

SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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HELD:

Monday, October 29, 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. Please dispense  
14 with the reading of the minutes.

15 MS. REED: THIRD ORDER. 3-A. TAX  
16 ASSESSOR'S REPORT FOR HEARING DATE TO BE  
17 HELD OCTOBER 30, 2018.

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

20 MS. REED: 3-B. MINUTES OF THE  
21 SCRANTON LACKAWANNA HEALTH & WELFARE  
22 AUTHORITY MEETING HELD JUNE 21, 2018.

23 MR. ROGAN: Are there any comments?  
24 If not, received and filed. Do any council  
25 members have announcements at this time?

1 MR. PERRY: Yes, I have one  
2 announcement. Just a reminder about First  
3 Friday coming up the Scranton Police and  
4 Fire Department are teaming up for a coat  
5 drive for the children in the Scranton  
6 school district. Their goal is to purchase  
7 1,200 coats for the needy children in our  
8 district. The price of entry is \$20 and  
9 that goes towards the purchasing of one coat  
10 for a needy child, and that is going to be  
11 November 2, 5 to 9 at the Hilton at 100  
12 Adams Avenue. You can get tickets at the  
13 door or for more information call  
14 570-348-4139. Thank you.

15 MR. ROGAN: Anyone else? I have a  
16 few. This coming weekend, November 4, ends  
17 daylight savings time. When you turn your  
18 clocks back, please remember to check your  
19 smoke alarms and CO detectors.

20 Next Monday, November 5, at 55 p.m.  
21 we will have a caucus in council chambers to  
22 meet with representatives of NDC for an  
23 update on the parking system, and another  
24 reminder that recycling leaf bags are still  
25 available at all fire stations throughout

1 the city. A date for when leaves will be  
2 picked up has not yet been announced.

3 And, finally, there was an executive  
4 session held this evening prior to the  
5 meeting to discuss a matter of litigation.

6 MS. REED: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'  
7 PARTICIPATION.

8 (The following speakers offered  
9 public comment as follows: Joan Hodowanitz  
10 spoke on city business. Norma Jefferies  
11 spoke on city business. Ron Ellman spoke on  
12 matters of general concern. Bob Bolus spoke  
13 on matters of general concern. Lee Morgan  
14 spoke on matters of general concern. Lenny  
15 Srebro spoke on city business and matters of  
16 general concern. Glynnis Johns spoke on  
17 city business and matters of general  
18 concern. Marie Schumacher spoke on city  
19 business and matters of general concern.  
20 Doug Miller spoke on matters of general  
21 concern. Dave Dobrzyn spoke on matters of  
22 general concern.)

23 MS. REED: FIFTH ORDER. 5-A.  
24 MOTIONS.

25 MR. ROGAN: Mr. Perry, any motions

1 or comments?

2 MR. PERRY: Yeah, yeah, good meeting  
3 tonight, lots of things going on, lots of  
4 discussion. So let's see if I can get  
5 through this rather quickly. So I guess  
6 we'll start with the meeting that we had  
7 with the mayor about the 2600 block of  
8 Birney Avenue, the flooding. Since that was  
9 the very first meeting called, we did -- Pat  
10 and I did ask some questions that pertained  
11 to more of the city than just that  
12 intersection because I felt that was only  
13 fair.

14 One of the biggest concerns was any  
15 kind of FEMA relief that we might get from a  
16 the August storms so I talked to a  
17 representative from DPW. The good news  
18 there is all our forms for the city were  
19 submitted in time to the county. The county  
20 forms were submitted in time to Pennsylvania  
21 and Pennsylvania has submitted in time in  
22 like to the federal government and we have  
23 met our threshold every step of the way.  
24 The county had met their threshold to turn  
25 their neighbors into the state. The state

1 met their thresholds to turn it into FEMA.  
2 So right now all our work, all our sweat is  
3 done on our side, we are just waiting for  
4 FEMA's answer. As you can imagine, FEMA has  
5 been pretty busy with other floods and  
6 hurricanes that have been going on, but  
7 right now we have met every quota that we  
8 needed to met for disaster relief based on  
9 that storm in August and we are just now  
10 waiting for the word from FEMA to see are  
11 there going to be any funds given out to us.

12 Now, if there is FEMA funds to be  
13 had, DPW director insisted that there is  
14 going to be an application process and an  
15 application class that will be taken care of  
16 by DPW. He mentioned something like the  
17 fieldhouse down at Weston Park being used.  
18 Big area where there will be applications,  
19 there will be people to help, everybody get  
20 all of their applications filled out  
21 correctly and timely. That will happen if  
22 FEMA releases money to us. They wanted to  
23 make a point of that, but as of right now we  
24 are just waiting to hear back from the  
25 federal government so our fingers crossed

1 that there is some kind of relief to us and  
2 if there is we will be make everybody well  
3 aware of it and we'll have a nice meeting  
4 date and time and have a lot of  
5 representatives to help us get the  
6 application process filled out for everybody  
7 so that was one thing that we discussed.

8 Another thing that is more of a city  
9 issue with the flooding was brought up is  
10 what happens if my street is flooded? What  
11 happens if on a regular part of the city  
12 that's being flooded? And as the director  
13 explained to me, if you live in a newer  
14 development that is definitely going to be a  
15 single use sewer line so that is definitely  
16 a DPW storm drain situation, so your very  
17 first phone call will be to DPW. If you  
18 don't live in a newer development in the  
19 city, which is most of us, that's going be  
20 to a DPW responsibility -- or I'm sorry,  
21 American -- PA American Water Company  
22 responsibility so the first phone call  
23 should go there, okay?

24 Now, if you are ensure he said  
25 please call DPW if you have any questions or

1 any kind of issues that you are not readily  
2 getting taken care of by Pennsylvania  
3 American Water Company.

4 On that, I did talk to Pennsylvania  
5 American Water Company, they are willing to  
6 step up there, their end of the bargain and  
7 to keep track of the areas which are being  
8 called in that are known flooding areas  
9 within the city and do line cleanings every  
10 six weeks or as needed, and I asked them  
11 what "or as needed" meant because we don't  
12 want to wait to get flooded to have that --  
13 I guess we need that line flushed out  
14 because of flooding, we don't want that, we  
15 are trying to prevent it.

16 So they are going to do routine  
17 inspections every few weeks on issue that we  
18 have had to flush out on more than one  
19 occasion and if it does need it they will  
20 schedule for the next two weeks, I got that  
21 reassurance so we will keep a follow-up on  
22 that. They promised a flushing at 2600 of  
23 Pittston. I did a follow-up, it was done  
24 that same day, so I was glad to see them  
25 keep their word on that. We just have to

1 make sure that they hold their end of the  
2 bargain when it comes to other areas of the  
3 city that that could help.

4 Now, to the people that live on the  
5 2600 block, these are some issues that we  
6 talked about that pertain specifically to  
7 that area. We talked about the drain  
8 situation, they are going to be out 2600  
9 Pittston every six weeks or more to keep  
10 those lines flushed from the sediment that  
11 comes down from Kane Street, from down  
12 Pittston Avenue, it's just a bill bowl area  
13 like it is in most flooding situations.  
14 Instead of doing it when it gets into  
15 someone's yard, they are going to do it  
16 every six weeks.

17 The one question was brought up by a  
18 resident of increasing the pipe drainage  
19 pipe going across Pittston Avenue, and that  
20 is not possible, that was explained to me by  
21 Mr. Pocius due to the pitch of the road.  
22 And, again, it gets kind of technical, but  
23 if we increase the size of the drain we  
24 would have to lift the drain to get the  
25 right amount of pitch so there is not

1 backflow and he said the pitch of the road  
2 wouldn't support anything larger. He pulled  
3 out the old architect plans and building  
4 plans to when that was put in and he showed  
5 me there was a request for a larger pipe  
6 originally, but it was shot down by PennDOT  
7 because the pitch of the terrain could not  
8 handle that size pipe so that's why there  
9 was a smaller pipe put in than originally  
10 planned for.

11 They also, now, they gave no  
12 promises, but we started looking up, I guess  
13 you could say upstream, for where the  
14 process and the program started in the  
15 Pennwood area. A lot of that water comes  
16 down, it T's off, it goes off Kane Street  
17 and that water flows into Pittston Avenue.  
18 They couldn't make any promises, but they  
19 want to see if there is any way that they  
20 could diverge the water coming from there to  
21 a different route and then down Sanderson  
22 Street. He said that would be a bigger  
23 process and he can't make any promises about  
24 it, but that would be something they would  
25 look at, too, if flooding consistently

1 happens there.

2 So overall I was pleased with the  
3 meeting and I'm sure, Mr. Rogan, you have  
4 some other notes from the meeting that he  
5 could throw into, but that was just the  
6 overall thoughts of it and on top of that  
7 Mr. King, Mr. Pocius, Director Gallagher,  
8 they all give themselves up personally to  
9 anybody who has flooding situations in the  
10 city. They said to be called and they will  
11 get out there as soon as they could to meet  
12 with anybody.

13 As I explained, I don't know if Mr.  
14 Srebro -- Lenny, you are still here,  
15 Mr. Pocius was out to see you and he said at  
16 the end of that meeting, "If Lenny still has  
17 an issue or something else going on to give  
18 Mr. Pocius a call and he will back out to  
19 see you."

20 So please, use that to your  
21 advantage to take care of these issues.  
22 These guys know the issues are out there and  
23 we are trying to take care of them.

24 Moving on, I don't know is Ron here,  
25 Mr. Ellman here? I spoke to Mr. Ellman

1 earlier this week, we had an issue about a  
2 little port-a-potty request. If you want to  
3 send something out to Mr. Fallon.  
4 Mr. Fallon was busy this week with the  
5 demolition at Novembrino Park, finally got  
6 started. You know, the Novembrino Park demo  
7 started on that so we are hoping that we  
8 stay on target. Our goal is to have that  
9 working and up and ready by some point  
10 during the summer of '19, but the question  
11 Mr. Ellman had was the port-a-potty at  
12 Weston Park. And I know the city only has a  
13 limited amount of them and they get moved  
14 depending on venue to venue on what's there  
15 and what's not, but if there is one that's  
16 freed up, and I don't know how Director  
17 Fallon handles it over the wintertime, but  
18 they are requesting one stay at Weston Park  
19 for as long as possible.

20 So if there is not a need, which  
21 there probably isn't in the winter months  
22 with little league games and, you know,  
23 concerts and events, there is probably not  
24 that much going on, if one could be left at  
25 Weston Park for the residents there in that

1 area, that request is made.

2 And then, also, since it was brought  
3 up and it was in the paper about the  
4 ten-year tax abatement, Mr. Ellman brought  
5 up KOZ. Forget KOZ as far as this side of  
6 the dais is concerned. I'm not for KOZs. A  
7 KOZ is a total tax abatement. You don't pay  
8 city tax, school tax, county tax. You don't  
9 pay wage tax, you don't pay tax on your  
10 building, your improvements or your  
11 property. You don't pay tax on any of it  
12 for a set amount of time. That was some of  
13 what we did up in Tripp Park, for example.  
14 I'm not interested in going that route.

15 I believe a couple of years, I  
16 believe it was 2016, this council we talked  
17 about trying to put some vigor into our real  
18 estate environment with a three-year tax  
19 abatement. Now, tax abatement is the only  
20 thing you don't pay on is on new  
21 construction or improvements to your  
22 property, but if you are an existing  
23 homeowner that wants to make an addition,  
24 build up, build over, put a shed on, you are  
25 not going to pay any taxes on that for three

1 years. If you're a new commercial business  
2 that you want to buy a plot of land on and  
3 you want to build a structure on that land  
4 to conduct your business we're not going to  
5 -- the city isn't going to tax you on that  
6 new structure that you brought in to start  
7 your business on. You will still pay  
8 mercantile tax as a business, you will still  
9 pay wage taxes, your employees will stay pay  
10 wage taxes and you'll still pay the actual  
11 tax on your land that you hold. That's kind  
12 of the difference between K0Z and the tax  
13 abatement that we agreed on in 2016.

14 The Chamber was in here last week  
15 and they brought up a ten-year tax abatement  
16 and it will hold true to the same form that  
17 we have now which is a three year, it was  
18 just extending it out. Maybe that will  
19 entice some people to come in here and do  
20 some business. Now, while I think it could  
21 help on the residential side, maybe get some  
22 of these vacant lots that we have used and  
23 built up on, I'm really looking at this more  
24 of a commercial avenue to maybe get a  
25 business in here who is on -- they don't

1 know want side of the fence to be on. Do we  
2 build outside of Scranton, which has been  
3 the case for so long or do we move into  
4 Scranton. Scranton has got a motivated work  
5 force but the taxes are higher than the  
6 surrounding communities and that's not --  
7 that's just something we all know.

8 So if we offer them a ten-year  
9 construction abatement or improvement  
10 abatement maybe that's something that will  
11 entice them to come to our city. And that's  
12 just in our earliest stage of discussions.  
13 We talked about that in caucus last week and  
14 we'll discuss that more as time goes on, but  
15 it was just an introductory phase from the  
16 Chamber to see if there is anything we can  
17 do to stimulate some growth in our city.

18 We talked about Mr. Ellman's  
19 request, the Novembrino park. Oh, Ms.  
20 Schumacher's request. If we could send out  
21 a letter to Chief DeSarno and Chief Graziano  
22 to ask -- I guess we could word it, if  
23 anyone is arrested and/or convicted or a  
24 vehicular crime, are they obligated or  
25 mandated to report the incident to their

1 superior? And that is all I have,  
2 Mr. Rogan.

3 MR. ROGAN: Thank you, Mr. Perry.  
4 Mr. Donahue?

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

7 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. Mr. Evans.

8 MR. EVANS: Yeah, briefly. As some  
9 may know I'm a member of the Blight Task  
10 Force as part of the Blight to Bright  
11 Program. In fact, as a representative of  
12 city council, I'm the only person from the  
13 City of Scranton government that has  
14 attended the task force meetings. While  
15 there are still two more task force meetings  
16 to come, I would like to discuss some of the  
17 finding and recommendations to date and how  
18 they may impact the city and it's fight  
19 against blight.

20 It should be noted that dozens of  
21 municipalities across the county have  
22 responded to requests for information and to  
23 complete surveys relative to important data  
24 on blight. City officials as of today still  
25 have not responded. I sent another request

1 to LIPS today to see if they would provide  
2 the information being sought by the  
3 organizers, but looking at some findings  
4 from the draft report, 14.2 percent of all  
5 housing units in Scranton are vacant. There  
6 are over 2,283 vacant addresses in Scranton  
7 with 52.7 percent of those being vacant  
8 longer than 36 months. That is an alarming  
9 statistic. An average above 10 percent is  
10 an indication of a weak housing market,  
11 among other things. So we have a lot of  
12 work to do on that issue. We certainly need  
13 to begin to document those properties and  
14 analyze their cause and effect on our  
15 neighborhoods.

16 Also, of all of housing units in  
17 Scranton, the percentage of renter occupied  
18 units are 49.1 percent which, of course,  
19 calculates the owner occupied units at 50.9  
20 percent. The national average for  
21 homeownership is 62.9 percent. It's  
22 generally understood that when owner  
23 occupied units dip below 50 percent it is a  
24 sign that the conditions that lead to blight  
25 are going to be more pervasive and more

1           prevalent. We absolutely must find a way to  
2           do a better job, increase homeownership if  
3           we are going to be a healthy, thriving city  
4           in the future. If the percentage of  
5           homeownership continues to decline in  
6           Scranton and we do not reverse that trend,  
7           we will never have the stable neighborhoods  
8           that we want with the stable financial  
9           condition that the city must have to reverse  
10          this current way of blight.

11                        So some of the solutions that we  
12           talked about to date are, of course, the  
13           quality of life tickets which have been  
14           roundly conversed on, I should say. While  
15           Scranton has a quality of life ticketing  
16           program, across the state similar programs  
17           are administered quite differently than  
18           ours. Most have first offense fines ranging  
19           from \$10 to \$25. Their success rates in  
20           getting problems resolved at the ticketing  
21           stage is high. In fact, in one example Cole  
22           Township in Northumberland County,  
23           approximately 9 percent of code violators  
24           resolve the issue after a warning or after  
25           the first ticket is issued.

1                    Additionally, the issuance of  
2                    tickets is limited strictly to quality of  
3                    life issues only. Most have ten to 15  
4                    different items on the ticket as part of the  
5                    program. In Scranton, our tickets range  
6                    from \$100 to \$1,000 and we have 29 different  
7                    items on our ticket. The collection rate is  
8                    somewhere in the range of 25 to 35 percent,  
9                    but it's been difficult to determine that  
10                   because I have not been able to get the  
11                   information from the administration through  
12                   LIPS in a spreadsheet format that makes any  
13                   sense, so my point is that our quality of  
14                   life ticketing program has to be completely  
15                   reviewed and if necessary overhauled and I  
16                   fully expect that to happen.

17                   Another thing the city could do is  
18                   work with the Tax Claim Bureau and decertify  
19                   buyers at tax sales that have outstanding  
20                   delinquent taxes, code violations and  
21                   municipal liens. State laws allow  
22                   municipalities to challenge a successful  
23                   bidder within 20 days after the sale, so  
24                   that's something we could do very easily.  
25                   Another blight strategy is the appointment

1 of a property conservatorship. This allows  
2 municipalities to file a petition within the  
3 Court of Common Pleas to be appointed the  
4 conservator of a property for the purposes  
5 of making repairs to address code violations  
6 that the existing owner either refuses to do  
7 or the owner is unable to be reached or be  
8 found. That was approved by state law in  
9 2008 as part of the abandoned and Blighted  
10 Property Conservatorship Act. If the  
11 Court's grant the petition, the conservator  
12 proceeds with the work and the owner has the  
13 opportunity to reimburse the conservator for  
14 the work completed. If the owner does not  
15 do so, the Court may authorize the  
16 conservator to sell the property to recoup  
17 it's costs. This tool is intended to deal  
18 with blight and abandon properties that have  
19 been in that condition for a long, long  
20 period of time. It not only saves the city  
21 costs by eliminating the time spent by  
22 trying to get the owner to comply, but it  
23 also could save a home or a property from an  
24 unnecessary demolition as well as getting  
25 the property up to code and finally, if

1           necessary, it could force the sale to a new  
2           homeowner or better investor.

3                       So that is some current information  
4           from the Blight Task Force. There are  
5           several other remedies that are being  
6           discussed, including my ongoing plan for a  
7           complete review of the city's condemnation  
8           and demolition policies. My expectation is  
9           have a final report based on those  
10          recommendations from of the Blight Task  
11          Force to city council for review by the end  
12          of the year or beginning of 2019. At that  
13          point, I would ask or expect city council to  
14          engage the administration to discuss our  
15          recommendations and findings and to begin  
16          implementing solutions soon thereafter. And  
17          that is all I have for this evening.

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

20                      MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, I have a few,  
21          thank you very much. Mrs. Schumacher asked  
22          a few weeks ago for a list of equipment used  
23          for storm water management throughout the  
24          city and we did receive a letter today from  
25          the administration so I can give you a copy

1 of that, and there are -- I won't go through  
2 all of them, but there are eight pieces of  
3 equipment that they use for storm water  
4 management so that is the list and I will  
5 get that to you.

6 Also, we have one bid that has been  
7 received for the Crowley Park improvement  
8 project and that was by Chilewski  
9 Enterprises for \$308,798.88 so that's for  
10 the Crowley Park Improvement project in  
11 Greenridge.

12 Mrs. Reed, if we can ask the  
13 administration for an update on any money  
14 that has been spent at the Serrenti Center  
15 and just an overall progress update I would  
16 appreciate that.

17 Also, I'd like to announce that  
18 Councilman Donahue and I are holding an idea  
19 session Wednesday, November 7, at 6:00 p.m.  
20 here in council chambers and it will be  
21 televised by ECTV and this idea session is  
22 going to be with local high school students  
23 and our local colleges. We are trying to  
24 engage our younger community, listen to  
25 their ideas. Councilman Evans and I met

1 with the University of Scranton student  
2 government club a few weeks ago and they  
3 were very excited about the chance to  
4 participate in this idea session, so the  
5 overall goal of this is to tap into our  
6 youth, the youth that we have here in the  
7 city and to try to get them move involved in  
8 local government, so we did send out an  
9 invitation to all of the local universities  
10 and colleges and high schools and hopefully  
11 we get some good participation on that.

12 Also, we will have the budget on our  
13 agenda November 19, and since I have been  
14 here I think we've only had the business  
15 administrator show up to give his  
16 presentation. I do think this year  
17 especially in the caucus that we had before  
18 the meeting, there is a lot of different  
19 moving parts with this budget, especially  
20 with agenda item 5-D, so I think it would be  
21 helpful if the mayor, business administrator  
22 and his cabinet members could attend the  
23 public caucus so that we could have a  
24 conversation with them when we do have the  
25 budget on our agenda. I think that be very

1 helpful and I'm hopeful that my colleagues  
2 would agree and we could ask them to do  
3 that.

4 I also have a question, Mrs. Reed,  
5 there was a transfer, I believe I brought  
6 this up two or three weeks ago, to the IT  
7 Department from the Workers' Comp Trust Fund  
8 for somewhere in the area of \$350,000. I  
9 would like to find out, and I didn't get a  
10 chance to ask tonight Mr. Bulzoni why -- if  
11 there should have been legislation for that  
12 transfer because we did pass legislation  
13 when we transferred money from the workers'  
14 Comp Trust Fund into the Tree Shade  
15 Commission so I'm wondering why there wasn't  
16 legislation for the transfer from that fund  
17 to the IT Department.

18 Also, as Mrs. Hodowanitz correctly  
19 pointed out, we did receive the audit so I'm  
20 still reviewing that and it will be in Third  
21 Order on our agenda next week so it will be  
22 included in the backup online if anybody  
23 wants to take a look at it.

24 Also, Mrs. Jefferies brought up two  
25 points. Mrs. Reed, if we could ask for an

1 update from the administration on the street  
2 sign project that's related to legislation  
3 we passed quite a few weeks ago so I think  
4 it will helpful for an update on that.

5 And then an update on the tree  
6 house. I remember we received some kind of  
7 update from Mr. Fallon, I'll go back through  
8 my records and see what we have, but if I  
9 can't find that we will ask him for an  
10 additional update.

11 The only other thing that I have is,  
12 you know, I appreciate Mr. Perry's answers  
13 tonight to questions that were asked  
14 regarding flooding and the reimbursement  
15 method from the flood that we had in August.  
16 Apparently, a meeting was held with  
17 Mr. Perry and Mr. Rogan and members of the  
18 administration and that's great, but I do  
19 think that because the flooding affects all  
20 citizens throughout Scranton and each  
21 different part of the city this meeting  
22 should have been held in public in a public  
23 caucus with all council members especially  
24 because of the nature of the issue not  
25 behind closed doors, and I'm not sure what

1 everyone is afraid of, why everyone is  
2 afraid to speak out on this issue. Again, I  
3 mentioned it last week. I had asked  
4 questions and put them in writing on  
5 multiple occasions about the reimbursement  
6 method, but never received an response and I  
7 would like to ask my colleagues what is  
8 point of being on a committee? I'm  
9 Chairperson of the Committee on Public  
10 Works. What's the point of me being on that  
11 committee if I can't get answers to any of  
12 the questions and if there is a meeting  
13 that's held and I'm not even invited to it  
14 and I have been bringing these issues up for  
15 the last few months?

16 So, again, I don't agree with the  
17 way it was done and I wish that the  
18 administration would be more open and more  
19 transparent especially with these important  
20 issues that are facing all of residents of  
21 the city, and that's all I have. Thank you.

22 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. A number of  
23 items to hit on. Regarding the borrowing  
24 for the pension, a question was asked  
25 whether this money is the same as the money

1           that is set aside and I think Councilman  
2           Evans and myself at the exact time said yes  
3           and no. In the purest form this legislation  
4           does not touch that money. That money will  
5           continue to be set aside and earning  
6           interest for the city garage. On the other  
7           hand, you put two and two together pretty  
8           quickly that the dollar amounts match up.  
9           What this instrument allows us to do is get  
10          that money into the pension fund quicker  
11          than if we just wrote a check because there  
12          are other items that are still outstanding.  
13          This allows us to get it in there to allow  
14          it to grow. It really is a good time right  
15          now, there has been a little pullback, so  
16          that's definitely part of it as well. It  
17          is, and when Mrs. Reed reads it, it is a  
18          very lengthy piece of legislation but I  
19          appreciate the caucus that we had today  
20          because I know I have a much better  
21          understanding of the inner workings of the  
22          legislation, and I know it is the  
23          administrations goal to pay off that note  
24          much quicker than planned but personally I  
25          feel if you could borrow at a net of really

1           2 1/2, 3 percent interest and earn seven you  
2           are well ahead of the game.

3                   I looked at it, obviously, a little  
4           bit differently than our panelist did  
5           because when I asked that question they kind  
6           of got silent for a second, so regarding the  
7           borrowing the legal answer I guess is no, it  
8           is not -- one does not have to do with the  
9           other but the practical answer is yes.  
10          That's why the numbers do match up.

11                   A resident mentioned the park  
12          downtown listing it for sale and I agree, I  
13          made the same comments. I did vote for this  
14          legislation very reluctantly and part of the  
15          reasoning why we were told that mitigation  
16          of the hazardous materials to construct the  
17          park would be less costly and wouldn't be as  
18          involved as mitigating to build a new  
19          residential -- or a new commercial or  
20          residential building. I tend to agree that  
21          that property I would much prefer it to see  
22          it be redeveloped than turned into a park.  
23          It's prime downtown real estate, and I know  
24          Councilman Evans has brought up that it was  
25          listed a number of times and he is correct,

1 but it certainly doesn't hurt to throw it on  
2 the market for a month and see what type of  
3 funds the city can bring in and, you know,  
4 whatever money that was brought in could be  
5 used in other parks in other parts of our  
6 neighborhoods to spruce them up and we would  
7 grow our tax base by a large development in  
8 the downtown.

9 I do agree that large development  
10 projects have not been happening, and that's  
11 why I agree with Councilman Perry's remarks  
12 regarding expanding our LERTA from three  
13 years to ten years and I do echo his  
14 comments that it is not even similar to a  
15 K0Z as far as the structure. Under the K0Z  
16 system, you did not pay a dime in taxes.  
17 You don't pay on your land, your  
18 improvements, you don't pay wage tax to the  
19 city or school district, you don't pay wage  
20 tax to the state. Under a LERTA, you still  
21 pay all of those taxes with the exception of  
22 the improvement that you have made on the  
23 property as part of that deal so it is a  
24 much, much more watered down version of the  
25 K0Z.

1                   That being said, if there was a  
2                   large developer that approached us for KOZ I  
3                   wouldn't be closed to it. I think I'm maybe  
4                   the outlier on this issue, but the Tripps  
5                   Park development was a huge success. If you  
6                   go through their now it's generating tons  
7                   and tons of tax revenue to the city and  
8                   without question if it wasn't for that  
9                   program, it never would have been built. It  
10                  still would have been abandoned coal mine  
11                  land.

12                  So I'm not advocating going that far  
13                  for individual projects, but I do think the  
14                  Chamber's proposal is spot on for what we  
15                  need to do.

16                  Regarding the storm water issues,  
17                  Mr. Perry summed them up pretty well. Just  
18                  a couple of things I did want to mention  
19                  that I took away from the meeting is -- and  
20                  everyone who watches knows I have been  
21                  critical of the DPW through the years, but  
22                  on this issue they are doing a lot more than  
23                  we see on a daily basis. I know from myself  
24                  I was not aware that the DPW was in the  
25                  Keyser Valley as many times as they were. I

1 was not aware that tons of millings were put  
2 in the alley by Mr. Srebro and others to try  
3 and correct some of the problems that were  
4 going on. Certainly not a long-term fix,  
5 but these are things that we were not aware  
6 of.

7 Thinking long-term, I am encouraged  
8 with the fact that they listened to some of  
9 Mr. Besko's suggestions. I think all of the  
10 neighbors I talked to in the area seem to  
11 say they are expert on that area. He seems  
12 to know the lay of the land better than  
13 anyone else so I do think that's something  
14 that, you know, I'm anxious to see if that  
15 could work and it sounds like from talking  
16 to some people that it definitely can work.

17 Regarding the FEMA and PEMA,  
18 Mr. Perry already hit up on that and we are  
19 going to -- Mrs. Reed, if we can send a  
20 letter to PennDOT asking for regular street  
21 sweeping on all state roads, particularly  
22 Pittston Avenue in Minooka, it was brought  
23 up that with the state roads, and it's very  
24 complicated because the state is responsible  
25 just for the surface, we are responsible for

1 everything under the surface. The water can  
2 be our responsibility or the water company  
3 so there is a lot of different aspects that  
4 come into play here, but that is one thing  
5 that if we could get a little cooperation  
6 from PennDOT, and not to say the city needs  
7 to do a better job of street sweeping also  
8 on our roads, but that's one thing if we  
9 could send that to PennDOT.

10 As Mr. Perry mentioned, depending on  
11 if you are in an older or newer part of the  
12 city it will depend on whose responsibility  
13 it is and DPW is your best first call if you  
14 don't know. When you have lingering issues  
15 like many do you become familiar with some  
16 of the people.

17 And the point was brought up at our  
18 meeting, and I wasn't going to mention it,  
19 but I do think it needs to be said.  
20 Unfortunately, water issues have come to the  
21 forefront this year and this is the worst  
22 summer and fall that we have ever had at  
23 least into my lifetime as far as rain goes.  
24 The ground is just so saturated. I still  
25 have grass growing in my backyard and it's

1 almost November. Most years by August the  
2 grass is it so burnt you can't even cut it  
3 anymore. That just shows how much rain we  
4 have been getting on a daily basis. The  
5 ground has not had a chance to dry out and  
6 every time we get an inch the rain now it's  
7 causing issues where in the past if you had,  
8 you know, a regular summer the ground would  
9 absorb much of that, so that's something to  
10 keep in mind as well. Hopefully we do get a  
11 little stretch of the dry weather here, but  
12 that's something that I do feel that did  
13 need to be said.

14 Finally, I know Mr. Perry brought  
15 this up as well and I was, unfortunately --  
16 I wasn't able to make it over to the  
17 ceremony for the groundbreaking on the  
18 Novembrino splash pad. This is something  
19 that is extremely long overdue. I hope I  
20 never have to mention this project again  
21 other than the Novembrino splash pad is  
22 completed. I have lived in West Side my  
23 whole life. I know that park. I swam in  
24 that park when I was a kid. It's a shame  
25 that it was gone to such disrepair that it

1 has to be demolished and rebuilt, but that  
2 being said I am happy that is being rebuilt  
3 and for younger kids nowadays it seems like  
4 splash pads are actually more popular than  
5 pools. It's easier to maintain for the  
6 city, it's easier to have for safety for  
7 lifeguards, so this is something I am very,  
8 very fortunate that it's happened and we are  
9 very fortunate as a city we are finally able  
10 to get many of these projects that were done  
11 that were lingering for far, far too long.  
12 So that is all. Thank you.

13 MS. REED: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
14 AN ORDINANCE - AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNCIL  
15 OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON, LACKAWANNA COUNTY,  
16 PENNSYLVANIA, SETTING FORTH ITS INTENT TO  
17 ISSUE ITS FEDERALLY TAXABLE GENERAL  
18 OBLIGATION NOTE, SERIES OF 2018 (THE "NOTE")  
19 IN A PRINCIPAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED  
20 TWENTY-TWO MILLION NINE HUNDRED NINETY  
21 THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$22,990,000) PURSUANT TO  
22 THE ACT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE  
23 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, 53 PA.C.S.  
24 CHAPTERS 80-82, AS AMENDED, REENACTED AND  
25 SUPPLEMENTED, KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT

1 UNIT DEBT ACT (THE "ACT"); FINDING THAT A  
2 PRIVATE SALE BY NEGOTIATION IS IN THE BEST  
3 FINANCIAL INTERESTS OF THE CITY; DETERMINING  
4 THAT SUCH NOTE SHALL EVIDENCE NONELECTORAL  
5 DEBT OF THE CITY; SPECIFYING THAT SUCH  
6 INDEBTEDNESS IS TO BE INCURRED TO PROVIDE  
7 FUNDS TO FINANCE A PROJECT OF THE CITY WHICH  
8 CONSISTS OF, AMONG OTHER THINGS: (1) FUNDING  
9 ALL OR A PORTION OF THE CITY'S UNFUNDED  
10 ACTUARIAL ACCRUED PENSION LIABILITY; AND (2)  
11 PAYING THE COSTS AND EXPENSES OF ISSUANCE OF  
12 THE NOTE; SETTING FORTH THE REASONABLE  
13 ESTIMATED USEFUL LIFE OF THE PROJECT TO BE  
14 FINANCED BY THE NOTE; ACCEPTING A PROPOSAL  
15 FOR THE PURCHASE OF SUCH NOTE AT PRIVATE  
16 SALE BY NEGOTIATION; PROVIDING THAT SUCH  
17 NOTE, WHEN ISSUED, SHALL CONSTITUTE A  
18 GENERAL OBLIGATION OF THE CITY; FIXING THE  
19 DENOMINATION, DATED DATE, INTEREST PAYMENT  
20 DATES, INTEREST RATE, REDEMPTION PROVISIONS  
21 AND PLACE OF PAYMENT OF THE PRINCIPAL OF AND  
22 INTEREST ON SUCH NOTE; AUTHORIZING SPECIFIED  
23 OFFICERS OF THE CITY TO CONTRACT WITH THE  
24 PAYING AGENT FOR ITS SERVICES IN CONNECTION  
25 WITH THE NOTE; SETTING FORTH THE SUBSTANTIAL

1 FORM OF THE NOTE EVIDENCING THE DEBT;  
2 AUTHORIZING EXECUTION AND ATTESTATION OF  
3 SUCH NOTE; PROVIDING COVENANTS RELATED TO  
4 DEBT SERVICE APPLICABLE TO SUCH NOTE TO  
5 THE EXTENT REQUIRED BY THE ACT AND PLEDGING  
6 THE FULL FAITH, CREDIT AND TAXING POWER OF  
7 THE CITY IN SUPPORT THEREOF; CREATING A  
8 SINKING FUND IN CONNECTION WITH SUCH NOTE,  
9 TO THE EXTENT REQUIRED BY THE ACT;  
10 DESIGNATING THE PAYING AGENT TO BE  
11 THE SINKING FUND DEPOSITARY; PROVIDING A  
12 COVENANT TO INSURE PROMPT AND FULL PAYMENT  
13 FOR SUCH NOTE WHEN DUE; SETTING FORTH  
14 REGISTRATION AND TRANSFER PROVISIONS WITH  
15 RESPECT TO SUCH NOTE; AUTHORIZING THE  
16 EXECUTION OF ONE OR MORE INVESTMENT  
17 AGREEMENTS BY SPECIFIED OFFICERS OF THE CITY  
18 (IF APPLICABLE) AND THE PURCHASE OF CERTAIN  
19 U.S. TREASURY OBLIGATIONS OR ANY OTHER  
20 SECURITIES OR INVESTMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH  
21 THE PROJECT; AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING  
22 SPECIFIED OFFICERS OF THE CITY TO DO, TO  
23 TAKE AND TO PERFORM CERTAIN SPECIFIED,  
24 REQUIRED, NECESSARY OR APPROPRIATE ACTS TO  
25 EFFECT THE ISSUANCE OF THE NOTE, INCLUDING,

1 WITHOUT LIMITATION, THE PREPARATION OF A  
2 DEBT STATEMENT AND BORROWING BASE  
3 CERTIFICATE, AND THE FILING OF SPECIFIED  
4 DOCUMENTS WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY  
5 AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ALL AS REQUIRED BY  
6 THE ACT; DECLARING THAT THE DEBT TO BE  
7 EVIDENCED BY SUCH NOTE, TOGETHER WITH ALL  
8 OTHER INDEBTEDNESS OF THE CITY, WILL NOT BE  
9 IN EXCESS OF ANY APPLICABLE LIMITATION  
10 IMPOSED BY THE ACT; AUTHORIZING PROPER  
11 OFFICERS OF THE CITY TO DELIVER THE NOTE  
12 UPON THE APPROVAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF  
13 COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT;  
14 PROVIDING WHEN THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BECOME  
15 EFFECTIVE; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY OF  
16 PROVISIONS; AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES OR  
17 PARTS OF ORDINANCES INSOFAR AS THE SAME  
18 SHALL BE INCONSISTENT HEREWITH.

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

22 MR. PERRY: So moved.

23 MR. EVANS: Second.

24 MR. ROGAN: On the question?

25 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.



1           whether we are playing with fire here, but  
2           I'm going to vote to introduce this and have  
3           more questions next week. Thank you.

4                   MR. ROGAN: Anyone else on the  
5           question? All those in favor of  
6           introduction signify by saying aye.

7                   MR. PERRY: Aye.

8                   MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

9                   MR. EVANS: Aye.

10                  MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

11                  MR. ROGAN: Aye. Opposed? The ayes  
12           have it and so moved.

13                  MS. REED: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION –  
14           AN ORDINANCE – AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF A  
15           TAX AND REVENUE ANTICIPATION NOTE, SERIES OF  
16           2019 IN THE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED  
17           \$12,750,000; PROVIDING FOR THE DATED DATE,  
18           INTEREST RATE, MATURITY DATE, REDEMPTION  
19           PROVISIONS, PAYMENT AND PLACE OF PAYMENT IN  
20           RESPECT OF THE NOTE; ACCEPTING THE PROPOSAL  
21           ATTACHED HERETO AS EXHIBIT “B” FROM THE  
22           FINANCIAL INSTITUTION NAMED THEREIN FOR THE  
23           PURCHASE OF THE NOTE; NAMING A SINKING FUND  
24           DEPOSITARY/PAYING AGENT; AUTHORIZING THE  
25           PROPER OFFICERS OF THE CITY TO EXECUTE AND

1 DELIVER THE NOTE AND CERTAIN OTHER DOCUMENTS  
2 AND CERTIFICATES IN CONNECTION THEREWITH;  
3 AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE PREPARATION,  
4 CERTIFICATION AND FILING OF THE NECESSARY  
5 DOCUMENTS WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY  
6 AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH  
7 OF PENNSYLVANIA; SETTING FORTH A FORM OF THE  
8 NOTE.

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

12 MR. PERRY: So moved.

13 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

17 MR. PERRY: Aye.

18 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

19 MR. EVANS: Aye.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

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

25 SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR

1           CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY  
2           DEVELOPMENT – FOR ADOPTION -RESOLUTION NO.  
3           80, 2018 – AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER  
4           APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO APPLY FOR AND  
5           EXECUTE A GRANT APPLICATION BY THE CITY OF  
6           SCRANTON TO THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF  
7           COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (“DCED”)  
8           FOR A LOCAL SHARE ACCOUNT GRANT (GAMING  
9           FUNDS-MONROE COUNTY) IN THE AMOUNT OF  
10          \$62,500 FOR THE REMEDIATION ACTIVITIES AT  
11          THE SITE OF THE FUTURE POCKET PARK LOCATED  
12          AT 248 WYOMING AVENUE.

13                   MR. ROGAN: What is the  
14                   recommendation of the Chairperson for the  
15                   Committee on Community Development?

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

19                   MR. EVANS: Second.

20                   MR. ROGAN: On the question?

21                   MR. DONAHUE: Yes, on the question.  
22                   I'm not completely sold either on the idea  
23                   of a pocket park at this property, but  
24                   either/or the remediation has to be done so  
25                   that's why I am voting for this legislation.

1 MR. ROGAN: I agree with Councilman  
2 Donahue, and to follow-up on the point I  
3 made, and I think one of the speakers made a  
4 really good point on this, it has to be  
5 remediated either way. It's been listed for  
6 sale and it wouldn't sell with it being  
7 contaminated, which if you are a real estate  
8 developer buying contaminated land is a  
9 little bit of a gamble, but I feel very  
10 strongly that this land should be listed.  
11 If it's permissible I would even agree to  
12 list it myself free of charge through the  
13 real estate company that I work for if the  
14 city wanted to take me up on.

15 MR. PERRY: Conflict of interest.

16 MR. ROGAN: What was that?

17 MR. PERRY: Conflict of interest.

18 MR. ROGAN: Free of charge.

19 MR. PERRY: Nothing is free.

20 MR. ROGAN: It certainly is  
21 something that I think the city should  
22 explore but as Councilman Donahue mentioned  
23 the remediation needs to be done one way or  
24 the other, so I do support this legislation.

25 MR. PERRY: Yes, on the question,

1 the pocket park was always Plan B that was  
2 just something -- I remember when  
3 Mr. Bulzoni proposed that to council we had  
4 this land, it couldn't be developed, it  
5 needed remediation and, you know, what are  
6 we going to do with it? And so I believe at  
7 the time there was county and state funding  
8 for the park, which would be no cost to the  
9 city to turn it into a park, so I think and,  
10 again, I'm going back about a year or so, he  
11 said our choices was to leave it as a brown  
12 space as it is now or apply for the grants  
13 through the county and through the state  
14 simultaneously and use that to build our  
15 pocket park. The green space would be a lot  
16 better than the brown space, but Plan A was  
17 always develop the land. It just was just  
18 so far long that no one wanted to develop  
19 it, but if someone wants to step in in the  
20 11th hour and develop that land I'm all for  
21 it because that tax dollars are what it's at  
22 in the City of Scranton and we'll take all  
23 we can get when it gets to new tax revenue.

24 So let's develop it. If we can't,  
25 you know, I think Plan B still should be the

1 pocket park.

2 MR. EVANS: On the question, I don't  
3 know if there is restrictions based on the  
4 grants that have already been approved for  
5 this. We have a grant for the park,  
6 obviously, there's a grant for the  
7 remediation, I think that might be something  
8 down the road. I do know that the parcel  
9 was exposed to the market for almost ten  
10 years and there was no takers on it. Of  
11 course, there was the issue with the  
12 remediation involved with that, but I'm  
13 not -- I'm actually for the packet park, I  
14 think it's a good idea. However, if  
15 somebody came in after that pocket park was  
16 built and they want would to reimburse us  
17 for the cost of what we spent on the land  
18 we'll move the pocket park somewhere else,  
19 but I don't expect that to happen. We have  
20 quite a few large parcels downtown that I'd  
21 like to see developed probably even before  
22 this one, one being across the street that's  
23 probably the biggest single parcel in  
24 downtown Scranton and it's gone undeveloped  
25 and it's parking lot probably for 20 years

1           now, so we need to really concentrate on  
2           those large parcels. There is a small  
3           corner lot. I think what we have in place  
4           is a reasonable plan and we'll see where it  
5           goes.

6                       MR. ROGAN: And just not to be a  
7           beat a dead horse, but just regarding  
8           approving these grants, as Councilman Evans  
9           kind of alluded to, if somebody comes in at  
10          the 11th hour and wants to buy it the city  
11          could always turn down these funds and if  
12          somebody would come in and offer to develop  
13          that property. If the options are keep it  
14          as it is or put a park in, of course, I  
15          would want the park but I would want much  
16          like to see that land developed. Roll call,  
17          please?

18                      MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

19                      MR. PERRY: Yes.

20                      MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

21                      MR. DONAHUE: Yes.

22                      MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

23                      MR. EVANS: Yes.

24                      MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

25                      MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

2 MR. ROGAN: Yes. I hereby declare  
3 Item 7-A legally and lawfully adopted.

4 MS. REED: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION  
5 BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT -  
6 FOR ADOPTION -RESOLUTION NO. 81, 2018 -  
7 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE  
8 CITY OFFICIALS TO APPLY FOR AND EXECUTE A  
9 GRANT APPLICATION BY THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO  
10 THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND  
11 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ("DCED") FOR A KEYSTONE  
12 COMMUNITIES PROGRAM GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF  
13 \$50,000 FOR THE REMEDIATION ACTIVITIES AT  
14 THE SITE OF THE FUTURE POCKET PARK LOCATED  
15 AT 248 WYOMING AVENUE.

16 MR. ROGAN: What is the  
17 recommendation of the Chair for the  
18 Committee on Community Development?

19 MR. DONAHUE: As Chair for the  
20 Committee on Community Development, I  
21 recommend final passage of Item 7-B.

22 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

25 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

1 MR. PERRY: Yes.

2 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

3 MR. DONAHUE: Yes.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

5 MR. EVANS: Yes.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

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

11 MS. REED: 7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION  
12 BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE – FOR ADOPTION -  
13 RESOLUTION NO. 82, 2018 – RATIFYING AND  
14 APPROVING OF THE EXECUTION AND SUBMISSION OF  
15 THE GRANT APPLICATION BY THE CITY OF  
16 SCRANTON, ON BEHALF OF SCRANTON CULTURAL  
17 CENTER AT MASONIC TEMPLE TO THE COMMONWEALTH  
18 OF PENNSYLVANIA ACTING THROUGH THE  
19 COMMONWEALTH FINANCING AUTHORITY FOR A LOCAL  
20 SHARE ACCOUNT GRANT, PURSUANT TO THE PA RACE  
21 HORSE DEVELOPMENT AND GAMING ACT IN THE  
22 AMOUNT OF \$345,405.00 FOR THE PROJECT TO BE  
23 KNOWN AS “SCRANTON CULTURAL CENTER AT  
24 MASONIC TEMPLE ELEVATOR SAFETY/MODERNIZATION  
25 REPAIRS” LOCATED IN SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA,

1 AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER  
2 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF  
3 SCRANTON TO ACCEPT THE GRANT, IF SUCCESSFUL  
4 AND EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A LOCAL SHARE  
5 ACCOUNT GRANT CONTRACT AND COMMITMENT LETTER  
6 WITH THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA TO  
7 ACCEPT AND UTILIZE THE GRANT IN THE AMOUNT  
8 OF \$345,405.00 AWARDED BY THE COMMONWEALTH  
9 OF PENNSYLVANIA FOR SUCH PROJECT.

10 MR. ROGAN: What is the  
11 recommendation of the Chairperson for the  
12 Committee on Finance?

13 MR. EVANS: As Chairperson for the  
14 Committee on Finance, I recommend final  
15 passage of Item 7-C.

16 MR. PERRY: Second.

17 MR. ROGAN: On the question?

18 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.  
19 Ms. Hodowanitz, you had asked the question  
20 last week or the week before about this  
21 legislation and we did get an answer from  
22 Linda Aebli. She said that their budget  
23 says \$345,405.25, but the way the LS grant  
24 work they cannot include cents, so she  
25 reduced the amount to \$345,405 even. In the

1 narrative and support letter it says,  
2 "356,376" because in September that was the  
3 amount they were looking to receive but the  
4 \$10,971 was work that was currently underway  
5 and it had to be taken out of the  
6 application, so I hope that answers your  
7 question but that's the reason that there  
8 was the difference between the two figures.  
9 Thank you.

10 MR. ROGAN: Anyone else? Roll call,  
11 please?

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

13 MR. PERRY: Yes.

14 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

15 MR. DONAHUE: Yes.

16 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

17 MR. EVANS: Yes.

18 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

19 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

20 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

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

23 MS. REED: 7-D. FOR CONSIDERATION  
24 BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE - FOR ADOPTION -  
25 RESOLUTION NO. 83, 2018 - RATIFYING AND

1 APPROVING OF THE EXECUTION AND SUBMISSION OF  
2 THE GRANT APPLICATION BY THE CITY OF  
3 SCRANTON, ON BEHALF OF ELECTRIC CITY  
4 DEVELOPMENT LLC TO THE COMMONWEALTH OF  
5 PENNSYLVANIA ACTING THROUGH THE COMMONWEALTH  
6 FINANCING AUTHORITY FOR A LOCAL SHARE  
7 ACCOUNT GRANT, PURSUANT TO THE PA RACE HORSE  
8 DEVELOPMENT AND GAMING ACT IN THE AMOUNT  
9 OF \$500,000.00 FOR THE PROJECT TO BE KNOWN  
10 AS "WYOMING AVENUE LSA" LOCATED AT 614  
11 WYOMING AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA  
12 18509, AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER  
13 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF  
14 SCRANTON TO ACCEPT THE GRANT, IF SUCCESSFUL  
15 AND EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A LOCAL SHARE  
16 ACCOUNT GRANT CONTRACT AND COMMITMENT LETTER  
17 WITH THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA TO  
18 ACCEPT AND UTILIZE THE GRANT IN THE AMOUNT  
19 OF \$500,000.00 AWARDED BY THE COMMONWEALTH  
20 OF PENNSYLVANIA FOR SUCH PROJECT.

21 MR. ROGAN: What is the  
22 recommendation of the Chair for the  
23 Committee on Finance?

24 MR. EVANS: As Chairperson for the  
25 Committee on Finance, I recommend final

1 passage of Item 7-D.

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-D legally and lawfully adopted.

16 MS. REED: 7-E. FOR CONSIDERATION BY  
17 THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE - FOR ADOPTION -  
18 RESOLUTION NO. 84, 2018 - RATIFYING AND  
19 APPROVING OF THE EXECUTION AND SUBMISSION OF  
20 THE GRANT APPLICATION BY THE CITY OF  
21 SCRANTON, ON BEHALF OF NEIGHBORWORKS  
22 NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA TO THE  
23 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA ACTING THROUGH  
24 THE COMMONWEALTH FINANCING AUTHORITY FOR A  
25 LOCAL SHARE ACCOUNT GRANT, PURSUANT TO THE

1 PA RACE HORSE DEVELOPMENT AND GAMING ACT  
2 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$78,960.00 FOR THE PROJECT  
3 TO BE KNOWN AS "NEIGHBORWORKS HOMEOWNERSHIP  
4 CENTER" LOCATED 815 SMITH STREET, SCRANTON,  
5 PENNSYLVANIA 18504, AND AUTHORIZING THE  
6 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS  
7 OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO ACCEPT THE GRANT,  
8 IF SUCCESSFUL AND EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A  
9 LOCAL SHARE ACCOUNT GRANT CONTRACT AND  
10 COMMITMENT LETTER WITH THE COMMONWEALTH OF  
11 PENNSYLVANIA TO ACCEPT AND UTILIZE THE  
12 GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$78,960.00 AWARDED BY  
13 THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA FOR SUCH  
14 PROJECT.

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-E.

21 MR. PERRY: Second.

22 MR. ROGAN: On the question?

23 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.  
24 This is a really great project, and we have  
25 talked about Neighborworks here many times

1 over the last few years, but they really are  
2 the unsung heroes in the City of Scranton.  
3 They don't always get the recognition they  
4 deserve and people often don't know all of  
5 the work that really goes on there so, you  
6 know, the work that they do to help people  
7 in the city is unbelievable and I hope they  
8 get this grant and best of luck to them.

9 MR. EVANS: Yes, on the question. I  
10 would absolutely second that. The work they  
11 have done for us as our partner in the SHAP  
12 program, which is the Scranton Homeowners  
13 Assistance Program has been phenomenal with  
14 27 homeowners getting -- first time  
15 homebuyers getting grants to fix out of the  
16 outside of their homes has just been a  
17 wildly successful program and we are  
18 actually talking to them again about another  
19 potential project that they can help us  
20 with, so kudos to them and this is a great  
21 project to rehab their home over on Smith  
22 Street so good luck.

23 MR. ROGAN: My colleagues are 100  
24 percent right I just want to give a shout  
25 out to their CEO over there Jessie Ergott.

1 He has been absolutely amazing to work with,  
2 myself and Councilman Evans, when putting  
3 together the Homebuyers Assistance Program  
4 and the many other programs that they do.  
5 Paint the town where they go into low to  
6 moderate income areas and help people,  
7 particularly the elderly, who can't paint  
8 their own homes, spruce it up and do these  
9 type of things for them. It's one of the  
10 best nonprofits we have in the city and they  
11 really do a lot to give back to the  
12 community.

13 Roll call, please.

14 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

15 MR. PERRY: Yes.

16 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

17 MR. DONAHUE: Yes.

18 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

19 MR. EVANS: Yes.

20 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

21 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

23 MR. ROGAN: Yes. I hereby declare

24 Item 7-E legally and lawfully adopted.

25 If there is no further business,

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I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

MR. PERRY: Motion to adjourn.

MR. ROGAN: Meeting adjourned.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I hereby certify that the proceedings and evidence are contained fully and accurately in the notes of testimony taken by me at the hearing of the above-captioned matter and that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the same to the best of my ability.

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CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR  
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER