

SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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HELD:

Monday, October 15, 2018

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:

PATRICK ROGAN, PRESIDENT

TIM PERRY, VICE PRESIDENT

WAYNE EVANS

WILLIAM GAUGHAN

KYLE DONAHUE

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. ROGAN: Roll call, please.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

5 MR. PERRY: Here.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

7 MR. DONAHUE: Here.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

9 MR. EVANS: Here.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Here.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

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

15 MS. REED: THIRD ORDER. 3-A. SINGLE  
16 TAX OFFICE CITY FUNDS DISTRIBUTED COMPARISON  
17 REPORT 2017-2018 YEAR TO DATE SEPTEMBER 30,  
18 2018.

19 MR. ROGAN: Are there any comments?  
20 If not, received and filed.

21 MS. REED: 3-B. TAX ASSESSOR'S  
22 REPORTS FOR HEARING DATES TO BE HELD OCTOBER  
23 17, AND OCTOBER 18, 2018.

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

1 MS. REED: 3-C. TAX ASSESSOR'S  
2 RESULTS REPORTS FOR HEARING DATES HELD  
3 SEPTEMBER 26 AND OCTOBER 3, 2018.

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

6 MS. REED: 3-D. CITY OF SCRANTON  
7 PAY AS YOU THROW (PAYT) ANALYSIS PREPARED BY  
8 SCS ENGINEERS, RESTON, VIRGINIA.

9 MR. ROGAN: Are there any comments?

10 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, I just want to  
11 explain for a second what this analysis is.  
12 So the city requested support from the  
13 Pennsylvania Department of Environmental  
14 Protection DEP Recycling Technical  
15 Assistance Program to explore the  
16 possibility, and I want to underline the  
17 possibility, of implementing an incentive  
18 based or pay-as-you-throw program to  
19 encourage increased recycling.

20 So this project, this analysis if  
21 you look at it, provides the city  
22 information on the different types of  
23 incentive-based programs that may be  
24 implemented by the city and it provides some  
25 guidance as to what program may make the

1 most sense should the city decide to  
2 implement a pay as you throw program.

3 I did speak to the business  
4 administrator regarding this analysis and he  
5 explained to me that this was one thing that  
6 they could be considering but this isn't a  
7 definite program that the city is going to  
8 implement. They are just going to use this  
9 as a guide should in the future they want to  
10 move in that direction. So I just want to  
11 make sure that everybody understands this  
12 isn't something that is going to happen even  
13 in the near future. If you look at the  
14 analysis, I think this company can good job  
15 at explaining the benefits of it and the  
16 challenges of it. There are a number of  
17 municipalities throughout Pennsylvania and  
18 throughout the country that implemented a  
19 pay as you throw type system.

20 But, again, if you take a look at  
21 this, there are a lot of benefits, but I can  
22 foresee a lot of challenges with it as well,  
23 so it's something that will definitely be  
24 discussed in the next couple of weeks and  
25 months. Thank you.

1 MR. ROGAN: I also have quite a bit  
2 to stay on that item, but I will wait until  
3 motions. I think anyone that watches the  
4 meetings knows this is something I have been  
5 talking about as long as I have been on  
6 council. Received and filed.

7 MS. REED: 3-E. BREAKDOWN OF  
8 ELIGIBLE SALARIES FOR THE LIQUID FUELS  
9 ACCOUNT FOR THE MONTHS OF JULY, AUGUST AND  
10 SEPTEMBER 2018.

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

13 MS. REED: 3-F. MINUTES OF THE  
14 SCRANTON MUNICIPAL RECREATION.

15 MR. ROGAN: Are there any comments?  
16 If not, received and filed. Do any council  
17 members have announcements? I have a  
18 couple. We have a new initiative in the  
19 city that I'm happy to announce regarding  
20 recycling leaf bags. The recycling leaf  
21 bags are available beginning today at all  
22 fire stations throughout the city. City  
23 residents can pick them up for no charge,  
24 however, you do need to show your ID to show  
25 that you are actually a city resident. A

1 separate announcement will be made in the  
2 near future when the date has been set for  
3 the citywide leaf pickup by the DPW so that  
4 just came today.

5 Secondly, an executive session was  
6 held prior to tonight's meeting to discuss a  
7 matter of the litigation.

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

10 (The following speakers offered  
11 public comment: Joan Hodowanitz spoke on  
12 city business and matters of general  
13 concern. Fay Franus spoke on city business.  
14 Darrell Palmer spoke on city business and  
15 matters of general concern. Sean Walsh  
16 spoke on city business and matters of  
17 general concern. Les Spindler spoke on city  
18 business and matters of general concern.  
19 Ron Ellman spoke on city business and  
20 matters of general concern. Michael Jeffers  
21 spoke on city business and matters of  
22 general concern. Marie Schumacher spoke on  
23 agenda items and city business. Glynnis  
24 Johns spoke on matters of general concern.  
25 Chandra Sidaulashama spoke on matters of

1 general concern. Dave Dobrzyn spoke on  
2 matters of general concern.)

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

4 MOTIONS.

5 MR. ROGAN: Mr. Perry, any motions  
6 or comments?

7 MR. PERRY: I have a few, most of  
8 them we already hit on during the meeting.  
9 The Greenridge project, I just wanted to  
10 weigh in on that since we did the meet the  
11 developer and the zoning board had their  
12 initial meeting, but I discussed that. I'm  
13 confident that between the neighborhood  
14 association and the developer they will be  
15 able to work the next couple of weeks and  
16 hash out some of the ideas they have,  
17 whatever, the betterment of -- the developer  
18 also take stock and the well-being of the  
19 neighborhood itself in effect because I do  
20 believe in the project, I just hope it works  
21 well in that neighborhood and we get an  
22 agreement, so I'm looking forward to updates  
23 on that.

24 I was going to update everybody on  
25 the Pittston Avenue flooding issues, but we



1 already got that with some speakers tonight.

2 Mrs. Reed, before we went on break  
3 we sent correspondence to PennDOT about  
4 wrong way signage and upgrading that. As of  
5 now, it hasn't been upgraded where the 2600  
6 meets the 2500 Pittston Avenue, it just  
7 happens to be that's a big block in today's  
8 meeting, no pun intended, but if we can just  
9 send a second response over to him and see  
10 what's the holdup on that.

11 Again, just a shout out for the  
12 census because that is important.  
13 CountyScranton2020@gmail.com to get  
14 involved. It's monumental. It's an  
15 endeavor to get a census done, but it's very  
16 important. Get counted, get help. I  
17 thought you brought up another good point  
18 about just all of the help that there is for  
19 children in need. The last thing you ever  
20 want to do is see a child go or start their  
21 education later than they need to because  
22 it's almost impossible to make that time  
23 back up, so let's get us counted and make  
24 sure we don't leave anyone in the dust or  
25 behind as the saying goes.

1 I also have something else to read  
2 it, but I'll read that during 5-F. So  
3 that's all I have for today. Thank you.

4 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. Mr. Donahue,  
5 any motions or comments?

6 MR. DONAHUE: I have nothing at this  
7 time.

8 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. Mr. Evans,  
9 any motions or comments?

10 MR. EVANS: I do. First of all, I'd  
11 like to thank City Solicitor Jessica Eskra  
12 as well as Assistant City Solicitor Joe  
13 Price for responding to my request to appear  
14 at the October 10, 2018, assessment appeals  
15 hearing as representatives of the City of  
16 Scranton. In a letter to Attorney Eskra  
17 dated October 3 I stated the following:

18 "As you know, there have been an  
19 extra overruled amount of assessment appeals  
20 in Lackawanna County over the years and this  
21 year is no exception. Driven primarily by a  
22 lack of a countywide reassessment in nearly  
23 50 years, property owners are turning to the  
24 appeal process in growing numbers trying to  
25 achieve equity and fairness for themselves.



1 from the Scranton School District might also  
2 be appropriate since we represent the same  
3 taxpayers.

4 Thank you for attention to this  
5 matter. I have attached the Tax Assessor's  
6 report on this hearing for your review. If  
7 you have any questions or comments, please  
8 call me and do not hesitate to call me any  
9 time. Wayne Evans, Scranton City  
10 Councilman."

11 I would like to note that they did  
12 appear -- Attorney Price appeared at the  
13 hearing on October 10, and he or someone  
14 else representing the city are scheduled to  
15 appear at the October 30 hearing  
16 representing the city at the rescheduled  
17 Electric City Garage appeal. I would also  
18 like to note that I appreciate  
19 Mrs. Schumacher's diligence in covering the  
20 original issue of the garage and their tax  
21 liability. I am encouraged that the city,  
22 through the law department, will continue to  
23 have assessment appeal hearings back on the  
24 radar screen. The property taxpayers in the  
25 City of Scranton deserve nothing less.

1                   And on another note, let me see  
2                   where my notes are here on this one, Pro  
3                   Champs is the company that we have  
4                   contracted with to register foreclosed  
5                   properties within the city. Since 2016 they  
6                   have registered over 1,000 properties in  
7                   Scranton, which means that we have invested  
8                   over \$100,000 into the successful SHAP  
9                   program, Scranton Homeowners Assistance  
10                  Program and it's administered by Neighbor  
11                  Works. So, if you recall, the city receives  
12                  a share of the fee for each registered  
13                  foreclosed property. Through a unique  
14                  program the money is -- the city receives  
15                  instead of being deposited into the general  
16                  fund, is deferred and to be used a part of  
17                  the SHAP program, a program that gives  
18                  grants up to \$5,000 to first time homebuyers  
19                  to do repairs and improvements to the  
20                  exterior of the new home they recently  
21                  purchased. It not only encourages new home  
22                  ownership in the city, but it has a positive  
23                  impact, of course, on the purchase property,  
24                  the block, and the neighborhood where those  
25                  homes are located.

1                   To date, over \$130,000 in grants to  
2                   27 different homeowners have been rewarded.  
3                   There are currently 11 other properties, new  
4                   property owners, by the way, with pending  
5                   projects waiting for additional funding and  
6                   a waiting list is also being developed. A  
7                   little over two years ago this was just an  
8                   idea developed by this city council was  
9                   supported, of course, in concurrence with  
10                  the administration. Neighbor Works, our  
11                  partner in this endeavor, has done a  
12                  tremendous job with this program and has  
13                  even increased the amount of funding by  
14                  securing additional grants. Recently, Pro  
15                  Champs has notified us that there are  
16                  another approximately 160 foreclosed  
17                  properties that have been identified but  
18                  have refused to register. However, there  
19                  currently is no legal method in place to  
20                  force them to comply.

21                  Thankfully, Pro Camps does have a  
22                  plan in place for compliance. With  
23                  authorization through the city through an  
24                  ordinance they would be allowed to contract  
25                  out legal services to collect those

1 delinquent fees and get those properties  
2 registered. Those additional dollars would  
3 be used to continue to enhance this already  
4 excellent program. It could mean as much as  
5 an additional \$60,000 in grants to another  
6 10 to 15 homeowners in the city each and  
7 every year. So hopefully we will see  
8 legislation from the administration  
9 authorizing these additional efforts soon.  
10 If our expectations are to continue to be a  
11 city with a majority of homeowners, and I  
12 can't stress how important that is, because  
13 a healthy and sustainable city is one where  
14 the majority of the residents are living in  
15 homes that they own. And programs like this  
16 are more vital to our city's long-term  
17 well-being than they were ever before. So  
18 that's all I have for tonight. Thank you.

19 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. Mr. Gaughan,  
20 any motions or comments?

21 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, thank you.  
22 First, I'd like to make a motion that city  
23 council request that all boards, commissions  
24 and authorities within the City of Scranton  
25 send a copy of their minutes of any meetings

1           that they have to city council for inclusion  
2           in Third Order on our agenda.

3                   MR. ROGAN: Is there a second?

4                   MR. DONAHUE: Second.

5                   MR. ROGAN: On the question?

6                   MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.

7           I make this motion, you know, the last few  
8           years, especially in the last year with the  
9           Scranton Recreation Authority, we were not  
10          receiving copies of their minutes. I don't  
11          think we received copies of the minutes from  
12          the Scranton Sewer Authority and I know that  
13          we don't receive them from the Scranton  
14          Civil Service Commission. So I do think  
15          that any board, commission or authority  
16          within the city should send their minutes to  
17          us so we can put it on our agenda and that  
18          the public can view it, so that's why I'm  
19          making the motion.

20                   MR. ROGAN: All those in favor say  
21                   aye.

22                   MR. PERRY: Aye.

23                   MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

24                   MR. EVANS: Aye.

25                   MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.



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

3 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. The 200  
4 block of Arthur Avenue, 700 block of Mahan  
5 Court between Gibson and Pine and Quincy and  
6 Myrtle Avenue, residents at a recent hill  
7 neighborhood meeting requested that storm  
8 drains located in these areas be cleaned and  
9 we did receive confirmation from  
10 Pennsylvania American Water that they were  
11 cleaned so I just want to let everybody know  
12 that.

13 I'd also like to make a motion at  
14 this time as chairperson of the Department  
15 of Public Works, I'd like to make a motion  
16 to call a public caucus with Mayor  
17 Courtright and any appropriate members of  
18 his administration to discuss the recent  
19 flooding in the last few months,  
20 specifically, the city's response to this  
21 flooding, protocols that are currently in  
22 place or a lack thereof, and what the plan  
23 is to deal with the dangerous sometimes  
24 catastrophic flooding spots throughout the  
25 city that effect our citizens.

1 MR. DONAHUE: Second.

2 MR. ROGAN: On the question?

3 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.

4 I make this motion for a number of different  
5 reasons. I just want to mention that be  
6 weeks ago I had asked very specific  
7 questions of the mayor and his  
8 administration regarding the flood in August  
9 of this year, and my questions had to deal  
10 with reimbursement issues with the state,  
11 whether or not we had submitted damages and  
12 whether we are going to get funding for the  
13 reimbursement process.

14 I received a note from the city  
15 solicitor that they were putting something  
16 together but I still have not received  
17 anything which weeks later makes absolutely  
18 no sense.

19 Another one of my concerns was after  
20 that major flooding event, I don't think  
21 that the city did enough to notify residents  
22 on how to submit for damages, submit for a  
23 reimbursement process and there was a  
24 process in place. I know the city put  
25 something on the website, I didn't see

1 anything in the newspaper and I saw nothing  
2 on the news, I didn't see a press release or  
3 anything like that and from the mayor and  
4 his administration.

5 The other reason I think we need  
6 this meeting is because people in the city  
7 are under the false impression I think that  
8 an Arcadis study is going to solve all of  
9 our storm water issues, and it's not. The  
10 Arcadis study is simply to show us how we  
11 are supposed to fund the authority and how  
12 we are supposed to set up the authority. We  
13 need a plan in place to deal with some of  
14 the issues that were mentioned tonight on  
15 Pittston Avenue, major issues in Keyser  
16 Valley, throughout West Scranton, North  
17 Scranton, so on and so forth. I don't think  
18 that we can wait for a study. We really  
19 need leadership from the mayor on this issue  
20 because, as I mentioned to the gentleman,  
21 Mr. Palmer, who spoke earlier, I get calls  
22 and Mrs. Reed knows this to be true because  
23 I forward a lot of them to her so we can get  
24 them to the appropriate department, I get  
25 calls weekly from people who are getting

1 flooded. Pittston Avenue, Keyser Valley. I  
2 had specific questions about the pumping  
3 station on Merrifield Avenue. There is  
4 residents that get flooded every single time  
5 in rains, so there has got to be something  
6 that we can do.

7 Mr. Jeffers mentioned, and I think  
8 everybody understands, that it won't be  
9 solved overnight, but I do think that we  
10 need to get everybody in a room and get a  
11 plan together to deal with it. I know that  
12 it costs money, but as I said, there has to  
13 be something even temporarily that we can  
14 do. I know residents down on Merrifield  
15 Avenue were talking about the possibility of  
16 the city buying them out because they get  
17 flooded every time it rains, so I don't know  
18 if that's a possibility. But I do think  
19 that we need to assess some of the most  
20 dangerous spots throughout the city and come  
21 up with a plan to rectify them. Come up  
22 with a dollar amount if that's what it needs  
23 to be. Go to the state, march on the state  
24 capital. We have problem in the city and I  
25 hear from some people, well, it's a 100-year

1 storm. Well, it seems to me that we are  
2 getting these storms more frequently so we  
3 need to do something.

4 MR. EVANS: On the question, I would  
5 also ask that a representative from  
6 Pennsylvania American Water come to the  
7 meeting if at all possible because they are  
8 responsible for the combined systems of  
9 storm and sewer, and one of the big problems  
10 is when we have an issue like tonight we  
11 don't even know where to begin to call, who  
12 is responsible. Is it storm water? Is it  
13 the combined system? And I think any of the  
14 technology that will determine that very  
15 quickly, and I think we need to come with a  
16 better protocol to what happened when it  
17 resident has a complaint and where do they  
18 go first.

19 So I think if you are all -- that  
20 would be a friendly amendment to your motion  
21 if you don't mind.

22 MR. GAUGHAN: Yeah, when I said any  
23 appropriate officials I meant there DPW,  
24 anybody that the mayor would deem important  
25 to be in this meeting, and I do think it's

1 important that the mayor is here because,  
2 again, people are looking for leadership.  
3 We are getting called -- I have been calls  
4 since the beginning of the summer from  
5 people throughout the city and they call  
6 Pennsylvania American Water and Pennsylvania  
7 American Water tells them to call DPW, DPW  
8 tells them to call someplace else, and  
9 again, there needs to be a protocol in place  
10 here, even a hotline, something, where when  
11 it rains and we get flooded in these spots  
12 throughout the city there has got to be a  
13 plan in place, and maybe there are  
14 protocols, but we need to know about it and  
15 so does the public, and especially, and  
16 again, I'll stress this, I would like to  
17 know what is going on with the reimbursement  
18 from the state for that flooding event in  
19 August. Are we getting money from the  
20 state? What were the damages that were  
21 compiled and how did they get that  
22 information out to residents because I know  
23 people in Keyser Valley, people in West  
24 Scranton, Al Young over on Wyoming Avenue,  
25 ten, fifteen, twenty-thousand dollars worth

1 of damages. Replacing furnaces every time  
2 it rains. It's getting to the point where  
3 it's ridiculous.

4 So I think, again, we all need to  
5 get into a room, invite the public and all  
6 of these people are affected by it and come  
7 up with a plan. Not the Arcadis study,  
8 because that's a totally different thing,  
9 how is the DPW and how are we as the City of  
10 Scranton going to deal with these issues and  
11 I think it's very important that we do that  
12 now and we do not wait. All in favor  
13 signify by saying aye.

14 MR. PERRY: Aye.

15 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

16 MR. EVANS: Aye.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

18 MR. ROGAN: Aye. Opposed? The ayes  
19 have it and so moved.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: Also, we sent a letter  
21 in regards to 361 North Sumner Avenue, 363  
22 and 359 North Sumner, again, because of  
23 major flooding issues. People's front yards  
24 and basements are getting flooded so we went  
25 the details of this to DPW, very concerning.

1           There was a large hole, a sink hole that  
2           opened up at 359 North Sumner Avenue and 363  
3           North Sumner Avenue so we would ask that  
4           that be looked at.

5                     The 1400 block of Cherry Street on  
6           East Mountain, there is a drainage ditch,  
7           Mrs. Reed, at 1425 that's blocked. The  
8           water is rushing through people's yards as  
9           well as onto the street and flooding  
10          neighbors cellars. These people continue to  
11          call the city and they are putting thousands  
12          of dollars worth of work into their house  
13          and it keeps happening to them so if we  
14          could send that to the DPW as well.

15                    Also, Mrs. Schumacher asked a few  
16          weeks ago about a list of equipment that the  
17          DPW uses specifically for storm water  
18          management. If we could send another  
19          request because I would like to see that  
20          myself.

21                    The Keyser Valley Community Center  
22          parking lot flooding issues, I have been  
23          receiving calls about this. It's come to my  
24          attention that the Keyser Valley  
25          neighborhood association apparently received



1 a grant through Senator Blake's Office and  
2 the work was put out to bid but apparently  
3 nobody bid on this project yet from what my  
4 understanding is, so if we could send a note  
5 or a letter to the city administration  
6 asking for an update on this whole thing and  
7 if there is anyway that we can help, the  
8 city can help with this project because,  
9 again, another major issue, the parking lot  
10 floods every time it rains.

11 Also, I asked last week about a  
12 transfer from the Worker's Compensation  
13 Trust Fund to the IT Department in the  
14 amount of \$349,000. I wanted to know  
15 specifically what necessitated this  
16 transfer. Mr. Bulzoni did get back to us  
17 with a list of items that are being funded  
18 from this transfer, but I am going to ask  
19 for clarification on that because I am a  
20 little concerned about this method of  
21 transferring money from the Worker's Comp  
22 Fund. What it paid for were some things in  
23 the Police Department and then the Serenti  
24 Center that the city recently acquired.

25 Also, again, on the storm water

1 issues, there is a manhole at Race and Brown  
2 Street in the plot that's overflowing with  
3 sewage every time it rains so we are going  
4 to send that along to DPW. We did find out  
5 from Pennsylvania American Water that that  
6 is a DPW issue, that line is the  
7 responsibility of the city.

8 And that's all I have for this week.  
9 Thank you.

10 MR. ROGAN: Thank you very much.  
11 Just two items, first, I wanted to talk  
12 about what was brought up by one of our  
13 speakers and it was written about in the  
14 Scranton Times is just a little background  
15 on how firefighters are hired in the City of  
16 Scranton. The Scranton Times, of course,  
17 never missing an opportunity to take a cheap  
18 shot at somebody wrote a very unfair article  
19 about a recently hired firefighter.

20 A little background on how the Civil  
21 Service Test works to become a firefighter  
22 in the City of Scranton. It has absolutely  
23 nothing to do with who are you, if you have  
24 a relative that works for the city, the only  
25 preference points that are given out is for

1 veterans, which I believe should be given  
2 out. The test is in three parts. The first  
3 part is a written exam. It is not a written  
4 exam administered by the city or written by  
5 the city it's done by a third party. The  
6 city fire department, council, the mayor, we  
7 don't have access to any of the questions or  
8 anything that is given out.

9 So the people will sign up, they  
10 take their written test. After the written  
11 test is complete, those individuals who pass  
12 move onto the next phase which is the  
13 physical test. I believe they have run a  
14 mile under a certain amount of time, climb  
15 up a ladder, carry weights, bench press,  
16 your typical physical strength test. There  
17 is certainly no way to get preferential  
18 treatment on a physical test. You could  
19 either run a mile in a certain amount of  
20 time or you can't. You could either lift  
21 the weight or you can't.

22 The third part of the test is in  
23 oral examination and then a background  
24 check. That is conducted, again, after only  
25 those who pass the first two parts, and I

1 believe that the first and the second part  
2 are where the vast majority of people that  
3 don't make it to final cut get eliminated.  
4 After that part, there is a brief background  
5 check. Felonies, I believe, would  
6 disqualify anyone from serving but in this  
7 case the individual who was hired I believe  
8 was in the top five out of a large number of  
9 people that were hired. This is not any  
10 case of favoritism or nepotism. If the  
11 school board -- or if the newspaper wants to  
12 look into nepotism they should take a ride  
13 down to the school board and look at how  
14 many school directors have family members  
15 working for the city, working for the school  
16 district that were hired through political  
17 patronage processes.

18 The Civil Service Test for police  
19 and fire is done strictly on a  
20 qualifications basis. There are other jobs  
21 that are given out at will. For instance,  
22 secretaries within certain departments, some  
23 other positions are hired strictly on an  
24 at-will basis where it's a friend or a  
25 family member and somebody wanted to hire

1           them they could. So, unfortunately, that  
2           does happen in government, it's happened in  
3           the city through the years, but anyone who  
4           knows anything about how civil service  
5           hiring works knows that this entire story  
6           really should have never even been written.  
7           Again, it was just an attempt at a cheap  
8           headline.

9                         Moving on, Councilman Gaughan  
10           brought this up, and I know a couple of  
11           residents did as well, the pay as you throw  
12           analysis, a couple things I wanted to talk  
13           about on here, as anyone that watches these  
14           meetings knows I long have opposed the flat  
15           rate for a garbage fee. Currently residents  
16           pay without any discount \$300 for the year  
17           and they could throw out as much garbage as  
18           they want. My objection to that system is  
19           that it rewards those who create more  
20           garbage and punishes those who create less.

21                         This system, which is a hybrid  
22           system, and I'm not endorsing that a hybrid  
23           system is the best way to go, I think a  
24           strictly per bag fee is the most fair way,  
25           but these hybrid fees, two of them that were

1 mentioned, and some of the details weren't  
2 mentioned from the podium, but there were  
3 two scenarios that were laid out. Scenario  
4 one includes a base fee of \$250 per year, so  
5 it's \$50 less than the current, and that  
6 would allow anyone to throw out two bags of  
7 garbage per week. So if you throw out two  
8 bags of garbage per week or less you would  
9 certainly save money under this system. Any  
10 bags above that amount, would be \$2 per  
11 sticker. So if you have three bags, it  
12 would be your flat fee and then \$2 per week  
13 and so on.

14 The second system which is set up is  
15 a base fee with no free waste. So it would  
16 \$175 base fee and then you would pay \$1 per  
17 sticker. So that same person that throws  
18 out two bags a week under that system would  
19 pay \$275. If you threw out one bag a week  
20 you would pay approximately \$127. So that's  
21 what a hybrid system would look like.

22 Looking at a strictly per bag fee  
23 would be say if it was \$2 per bag and then  
24 you would just pay only on the amount you  
25 throw out. The hybrid system is most

1 similar to your sewer bill where you pay --  
2 everyone pays a flat fee per unit depending  
3 on whether you use zero gallons of water or  
4 if you are filling a pool, and then the  
5 second component is based strictly on your  
6 utilization. I do think this analysis  
7 definitely should be looked into further and  
8 there are a lot of pros and cons to this  
9 type of system.

10 One thing that was not mentioned in  
11 here that will somebody mentioned from the  
12 podium was privatization, I think that is a  
13 simple way to find out how much it costs is  
14 you just simply put it out for bid and see  
15 what proposals come in and what those  
16 proposals look like. I have long felt that  
17 it should be put out to bid just to see if  
18 we are truly getting the best deal by having  
19 garbage done in-house.

20 But I was grateful to have this  
21 study and be able to look through it and, as  
22 I mentioned, it does lay out the pros and  
23 cons pretty fairly. I do believe this study  
24 was done pretty down the middle, but it will  
25 keep the conversation going. I think one of

1 the most hated items that we hear from  
2 residents in Scranton is the garbage fee and  
3 particularly those who do not throw out a  
4 lot of garbage.

5 The other items I didn't mention  
6 that I really love about this type of  
7 system, a hybrid or a strictly per bag  
8 system is it would dramatically increase  
9 recycling. When you look through our  
10 neighborhoods, there are people that do not  
11 recycle at all and if they were paying more  
12 based on how much they put out I guarantee  
13 every shed of cardboard and every last soda  
14 can would be put in one of our recycling  
15 bins, so that would save the city money and  
16 it would help the environment as well. That  
17 is all I have for tonight.

18 MR. GAUGHAN: Can I add one  
19 additional thing? I'm sorry.

20 MR. ROGAN: Sure.

21 MR. GAUGHAN: Mrs. Reed, I  
22 apologize, I forgot. I don't want to leave  
23 this off the list. 95 Lynwood Avenue on  
24 East Mountain, I met with a gentleman up  
25 there this past week and he is also having



1 flooding issues. I'll get together with you  
2 after the meeting, he provided videos and I  
3 was up there to see if, so if we could send  
4 that to DPW and ask for them to take a look  
5 at it.

6 And, also, I received an issue at 3  
7 30 South Irving Avenue about an empty lot  
8 and the neighbor next door keeps getting  
9 flooded, the lots pitched towards his house  
10 so I don't know if anything could be done  
11 there, but I'll get together with you after  
12 the meeting on that.

13 MR. ROGAN: And, actually, I am glad  
14 you mentioned that, if you could add to the  
15 Lynwood letter, the 200 block of South  
16 Sumner Avenue, I actually had some videos  
17 sent to me from that block, during heavy  
18 rains there is significant issues going on  
19 if we could direct that to the DPW as well.

20 MS. REED: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION - A  
21 RESOLUTION - APPOINTMENT OF TIMOTHY J.  
22 WOODY, 540 ORCHARD STREET, SCRANTON,  
23 PENNSYLVANIA, 18505 AS A MEMBER OF THE  
24 SCRANTON MUNICIPAL RECREATION AUTHORITY.  
25 MR. WOODY WILL BE REPLACING JENNIFER HERMAN

1 WHOSE TERM EXPIRED JUNE 17, 2016. MR. WOODY  
2 WILL BE APPOINTED TO A FIVE (5) YEAR TERM  
3 EFFECTIVE AUGUST 22, 2018 AND WILL EXPIRE  
4 AUGUST 22, 2023.

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

8 MR. PERRY: So moved.

9 MR. EVANS: Second.

10 MR. ROGAN: On the question? All  
11 those in favor of introduction signify by  
12 saying aye.

13 MR. PERRY: Aye.

14 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

15 MR. EVANS: Aye.

16 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

19 MS. REED: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
20 A RESOLUTION - APPOINTMENT OF RAYMOND J.  
21 KELLY, 10 FAWNWOOD DRIVE, SCRANTON,  
22 PENNSYLVANIA, 18504, TO THE CIVIL SERVICE  
23 COMMISSION. MR. KELLY'S EFFECTIVE DATE WILL  
24 BE SEPTEMBER 14, 2018. MR. KELLY WILL BE  
25 REPLACING PAUL DUFFY WHO RESIGNED EFFECTIVE

1 MAY 3, 2018. MR. KELLY'S TERM WILL EXPIRE  
2 WITH THE TERM OF MAYOR WILLIAM L.  
3 COURTRIGHT.

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

7 MR. PERRY: So moved.

8 MR. EVANS: Second.

9 MR. ROGAN: On the question? I  
10 would just like to thank Mr. Duffy for his  
11 service on the Civil Service Commission. I  
12 know we have talked a number of times about  
13 different issues and I'm confident that Mr.  
14 Kelly is a great choice. I have known him  
15 from his time on the police department. He  
16 is, like I said, an excellent choice by the  
17 mayor to fill this role.

18 All those in favor signify by saying  
19 aye.

20 MR. PERRY: Aye.

21 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

22 MR. EVANS: Aye.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

1 MS. REED: 5-D. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
2 A RESOLUTION - APPOINTMENT OF THE CENTER FOR  
3 INDEPENDENT LIVING (CIL), 1142 SANDERSON  
4 AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18503, AS A  
5 MEMBER OF THE MAYOR'S COMMISSION ON  
6 DISABILITIES EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 19, 2018.  
7 THE CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (CIL) WILL  
8 SERVE ON THE COMMISSION FOR A FIVE (5) YEAR  
9 TERM ENDING SEPTEMBER 18, 2023.

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

13 MR. PERRY: So moved.

14 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

18 MR. PERRY: Aye.

19 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

20 MR. EVANS: Aye.

21 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

24 MS. REED: 5-E. FOR INTRODUCTION - A  
25 RESOLUTION - RATIFYING AND APPROVING THE

1 EXECUTION AND SUBMISSION OF THE GRANT  
2 APPLICATION BY THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO THE  
3 DEPARTMENT OF COMMONWEALTH FINANCING  
4 AUTHORITY OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF  
5 PENNSYLVANIA FOR A MULTIMODAL  
6 TRANSPORTATION FUNDS GRANT TO BE USED FOR  
7 THE CEDAR AVENUE PHASE 2 IN THE AMOUNT OF  
8 \$2,490,000.00.

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

12 MR. PERRY: So moved.

13 MR. EVANS: Second.

14 MR. ROGAN: On the question?

15 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question,  
16 Mrs. Schumacher raised some good points on  
17 this grant so if we could, if everybody  
18 agrees, ask someone from the administration  
19 and maybe UNC to come in before final  
20 passage on this just to give an explanation  
21 of the project. I'd also like to know about  
22 the city waiving the match requirement and  
23 also about the grant and when you submit the  
24 grant and Mrs. Schumacher's question on that  
25 I thought was relevant. Thank you.

1 MR. EVANS: Yeah, on the question.  
2 Since this is a Phase II, I would think  
3 there is some import to in making reference  
4 Phase I in the previous project so that is  
5 probably a continuation of a project that  
6 was started and maybe the plan all along was  
7 to do just this so it would be nice to have  
8 a further explanation.

9 MR. ROGAN: Anyone else? All those  
10 in favor signify by saying aye.

11 MR. PERRY: Aye.

12 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

13 MR. EVANS: Aye.

14 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

15 MR. ROGAN: Aye. Opposed? The ayes  
16 have it and so moved.

17 MS. REED: 5-F. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
18 A RESOLUTION - ACCEPTING A THREE HUNDRED  
19 SIXTY (\$360.00) DOLLAR DONATION FROM UFBERG  
20 AND ASSOCIATES, LLC GIVEN TO THE CITY OF  
21 SCRANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT SPECIAL  
22 OPERATIONS GROUP.

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

1 MR. PERRY: So moved.

2 MR. EVANS: Second.

3 MR. ROGAN: On the question?

4 MR. PERRY: Yes, on the question. I  
5 just want to read real quickly a letter that  
6 we got from Ufburg and Associates in regards  
7 to the donation, and this letter was  
8 addressed to Chief Graziano.

9 "Enclosed is a check made payable to  
10 the City of Scranton in the amount of \$360.  
11 It is intended, and our firm would like to  
12 designate it as a donation to the Scranton  
13 Police Department's Special Op's Group in  
14 appreciation for the outstanding active  
15 shooter training presentation made on July  
16 25, 2018, and a request by Sergeant Thoms  
17 Carroll to representatives from several  
18 dozen area companies at a labor and  
19 employment law seminar hosted by our firm.

20 Sergeant Carroll refused our various  
21 offers of personal or group compensation,  
22 even a gift certificate, for use by several  
23 officers to enjoy a local restaurant for  
24 performing such an invaluable professional  
25 service for our attendees. His, and by

1 extension, the city's graciousness were  
2 recognized and most appreciated by all  
3 involved.

4           Though we hope such a horrific event  
5 never occurs with our clients, in our city,  
6 our region or anywhere, it is sadly  
7 essential information and a vital tool for  
8 all employers to have. The city's active  
9 shooter training program and Sergeant  
10 Carroll himself are credits to our police  
11 department and to our community. Thank  
12 you."

13           And that's from Ufburg and  
14 Associates signed by Robert Ufburg. So I  
15 just want to thank him for thanking us for  
16 that and giving us that donation, it's very  
17 generous.

18           MR. ROGAN: Anyone else? All those  
19 in favor signify by saying aye.

20           MR. PERRY: Aye.

21           MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

22           MR. EVANS: Aye.

23           MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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



1 MS. REED: 5-G. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
2 A RESOLUTION - APPOINTMENT OF DEVENDRABHAI  
3 P. DAVE, 661 NORTH WASHINGTON AVENUE,  
4 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18509, AS A MEMBER  
5 OF THE BOARD OF THE SCRANTON HOUSING  
6 AUTHORITY. MR. DAVE WILL BE REPLACING  
7 THELMA WHEELER WHOSE TERM EXPIRED SEPTEMBER  
8 27, 2018. MR. DAVE WILL BE APPOINTED TO  
9 A FIVE (5) YEAR TERM EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 5,  
10 2018 AND WILL EXPIRE ON OCTOBER 5, 2023.

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

14 MR. PERRY: So moved.

15 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

19 MR. PERRY: Aye.

20 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

21 MR. EVANS: Aye.

22 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

25 MS. REED: SIXTH ORDER. 6-A. NO

1 BUSINESS AT THIS TIME.

2 SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR  
3 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES -  
4 FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 33,  
5 2018 - APPROVING THE TRANSFER OF A  
6 RESTAURANT LIQUOR LICENSE OWNED BY SHREE  
7 SAIBABA CORPORATION D/B/A TJ'S BEER & DELI  
8 CURRENTLY IN SAFE KEEPING WITH THE  
9 PENNSYLVANIA LIQUOR CONTROL BOARD FORMERLY  
10 USED AT 1640 MAIN STREET, DICKSON CITY,  
11 LACKAWANNA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, 18447  
12 FOR USE AT 1801-1803 PITTSTON AVENUE,  
13 SCRANTON, LACKAWANNA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA,  
14 18505 AS REQUIRED BY THE PENNSYLVANIA  
15 LIQUOR CONTROL BOARD.

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

19 MR. PERRY: Second.

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

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

23 MR. PERRY: Yes.

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

25 MR. DONAHUE: Yes.

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

2 MR. EVANS: Yes.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

4 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

6 MR. ROGAN: Yes. I hereby declare

7 Item 7-A legally and lawfully adopted.

8 MS. REED: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION  
9 BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE - FOR ADOPTION -  
10 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 34, 2018 - CREATING  
11 AND ESTABLISHING SPECIAL CITY ACCOUNT NO.  
12 02.229635 ENTITLED "2018 CAPITAL BUDGET" FOR  
13 RECEIVING AND DISBURSING CAPITAL PROJECT  
14 FUNDS DESIGNATED IN THE 2018 CAPITAL BUDGET.

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

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

21 MR. PERRY: Second.

22 MR. ROGAN: On the question? Roll  
23 call, please?

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

25 MR. PERRY: Yes.

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

2 MR. DONAHUE: Yes.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

4 MR. EVANS: Yes.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

8 MR. ROGAN: Yes. I hereby declare  
9 Item 7-B legally and lawfully adopted.

10 MS. REED: 7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION  
11 BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT-  
12 FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 73, 2018 -  
13 ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE  
14 HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURE REVIEW BOARD  
15 ("HARB") AND APPROVING THE CERTIFICATE OF  
16 APPROPRIATENESS FOR RAY DOMINGUEZ, R 2010  
17 FARR STREET, SCRANTON, PA, 18504, FOR  
18 MASONRY WORK TO BE COMPLETED ON THE FRONT  
19 EDIFICE OF THE BUILDING, SITUATED AT 534  
20 LACKAWANNA AVENUE, SCRANTON, PA 18503.

21 MR. ROGAN: What is the  
22 recommendation for the Chairperson for the  
23 Committee on Community Development?

24 MR. DONAHUE: As Chairperson for the  
25 Committee on Community Development, I

1 recommend final passage of Item 7-C.

2 MR. PERRY: Second.

3 MR. ROGAN: On the question? Roll  
4 call, please?

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

6 MR. PERRY: Yes.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

8 MR. DONAHUE: Yes.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

10 MR. EVANS: Yes.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

14 MR. ROGAN: Yes. I hereby declare  
15 Item 7-C legally and lawfully adopted.

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

18 MR. PERRY: Motion to adjourn.

19 MR. ROGAN: Meeting adjourned.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

1  
2  
3 I hereby certify that the proceedings and  
4 evidence are contained fully and accurately in the  
5 notes of testimony taken by me at the hearing of the  
6 above-captioned matter and that the foregoing is a true  
7 and correct transcript of the same to the best of my  
8 ability.  
9  
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11

12 \_\_\_\_\_  
13 CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR  
14 OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER  
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