

COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON

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HELD:

Tuesday, September 22nd, 2020

LOCATION:

VIA ZOOM

Maria McCool, RPR
Official Court Reporter

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

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- WILLIAM GAUGHAN, PRESIDENT
- KYLE DONAHUE, VICE PRESIDENT
- MARK MCANDREW
- JESSICA ROTHCHILD
- THOMAS SCHUSTER

- LORI REED, CITY CLERK
- KATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK
- KEVIN HAYES, COUNCIL SOLICITOR

1 (Pledge of Allegiance.)

2
3 MR. GAUGHAN: Please remain standing
4 for a moment of silent reflection for our
5 service men and women throughout the world and
6 also for those who have passed away recently in
7 our community.

8 Let us also take a special moment of
9 silence tonight for people in our community and
10 throughout the world who are suffering or who
11 have passed away from the coronavirus. May
12 those who are sick receive the proper treatment
13 and recover. And may their caregivers,
14 families and neighbors be shielded from the
15 onslaught of this virus.

16 Let us give solace to those who
17 grieve the loss of their loved ones. Let us
18 thank the doctors, nurses, researchers and all
19 medical professionals and first responders who
20 seek to heal and help those affected and who
21 put themselves at risk in the process.

22 We continue to hope that their
23 work may conquer this disease and restore
24 communities to wholeness and health.

25 Whether we are home or abroad,

1 surrounded by many people suffering from this
2 illness or only a few, let us stick together,
3 endure together, mourn together, persist and
4 prepare together.

5 And in place of our anxiety, let us
6 continue to hope and find peace. Thank you
7 everyone. Thank you. Miss Carrera, roll call,
8 please.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Schuster.

10 MR. SCHUSTER: Present.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McAndrew.

12 MR. MCANDREW: Present.

13 MS. CARRERA: Dr. Rothchild.

14 DR. ROTHCHILD: Rothchild.

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

16 MR. DONAHUE: Here.

17 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

18 MR. GAUGHAN: Here. Thank you, Miss
19 Carrera. Mrs. Reed, please dispense with the
20 reading of the minutes.

21 MS. REED: Thank you. THIRD ORDER.

22 3-A. LETTER OF RESIGNATION FROM
23 ETHICS BOARD MEMBER BRUCE J. REDDOCK.

24 3-B. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM
25 MAYOR PAIGE G. COGNETTI DATED SEPTEMBER 11,

1 2020 ANNOUNCING APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM
2 SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE.

3 3-C. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM
4 OECD EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DATED SEPTEMBER 10,
5 2020 REGARDING RESPONSES TO CDBG FUNDING
6 INQUIRIES.

7 3-D. CONTROLLER'S REPORT FOR MONTH
8 ENDING AUGUST 31, 2020.

9 3-E. CHECK RECEIVED FROM SCRANTON
10 HOUSING AUTHORITY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$66,150.44
11 WHICH IS PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES FOR THE CITY
12 OF SCRANTON.

13 3-F. MINUTES OF THE NON-UNIFORM
14 MUNICIPAL PENSION BOARD MEETING HELD
15 AUGUST 19, 2020.

16 3-G. AGENDA FOR THE NON-UNIFORM
17 MUNICIPAL PENSION BOARD MEETING HELD
18 SEPTEMBER 16, 2020.

19 3-H. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM
20 THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE, NORTHEAST
21 DETACHMENT DATED SEPTEMBER 15, 2020 REQUESTING
22 A DONATION FROM THE CITY.

23 3-I. MINUTES OF THE COMPOSITE
24 PENSION BOARD MEETING HELD AUGUST 19,
25 2020.

1 3-J. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM
2 THE GENERAL THEODORE J. WINT, POST NO. 25,
3 VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS DATED SEPTEMBER 14,
4 2020 REQUESTING FUNDS TO HELP WITH A PROJECT.

5 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Mrs. Reed.
6 Are there any comments on any of the Third
7 Order items?

8 MR. SCHUSTER: I'd just like to make
9 one comment. I see 3-J, the VFW and also the
10 Marine Corps League in the request. One thing
11 to just keep in mind, the Tripp Park Community
12 Center is also a City community center. And
13 when I last spoke with them, I feel like they
14 may have even taken money out of their own
15 pocket to pay for utilities maybe in last month
16 and help with winterization. So it might be
17 something to keep in mind and reach out to them
18 as well.

19 MR. GAUGHAN: Good point. Thank
20 you. Anyone else on the Third Order items?
21 Okay. If not, received and filed. Do any
22 Council members have any announcements at this
23 time?

24 MR. DONAHUE: I have one quickly.
25 Next Wednesday, September 30th is the last day

1 to fill out your census forms. So if you
2 haven't, please go to 2020census.gov and fill
3 out your census. It's extremely important to
4 the funding that the City is going to receive
5 in the next 10 years.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Kyle.

7 Anyone else? Any announcements?

8 MR. MCANDREW: Yeah, I have two of
9 them. So once again our friends at the Friends
10 of the Poor tomorrow will be doing their
11 emergency drive through food giveaway again.
12 It will be at Scranton High, 2:30 to 5:30 and,
13 you know, 63 Munchak Way, Scranton, PA. All of
14 the criteria applies as in the past. I don't
15 need to have to go through all of that.

16 I also have another one. This is a
17 little early out. But it requires that you get
18 tickets first. So the Minooka Lions Club is
19 going to have a chicken barbecue fundraiser on
20 Sunday, October 18th. It's their first annual
21 barbecue. You know, it's a fundraiser.

22 It's going to be homemade barbecue
23 chicken dinner for \$12 or two dinners for 20.
24 That's a great deal. You get a half a chicken,
25 baked potato, baked beans, homemade coleslaw

1 and roll.

2 It's at the YMS of R Park on Kane
3 Street. It's pickup and takeout only. It's
4 noon to four. Like I said, it's a little early
5 for that. But you need to get tickets ahead of
6 time. You could get tickets. You could check
7 on the Facebook page or you can get them at
8 Joyce's Cafe or Castaldi's Market or ask a
9 Lion's Club member. That is all I have. Thank
10 you.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. Thank you. Any
12 other announcements? I have one. Council
13 received three letters of interest for the two
14 vacancies on the City's Ethics Board. Those
15 three individual were Matthew Myer, TJ Finley,
16 and Mike Stanilka.

17 Council's going to take time over
18 the next few days to review these letters of
19 interest and resumes and then hopefully we'll
20 all be prepared next week to discuss them in
21 the caucus and then make a decision on those
22 two appointments. And that's all I have.

23 Mrs. Reed?

24 MS. REED: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS
25 PARTICIPATION.

1 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Mrs. Reed.
2 Will someone please make a motion to accept
3 public comment from the following citizens:
4 Mr. Thomas Coyne, Miss Marie Schumacher and
5 Mrs. Fay Franus?

6 MR. SCHUSTER: I'll make a motion.

7 MR. DONAHUE: I'll make a motion.

8 MR. SCHUSTER: I'll second.

9 MR. GAUGHAN: There's been a motion
10 and a second. On the question? I'm now going
11 to ask our City Clerk, Lori Reed to read these
12 comments from the public into the record. Mrs.
13 Reed?

14 MS. REED: Thank you. The first
15 submission by Mr. Coyne:

16 Some of the new board members, those
17 who joined in back in January 2020 or later,
18 missed my first few weeks in council.

19 I was disturbed by the appointment
20 of an IT manager for Scranton without
21 interviews or council's input. I have no
22 issue, if it was reasonable and needed, and the
23 candidate was properly vetted for the position.
24 But just like a major corporation, the job of
25 the head of the IT department is the City CIO

1 (Chief Information Officer) and should be
2 vetted as such.

3 On August 04, 2020, Just as council
4 oversight was off for a month, we were gifted
5 Amanda Hallock as information technology
6 manager at \$47,900 a year. I would have no
7 issue with this except in December of 2019, I
8 inquired on the readiness of the city for both
9 cyber attacks and particularly ransom ware.

10 This caught the attention of a
11 leaving council member and it was put forward
12 to review based on my input of the hazards of
13 IT and sun-setting operation systems as well as
14 access control policies. I was asked if a
15 backup is good enough for recovery and I
16 explained the risks, This including Baltimore
17 incurring a 3 month loss of network, they lost
18 a lot of data, as not everything was backed up
19 and stored. A backup and a recovery is good in
20 theory, but unless the staff has attempted a
21 roll back/ recovery, and has policies and
22 separate storage systems, a roll back can only
23 work so far.

24 It cost Baltimore **\$18.2 million** to
25 restore systems and make up for lost or delayed

1 revenue, this did not include unrecoverable
2 data.

3 I was told it would be looked into
4 and I would get some feedback but since the
5 data is sensitive, there is only so much that
6 can be publicly discussed. This is a little
7 disingenuous as IT people can discuss policy
8 and practice without exposing a system.

9 In the month we have had a new IT
10 manager who it seems may lack proper
11 credentials for the position. Let me explain.
12 When there is a Riot you want a great Chief of
13 Police (oops.. he is gone now), When there is a
14 major fire or plague, you want a great Fire
15 Chief... well... you get me.

16 IT secures the city data and should
17 be prompting options to improve stability,
18 compliance and providing a shared reporting
19 resource for data, including contracts, all
20 expenditures, a listing of all contract start
21 and end dates that warn well in advance a
22 contract term is ending/needs attention.

23 On August 25th, WILK newsroom
24 reported that "Scranton officials say it was a
25 ransomware cyber-attack that affected the

1 city's non-emergency computer systems this past
2 weekend. In a press release, they say an
3 investigation by third-party specialists made
4 the determination and they are trying to assess
5 whether sensitive information was accessed. If
6 they find that the security of residents or
7 staff are affected they will notify the public.
8 There will be more updates as information is
9 available."

10 **Why was a Third Party required?**

11 **What is the cost?**

12 **What has Scranton done since**
13 **December 2019 to mitigate risks, as it was**
14 **warned of a full 9 months prior?**

15 One submitter to council's 4th order
16 asked why Scranton seems to be hiring as if it
17 is a New York Promotional Tour? I ask looking
18 at Amanda Hallock's experience, I only find
19 this..

20 "Passionate about state and local
21 digital government, equitable community
22 development, and acronyms."

23 And

24 " I am originally from Baltimore
25 Maryland and worked in Philadelphia on

1 community development, program evaluation and
2 collective impact before coming to HKS (Harvard
3 Kennedy School). Over my time here I have
4 explored my passion for the impact of
5 government administration, digital
6 transformation, and inter-agency collaboration
7 on the lives of marginalized individuals in the
8 United States. “ (not a computer training
9 school).

10 An IT management position, one of
11 three IT positions in the city, is not a place
12 for “digital transformation” and Impacting
13 government administration and HR policies...
14 The Head of IT should be well versed in the job
15 of data protection, security, mitigation, past
16 and current technology, Zero day Exploits, As
17 well as Windows, Apple and Linux OS. I have it
18 stored on the Cloud is not a solution.

19 What are; Amanda Hallock's specific
20 IT (information Technology) history? What
21 Computer training certifications does she hold?
22 Did she work as IT Management prior, and if so,
23 how big was the corporation and how many IT
24 professionals was she in direct management of?

25 Critical Data and data requested for

1 public review, or council with fuel cards, or
2 maybe when the feds stop by... should not be on
3 a standard system but separated and isolated
4 for security.

5 The IT manager is just as important
6 as the Fire Chief or Chief of Police. The IT
7 covers all financial data, all HR data, All
8 Bills, All licenses, All e-mail both public and
9 confidential. This is a position that should
10 be vetted and not handed out like candy, and
11 the applicant should be brought before council
12 and the public to reply to some hard asked
13 questions of qualifications and goals moving
14 forward.

15 Some may think I am over reacting,
16 and some may remember..

17 I warned you about a Cyber attack
18 risk and needs for review in December of 2019.
19 One has now happened/started.

20 I warned you in early February when
21 everyone was saying the coronavirus was just
22 overseas and not an issue and no one needed
23 masks, and when City Council provided feedback
24 to my questions, from the CDC guidance.

25 I provided real information directly

1 from Wuhan and from John Hopkins, including the
2 advice to stock up on masks and Personal
3 Protective equipment, (including a portable UVC
4 light for sanitation in city hall, including
5 bathrooms).. Because there was going to be a
6 run and masks and personal protective gear
7 would become non available.

8 That we were looking at the front
9 end of a major outbreak and it would be wise to
10 get ahead, and I did it in confidence to not
11 cause panic and knowing I may have seemed to be
12 a little extreme on the subject.

13 I looked to the Trash and Recycling
14 and was told we pay \$43 and change a ton to
15 dispose trash, somehow in the recent meeting
16 the number jumped 33%. I looked and numbers
17 did not add up from the trash fee collected and
18 expenditures, but no one seems to know what it
19 costs to run the DPW. This is from the Mayors
20 reply to me after 6 months.

21 If the City contract with the
22 Recycling is not void, The County on the hook
23 for all losses, not the City, and we still have
24 no Idea what profit was gained and the
25 distribution due from the recycling center from

1 prior years.

2 Council asked, has the question been
3 addressed?

4 I provided about \$700,000 in
5 budgetary savings at a glance, even doing due
6 diligence with Scranton Tomorrow, who has an
7 operational budget of \$ 100,000 a year and has
8 in excess of ½ million now on reserves, and
9 Scranton is handing them \$ 225,000/yr so they
10 can listen to local business and coordinate a
11 web page, and run services for the University
12 of Scranton. (Scranton already handed out \$100k
13 in April, When city workers were let go and not
14 getting a paycheck.)

15 Local business should be coordinated
16 by the Small Business Association and the
17 Scranton Chamber of Commerce. If they as
18 "small business owners" need help they have
19 resources in each other and the internet.

20 This COVID-19 issue will be with us
21 into next year, we most likely have a good 9-12
22 months left to go. All non essential spending
23 in Scranton should be suspended. I have no
24 issue with St Cats in Nay Aug Park and Similar
25 charity, I support animal and people related

1 aid, but not Scranton marketing, the trees and
2 beatification in our financial position.

3 Last, we stand on the cliff of
4 budget 2021, we are expecting revenue
5 shortfalls but as far as I know, other than a
6 furlough of a few City employees, we have not
7 changed or reduced our financial footprint.

8 Per my prior warning and then backed
9 up by PEL and ignored, Both the Police and Fire
10 Contracts end on 12/31/2020. The Golden
11 Package the City has handed out to both
12 Departments has to stop. Insurance and pension
13 and other benefits now are more expensive than
14 payroll for the staff, (increasing every year
15 at about a 4-7% rate, not even including
16 payroll increases) and continue well after
17 retirement or moving to a second job. I do not
18 think we should retroactively remove earned
19 benefits, but going forward the field has to
20 change. All Corporations long ago left
21 pensions for 401k matching and none extend
22 lifetime free benefits to wives and children of
23 working/retired members.

24 We need to change the contract going
25 forward and grandfather in those on the books

1 now, we need to offer early retirement, once
2 the change has been made to those on the books
3 to get them out and change the system. We may
4 even have to bargain with the unions to set a
5 percentage of the current retirement funds
6 aside, and invest them, instead of the market,
7 to invest them in a special bond issue.

8 Asking them to invest in the city
9 that invests in them. A police/fire bond that
10 mandates the retirement of Scranton's older
11 bonds with high interest for a protected but
12 lower percentage. Securing a set rate for
13 stability to the retirement fund and retiring
14 older debt at a higher rate.

15 The Silence on fixing 2020 and
16 cutting 2021 budget is telling. Everything is
17 now by emergency order and pushed forward...
18 contracts, employees, independent hiring of
19 external staff as un-bid contractors. We can
20 pay \$100k to Scranton tomorrow, but it's
21 September and I have yet to see a street
22 sweeper?

23 We have a School District needing
24 more taxes, when they got an increase for last
25 year. They are paying almost nothing on

1 utilities and maintenance of Schools without
2 students, and they still want to tax more.

3 **Do you have a plan?**

4

5 Submitted by Thomas Coyne.

6

7 The next submission is from Marie
8 Schumacher:

9 0 The Administration, with
10 Council's accord one must assume, put a halt to
11 a Third-Party Evaluation of the LIPS Department
12 in favor of an in-house LIPS evaluation. Has
13 the Council received in in-house evaluation and
14 what changes will be made?

15 0 What is the status of the Courts
16 Approval of replacing the Business and
17 Licensing Tax with the Payroll Preparation
18 tax? Do you expect the change to be effective
19 in te 2021 budget?

20 0 Once a Contract has been executed
21 both parties must comply unless they officially
22 execute an amendment. A bit of digging to
23 determine why cars are parking too close to the
24 end of the street endangering vision-blocked
25 drivers. The unoffical reason is the promised

1 revenue the Police were to bring to the coffers
2 by moving tw clerical workers onto the street
3 to enforce illegal parking.

4 So, I ask you whether this is true.
5 If it is and has been done without a revised
6 Contract I believe the City is liable for not
7 making the Police comply with the Contract.

8 0 A few days back I drove down
9 James Street toward the Mill Apartment and then
10 went right across the railroad tracks where
11 there were two street between James and the
12 East Scranton fields, neither had City (green
13 and white) street signs but one had what
14 appeared to be a home made street signs
15 (wood). Why do these streets have no City
16 street signs.

17 0 We are close to the Fourth
18 Quarter of the year, does the City plan make a
19 decision on Storm Water; that is, Authority or
20 in-house? This year.

21 0 Last week you said there is a Gas
22 card policy. Would you please tell me the url
23 to read this Policy?

24 0 When will the promise utility
25 bill audit be available?

1 0 When will the 2019 City Audit be
2 received?

3
4 The third and final submission is
5 from Fay Franus:
6 Council,

7 Last week councilman Gaughan stated
8 that ECTV does **NOT** receive money from the
9 Comcast Franchise Fee. I am fully aware ECTV
10 received money from Comcast but I am
11 specifically **ONLY** speaking of the money from
12 the Comcast Franchise Fee. I have asked this
13 question previously but it seems I must ask yet
14 again.

15 **1. WHY IS ECTV NOT RECEIVING ANY**
16 **MONEY FROM THE COMCAST FRANCHISE FEE?**

17 I have done some research and I have
18 found the following from the FCC:

19 "Franchise fees are governed under
20 Section 622 of the **Cable Communications Act**
21 **of 1984.**[2] Section 622, states that
22 municipalities are entitled to a maximum of 5%
23 of gross **revenues** derived from the operation of
24 the cable system for the provision of cable
25 services such as **Public, educational, and**

1 **government access (PEG) TV channels."**

2 Mr. Gaughan you once said you would
3 look into why ECTV was not receiving any money
4 from the Comcast Franchise Fee.

5 **2. Have you ever done that?**

6 This Cable Communications Act seems definitely
7 to imply ECTV should indeed be getting money
8 that the city receives from the Comcast
9 Franchise fee--up to 5%.

10 **3. Is the city going to include**
11 **money in their new budget for ECTV from the**
12 **Comcast Franchise Fee? If so how much?**

13 **4. What exactly does the city do**
14 **with the money they receive each year from the**
15 **Comcast Franchise Fee?**

16 **5. Does this money go into a**
17 **discretionary fund? Yes or no.**

18 **6. Do you actually know how this**
19 **money is being spent? If not why not?**

20 My comments regarding my questions.
21 Please do not tell me you sent me the contract.
22 I say this because I am not a lawyer. I don't
23 understand contracts. Also the people in the
24 city need to know the answers to my questions
25 not just me. Anyone who pays a Comcast Cable

1 bill pays a franchise fee in their bill so this
2 is our money I am asking about. I feel
3 strongly that ECTV should be receiving money in
4 the city's upcoming budget up to 5% of the
5 fees to pay for their **operating budget and**
6 **their salaries.**

7 I do not believe they have received
8 anything from the Comcast Franchise fee in
9 years and years maybe over 10. Which is wrong.
10 ECTV provides wonderful services and
11 educational programs to our community. Our
12 county and city government meetings also are
13 shown on ECTV and updates from our Mayor on
14 many important happenings in the city.

15 I also dropped off documents to show
16 you that many cities across the country like
17 Portland Oregon pay their PEG channels
18 millions every year to provide services to their
19 communities just as ECTV does for us. Please
20 find the time too go over this document to get
21 more familiar with how PEG channels need money
22 from their cable franchise fees to cover their
23 expenses.

24 I would like as many answers to
25 these questions tonight. Please do not give me

1 the run around-like last week when Bill Gaughan
2 said ECTV does NOT get money from the Comcast
3 Franchise fee but never bothered to mention why
4 they did not. What I took from that was--the
5 city does not want us to know why they have not
6 received money from the Comcast Franchise Fee
7 in years. It's time for answers that get deep
8 into what is going to transpire as far as ECTV
9 getting money from this Comcast Franchise fee.
10 As submitted by Fay Franus.

11
12 (This concludes letters as
13 submitted to Council for public comment.)
14

15 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Mrs. Reed.
16 I'll start with the -- on the question, I'll
17 start with the ECTV comments. And I mentioned
18 this in the caucus. So two things, number one,
19 ECTV does not receive any money as I mentioned
20 last week from Comcast franchise fee or the
21 agreement.

22 The money that they received came in
23 installments over the last few years from a
24 grant that was within the franchise fee
25 agreement. This was voted on back in I think

1 2015. I talked to Mark Migliore today from
2 ECTV. That grant has been exhausted.

3 I think the payments came in
4 installments 56,000 and some-odd dollars.
5 Moving forward, I can't answer why in past the
6 City administrations did not grant ECTV funding
7 other than the grant money.

8 Moving forward, however, I have
9 spoken months ago to ECTV officials including
10 Mark Migliore as late as today. And what
11 we're going to do is sit down with them and the
12 administration and make sure that there is
13 funding in the budget for ECTV operations.

14 And the way that we're going to do
15 that is look at cutting out a chunk of the
16 money that the City receives from the franchise
17 fee agreement from Comcast. So right now we
18 receive roughly a million dollars a year based
19 on the number of subscribers.

20 So we'll look at, you know, how much
21 they need to operate ECTV because as I
22 mentioned in the caucus I think ECTV is
23 important. The programming is important and
24 especially being able to broadcast these
25 meetings and other government meetings out to

1 the public so that they can see, in fact,
2 what's going on. So hopefully that answers the
3 questions on ECTV.

4 On Mr. Coyne's comments, I'll just
5 provide a few notes here. In the one paragraph
6 Council oversight was off a month. I think
7 everyone would agree with me that Council
8 although we did not meet in the month of
9 August, we were not off. You can ask Mrs.
10 Reed, constant communication going on between
11 the members and between the administration.

12 And it didn't feel like the
13 oversight was off for a month there at all.
14 The questions about the IT manager, the IT
15 manager is a position that was already in the
16 2020 budget. I believe what the Mayor did was
17 fill -- or put someone else in that position.

18 The director -- there is still a
19 director of information technology. That's
20 Frank Swietnicki. That is the only control
21 Council has in terms of advice and consent. So
22 Council does not have any control over who the
23 Mayor hires for an IT manager position because
24 that position is not in the cabinet. It's not
25 a cabinet position.

1 In terms of the other IT questions,
2 again, we're going to submit those to the Mayor
3 and to the IT department so that they could
4 answer those for Mr. Coyne. Some of the other
5 questions from last week that Mr. Coyne had
6 raised, "What has City Council identified in
7 the 2020 budget that can be removed?" The 2020
8 budget is set.

9 There's nothing that, you know,
10 Council can remove. We can't just say we're
11 going to take that out. We're going to take
12 this out. That would have to be done really by
13 the administration. So otherwise, you know, if
14 they don't spend money or they don't fill a
15 position or they don't do a program or enact a
16 program that would be their prerogative.

17 Is there a plan to put a hold on
18 future funding for Scranton Tomorrow at least
19 until budget and disruptions are resolved?
20 I'm sure that will be part of the discussions
21 as we go through the 2021 budget. I also want
22 to make a note to Mr. Coyne and Miss Shumacher
23 or Miss Franus who made comments about Scranton
24 Tomorrow, it's my understanding that most of if
25 not all of the funding for Scranton Tomorrow at

1 least I think in this year's budget was
2 provided by a pilot payment from the University
3 of Scranton.

4 So I think the University gives us
5 200 and some thousand dollars. It's my
6 understanding that we use that money to go
7 towards Scranton Tomorrow. So there would not
8 have really been an effect on our budget.

9 In terms of contract negotiations
10 what has been done, Council doesn't negotiate
11 contracts. We have not done so in the past.
12 We'll vote on the Collective Bargaining
13 Agreement when it comes to us when it's on our
14 agenda.

15 But I know the administration is not
16 going to discuss those conversations now
17 because they're private (audio interruption.)
18 But we certainly can forward that to the
19 administration. Again, benefits, pensions,
20 how they're going to be handled going forward,
21 those are all questions for the administration.

22 And I'm sure those are all up for
23 discussion in the contract negotiations. And
24 the one question here, Has the Mayor's office
25 and City Council been reviewing the former

1 bargaining agreement and, if so, when did the
2 evaluation of the pending -- of collective
3 bargaining agreement start? I'm not sure I
4 understand that question.

5 Again, that would be a function of
6 the administration. Council has their chance
7 to review the Collective Bargaining Agreement
8 when it's on our agenda in front of us and
9 we're going to vote to approve that. So I'm
10 sure those -- again, those are conversations
11 for the administration.

12 On the -- on Miss Shumacher's
13 questions rather, the third party evaluation of
14 the LIPS Department, has Council received an
15 inhouse evaluation and what changes will be
16 made? No, we have not.

17 The administration is going to be in
18 for a September 29th caucus to discuss that
19 subject. The status of the Court's approval of
20 replacing the business and licensing tax with
21 the payroll preparation tax. I believe, Kyle,
22 is that -- did we get a hearing for that?

23 MR. DONAHUE: No, we're still
24 waiting for a hearing date before the Court on
25 that. And I was going to address that too.

1 And, I mean, I do expect the change to be
2 affected in the 2020 budget, from my
3 perspective I do.

4 You know, so we're working towards
5 that. We're sort of getting into the data on
6 what we had from last year and then
7 transferring it over into what we got from
8 Berkheimer this year. So it is a work in
9 progress. But there will be a proposed rate by
10 the time that the court hearing happens.

11 There will be a proposed rate at
12 least on the City side. The school district
13 doesn't need their rate to be approved by the
14 Court but the City does.

15 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. Thank you. In
16 terms of the other questions here with the --
17 I'm not sure I fully understand this question
18 about the police department and the parking
19 enforcement division. We'll check with the
20 police department. I'm not sure what --
21 exactly what the question is there.

22 The question is without a revised
23 contract -- I'm not -- so we'll get in touch
24 with Miss Shumacher to see if she could clarify
25 that. We'll forward the other items onto the

1 appropriate department.

2 As for the question that Miss
3 Shumacher proposed on stormwater, "We're close
4 to the fourth quarter of the year. Does the
5 City plan to make a decision on stormwater
6 whether it's the authority or inhouse?" I
7 brought this up the last few weeks.

8 We actually requested a meeting with
9 the company that was to come in and analyze
10 whether it would be the right move to create a
11 city authority or to do an inhouse or to create
12 a regional -- on a regional basis. So we're
13 still waiting for an answer on that.

14 MR. DONAHUE: And, Bill, just add --
15 just, I mean, just to add to that too, I mean,
16 considering we are in September, I mean, I
17 really wouldn't be expecting a decision to be
18 made on that by the end of the year.

19 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. Thank you.
20 Mrs. Reed, if you could send or have the
21 administration send Miss Shumacher the gas card
22 policy. I know I've seen that before. I think
23 it might have been on the agenda in Third Order
24 at one point in the last few months. But if
25 you wouldn't mind sending that to her.

1 The utility bill audit, I've asked
2 for quite some time about this. Mrs. Reed, if
3 we could ask again for an update on the utility
4 bill audit? This was a company that was hired
5 and we approved the contract I think last year
6 or the year before for a company to come in and
7 look at the telephone bills, electric, sewer,
8 water, everything and, you know, see if we
9 could find any savings. So it looked hopeful
10 at that time. But we still have not received
11 an update.

12 And then in terms of the -- "When
13 will the 2019 City audit be received?" We can
14 double-check on this. I think we just received
15 an update in the last two weeks. From my
16 memory, Councilman Schuster, read it into the
17 record. But we'll double-check on that and
18 have an answer hopefully next week. And I
19 think that's it.

20 Again, the other questions that were
21 posed on the IT Department, we've forwarded
22 everything from last week that we couldn't
23 answer because we did not know the specific
24 answers for the IT Department. We forwarded
25 that onto the administration. And we'll wait

1 to see what they come back with. Okay. Anyone
2 else on the question on citizen's comments?

3 MR. SCHUSTER: President Gaughan,
4 it's my understanding that the two civilian
5 parking enforcement officers were in the
6 clerical union. And they were furloughed and
7 haven't been called back yet.

8 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay.

9 MR. SCHUSTER: I don't know that for
10 sure. But that was my understanding.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. Yep. I think
12 you're right on that. Very good. Anyone else?

13 MR. DONAHUE: Just to answer a
14 question we got last week regarding the
15 numbered recyclable in terms of the plastic
16 recyclables that are accepted by the Recycling
17 Center, the numbers that appear on the bottom
18 of the plastic that are accepted are one, two
19 and four.

20 I think I said last week that I
21 thought it was one, two, three. I knew there
22 was three of them. But three is excluded. And
23 it is one, two, and four.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. Thank you.
25 Anyone else on the question? Okay. Motion has

1 been made. It's been seconded. We discuss it
2 on the question. All those in favor of the
3 motion to accept public comment signify by
4 saying aye.

5 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

6 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

7 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

8 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

9 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye. Opposed? The
10 ayes have it and so moved. Mrs. Reed?

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

12 MOTIONS.

13 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Mrs. Reed.
14 Councilman Schuster, do you have any motions or
15 comments at this time?

16 MR. SCHUSTER: I do not.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Councilman
18 Schuster. Councilman McAndrew, any motions or
19 comments at this time?

20 MR. MCANDREW: Yes, I do. I have a
21 couple. So, Mrs. Reed, I received an e-mail I
22 think you got a copy of it regarding a property
23 on 1524-26 Capouse Avenue. I just want to go
24 on record with this one.

25 That property is in deplorable

1 condition. If you zoom in on the photo
2 attached, you will see a great deal of damage
3 and that most windows are covered in newspaper
4 and/or cardboard. Each morning at 10 a.m., a
5 van arrives and about a dozen people are picked
6 up.

7 The group is dropped off around 10
8 p.m. each night. This afternoon I witnessed
9 two men handling several metal frame beds.
10 There was another bed there but it was hard to
11 determine if they were taking the beds into the
12 home or removing them.

13 I'm deeply concerned about the
14 condition of the house as it's most certainly a
15 fire hazard. It would seem to me that there
16 are far more people living there that can be
17 considered safe. I worry about the being --
18 the well-being of these individuals.

19 I realize it may not be in the
20 jurisdiction of the LIPS Department but I think
21 it bears mentioning. So this was e-mailed to
22 me and Mr. Oleski. Lori, I'd just like you to
23 follow up with this. I'll send you a copy of
24 this if you want. It will be easier for you
25 because there's a photo --

1 MS. REED: Thank you.

2 MR. MCANDREW: I don't know if you
3 heard me. So I'll forward this to you just so
4 we get a little followup.

5 MS. REED: I did. Thank you, Mark.

6 MR. MCANDREW: Also this morning, I
7 don't know if you -- I sent you another one, a
8 blight concern across the street from 930 West
9 Market with a couple of photos. Did you get
10 that e-mail? I'm not sure if you got that.

11 MS. REED: Yes, I did. I received
12 it and I forwarded it onto the LIPS Department.

13 MR. MCANDREW: All right. Thanks.
14 I just wanted to make sure you got those.
15 Also, as Chairman of the Committee on Public
16 Safety, I would like to recognize Operation
17 Grabbing Straws. I just saw this today that in
18 the month of July, 2020, the Scranton Police
19 Department, the Street Crimes Unit and
20 collaboration with the State Police and the
21 District Attorney's Office had something called
22 Operation Grabbing Straws where 26 individuals
23 adults and juveniles were arrested, 39 criminal
24 complaints, total of 91 felonies, 79
25 misdemeanors, 25 total firearms were seized, 22

1 search warrants were completed and executed,
2 five court orders were completed.

3 The streets of the City of Scranton
4 are safer without these firearms in the hands
5 of criminals. What they also say is the
6 community support -- the community support and
7 desire to keep city neighborhoods peaceful is
8 what motivates the Police Department's members
9 to work around the clock. I'd just like to
10 congratulate them on their efforts with that.
11 And that is all I have now. Thank you.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. Thank you,
13 Councilman McAndrew. Dr. Rothchild, do you
14 have any motions or comments?

15 DR. ROTHCHILD: No, I do not. Thank
16 you.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. And,
18 Councilman Donahue, do you have any motions or
19 comments at this time? Oh, you were muted.

20 MR. DONAHUE: Sorry, yep. First
21 off, I've been having some issues with my City
22 e-mail. I haven't -- it says my inbox is full
23 but I can't sign into it. So if anyone has
24 sent an e-mail and I haven't gotten back to you
25 I apologize for that. I'm hoping to get that

1 taken care of before next week at the latest.

2 We've been back and forth with the
3 IT Department. And they have a lot going on
4 right now. So I'm trying to get that done as
5 soon as possible. In terms of one of Miss
6 Shumacher's comment too, I am looking forward
7 to hearing a plan on the internal assessment of
8 Licensing and Inspections next week from the
9 administration in our caucus.

10 And just to add onto what Mark said
11 about the Street Crimes Unit, the City Street
12 Crimes Unit is probably one of the most
13 professional units in the state. They do a
14 great job every day. And a lot of that goes
15 unnoticed. So thank you, Mark, for bringing
16 that up.

17 Also, Miss Reed, would we be able to
18 ask the administration for an update on when we
19 should get the Parks and Rec facility
20 assessment from McLane and Associates? And
21 besides that, that's all I have.

22 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Councilman
23 Donahue. I just have a few comments. First, I
24 attended a North Scranton neighborhood meeting
25 last night -- last evening. And there was two

1 comments that were brought up that I would like
2 to address. Number one, the intersection of
3 West Market Street and Rockwell Avenue, the
4 neighbors were saying that crosswalk lines
5 were faded.

6 And that's a dangerous intersection.
7 If they could be painted again that would be
8 great. So if we can send that to DPW. And a
9 gentleman stopped me and asked about the status
10 of 1515-1517 Brick Avenue that was condemned.
11 And they have been told it was on demolition
12 list but haven't seen action in quite some
13 time. So if we can check on that.

14 Also, we are waiting for an update
15 to see what was happening with several
16 properties in South Side that I mentioned last
17 week. And then there is one property at 528
18 Birch Street that the neighbors have been
19 really complaining about that's badly
20 overgrown. So if we can double-check on that
21 one.

22 I mentioned this in the caucus, but
23 we decided to leave the capital budget on the
24 table tonight and not take a final vote on it
25 because we're still waiting for further

1 information from the administration.

2 And we wanted to make sure that all
3 of those members of the public who submitted
4 their questions regarding the next few years of
5 capital spending that those questions and
6 concerns were answered and alleviated prior to
7 a final vote.

8 I do want to thank the Director of
9 OECD. I had several questions on three of the
10 agenda items that dealt with the Office of
11 Economic and Community Development. We did
12 receive a response that will be in Third Order
13 for public view next week. We received it
14 earlier this week. So I appreciate that.

15 I did have some questions last week
16 about the internship program, Novembrino -- the
17 splash park project; and we still haven't heard
18 back on the 900 block of Prescott Avenue and
19 some of the issues. So we still are waiting on
20 that.

21 Also, I mentioned in the caucus we
22 received three letters of interest from members
23 of the public for the two positions -- vacant
24 positions on the Ethics Board. So we're going
25 to take a look at those this week and then

1 discuss them in caucus and choose two new
2 members of the Ethics Board.

3 Also, I mentioned this in caucus,
4 September 29th, we'll be having the Mayor and
5 Business Administrator in to give us an update
6 on the 2020 budget impact from the coronavirus
7 and what that looks like and how it changed for
8 better or worse since our last update in June
9 of 2020.

10 And we'll also receive an update on
11 the Licensing and Inspections review and the
12 blight issues that we talked about in the past.
13 And that's all I have tonight. Mrs. Reed?

14 MS. REED: Thank you. 5-B. FOR
15 INTRODUCTION - A RESOLUTION - OPPOSING THE
16 OVERLAND TRANSPORTATION OF LIQUEFIED NATURAL
17 GAS THROUGH THE CITY OF SCRANTON AND ITS
18 SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES.

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

22 MR. MCANDREW: So moved.

23 MR. DONAHUE: So moved -- second.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? All
25 those in favor of introduction signify by

1 saying aye.

2 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

3 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

4 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

5 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye. Opposed? The
7 ayes have it and so moved.

8 MS. REED: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION -
9 A RESOLUTION - AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 37,
10 2020, ENTITLED "AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
11 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS FOR THE CITY OF
12 SCRANTON TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH
13 SCRANTON AREA FOUNDATION, INC. TO ESTABLISH THE
14 CITY OF SCRANTON SMALL BUSINESS FUND, A PASS
15 THROUGH FUND WHICH WILL DISTRIBUTE GRANTS IN
16 THE AMOUNT OF \$2,500.00 TO VARIOUS SMALL
17 BUSINESS THROUGHOUT THE CITY OF SCRANTON AS
18 PART OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON'S SMALL BUSINESS
19 RELIEF GRANT PROGRAM DUE TO THE COVID-19
20 PANDEMIC" TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF GRANTS
21 AUTHORIZED BY RESOLUTION NO. 37, 2020 FROM 110
22 TO 111.

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

1 MR. DONAHUE: So moved.

2 MR. SCHUSTER: Second.

3 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? Yes,
4 on the question this is really because of a
5 technical glitch in terms of the grant program
6 that we previously had voted on. So one of the
7 applicants was left off of the original list.

8 So now they're including that and
9 they're using money from another pot to pay
10 this grant off, so just a technical issue.
11 Anyone else on the question? All those in
12 favor of introduction signify by saying aye.

13 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

14 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

15 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

16 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

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

19 MS. REED: 5-D. FOR INTRODUCTION -
20 A RESOLUTION - RATIFYING AND APPROVING THE
21 EXECUTION AND SUBMISSION OF THE GRANT
22 APPLICATION BY THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO
23 PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND
24 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, CENTER FOR BUSINESS
25 FINANCING - GRANTS OFFICE, FOR A MULTIMODAL

1 TRANSPORTATION FUNDS GRANT TO BE UTILIZED FOR
2 THE LACE VILLAGE MULTIMODAL PROJECT IN THE
3 AMOUNT OF \$334,366.45.

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

7 MR. DONAHUE: So moved.

8 MR. SCHUSTER: So moved. Second.

9 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question?

10 MR. MCANDREW: I'd just like to say
11 something on the question. This project was
12 presented to us when I was on the School Board
13 probably four years ago. I'm glad to see that,
14 you know, it's making progress and there's some
15 more motion happening. So I'm happy to vote
16 for this. Thanks.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. Anyone
18 else on the question?

19 MR. SCHUSTER: Yeah, I'd just like
20 to echo Mr. McAndrew's remarks there. I also
21 had this presented to us while on the School
22 Board. And it should be a beautiful project
23 when completed.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

25 DR. ROTHCHILD: I just want to add

1 that this is specific to, like, the sidewalks
2 and some of the surrounding areas. And so I
3 think that this will bring a lot to the
4 neighborhood itself in addition to the future
5 residents of Lace Village. So I'm happy to
6 vote on this tonight and for it to be
7 introduced.

8 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. I would
9 agree with everyone who spoke so far. This
10 project is extremely important to the City as a
11 whole and also to that area of Green Ridge.
12 The way that it ties in is going to tie in even
13 with the Lackawanna Heritage Valley trails.

14 It's going to be really important
15 again at connecting that area to even other
16 parts of Green Ridge and to our downtown
17 through the trail. The thing that, you know, I
18 really think is most important is -- and I know
19 that the people who are involved in this
20 project do as well, to make sure that the
21 concerns and the voices of the neighbors in the
22 immediate area were heard.

23 And this really gives those
24 neighbors a safe place to walk other than
25 what's currently there now, which is not really

1 conducive to pedestrian safety. So I agree
2 with what everyone else said. When this
3 project is fully completed, it's going to be
4 beautiful.

5 And it's really going to be a huge
6 benefit to the City, especially in light of the
7 great history that laceworks represents for the
8 City of Scranton. Anyone else? All those in
9 favor of introduction signify by saying aye.

10 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

11 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

12 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

13 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

14 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye. Opposed? The
15 eyes have it and so moved.

16 MS. REED: 5-E. FOR INTRODUCTION -
17 A RESOLUTION - APPOINTMENT OF JOHN JUDGE,
18 915 ELECTRIC STREET, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA,
19 18509 TO THE POSITION OF INTERIM FIRE CHIEF
20 EFFECTIVE JULY 21, 2020.

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

24 MR. MCANDREW: So moved.

25 DR. ROTHCHILD: Second.

1 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? On
2 the question, Mrs. Reed, if we can ask for an
3 update from the Mayor on what the status is of
4 the search for a Fire Chief. I know that the
5 Mayor was doing -- apparently doing a
6 nationwide search and conducting interviews.

7 And I'd like to know, you know,
8 where they're at in that process. Anyone else
9 on the question? All those in favor of
10 introduction signify by saying aye.

11 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

12 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

13 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

14 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

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

17 MS. REED: 5-F. FOR INTRODUCTION -
18 A RESOLUTION - APPOINTMENT OF MARY JO
19 SHERIDAN, 1213 SCHLAGER STREET, SCRANTON,
20 PENNSYLVANIA, 18504 AS CITY TREASURER FOR THE
21 CITY OF TREASURY DEPARTMENT EFFECTIVE
22 SEPTEMBER 8, 2020.

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

1 DR. ROTHCHILD: So moved.

2 MR. SCHUSTER: So moved. Second.

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

6 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

7 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

8 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

9 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

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

12 MS. REED: 5-G. FOR INTRODUCTION -
13 A RESOLUTION - APPOINTMENT OF LEONARD
14 NAMIOTKA, 1130 PHILO STREET, SCRANTON,
15 PENNSYLVANIA, 18508 TO THE POSITION OF INTERIM
16 POLICE CHIEF EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 12,
17 2020.

18 MR. GAUGHAN: At this time I'll
19 entertain a motion that Item 5-G be introduced
20 into its proper committee.

21 MR. MCANDREW: So moved.

22 DR. ROTHCHILD: Second.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? All
24 those in favor of introduction signify by
25 saying aye.

1 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

2 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

3 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

4 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

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

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

8 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 22,
9 2020 - AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE
10 COUNCIL NO. 4, 2020, ENTITLED "AUTHORIZING THE
11 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE
12 CITY OF SCRANTON TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY ACTIONS
13 TO IMPLEMENT THE CONSOLIDATED SUBMISSION FOR
14 COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS TO
15 BE FUNDED UNDER THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK
16 GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM, HOME INVESTMENT
17 PARTNERSHIP (HOME) PROGRAM AND EMERGENCY
18 SOLUTIONS GRANTS (ESG) PROGRAM FOR THE
19 FIVE YEAR CONSOLIDATED PLAN, ANALYSIS OF
20 IMPEDIMENTS TO FAIR HOUSING CHOICE, AND ANNUAL
21 ACTION PLAN FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING
22 JANUARY 1, 2020." BY AMENDING THE 2020 ACTION
23 PLAN BY PROGRAMMING \$1,649,621 IN CDBG-CV FUNDS
24 MADE AVAILABLE BY THE CARES ACT AND PROGRAMMING
25 \$1,435,629 (ROUND #1 \$813,478 AND

1 ROUND #2 \$622,150) IN ESG-CV FUNDS MADE
2 AVAILABLE BY THE CARES ACT.

3 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Mrs. Reed.
4 You've heard reading by title of Item 6-A.
5 What is your pleasure?

6 DR. ROTHCHILD: Mr. Chairman, I move
7 that Item 6-A pass reading by title.

8 MR. SCHUSTER: Second.

9 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? Yes,
10 on the question, as I mentioned earlier I had
11 questions on this piece of legislation and
12 those questions were answered. One of my main
13 concerns was the spreadsheets were a little
14 difficult to read in the backup.

15 So we were provided with new
16 spreadsheets. So, Mrs. Reed, I just ask if you
17 could put those in Third Order, if possible,
18 for next week so that if any members of the
19 public had a hard time reading them as well
20 that will be there for them to look at.

21 And I also had questions in terms of
22 the deadline that was set by the federal
23 government and how they're going to oversee
24 this -- who in OECD is going to oversee this
25 new funding. Those questions were answered.

1 And that will be in Third Order next week if
2 anyone wants to take a look. Anyone else on
3 the question? All those in favor signify by
4 saying aye.

5 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

6 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

7 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

8 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

9 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye. Opposed? The
10 eyes have it and so moved.

11 MS. REED: 6-B. READING BY TITLE -
12 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 23, 2020 - AN
13 ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 4,
14 2020, ENTITLED "AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
15 APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON
16 TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE
17 CONSOLIDATED SUBMISSION FOR COMMUNITY PLANNING
18 AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS TO BE FUNDED UNDER THE
19 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)
20 PROGRAM, HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP (HOME)
21 PROGRAM AND EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANTS (ESG)
22 PROGRAM FOR THE FIVE YEAR CONSOLIDATED PLAN,
23 ANALYSIS OF IMPEDIMENTS TO FAIR HOUSING CHOICE,
24 AND ANNUAL ACTION PLAN FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING
25 JANUARY 1, 2020." BY AMENDING THE 2020 ACTION

1 PLAN BY UTILIZING EIGHTY THOUSAND DOLLARS
2 (\$80,000.00) UNDER CDBG.

3 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. You've
4 heard reading by title of Item 6-B. What is
5 your pleasure?

6 DR. ROTHCHILD: Mr. Chairman, I move
7 that Item 6-B pass reading by title.

8 MR. GAUGHAN: Is there a second?

9 MR. MCANDREW: Second.

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

12 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

13 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

14 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

15 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

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

18 MS. REED: 6-C. READING BY TITLE -
19 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 24, 2020 - AN
20 ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
21 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO APPLY FOR AND
22 EXECUTE A GRANT APPLICATION BY THE
23 CITY OF SCRANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT AND, IF
24 SUCCESSFUL, A GRANT AGREEMENT, AND ACCEPT FUNDS
25 RELATED THERETO THROUGH THE BJA FY 18 EDWARD

1 BYRNE JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT ("JAG")
2 PROGRAM-LOCAL SOLICITATION IN THE AMOUNT OF
3 \$18,638.00 TO PURCHASE AN AUTOMATED LICENSE
4 PLATE READER (ALPR).

5 MR. GAUGHAN: Sorry, I was muted.
6 You've heard reading by title of Item 6-C.
7 What is your pleasure?

8 MR. DONAHUE: I move that Item 6-C
9 pass reading by title.

10 MR. GAUGHAN: Is there a second?

11 MR. SCHUSTER: Second.

12 MR. MCANDREW: Second.

13 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? All
14 those in favor --

15 MR. MCANDREW: I want to say
16 something on the question.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Oh, sure.

18 MR. MCANDREW: So I know a couple
19 people had questions. First of all, this is a
20 tool, you know, my understanding. And it's
21 going be paid for by a grant. So we already
22 have two. Another one is -- it just makes it
23 even better.

24 They give me more efficiency in
25 warrants, identify stolen vehicles and help

1 detectives solve major crimes. In addition,
2 license plate detections of vehicles known to
3 be associated with threatening individuals
4 keeps officers safe by providing awareness to
5 these surroundings.

6 These technology have helped people
7 apprehend murderers, killers, serial killers,
8 drug traffickers and child abductors. And my
9 understanding of some concerns are that
10 information can get out.

11 But what I researched and found out
12 is that this information is just the license
13 plate. And if you want -- you have to get
14 permission to use this information where it's
15 protected from the Department of Motor Vehicle
16 database. You need access to that.

17 So it's not like they can just throw
18 all this information out there like some people
19 are questioning. So I just want to -- you
20 know, I just want to get that out there. I
21 know the police department might come back
22 before this final passage with some updates for
23 us. But that's my understanding.

24 So, first of all, they're being paid
25 for, you know, it's a safer way to do things.

1 And I'll be for this. And I'm happy that we're
2 getting this. Thank you.

3 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. Thank you very
4 much. Anyone on the question? All those in
5 favor signify by saying aye.

6 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

7 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

8 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

9 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

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

12 MS. REED: 6-D. READING BY TITLE -
13 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 25, 2020 - AN
14 ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO
15 ESTABLISH PARKING RESTRICTIONS FOR A
16 LOADING/UNLOADING ZONE FROM 9:15-9:45 AM;
17 1:00PM-1:30PM AND 6:30PM-7:00PM ALONG 300
18 LACKAWANNA AVENUE BETWEEN PENN AVENUE AND
19 WYOMING AVENUE FOR THE UNITED STATES POSTAL
20 SERVICE.

21 MR. GAUGHAN: You've heard reading
22 by title of Item 6-D. What is your pleasure?

23 DR. ROTHCHILD: I move that Item 6-D
24 pass reading by title.

25 MR. SCHUSTER: Second.

1 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? All
2 those in favor signify by saying aye.

3 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

4 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

5 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

6 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye. Opposed? The
8 ayes have it and so moved.

9 MS. REED: 6-E. READING BY TITLE -
10 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 26, 2020 - AN
11 ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.
12 27, 2018, ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING
13 THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF
14 THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY
15 ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE CONSOLIDATED
16 SUBMISSION FOR COMMUNITY PLANNING AND
17 DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS TO BE FUNDED UNDER THE
18 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)
19 PROGRAM, HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP (HOME)
20 PROGRAM AND EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANTS (ESG)
21 PROGRAM FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING JANUARY 1,
22 2019" BY AMENDING THE 2019 ACTION PLAN BY
23 UTILIZING FORTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$40,000)
24 UNDER THE HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM
25 (HOME) FOR HOMEOWNER HOUSING REHABILITATION

1 PROGRAM.

2 MR. GAUGHAN: You've heard reading
3 by title of Item 6-E. What is your pleasure?

4 MR. DONAHUE: I ask that Item 6-E
5 pass reading by title.

6 MR. SCHUSTER: Second.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? All
8 those in favor signify by saying aye.

9 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

10 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

11 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

12 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

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

15 MS. REED: 6-F. READING BY TITLE -
16 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 27, 2020 - AN
17 ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.
18 20, 2018, ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING
19 THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF
20 THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY
21 ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE CONSOLIDATED
22 SUBMISSION FOR COMMUNITY PLANNING AND
23 DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS TO BE FUNDED UNDER THE
24 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)
25 PROGRAM, HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP (HOME)

1 PROGRAM AND EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANTS (ESG)
2 PROGRAM FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING JANUARY 1,
3 2018" BY AMENDING THE 2018 ACTION PLAN BY
4 UTILIZING SEVENTY FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS
5 (\$75,000) UNDER THE EMERGENCY REPAIR HOUSING
6 REHABILITATION HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP
7 PROGRAM (HOME) FOR HOMEOWNER HOUSING
8 REHABILITATION PROGRAM.

9 MR. GAUGHAN: You've heard reading
10 by title of Item 6-F. What is your pleasure?

11 DR. ROTHCHILD: I move that Item 6-F
12 pass reading by title.

13 MR. DONAHUE: Second.

14 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? All
15 those in favor signify by saying aye.

16 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

17 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

18 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

19 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

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

22 DR. ROTHCHILD: I'd like to make a
23 motion to table Items 6-B, 6-E, and 6-F to
24 comply with the 30 day public comment period as
25 required by HUD.

1 MR. DONAHUE: Second.

2 MR. GAUGHAN: There's a motion on
3 the floor and a second to table Item 6-B, 6-E,
4 and 6-F to comply with the 30 day public
5 comment period as required by HUD. Anyone on
6 the question? All those in favor signify by
7 saying aye.

8 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

9 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

10 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

11 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye. Opposed? The
13 ayes have it and so moved. And 6-B, 6-E, and
14 6-F are tabled.

15 MS. REED: SEVENTH ORDER.

16 7-A. FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE
17 COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY - FOR
18 ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 63, 2020 -
19 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE
20 CITY OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON, UPON
21 THE OFFER OF CONDITIONAL EMPLOYMENT TO THE
22 SCRANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT TO ALLOW
23 PARTICIPATION IN THE ACT 120 PROGRAM,
24 APPLICANTS WHO ACCEPT SAID OFFER WILL REIMBURSE
25 THE CITY OF SCRANTON ON A PRO-RATA BASIS IF THE

1 EMPLOYEE TERMINATES EMPLOYMENT WITH THE CITY OF
2 SCRANTON PRIOR TO THREE YEARS.

3 MR. GAUGHAN: What is the
4 recommendation of Chairperson for the Committee
5 on Public Safety?

6 MR. MCANDREW: As Chairman for the
7 Committee On Public Safety, I recommend final
8 passage of Item 7-A.

9 MR. SCHUSTER: Second.

10 MR. DONAHUE: Second.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question?

12 MR. DONAHUE: On the question, so I
13 just want to bring up quickly it's my
14 understanding that under this resolution that
15 perspective police officers will not become an
16 employee of the City of Scranton or receive any
17 of the benefits awarded to the employees of the
18 City of Scranton until they receive their Act
19 120 certification.

20 If upon implementation of the
21 program any of these individuals begin to be
22 treated as employees prior to completing their
23 Act 120 certification, I think Council should
24 revisit this resolution. But as long as
25 they're not City employees until they receive

1 the certification, I don't see any issue with
2 it. And I will be supporting this resolution.

3 MR. GAUGHAN: Anyone else on the
4 question?

5 MR. MCANDREW: Yeah, I was also glad
6 to hear tonight or at least clarified to us
7 that they're not employees first because that
8 was our understanding for a couple weeks now.
9 So -- and also, of course, I still like the
10 fact that, you know, if they leave within three
11 years, there's consequences. And they have to
12 pay us back based on, you know, that.

13 Also, and guess what? So, you know,
14 once again, you know, they're hired first. But
15 we will -- I'm sure we do have applicants that
16 already have that certification. So how fair
17 would it be to them if they're hired with that
18 certification because they have that versus the
19 ones that are earning towards it.

20 So I'm happy with some of these
21 little changes that keep happening before final
22 passage. Thank you.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. Anyone
24 else on the question? Okay. Roll call,
25 please, Miss Carrera.

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Schuster.

2 MR. SCHUSTER: Yes.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McAndrew.

4 MR. MCANDREW: Yes.

5 MS. CARRERA: Dr. Rothchild.

6 DR. ROTHCHILD: Yes.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

8 MR. DONAHUE: Yes.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

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

12 MS. REED: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION
13 BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE - FOR ADOPTION -
14 RESOLUTION NO. 64, 2020 - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR
15 AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO APPLY
16 FOR AND EXECUTE A GRANT APPLICATION BY THE CITY
17 OF SCRANTON TO THE REDEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE
18 CAPITAL PROGRAM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,895,260.00
19 TO REPAIR THE ROOF AND FAÇADE OF CITY HALL.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: What is the
21 recommendation of the Chairperson for the
22 Committee on Finance?

23 MR. SCHUSTER: As Chairperson for
24 the Committee on Finance, I recommend final
25 passage of Item 7-B.

1 MR. DONAHUE: Second.

2 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question?

3 MR. SCHUSTER: On the question, it's
4 great to see that the administration is looking
5 for a grant to replace this historic building
6 and good luck with that.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: Anyone else on the
8 question? Roll call, please.

9 MR. MCANDREW: Yeah, I do.

10 MR. GAUGHAN: Oh, I'm sorry.

11 MR. MCANDREW: I feel the same way.
12 So this is a step in the right direction of
13 keeping this asset. I know there was talk
14 about this for the past couple years up in the
15 air, you know, whether they sell this or not.
16 I know it's still not off the table but I'm
17 glad to see that the investment's being made.

18 So in my eyes it's a step in the
19 right direction in keeping one of our few
20 assets that we have left. Thank you.

21 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. Anyone
22 else on the question?

23 MR. SCHUSTER: Yeah, sorry, I'm
24 coming back in here again. But to Mr.
25 McAndrew's point about one of the City's

1 assets, this is an asset of the City that's
2 been paid for by our parents, our grandparents,
3 our great grandparents and just to get that out
4 there.

5 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. Thank you.
6 Anyone else? Okay. Roll call, please.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Schuster.

8 MR. SCHUSTER: Yes.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McAndrew.

10 MR. MCANDREW: Yes.

11 MS. CARRERA: Dr. Rothchild.

12 DR. ROTHCHILD: Yes.

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

14 MR. DONAHUE: Yes.

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

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

18 MS. REED: 7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION
19 BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT -
20 FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 65, 2020 -
21 RATIFYING AND APPROVING THE EXECUTION AND
22 SUBMISSION OF THE GRANT APPLICATION
23 BY THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO PENNSYLVANIA
24 DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC
25 DEVELOPMENT, CENTER FOR BUSINESS FINANCING -

1 GRANTS OFFICE, FOR A MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION
2 FUNDS GRANT TO BE UTILIZED FOR THE CEDAR IRON
3 DISTRICT RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT IN THE AMOUNT
4 OF \$1,546,449.00.

5 MR. GAUGHAN: What is recommendation
6 of the Chairperson on the Committee on
7 Community Development?

8 DR. ROTHCHILD: As Chair for the
9 Committee on Community Development, I recommend
10 final passage on Item 7-C.

11 MR. SCHUSTER: Second.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? Roll
13 call, please.

14 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Schuster.

15 MR. SCHUSTER: Yes.

16 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McAndrew.

17 MR. MCANDREW: Yes.

18 MS. CARRERA: Dr. Rothchild.

19 DR. ROTHCHILD: Yes.

20 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

21 MR. DONAHUE: Yes.

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

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

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

1 THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT -
2 FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 66, 2020 -
3 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE
4 CITY OFFICIALS TO APPLY FOR AND EXECUTE A
5 GRANT APPLICATION THROUGH THE PENNSYLVANIA
6 DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY
7 DEVELOPMENT GREENWAY TRAILS AND RECREATION
8 PROGRAM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$44,903.15 TO BE USED
9 FOR EMERGENCY REPAIRS TO THE DAVIS TRAIL
10 LOCATED IN NAY AUG PARK, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA
11 INCLUDING REPLACEMENT OF TWO (2) WOODEN
12 OBSERVATION DECKS AND REPAIRS TO SAFETY RAILS.

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

16 DR. ROTHCHILD: As Chair for the
17 Committee on Community Development, I recommend
18 final passage of Item 7-D.

19 MR. SCHUSTER: Second.

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

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Schuster.

23 MR. SCHUSTER: Yes.

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McAndrew.

25 MR. MCANDREW: Yes.

1 MS. CARRERA: Dr. Rothchild.

2 DR. ROTHCHILD: Yes.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

4 MR. DONAHUE: Yes.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes. I hereby declare
7 Item 7-D legally and lawfully adopted.

8 MS. REED: 7-E. FOR CONSIDERATION
9 BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT -
10 FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 67, 2020 -
11 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE
12 CITY OFFICIALS TO APPLY FOR AND EXECUTE A
13 GRANT APPLICATION BY THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO
14 THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND
15 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BLIGHT REMEDIATION PROGRAM
16 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$297,219.84 TO IMPLEMENT A
17 TWO (2) PHASE BLIGHT REMEDIATION PROJECT
18 INCLUDING DEMOLITION OF CITY-OWNED STRUCTURES
19 IN PUBLIC PARKS AND DEMOLITION OF
20 PRIVATELY-OWNED STRUCTURES THAT HAVE BEEN
21 DEEMED HAZARDOUS.

22 MR. GAUGHAN: What is the
23 recommendation of the Chairperson for the
24 Committee on Community Development?

25 DR. ROTHCHILD: As Chair for the

1 Committee on Community Development, I recommend
2 final passage of Item 7-E.

3 MR. MCANDREW: Second.

4 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? On
5 the question, I had several questions about
6 this legislation last week. We did not receive
7 answers to it yet. I don't want to table this
8 because I would be concerned we would be
9 cutting it too close to the deadline for
10 submission which is next Wednesday.

11 So I'm going to vote for this
12 because ultimately, you know, we need the grant
13 money. The biggest question I had was what's
14 the plan for after demolishing the public
15 facilities throughout the City.

16 And the second question was, some of
17 these properties particularly the one on Birney
18 Avenue that is listed here, it's in really
19 rough shape. The timeline that's included in
20 this, it has to be off because the dates I
21 think are wrong.

22 And my concern is that, you know,
23 getting the grant money would be great. But we
24 have \$145,000 earmarked in this budget for
25 demolition. So for some of these properties

1 that really are a major safety hazard, we
2 should tap into that money and get those
3 properties down as quickly as possible. So,
4 Mrs. Reed, if you could just, you know,
5 politely ask the administration to get these
6 answers to us by next Tuesday I would really
7 appreciate that. Anyone else on the question?
8 Roll call, please.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Schuster.

10 MR. SCHUSTER: Yes.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McAndrew.

12 MR. MCANDREW: Yes.

13 MS. CARRERA: Dr. Rothchild.

14 DR. ROTHCHILD: Yes.

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

16 MR. DONAHUE: Yes.

17 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

18 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes. I hereby declare
19 Item 7-E legally and lawfully adopted.

20 MS. REED: 7-F. FOR CONSIDERATION
21 BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS - FOR
22 ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 68, 2020 -
23 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE
24 CITY OFFICIALS TO APPLY FOR AND EXECUTE A
25 GRANT APPLICATION BY THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO

1 THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND
2 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FLOOD MITIGATION PROGRAM
3 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$322,569.00 TO ASSIST IN
4 THE ACQUISITION AND DEMOLITION OF THREE (3)
5 PROPERTIES IN SCRANTON'S WESTSIDE: 2404 JACKSON
6 STREET, SCRANTON, PA 18504; 120 N. MERRIFIELD
7 AVENUE, SCRANTON, PA 18504; AND 122 N.
8 MERRIFIELD AVENUE, SCRANTON, PA 18504.

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

12 MR. DONAHUE: As Chair for the
13 Committee on Public Works, I recommend final
14 passage of Item 7-F.

15 MR. GAUGHAN: Is there a second?

16 MR. SCHUSTER: Second.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question?

18 MR. SCHUSTER: On the question, last
19 week I had asked about if there had been any
20 other structures in this zone there. I wasn't
21 sure if there was any garages. I know those
22 three properties were ones that were being
23 looked at for a possible expansion there. But
24 we didn't get any answers to that question, did
25 we?

1 MR. GAUGHAN: I don't believe so.
2 Mrs. Reed, did we receive anything on 7-F?

3 MS. REED: No, we did not.

4 MR. SCHUSTER: All right. I guess I
5 go in the same vain that you were going there,
6 President Gaughan, to receive this information
7 prior to next Tuesday.

8 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. Sure.
9 Definitely. I also had had some questions. I
10 support this. This is a long time coming. The
11 people down in this area since I've been on
12 Council and well before I was on Council have
13 suffered greatly when we get, you know, major
14 rain storms.

15 And their properties have been --
16 property values have been diminished over the
17 years. Their homes have been, you know,
18 damaged because of the water runoff. And I
19 think this is, again, a long time coming. And
20 it will help not only these property owners but
21 everyone else in that general vicinity. So I
22 support this. Anyone else on the question?
23 Roll call, please.

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Schuster.

25 MR. SCHUSTER: Yes.

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McAndrew.

2 MR. MCANDREW: Yes.

3 MS. CARRERA: Dr. Rothchild.

4 DR. ROTHCHILD: Yes.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

6 MR. DONAHUE: Yes.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

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

10 MS. REED: 7-G. FOR CONSIDERATION
11 BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT -
12 FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 69, 2020 -
13 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE
14 CITY OFFICIALS TO APPLY FOR AND EXECUTE A
15 GRANT APPLICATION BY THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO
16 THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND
17 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BLIGHT REMEDIATION PROGRAM
18 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$73,225.00 ON BEHALF OF
19 WEST SCRANTON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, INC. TO
20 REPAIR THE ROOF AND PARKING AREA OF THE
21 PROPERTY LOCATED AT 310 N. MAIN AVENUE,
22 AS WELL AS THE CLOSING COSTS TO FINALIZE THE
23 PURCHASE OF THIS BUILDING THAT WILL BE USED BY
24 WEST SCRANTON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, INC.

25 MR. GAUGHAN: What is the

1 recommendation of the Chairperson for the
2 Committee on Community Development?

3 DR. ROTHCHILD: As Chair for the
4 Committee on Community Development, I recommend
5 final passage of Item 7-G.

6 MR. DONAHUE: Second.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question?

8 MR. MCANDREW: On the question, I'd
9 just like to say this, you know, of course, is
10 a great organization and great bunch of people
11 involved. And I'm glad to see they're getting
12 some fiscal help with the project.

13 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. Anyone
14 else on the question? Roll call, please.

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Schuster.

16 MR. SCHUSTER: Yes.

17 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McAndrew.

18 MR. MCANDREW: Yes.

19 MS. CARRERA: Dr. Rothchild.

20 DR. ROTHCHILD: Yes.

21 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

22 MR. DONAHUE: Yes.

23 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes. I hereby declare
25 Item 7-G legally and lawfully adopted.

1 Prior to adjournment, I just want to
2 say one thing really quick. I failed to
3 mention this at the beginning of the meeting
4 and I apologize. The sobering reminder of how
5 much of an impact this pandemic has had on the
6 United States was evident today when it was
7 announced that over 200,000 Americans have lost
8 their lives to the coronavirus.

9 And I think everyone in our City and
10 in our county should think about that even if
11 it hasn't affected you personally yet, think
12 about it before you go out into a grocery store
13 or anywhere else without a mask on. It boggles
14 my mind -- it just -- I'm shocked every time I
15 drive by someplace or see people congregating
16 without masks on.

17 It's clear from the science that
18 masks can save lives and can blunt this
19 pandemic. So whatever you do before you
20 congregate or have a party or go do something,
21 think about those 200,000 people that have
22 passed away. Some of those lives I believe
23 could have been saved if this country had acted
24 and -- this federal government had acted
25 sooner.

1 So everyone in our City and in our
2 county should continue to wear masks, practice
3 social distancing when possible and continue to
4 follow the rules, not because anyone's civil
5 liberties are being taken away but because it
6 is the patriotic thing to do.

7 So hopefully within the next few
8 months this, you know, this pandemic will wane.
9 But we're still right smack dab in the middle
10 of it. And I hope we don't forget that as a
11 City and as a community. And that's all I
12 have. If there is no further business, I'll
13 entertain a motion to adjourn.

14 MR. DONAHUE: Motion to adjourn.

15 MR. GAUGHAN: This meeting's
16 adjourned. Thank you everyone. Have a good
17 night.

18 DR. ROTHCHILD: Thank you.
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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
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10 _____
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12 Official Court Reporter
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