

COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

HELD:

Monday, April 1st, 2019

LOCATION:

Council Chambers  
Scranton City Hall  
340 North Washington Avenue  
Scranton, Pennsylvania

Maria McCool, RPR  
Official Court Reporter

1 C O U N C I L M E M B E R S :

2

3 PATRICK ROGAN, PRESIDENT

4 TIMOTHY PERRY, VICE PRESIDENT

5 WAYNE EVANS

6 WILLIAM GAUGHAN

7 KYLE DONAHUE

8

9

10 LORI REED, CITY CLERK

11 KATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

12 AMIL MINORA, ESQUIRE - SOLICITOR

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

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

3  
4 MR. ROGAN: Roll call, please.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

6 MR. PERRY: Here.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

8 MR. DONAHUE: Here.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

10 MR. EVANS: Here.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: Here.

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

14 MR. ROGAN: Here. Please dispense  
15 with the reading of the minutes.

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

17 MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING OF  
18 THE SCRANTON SEWER AUTHORITY HELD FEBRUARY 21,  
19 2019.

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

22 MS. REED: 3-B. MEMORANDUM RECEIVED  
23 MARCH 25, 2019 FROM CITY OF SCRANTON  
24 BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR REGARDING MUNICIPAL  
25 BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS.

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

3 MS. REED: 3-C. SINGLE TAX OFFICE  
4 CITY FUNDS DISTRIBUTED COMPARISON REPORT  
5 2018-2019 YEAR TO DATE MARCH 31, 2019.

6 MR. ROGAN: Are there any comments?  
7 If not, received and filed. Do any Council  
8 members have announcements at this time?

9 MR. DONAHUE: Yes, I do. The -- we  
10 held a meeting for interested members of the  
11 Complete Count Committee on Thursday night. It  
12 was well attended. If anyone else is  
13 interested on serving on the Complete Count  
14 Committee for the census next year, please  
15 reach out to either the City Solicitor's Office  
16 or the City Clerk's Office and leave your name  
17 and we'll get back to you.

18 Also, St. Lucy's Church will hold  
19 their annual spaghetti dinner on April 3rd and  
20 4th. Takeout dinners are available from three  
21 to five and sit-down dinner from five to eight.  
22 Tickets are available at the door or call the  
23 rectory at 570-347-9421. The cost is \$10 per  
24 dinner. And spaghetti sauce is also available  
25 for purchase for \$15 a gallon. And that's all

1 I have.

2 MR. ROGAN: Anyone else? I have one  
3 announcement. The broadcast server for ECTV  
4 suffered a catastrophic failure last Tuesday.  
5 They worked quickly with the company who builds  
6 the equipment that is used. And they're  
7 working on getting a new unit at this time.

8 So this piece of equipment allows  
9 ECTV to broadcast and rebroadcast programming.  
10 They're hoping to have it on back on the air by  
11 early next week. Currently you could still see  
12 the live broadcast of the City Council meeting  
13 which is on now.

14 However, ECTV is unable to  
15 rebroadcast the meeting until their server is  
16 fixed. Anyone wishing to see a rebroadcast can  
17 go on the ECTV YouTube page and watch the  
18 rebroadcast at this time. So they're hoping  
19 that that will be fixed by next week. We  
20 appreciate all the hard work that our friends  
21 at ECTV trying to get this up and running.

22 MS. REED: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS  
23 PARTICIPATION.

24

25 ( The following speakers offered

1 public comment as follows:

2 Joan Hodowanitz spoke on City  
3 business.

4 Les Spindler spoke on matters of  
5 general concern.

6 Fay Franus spoke on matters of  
7 general concern.

8 Sara Lancaster spoke on matters of  
9 general concern.

10 Lee Morgan spoke on matters of  
11 general concern.

12 Dave Dobrzyn spoke on matters of  
13 general concern.

14 Nick Senuk spoke on matters of  
15 general concern.

16 Marie Schumacher spoke on City  
17 business and matters of general concern.

18 Norma Jefferies spoke on matters of  
19 general concern.

20 Ron Ellman spoke on matters of  
21 general concern.

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

23 MOTIONS.

24 MR. ROGAN: Mr. Perry, any motions  
25 or comments?

1 MR. PERRY: Yeah, a few quick --  
2 very quick items. The first one was about Nick  
3 from Meat In The Middle. I love a good  
4 startup. I love when someone's starting a  
5 business and getting rolling. And I know how  
6 difficult it could be to keep that business  
7 going and all the obstacles that get in his  
8 way.

9 So, Ms. Reed, if we could send a  
10 followup letter to ABM and maybe Jessica in our  
11 law department and just see where they are with  
12 that process and then copy Council on the  
13 response. Also a separate correspondence to  
14 ABM. Do they -- I'm guessing they don't. But  
15 it's a shot in the dark. I know they operate  
16 in many cities. And we're not the only city  
17 that offers delivery service.

18 But is there a protocol for them for  
19 delivery drivers? Do they offer a delivery  
20 pass? Someway where if there's an obviously  
21 well marked commercial vehicle, you know, for a  
22 30 second, 45 second dropoff, is there  
23 something that they actually have in place in  
24 other cities they used that we could steal from  
25 and copy and maybe help this young guy out,

1 keep his business going?

2 I don't want to see him get  
3 derailed. And small businesses, especially  
4 startups, the margins are very tiny. And these  
5 fines, you know, that could be enough to drive  
6 someone out of business. And we're trying to  
7 drag them in, not drive them out.

8 Number two, if we can send something  
9 off to Mr. Bulzoni just an update with the  
10 Serrenti grants. I just want to see where we  
11 are. Also if you can send a copy to all the  
12 Councilmen on the work that is going to be done  
13 and the funds that are going to cover that  
14 work.

15 We just want to make sure that the  
16 work done and the grants coming are matching  
17 up. So I'll be waiting to hear from Mr.  
18 Bulzoni on that. And then finally, I know we  
19 talked about this in caucus, City Hall. If we  
20 can send something out to Mr. O'Hora, who's our  
21 building maintenance, I know I spoke to him.  
22 He spoke to most of us over the phone over the  
23 past couple weeks just to give us an idea of  
24 what's happening. And we did have the  
25 presentation by Highland.

1                   And I was on the record last week by  
2                   saying, you know, this is our building. This  
3                   is our home. And I want to hold onto it. And  
4                   I believe that it is our responsibility to fix  
5                   it and take care of it. But it is my  
6                   responsibility to do my due diligence and hear  
7                   from everybody involved and to have all options  
8                   on the table.

9                   And one of those options is to meet  
10                  with our building maintenance manager and let  
11                  him show me the building and show me all his  
12                  concerns. And if you would set that up with  
13                  him at a time that's convenient and copy all  
14                  the Council members and if anybody is willing  
15                  to or wants to join us, they're more than  
16                  welcome to walk the building with us at that  
17                  time. That's all I have.

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

20                 MR. DONAHUE: Yeah, just briefly.  
21                 After reading Saturday's Scranton Times article  
22                 regarding the delinquent trash fees that  
23                 totaled more than 16.8 million dollars, I  
24                 couldn't help but think about people all across  
25                 the city who may have fallen on hard times or

1 struggling financially for any reason  
2 whatsoever who still manage to pay their taxes  
3 on time and pay their garbage fees on time.

4 And it's just absolutely infuriating  
5 that we are putting our residents in a  
6 situation where we have 75 percent of  
7 responsible property owners basically  
8 subsidizing 25 percent of the irresponsible  
9 home buyers.

10 And then even after scrolling  
11 through the list of delinquents, I became even  
12 more enraged by the fact that there are many  
13 names on that list that absolutely have the  
14 means to pay that fee. They just decided not  
15 to.

16 Where is the accountability? What  
17 is the Mayor and his administration doing to  
18 hold delinquent property owners accountable and  
19 to make sure we collect as much of these  
20 delinquencies as possible? In at least the  
21 last 15 months since I've been on this Council,  
22 accountability hasn't been a top priority for  
23 the Courtright Administration. That needs to  
24 end if the city is going to move forward in a  
25 positive direction.

1                   On a more positive note, I'd like to  
2 talk about the NEPA Trashtag Challenge that was  
3 highlighted in Friday's paper. As we move into  
4 spring, it's hard not to notice the amount of  
5 trash lining streets all across the city. And  
6 it looks terrible.

7                   Trashtag Challenge participants take  
8 before and after pictures in a littered area  
9 and then post the pictures on Facebook or  
10 Instagram with the hashtags Trashtag -- NEPA  
11 Trashtag and custom hashtags for participating  
12 businesses.

13                   Participating businesses will offer  
14 special deals for participants who tag the  
15 business in their before and after photos. I  
16 strongly encourage as many people as possible  
17 to participate in this challenge. I know I  
18 will be. By picking a spot in your  
19 neighborhood to clean up, you're not only  
20 showing pride in your neighborhood, but you  
21 just might inspire your neighbors to do the  
22 same.

23                   With that, I'll end with a quote  
24 from Gandhi, "Be the change you want to see in  
25 the world." Thank you.

1 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. Mr. Evans,  
2 any motions or comments?

3 MR. EVANS: A few comments. First  
4 of all, I would like congratulate the Holy  
5 Cross High School mock trial team. They are  
6 now the 2019 Mock Trial Pennsylvania State  
7 Champions. It's a great accomplishment for  
8 everyone that's involved with their success  
9 story.

10 A special congratulations to my  
11 cousin Jay's granddaughter, Erica Pica who is a  
12 member of the team as well as a Scranton  
13 resident.

14 On the delinquent trash fee story,  
15 we all should be shocked, dismayed, sad,  
16 disgusted at the level of outstanding  
17 delinquencies for unpaid trash fees. The  
18 question is, what do we do now?

19 For now, I'd like to offer a couple  
20 ideas and comments on this issue. First of  
21 all, let's look at the entity that has the  
22 highest amount owed, PSN Realty Incorporated  
23 from Bronxville, New York. That company owes  
24 \$125,375.99.

25 And there's no doubt that the

1 majority of their 19 city properties owned by  
2 PSN are most likely income properties that  
3 would come under the Rental Registration  
4 Program.

5 So I'd like to send a letter to  
6 Mr. Hinton and Mr. Oleski in the License and  
7 Inspection Department to see if they can  
8 determine which properties owned by PSN are  
9 registered under the Rental Registration  
10 Ordinance and which ones are actually occupied  
11 by tenants and where rents are currently being  
12 collected.

13 The most recent version of the  
14 Rental Registration Ordinance states in Section  
15 373-9 Subsection C, the following:

16 No landlord or owner with  
17 outstanding fines resulting from a violation of  
18 municipal ordinances as well as delinquent  
19 taxes and/or garbage fees, shall be eligible to  
20 obtain a license to rent residential real  
21 estate in a municipality of Scranton unless  
22 such fines, taxes, and fees are paid in full.

23 It couldn't be much clearer than  
24 that. Additionally when this City Council  
25 authored the most recent version of the

1 ordinance, we included this additional section,  
2 Section 373-10, Rental Escrow Program, which in  
3 effect allows the city to create an escrow  
4 account for the direct deposits of rent from  
5 properties that are in violation of the  
6 ordinance or who are not registered properly as  
7 defined by the ordinance.

8 The city then would hold the rents  
9 in escrow until such a time that the unit is  
10 registered and that rents would be released  
11 back to the owner only after all fees, all  
12 liens, and all services, etc., are payable to  
13 the City of Scranton are paid, plus a surcharge  
14 of 20 percent payable to the City of Scranton  
15 of the escrow funds.

16 My point is, we have other tools in  
17 our tool belt, especially as they relate to  
18 residential rental properties. The question  
19 is, are we using them and are we using them  
20 effectively.

21 Also it becomes increasingly clear to  
22 me that the pay as you throw bag type of  
23 collection plan could eliminate the need for  
24 the fee or at least minimize it, while at the  
25 same time it would dramatically increase the

1 performance of our recycling program throughout  
2 the city. And I think this is something that  
3 needs serious, serious consideration.

4 On the stormwater, there was a very  
5 good article in the newspaper today by John  
6 O'Connell about the stormwater issue. It  
7 certainly explains in depth the reason for  
8 pursuing a more regional approach and why it  
9 makes the most sense.

10 This is the approach I favor, of  
11 course, and I think most of us on City Council  
12 do as well. And we've enlisted Senator Blake  
13 to help us gather the forces of all of the  
14 little towns and municipalities up and down the  
15 Mid Valley and above to see if we can get  
16 together and try to have that conversation  
17 about a regional approach.

18 The reality is, this is an unfunded  
19 mandate. But it is a mandate nonetheless. And  
20 the more we can do to minimize the long-term  
21 impact of all of our citizens, the more  
22 responsible we are as leaders of our community.  
23 According to the article, in York, Pennsylvania  
24 or York County, for example, the county leaders  
25 took the initiative to pursue the regional

1 approach. That is leadership.

2 This discussion is extremely  
3 important and should never be reduced to  
4 disingenuous campaign taglines like hashtag No  
5 Rain Tax. And finally, as my custom for the  
6 last few weeks I just want to remind everybody,  
7 Every day is your chance to make this city a  
8 little better. That's all I have for now.

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

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes. Thank you.  
12 First, I'd like to make a motion that City  
13 Council invite Northeast Revenue Services, City  
14 Treasurer Wayne Beck and any other appropriate  
15 members of the Administration to a public  
16 caucus in Council chambers to discuss the  
17 delinquent garbage fees.

18 MR. PERRY: Second.

19 MR. ROGAN: On the question.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question,  
21 I mean, it goes without saying this whole issue  
22 is outrageous that this much money is owed.  
23 And I think somebody mentioned earlier tonight  
24 it begs the question -- and I'm sure most  
25 people in the city who are paying this are

1           saying why should I pay?

2                       I too went through the list and was,  
3           you know, shocked like everybody else as  
4           Councilman Donahue said knowing that there are  
5           certainly entities and other people that  
6           probably have the means to pay it that it seems  
7           like they are just not doing it.

8                       I think we need to have a  
9           conversation with Northeast Revenue Services  
10          about what has been done to collect the  
11          delinquent garbage fees; what is being done;  
12          and what their plan is and what the  
13          Administration's plan is moving forward  
14          obviously in light of this issue.

15                      Looking back at an article in the  
16          Scranton Times and a meeting that Council had  
17          back in 2016, Northeast Revenue Services filed  
18          2,420 liens on delinquencies from 2011 to 2013.  
19          Those unpaid garbage bills totalled nearly 1.47  
20          million dollars. And at that time, Councilman  
21          Wechsler said it's a huge amount of money for a  
22          struggling city like our own.

23                      At that time, the warnings and the  
24          threats, the letters that sent out worked  
25          somewhat. There was \$460,000 coughed up in

1 just one month. As of May 31st, 2016, NRS had  
2 collected a total of 1.8 million dollars in  
3 2011 to 2013 delinquencies.

4 So I think it goes without saying  
5 that we do need to have a meeting with NRS,  
6 with the City Treasurer and with any other  
7 members of the Administration to get the  
8 situation under control.

9 My question is and what I was  
10 thinking about when this whole thing came up  
11 is, you know, what's the end game here? Even  
12 if we clean up some of the delinquencies, are  
13 these same residents -- and I had this  
14 conversation with the Business Administrator  
15 going to return to delinquent status?

16 So I think we need to step back and  
17 look at everything. The other thing that we  
18 can't forget is that what looms in the  
19 background here is the lawsuit that the city  
20 finds itself in regarding the trash fee -- the  
21 \$300 trash fee. So that also poses an issue.

22 The other question I would have, are  
23 we applying a lien base on the cumulative  
24 amount that people owe? What is -- what I  
25 would like to ask NRS too is, what is

1           considered or might be considered  
2           uncollectible? Have they gone through that  
3           list? Are there people on there that have  
4           passed away? So, you know, what money can we  
5           get?

6                       The other thing that I -- just an  
7           idea that I threw out in the caucus before the  
8           regular meeting -- and I brought this up a few  
9           years ago. And I'm not even sure how it would  
10          work with this particular issue. But would an  
11          amnesty type program work?

12                      In other words, if -- and it's been  
13          done in other cities in Pennsylvania and across  
14          the United States. If the city were to offer a  
15          one time amnesty on the trash -- the  
16          delinquent trash fee and say we're going to  
17          waive the penalties and the interest if you  
18          come forward in this amount of time and either  
19          pay in full or get on a payment plan, maybe  
20          something like that would work. I think that's  
21          something too that we should consider. And  
22          that's all I have on that issue.

23                      MR. ROGAN: Anyone else on the  
24          motion? All those in favor signify by saying  
25          aye.

1 MR. PERRY: Aye.

2 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

3 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

4 MR. EVANS: Aye.

5 MR. ROGAN: Aye. Opposed? The ayes  
6 have it and so moved.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: The second thing I  
8 have, I was asked by a few residents about some  
9 DPW issues, specifically the street sweeper.  
10 Mrs. Reed spoke to Mr. Gallagher, the DPW  
11 Director. The grant that the city applied for  
12 to get a new street sweeper is expected to come  
13 in. The city is actually getting two street  
14 sweepers.

15 So we'll have three that will be  
16 operational. The sweepers are expected for  
17 delivery this Friday. They'll be titled,  
18 insured. City logos will be applied. Last  
19 year, the street sweeping program began  
20 approximately April 30th. So it should be on  
21 the same track this year.

22 The city will as they always do  
23 provide a list for announcement purposes. And  
24 it will published on the city's website as  
25 well. Last week I also asked about the 2019

1 Paving Program. Mrs. Reed spoke to Mr.  
2 Bulzoni. He said that there should be  
3 approximately 1 million dollars for paving.  
4 And that would come from money in the liquid  
5 fuels allocation and some other monies that  
6 should be remaining.

7 We did receive a letter from  
8 Mrs. Novembrino, the City Controller that she  
9 is submitting the name of Annette Palutis as  
10 her pick for the Ethics Board. So we're just  
11 waiting on the Administration for the other  
12 two. And that's all I have this week. Thank  
13 you.

14 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. Just a  
15 couple comments. First, regarding the status  
16 of City Hall, I agree with Councilman Perry. I  
17 do like the suggestion of doing a tour of the  
18 building with Paul O'Hora the facilities  
19 manager. You know, I've been on Council nine,  
20 ten years now. I know I've never been in the  
21 basement, the subbasement of this building.

22 So that's something that we did see  
23 in our report that I don't think any of us  
24 here, a section of the building, we've never  
25 been in. So I do think it is a good idea to

1 see with our own eyes what's going on, not only  
2 what was in the report that was presented to  
3 us.

4 And this issue, there's been a lot  
5 of talk about it. And I know I'm probably on  
6 the wrong side of this politically. But I  
7 think it's the right thing to do is to have an  
8 open mind and to look at the dollars and cents  
9 of what will be the most bang for the buck for  
10 the taxpayers and also where the city will be  
11 able to give the best service to the taxpayers,  
12 whether it's in this facility or somewhere  
13 else.

14 So I think we need to keep an open  
15 mind on other locations. I do agree that  
16 whatever happens with this building, it  
17 certainly needs to be preserved. So I have a  
18 very open mind when it comes to this. And I'm  
19 looking forward to seeing certain parts of this  
20 building that aren't open to the public or even  
21 to Council members on a daily basis to see the  
22 true condition of some of these other parts of  
23 the building.

24 Seeing it on the screen doesn't give  
25 you the same perspective as seeing it in real

1           life. So that's something I'm definitely  
2           looking forward to doing. Next on the garbage  
3           fee, I know this has been a hot topic,  
4           especially since the school directors appointed  
5           an individual that owed quite a bit of money on  
6           back garbage fees.

7                        My position on that, there's three  
8           different criteria for people that have not  
9           paid their garbage fee. One number, which at  
10          no fault of their own, there's errors, people  
11          actually don't owe the money; houses that may  
12          have been torn down but a bill is still being  
13          generated and other clerical errors.

14                       I would guess that is a very, very  
15          small portion of what is owed. So I think  
16          there are some people that -- whose names may  
17          be on that list that actually do not owe the  
18          money because there are mistakes that are made.  
19          And we get contacted by residents all the time  
20          that get a bill in error, something was paid.  
21          So that is a small portion of the outstanding  
22          amount.

23                       The second portion and this is the  
24          one that bothers me the most and some of my  
25          colleagues alluded to this. These are people

1           who won't pay, not people who can't pay. There  
2           are many names on that list. And there's  
3           been -- and it's the same with the tax  
4           delinquencies that you see who own multiple,  
5           multiple properties as Councilman Evans  
6           mentioned.

7                         And those are the people that should  
8           not be given any sort of break. They chose not  
9           to pay those bills. You do not go 20 years  
10          without paying a garbage bill and say, oh, I  
11          fell on hard times. One year, two years, you  
12          lose a job, sure. Help some of those people  
13          out where we can.

14                        But not people who just got the bill  
15          and threw it in the garbage. And that's what a  
16          lot of people do. Unfortunately, there's not a  
17          whole lot of recourse the city has for people  
18          who don't pay their garbage bills. Not picking  
19          up the trash isn't a viable solution because  
20          it's going to cause an issue for neighbors.

21                        It's going to cause a public health  
22          issue. So that's not a solution. The city  
23          legally does not have the right to take a house  
24          for not paying a garbage bill the way if you  
25          don't pay your taxes, eventually your house

1 would go up for sale.

2 So that's not an option either. I  
3 do agree with putting liens on homes for people  
4 who have not paid their bills. But again, a  
5 lien only comes into effect when that property  
6 is going to be sold or somebody's going to put  
7 a mortgage on it. So eventually the city will  
8 get paid.

9 But people live in their houses 20,  
10 30, 40, 50 years. That's a long time to wait.  
11 And obviously, the value of money changes over  
12 time. So \$300 in 2050 is not \$300 today.

13 So there is that aspect as well.  
14 Now, there is a segment of people -- and I'm  
15 hoping and I believe and I think it's a small  
16 segment that have fallen on hard times. Maybe  
17 they lost their job last year and couldn't pay  
18 the bill.

19 You know, maybe they're struggling  
20 to keep their mortgage. That group of people  
21 should be given a break if there's an  
22 opportunity to do some type of program. I  
23 would not support a blanket amnesty program  
24 across the board. There would have to be some  
25 sort of either a means test or a test to show

1           that there actually is a financial hardship.  
2           Just throw the bills away for 20 years and not  
3           paying it and then coming in and paying the  
4           face value to me is not a solution. And it's  
5           not fair.

6                         A speaker did bring up the idea and  
7           it's been done in the past of trying to shame  
8           people into paying their bills publishing them  
9           in the newspaper, not something that I would be  
10          opposed to doing of publishing the whole list.

11                        The issue with that is, the list has  
12          to be vetted first because I know in the past  
13          when those names have been published, there  
14          have been people on that list that actually did  
15          not owe the fee. So they were wrongfully  
16          embarrassed.

17                        I do think if that route -- if we do  
18          decide to go that route, it shouldn't be  
19          limited to the newspaper, especially people my  
20          age, they don't buy the newspaper. They're on  
21          social media. They're on different sites like  
22          that where that could be another angle as well  
23          to try to shame people into paying their bills.

24                        Unfortunately, we have to discuss  
25          it. People have brought it up. It's been done

1 in the past. And it's been moderately  
2 successful.

3 But again, for me there are those  
4 three categories. And the one that bothers me  
5 the most and I would like to focus on are the  
6 ones who are just simply refusing not to pay.  
7 Councilman Evans brought up some other ideas.  
8 I have long advocated for eliminating this  
9 system and going to their private system or a  
10 per bag system.

11 Again, I know it's not popular. And  
12 there's problems with that type of change as  
13 well. But that would ensure that we wouldn't  
14 have this issue. So there'll be much more  
15 discussion on this. But I do think there is  
16 more work that needs to be done on our end  
17 because it is not fair that the people who are  
18 paying and doing the right thing are footing  
19 the bill for those who aren't because if you  
20 didn't pay your garbage bill the last 20 years,  
21 your garbage was still picked up. So more to  
22 come on that. And that is all for tonight.  
23 Thank you.

24 MS. REED: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
25 AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL

1 NO. 95, 2015, AN ORDINANCE, ENTITLED "AMENDING  
2 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 79 OF 2015, AN  
3 ORDINANCE AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 145  
4 OF 2007 ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE RENAMING THE  
5 EMERGENCY AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES TAX ("EMST")  
6 TO LOCAL SERVICE TAX ("LST") AND BY IMPOSING A  
7 WITHHOLDING OF \$52.00 FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR  
8 2015 AND THE SAME SHALL REMAIN IN FULL FORCE  
9 AND EFFECT ANNUALLY THEREAFTER BY INCREASING  
10 THE LOCAL SERVICES TAX WITHHOLDING FROM \$52.00  
11 TO \$156.00 FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2015,  
12 AND PROVIDING FOR AN EXEMPTION FROM TAXATION  
13 FOR ANY PERSON WHOSE TOTAL EARNED INCOME AND  
14 NET PROFITS FROM ALL SOURCES WITHIN THE  
15 MUNICIPALITY IS LESS THAN \$15,600.00 FOR THE  
16 CALENDAR YEAR 2015 UNDER AND PURSUANT TO THE  
17 LOCAL TAX ENABLING ACT, ACT 511 OF 1965, P.L.  
18 1257, 53 P.S. §6924,101 ET. SEQ. AND  
19 THE MUNICIPALITIES RECOVERY ACT, ACT 47 OF  
20 1987, P.L. 246, 53 P.S. §11701.101 ET. SEQ. AND  
21 THEIR RESPECTIVE AMENDMENTS" EFFECTIVE  
22 RETROACTIVE TO JANUARY 1, 2019. THIS TAX IS  
23 EXPECTED TO GENERATE APPROXIMATELY FOUR-MILLION  
24 SIX-HUNDRED FIFTY-THREE-THOUSAND THREE-HUNDRED  
25 THIRTY-FIVE (\$4,653,335.00) DOLLARS IN REVENUE

1 IN CALENDAR YEAR 2019 BY ENABLING THE CITY  
2 OF SCRANTON TO CONTINUE TO LEVY THE LOCAL  
3 SERVICES TAX AT THE FISCAL YEAR 2018 RATE FOR  
4 FISCAL YEAR 2019 FOR A TOTAL MAXIMUM  
5 LOCAL SERVICES RATE OF ONE HUNDRED FIFTY SIX  
6 (\$156.00) DOLLARS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2019  
7 EFFECTIVE RETROACTIVE TO JANUARY  
8 1,2019 AND PROVIDING FOR AN EXEMPTION FROM  
9 TAXATION FOR ANY PERSON WHOSE TOTAL EARNED  
10 INCOME AND NET PROFITS FROM ALL  
11 SOURCES WITHIN THE MUNICIPALITY IS LESS THAN  
12 \$15,600.00 FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2019.

13 MR. ROGAN: At this time I'll  
14 entertain a motion that item 5-B be introduced  
15 into its proper committee.

16 MR. PERRY: So moved.

17 MR. EVANS: Second.

18 MR. ROGAN: On the question? All  
19 those in favor signify by saying aye.

20 MR. PERRY: Aye.

21 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

22 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

23 MR. EVANS: Aye.

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

1 MS. REED: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
2 AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL  
3 NO. 58, 2016 AS AMENDED, AN ORDINANCE  
4 "ESTABLISHING A REGISTRATION PROGRAM FOR  
5 RESIDENTIAL RENTAL PROPERTIES; REQUIRING ALL  
6 OWNERS OF RESIDENTIAL RENTAL PROPERTIES TO  
7 DESIGNATE A PROPERTY MANAGER FOR SERVICE OF  
8 PROCESS AND PRESCRIBING DUTIES OF OWNERS,  
9 PROPERTY MANAGERS AND OCCUPANTS" 2  
10 BY AMENDING SECTION 4 (A)(1) AND (B)(1) AND  
11 (2), AND SECTION 10(A) TO ABOLISH THE TIERED  
12 RATE STRUCTURE FOR 2019 AND REDUCE  
13 THE RENTAL REGISTRATION FEE FOR 2020 AND 2021.

14 MR. ROGAN: At this time I'll  
15 entertain a motion that item 5-C be introduced  
16 into its proper committee.

17 MR. PERRY: So moved.

18 MR. EVANS: Second.

19 MR. ROGAN: On the question?

20 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.

21 I know this is about the lawsuit. But as we  
22 discussed in the caucus while we have this on  
23 the agenda, I'd like -- I have two questions  
24 that I would like to ask. Number one, in  
25 Section 10 of Rental Escrow Program, I would

1           like to know how the city plans on enforcing  
2           this, if they have enforced it yet.

3                       I think somebody mentioned in the  
4           caucus that they don't believe that they have.  
5           So I would like to get an idea on how the  
6           city -- what the mechanisms are on how the city  
7           if someone doesn't pay the Rental Registration  
8           Fee, how the city is going to enforce escrowing  
9           those -- the money that somebody who lives in  
10          one of those buildings would pay would then go  
11          to the city and be escrowed. So I would like  
12          to know how that program is going to work.

13                      The second thing that I brought up  
14          in the caucus as well, a few years ago the city  
15          entered into an agreement with James Moran.  
16          The name of his company escaped my mind at this  
17          point. But the company was supposed to go out  
18          and identify those rental properties that were  
19          not registering.

20                      So I would like an update on that  
21          program. There was supposed to be a hotline.  
22          Rental properties were supposed to display  
23          stickers so that the city could identify them.  
24          I would like to know what has been done.  
25          Someone mentioned in the caucus that that

1           company had been sold to Community Champions,  
2           which the city also does business with.

3                       So I had asked our Solicitor -- I  
4           would -- I'd assume then that contract would  
5           have to come back before City Council if  
6           someone enters into an agreement and then sells  
7           the company or whatever happened there. So I  
8           would just like clarification on that. That's  
9           all. Thank you.

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

12                   MR. PERRY: Aye.

13                   MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

14                   MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

15                   MR. EVANS: Aye.

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

18                   MS. REED: 5-D. FOR INTRODUCTION - A  
19           RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND  
20           OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF  
21           SCRANTON TO CREATE A 2020 COMPLETE COUNT  
22           COMMITTEE TO PARTNER WITH THE U.S. CENSUS  
23           BUREAU TO ENSURE THAT EVERY RESIDENT IN THE  
24           CITY OF SCRANTON IS COUNTED IN THE 2020 CENSUS.

25                   MR. ROGAN: At this time I'll

1 entertain a motion that item 5-D be introduced  
2 into its proper committee.

3 MR. PERRY: So moved.

4 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

7 MR. PERRY: Aye.

8 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

9 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

10 MR. EVANS: Aye.

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

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

14 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 60,  
15 2019 - AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE  
16 COUNCIL NO. 28, 2013, AN ORDINANCE AS AMENDED  
17 TRANSFERRING A TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION  
18 AGREEMENT OF CITY OWNED PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE  
19 100 BLOCK OF HARRISON AVENUE TO THE  
20 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT  
21 OF TRANSPORTATION ("PENNDOT") FOR THE  
22 CONSTRUCTION OF THE REMOVAL OF THE HARRISON  
23 AVENUE BRIDGE AND INSTALLATION OF A  
24 NEWLY CONSTRUCTED HARRISON AVENUE BRIDGE FOR  
25 THE SUM OF SEVEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$7,000.00)

1 TO EXTEND THE TEMPORARY EASEMENT FROM TWO (2)  
2 YEARS TO FIVE (5) YEARS WITH AN UPDATED OFFER  
3 OF JUST COMPENSATION OF TEN THOUSAND  
4 SIX-HUNDRED (\$10,600.00) DOLLARS.

5 MR. ROGAN: You've heard reading by  
6 title of Item 6-A. What is your pleasure?

7 MR. PERRY: I move that Item 6-A  
8 pass reading by title.

9 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

12 MR. PERRY: Aye.

13 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

14 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

15 MR. EVANS: Aye.

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

18 MS. REED: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A, no  
19 business at this time.

20 MR. ROGAN: If there is no further  
21 business, I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

22 MR. PERRY: Motion to adjourn.

23 MR. ROGAN: This meeting is  
24 adjourned.

25

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 taken by me of the above-cause and that this copy  
6 is a correct transcript of the same to the best of my  
7 ability.

8  
9  
10 \_\_\_\_\_  
11 Maria McCool, RPR  
12 Official Court Reporter  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21

22 (The foregoing certificate of this transcript does not  
23 apply to any reproduction of the same by any means  
24 unless under the direct control and/or supervision of  
25 the certifying reporter.)