

4 MR. EVANS: No I haven't heard that  
5 before. I know what you talking about as  
6 far as the function, but I haven't heard  
7 that that's required.

8 MR. ELLMAN: It's a back flow. It  
9 just the water going into the house they  
10 want to back flow. It's right there on  
11 Stafford Avenue sent these out to people,  
12 the water going into the house so there  
13 won't be any backflow from your pipes into  
14 their system. This is shameful and, like I  
15 said, I just don't know what you can do  
16 about it. Thank you.

17 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.  
18 I guess we have had quite a productive month  
19 in last month since council was on vacation  
20 because thankfully no more damage has been  
21 done to the city since council wasn't  
22 seated, but, you know, I'm just sitting here  
23 week after week listening to people ask  
24 questions I think that if you have a problem  
25 with your city government the only solution

1           whether it's somebody with runoff on their  
2           property or whatever it may be is to go into  
3           Court and get a judge and a hearing and  
4           proceed forward, and if you don't know how  
5           to do that then I would recommend that you  
6           go to the law library at the courthouse and  
7           figure out who to start filing things. I  
8           think the greatest gift if there is any  
9           Scrantonians that really care about turning  
10          this city around would be that instead of  
11          doing a -- we had the Home Rule Charter  
12          Commission here at one time, well, we need  
13          some concerned citizens to come together and  
14          do some legal research and learn how to file  
15          a couple of things at the courthouse and  
16          then we can solve all our problems because,  
17          you know, as Fay got up here and talked  
18          about -- I guess she was talking about  
19          nepotism and interconnections and inside  
20          government and not knowing, you know,  
21          exactly what's going on. Well, it's not  
22          that the Courts aren't biased in many ways,  
23          because they are, but there is always a  
24          right to appeal, and if case law holds up  
25          your argument then when you get to the end



1 something but evidently not to people that  
2 are connected on the right level because  
3 they do whatever they want, like the rolling  
4 condemnations through this city. I think  
5 they are illegal, I think if somebody would  
6 go into Court and filed, the taxpayers would  
7 be holding the bag for a lot of buildings we  
8 ripped up, considering if they're not in the  
9 book upstairs. I mean, there is a lot of  
10 silliness that's taking place in this city  
11 over a very long extended period of time and  
12 in my opinion a lot of it's outright  
13 illegal, but it's not my job to go to Court  
14 and fight everybody's battles all of the  
15 time. I fight my own and I'm fairly  
16 successful, but I just think for too long  
17 now we have elected people who make votes on  
18 with no idea what they are voting for, just  
19 none. Just none. Zero. Okay, well, we'll  
20 vote for that. You know, people come up  
21 here and ask for the same information all  
22 the time, an audit this, look it, the city  
23 is bankrupt. What more is there to know?

24 I mean, when Judge Gibbons made some  
25 of the statements about the tax situation

1 the city lied on this thing that they could  
2 do everything they want because their Home  
3 Rule, that didn't hold up too well, but now  
4 the question is here. Okay, where is all of  
5 this money coming from if somebody comes in  
6 and decides that the sewer sale was illegal  
7 and you spent all of the money? It's coming  
8 from the same people that used to sit in the  
9 bar and drink shots when Janet Evans used to  
10 say, "Okay, take a letter."

11 I mean, that's the mentality of this  
12 city. It's beyond ridiculous. Everybody  
13 thought it was comical to watch these  
14 council meetings and get inebriated or just  
15 thought they were a comedy show, but the  
16 real comedy is that people can't pay any  
17 more taxes, and the other comedy is we have  
18 got five council members who can't get one  
19 answer and they got the power of subpoena  
20 right in their hand and they don't use it,  
21 because you know something? I don't think  
22 you want the answers because you won't like  
23 them. You can pursue them, you know,  
24 talking about study this and study that,  
25 look it, let's just go up in West Side and

1 build a splash park, everything will be  
2 beautiful. I mean, it's beyond asinine and  
3 you represent us? We are in big trouble.  
4 And if you take a look at the Scranton  
5 School District look at how they are doing  
6 and then you saying that educating these  
7 children in their classroom as all of the  
8 funds to educate them are being siphoned off  
9 and you wonder is elective government really  
10 working. Maybe not, but maybe today when  
11 you go home you need to take your cheap suit  
12 off and look at yourself in the mirror and  
13 determine what your goals actually are to  
14 represent people and make the city better or  
15 destroy the last couple of remnants of it  
16 because, you know, the heroin problem isn't  
17 the only one we have, we have other  
18 problems, and I talked to a gentleman about  
19 the heroin problem in our city and he  
20 stopped being an EMT and he did two tours of  
21 battle in Iraq and he said hundreds of  
22 people died in the city from heroin and now  
23 we are blaming doctors, because you know  
24 something? We can't take the truth that our  
25 government has failed us in almost every way



1 we can imagine. Thank you.

2 MR. WECHSLER: Marie Schumacher.

3 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening.

4 Marie Schumacher. First, I'd like to thank  
5 Joan because I was able to knock off a few  
6 things I wanted to bring up tonight with her  
7 follow ups. Just an observation that on the  
8 3-C information, the backup, our real estate  
9 and business privilege and LST is down a  
10 quarter of a million dollars through July  
11 from last year. I hope that's being looked  
12 at.

13 Have we received the financial  
14 requirements and the MMO which we had last  
15 year in September and didn't come in during  
16 August?

17 MR. EVANS: I haven't seen it.  
18 We'll probably get it soon.

19 MS. SCHUMACHER: Maybe you should  
20 follow up on that --

21 MR. EVANS: Sure.

22 MS. SCHUMACHER: -- it would be  
23 interesting to know, we are getting close to  
24 budget time. And how does the quarterly  
25 franchise payment of 3-D compare with last

1 year's quarterly payment? Do you know,  
2 Wayne?

3 MR. EVANS: I'm sorry?

4 MS. SCHUMACHER: Do I know on 3-D,  
5 can you get how that compares --

6 MR. EVANS: I have some numbers from  
7 2016 and the numbers from this year. Yes,  
8 I'll talk about that in motions.

9 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay, also, the  
10 number of building permits we have had now  
11 since the three year abatement between --  
12 and the split between residential and  
13 buildings --

14 MR. EVANS: We can find that out.

15 MS. SCHUMACHER: The capital budget,  
16 why is the Serrenti building not on there?  
17 Where is the Youngs? And the \$450,000 that  
18 we are planning to spend to make green space  
19 downtown I would like to know if that -- if  
20 it was ever abated from all of the chemicals  
21 that were in that ground, has that been  
22 done? If not, why are we buying it. It's  
23 our responsibility and why would we take a  
24 property like that which somebody was  
25 willing to build on if it was cleaned up, if

1 the soil was cleaned up and we could be  
2 getting tax dollars? Why would we need  
3 another green space downtown?

4 MR. EVANS: I'll find out about the  
5 environment issues. I think that were some  
6 abatement being done and that's completed.

7 MS. SCHUMACHER: Yes, that would be  
8 very interesting. Also, whatever happened  
9 to that trust fund, the document that was  
10 going to come sooner rather than later at  
11 that meeting last spring when they talked  
12 about the disbursement of the proceeds from  
13 the asset sale?

14 MR. EVANS: It's all wrapped into  
15 the third party administrator being done,  
16 you know, that's the beginning of that.  
17 Once that gets done then they can put the  
18 trust together.

19 MS. SCHUMACHER: And the exit plan  
20 has disability pension reform, do you  
21 believe that the RFP that was recently  
22 issued is compatible with the exit plan?  
23 Any of you?

24 MR. EVANS: I do, yeah. I do.

25 MS. SCHUMACHER: I would like to

1 know. Also, I'd ask you over the month of  
2 August did you get the breakdown of the  
3 impact of the each of those recommendations?

4 MR. EVANS: Yeah, I sent for an  
5 answer I haven't received it back yet. So  
6 I've asked for it, I haven't received it  
7 back yet.

8 MS. SCHUMACHER: Oh, could you  
9 follow up on that?

10 MR. EVANS: Oh, absolutely.

11 MS. SCHUMACHER: That's been awhile,  
12 and in conjunction with that I ask you to do  
13 something, I'm going to give these here,  
14 it's all of the recommendations and I would  
15 like you to just note, I have a line for  
16 each, on whether you are completely  
17 dedicated to accomplishing the  
18 recommendation or whether you disagree with  
19 or have issues with the need for the  
20 recommendation. I would appreciate if you  
21 would take the time to go through that and  
22 get back to me on those. I think it's very  
23 important going into this budget season on  
24 how much support those items are going to  
25 have.

1                   And then, Mr. Rogan, are you  
2                   prepared tonight to tell us what the heck is  
3                   going on over in South Side with all of the  
4                   tax delinquencies on Rosen Court and Cedar  
5                   Avenue?

6                   MR. ROGAN:   Regarding tax  
7                   delinquencies?

8                   MS. SCHUMACHER:  Yes.

9                   MR. ROGAN:  Nothing has come across  
10                  other than --

11                  MS. SCHUMACHER:  Those are UNC.  Our  
12                  federal tax dollars built those buildings --  
13                  and, oh, also on the lower part of Alder  
14                  Street.  Almost all of those properties that  
15                  were built, I mean, you know, one week we  
16                  have Governor Wolf going by and saying how  
17                  lovely this is and then the Treasurer's  
18                  Office or the county puts out the list of  
19                  tax delinquencies and almost every property  
20                  there is --

21                  MR. ROGAN:  Well, anything with UNC  
22                  would be tax free so they are nonprofit.

23                  MS. SCHUMACHER:  No, they are rented  
24                  out to people.

25                  MR. ROGAN:  United Neighborhood

1 Center does not own them.

2 MS. SCHUMACHER: Who does?

3 MR. ROGAN: No, I was asking.

4 MS. SCHUMACHER: No, there other  
5 names on there. There are ones that they  
6 sold and so I would like to know what is  
7 going on there. You are not aware of that?

8 MR. ROGAN: We can look into, but  
9 once UNC and, again, I have some issues with  
10 UNC in other areas, but once UNC sells the  
11 property, you know, they really don't have  
12 any --

13 MS. SCHUMACHER: There is something  
14 more. Just check with Linda and see if she  
15 has got something, and then if I can just  
16 one final thing, do we have a breakdown of  
17 that \$140 million, what items were in that  
18 140? Could you get that?

19 MR. WECHSLER: The original 140  
20 million was part of the dissent decree,  
21 that's the number that we have. There has  
22 been some discussions on what was spent, but  
23 that's between the water company and the  
24 Sewer Authority, it has nothing to about  
25 with the city.

1 MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, it has to do  
2 with a lot --

3 MR. WECHSLER: We --

4 MS. SCHUMACHER: Wait, wait, let me  
5 finish the sentence with our lawyers -- I  
6 understand, but with the lawyers because  
7 part of that consent agreement said a large  
8 portion of it, which was the facility  
9 itself, the improvements that were being  
10 down there, were to completed before this  
11 sale ever went through, so if that was the  
12 total that shows lack of due diligence and  
13 sloppy work.

14 MR. WECHSLER: It's part of the  
15 whole story.

16 MS. SCHUMACHER: Thank you.

17 MR. WECHSLER: Anyone else?

18 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening, Council.  
19 Dave Dobrzyn. Resident, taxpayer, all paid  
20 up by the way. On this flooding in West  
21 Side, one thing I'd like to mention is we  
22 really need to look into the electric  
23 facility being built in West Side, make sure  
24 that they have the right retention ponds. I  
25 see an awful lot of defoliation there. I

1 mean, it's quite a bit, so I'd like to make  
2 a reading by David K. Johnston and it  
3 pertains to Act 76, which I attended, I  
4 don't know, I didn't see anybody from  
5 council there, but it's constantly mentioned  
6 and what began as an effort by Kentucky to  
7 help a single company in Appalachia to raise  
8 capital by keeping state income taxes  
9 withheld from it's worker's paychecks has  
10 grown to more than 2700 companies in 19  
11 states when this book was first published,  
12 and it's a few years old. The big banks,  
13 carmakers, insurers and a host of Canadian,  
14 Chinese, European, Japanese companies all  
15 get to profit by pocketing the taxes  
16 withheld from American worker's paychecks.  
17 Sinks the Fine Print came out in hardback,  
18 two more states have joined this trend  
19 Oregon and Pennsylvania.

20 Now, this also pertains to city,  
21 because the state government never seems to  
22 have any money, extra money to compensate  
23 and a few months ago or years ago or years  
24 ago Joan Hodowanitz brought in a study by  
25 Boston University that a lot of people were



1           skimming sales taxes, so the point being  
2           it's incumbent upon you to amend the PA  
3           constitution first to forbid any further  
4           dole outs of tax money and then possibly  
5           even reverse this and see where we are at.

6                       Once again, trash fees have come up  
7           and removal, in my opinion, is as important  
8           as police and fire. In other words, if  
9           somebody drives past say in my neighborhood  
10          the Jewish School, they have lot of foul  
11          lying there, and they toss a bag of garbage  
12          out of their car, doesn't have an address on  
13          it, it doesn't have any anything on it then  
14          DPW should pick it up because otherwise it  
15          will just get spread out around the  
16          neighborhood.

17                      And, furthermore, you have many  
18          people, not all of them, and certainly not  
19          the majority, but they would be perfectly  
20          happy to toss their trash liability onto  
21          somebody else's property or public property,  
22          so it's as far as per bag is concerned all I  
23          want to do from my own personal perspective  
24          as a voter is pay the \$300 or \$270 as soon  
25          as I can pay it and have my trash removed

1           and it's not really an excessive amount of  
2           trash as far as volume, I recycle everything  
3           I can, can lids go inside of the can and I  
4           bend them so they can't get out the can.  
5           They are a danger and I'm sure Hugo Selinski  
6           would just like a few can lids there if he  
7           was sorting out your recycling, but we  
8           really have to stop going down a different  
9           road every time, when we get a system we  
10          need to improve it and not change it  
11          entirely to more or less try something new,  
12          but what about the new? I always wonder  
13          with elections coming up are we better off  
14          with new or are we better off with somebody  
15          that hopefully learned their lesson that I  
16          haven't answered yet. You know, so thank  
17          you and have a good night. New isn't always  
18          better. It could be less in the same  
19          package. Bye. See you next week.

20                   MR. WECHSLER: Anyone else?

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

22                   MOTIONS.

23                   MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Perry?

24                   MR. PERRY: Yes, thank you,

25                   Mr. Wechsler. It's great to be back at our

1 regular meetings. Glad to see everybody.  
2 Glad to get back into some of the  
3 day-to-day. While we were gone I know, like  
4 all of us, there were plenty of e-mails,  
5 most of them surrounded three hot topics for  
6 me personally which was street sign  
7 replacements and maybe a better way to do  
8 that than what we have been talking about in  
9 the past, pothole replacement and speeding.  
10 That's seems to be the three hot topics that  
11 had been coming across my desk and through  
12 my e-mail over the last couple of weeks. So  
13 with that being said, I want to thank Chief  
14 Graziano for getting the speed indicator  
15 moved to the 2800 block of Birney Avenue.  
16 It was much needed there. That's something  
17 that, you know, I have been harping on for  
18 quite some time, many weeks, about the  
19 speeding there. Hoping that's going to do  
20 something to -- one of two things. It's  
21 going to curtail some of the speeding that's  
22 happening there, and two it's going to  
23 actually give PennDOT and the city police a  
24 good record of what's happening on this  
25 street because it just -- it just -- it's as

1 bad I say it is and that's the truth. I  
2 know we all have speeding in our  
3 neighborhoods and this is one of those  
4 streets where it's no different. It's not  
5 good at all, and I'm still hoping that  
6 coupled with that we still get that  
7 crosswalk that between myself and Councilman  
8 Gaughan, Director Gallagher and PennDOT in  
9 that type of unity we get -- once that  
10 street is paved we get some kind of the  
11 crosswalk between the 28 and 2900 block of  
12 Birney Avenue which directs the kids from  
13 the other side of Birney, the I guess you  
14 could say the West Side of Birney Avenue  
15 down to Barrett Park and the Bloomingfield,  
16 soccer field, it's definitely much needed.

17 With that said, I'm still waiting on  
18 the new Rockwell bridge section of the city,  
19 haven't gotten a response back about  
20 changing some of maybe the steel in it or  
21 the traffic patterns or the traffic signage  
22 there just to warn people about the speeding  
23 and the dangers there. Again, we have to  
24 curtail, we have to slow down the speeders  
25 and that's something that bridge opened up

1           and we were kind of aware that that was  
2           going to just -- you know, people weren't  
3           used to that bridge being open and it's such  
4           heavily trafficked not only by bikes but by  
5           walkers and by a lot of young kids so we are  
6           still working on that.

7                     A couple of items that are going to  
8           come up on the agenda tonight, 5-H is going  
9           to be paving. That has the emergency  
10          certificate attached to it. One of the  
11          reasons -- well, the reason why that  
12          certificate is attached so we can get this  
13          stuff done in time before the winter weather  
14          hits. We will be paving in East Mountain,  
15          Greenridge, the downtown area, North  
16          Scranton, West Scranton, and I'm very happy  
17          to say South Irving Street in South Side  
18          from Palm and Cherry. That was something  
19          that was very, very -- I mean, a poor go is  
20          to say the least. I'm sure everybody who is  
21          familiar with our meetings can remember the  
22          speakers that talk about anybody familiar  
23          with that area knows what that street is  
24          like so I'm happy to see that.

25                     I just want to throw a thank you out

1 to Toyota of Scranton on 5-G who is going to  
2 be donating a command car to the Scranton  
3 Police Department. We have had a great  
4 relationship with Toyota of Scranton. They  
5 have been very generous to us in the past  
6 with motorcycles and other donations, so  
7 I'll be glad to see us continuing that  
8 partnership with private and public sector.

9 And finally for tonight, 5-B, there  
10 is going to be some grant money and rebate  
11 money used for a much needed fire truck.  
12 It's a little over \$400,000. There is going  
13 to be a big chunk used from the Department  
14 of Economic Development and then a rebate  
15 from PPL about \$134,000. That's the money  
16 allocated that came down from Business  
17 Administrator Bulzoni, and I'm sure we can  
18 discuss that and go forward with that in a  
19 couple of meetings.

20 But other than that, I also just  
21 want to throw a big thank you to the Italian  
22 festival committee, they did a great job.  
23 DPW for getting the place cleaned up very  
24 quickly, and the police department for  
25 keeping things safe. That's all I have for

1                   this week. Thank you, Mr. Wechsler.

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

4                   MR. ROGAN: Yes, I'm going to echo  
5                   what Mr. Perry mentioned and it does feel  
6                   great to be back at our regular meetings.  
7                   During the recess, we have all attended a  
8                   number of events, but one I do want to  
9                   mention in particular was the Bob McGoff  
10                  Memorial Walk/Run, which was the second  
11                  annual event, and I just want to thank the  
12                  South Side group, the Connors Park group  
13                  that put that together. It was an extremely  
14                  well-attended event and a fitting memorial  
15                  for our friend and colleague, Bob McGoff.  
16                  So I want to thank them for everything they  
17                  did bringing that event together and I do  
18                  want also to thank our colleague, Mr. Evans,  
19                  for putting together shirts for the entire  
20                  city council so we thank him for that as  
21                  well.

22                  I know Councilman Perry mentioned  
23                  the paving project a little bit, I do want  
24                  to talk a little bit more about that since  
25                  out of all of the agenda items tonight this

1 is the one that's probably going to impact  
2 the most people in the city. Fortunately,  
3 the state has already begun paving a number  
4 of roads throughout the city as well that  
5 you may have noticed, the majority of those  
6 are state roads so that has been progressing  
7 in different sections of the city and the  
8 biggest complaint over my time on council by  
9 far is the condition of the streets, so the  
10 paving that we are going to vote on tonight  
11 is it about \$1.3 million worth of paving  
12 that will take place during this fall so  
13 very shortly, and Councilman Perry mentioned  
14 the sections, I want to mention the streets  
15 as well because almost all of these streets  
16 on here we have heard numerous complaints  
17 from.

18 So on East Mountain, Leslie Drive  
19 and Watres Drive, Rhonda Drive, Pen-Y-Bryn  
20 Drive, Debbie Drive, Laurel Drive, Karen  
21 Drive, Blucher Avenue and Wintermantle  
22 avenue, which is in deplorable condition.  
23 They are all on the paving list.

24 In Greenridge, North Washington  
25 Avenue from Richmond Street to Marion Street



1 and Columbia Street from Capouse to North  
2 Washington.

3 In the downtown, Dix Court, Forest  
4 Court, part of Olive Street and North 7th  
5 Avenue will be paved.

6 In North Scranton Court street from  
7 Diamond Street to Albright Avenue.

8 In West Scranton both 4th Avenue and  
9 5th Avenue will be paved from Broadway to  
10 Luzerne Street. Price Street from Newton  
11 Road to Keyser Avenue. Frink Street from  
12 Keyser Avenue to the Turnpike. Briggs  
13 Street from Keyser Avenue to North Horatio  
14 Avenue. All of Oakwood Estates will be  
15 paved. Swetland Street. North Horatio  
16 Avenue. Jackson Street from Keyser to  
17 Dewey, and as Councilman Perry mentioned  
18 probably one of the worse streets in the  
19 city, South Irving from Palm to Cherry.

20 So that is what \$1.3 million gets  
21 you as far as paving goes. It sound like a  
22 good amount of streets, but there is so much  
23 more that needs to be done as far as road  
24 paving.

25 Also, this week on the road paving

1 front, bids were opened for the spring  
2 paving project. This is through the Office  
3 of Economic and Community Development so it  
4 can only be done in certain areas of the  
5 city, so this is in the spring. The spring  
6 paving project includes Larch Street, Emmett  
7 Street, 4th Fifth Street, Dartmouth,  
8 Bryn-Marw, Woods Place, Wolf Court, Amhurst  
9 Street, Cornell Street and Easter Park  
10 Avenue.

11 Again, a number of the streets that  
12 desperately need to be paved, and those bids  
13 were just opened yesterday, which was  
14 September 6, and it does look like there is  
15 four bids that were put in, American Asphalt  
16 and Paving out of Shavertown was the lowest  
17 bidder for \$584,000. So between what we are  
18 voting on tonight and what the bids were  
19 open for yesterday that represents about  
20 \$1.8 million in paving. Hopefully it will  
21 make a dent in the deplorable conditions of  
22 the roads in the City of Scranton. So I'm  
23 looking forward to voting on both of these  
24 projects.

25 And just want to make a mention,

1           although it's not a Scranton issue, I do  
2           want to send our thoughts and prayers to  
3           those in Houston who are effected by  
4           Hurricane Harvey and those in Florida who  
5           are bracing for Hurricane Irma. It's very  
6           scary. One thing we are fortunate in our  
7           area is that we do not get hurricanes. I  
8           couldn't imagine what those individuals are  
9           going through right now. That's all. Thank  
10          you.

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

13                         MR. EVANS: Thank you. Like all of  
14                         my fellow councilmen, I remained fairly busy  
15                         during our August recess. I met and  
16                         corresponded more than a dozen times with  
17                         various department heads on different issues  
18                         that came up during the month as well as our  
19                         weekly PEL meetings held in city hall.

20                         I attended a Scranton Parking  
21                         Authority meeting and let my dissatisfaction  
22                         be known about the proposed rate increases  
23                         for the parking garages, for preferred  
24                         parking as well as the increase within the  
25                         downtown merchants voucher program. I offer

1 suggestions to reduce waste and increase  
2 occupancy as well as discussed opportunities  
3 for more additional on street parking in the  
4 downtown, among other things. I anticipate  
5 talks and ones that will continue with ABM  
6 and NDC, but I feel at this point they are  
7 simply not understanding the message myself  
8 and others are trying to get across to them.

9 I also attended a Lackawanna County  
10 Commissioner's meeting to express my  
11 opposition in person to the ballot question  
12 on reassessment. I reinforced my opinion  
13 again that the idea of a ballot question  
14 being against that I feel is still the  
15 responsibility of the commissioners to make  
16 that decision and I'm against the question  
17 itself because it clearly worded in such a  
18 way as to promote a "no" vote against  
19 reassessment. I also offered the suggestion  
20 that they postpone the ballot question until  
21 the Spring of 2018 in the primary election  
22 to allow more time to appropriately educate  
23 the public on what reassessment means to  
24 them. Of course, that was rejected as well.

25 While I'm discussing the topic of

1 assessment, I'm going to veer slightly from  
2 my August recess report. I was  
3 communicating with the BA Bulzoni today  
4 about the latest assessment numbers for the  
5 City of Scranton. For the 2016 budgets  
6 year, land assessment was \$91,095,820.  
7 Improvements was \$300,609,636. For the 2017  
8 budget, the valuations are \$90,609,077,  
9 improvements \$300,027,585. Our assessed  
10 valuations continue to trend downward every  
11 year. In fact, this year it's over \$1  
12 million in assessed value that we have lost.  
13 This certainty is another indicator of a  
14 need for reassessment as well as an  
15 indicator of an extraordinary amount of the  
16 property assessment appeals and a course of  
17 environment that simply does not foster  
18 growth.

19 Additionally, the assessed  
20 valuations on tax exempt properties are  
21 land, \$25,668,955, improvements \$193,467,77.  
22 To me, those numbers are astounding. Tax  
23 exempt properties are approximately 65  
24 percent of our taxable valuation. This  
25 scenario is just not sustainable and must be

1 addressed somehow some way. We currently  
2 have no PILOT, payment in lieu of taxes,  
3 agreements in place with any of the  
4 nonprofits and the city has not attempted,  
5 as I previously suggested, to challenge the  
6 nonprofits to support their tax exempt  
7 status on all of their parcels. To say it's  
8 frustrating would be an understatement.

9 Now, if I may, I will go back to the  
10 August recess. Council President Wechsler  
11 and I participated in a Hill Neighborhood  
12 Association meeting with our other city  
13 leaders and the University of Scranton  
14 representatives to discuss ongoing problems  
15 with large off campus parties. Some  
16 properties will be a future meetings will  
17 occur and continue to work towards a  
18 resolution that will be satisfactory to the  
19 residents that live nearby.

20 Also, during recess, city council  
21 had the honor of handing the first annual  
22 city council cup to the winners of a three  
23 road race running series. The award was  
24 given at the final race which happened to be  
25 the Bob McGoff Memorial 5-K which honors the

1 memory of our friend and colleague  
2 Councilman Bob McGoff, as does the city  
3 council cup. The winners were Kevin  
4 category and Kristen Pellis in the women's  
5 category. Prize money was awarded to  
6 winners for the city council cup and, for  
7 the record, that money was a private  
8 donation and no public funds were used in  
9 any way to support the city council cup just  
10 in case inquiring minds wanted to know that.

11 And, finally, I spent part of four  
12 days over the Labor Day weekend at La Festa  
13 Italiana. Despite a couple of days of so-so  
14 weather, it finished on a high note with  
15 absolutely beautiful weather on Monday,  
16 Labor Day. On Labor Day, my wife and I  
17 enjoyed a large crowd listening to music at  
18 La Festa while also joining the ranks of  
19 many senior citizens by bringing our own  
20 folding chairs for the entertainment on  
21 Linden Street. We spent most of the  
22 afternoon and into the early evening and it  
23 was a great and enjoyable day with some  
24 terrific music by some very talented  
25 musicians and, of course, more great food.

1                   In my opinion, La Festa is something  
2                   we should all be very, very proud of as  
3                   Scrantonians. Year in and year out it  
4                   certainly shows off our city in a very  
5                   positive way, so I would like to  
6                   congratulate the committee and all the  
7                   vendors, musicians and everyone else  
8                   involved for making La Festa once again a  
9                   truly remarkable family event for everyone.  
10                  That's all I have tonight.

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

13                  MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, thank you.  
14                  Welcome back. I have a lots to say tonight  
15                  so buckle up. I first just want to start  
16                  off by thanking Mr. Miller, as Mr. Council  
17                  President Wechsler did at the beginning of  
18                  the meeting, who served 38 years with the  
19                  Department of Public Works and recently  
20                  passed away. Thirty-eight years in any job  
21                  is significant and I think it's noteworthy,  
22                  and the fact that Mr. Miller, who was liked  
23                  by many people and well-known, spent  
24                  thirty-eight years of service at the DPW  
25                  speaks volumes so my prayers go out to him



1 and his family at this difficult time.

2 Second thing that I have to mention  
3 is Council President Wechsler mentioned in  
4 the beginning of the meeting Fran Drake.  
5 Fran Drake passed away recently, suddenly,  
6 she worked in city hall, I worked with Fran  
7 for quite some time and it was a major loss  
8 not only to her family, all of her friends  
9 and everybody that knew her. When I worked  
10 with Fran in the Office of the Economic and  
11 Community Development she was one of the  
12 first people that greeted me when I started  
13 to work for that office. She was a  
14 genuinely nice person, she had a great sense  
15 of humor and it was a shock to hear that  
16 news and she will definitely be missed and  
17 my prayers got out to Fran and her family at  
18 this time.

19 I also want to extend my prayers, as  
20 I did in the beginning of the meeting  
21 tonight, to those who are effected by  
22 Hurricane Harvey and Hurricane Irma. As I  
23 mentioned in the beginning of the meeting,  
24 the mayor of Archbald is organizing a  
25 Hurricane Harvey relief drive so I'm going

1 to make an effort to make sure that the City  
2 of Scranton gets involved with that and  
3 takes sort of the lead with Archbald on  
4 that. So hopefully we will have more  
5 information next week.

6 I read an interesting article this  
7 morning that Amazon, who is the giant online  
8 retailer, they employ nearly 350,000 people  
9 in the United States and they launched a  
10 search for a second headquarters in North  
11 America, so they want to build a second  
12 headquarters. Their first headquarters is  
13 out in Seattle, Washington, and they plan on  
14 employing up to 50,000 people with the  
15 average salary being around \$100,000.  
16 Amazon is soliciting pitches from cities and  
17 states across the country. If the city  
18 would like Amazon, I'm sure any city would,  
19 to come and build their headquarters at a  
20 site. Proposals are due by October 19.  
21 There is an RFP. I read the RFP today, and  
22 I really do believe that the City of  
23 Scranton should be the leader on this and  
24 should submit a proposal and should submit a  
25 pitch to Amazon.

1 Amazon is going to put nearly a \$5  
2 billion investment into the community which  
3 they chose to build this headquarters. Now,  
4 it may be a pipe dream, I'm not sure, but  
5 the worst thing that they could say is no  
6 and I think the second effect that it will  
7 have if we take the lead on this with the  
8 Chamber of Commerce, the county, other  
9 individuals, is that it will give the City  
10 of Scranton good press, that we are going to  
11 go out and tell our story and we are going  
12 to try to get a major corporation to come in  
13 here into our community and to invest in us  
14 if we invest in them.

15 When I read the article I thought  
16 why not the City of Scranton? Why not us?  
17 When I look across the United States I see  
18 that most of the jobs now are in the  
19 technology sector, so I think this is a  
20 great opportunity. We have a great labor  
21 force, our location is ideal, two hours from  
22 New York City, two hours from Philadelphia,  
23 four hours from Boston and Washington, DC,  
24 so I think that we need to aggressively  
25 pursue this and I plan on making a pitch to

1 the president of the Chamber of Commerce  
2 tomorrow and I will update everybody next  
3 week and hopefully they get on board with  
4 this because I think we need to promote  
5 ourselves more to the outside world.

6 Second point, and it's an item  
7 that's on our agenda tonight is the Lace  
8 Works project. On our agenda, we are simply  
9 correcting a typographical error, but it is  
10 relevant because during the August recess I  
11 have heard from numerous residents in the  
12 area of the Lace Works building who are  
13 seriously concerned about the property, the  
14 maintenance of the property, the grass,  
15 broken windows in the building, and one of  
16 the biggest concerns is access to the  
17 building. The buildings are pretty much  
18 wide open.

19 And, coincidentally, in the  
20 newspaper this morning there was an article  
21 about three teenagers that were caught in  
22 one of the buildings of the Scranton Lace  
23 factory with gasoline and other things and  
24 it looked like they were going to commit  
25 arson, so I think the neighbors have a

1           serious issue here and a legitimate one. I  
2           want to thank the Police Department because  
3           when we brought this to Chief Graziano's  
4           attention, Mrs. Reed and I, they were very  
5           quick to up patrols in that area and they  
6           did start to catch vandals and other issues.

7                     My concern is that the developers  
8           and the owners of the property really should  
9           be providing security at that property,  
10          whether it be more fencing around the  
11          perimeter or I think 24/7 security because  
12          we are wasting our resources continually  
13          going in there and catching people and the  
14          neighbors are continuously concerned, so we  
15          did discuss it in caucus. We are going to  
16          ask the developers to provide, number one,  
17          an update on where we are since we did give  
18          a tax abatement a few months ago, and number  
19          two, we are going to inquire about what they  
20          plan on doing with security and maintenance  
21          of the property, and I'm going to make the  
22          suggestion that they either hire security or  
23          do something because something has to be  
24          done.

25                     The Civil War Museum in the basement

1 of city hall, we discussed that in caucus, I  
2 brought in up numerous time. I am concerned  
3 that the Civil War Museum is going to be  
4 asked to leave the basement of the city hall  
5 because apparently the mayor is looking for  
6 more storage space. I have a spoken to  
7 several member of the museum, which is  
8 located in the basement, as I mentioned,  
9 their lease is up this November and I would  
10 like to see if we could renew that lease,  
11 whether it be five years or ten years. It  
12 was a ten-year lease starting back in 2007  
13 for the simple fact that I think it's unique  
14 that we have a Civil War Museum with those  
15 type of artifacts in our building and I  
16 think we should do more no promote that.

17 We also discussed Nay Aug Park,  
18 received a few complaints about parking  
19 concerns. Some of the parking lots are  
20 being used by employees of the hospital so  
21 we were going to take a look at that issue,  
22 so we will follow-up on that next week.

23 Councilman Wechsler informed us, and  
24 I have been asking about this for quite some  
25 time, that we have a public caucus with NDC

1 and ABM so Councilman Wechsler informed us  
2 that he is working on setting that meeting  
3 up. Obviously there are questions and there  
4 are concerns and I think that we do need an  
5 update on not only any progress that has  
6 been made, but where we are going in the  
7 future, especially in 2018.

8 I received a few complaints about  
9 signage issues on Parker Street so forwarded  
10 them to the Licensing and Inspection  
11 Department and the Chief of Police. There  
12 was a major issue with a blocked storm drain  
13 in the corner of the 600 block of McDonough  
14 Avenue in the Minooka section. The storm  
15 drain is filling with water because it  
16 blocked and the water is causing  
17 deterioration to the neighbor's property, so  
18 we are waiting for an answer and some action  
19 on that and we'll follow-up next week.

20 As for the what was in the paper  
21 when we were on recess about the possible --  
22 the mayor wants to do a possible study on  
23 replacing the street signs throughout the  
24 city. I tend to disagree on this point with  
25 the mayor. I do not think that we need a

1 study to determine how to best replace the  
2 faded streets signs and stop signs  
3 throughout the city. We may look for a  
4 grant or money to do that, but I don't think  
5 we need a study to know how to do it. We  
6 currently have I think it's one employee who  
7 knows how to make the signs and do all of  
8 that kind of stuff. I know that the sign  
9 department and DPW has been decimated over  
10 the years, but I do really believe if we  
11 make it a priority, if we maybe put some  
12 casual employees on that task with the  
13 gentlemen that is in that department I think  
14 that we can go neighborhood by neighborhood  
15 starting with where the signs are faded the  
16 worst and then work our way up, so I don't  
17 think that we need to wait for a study, that  
18 will take too long and the woman, she is not  
19 here tonight, the resident who is from the  
20 Hill Section, obviously that is one of the  
21 worst areas for either no street signs or  
22 faded street signs.

23 Well, after about six or seven  
24 months we are still talking about the sale  
25 of the Scranton Sewer Authority, and I have



1 to be honest, it is almost unimaginable at  
2 this point that I'm sitting up here tonight  
3 and we are still talking about it, it is  
4 still being brought up. I think that there  
5 is still a black cloud, there is still  
6 unanswered questions that are hanging over  
7 this deal, and after reading some of the  
8 news developments in the newspaper while we  
9 are on recess over the past month it's  
10 pretty clear to me that the sale of the  
11 Sewer Authority it seemed like one big party  
12 except we were not invited to it. The  
13 ratepayers and the taxpayers weren't  
14 invited.

15 We received information today, and I  
16 did not have a chance to review it,  
17 Councilman Evans and I have been asking for  
18 months now for information related to money  
19 that was spent during the time of the sale  
20 and Mr. Shrive did send us a letter and I  
21 just want to read what he wrote here  
22 briefly.

23 "In response to your request for  
24 information with regard to the capital  
25 spending of the Scranton Sewer Authority

1 prior to the close of the asset sale  
2 transaction and it's relation to mandated  
3 projects under the consent decree and by law  
4 the Nutrient Reduction projects, I provide  
5 the enclosed analysis. This analysis was  
6 compiled based upon review of a large amount  
7 of data regarding the long-term control plan  
8 projects and the Scranton Sewer Authority  
9 spending associated with the same. I was  
10 assisted with the review of this data and  
11 preparation of this analysis by HJ  
12 Strategies, which is Henry Amoroso."

13 So it's quite a few pages it's a  
14 large document I want to thank Attorney  
15 Shrive for getting this, finally getting  
16 this information after many months and I do  
17 plan on reviewing that. One of the things  
18 that is concerning is the amount of the time  
19 that it took to get this information. We  
20 were stonewalled for quite some time and  
21 that is very concerning.

22 I would like an update in writing,  
23 as was mentioned here tonight from one of  
24 the speakers, from the Attorney General's  
25 Office on the status of their potential

1 review of the Scranton Sewer Authority deal.  
2 The last that council heard, as Councilman  
3 Wechsler mentioned, was that they forwarded  
4 our request to the Bureau of Consumer  
5 Protection. Now, as the newspaper reported  
6 recently, the Deputy Attorney General in  
7 charge of the Bureau of Consumer Protection  
8 in the Scranton Office is Thomas P.  
9 Cummings, III, who is the son of Tom  
10 Cummings, the Dunmore solicitor, who  
11 apparently, according to Scranton Times'  
12 articles slaved over the Scranton Sewer  
13 Authority deal every day but Christmas. I  
14 really couldn't make this thing up if I  
15 tried. I couldn't even dream it up if I  
16 tried.

17 Tom Cummings, the Dunmore solicitor,  
18 said recently in a Times article that he was  
19 looking through his calendar and the single  
20 day in 2016 that he was not actively  
21 involved in reading documents via e-mail and  
22 responding to situations related to the  
23 Scranton Sewer Authority deal was literally  
24 Christmas Day. Those are his actual words.  
25 I would like to request a copy of that

1 calendar and I believe we are entitled to  
2 that information because the taxpayers and  
3 ratepayers of Scranton picked up 80 percent  
4 of Mr. Cummings \$200,000 in legal bills.

5 Mr. Cummings would also not comment  
6 about whether he would produce itemized  
7 bills. What a surprise. When I mentioned  
8 this information and speakers bring it up I  
9 often think is any wonder why people in this  
10 region, why people in this city or so  
11 apathetic towards their government.

12 I would also like an update,  
13 Mrs. Reed, if we could, on the Scranton  
14 Sewer Authority's insurance policy and my  
15 basic question is do they have one? In a  
16 July 31 letter the Sewer Authority's insurer  
17 pulled it's coverage because the sale  
18 appears to violate the Pennsylvania  
19 Municipal Authorities Act which apparently  
20 forbids such a transaction, among many other  
21 things, so I have a few questions for Mayor  
22 Courtright and Attorney Shrive.

23 Number one, why was there a lack of  
24 clearly communicated underwriting  
25 information on the part of the Authority

1           which resulted in confusion as to what was  
2           sold and what was retained pertaining to the  
3           storm water lines.

4                       Number two, I'd like an update on  
5           the status of the easements. In the July 31  
6           letter the insurer was apparently unaware of  
7           easement issues. My second question is how  
8           could that be.

9                       And, finally, the insurer was not  
10          paid in seven months since the policy was  
11          issued, why was this? And finally, as I  
12          mentioned, does the Authority have insurance  
13          and if it doesn't have insurance what effect  
14          does that have on the Sewer Authority?

15                      I sent a letter in July to the mayor  
16          with specific questions as to why the  
17          Authority was never dissolved. No answer,  
18          no surprise. If, in fact, there was a  
19          violation of the Municipal Authorities Act,  
20          which is now playing out apparently in the  
21          courtroom, what happens if we have to pay  
22          that money back? I don't know, that's why  
23          I'm asking. I have also asked for an update  
24          on the trust for the Sewer Authority money  
25          that is it supposed to be put into the

1 pensions. That seems to be dragging, I know  
2 it's because of the -- apparently because of  
3 the third party administrator, but I would  
4 like an update in writing.

5 I'm also still awaiting a response  
6 from the city controller on whether or not  
7 the city violated the Administrative Code by  
8 arbitrarily hiring Ned Abrahamsen without a  
9 contract for \$200,000 as special council to  
10 the Sewer Authority deal and \$200,000 for  
11 the Parking Authority deal. So, Mrs. Reed,  
12 I would like us to send another update.  
13 Mrs. Novembrino was quoted in the paper I  
14 believe it was in July saying that she was  
15 going to look into that, she wasn't sure, so  
16 I would like an answer on that.

17 I'd like to send another letter  
18 urging the Scranton Sewer Authority board to  
19 reconsider their stance on denying allowing  
20 the Auditor General the ability to come in  
21 and examine the Scranton Sewer Authority  
22 deal. No matter where I go people talk  
23 about this deal and why the Auditor General  
24 was not allowed to come in by this board,  
25 the Scranton Sewer Authority board, so I

1 think it is incumbent upon them to bring  
2 that up again and put this to bed once and  
3 for all.

4 Finally, what really astonishes me  
5 and, again, I say this, I couldn't make this  
6 up if I tried, is the response or lack  
7 thereof from the mayor of this city, Bill  
8 Courtright. Mayor Courtright was actually  
9 quoted in the newspaper recently as saying,  
10 "I have to trust the lawyers. I have to  
11 trust the lawyers."

12 Well, if that were the case, if  
13 that's the case, then that is the most  
14 horrifying statement I have heard in a long  
15 time coming from an elected official in this  
16 city. If that's the case that we have to  
17 trust the lawyers then I think we are in a  
18 lot of trouble. Who is running this city is  
19 my question? I have been asking this for a  
20 long time. Is it the mayor or is it his  
21 army of politically connected lawyers? I  
22 think it remains to be seen. Thank you.

23 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr.  
24 Gaughan. Really just to summarize what was  
25 just said, we have been asking these

1           questions all along and I agree that the  
2           error was made when the Sewer Authority did  
3           not request that the Auditor General come  
4           in. You've seen that made our request, the  
5           Attorney General has forwarded it to the  
6           Consumer Protection Board, I'm not sure what  
7           really is going to come out of that, but I  
8           also recommend that the Sewer Authority  
9           reconsider their "no" vote and let the  
10          Auditor General come in. That is truly the  
11          only way that we are going to get into this  
12          because, as was stated, we are getting  
13          questions and answers and answers, but -- we  
14          are getting answers but no where is this  
15          being all put together to come to any  
16          resolution. Right now, I'm not sure what  
17          recourse is going to be available to us when  
18          these answers come in. I'm not seeing a  
19          recourse anywhere to get a positive  
20          conclusion to this sale. The only thing  
21          that I can say positive from the sale is the  
22          amount of the long-term debt that we  
23          retired. There is no argument with that,  
24          that has been done. In January, when the  
25          new budget goes into place it's going to



1           considerably impacted in a positive way by  
2           the amount of debt that has been reduced, so  
3           there is no denying that. We have a lot of  
4           questions about what happened and what  
5           didn't happen, there is no denying at this  
6           point the Sewer Authority sale had a  
7           positive impossibility on the city's budget.

8                         The discrepancy between the \$140  
9           million that was part of the consent decree  
10          and the Sewer Authority and the water  
11          company took it over is it down to \$105  
12          million? Once again, that's up for  
13          conjecture. It does not relieve the fact  
14          that that \$140 million original bill was  
15          going to have to be paid by the ratepayers.  
16          There is no -- I can't deny it. There is no  
17          question about that so somewhere along the  
18          line that bill is going to have to be paid.

19                        I know for myself, I'm leaving  
20          council come January and I would recommend  
21          that we get to a point where try to get all  
22          of these answers done and put this portion  
23          of this history of the city behind us.  
24          There is no denying that the Sewer Authority  
25          had to be sold. There is no way that the

1 City of Scranton would have made it to 2018  
2 without the sale of the Sewer Authority.  
3 There is no -- we are looking at and hearing  
4 we can't raise taxes anymore, we can't  
5 really cut services much anymore, the only  
6 way that we could survive was to use the  
7 money that we had to pay off long-term debt  
8 and reduce that part of our budget item.

9 The question regarding the consent  
10 decree amount are the rate increases that  
11 are guaranteed, now that's the question,  
12 rate increases that have been guaranteed,  
13 that's going to impact that, that wasn't as  
14 good as deal as it was described to us as.  
15 Only time will tell with that, but logically  
16 I can't see how the sale of the Sewer  
17 Authority can be looked at as something that  
18 should not have happened. Should it have  
19 happened in a different way? Maybe. But  
20 the problem for city council is we are here  
21 every Thursday answering questions. The  
22 mayor is not exposed to these questions, the  
23 Sewer Authority is not exposed to these  
24 questions, city council is exposed to these  
25 questions and we have been trying to get the

1           answers for this, and we get them little by  
2           little by little, but hopefully at some  
3           point we can get answers and wrap this up,  
4           but I don't see how there is going to be a  
5           resolution that the people of the city are  
6           going to be happy with. There is no money,  
7           I don't see any money being returned by the  
8           lawyers, I don't see any money being  
9           returned to the city by the water company.  
10          Hopefully that's not the case, but at some  
11          point this debate has to come in an end, it  
12          has to come an end.

13                   I happy support Mr. Gaughan and his  
14                   idea to use Scranton, suggest us to Amazon.  
15                   I'm not sure it we will be successful, but  
16                   just the fact it will something for the city  
17                   the whole area to work on together to put a  
18                   package together to market this I think, as  
19                   was stated, Scranton and the area is very  
20                   hard on itself and we have a tendency to  
21                   believe that we are not as good as we think  
22                   we are unless somebody picks on us from the  
23                   outside then we all come together. I see  
24                   something similar that was done a few years  
25                   ago trying to attract a Saturn plant, and

1 also the effort to save the Tobyhanna Army  
2 Depot, the communities all came together and  
3 pitched the area as one and I hope that's  
4 something that we can get together with the  
5 chamber and the rest of the economic  
6 development groups in the area.

7 In regards to the stop signs, I  
8 thing the one thing, and this is the problem  
9 I think happens with the city a lot is we go  
10 to look for a grant. In my business where  
11 we come from and when I do a project we have  
12 to establish the cost first. That's what  
13 has to happen first is how much is it  
14 actually going to cost to replace the street  
15 signs in the city. Someone made an estimate  
16 based on what it cost a few years ago, but  
17 who knows the production of signs and  
18 technology now for printing stuff is much  
19 less than it was all of those years ago. I  
20 actually think that if we established the  
21 cost then we can develop a three or four  
22 year plan to replace the street signs in the  
23 city and also have a maintenance program to  
24 continue that.

25 Just to touch base on some of the

1 things that occurred over the break for me,  
2 as Mr. Evans said, we did attend the meeting  
3 with the University of Scranton and the  
4 members of the Hill Neighborhood  
5 Association. The University of Scranton  
6 came out, they were very receptive to the  
7 neighbors and we are trying to implement a  
8 plan in terms of the bigger parties up at  
9 the University of Scranton. We had problems  
10 on parade day and problems on this return in  
11 July party and those are things that have to  
12 be corrected. The neighbors have a huge  
13 investment in their properties up there, as  
14 does the University of Scranton and there  
15 has to be a way for these people to coexist  
16 up there.

17 Councilman Rogan and I were in touch  
18 with PennDOT while they were paving Moosic  
19 Street. There was some drainage problems  
20 alongside 307. The city raised the grates  
21 for the paving project. We are keeping our  
22 eye on that because there is one location on  
23 the corner of Conroy and I forgot the street  
24 now, on Snook Street, thank you. That's  
25 quite dangerous and we are keeping our eye

1 on that to make that when this road is  
2 completed that problem is corrected, and  
3 Mr. Rogan spoke with PennDOT and they were  
4 quite receptive to making it work properly.

5 That's all I have.

6 MS. REED: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
7 AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL  
8 NO. 65, 2016, AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED "GENERAL  
9 CITY OPERATING BUDGET 2017" BY TRANSFERRING  
10 \$464,861.26 FROM ACCOUNT NO. 01.380.38000  
11 (MISCELLANEOUS REVENUE OTHER-NOT CLASSIFIED)  
12 TO ACCOUNT NO. 01.011.00078.4550 (DEPARTMENT  
13 OF PUBLIC SAFETY-BUREAU OF FIRE CAPITAL  
14 EXPENDITURES) BY INCREASING FUNDING IN THE  
15 ABOVE REVENUE AND CORRESPONDING EXPENSE  
16 ACCOUNTS TO UTILIZE ADDITIONAL REVENUE  
17 RECEIVED FROM DCED, LSA GRANTS FOR AERIAL  
18 FIRE TRUCK (\$330,142.00) AND PPL COMMERCIAL  
19 REBATE PROGRAM (ACT 129) FUNDS  
20 (\$134,719.26).

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

24 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

25 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

4 MR. PERRY: Aye.

5 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

6 MR. EVANS: Aye.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

10 MS. REED: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
11 AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL  
12 NO. 107, 2017, AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED  
13 "APPROVING THE TRANSFER OF A RESTAURANT  
14 LIQUOR LICENSE CURRENTLY OWNED BY JOAN HUDAK  
15 T/D/B/A SEVEN SISTERS TAVERN, 814  
16 SUSQUEHANNA AVENUE, OLYPHANT, LACKAWANNA  
17 COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, LICENSE NO. R-3527 TO  
18 CFM BEER BRICK, LLC FOR USE AT 337 WEST  
19 MARKET STREET, SCRANTON, LACKAWANNA COUNTY,  
20 PENNSYLVANIA AS REQUIRED BY THE PENNSYLVANIA  
21 LIQUOR CONTROL BOARD" TO CORRECT A  
22 TYPOGRAPHICAL ERROR IN THE LIQUOR LICENSE  
23 NUMBER IN THE SECOND WHEREAS CLAUSE AND THE  
24 NOW THEREFORE CLAUSE TO READ "LIQUOR LICENSE  
25 NO. R-3527".

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

4 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

5 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

9 MR. PERRY: Aye.

10 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

11 MR. EVANS: Aye.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

13 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The  
14 ayes have it and so moved.

15 MS. REED: 5-D. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
16 AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL  
17 NO. 60, 2016, AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED  
18 "GRANTING LOCAL ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION TAX  
19 ASSISTANCE TO A PROPERTY LOCATED AT ALBRIGHT  
20 AND GLEN AVENUES AND IDENTIFIED AS PIN NO.'S  
21 13420-060-017 AND 13420-050-028 OWNED BY  
22 LACE BUILDING AFFILIATES LP AND SETTING  
23 FORTH AMOUNTS OF TAX ABATEMENTS FOR EACH  
24 YEAR FOR TEN YEARS" FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE TO  
25 CORRECT THE FILE OF THE COUNCIL NUMBER



1 IN THE SECOND WHEREAS CLAUSE TO FILE OF THE  
2 COUNCIL NO. 37.

3 MR. WECHSLER: At this time, I'll  
4 entertain a motion that Item 5-D 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 ayes have it and so moved.

17 MS. REED: 5-E. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
18 AN ORDINANCE - APPROVING AND ACCEPTING THE  
19 CITY OF SCRANTON CAPITAL BUDGET FOR THE YEAR  
20 2018 PURSUANT TO SECTION 904 OF THE CITY'S  
21 HOME RULE CHARTER.

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

25 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

1 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

5 MR. PERRY: Aye.

6 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

7 MR. EVANS: Aye.

8 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

11 MR. EVANS: I make a motion to  
12 authorize the city clerk to place a legal  
13 notice in the newspaper summarizing the  
14 proposed capital budget and to include  
15 locations where copies of the capital budget  
16 can be viewed by the public.

17 MR. ROGAN: Second.

18 MR. WECHSLER: There's a motion on  
19 the floor and a second. On the question?  
20 All those in favor signify by saying aye.

21 MR. PERRY: Aye.

22 MR. EVANS: Aye.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

24 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

25 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The

1 ayes have it and so moved.

2 MR. EVANS: I make a motion that we  
3 schedule a public hearing for the capital  
4 budget to be held Thursday, September 21,  
5 2017, at 5:30 p.m.

6 MR. ROGAN: Second.

7 MR. WECHSLER: There's a motion on  
8 the floor and a second. On the question?  
9 All those in favor signify by saying aye.

10 MR. PERRY: Aye.

11 MR. EVANS: Aye.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

13 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

14 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The  
15 ayes have it and so moved.

16 MS. REED: 5-F. FOR INTRODUCTION – A  
17 RESOLUTION – AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND  
18 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE  
19 AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH A&M  
20 ELECTRICAL CONSTRUCTION, INC. TO PROVIDE  
21 MAINTENANCE OF TRAFFIC SIGNALIZATION FOR THE  
22 CITY OF SCRANTON FOR THE PERIOD OF ONE (1)  
23 YEAR FROM SEPTEMBER 1, 2017 THROUGH AUGUST  
24 31, 2108.

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

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

3 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

4 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

8 MR. PERRY: Aye.

9 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

10 MR. EVANS: Aye.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

12 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The  
13 ayes have it and so moved.

14 MS. REED: 5-G. FOR INTRODUCTION – A  
15 RESOLUTION – AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND  
16 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE  
17 AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT SETTING FORTH  
18 THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS BY AND BETWEEN  
19 THE CITY OF SCRANTON AND TOYOTA OF SCRANTON,  
20 INC. TO ACCEPT THE DONATION OF A NEW TOYOTA  
21 CAMRY TO BE USED BY THE SCRANTON POLICE  
22 DEPARTMENT AS A SUPERVISOR'S CAR.

23 MR. WECHSLER: At this time, I'll  
24 entertain a motion that Item 5-G 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-H. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
13 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND  
14 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE  
15 AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH PENNSY  
16 SUPPLY, INC. FOR CITY OF SCRANTON 2017  
17 PAVING PROJECT. (EMERGENCY CERTIFICATE  
18 ATTACHED).

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

22 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

23 MR. EVANS: Second.

24 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

25 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.

1 Two things. First, I was contacted by a  
2 gentlemen who lives on Weston Drive  
3 regarding the upcoming paving. His concern  
4 is that water company coming down from  
5 Pennybryn Drive ends up in his property.  
6 During the heavy storms, the water overflows  
7 the curb on his property which is causing  
8 damage to his foundation and erosion to the  
9 bank in the back of his house, so what he  
10 like to do is talk to somebody from the  
11 Engineering Department or the DPW before  
12 paving commences to make sure that when they  
13 pave the water is diverted into the storm  
14 drains.

15 So, Mrs. Reed, send a letter to  
16 Mr. Gallagher and copy the mayor, Mr. Pocius  
17 and council on it so hopefully we can get  
18 that resolved before the paving begins.

19 I'm going to vote for this because I  
20 think everybody knows we need paving, but I  
21 do take issue with one thing, and I have  
22 said this before, I do not think this is an  
23 emergency. I don't agree with the emergency  
24 certificate being attached. We are  
25 essentially circumventing, in my opinion,

1 the legislative process when a true  
2 emergency does not exist. If you look up  
3 emergency in the dictionary I don't think  
4 trying to start a paving project would  
5 constitute as an actual emergency. Is it an  
6 inconvenience, yes, but this isn't our fault  
7 that we got the legislation in September,  
8 and I do believe that this administration  
9 has used the emergency certificate way too  
10 much. I have seen times over the past four  
11 years where an emergency certificate has  
12 come down and I didn't believe an emergency  
13 certificate or an emergency was actually  
14 constituted.

15 So I just want to bring that up  
16 because I do believe that if you are looking  
17 at the legislative process people should  
18 have the ability to review this information.  
19 This is a pretty simple piece of  
20 legislation, but I just wanted to make sure  
21 that I provided that objection. Thank you.

22 MR. WECHSLER: Yeah, on the  
23 question, I just would like to make it known  
24 that an emergency -- the mayor is the  
25 effective leader of the city. The mayor

1           decides what he thinks is an emergency, the  
2           controller has to agree upon it, I use the  
3           term as an emergency as something that not  
4           preventing an emergency as of right now but  
5           an emergency down the road. If another week  
6           we had paving, and I know we have problems  
7           with snow in October, so I would like, in my  
8           case, the emergency is getting it done and  
9           getting it ready to go. It may have been  
10          used too much in the past but in this  
11          particular case this is something that I  
12          would like to get going before -- the  
13          weather has been so crazy lately, hopefully  
14          we have seen the worst weather, it might be  
15          coming our way, but I don't agree that it's  
16          not an emergency. All those in favor of  
17          introduction signify by saying aye.

18                 MR. PERRY: Aye.

19                 MR. EVANS: Aye.

20                 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

21                 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

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

24                 MR. EVANS: I make a motion to  
25                 suspend the rules and move Item 5-H to



1 Seventh Order for final vote based on the  
2 attached emergency certificate.

3 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

6 MR. PERRY: Aye.

7 MR. EVANS: Aye.

8 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

9 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

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

12 MS. REED: SIXTH ORDER. 6-A. NO  
13 BUSINESS AT THIS TIME.

14 MR. WECHSLER: If anyone would like  
15 to address council on the emergency  
16 legislation you may do so at this time.

17 MS. SCHUMACHER: First of all, the  
18 obvious, the emergency categorization again,  
19 I think this council, the term of this  
20 counsel has set a record for emergency  
21 certificate and I think it's sad. But what  
22 is more important to me is whether or not we  
23 have truly and something signed by the gas  
24 company and the power company that none of  
25 these roads are planned for any major

1 changes in the lines other than, you know, a  
2 problem. I would really like whoever is in  
3 charge of the paving programs or DPW to get  
4 -- to look back over what was done last year  
5 and see how many of them have been torn up.  
6 The 700 block of Prescott Avenue is a  
7 disaster area, I will not even go down it  
8 and that was just paved last year. I could  
9 name I think over 50 percent I would be  
10 willing to bet, and we were assured that,  
11 oh, all that was taken care.

12 I would like before this is given  
13 the green light that we get something in  
14 writing from the major utilities, the gas  
15 company and the electric company, just the  
16 paving on Moosic Street, just the perfect  
17 example. The binder level layer is down and  
18 already there are utility signs there, you  
19 know, markings that they have to do work  
20 there. Hopefully, they will done before  
21 they put final layer on.

22 MR. EVANS: Well, they were digging  
23 today.

24 MS. SCHUMACHER: Were they?

25 MR. EVANS: Yeah.

1 MS. SCHUMACHER: Oh, because the  
2 traffic was so jammed up I went down and  
3 went around it. But the other thing is I  
4 had challenged all of you after I went and  
5 looked at all of those roads on East  
6 Mountain I had a challenged you to go and  
7 look at them, I don't know if any of you  
8 did, I can't believe that you did because  
9 those are not only -- not really, maybe I  
10 would wonder, I should have counted if there  
11 were any potholes that had been filled, but  
12 there are so many roads on East Mountain  
13 that are so much worse that are -- and not  
14 only that, the condition, but how the  
15 utilization of those roads. East Mountain  
16 Lake Road is there are places where the road  
17 just disappears for a little bit, you know,  
18 20 feet, East Elm Street, and it causes us,  
19 Mr. Srebro said tonight, to waste money.  
20 East Elm Street, thank goodness for the  
21 second time this year the potholes were  
22 filled between the Howard Gardner School and  
23 Derby Avenue, but the second time. That  
24 tells you something. We did it once, they  
25 are going to wash out again, we will do it a

1           third time, I believe there is a spring  
2           under that road, it's not being done right.  
3           Seymour Avenue a mess between whatever that  
4           last year, Roosevelt Avenue and 307, the  
5           utility companies are always either on one  
6           of those two streets, they haven't finished  
7           at the bottom and yet that's not being  
8           addressed? Go over a couple of more blocks  
9           and you get a little rain and three-quarters  
10          of the road is a lake and it stays there for  
11          a considerable amount of time. East  
12          Mountain Road itself is getting -- in some  
13          areas it's getting to be a mess.

14                 I just think there could have been a  
15          much better selection based on, number one,  
16          need; and, two, utilization, but I do hope  
17          that before anybody does anything we have  
18          assurance that it's not on the list of the  
19          gas company for the lines to be changed.  
20          Thank you.

21                 MR. GAUGHAN: One point I want to  
22          make on that, Mrs. Reed, if we could request  
23          that. If these streets are on the list of  
24          the utility companies to be worked on,  
25          number one. And, number two, I believe that

1 I did request the city pave cut inspector to  
2 give us an analysis over the last, I can't  
3 remember how many years, but the city  
4 streets that have been paved and then  
5 directly thereafter or shortly thereafter  
6 have been cut up, and my third point is I  
7 don't care what anybody tells me the utility  
8 companies are not doing a good job with pave  
9 cuts and they are not doing a good job with  
10 the manhole covers, because when you drive  
11 around the city it is totally evident. In  
12 fact, I talked to a former city engineer  
13 from years ago who said he goes out and they  
14 are not being done correctly. So it is an  
15 enforcement issue. I think everybody on  
16 council has mentioned this, I don't believe  
17 it's properly being enforced. Thank you.

18 MR. EVANS: To that point, since we  
19 are talking about it, two things, all of the  
20 utilities are notified as part of the  
21 ordinance, they should be notified prior to  
22 any paving that they can't get back in for a  
23 five-year period without paving curb to  
24 curb, but I do believe that the existing  
25 ordinance has failed us. There is things

1           that we can do in the ordinance. I had  
2           mentioned this one before, what the utility  
3           companies do is they go down the street and  
4           they put the main line in and they leave,  
5           and they go down to the next neighborhood,  
6           and they go down to the next neighborhood  
7           and they seem to repeat it all over the  
8           city, and then months later they come back  
9           and put the laterals in and then months  
10          later they pave the street curb to curb. I  
11          feel like we should require them to do  
12          everything on that block or blocks  
13          immediately. Put the main line in, put the  
14          laterals in, pave and move onto the next  
15          one.

16                        So I think there are things we need  
17          to do with the new ordinance, but I agree,  
18          this one of the biggest complaints we get  
19          from anybody over and over again. Ever  
20          single day people are complaining about the  
21          utility companies, so we need to get  
22          smarter, we need to revise the ordinance in  
23          a better way and we have to find out who it  
24          is, these neighborhoods are like war zones.  
25          The roads are absolutely incredible, so it

1           could be done, but we have to get smarter  
2           and I think we need to get back in a work  
3           session with Mr. Hazzouri and Mr. Pocius and  
4           if we need to do the ordinance over we need  
5           to do it over. I'm sorry, Joan.

6                     MR. ROGAN: And not to beat a dead  
7           horse but two things to add to that, the  
8           manhole covers are certainly one of the  
9           biggest problem, Main Avenue in West Side,  
10          which was done by the state, wasn't done  
11          properly and it's still not done properly  
12          and that was a state project, to the point  
13          where they actually came in and repaired  
14          some of the manhole covers after the fact.

15                    And Councilman Evans made a great  
16          point about block by block. In my  
17          neighborhood there was a number of utility  
18          companies that were doing work and as  
19          councilman mentioned that's exactly how it  
20          was done and streets were left open for  
21          months and months and I would like to see  
22          something in the new ordinance that would  
23          prevent utilities for allowing winters to go  
24          by with these roads not fully repaired  
25          because it's much more dangerous in the

1 winter and, you know, the plows are going  
2 through so it makes it even worse. Luzerne  
3 Street last year, again, a state road two  
4 years ago was a disaster for the winter, and  
5 in West Side I know Sumner Avenue was  
6 exposed for months, probably six months, so  
7 I just wanted to make those points.

8 MR. EVANS: And I think what's  
9 happening is we are allowing the utility  
10 companies to bid the jobs that way because  
11 it saves them money. It's not about saving  
12 them money, it's about getting the job done  
13 right for our citizens, so that's why I  
14 think we can actually resurrect the  
15 ordinance and get it done right.

16 Joan, you are up.

17 MS. HODOWANITZ: Are you sure? I  
18 hate to interrupt everybody. No, I fully  
19 concur with what Marie has said, but, you  
20 know, I'm fortunate I no longer drive,  
21 haven't had to drive a car in five years so  
22 I don't have to worry about, you know,  
23 paying for car repairs, but I do ride the  
24 bus and I have seen many buses breakdown  
25 after pothole after pothole after pothole,



1           so paving is important and nobody is going  
2           to argue against that, but why do I get the  
3           feeling that the utilities, particularly,  
4           the water company, doesn't like to talk to  
5           the municipality and share information?  
6           There should be a master plan of each of  
7           these utilities, barring emergencies, but a  
8           master plan that they know what they have to  
9           upgrade based on the age and condition of  
10          their facilities, their infrastructure, and  
11          they should be working hand-in-glove from  
12          the city so that there are no surprises to  
13          the city and the utility gets the support  
14          they need from the municipality when it has  
15          to happen. There should be talks going back  
16          and forth. This business of doing the main  
17          line throughout the city and then coming  
18          back and doing the laterals that's hogwash,  
19          you know, I mean, and if the utility insist  
20          on doing it that way, they should be picking  
21          up the extra cost, not the taxpayer, not the  
22          ratepayer, okay?

23                         I mean, these are not good corporate  
24                         citizens, let's face it, and we are not  
25                         holding their feet to the fire, either the

1           general public or the city officials. You  
2           got go crack the whip on these people, and I  
3           don't know, maybe there needs to be more  
4           legislation on the state level or the  
5           municipal level telling them, you know, this  
6           is what you are going to do and you don't go  
7           digging up our streets without our  
8           permission without you having told us in  
9           advance. They are surprising you at every  
10          turn. They are. And why do you let them  
11          continue to keep doing this is beyond me, so  
12          the current mayor or the next mayor, please,  
13          get a handle on this because all we are  
14          doing we are spending money on paving, which  
15          is big dollar item, and we are wasting the  
16          significant portion of it because it keeps  
17          getting dug up. And I see no reason other  
18          than legitimate emergency where a water main  
19          breaks or something to that effect or a  
20          subsidence there should be no problem. They  
21          should have a plan and it goes in an orderly  
22          fashion and we marry our paving project into  
23          it so we get the biggest bang for the buck,  
24          but right now I think we are just flushing  
25          our dollars down the sewer to our infamous

1 Sewer Authority. Maybe that's what we are  
2 using to pay the lawyers, I don't know.

3 But I support you doing this  
4 project, but I think you need to get a  
5 handle and these utilities because they are  
6 wagging their tail, they are the tail  
7 wagging the dog, okay, and you are not in  
8 control.

9 MR. PERRY: I agree. I think it's a  
10 situation of the left hand doesn't talk to  
11 the right hand, meaning the city and the  
12 utilities, so I would love to see this work  
13 session happen again with Mr. Hazzouri and  
14 Pocius, but if council agrees I would like  
15 to invite the heads of the utility companies  
16 as well because I think that would give us a  
17 really good understanding of what their  
18 plans are and how to incorporate their plans  
19 into what we want to do because it's silly  
20 to have to destroy what we worked and pay so  
21 hard for to replace and, you know, this  
22 situation is coming up more and more because  
23 we are actually in a position to pave more  
24 and streets, where in the past we weren't in  
25 that position. But, you know, money doesn't

1 grow on trees and, you know, some of the  
2 roads, you know, we can all rattle them off  
3 whether it was Colliery before it got fixed  
4 or River Street or all of them, so I would  
5 really suggest that we invite utility heads  
6 to a work session as well so we can merge  
7 our plans together.

8 MR. WECHSLER: One distinction you  
9 have to make this when you say you utility  
10 is you have to make a distinction between  
11 the water company and the gas company. The  
12 water company is very receptive to working  
13 with the city. The water company, I can  
14 call the water company at any time, I have  
15 been back to Stafford Avenue. I would  
16 invite -- instead of them coming here to  
17 council, I would suggest that council make a  
18 visit back to the Stafford Avenue plant.  
19 They have a huge interactive board that  
20 represents the entire city. It maps future  
21 projects, current projects, and maps  
22 priorities by amount of leaks that are  
23 called in and for the most part the water  
24 company has worked with the city in terms of  
25 what paving we are going to do and what

1 projects they have to do.

2 The gas company, on the other hand,  
3 is different animal. The gas company is not  
4 very receptive to working with the city.  
5 The gas company is not responsive to  
6 following the pave cut rules that are  
7 currently in place where each evening they  
8 are supposed to be fixed and replaced and  
9 the repairs are supposed to be done in a  
10 certain time. They use a different vendor  
11 than the water company uses, so I'm  
12 comfortable for as best as the knowledge  
13 that the water company has these streets are  
14 not going to be subject to water company  
15 improvements. The gas company, I'm not so  
16 sure of. In case in point, on Prescott  
17 Avenue, Prescott Avenue was paved and one  
18 month later somebody requested a new gas  
19 line service and the gas company didn't want  
20 to dig it up so the people went to the PUC  
21 and the PUC said you have to give gas  
22 service to these people. That is why that  
23 road had to be dug up and it was within one  
24 week after the street with finished.

25 The gas company doesn't know who is

1 going to call them and ask for a new  
2 service. I think part of the problem on  
3 Moosic Street is a new service is going in,  
4 the people are requesting it. So I don't  
5 think we will ever get a written agreement  
6 to say that we are not going to do pave  
7 these -- not going to do work on these  
8 streets once they are paved, but as  
9 Mr. Evans cited, there are procedures and  
10 ordinances in place to provide a remedy if  
11 they do that and that's what the city has to  
12 enforce the ordinances whether we have to  
13 improve it to enforce it or whatever we have  
14 to do, but I would recommend that anyone on  
15 city council can call the water company  
16 Mr. Hoover is my contact person there.  
17 Mr. Hoover is kind of like in Dr. Strange  
18 Love will show you a big board where  
19 everything happens. It's quite a  
20 sophisticated operation that they have back  
21 there and I personally would not have any  
22 complaints, I don't have any complaints with  
23 the water company and what they are doing.  
24 I think we are back to you, Lori. Anyone  
25 else, I'm sorry?

1 MS. REED: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A -  
2 FORMERLY 5-H - FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE  
3 COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS - FOR ADOPTION -  
4 RESOLUTION NO. 183-2017 - AUTHORIZING THE  
5 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS  
6 TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH  
7 PENNSY SUPPLY, INC. FOR CITY OF SCRANTON  
8 2017 PAVING PROJECT. (EMERGENCY CERTIFICATE  
9 ATTACHED).

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  
15 passage of Item 7-A.

16 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

19 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

20 MR. PERRY: Yes.

21 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

22 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

23 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

24 MR. EVANS: Yes.

25 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

1 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

2 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

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

6 Before we adjourn, I have one  
7 comment I should have made earlier on since  
8 council came back, we seem to have gotten  
9 away from written requests from constituents  
10 to answer questions. This week Mrs. Franus  
11 had sent me several questions to be  
12 answered. Mrs. Reed and I reviewed the  
13 questions and we called Mrs. Franus back and  
14 she got her answers. This evening several  
15 questions were asked of council that either  
16 they weren't prepared to respond or they  
17 wanted to check their response, I really  
18 would suggest, Mrs. Reed is in the office  
19 five days a week, Ms. Carrera is here, we  
20 all have e-mail, so if you really want the  
21 answers to the questions instead of trying  
22 to play, "I gotcha you," or "I tripped you  
23 up", please send them to council before the  
24 meeting and we will answer them. This week  
25 with Mrs. Reed and I working with Ms. Franus



1           everything was resolved before the meeting  
2           this evening. It just allows us to serve  
3           you better. If you want to play, "I  
4           gotcha," you can play "I gotcha." If you  
5           want to get the answer to your questions,  
6           send them to us in writing.

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

9                         MR. ROGAN: Motion to adjourn.

10                        MR. WECHSLER: Meeting adjourned.

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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  
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