

SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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HELD:

Thursday, January 14, 2016

LOCATION:

Council Chambers

Scranton City Hall

340 North Washington Avenue

Scranton, Pennsylvania

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

JOSEPH WECHSLER, PRESIDENT

PATRICK ROGAN, VICE-PRESIDENT

WAYNE EVANS

WILLIAM GAUGHAN

TIM PERRY

LORI REED, CITY CLERK

KATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

AMIL MINORA, SOLICITOR

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

3 MR. WECHSLER: Roll call, please.

4 MS. REED: Mr. Wechsler.

5 MR. WECHSLER: Here.

6 MS. REED: Mr. Rogan.

7 MR. ROGAN: Here.

8 MS. REED: Mr. Evans.

9 MR. EVANS: Here.

10 MS. REED: Mr. Gaughan.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Here.

12 MS. REED: Mr. Perry.

13 MR. PERRY: Here.

14 MS. REED: Mr. Wechsler.

15 MR. WECHSLER: Here. A few
16 announcements tonight before we start the
17 meeting. Next Monday, January 18, is Martin
18 Luther King Day. In observance of the
19 holiday city hall will be closed. DPW will
20 not be working that day and refuse
21 collections will be delayed by one day next
22 week.

23 In regards to agenda items,
24 legislation on tonight's agenda, Item 5-B
25 and 5-F were submitted with an emergency

1 certificate that was attached. There will
2 be a second opportunity for citizens'
3 comments prior to the final reading in
4 Seventh Order. Dispense with the reading of
5 the minutes.

6 MS. REED: THIRD ORDER. 3-A.
7 CONTROLLER'S REPORT FOR THE MONTH ENDING
8 NOVEMBER 30, 2015.

9 MR. WECHSLER: Are there any
10 comments? If not, received and filed.

11 MS. REED: 3-B. TAX ASSESSOR'S
12 RESULTS REPORT FOR HEARING DATE HELD
13 DECEMBER 2, 2015.

14 MR. WECHSLER: Are there any
15 comments? If not, received and filed.

16 MS. REED: 3-C. TAX ASSESSOR'S
17 REPORT FOR HEARING DATE HELD JANUARY 13,
18 2016.

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

21 MS. REED: 3-D. CHECK RECEIVED IN
22 THE AMOUNT OF \$175,000.00 FROM THE
23 UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON, WHICH IS PAYMENT IN
24 LIEU OF TAXES FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON.

25 MR. WECHSLER: Are there any

1 comments? If not, received and filed.

2 MS. REED: 3-E. BREAKDOWN OF
3 ELIGIBLE SALARIES FOR THE LIQUID FUELS
4 ACCOUNT FOR THE MONTHS OF OCTOBER, NOVEMBER
5 AND DECEMBER 2015.

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

8 MS. REED: 3-F. MINUTES OF THE
9 SCRANTON-LACKAWANNA HEALTH AND WELFARE
10 AUTHORITY BOARD MEETING HELD NOVEMBER 19,
11 2015.

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

14 MS. REED: 3-G. AGENDA FOR THE
15 LACKAWANNA COUNTY TAX COLLECTION COMMITTEE
16 MEETING HELD DECEMBER 10, 2015.

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

19 MS. REED: 3-H. MINUTES OF THE
20 REGULAR MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF SCRANTON
21 HOUSING AUTHORITY HELD ON OCTOBER 5,
22 NOVEMBER 2, AND DECEMBER 7, 2015.

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

25 MS. REED: 3-I. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1 RECEIVED FROM THE REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF
2 THE CITY OF SCRANTON DATED DECEMBER 31,
3 2014.

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

6 MS. REED: 3-J. LACKAWANNA COUNTY
7 EARNED INCOME TAX COLLECTION COMMITTEE
8 FINANCIAL REPORT DATED DECEMBER 10, 2015.

9 MR. WECHSLER: Are there any
10 comments? If not, received and filed.

11 MS. REED: 3-K. AGENDA FOR THE BOARD
12 OF ZONING APPEALS MEETING HELD JANUARY 13,
13 2016.

14 MR. WECHSLER: Are there any
15 comments? If not, received and filed.

16 Do any council members have any
17 announcements at this time?

18 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, I have two.
19 After unseasonable warmth in December, this
20 month is starting out cold and some people
21 in Lackawanna County lack a wardrobe for
22 such weather. Lackawanna County Libraries
23 are trying to help by collecting clean, used
24 adult-sized blue jeans and jackets in good
25 condition for the clothing room at St.

1 Francis of Assisi Kitchen. All sizes for
2 both and men are needed. Since 1978, St.
3 Francis of Assisi Kitchen has been serving
4 nutritious meals to hungry people in
5 downtown Scranton. It's clothing room is
6 available to people in need.

7 I'd also like to take a minute to
8 recognize a great event that will be going
9 on January 30. In 2014, friends of Shannon
10 McDonough held it's inaugural polar plunge
11 event "Splashin' with Compassion." After
12 two successful years having donated to six
13 young individuals battling cancer last year,
14 they plan to host their third annual polar
15 plunge on Saturday, January 30, from 9 a.m.
16 to 2 p.m. at Montage Mountain in Scranton.
17 The event is free to attend, but there is a
18 \$35 fee to take the plunge in support of the
19 cause. They are calling on caring
20 businesses and individuals alike to support
21 their community event seeking gift cards and
22 gift baskets which will be displayed and
23 raffled at the event. They are also
24 offering sponsorship opportunities, and I
25 would hope that everybody would try to make

1 it out to this event to battle cancer.

2 Thank you.

3 MR. WECHSLER: Anyone else?

4 MS. REED: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'
5 PARTICIPATION. And I'd also like to
6 mention, council president, the speakers if
7 they would please state their name for the
8 record and as a reminder there is a
9 five-minute time limit.

10 MR. WECHSLER: The first speaker is
11 Jerry Reidenbach.

12 MR. REIDENBACH: Sir, I'd like to
13 address council on some of these issues that
14 I have.

15 MR. WECHSLER: Please state your
16 name?

17 MR. REIDENBACH: Oh, Jerry
18 Reidenbach. The reason what started all of
19 this a lady fell on my sidewalks last year,
20 all right? What I was trying to do is
21 correct the problem, all right? First of
22 all, there was speed bumps down in the alley
23 at the rear of 1428 Cedar Avenue. They were
24 removed by the city, all right? They were
25 put in there 17 years ago because there was

1 a problem. All of a sudden speed bumps are
2 illegal in Scranton, but I still see them
3 remaining over on the side of Tech. They
4 are still going through that alley, so
5 something has to be done because all of the
6 cars are flying through the alley to avoid
7 the red light at Smith's. That's why they
8 were installed years ago.

9 Now, another thing what came about
10 was after the speed bumps were removed, all
11 right, the water flows down the alley.
12 There was a two-foot wide river flowing down
13 the alley, all right? I talked to Dennis
14 Gallagher about removing -- when he was
15 going to do the speed bumps. He said, "I
16 will cut them out and I will put a curb
17 there."

18 Me, trying to help Smith's out, the
19 lot was graded towards my house. The guy
20 across the alley has a bug truck. By
21 backing in and out every day he created
22 ruts, the water would flow down through
23 there. So in the mean time what I was did I
24 was building up a lot, all right? They came
25 over, they removed the speed bumps, Dennis

1 Gallagher looked right at the lot and he
2 said, "There's a problem."

3 He said, "That's above grade."

4 As I gave you a copy of the city
5 ordinance about the grading he had me grade
6 the lot back towards my house, all right? I
7 gave you guys pictures. Did you receive
8 them to look at, all right? Now, is that
9 acceptable a two-foot wide river coming down
10 your front sidewalks? And the damage that
11 was done to my sidewalks, all right?

12 So I talked to them and nobody would
13 do nothing about it. I called the Sewer
14 Authority, they came over, they looked at
15 it, in less than two days there was a curb.
16 The first thing they said was the alley was
17 graded the wrong way. It was graded towards
18 the lot and there was no curb, but they put
19 it in, all right?

20 I called up Jack Sweeney and I said,
21 "Jack, they put the curb in."

22 He said, "Oh, I was talking to
23 Dennis Gallagher, as a favor to me he was
24 going to put a curb in."

25 I said, "It's already put in." I

1 said, "Now the guy across the alley and who
2 has a tree service is running it over."

3 I said, "Jack, could you go over and
4 talk to them about that?"

5 He said, "The Sewer Authority put
6 that in, they are responsible for that now."

7 They did that as a favor to the city
8 he said. Now, what I'm asking now is
9 something has to be addressed at the
10 problem. It has to be a one-way, there has
11 to be a curb put this, and the sidewalks as
12 of now, I'm speaking to you, I'm putting you
13 on notice, anything that happens with them
14 sidewalks through the water damage I'm not
15 responsibile anymore. Legal advice told me,
16 like, to tell you that, all right? And,
17 like, I can't actually believe somebody who
18 works for DPW come over and say the lot is
19 graded the wrong way when it is actually the
20 right way that it was graded, and he would
21 not to nothing to help me out.

22 Like, I don't know what's going on
23 here. And, plus, as a favor it was supposed
24 to be done, but it was already installed. I
25 don't know how we can address this problem,

1 but it has to be addressed because I'm not
2 going to put up with this.

3 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Reidenbach, we
4 discussed your problem in caucus earlier
5 this evening and I believe that Mr. Evans
6 and Mr. Gaughan both have been in
7 discussions with you and also we noticed the
8 correspondence from Mr. Gallagher and City
9 Engineer Pocius, I believe, so for us right
10 now we can only discuss and assemble all the
11 information that we have received to date,
12 trying to put it together to see if there is
13 something that we can do to.

14 MR. REIDENBACH: Well, I guess they
15 can because, you know, when the Sewer
16 Authority came out very quickly and they
17 said they looked at it and they knew it
18 wasn't even their problem. They were there
19 the next day. That curb wasn't even in
20 there six hours, the guy across the alley,
21 Allen Craig, ran it over. The guy couldn't
22 believe it. They were going to come back
23 and they were going to put in the barriers
24 for the parking lots. They couldn't do that
25 because of Smith's parking lot. Leave it be

1 known, too, that parking lot was never zoned
2 as a parking lot. Every day back and forth
3 he goes with the trucks digging ruts. I
4 have a bunch of pictures that I can leave
5 with you so you can see exactly what is on
6 the daily basis. I don't know if the house
7 if it's zoned for commercial for a lot like
8 that because at one time there was a house
9 there. When they demolished the house for
10 the parking lot 150 feet of curb came out
11 along with that. They did cover over some
12 of the existing curb where the sewer plant
13 put in so there was a curb there, there was
14 a problem, and I told Jack Sweeney, once the
15 curb gets put in is it going to be the same
16 thing back and forth over it and destroy it
17 again? I don't know if it's zoned for it
18 because Jack tried to say something about a
19 grandfather clause. A grandfather clause is
20 an existing business that was there. Okay.
21 Thank you very much.

22 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, and we did
23 send a letter to Denny Gallagher, the DPW
24 Director. We copied, as Councilmen Wechsler
25 said, John Pocius, the city engineer, and

1 the city solicitor Jason Shrive so we will
2 be waiting for a response in writing from
3 them to see what we can do to take care of
4 this problem.

5 MR. REIDENBACH: Thank you very
6 much.

7 MR. WECHSLER: Joan Hodowanitz.

8 MS. HODOWANITZ: Joan Hodowanitz,
9 city taxpayer. Mr. Perry, welcome to city
10 council. I wish you much success.

11 MR. PERRY: Thank you.

12 MS. HODOWANITZ: I'm very, very
13 pleased to know that the city was able to
14 pay the end of year MMO for the pension
15 funds on December 30. Mr. Bulzoni
16 accomplished that by transferring funds from
17 end-of-year accounts that had cash balances.
18 Unfortunately, I don't think that's going to
19 work again this year or next year when the
20 MMO increases to is 11.4 million and 18
21 million dollars. We are just not going to
22 have that much money to play around with
23 again.

24 Speaking of the pension funds, I
25 attended the meetings of all of the pension

1 boards yesterday morning and I don't know if
2 Ms. Reed has had the opportunity to brief
3 you on the information provided during the
4 Composite Board meeting, but Mellon Bank
5 briefed -- gave it's January investment
6 review for 2015 and, as you know, the
7 Pension Boards assume a rate of return of 8
8 percent on investments to fund future
9 payments to the retirees. I don't know if
10 you realize it, but for 2015 the rate of
11 return was not 8 percent, but point 3.9
12 percent, okay? Not good. That doesn't take
13 into consideration what the market has been
14 doing in January. That was just year 2015.

15 I would strongly encourage all five
16 of you to drill down onto this pension
17 matter and remember that the state auditor
18 general is coming back to do his two-year
19 audit. You should be working on that right
20 now and we should find out this summer the
21 level of distress of these pension funds,
22 and I have a feeling that the news is not
23 going to be good.

24 Speaking of Mr. Bulzoni,
25 Mr. Wechsler, you are council president, can

1 you tell me who will replace him and when?

2 MR. WECHSLER: Currently there has
3 not been a replacement named for Mr. Bulzoni
4 and currently right now Mr. Bulzoni
5 continues to operate as the business
6 administrator of the city. I have spoken to
7 the mayor about his plans for Mr. Bulzoni
8 and I have also spoken to Mr. Bulzoni. As
9 of today right now they have not given us
10 any idea of how they plan to address this
11 issue.

12 MS. HODOWANITZ: Does the mayor plan
13 to request another waiver?

14 MR. WECHSLER: Like I said, the
15 mayor has not told me how he plans to
16 address the issue.

17 MS. HODOWANITZ: In my opinion, that
18 is totally unacceptable. He should be able
19 to find a qualified candidate willing to do
20 the job for \$90,000.

21 And the 2014 audit, Mr. President,
22 what's the status?

23 MR. WECHSLER: Speaking again to
24 Mr. Bulzoni, the final draft should be
25 available January 22.

1 MS. HODOWANITZ: That's a draft.

2 MR. WECHSLER: A draft.

3 MS. HODOWANITZ: When will the final
4 product be ready.

5 MR. WECHSLER: After the drafter is
6 prepared.

7 MS. HODOWANITZ: It's already 228
8 days late according our own Home Rule
9 Charter, the state will never get its annual
10 financial audit, which was due on April 1,
11 and which they were reminded again and asked
12 for it by December 31, you are not going to
13 get that audit until they can extract the
14 numbers from independent audit so you are
15 also holding up that thing and DCED can deny
16 you funds based on not having that audit
17 filed. That's unacceptable. Remember, we
18 hired Rainey & Rainey to train the people
19 upstairs how to prepare the information for
20 the audit and Rainey & Rainey has been paid
21 at least renege \$22,527.50, probably more
22 since their invoices haven't all cleared.
23 We also paid SP & Company \$40,000 for that
24 audit so I want some value for my tax
25 dollar, I'm not getting it.

1 I noted the article that the Times
2 did about the city hires that the mayor made
3 for the positions that he created,
4 Mr. President, have any of those positions
5 been advertised?

6 MR. WECHSLER: Not that I know of,
7 no.

8 MS. HODOWANITZ: I recall your
9 comments from also June where you said you
10 need to start advertising them even if they
11 weren't union positions, has anything been
12 done to change the ordinances of that --
13 those things become advertised so that
14 citizens who are not political cronies can
15 have a chance at them?

16 MR. WECHSLER: Well, I find offense
17 at the word "political crony", number one.
18 Number two, I do still believe though that
19 those positions should be advertised.
20 Unfortunately, though, that is an
21 administration decision and we don't have
22 the power to change it right now.

23 MS. HODOWANITZ: Well, there will
24 come another election. Thank you.

25 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

1 MR. WECHSLER: Ron Moskolevitz. I'm
2 sorry for the pronunciation.

3 MR. MOSKOLEVITZ: It's Moskolevitz,
4 but you were close.

5 MR. WECHSLER: I got the "M" right.

6 MR. MOSKOLEVITZ: Yeah, you did,
7 that's pretty decent. Good evening,
8 gentlemen. May I approach the council and
9 hand a little report?

10 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

11 MR. MOSKOLEVITZ: I'm going to
12 surprise you gentlemen today, I'm not here
13 to argue, yell, scream at you. Instead of
14 that, I'm going to give you an idea of how
15 to make Scranton a little bit better I hope.
16 This is our 125 anniversary, I think it's
17 about time we lit up the city, and I'm going
18 to propose a way to make our city a little
19 bit brighter and make it a little more
20 interesting.

21 Now, as you probably noticed, as you
22 look the city, cities are known by one or
23 two catch phrases. If I say, "Glass" you
24 say Corning, New York. If I say,
25 "Chocolate", you say Hershey, Pennsylvania.

1 "Little league," hey, Williamsport.
2 "Liberty Bell", Philadelphia. You say
3 "Electric City" well, we say Scranton but if
4 you're outside of our area nobody knows
5 about us, so this is our keyboard, Electric
6 City. We have a huge sign outside, we
7 should build on this, and I'm not going to
8 propose a million dollars idea because I
9 seen too many of them from other
10 architectural firms in our city and other
11 people that want to make this building
12 pretty or this lot nice and, believe me, the
13 city doesn't have millions of dollars to
14 spend, the county doesn't have millions of
15 dollars to spend, and the state won't give
16 us a million dollars so I'm going propose a
17 very small idea. I want to see in 2016 our
18 anniversary to light up our city, and what
19 I'm proposing is very simple. I'm sure you
20 have seen buildings with the lights on them
21 that go across the top or down the sides and
22 they light up. What I'm proposing is that
23 we take the downtown to light up our
24 buildings, using simple LED lights like a C7
25 and light up the side of the building and

1 the top that are facing our downtown area.
2 I'm counting our downtown as Penn Avenue to
3 Lackawanna to Jefferson to Mulberry. Now, a
4 specific area, let's start around courthouse
5 square. Now, if you will see on the last
6 page I tried to do a little idea of the
7 courthouse square with lights on, it's tough
8 to draw -- print out a picture at night with
9 lights with a printer, but it gives you a
10 little bit of an idea if you look closely at
11 it. This idea has a lot of merits. There
12 is one building, that bank building on
13 courthouse square now that has lights across
14 the top. Another building, the bank
15 building at Dunmore corners was beautifully
16 lit up with lights on the roof this year
17 which was nice.

18 My thought is that we start the
19 lights from 15 feet above the floor, above
20 the ground level. This way vandalism won't
21 attack or kids won't be playing with them,
22 run vertically up the side of the building,
23 across the top and down, and only do the
24 faces of the building that face the streets.
25 If you have a corner building then you have

1 two faces you have to do.

2 Now, I was looking at this and
3 knocking around some prices, we could have a
4 price in a catalog, a C7 light strip for a
5 40-foot wide building four stories high you
6 are going to spend \$70 in lights. That's
7 not a big cost doing business and for all
8 the electronic supply houses we have in the
9 area I'm sure we can get that down to a
10 really cheap price knowing how many
11 buildings we have in the area, and LED
12 lights are very cheap to run. And with a
13 little timer on there or a photo eye there
14 is no maintenance really.

15 One of the big advantages of this
16 and why I'm proposing this is "a" it's
17 cheap. Two, it's going to give you us a lot
18 more light in the city. There are some
19 streets even downtown you walk on that are a
20 little dark and dingy even with our adequate
21 lighting that we have, and the biggest plus
22 of it is going to be that when people drive
23 on 81 and the turnpike the city is actually
24 going to glow. The glow or the light haze
25 over the city at night is going to make

1 people look over and say, "What is that down
2 there?"

3 And somebody is going to say, "Hey,
4 that's electric city Scranton."

5 That's going to really get out. And
6 I just think it's a very short, cheap idea
7 at helping us get along and I just want to
8 go a bit further, maybe in December council
9 or the city could give a prize for the best
10 decorated building, but I give you an idea
11 free of charge and I didn't yell at you.
12 Thank you very much. I hope you --

13 MR. WECHSLER: Just before you go,
14 would you be able to e-mail this to the city
15 clerk?

16 MR. MOSKOLEVITZ: Sure, anybody you
17 want.

18 MR. WECHSLER: The reason being I
19 would like to forward this to Scranton
20 Tomorrow and to Leslie Collins.

21 MR. MOSKOLEVITZ: I tried to get to
22 her four times, but she is never in the
23 building over at the Tripp House. I have
24 been trying to get to her. I'll definitely
25 take one over so you don't have to forward

1 it.

2 MR. WECHSLER: Yeah, if you could
3 e-mail it to us and then we can forward it
4 to Leslie, this is something that the
5 downtown committee would be very interested
6 in.

7 MR. MOSKOLOVITZ: Sure, I'll be glad
8 to give it you.

9 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you for idea.

10 MR. MOSKOLOVITZ: Thank you very
11 much for your time, gentlemen.

12 MR. EVANS: Good idea. Thank you.

13 MR. WECHSLER: Les Spindler.

14 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening,
15 Council. Les Spindler, city resident and
16 homeowner and taxpayer. Councilman Perry,
17 congratulations on winning your election.

18 MR. PERRY: Thank you very much.

19 MR. SPINDLER: Good luck on your
20 term.

21 MR. PERRY: Thank you.

22 MR. SPINDLER: At one of the last
23 meetings in December it came up for a vote
24 on the 5.7 percent tax hike and, Councilman
25 Evans, you said you were voting for that

1 holding your nose. Well, during the
2 previous administrations we had our taxes
3 raised 25 percent as high as 56 percent,
4 were you holding your nose at those tax
5 hikes, too, because you should have been
6 down here like I was and many other people
7 arguing against that. But, oh, I forgot,
8 you were supporting those tax hikes because
9 you supported Chris Doherty, but you are
10 holding your nose for a 5.7 tax hike. To
11 me, that's being a hypocrite.

12 Moving on, you are voting on this
13 garbage fee tonight, for years I have come
14 hear and argued I think it's illegal, we
15 already paid taxes to have our garbage
16 collected, this is a double tax, and it's a
17 tax, not a fee. People cannot afford \$300
18 when they are already paying taxes. I think
19 you should vote that down. I know you
20 won't, because you never have in the past.
21 You people never do what's right for the
22 citizens of this city.

23 Moving on, Mr. Bulzoni, I know
24 you're all against him staying on, I think
25 it was wrong for you to force him out.

1 There was a precedent set when George Parker
2 was here much, I stated this before, he was
3 never forced out, he left on his own, so I
4 think you are wrong for forcing Mr. Bulzoni
5 out, and as is being proven you are not
6 going to find anybody to replace him that's
7 as qualified as him, so you want to try to
8 make the city better you should keep
9 qualified people in their positions. You
10 shouldn't be forcing him out, I think you
11 are making a huge mistake. But, like I
12 said, you don't listen to what we say
13 anyway, so I'm sure you are going to do what
14 you are going to do.

15 Luzerne Street, Councilman Rogan,
16 I'm sure you have traveled that, from Main
17 Avenue down to Meridian that is a disaster.

18 MR. ROGAN: I had a conversation
19 with the mayor about this over the break
20 because that area and the area when you get
21 into South Scranton was a mess. Luckily,
22 that was finally taken care of down by the
23 South Side shopping plaza. That work, and I
24 did ask when it was going to be paved, it's
25 not the city that's doing the work,

1 obviously, it's the utility companies, and
2 that won't be paved until next year.

3 MR. SPINDLER: Oh, yeah, you can't
4 do it now.

5 MR. ROGAN: So we can get in touch
6 with the utility to see if they can make
7 more legitimate repairs because you can't go
8 down that street more than 10, 15 a miles
9 because of the divets.

10 MR. SPINDLER: No, and there's one
11 corner, I think it's the corner of Ninth
12 Avenue and Luzerne.

13 MR. ROGAN: By Brownie's Pizza.

14 MR. SPINDLER: No, it's the block
15 up, but I forget, that's Ninth or Tenth,
16 there is huge potholes, I mean, the pavement
17 is coming up, it's just awful and I know
18 they can't do anything in the winter now,
19 something should have been done. It's a
20 terrible, terrible job.

21 The last thing I have to say, with
22 all due respect to President Wechsler, I
23 think Councilman Rogan should have been
24 voted president. He is the most senior
25 councilman up there. I stated that a few

1 years ago when there was a vote. He is the
2 most senior, I think he is the most
3 qualified, I think he should have been
4 president. I don't know how it was decided,
5 but, again, nothing is done fair in this
6 area so why should I be surprised. Thank
7 you for your time.

8 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Sherry
9 Scramstad.

10 MS. SCRAMSTAD: Good evening, ladies
11 and gentlemen. My name is Sherry Scramstad.
12 I'm a citizen of Scranton who currently
13 resides at Morgan Manor since last September
14 because Clover management, the out-of-state
15 builder and operators of the Greenridge
16 Senior Apartment Complex located on Dickson
17 Avenue has forced this 73-year-old to move
18 after they refused to renew my lease without
19 any form of explanation on July 15, 2015 for
20 what I believe to be my activism on behalf
21 of myself and other residents of the complex
22 after having been lied to and misled by
23 that greedy and predatory corporation.

24 Very many of us were told before
25 construction even had begun that there would

1 not be an automatic raise in rents at the
2 end of the expired lease. That it was rare
3 when it did happen and when deemed necessary
4 it would only be a ten or 15 dollar increase
5 according to the cost of the living
6 adjustment. That proved to be anything but
7 the truth with raises of \$50 per apartment,
8 a \$25 raise for those who have rented
9 garages on the property, and a raise of \$5
10 for those who rented storage sheds from them
11 at the end of their first lease for, and for
12 the end of this current year's lease there
13 is another planned increase of the \$35 more
14 per unit.

15 A good portion of the men and women
16 who reside in the Greenridge community are
17 former community servants comprised of
18 retired nurses, teachers, firemen, veterans
19 and small business owners. Though they are
20 not impoverished, most live on fixed incomes
21 which do not allow them to access subsidized
22 housing, but whose limited incomes also do
23 not allow them to hire lawyers and fight
24 lengthy battles in Court.

25 Many residents gave up much to move

1 to the Greenridge complex that is
2 exclusively for seniors 55 and older. Many
3 sold their lifetime homes, others moved at
4 great expense from states like Florida,
5 Nevada and Virginia and many gave away much
6 of their furniture and collectables of a
7 lifetime because the apartments are so small
8 compared to their prior homes so that they
9 could live in a friendly and supportive
10 community of their peers which also allowed
11 them to bring the pet members of their
12 families, something of great importance to
13 many elderly persons. It's not an easy
14 thing to find in rental communities today
15 and those of us with pets paid extra for
16 them each month at Greenridge.

17 The Greenridge senior apartment
18 complex does not receive any federal or
19 other government subsidies and so believes
20 that legally they cannot be made to answer
21 for any of their decisions no matter how
22 fraudulent and unfair it may be to any of
23 their residents.

24 I know that this body held hearings
25 before issuing a permit to this greedy

1 corporation to build in this city and it's
2 my hope that after hearing only a fraction
3 of the lies to which they have subjected
4 their residents that you will rescind their
5 permit to operate the property and force
6 them to sell to a local owner who hopefully
7 will have more regard and concern for the
8 elderly of this city.

9 My problems with Clover Management
10 began when I was elected the president of
11 the pet club within the complex. Many
12 promised items such as six pet weigh
13 stations being put up around the complex
14 were not installed after eight months. In
15 addition, I was asked by management to
16 revise my minutes of the pet club meetings
17 not to reflect the actual concerns of the
18 members that were discussed at the meetings,
19 but to make the minutes "positive and
20 uplifting", if you can believe that.

21 I shared my concerns and suggestions
22 with better management of pet owners
23 concerns to management and realized that
24 they were not welcome. Upon finding out
25 that rents were raised so high despite so

1 many of us being told that they never would
2 be, I contacted Matt Courtright's office and
3 sent a letter to vice president Joe Biden
4 about the situation. I believed this
5 activism on my part played a huge role in
6 having the notice of "Non-renewal of lease"
7 left in my apartment door to the hallway
8 without been given any reason for such a
9 decision despite asking numerous times and
10 in various ways.

11 I may ask if I cannot finish reading
12 this may I leave this with the council so
13 they can share it?

14 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

15 MS. SCRAMSTAD: Thank you.

16 MR. WECHSLER: That is the end of
17 the people who signed in, is there anyone
18 else who would like to address council.

19 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,
20 citizen of Scranton, fellow Scrantonians.
21 We are contemplating the sale of the Sewer
22 Authority. The City divorced themselves
23 from the Sewer Authority when they set up an
24 authority. We had a sewer system, they set
25 up an authority, they said they are

1 independent, they are allowed to do whatever
2 they want except that we could put people on
3 the board so the city's responsibility was
4 only to board members.

5 Now, a new partnership has existed
6 between the Scranton Sewer Authority and
7 Dunmore and the ratepayers since most city
8 equity now in the Sewer Authority was don by
9 the people who paid for it. There is no
10 reason why should the Sewer Authority be
11 sold that some of that equity should be
12 turned back to the ratepayers. There is no
13 reason why the city should claim sole
14 authority, sole custodian of the money. The
15 money belongs to all of the people who
16 actually put money into the system, which is
17 the ratepayers. So I don't know if a -- the
18 time comes we have to file class action with
19 the federal government or not, but something
20 should be done to address the ratepayers.
21 That money that we put into it, it's like
22 putting it into a bank, otherwise, it would
23 just be another tax that you imposed on us
24 and that was not right here so something --
25 of course, it isn't sold yet, but should a

1 class action suit be filed against the Sewer
2 Authority and the dissolution of the money
3 don't be surprised because, as it is, the
4 city really divorces us. The only equity
5 the city had was the original equity, not
6 all of the equity that has increased since
7 then.

8 Maybe somebody could explain this a
9 little better. I think it's 5-G, tax exempt
10 for certain people and properties, are you
11 telling me that I can put in for a tax
12 exempt for ten years on a property so that
13 people could move into the city that's what
14 you put in there, for providing for
15 exceptions, for stimulating residential
16 development.

17 MR. EVANS: That's for new
18 construction.

19 MR. SBARAGLIA: I realize that. Are
20 you telling me that people who are renting
21 to the University of Scranton, Keystone, the
22 medical college are getting a free ride
23 again? Why can't they pay for their own
24 building and pay for their own real estate
25 tax? Why should we have to take care of

1 that? I mean, that \$175,000 from the
2 University is a joke. You just sit up there
3 and laugh when you think about it, the
4 amount of property that they own, and the
5 amount of the equipment we have to have
6 available for them. Don't you realize most
7 of our costs with the fire department is
8 caused by the "U" and the high rises?
9 That's where the cost is. You are charging
10 them nothing. They are getting a free ride.
11 Most of these nonprofits are getting free
12 rides, too.

13 The people in Scranton are being
14 oppressed, I always said this. You are the
15 most oppressive council that ever sat before
16 the people of Scranton. You think this is
17 Dublin. You think you are British and
18 you're oppressive. The people in Ireland
19 didn't suffer as much as we did. You are
20 suffering everybody. You are causing people
21 to lose homes, being sold at tax sales, that
22 people buying them for \$900 or \$1,500,
23 \$2,000 because they are in tax arrears and
24 you have to go to Court to fight it. You
25 are the worst possible council that ever sat

1 before me. Mr. Perry, I can't blame you
2 just sat there, but the rest yous four
3 people have and if you have listened to what
4 was going on in a council for all of these
5 years, the last 15 years you would saw that
6 the people have lost any respect for the
7 people on council. They don't care. They
8 think you are the worst people that is alive
9 because you are taking food from their
10 mouths. They have to decide whether they
11 are going to pay taxes, lose their home or
12 eat or buy medicine. Why do you think we
13 sat and paid them high wage taxes all them
14 years? Well, no use speaking anymore, okay.

15 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.
16 Lee Morgan. Well, this evening I'd like to
17 ask the residents in the city and people who
18 live outside of the city to go to
19 LeeMorgan:The Alliance, and I think it's
20 really important. It's something that I
21 created last year and something that I
22 intended to make very relevant and increase
23 it's membership because, like Andy said,
24 things in this city are beyond ridiculous,
25 extensions for people for ten years, you

1 know, just the utter silliness that's going
2 on. You know, like I said before, you know,
3 you look pretty in your suits, but the
4 reality of it all is that, as Mr. Notarianni
5 has found out the county commissioners
6 politics run very deep here and two
7 Republicans are now running the county, one
8 says he is a Democrat, and the party doesn't
9 matter, believe me, because the Democratic
10 and Republican parties are beyond corrupt
11 and they have destroyed our country, and the
12 council that we have here, the council
13 hasn't solved any of the problems that face
14 this city ever in the time I have come here.
15 We are forcing people who live outside of
16 the city now, from what Mr. Blake is
17 planning to do, and keep collecting their
18 services tax, local services tax, and inject
19 that into the city's pension plans. The
20 city under Act 47 hasn't made one move to
21 solve any of its problems. It's just forced
22 every Scrantonian into utter poverty and
23 destroyed their property values.

24 And you know the most amazing thing
25 I find here today is that not that,

1 Mr. Wechsler, you shouldn't be council
2 president, but to be quite honest here,
3 Mr. Evans should be council president
4 because he is a realtor and a businessman
5 but evidently, you know, we can all talk
6 about change and people being capable, and
7 I'm not going to say Mr. Evans is absolutely
8 capable because of what he does in his life.

9 But I will say this, that the people
10 in this city have got to realize one very
11 simple thing, we are creating more positions
12 in the city that we can't fund. We are
13 forcing people who live outside of the city
14 to pay our pension debt. We have a city
15 that makes one fee after another fee after
16 another fee, and all that really changes are
17 the colors of your suits because to be
18 honest with you, I haven't heard one good
19 idea come from this council yet, and I'm not
20 picking on one individual council member.
21 You haven't solved one problem that faces
22 this city. You have just sat there and hold
23 your meetings, get your camera time in,
24 okay, and then what we do is we sheriff sale
25 people's properties, okay? We force people

1 into utter poverty in this city.

2 And, you know, that the most amazing
3 thing is I just hope that you have -- well,
4 you're politically connected, but I hope
5 that you have children and grandchildren
6 that are in this city 18 and 19 years old
7 looking for a job and see that the
8 employment landscape in this city looks like
9 and you sit there as leaders and proclaim
10 that you have got solutions? To what?

11 The only person on this council who
12 would say what he earned was Mr. Gaughan and
13 the rest of you, Mr. Perry, you can chime in
14 if you want to acknowledge what you earn,
15 but it's pathetic. It's really pathetic and
16 it's just never going to change until people
17 realize that they have got to make a change,
18 and that's why I hope that the people will
19 go on Facebook and find LeeMorgan: The
20 Alliance, because I really want to change
21 things. I think we need to get rid of state
22 representatives, state senators. Really, to
23 be honest with you, I really believe we need
24 to get rid of the Democratic and Republican
25 parties and we need to create laws where we

1 can put you people in jail for the theft you
2 created. When you take care of your
3 supporters, where we hire people and nothing
4 is advertised and everybody gets a hug and a
5 wink and a paycheck, and the rest of us, we
6 just pay for it. And when we get old, well,
7 you are done with us so you sheriff's sale
8 our house and throw us on the street, force
9 us into a high rise, but don't worry because
10 we have made the North Scranton project a
11 success.

12 But you know what we need to see, we
13 need to see how much they actually invested
14 in that project and who paid for it. You
15 know, we keep proclaiming that great things
16 are happening here. Look at Adam's Plaza.
17 The council is going to give them money to
18 do things with that building, nonprofits.
19 One nonprofit after another and now we have
20 got a great plan, we are going to revitalize
21 the downtown again. Isn't it amazing we
22 have done that three or four times in my
23 lifetime, but we haven't injected any money
24 into the neighborhoods, and don't forget
25 that we are going to go over the Novembrino

1 Pool Complex and we're going to change that
2 whole thing and spend all of the money that
3 the government will give us until we spend
4 it all and we are going to make it beautiful
5 but people's houses are falling down, they
6 can't pay their taxes, they can't pay their
7 fees, and we got silly people with pretty
8 little suits on who can't contribute one
9 thing to the residents of this city. Thank
10 you.

11 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you,
12 Mr. Morgan.

13 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening, Council.
14 Dave Dobrzyn, resident. Did you miss me?
15 Probably not. I also would like to express
16 concerns on 5-G. You know, years back we
17 had the Tripps Park development a lot of new
18 houses are built, they got ten years tax
19 exempt, and what did they holler for once
20 they started? We want a brand new school
21 and they got it, and every year we -- every
22 day you pick up the paper, it seems like the
23 school district is scurrying to figure out
24 how to pay the bill for all of these new
25 schools.

1 wage payment and that's not going away, so
2 I'd like to see if anything the bills get
3 paid that were originally the reason that
4 it's being sold and not some frivolous
5 exercise in spending because it just can't
6 keep going on, we are running out of assets
7 to sell and that is not going away. It's a
8 accruing money every day or every month or
9 whatever, it's accruing interest and it just
10 has to be paid. It can't -- it's not that
11 it's necessarily right that somebody gets
12 the 5 percent raise when everybody else is
13 going back to 60 percent of what they used
14 to earn, but how did you duck it from there?

15 If the Times can figure that out
16 they would have a -- catch my eye a little
17 better, and I seen an article once again on
18 trash and recycling and I would give
19 Scranton a failing grade for recycling, but
20 the easiest way to get people's ire is to
21 start penalizing the people that do it every
22 day and, I mean, if a dog food can has paper
23 on it, it get torn off and put in the paper
24 trash. So the point being I don't want to
25 hear anymore about this, please, no more of

1 this per bag. I lived in two separate
2 towns. The last two towns I lived in I
3 would come home and find trash all over my
4 lawn, you report it, who put it there? The
5 girl upstairs they had 50 bags of trash
6 laying out in the front of the apartment
7 house and she told the town policemen and
8 the mayor that it was our trash so I walked
9 in after work and my wife says, "I want to
10 get the hell out of here."

11 I had just rented the place, shelled
12 out about \$700 bucks in security deposits
13 and she wants to get the hell out of there,
14 you know? Like, she had the town cop and
15 the mayor badgering her about the trash in
16 front of the place and it was some other
17 neighbor's trash so the point being that I
18 don't have a 24-hours a day to stare out my
19 window and worry about who is to tossing
20 trash around, and hopefully a coordinator
21 will help that.

22 And, by the way, I'll just take
23 another second here, it was privatized trash
24 removal so when people run out of it, you
25 get this little stupid bag, it breaks and

1 when people run out of money they just start
2 throwing it on somebody else's lawn, and
3 that's unacceptable. It's the biggest
4 safety issue and it's police and fire.
5 Thank you and have a good evening.

6 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you.

7 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening,
8 Council. Marie Schumacher. I want to get
9 to some of the agenda items, but first, and
10 I don't know what the assignments were made
11 because they weren't announced tonight,
12 which I think is not very good, but am I
13 assuming correctly, Mr. Evans, that you are
14 still in charge of the finances?

15 MR. EVANS: Yes.

16 MR. WECHSLER: Mrs. Schumacher,
17 please address your questions to me. Ms.
18 Schumacher, please address your question to
19 council president.

20 MR. SCHUMACHER: Oh, absolutely,
21 sir.

22 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Perry is --

23 MS. SCHUMACHER: Not on my time.
24 Thank you. Fifth Order. I've only got five
25 minutes. I would like to know whether then,

1 Mr. Wechsler, we met our budget in 2015 did
2 we end with a surplus or a deficit?

3 MR. WECHSLER: Actually, you can ask
4 the question to me and I'll decide which
5 ones I will answer or not.

6 MS. SCHUMACHER: So you are saying
7 you are not going to answer that?

8 MR. WECHSLER: I want to hear the
9 questions. We had agreed before that these
10 questions would be issued to us in writing.

11 MS. SCHUMACHER: I issued questions
12 in writing on the budget back in November,
13 like the 10th, and I still have not heard
14 word one, so I don't see any point in doing
15 that and when I am asking a question I see
16 nothing -- we shouldn't have to wait a week.
17 If you people are up on what is going on in
18 this city we shouldn't have to wait a week
19 for an answer, but thank you, I'll continue
20 with my time and I'll just speak then I'll
21 stop asking questions.

22 But I will tell you one of the
23 things that a matter with this city, and
24 that is if anybody read on November 18, Lora
25 Scratchnook had an article saying, "See the

1 tax bills of the three who will lead
2 Lackawanna County next year." And I will
3 read the last couple of paragraphs. It
4 says, "We can figure out what the minimum
5 each will pay next year in local income
6 taxes next year based just on the base
7 salaries of the commissioners and where they
8 live, but we still don't know about their
9 outside income. In Scranton, the income tax
10 is 3.4 percent," and then this is what was
11 stated, "So Mr. Notarianni and Mr. O'Malley
12 will pay \$2,584.58 on a base commissioner
13 salary of \$76,017 a year. The commissioners
14 serving the board Chairman receives an
15 additional \$2,819 which would mean another
16 \$95.84 in income tax if either
17 Mr. Notarianni or Mr. O'Malley is the
18 chairman. That's a total of \$2,680.42 for
19 the chairman. In Old Forge, the income tax
20 is only 1 percent so Mrs. Cummings would pay
21 \$760.17 if she is just a commissioner,
22 \$788.36 if she is chairman. No chance of
23 that."

24 So there it is in a nutshell. That
25 is -- that's true of any surrounding

1 community that borders our city, just think
2 of that. \$2,584 versus \$760 just for living
3 outside of the city. I highly recommend
4 that to anybody. I love Scranton, but
5 what's happened to this city and the way
6 it's being dragged down and things given to
7 the wrong people is just a travesty.

8 I would like to know, again, I would
9 like to state on 3-F, which is the trash
10 tax, I think that it is incumbent upon the
11 city to prove to us that that is a tax -- is
12 a fee and not a tax. It's not up to us to
13 prove otherwise. That should be able to be
14 proven.

15 On 3-G, and I will submit these in
16 writing, I don't expect answers because I
17 don't get them, but I will, what are the
18 certain areas in 3-G that are going to get
19 this ten-year no property taxes?

20 MR. ROGAN: It's not ten years on
21 the property taxes, it's a two-year
22 abatement on new construction only for owner
23 occupied within the city.

24 MS. SCHUMACHER: And 5-H, the real
25 estate tax hike -- wait, do we know if we --

1 I think you should probably wait to pass
2 this because you may need to change the 2016
3 budget. The 2015 budget was based on I
4 believe a 78 -- or an 87 percent collection
5 rate. You upped that to 89 percent I still
6 believe just to avoid going over the 6
7 percent threshold in the property tax. I
8 will return next week. It's going to be a
9 rough year. Thank you.

10 MR. GAUGHAN: Can I just say one
11 thing?

12 MR. WECHSLER: Sure.

13 MR. GAUGHAN: Mrs. Schumacher, and
14 to anyone else, if anyone has a question
15 relating to my committee, which is public
16 works, I don't have a problem answering it
17 if I know the answer. If I don't, I'll try
18 to get it for you. Thanks.

19 MR. WECHSLER: And as a general
20 comment, what we are trying to avoid is
21 questions that are strung out and that
22 sometimes have no relevance to city council
23 business or personal questions such as we
24 are asking all our salaries. We are trying
25 to --

1 MS. SCHUMACHER: I didn't ask about
2 salaries, I asked about whether we ended up
3 with a surplus or a deficit last year. I
4 think that's legitimate, and I'll follow up
5 next week. Thank you.

6 MR. WECHSLER: Once again, we are
7 just trying to restore the practice that's
8 been practiced here for quite awhile that
9 questions are referred to the chairman of
10 the meeting. If the other council members
11 would like to answer the questions that are
12 asked, they are free to do so.

13 MR. UNGVARSKY: Good evening, city
14 council. Tom Ungvarsky. Six months ago I
15 accused this city council of raising more
16 taxes and more fines and more fees. Several
17 council people took offense at that, but if
18 you needed proof just look at today's
19 agenda. Last year this council passed every
20 ordinance that was presented to it. You did
21 not vote down a single one. If there was
22 ever a rubber stamp council, it was this
23 council. I believe this council
24 will probably be one to put the final nail
25 in the coffin.

1 Several people came up here tonight
2 with problems. Had you people had a meeting
3 last week they could have aired problem at
4 least one week earlier. I don't know how
5 many weeks you had off last year and look at
6 the way you started this year, I wonder if
7 we really need a city council.

8 MR. ELLMAN: Ronnie Ellman. Yes,
9 Mr. Perry, I got your letter and I saved it
10 to throw it in your face if I get mad about
11 something you wrote here some day.

12 MR. PERRY: You have every right.

13 MR. ELLMAN: I hope you won't let
14 these other four influence you.

15 MR. PERRY: Not at all.

16 MR. ELLMAN: It happens, you know,
17 everybody seems to start out with a bang and
18 end with a whimper around here. Let me
19 just -- this Amoroso plan last year in the
20 city we had 639 foreclosures the first week.
21 I know everybody has seen this, the first
22 week of this over 100 foreclosures to start
23 the year out and everybody just you don't do
24 nothing, nothing to help the people of this
25 city. The neighborhoods are declining all

1 over the place, what do we hear? Mr. Durkin
2 threw more money downtown. We don't care
3 about the neighborhoods, downtown is where
4 the money got to go, you know, the hell with
5 downtown. What about my neighborhood? I
6 have been there 21 years. There is just
7 remnants, there is big old slate sidewalks
8 part of where I go every day with the dog.
9 No curbs. The yards flood. No money has
10 been spent there that I know of. The paving
11 job, I don't know, must be ten years old.
12 The sewers were never filled up. People go
13 all over of the place by habit, and now you
14 got the same thing on the rest of it. I
15 don't know who paid -- who approved to pay
16 for the paving job from Taylor to Providence
17 but they ought to be fired. It's like an
18 obstacle course that would test the best of
19 drivers. And in case somebody doesn't know
20 who Mr. Durkin is, he is the president of
21 the Scranton Chamber of Commerce, not the
22 Dickson City Chamber of Commerce, the
23 Scranton. He seems to have more sense like
24 Mr. Bulzoni and all, he doesn't want no part
25 of Scranton. No one in their right minds

1 seems to want to buy a house around here.
2 Look at what happened with the school board.
3 They bring up a secretary up here from
4 Atlanta for \$150,000 and she goes -- the
5 city is just -- you people have stolen the
6 city have the taxpayers. They tell you what
7 they want and nobody listens. Nobody
8 listens to a thing. There is just a, I
9 don't know, and unparalleled absence of
10 leadership. I guess that sounds all right.

11 You know, I don't know how many of
12 you remember when Mrs. Fanucci and
13 Mrs. Gatelli were here and it used to be a
14 riot out here with the policemen and all,
15 but it just seems like the city was in
16 better shape what's that, six or eight years
17 ago. It's going downhill. You have got \$96
18 million you are ready to throw into that big
19 hole. No relief for the taxpayers.
20 Nobody -- you don't even want to put any
21 money up for street signs so you know where
22 you are going around here. The 16, 1,700
23 block of Sanderson is like a war zone.
24 Luzerne is terrible and here money is going
25 to be thrown away. What are you going to do

1 next year when there is nothing left to sell
2 because of Amoroso plan. You are going to
3 have to find something. What you ought to
4 do is just sell this building and get rid of
5 everything, sell the fire trucks or
6 something. The city just has such a lack of
7 leadership it's disgusting.

8 And in closing real quick, I was
9 looking for something a couple of weeks ago
10 and I found a '67 tax statement from
11 Roseann's parents' house in Blakely and I'd
12 say it was 20 years ago it was like a
13 \$200,000 when I saw it, this was 1967. The
14 county tax was \$10, the library tax was \$6
15 and the Borough was \$7 and the school tax
16 was \$49. \$72 a year for taxes on a
17 beautiful home and I don't know about
18 garbage collection and all of that, but look
19 where we are going.

20 You know, why I'm so irritable? I
21 have been up since 4:00 this morning
22 listening to this junky, smelly, diesel
23 truck in my driveway that nobody cares
24 about. Nobody wants to do a thing about
25 this painted up billboard that I have to see

1 every day, morning, noon and night. That's
2 why I just don't -- I just don't have no
3 more use for it, what's going on in the city
4 and for you elected officials.

5 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you,
6 Mr. Ellman.

7 MR. ELLMAN: Don't join them,
8 Mr. Perry.

9 MR. WECHSLER: Is there anyone else
10 that would like to address council?

11 MR. ST. FLRUR: It's been --

12 MR. WECHSLER: Sir, please state
13 your name.

14 MR. ST.FLRUR: Oh, my name is Gary
15 St. Flrur. French. It's been almost a
16 month before I was here and talking about
17 the budget that was passed which only Bill
18 Gaughan saw fit to vote against and, anyway,
19 I said before you any elementary person who
20 is in accounting knows that it's a farce but
21 it was passed anyway, the reason we'll never
22 really know they did. Since then, I have
23 been on the radio, I have been television, I
24 have been on local publications making my
25 feelings known as far as they would go. I

1 spoke to political directors of parties and
2 these are not my feelings alone. They are
3 the feelings of the Scranton people. They
4 are outraged at the status quo and business
5 as usual thinking has pervaded the city for
6 far too long. The conversations continue.
7 In fact, it is widening that countless
8 Scrantonians reaching out to talk about what
9 can be done. The fact is in this seemingly
10 complex situation is not an excuse to do
11 nothing. The fact is that we can prevent
12 what is happening in Scranton. Let me be
13 clear, the people of Scranton may be
14 political apathetic, but this is because of
15 the government of Scranton has made them so.

16 One thing is certain that they are
17 not stupid. They know that Scranton
18 government is corrupt, that nepotism and
19 malfeasance rules the day. They know the
20 government is beholden to political factions
21 and secret groups of whatever nonsense that
22 goes on in the city, and that the financial
23 situation, the turmoil, has been the result
24 of these political intrigues. The city is
25 crippled, 90 percent of the budget goes to

1 compensation, and we stand on the precipus
2 of a major decision when one of the public's
3 precious assets are being sold just to pay
4 for the political and financial boondoggle
5 that has been perpetuated continuing in the
6 city. The people of Scranton should not
7 bear the brunt of a lack of innovation,
8 incompetence, and an inability of Scranton
9 government.

10 It should be varied people who voted
11 for these things and the administration who
12 brought them to the floor. The city is
13 gutted with blighted hopes, closed
14 businesses, and so much blooming prospects
15 that I have not been met one student who
16 wants to stay here upon graduation.

17 A quick search on the internet
18 yields descriptions like "Scranton sucks,"
19 as a Facebook page, is a running gag to talk
20 about the completed utter incompetence in
21 Scranton government and how Scranton is a
22 place where dreams go to die. The reason
23 for all of this being the government and the
24 way it is managed.

25 The good news is that there is

1 already a growing consensus to build from.
2 A majority of Scranton supports a reduction
3 of government expenses, lower taxes and job
4 creation. They want to change the story
5 from the government haves to the working
6 have nots. They want jobs that are more
7 than minimum wage jobs and that are touted
8 -- that are touted successes by the people
9 who run this government.

10 Now, let's have real jobs. Let's
11 have jobs that pay full salary and benefits,
12 you know, kinds of the people who are
13 friends and believe that they can get in the
14 city. This is why I turned to my fellow
15 Scrantonians who is reputation for
16 possibility and generosity proceeds them.
17 Like the ones here. These people come here
18 every week to attend on behalf of the people
19 of Scranton. They make their case more
20 passionately than I, and it's then my turn
21 because, after all, this America, and we are
22 not constrained just to ask for government
23 to do what the people want. No, the
24 constitution reads, "We, the people."

25 We demand to do what we want. We

1 are not limited to come to the city
2 councils, our heritage is filled with
3 protests, marches, sit-ins, and a sort of
4 civil disobedience that is part of the
5 ruling fabric of our American history. The
6 Scranton people will make the government do
7 what it cannot or are unwilling to do just
8 like our forefathers have done to countries
9 like Britain, Germany, Japan, and whatever
10 tyrannic regime has saw when the world
11 revolves to do what they want. So I'm not
12 here today on behalf to actually speak to
13 the Scranton government, I'm hear to speak
14 to the Scranton people and tell them that
15 change will come because change is
16 inevitable and you can either be part of it
17 or be left behind. Thank you.

18 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Is there
19 anyone else who would like to address
20 council?

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

23 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Perry, you have
24 any motions or comments?

25 MR. PERRY: Mr. President, I have

1 nothing at this time.

2 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Rogan?

3 MR. ROGAN: Yes, just a couple of
4 quick brief items. First, on a positive
5 note, which unfortunately during tonight's
6 meeting there haven't been any as of yet,
7 the North Scranton Junior High School,
8 former North Scranton Junior High School as
9 widely reported in the media is now open and
10 there are people occupying that building for
11 the first time in a very long time. I know
12 just driving up Greenridge Street and seeing
13 that building on the hill all lit up it
14 looks beautiful and definitely have to give
15 a congratulations to Jerry Langan and
16 Goodwill for that project and all of the
17 time and effort that was put into having
18 that project finally come to be, it's a
19 beautiful building and I know it's not the
20 current school board, but the school board
21 30, 40 years ago made a grave mistake to
22 think that that building was falling apart
23 when it's probably one of the most sound
24 buildings in the City of Scranton and it's
25 great to see that it's back up and being

1 used for a very good use.

2 A couple of other quick items,
3 Luzerne Street was brought up by a couple of
4 the residents that spoke today and that
5 street is a disaster. I believe it's the
6 gas company that's putting the new lines on
7 Luzerne Street, but the repairs that were
8 made prior to doing a full pave haven't been
9 added quick. Mrs. Reed, would be able to
10 contact Denny Gallagher as well as the pave
11 cut inspector to ask that Luzerne Street be
12 looked at and that adequate repairs are made
13 especially now with the snow coming and
14 plows on the streets as well that's only
15 going to make the situation even worse. I
16 am happy to see that the Sewer Authority
17 finally did complete a project, that was the
18 South Side shopping center. It was the same
19 kind of issue, it was actually worse than
20 Luzerne Street, believe it or not, where the
21 new Popeye's was put in, there was some
22 additional drainage that was added to that
23 lot across the street and that was a
24 disaster, but that one has been repaired so
25 good work by the Sewer Authority on that.

1 explore putting some sort of welcome
2 greeting on the bridge as the progress
3 continues on that. And that is all I have
4 for tonight. Thank you.

5 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr. Rogan.
6 Mr. Evans?

7 MR. EVANS: Thank you. We know that
8 this year may be the most critical year in
9 the city's history. As we face decisions on
10 monetization of the parking authority,
11 rental registration, pension reform, fee
12 reduction and elimination of the Court award
13 payment and other initiatives while
14 continuing to pressure the county on much
15 needed reassessment, but the monetization of
16 the Scranton Sewer Authority is clearly
17 something that we have to get right.

18 As elected officials, the best you
19 can do is hope for somehow to effect
20 positive change during your tenure. This is
21 the year that history will meet reality. We
22 will participate in decisions that will
23 change the course of this city forever. If
24 we get it right, we will create a scenario
25 for long-term fiscal stability. We will

1 create a new business environment that will
2 attract and grow our business community and
3 our tax base. We will also create an
4 environment that will foster home ownership
5 as a way to stabilize and beautify our
6 neighborhoods and we will create a
7 government that is both responsive and
8 efficient if we get a right.

9 In 2016, we can't shy away from the
10 moment, we cannot make decisions looking
11 through a political prism and we have one
12 chance to get it right. That's all I have
13 for now. Thank you.

14 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr. Evans.
15 Mr. Gaughan?

16 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, thank you. Just
17 a few items. First, I'd like, Mrs. Reed, if
18 you could send a correspondence to Linda
19 Aebli, the executive director of OECD, I
20 would like an update on the land bank
21 meetings, I believe there is has been one
22 held so far. I'd like to know what has
23 taken place and what kind of strategic
24 vision they have and efforts are going on
25 with the land bank movement. I'm very

1 interested in that.

2 Also, I have received several
3 complaints about pave cuts on River Street
4 in South Scranton and we are going to send a
5 correspondence to the pave cut inspector and
6 DPW director to find out when those are
7 going to be taken care of and that street is
8 going to be repaved.

9 I received a complaint about the
10 2,600 block of Division Street. The
11 intersection of Division and Keyser Avenue.
12 The road is falling apart and there is a
13 three-foot deep drop off so we have been in
14 conversation with our DPW director about
15 that.

16 I'd like another letter sent, this
17 will be the fifth or sixth time asking the
18 administration for an update on how much we
19 saved currently from the renegotiated police
20 and fire contracts. It's been almost a year
21 now so I think that we deserve an update to
22 see how much we have saved on those.

23 I'd also like an update on what the
24 time line would be for rebidding the paving
25 project. That was supposed to occur last

1 summer and that will occur this spring.

2 I received a complaint about a ditch
3 in the area right before the entrance to the
4 Sewer Authority on Cedar Avenue, and we will
5 notify the DPW about that.

6 A resident brought this up tonight,
7 I have also received numerous complaints
8 about faded street signs and stop signs
9 throughout the city. I have noticed several
10 signs which you can barely read or that are
11 completely faded out. I'd like us to send a
12 letter to the mayor and DPW director asking
13 that a full inventory be done on the signs
14 throughout the city that are faded and need
15 to be replaced. If we don't have the money
16 in our budget to replace them, then we
17 should be aggressively pursuing grant money
18 through the state. And that is all I have
19 this week. Thank you.

20 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr.
21 Gaughan. Just a few comments on some of the
22 items that were spoken about tonight.
23 Council did have a meeting last week, it was
24 on Monday, it was our installation of
25 officers so we did have a meeting last week.

1 As part of being the new council
2 president I'm faced with the challenge of
3 managing these meetings. One of the things
4 that I am going to have difficulty with is
5 comments about corruption. Mr. Perry has
6 just joined us and I know Tim for awhile,
7 but I know these gentlemen and I sit with
8 them, the term "corrupt" as applied to us it
9 makes my blood boil. None much these men up
10 here are corrupt and I have to bite my
11 tongue when that comment is made about us
12 being corrupt because we are not.

13 In terms of questions, it has always
14 been in the Rules of Council that questions
15 should be addressed to the council president
16 just as a matter of decorum for the meeting,
17 and as I stated before, all of the council
18 members can answer any questions that they
19 like, but I'd also like to make a point that
20 the city council office is open five days a
21 week. Our e-mails are out there. I have a
22 Facebook, my phone number is in the book, so
23 people that have questions, supply questions
24 to us all week long. We get many questions
25 from people who never attend one of these

1 meetings, and we do make our best effort to
2 answer those questions and the concerns of
3 the citizens, but once again we also have
4 the situation that I have been struggling
5 with since I became a member of city
6 council, I know that city council is the
7 forum for people to come and speak, but a
8 lot of the questions that are submitted to
9 us or requested from us actually should be
10 asked of the administration, that the
11 administration is also here every day and
12 the office is open, the department heads are
13 here and I found that myself and the
14 department heads when they are able to are
15 very happy to help all of the citizens.

16 So we are not trying to restrict
17 comments or questions or even criticism
18 here, I find that criticism that we receive
19 at city council it's not that it's well
20 founded but it is sort of the conversation.
21 It is America. People are free to express
22 their ideas and if they don't agree with
23 what they are doing they have a right to say
24 that, but as I'm out in public I meet as
25 many people that are positive about Scranton

1 as some of you people are negative.

2 You just take a look around and see
3 the effort that people make when there is a
4 fundraiser or when a neighborhood group has
5 a meeting. North Scranton has several
6 events, South Side Crime Watch, West
7 Scranton Crime Watch, East Mountain
8 Residents Association. These are people are
9 out there working. They are not here at the
10 podium, but each week they are having
11 meetings, they are helping citizens, and
12 they have a positive attitude about their
13 neighborhood, and I understand that we have
14 problems, I understand that. Part of the
15 reason I ran for city council is because
16 there is so many problems and we do want to
17 make an attempt to solve these issues, so as
18 myself being council president I do
19 encourage debate, but questions that are
20 either surprise questions to us or questions
21 that would be better asked to the
22 administration I'm going to encourage those
23 questions to be answered by the
24 administration.

25 And just one last thing, as we

1 talked about the abatement programs, one
2 example to look at, I know the city has done
3 many KOZ's and things like that for
4 businesses and the businesses take advantage
5 of it for ten years or whatever they can get
6 and they leave the area, but when tax
7 abatements are given to property owners, the
8 property owners that receive the tax
9 abatement are the original recipients, but
10 once that person decides to move or moves on
11 the property remains. If you take a look at
12 the Tripp Park neighborhood in West
13 Scranton, that is filled with brand new
14 homes and paying very high taxes, so to me
15 when we give out an abatement the city
16 doesn't have a lot of cash on hand, but if
17 we give out a tax abatement for property
18 owners or investment that's money we are
19 investing into the future, so I look at this
20 as a positive plan to help advance the city.
21 That's all I have. Thank you.

22 MS. REED: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION -
23 AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL
24 NO. 100, 1976, ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE (AS
25 AMENDED) LEVYING GENERAL AND SPECIAL TAXES

1 FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 1977", BY SETTING THE
2 MILLAGE FOR THE YEAR 2016 AND THE SAME SHALL
3 REMAIN IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT ANNUALLY
4 THEREAFTER. (EMERGENCY CERTIFICATE
5 ATTACHED.)

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

9 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

10 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

14 MR. PERRY: Aye.

15 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

16 MR. EVANS: Aye.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

20 MS. REED: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION -
21 AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL
22 NO. 6, 1976 ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE (AS
23 AMENDED) IMPOSING A TAX FOR GENERAL REVENUE
24 PURPOSES ON THE TRANSFER OF REAL PROPERTY
25 SITUATE WITHIN THE CITY OF SCRANTON;

1 PRESCRIBING AND REGULATING THE METHOD OF
2 EVIDENCING THE PAYMENT OF SUCH TAX;
3 CONFERRING POWERS AND IMPOSING DUTIES UPON
4 CERTAIN PERSONS, AND PROVIDING PENALTIES",
5 BY IMPOSING THE RATE OF THE REALTY TRANSFER
6 TAX AT TWO AND NINE TENTHS PERCENT (2.9%)
7 FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2016 AND THE SAME SHALL
8 REMAIN IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT ANNUALLY
9 THEREAFTER. (EMERGENCY CERTIFICATE
10 ATTACHED.)

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

14 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

15 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

19 MR. PERRY: Aye.

20 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

21 MR. EVANS: Aye.

22 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

25 MS. REED: 5-D. FOR INTRODUCTION -

1 AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL
2 NO. 7, 1976, ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE (AS
3 AMENDED) IMPOSING A MERCANTILE LICENSE TAX
4 OF 2 MILLS FOR THE YEAR 1976 AND ANNUALLY
5 THEREAFTER UPON PERSONS ENGAGING IN CERTAIN
6 OCCUPATIONS AND BUSINESSES THEREIN;
7 PROVIDING FOR ITS LEVY AND COLLECTION AND
8 FOR THE ISSUANCE OF MERCANTILE LICENSES;
9 CONFERRING AND IMPOSING POWERS AND DUTIES
10 UPON THE TAX COLLECTOR OF THE CITY OF
11 SCRANTON; AND IMPOSING PENALTIES", BY
12 IMPOSING THE MERCANTILE LICENSE TAX AT ONE
13 (1) MILL (.001) FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2016 AND
14 THE SAME SHALL REMAIN IN FULL FORCE AND
15 EFFECT ANNUALLY THEREAFTER. (EMERGENCY
16 CERTIFICATE ATTACHED).

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

20 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

21 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

25 MR. PERRY: Aye.

1 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

2 MR. EVANS: Aye.

3 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

4 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The
5 ayes have it and so moved.

6 MS. REED: 5-E. FOR INTRODUCTION -
7 AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL
8 NO. 8, 1976, ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE (AS
9 AMENDED) PROVIDING FOR THE GENERAL REVENUE
10 BY IMPOSING A TAX AT THE RATE OF TWO (2)
11 MILLS UPON THE PRIVILEGE OF OPERATING OR
12 CONDUCTING BUSINESS IN THE CITY OF SCRANTON
13 AS MEASURED BY THE GROSS RECEIPTS THEREFROM;
14 REQUIRING REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT OF THE
15 TAX AS CONDITION TO THE CONDUCTING OF SUCH
16 BUSINESS; PROVIDING FOR THE LEVY AND
17 COLLECTION OF SUCH TAX; PRESCRIBING SUCH
18 REQUIREMENTS FOR RETURNS AND RECORDS;
19 CONFERRING POWERS AND DUTIES UPON THE TAX
20 COLLECTOR; AND IMPOSING PENALTIES", BY
21 IMPOSING THE BUSINESS PRIVILEGE TAX AT THE
22 RATE OF ONE (1) MILL (.001) FOR CALENDAR
23 YEAR 2016 AND THE SAME SHALL REMAIN IN FULL
24 FORCE AND EFFECT ANNUALLY THEREAFTER.
25 (EMERGENCY CERTIFICATE ATTACHED).

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

4 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

5 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

9 MR. PERRY: Aye.

10 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

11 MR. EVANS: Aye.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

15 MS. REED: 5-F. FOR INTRODUCTION -
16 AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL
17 NO. 17, 1994 - ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE (AS
18 AMENDED) AUTHORIZING THE GOVERNING BODY OF
19 THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO ENACT 'A WASTE
20 DISPOSAL AND COLLECTION FEE' FOR THE PURPOSE
21 OF RAISING REVENUE TO COVER THE WASTE
22 DISPOSAL AND COLLECTION COSTS INCURRED BY
23 THE CITY OF SCRANTON FOR THE DISPOSAL OF
24 REFUSE", BY IMPOSING A WASTE DISPOSAL AND
25 COLLECTION FEE OF \$300.00 FOR CALENDAR YEAR

1 2016 AND THE SAME SHALL REMAIN IN FULL FORCE
2 AND EFFECT ANNUALLY THEREAFTER. (EMERGENCY
3 CERTIFICATE ATTACHED).

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

7 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

8 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

12 MR. PERRY: Aye.

13 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

14 MR. EVANS: Aye.

15 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

16 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The
17 eyes have it and so moved.

18 MS. REED: 5-G. FOR INTRODUCTION -
19 AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL
20 NO. 57 OF 1996 (AS AMENDED), ENTITLED
21 "DEFINING AND AUTHORIZING TAX EXEMPTIONS
22 FROM REAL PROPERTY TAX IN ORDER TO STIMULATE
23 RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT IN CERTAIN AREAS IN
24 THE CITY OF SCRANTON, ESTABLISHING AN
25 EXEMPTION SCHEDULE AND PROCEDURES FOR

1 OBTAINING EXEMPTIONS, PROVIDING FOR
2 NON-PERMISSIBLE EXEMPTIONS, AND LIMITING
3 AMENDMENTS HERETO" BY INCREASING THE
4 ASSESSMENT VALUATION IN SECTION 2 PARAGRAPH
5 1.B. FROM \$250,000.00 TO \$500,000.00 AND
6 EXTENDING THE EXEMPTION PERIOD IN SECTION
7 11. AUTOMATIC TERMINATION TO AN ADDITIONAL
8 TEN (10) YEARS FROM THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF
9 THIS ORDINANCE.

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

13 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

14 MR. EVANS: Second.

15 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

16 MR. EVANS: On the question, I'll be
17 voting to move this forward tonight, but
18 next week in Sixth Order I will be making a
19 motion to table this legislation to give us
20 an opportunity to reach out to the other
21 taxing bodies, the school district, and the
22 county and see if they will participate in
23 this, which is very, very important.

24 If you go back, there was a lot of
25 conversation in the audience tonight, again,

1 President Wechsler explained this, I want to
2 explain it again. It's a two-year tax
3 abatement for the improvement only on new
4 construction of a home. Not 10 years, two
5 years. The ten year that's in here is
6 talking about how long the program will
7 last. The ten-year sunset law so after ten
8 years it automatically expires, it's a
9 two-year tax abatement. We have had some
10 discussion in our caucus about improvements
11 that can be made, specifically getting the
12 other taxing bodies involved, but some
13 conversations on the townhouses and
14 condominiums has had a major impact to tax
15 growth in a the down town especially so I'm
16 actually looking forward to having this
17 conversation further to move forward.

18 MR. ROGAN: Just to clear up another
19 misconception that was brought up from the
20 podium regarding this program, this is not a
21 new program. This is a past program that
22 the City of Scranton has had and the idea is
23 to encourage building within the city, and
24 as Councilman Evans mentioned, it's a
25 two-year tax abatement just on the

1 improvement, building a new home. It does
2 not apply, I know somebody brought up
3 nonprofits, which have absolutely nothing to
4 do with this legislation. This specifically
5 only applies to the building of a new home,
6 owner occupied properties. It does not
7 apply to commercial property or anyone
8 that's building to invest. This is
9 specifically here to get people to build and
10 live in the City of Scranton.

11 MR. WECHSLER: Anyone else? All
12 those in favor of introduction signify by
13 saying aye.

14 MR. PERRY: Aye.

15 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

16 MR. EVANS: Aye.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

20 MS. REED: 5-H. FOR INTRODUCTION -
21 AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL
22 NO. 58, 2014, AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED "GENERAL
23 CITY OPERATING BUDGET 2015" BY TRANSFERRING
24 \$8,280.00 FROM ACCOUNT NO. 01.401.16090.4299
25 (NON-DEPARTMENTAL EXPENDITURES-UNENCUMBERED

1 EXPENSES PRIOR YEAR OBLIGATIONS) TO ACCOUNT
2 NO. 01.011.00078.4470 (DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC
3 SAFETY-BUREAU OF FIRE TRAINING AND
4 CERTIFICATION) TO PROVIDE SUFFICIENT FUNDS
5 TO REIMBURSE FIVE (5) CADETS THAT ATTENDED
6 THE HACC ACADEMY FOR FOURTEEN (14) WEEKS.

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

10 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

11 MR. EVANS: Second.

12 MR. WECHSLER: On the question? All
13 those in favor of introduction signify by
14 saying aye.

15 MR. PERRY: Aye.

16 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

17 MR. EVANS: Aye.

18 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

19 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The
20 ayes have it and so moved.

21 MS. REED: 5-I. FOR INTRODUCTION - A
22 RESOLUTION - APPOINTMENT OF MICHAEL J.
23 PARKER, ESQUIRE, 308 PARK EDGE LANE,
24 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, AS A MEMBER OF THE
25 BOARD OF THE SCRANTON SEWER AUTHORITY. MR.

1 PARKER WILL BE REPLACING JOSEPH X. GARVEY,
2 JR. WHOSE TERM EXPIRED DECEMBER 31, 2015.
3 MR. PARKER WILL BE APPOINTED TO A FIVE (5)
4 YEAR TERM EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2016 WHICH
5 WILL EXPIRE ON JANUARY 1, 2021.

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

9 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

10 MR. EVANS: Second.

11 MR. WECHSLER: On the question? I'd
12 just like to state that we have received a
13 letter of interest from Mr. Parker for this
14 position. All those in favor of
15 introduction signify by saying aye.

16 MR. PERRY: Aye.

17 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

18 MR. EVANS: Aye.

19 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

22 MS. REED: 5-J. FOR INTRODUCTION - A
23 RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF THE
24 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS OF THE CITY OF
25 SCRANTON TO SIGN AND SUBMIT THE PENNSYLVANIA

1 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION ("PENNDOT")
2 APPLICATION FOR TRAFFIC SIGNAL APPROVAL FOR
3 TRAFFIC SIGNAL PERMIT NOS. 06558, 06467 AND
4 40032 FOR TRAFFIC SIGNALS TO BE INSTALLED
5 AND/OR MODIFIED AT THE INTERSECTIONS OF
6 PITTSTON AVENUE (SR 11) AND HICKORY STREET,
7 PITTSTON AVENUE (SR 11/SR 3023) AND BIRCH
8 STREET (SR 11) AND PITTSTON AVENUE (SR 3023)
9 AND ELM STREET.

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

13 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

14 MR. EVANS: Second.

15 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

16 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.
17 I'm happy to see this legislation. As
18 everybody knows, this area of South Scranton
19 is very hazardous for pedestrians and people
20 who are driving, so I'm very happy to see
21 this and hopefully it clears up some of the
22 unsafe conditions in that area. Thank you.

23 MR. WECHSLER: Anyone else? All
24 those in favor of introduction signify by
25 saying aye.

1 MR. PERRY: Aye.

2 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

3 MR. EVANS: Aye.

4 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

7 MR. EVANS: I make a motion to
8 suspend the Rules to move Items 5-B, 5-C,
9 5-D, 5-E and 5-F to Sixth and Seventh Order
10 to be considered for final passage based on
11 the attached emergency certificates.

12 MR. WECHSLER: On the question? All
13 those in favor of introduction signify by
14 saying aye.

15 MR. PERRY: Aye.

16 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

17 MR. EVANS: Aye.

18 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

19 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The
20 ayes have it and so moved.

21 MS. REED: SIXTH ORDER. 6-A -
22 FORMERLY 5-B - READING BY TITLE - FILE OF
23 COUNCIL NO. 1, 2016 - AN ORDINANCE -
24 AMENDING FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 100, 1976,
25 ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE (AS AMENDED) LEVYING

1 GENERAL AND SPECIAL TAXES FOR THE FISCAL
2 YEAR 1977", BY SETTING THE MILLAGE FOR THE
3 YEAR 2016 AND THE SAME SHALL REMAIN IN FULL
4 FORCE AND EFFECT ANNUALLY THEREAFTER.
5 (EMERGENCY CERTIFICATE ATTACHED).

6 MR. WECHSLER: You've heard reading
7 by title of Item 6-A, what is your pleasure?

8 MR. ROGAN: Mr. Chairman, I move
9 that Item 6-A pass reading by title.

10 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

13 MR. PERRY: Aye.

14 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

15 MR. EVANS: Aye.

16 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

19 MS. REED: 6-B - FORMERLY 5-C -
20 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.
21 2, 2016 - AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF
22 THE COUNCIL NO. 6, 1976 ENTITLED "AN
23 ORDINANCE (AS AMENDED) IMPOSING A TAX FOR
24 GENERAL REVENUE PURPOSES ON THE TRANSFER OF
25 REAL PROPERTY SITUATE WITHIN THE CITY OF

1 SCRANTON; PRESCRIBING AND REGULATING THE
2 METHOD OF EVIDENCING THE PAYMENT OF SUCH
3 TAX; CONFERRING POWERS AND IMPOSING DUTIES
4 UPON CERTAIN PERSONS, AND PROVIDING
5 PENALTIES", BY IMPOSING THE RATE OF THE
6 REALTY TRANSFER TAX AT TWO AND NINE TENTHS
7 PERCENT (2.9%) FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2016 AND
8 THE SAME SHALL REMAIN IN FULL FORCE AND
9 EFFECT ANNUALLY THEREAFTER. (EMERGENCY
10 CERTIFICATE ATTACHED).

11 MR. WECHSLER: You've heard reading
12 by title of Item 6-B, what is your pleasure?

13 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-B
14 pass reading by title.

15 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

18 MR. PERRY: Aye.

19 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

20 MR. EVANS: Aye.

21 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

24 MS. REED: 6-C - FORMERLY 5-D -
25 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 3,

1 2016 - AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE
2 COUNCIL NO. 7, 1976, ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE
3 (AS AMENDED) IMPOSING A MERCANTILE LICENSE
4 TAX OF 2 MILLS FOR THE YEAR 1976 AND
5 ANNUALLY THEREAFTER UPON PERSONS ENGAGING IN
6 CERTAIN OCCUPATIONS AND BUSINESSES THEREIN;
7 PROVIDING FOR ITS LEVY AND COLLECTION AND
8 FOR THE ISSUANCE OF MERCANTILE LICENSES;
9 CONFERRING AND IMPOSING POWERS AND DUTIES
10 UPON THE TAX COLLECTOR OF THE CITY OF
11 SCRANTON; AND IMPOSING PENALTIES", BY
12 IMPOSING THE MERCANTILE LICENSE TAX AT ONE
13 (1) MILL (.001) FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2016 AND
14 THE SAME SHALL REMAIN IN FULL FORCE AND
15 EFFECT ANNUALLY THEREAFTER. (EMERGENCY
16 CERTIFICATE ATTACHED).

17 MR. WECHSLER: You've heard reading
18 by title of Item 6-C, what is your pleasure?

19 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-C
20 pass reading by title.

21 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

24 MR. PERRY: Aye.

25 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

1 MR. EVANS: Aye.

2 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

3 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The
4 ayes have it and so moved.

5 MS. REED: 6-D - FORMERLY 5-E -
6 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.
7 4, 2016 - AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILED OF
8 THE COUNCIL NO. 8, 1976, ENTITLED "AN
9 ORDINANCE (AS AMENDED) PROVIDING FOR THE
10 GENERAL REVENUE BY IMPOSING A TAX AT THE
11 RATE OF TWO (2) MILLS UPON THE PRIVILEGE OF
12 OPERATING OR CONDUCTING BUSINESS IN THE CITY
13 OF SCRANTON AS MEASURED BY THE GROSS
14 RECEIPTS THEREFROM; REQUIRING REGISTRATION
15 AND PAYMENT OF THE TAX AS CONDITION TO THE
16 CONDUCTING OF SUCH BUSINESS; PROVIDING FOR
17 THE LEVY AND COLLECTION OF SUCH TAX;
18 PRESCRIBING SUCH REQUIREMENTS FOR RETURNS
19 AND RECORDS; CONFERRING POWERS AND DUTIES
20 UPON THE TAX COLLECTOR; AND IMPOSING
21 PENALTIES", BY IMPOSING THE BUSINESS
22 PRIVILEGE TAX AT THE RATE OF ONE (1) MILL
23 (.001) FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2016 AND THE SAME
24 SHALL REMAIN IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT
25 ANNUALLY THEREAFTER. (EMERGENCY CERTIFICATE

1 ATTACHED).

2 MR. WECHSLER: You've heard reading
3 by title of Item 6-D, what is your pleasure?

4 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-D
5 pass reading by title.

6 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

9 MR. PERRY: Aye.

10 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

11 MR. EVANS: Aye.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

15 MS. REED: 6-E - FORMERLY 5-F -
16 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.
17 5, 2016 - AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF
18 THE COUNCIL NO. 17, 1994 - ENTITLED "AN
19 ORDINANCE (AS AMENDED) AUTHORIZING THE
20 GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO
21 ENACT 'A WASTE DISPOSAL AND COLLECTION FEE'
22 FOR THE PURPOSE OF RAISING REVENUE TO COVER
23 THE WASTE DISPOSAL AND COLLECTION COSTS
24 INCURRED BY THE CITY OF SCRANTON FOR THE
25 DISPOSAL OF REFUSE", BY IMPOSING A WASTE

1 DISPOSAL AND COLLECTION FEE OF \$300.00 FOR
2 CALENDAR YEAR 2016 AND THE SAME SHALL REMAIN
3 IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT ANNUALLY
4 THEREAFTER. (EMERGENCY CERTIFICATE
5 ATTACHED).

6 MR. WECHSLER: You've heard reading
7 by title of Item 6-E, what is your pleasure?

8 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-E
9 pass reading by title.

10 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

13 MR. PERRY: Aye.

14 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

15 MR. EVANS: Aye.

16 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

19 If there is anyone who would like to
20 address council on this emergency
21 legislation, you may do so at this time?

22 MS. SCHUMACHER: Marie Schumacher.
23 On 6-C and -- or 7-C and I guess it's 7-D,
24 it was 5-D and 5-E, I would like to know how
25 many entities paid this tax in 2015? It was

1 an issue last year that was going to be
2 followed up on. Okay. Thank you.

3 MR. WECHSLER: Is there anyone else
4 who would like to address council?

5 MS. REED: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A -
6 FORMERLY 6-A - FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE
7 COMMITTEE ON FINANCE - FOR ADOPTION - FILE
8 OF THE COUNCIL NO. 1, 2016 - AN ORDINANCE -
9 AMENDING FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 100, 1976,
10 ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE (AS AMENDED) LEVYING
11 GENERAL AND SPECIAL TAXES FOR THE FISCAL
12 YEAR 1977", BY SETTING THE MILLAGE FOR THE
13 YEAR 2016 AND THE SAME SHALL REMAIN IN FULL
14 FORCE AND EFFECT ANNUALLY THEREAFTER.
15 (EMERGENCY CERTIFICATE ATTACHED).

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

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

22 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

25 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

1 MR. PERRY: Yes.

2 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

3 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

5 MR. EVANS: Yes.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

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

12 MS. REED: 7-B - FORMERLY 6-B - FOR
13 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE -
14 - FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 2,
15 2016 - AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE
16 COUNCIL NO. 6, 1976 ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE
17 (AS AMENDED) IMPOSING A TAX FOR GENERAL
18 REVENUE PURPOSES ON THE TRANSFER OF REAL
19 PROPERTY SITUATE WITHIN THE CITY OF
20 SCRANTON; PRESCRIBING AND REGULATING THE
21 METHOD OF EVIDENCING THE PAYMENT OF SUCH
22 TAX; CONFERRING POWERS AND IMPOSING DUTIES
23 UPON CERTAIN PERSONS, AND PROVIDING
24 PENALTIES", BY IMPOSING THE RATE OF THE
25 REALTY TRANSFER TAX AT TWO AND NINE TENTHS

1 PERCENT (2.9%) FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2016 AND
2 THE SAME SHALL REMAIN IN FULL FORCE AND
3 EFFECT ANNUALLY THEREAFTER. (EMERGENCY
4 CERTIFICATE ATTACHED).

5 MR. WECHSLER: What is the
6 recommendation of the Chairperson for the
7 Committee on Finance?

8 MR. EVANS: As Chairperson for the
9 Committee on Finance, I recommend final
10 passage of Item 7-B.

11 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

14 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

15 MR. PERRY: Yes.

16 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

17 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

18 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

19 MR. EVANS: Yes.

20 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

21 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

23 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby
24 declare Item 7-B legally and lawfully
25 adopted.

1 MS. REED: 7-C - FORMERLY 6-C - FOR
2 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE -
3 FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 3,
4 2016 - AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE
5 COUNCIL NO. 7, 1976, ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE
6 (AS AMENDED) IMPOSING A MERCANTILE LICENSE
7 TAX OF 2 MILLS FOR THE YEAR 1976 AND
8 ANNUALLY THEREAFTER UPON PERSONS ENGAGING IN
9 CERTAIN OCCUPATIONS AND BUSINESSES THEREIN;
10 PROVIDING FOR ITS LEVY AND COLLECTION AND
11 FOR THE ISSUANCE OF MERCANTILE LICENSES;
12 CONFERRING AND IMPOSING POWERS AND DUTIES
13 UPON THE TAX COLLECTOR OF THE CITY OF
14 SCRANTON; AND IMPOSING PENALTIES", BY
15 IMPOSING THE MERCANTILE LICENSE TAX AT ONE
16 (1) MILL (.001) FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2016 AND
17 THE SAME SHALL REMAIN IN FULL FORCE AND
18 EFFECT ANNUALLY THEREAFTER. (EMERGENCY
19 CERTIFICATE ATTACHED).

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

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

1 MR. ROGAN: Second.

2 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

3 Roll call, please?

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

5 MR. PERRY: Yes.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

7 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

9 MR. EVANS: Yes.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

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

16 MS. REED: 7-D - FORMERLY 6-D - FOR
17 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE -
18 FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 4,
19 2016 - AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILED OF THE
20 COUNCIL NO. 8, 1976, ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE
21 (AS AMENDED) PROVIDING FOR THE GENERAL
22 REVENUE BY IMPOSING A TAX AT THE RATE OF TWO
23 (2) MILLS UPON THE PRIVILEGE OF OPERATING OR
24 CONDUCTING BUSINESS IN THE CITY OF SCRANTON
25 AS MEASURED BY THE GROSS RECEIPTS THEREFROM;

1 REQUIRING REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT OF THE
2 TAX AS CONDITION TO THE CONDUCTING OF SUCH
3 BUSINESS; PROVIDING FOR THE LEVY AND
4 COLLECTION OF SUCH TAX; PRESCRIBING SUCH
5 REQUIREMENTS FOR RETURNS AND RECORDS;
6 CONFERRING POWERS AND DUTIES UPON THE TAX
7 COLLECTOR; AND IMPOSING PENALTIES", BY
8 IMPOSING THE BUSINESS PRIVILEGE TAX AT THE
9 RATE OF ONE (1) MILL (.001) FOR CALENDAR
10 YEAR 2016 AND THE SAME SHALL REMAIN IN FULL
11 FORCE AND EFFECT ANNUALLY THEREAFTER.
12 (EMERGENCY CERTIFICATE ATTACHED).

13 MR. WECHSLER: What is the
14 recommendation of the Chairperson for the
15 Committee on Finance?

16 MR. EVANS: As Chairperson for the
17 Committee on Finance, I recommend final
18 passage of Item 7-D.

19 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

23 MR. PERRY: Yes.

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

25 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

2 MR. EVANS: Yes.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

4 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

6 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby

7 declare Item 7-D legally and lawfully

8 adopted.

9 MS. REED: 7-E - FORMERLY 6-E - FOR
10 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE -
11 FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 5,
12 2016 - AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE
13 COUNCIL NO. 17, 1994 - ENTITLED "AN
14 ORDINANCE (AS AMENDED) AUTHORIZING THE
15 GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO
16 ENACT 'A WASTE DISPOSAL AND COLLECTION FEE'
17 FOR THE PURPOSE OF RAISING REVENUE TO COVER
18 THE WASTE DISPOSAL AND COLLECTION COSTS
19 INCURRED BY THE CITY OF SCRANTON FOR THE
20 DISPOSAL OF REFUSE", BY IMPOSING A WASTE
21 DISPOSAL AND COLLECTION FEE OF \$300.00 FOR
22 CALENDAR YEAR 2016 AND THE SAME SHALL REMAIN
23 IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT ANNUALLY
24 THEREAFTER. (EMERGENCY CERTIFICATE
25 ATTACHED).

1 MR. WECHSLER: What is the
2 recommendation of the Chairperson for the
3 Committee on Finance?

4 MR. EVANS: As Chairperson for the
5 Committee on Finance, I recommend final
6 passage of Item 7-E.

7 MR. ROGAN: Second.

8 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?
9 Roll call, please?

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

11 MR. PERRY: Yes.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

13 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

14 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

15 MR. EVANS: Yes.

16 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

18 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

19 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby
20 declare Item 7-E legally and lawfully
21 adopted. If there is no further business,
22 I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

23 MR. ROGAN: Motion to adjourn.

24 MR. WECHSLER: This meeting is
25 adjourned.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER