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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Thursday, January 21st, 2016

LOCATION:

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

MARIA McCOOL, RPR
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

JOSEPH WECHSLER, PRESIDENT

PATRICK ROGAN, VICE-PRESIDENT

WAYNE EVANS

WILLIAM GAUGHAN

TIMOTHY PERRY

LORI REED, CITY CLERK

KATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

AMIL MINORA, ESQ., SOLICITOR

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

3

4 MR. WECHSLER: Roll call, please.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

6 MR. PERRY: Here.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

8 MR. ROGAN: Here.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

10 MR. EVANS: Here.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: Here.

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

14 MR. WECHSLER: Here. Dispense with
15 the reading of the minutes.

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

17 AGENDA FOR THE NON-UNIFORM MUNICIPAL PENSION
18 BOARD MEETING HELD JANUARY 13, 2016.

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

21 MS. REED: 3-B. MINUTES OF THE
22 NON-UNIFORM MUNICIPAL PENSION BOARD MEETING
23 HELD DECEMBER 9, 2015.

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

1 MS. REED: 3-C. MINUTES OF THE
2 COMPOSITE PENSION BOARD MEETING HELD DECEMBER
3 9, 2015.

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

6 MS. REED: 3-D. MINUTES OF THE
7 SCRANTON POLICE PENSION COMMISSION MEETING HELD
8 DECEMBER 9, 2015.

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

11 MS. REED: 3-E. MINUTES OF THE
12 SCRANTON FIREFIGHTERS PENSION COMMISSION
13 MEETING HELD DECEMBER 9, 2015.

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

16 MS. REED: 3-F. SINGLE TAX OFFICE
17 CITY FUNDS DISTRIBUTED COMPARISON REPORT
18 2015-2014 YEAR TO DATE 12-31-2015.

19 MR. WECHSLER: Are there any
20 comments? If not, received and filed. I do
21 have one announcement to make concerning the
22 meeting item Agenda 6-A will tabled. Do any
23 other Councilmen have announcements?

24 (No response.)

25 MR. WECHSLER: No?

1 MS. REED: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS
2 PARTICIPATION.

3 MR. WECHSLER: Fay Franus.

4 MS. FRANUS: Fay Franus, Scranton.
5 Mr. Wechsler, I would like to ask you a couple
6 questions. I was really quite surprised last
7 week to hear your tone through the whole
8 meeting. The fact that you would want us to
9 ask you to ask the Council members if we can
10 ask them a question to me is outrageous.

11 For one thing it takes up our time
12 to ask you to ask them to answer us when we can
13 ask them directly. You know, you sit at the
14 pleasure of the people. We didn't elect just
15 you. We elected each and every one of them.
16 So why you feel we have to go through you is
17 total crazy, never had to do it before.

18 But I think you're trying to
19 intimidate people and try to get them not to
20 say too many things. Less time for them to
21 speak by going through you. And then when you
22 said that they had -- please ask the
23 administration questions if you had them
24 questions not to come to Council about
25 administrative questions.

1 Well, don't you realize all the work
2 that you do comes from the administration and
3 everything that you do deals with
4 administrative work. So we have a right to
5 come here and ask any question we want and we
6 will not be stopped. There's no way. Nothing
7 else, you made us want to come more.

8 And Marie Schumaker asked you,
9 Mr. Wechsler, two direct questions. And you
10 completely ignored her. You didn't even say I
11 don't have an answer. You just completely
12 ignored her. So she didn't even say anything.
13 To me it was very rude. She asked if there was
14 a debit -- what do you call it -- a deficit
15 last year or surplus.

16 And you just -- like you never heard
17 her. And then she asked another question about
18 entities or something but -- and then you said
19 instead of asking questions of Council put them
20 in writing. Why should we have to put them
21 in -- we can put them in writing but you got to
22 know something; we don't get answers.

23 We don't ever get answers when we
24 have to put them in writing. They don't come.
25 I have been asking questions of this Council

1 since last March about the garbage fee. Is it
2 a fee or is it a tax? How much money do the
3 taxpayers put in the \$300 from each family
4 household? How much goes out as far as running
5 the operation versus how much you take in?

6 If it's more than comes in than goes
7 out, that means it's a tax. And people could
8 put it on their income tax. But so far, I've
9 gotten no answers. The last I heard it's going
10 to court. Dave Bulzoni has an answer to this
11 and he refuses to give it to us. I think it's
12 upon you, Mr. Evans to -- Finance Chair, please
13 find this out for us.

14 So I want to know, Mr. Wechsler,
15 how do I ask Wayne Evans a question if he's the
16 Finance Chair? Do I have to say to you, Mr.
17 Wechsler, will you ask Mr. Evans if he'll
18 answer me, which is stupid; but go ahead. Is
19 that what I have to do?

20 MR. WECHSLER: The Rules of Council
21 require that the president --

22 MS. FRANUS: That's up to you
23 though. You don't have to do that. Janet
24 Evans never ever did it. Mr. McGoff tried it
25 for a little while. That didn't go over too

1 much. It's like the power went to your head or
2 something. You think you're a big deal or
3 something being President. I don't get it.
4 Why would you feel we should go to you to ask
5 Wayne a question or Mr. Gaughan or Mr. Rogan?
6 Why?

7 MR. WECHSLER: The Rules of Council
8 require that --

9 MS. FRANUS: But you don't have to
10 do that.

11 MR. WECHSLER: Well, yes, they do.
12 They are the Rules of Council.

13 MS. FRANUS: You don't have to.
14 That's your choice. You're trying to say that
15 every other Council is wrong?

16 MR. WECHSLER: I can only speak for
17 this Council. And the Rules of Council require
18 that the questions are asked --

19 MS. FRANUS: Okay. What am I
20 supposed to do?

21 MR. WECHSLER: The questions are
22 asked of the President and if Mr. Evans cares
23 to answer he can answer.

24 MS. FRANUS: You're being a little
25 too strict for the people. There's no reason

1 for it except pushing your weight around. And
2 it's disgraceful because we elected everybody,
3 not have to come through you. You're just
4 pushing a little bit too far. You're one week
5 and you're being a little dictatorship here. I
6 want to know how is Mr. Bulzoni -- May I
7 ask -- Mr. Evans for me -- which is stupid
8 again.

9 MR. WECHSLER: No, you can ask me
10 the question.

11 MS. FRANUS: But I want him to
12 answer me. He's the Finance Chair.

13 MR. WECHSLER: If Mr. Evans decides
14 to answer --

15 MS. FRANUS: I'm sure he will
16 because I'm sure they don't feel like you do.
17 Mr. Gaughan last week said anybody wants to ask
18 him a question feel free. And I'm sure Mr.
19 Evans feels the same way.

20 MR. WECHSLER: And that is the same
21 for all members.

22 MS. FRANUS: Well, let's try it
23 then. Mr. Wechsler, I would like to know if
24 we're going to get the information on the
25 garbage fee how much goes in and how much goes

1 out?

2 MR. WECHSLER: I do not have this
3 information at this time.

4 MS. FRANUS: Can you ask Mr. Evans?

5 MR. EVANS: Well, I don't have that
6 information at this point either. But I know
7 I've discussed this with Marie and we had some
8 answers --

9 MS. FRANUS: I know that.

10 MR. EVANS: -- from Mr. Bulzoni and
11 I'll revisit that issue.

12 MS. FRANUS: But this is going on
13 since March. You think this is acceptable that
14 we don't get an answer?

15 MR. EVANS: Well, it's almost
16 semantics. I understand what you're saying if
17 it's a tax you could deduct it from your taxes.

18 MS. FRANUS: There is no excuses for
19 not getting those figures, Wayne.

20 MR. EVANS: The city interprets it
21 as a fee.

22 MS. FRANUS: Pardon me?

23 MR. EVANS: The city interprets it
24 as a fee.

25 MS. FRANUS: I know that. But when

1 we find out the figures, we'll determine what
2 it is. But they refuse to give us the figures.
3 I'd also like to know how is Mr. Bulzoni
4 getting paid since his term was up December
5 31st?

6 MR. WECHSLER: Currently the Mayor
7 is evaluating the Business Administrator's
8 situation.

9 MS. FRANUS: I know that. But how
10 is he getting paid if his term ended December
11 31st?

12 MR. WECHSLER: That is a question
13 for administration.

14 MS. FRANUS: Okay. And when this
15 Council amended that ordinance back in February
16 of 2015 when you passed it that he get his
17 extension to December 31st, there was supposed
18 to be a public hearing by law, Mr. Wechsler, by
19 Council law, ones you care to follow so
20 carefully.

21 It says there should be a public
22 hearing for that vote and you never had one.
23 So, therefore, that vote for that ordinance was
24 illegal. When you say at the end of each
25 ordinance legally and lawfully adopted, no,

1 it's not. It's illegally, unlawfully adopted.
2 And it's in court as I understand. So I think
3 Mr. Bulzoni will be seeing his days very
4 limited.

5 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you very much.
6 Joan Hodowanitz.

7 MS. HODOWANITZ: Joan Hodowanitz,
8 Scranton resident and taxpayer. Mr. Wechsler,
9 I'd like to request that when items 5-C and 5-D
10 are read, could someone with background just
11 explain what these items are, what these
12 resolutions entail, the services for Turnkey
13 and I guess it's Muniservices. What kind of
14 services are provided in the contract and if we
15 know, what will be the cost of each of these
16 contracts.

17 I know I and a few other people
18 didn't have an opportunity to really come up
19 and review the background documents. So if
20 somebody could just give us a little synopsis,
21 that would be appreciated. I too like many
22 other citizens am waiting with bated breath
23 that the announcement of the next BA or if it's
24 not going to change what the administration is
25 going to do. Will there be a request for

1 residency waiver? I do think there is
2 legitimate concerns that, you know, we had an
3 expectation that Mr. Bulzoni would either move
4 and become a resident of Scranton or he was
5 going to be replaced by the end of the year.

6 I remember last November there was
7 an article in the Times Tribune that he was
8 going to be moving on in early December going
9 back into the banking industry. So I'm kind of
10 at a loss for words for why he's still hanging
11 around with no explanation from the
12 administration. And I realize, you know,
13 that's something that the Mayor should be
14 explaining.

15 I don't know about you guys, but I
16 have this fascination with the Dow Jones and
17 you may recall that on the first of the year it
18 was 17,425 points. It closed today at 15,882
19 points which is a drop of 8.8 percent. Now,
20 that's not just an academic nice to know fact.
21 That is something that we have to watch as it
22 pertains to city's pension plans.

23 You must recall that for all of
24 2015, the pension plans made a return of
25 investment of only .39 percent instead of their

1 anticipated 8 percent. Now this is January.
2 It's only one month. But the market is down
3 8.8 percent. I remind the public that the next
4 composite pension board meeting is February
5 17th at 11 a.m., in these Council chambers.

6 And anybody who has nothing better
7 to do, I really invite them to come down here
8 and listen to the comments made at that board's
9 meeting. If anything, pushes the City into
10 receivership in the near future. It's going to
11 be the 800 pound gorilla of pension plans.

12 And so every citizen should be
13 keeping their eye on what's happening with
14 them. And also the recent lawsuits, you know,
15 some of the people received double pensions
16 are, in fact, now suing to keep the money they
17 received and to keep those double pensions
18 going on. So we're in some serious trouble.

19 I also learned today that the 2014
20 audit which is 235 days late is still not
21 completed. No exit interview has been
22 scheduled. And this should be unacceptable to
23 every citizen in the city, let alone the
24 Council members. Remember that we hired Rainey
25 and Rainey to train the people upstairs how to

1 prepare for the audit. And we hired a new
2 audit firm SB and Company and we still don't
3 have an idea of when it's going to be published
4 and made available to the public.

5 And I too like many citizens would
6 like to know how we came out at the end of
7 2015. Was it a deficit or surplus? I hope the
8 Mayor is listening to this broadcast because,
9 hey, maybe two years from now when the 2015
10 audit comes out we'll eventually find out.

11 And also if anybody has information,
12 I and many citizens are curious about the
13 status of the sale of the Sewer Authority and
14 how that is going to impact the pension funds.
15 Thank you.

16 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Steve
17 Wallis.

18 MR. WALLIS: Good evening, Council.
19 Steve Wallis, resident and President of South
20 Side Neighborhood Watch. I'm a little dismayed
21 at the way you guys are being treated with
22 negative attitude towards you and everything.
23 Tim's only been here, what, a month? And
24 everybody is picking on him.

25 MR. PERRY: It's okay.

1 MR. WALLIS: You have rules that you
2 have to follow. And when somebody jumps on you
3 and you got to follow the rules, you got to
4 follow the rules. I'm here to say, good luck,
5 pal. You're in the fire. And I love the way
6 you guys help with South Side, the way you work
7 with us and everything.

8 And I look forward to next year
9 being just as productive as we have been. And
10 if you need anything like you're requesting the
11 stop signs being faded, I've already started
12 our group on checking to see what ones are
13 faded in our areas so we can make a list for
14 you.

15 And if want to try and get the other
16 neighborhoods involved, I'll put the word out
17 for that. And if there is anything we can help
18 you do, please feel free to call us because we
19 called enough and you've always been there.
20 All right. Thank you gentlemen.

21 MR. GAUGHAN: Appreciate it.

22 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr.
23 Wallis. We do appreciate the work that your
24 group does in South Side. Gerard Hetman.

25 MR. HETMAN: Good evening, Council,

1 Gerard Hetman from Lackawanna County's
2 Community Relations Department. I know that
3 many of the faces on the dais and the crowd
4 know me. But just for refreshing at the start
5 of the new Council term and officially for Mr.
6 Perry, welcome to Council, sir. It's good to
7 see you.

8 I'll just give an outline. Our
9 department provides constituent services and
10 conducts community outreach on behalf of
11 Lackawanna County Commissioners. Part of that
12 is our attendance at municipal meetings for
13 city councils, borough councils, township
14 supervisors, and school boards throughout
15 Lackawanna County.

16 I personally handle 21 assignments
17 of that have nature including Scranton City
18 Council. I must say this is one of my
19 favorites to attend. I really enjoy coming
20 interacting with Council and the residents. I
21 am a city resident myself of close to 30 years
22 now. And it's a pleasure to be with you here
23 tonight.

24 Normally I attend the third Council
25 meeting of the month on the third Thursday.

1 Sometimes I do bump it back one week if there
2 is a conflict in schedule. You could count on
3 seeing me here normally every month on the
4 third Thursday.

5 To get to our announcements for this
6 month, the first of many of our county parks
7 and recreation programs will roll out coming up
8 for registration now and that is our Winter
9 Golf Clinic for children and adults. It starts
10 on February 22nd, runs through March 18th at
11 South Scranton Intermediate School.

12 It's a long running program. It's
13 happened over many years. We've seen success
14 of generations of golfers start up in the
15 program. And we've seen children and adult
16 sessions every year including this year. The
17 adult sessions have both an after work kind of
18 a happy hour time pardon the term but, you
19 know, 5:30, 6:30 time slot and then one a
20 little bit later in the evening from I think
21 7:30 to 8:30 or 9:00, somewhere in that range.

22 To register you can call
23 570-963-6764. The deadline is February 19th.
24 There is a cost of \$40 per person for the
25 program. And again, it's the first of many

1 programs, camps, clinics, and sports leagues
2 and tournaments that the Parks and Recreation
3 Department runs throughout the year.

4 Third, also with another department
5 that rolls out most of the program here at the
6 start of the year they're particularly busy is
7 the Penn State Extension Office in Lackawanna
8 County. And most of their activities deal with
9 either gardening, agriculture both home and
10 recreation gardening and landscaping as well as
11 commercial fruit and vegetable growing and
12 farming and then also personal health and
13 wellness, safety physical fitness.

14 So this next program falls under
15 that second guise and that is the growing
16 stronger strength training class series for
17 older adults. It's a program designed to help
18 adults build muscles and fitness for daily
19 tasks, getting up and down the stairs in the
20 house, getting out of your vehicle, out of your
21 bathroom fixtures, that type of thing.

22 It's open to adults age 40 and up.
23 We should note that the definition given to us
24 by Penn State Extension. It's not set by
25 myself or the Commissioner's office. I know

1 that a majority of the dais as well as myself
2 is creeping up on that now so please don't
3 shoot the messenger on this one. It's a 12
4 week program. The registration cost is \$115.

5 The Penn State Extension does have
6 financial assistance available as is the case
7 with many of their programs to help folks who
8 might not be able to afford the full cost of
9 the program. To register call 570-963-6842 or
10 e-mail NMD5140 at PSU dot EDU. The deadline is
11 February 4th to register.

12 And just lastly a reminder for the
13 third consecutive winter season our Code Blue
14 Cold Weather Advisory Program is in effect.
15 This is something where the Commissioner's
16 Office according to the National Weather
17 Service forecast for Scranton issues an
18 advisory when the windchill is predicted to be
19 below 20 degrees in the city and the county for
20 an extended period of time meaning, you know,
21 more than an hour or two.

22 If you visit Lackawanna County dot
23 org online you'll find the Code Blue home page
24 on the lower right side of the screen. We have
25 a variety of information there available from

1 federal and state agencies and other groups
2 relating to health and safety for individual's
3 health as well as for pets and personal
4 property in cold weather.

5 We also partner with the three
6 emergency shelters in the city, St. Anthony's
7 Haven, Bethel AME Church Shelter, also the
8 Community Intervention Center. We have their
9 contact information, hours and addresses on
10 that site so to raise awareness in general of
11 the fact that those shelters are open and
12 operating.

13 If you know anyone or see anyone who
14 needs emergency shelter in extreme cold, you
15 could direct them to those locations. And the
16 shelters have been very gracious and generous
17 in partnering with us to get the word out about
18 this program and about their operations during
19 this time of the year. So that's all I have.
20 Thank you as always, gentlemen.

21 MR. WECHSLER: Thanks, Mr. Hetman,
22 and I think I speak for all of us. Hopefully
23 we never have to go into code blue. It would
24 be great if we had a winter where we wouldn't
25 have to --

1 MR. HETMAN: Thank you. Have a
2 great night.

3 MR. WECHSLER: Ron Ellman.

4 MR. ELLMAN: I spoke to an English
5 teacher last week that said I used the word
6 corrupt correctly. Any way anybody perceived
7 it was up to them. Let's move on. I realize
8 that Council's main interest seems to be
9 showing up downtown again. But our
10 neighborhoods -- three quarters of the
11 neighborhoods in town are declining but I'm
12 going to speak about my own, North Main.

13 Do you people realize for a \$100
14 bill you get a peddler's license in this city?
15 That's supposed to be service between the
16 person that has it in different businesses,
17 \$100. In our neighborhood that hundred dollar
18 peddler license has allowed one person to
19 dictate to the whole neighborhood to 20 or 25
20 houses how it's going to be.

21 And you people have refused to do
22 anything about it. I listen to this junky
23 smelling diesel truck 4:00 in the morning as
24 others in my neighborhood do, 4:00 in the
25 morning. It's just a big joke to you people

1 because I brought this up before.

2 That's what this hundred dollars
3 peddler's license -- and the company isn't even
4 a Scranton company. They're down in the Avoca
5 for crying out loud. A lot you care about
6 what's going on in my neighborhood.

7 But several of us have gotten
8 together April 1st we're going to ask for a tax
9 reduction. I'm going to ask for \$25,000 from
10 you. You -- I got this big 30 foot, 10 foot
11 high truck with a sign on the side advertising
12 Martin Bread. They don't even sell Martin
13 Bread for crying out loud.

14 I don't know what Martin Bread got
15 to do with it because I phoned Martin Bread and
16 they said they sold the truck years ago because
17 it was worn out when they sold it. This can't
18 go on in my neighborhood. This could have
19 been alleviated last year. I'll give you a
20 hundred dollars if you are so hard up for a
21 hundred dollars that you don't want to lose it
22 from this company.

23 All you have to do is tell them
24 remove that truck from our neighborhood or lose
25 your license because a hundred dollar license

1 compared to eight or 10 houses paying taxes --
2 well, it seems to be because that is all you seem
3 to be interested in.

4 There's some talk which I wasn't a
5 part of of having a class action suit. And I
6 don't understand it. I don't know all of these
7 things so I wasn't no part of it. But there is
8 some people they just don't know what to do no
9 more. You could see this lousy truck a block
10 coming and a block either way for blocks.

11 It's just a huge ugly smelling
12 truck. During the summer I had to use my air
13 conditioner because when he starts it at 4:00,
14 my house fills up with diesel smoke and fumes.
15 It's a shame what I'm going through because you
16 people don't care. I've written a letter and
17 sent these pictures to your national resource
18 network. I spoken to a gentleman there.

19 Maybe he sees the truth instead of
20 listening to a bunch of nonsense from
21 Mr. Durkin and Mr. Maloney. He might think
22 differently on this city. And in closing,
23 finally, I got some good news for you people
24 and a lot of people would like this.

25 I know after I yelled at you, you'd

1 it back next week.

2 MR. ELLMAN: Let's hope you do
3 something for my neighborhood before April 1st
4 because it's going to be an embarrassment when
5 several people go downtown at once. Thank you.

6 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr.
7 Ellman. Is there anyone else that would like
8 to address Council?

9 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening, Dave
10 Dobrzyn, resident and taxpayer. I'm also
11 concerned about the pension system here. We're
12 at a tentative time. It always seems to be
13 funny whenever there's a national election
14 coming up that we suddenly have a problem in
15 the stock market.

16 And we have to vote for this guy or
17 that guy to bail it out or whether it almost
18 seems like a plot, you know, but please be
19 careful and watch over that because, you know,
20 we can't have the -- if the sewer plant does
21 get monetized or whatever you want to call it
22 or sold, we can't have that money disappear
23 someday on top of it. Then we're really in
24 trouble.

25 A lot of people get irate up here

1 and there's a lot of irate letters in the
2 Times. And sometimes I think like the back and
3 forth between the two parties are what people
4 assume that they are going to get one
5 philosophy and they find out they're going to
6 get another.

7 So it's just a suggestion, maybe
8 that's what part of the problem is here. You
9 have to be silly not to run on both parties if
10 you could forego a November election, but there
11 and again somebody's going to be disappointed
12 along the way. You know, you'll probably hear
13 it for the next three or four years.

14 Once again snow is in the forecast.
15 And our recycle day is going to be Saturday.
16 So I would hope that if our crew gets taken to
17 keep downtown cleared that we start to develop
18 a plan where we can have rolling brownouts of
19 recycling through each neighborhood instead of
20 always the same neighborhood which is our day
21 is Friday.

22 We have a national holiday. It
23 started last year with Martin Luther King and
24 it continued through the entire winter. This
25 winter we haven't had any snow. But it could

1 come at any time. Just like a baby, the first
2 one comes any time after that it always takes
3 nine months, right?

4 The Globe Store is in the paper.
5 And, you know, our chamber has -- I pointed it
6 out before. You watch these environmental
7 things and scientific documentaries where we're
8 going to build a society where people can work
9 close to home. And a lot of places are getting
10 developed up on -- up in Jessup and Olyphant.

11 And if you ever go up there and
12 imagine yourself trying to walk home from work
13 even if you lived in Olyphant near Central
14 City, I mean, there's no sidewalks, no street
15 lights, just a dirt road or a rough paved road.
16 And, you know, they emptied out the Globe and
17 now they're looking to send it to the county,
18 which is going to be tax except once again.

19 We can't take any more tax losses
20 here. I wish the county would come up with
21 some kind of a way of compensating us if they
22 want to keep taking property. And furthermore,
23 that's an awful stretch for those county
24 workers to be travelling.

25 You're going to have all types of

1 people in and out walking a block or two back
2 and forth from court or whatever. And it's not
3 a good scene. I mean, how much of our property
4 do we have to keep sacrificing to tax exempt
5 and realizing that not all tax exempt
6 properties are a non profit purposes I mean.

7 At least the hospital saved -- they
8 did with me, it saved my sorry back side on
9 several occasions. And, you know, certain
10 non profits you don't get much out of. And
11 some of them are pretty rough like your final
12 place down there is a scrap yard for old
13 building materials. And, I mean, it's pretty
14 unsightly.

15 North Scranton High, I'll make this
16 quick is on it but there is a letter that it
17 came in at \$414,000 a unit. And on Dixon
18 Avenue I think they were tax free. And the way
19 they treated that lady -- she was being
20 truthful last week which I think she was, was
21 an abomination.

22 You really shouldn't harass them for
23 small things out of a landlord getting a notice
24 on your door with no obvious grievance other
25 than they don't like you. Thank you and have a

1 good evening.

2 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you.

3 MS. SCHUMAKER: Marie Schumaker.

4 First, I would like to ask when or if ever I'm
5 going to get an answer to the budget questions
6 that I had on 2016 that I submitted in
7 midNovember, 2015.

8 MR. WECHSLER: Right now we have
9 those questions. And I don't have an answer
10 for you right now.

11 MS. SCHUMAKER: I know you have
12 them. I handed them over. Okay. Do we have a
13 new date for the audit being available and what
14 is the date for the 2015 audit?

15 MR. WECHSLER: Last date that I had
16 was January 22nd, which is tomorrow. And I do
17 not have a date for 2016.

18 MS. SCHUMAKER: Could you see if you
19 could get one for next week, please?

20 MR. WECHSLER: Yeah, I will check on
21 the progress as of what is supposed to be
22 presented tomorrow.

23 MS. SCHUMAKER: You know, I heard
24 lots of talk about different things,
25 condemnations, we're going to do something on

1 condemnation policy. We're going to do
2 something on rental registration and the list
3 goes on.

4 One of which was snow removal and
5 I'm sorry Mr. Gaughan left -- he's back. Did
6 we ever establish a policy for snow removal
7 especially this weekend especially with respect
8 to the downtown? Is there a --

9 MR. GAUGHAN: In regards to --

10 MS. SCHUMAKER: Plowing from curb to
11 curb and maybe doing a one side, one side.
12 There was going to be a policy. I don't care
13 what it was. Do we have a policy or have we
14 just been talking for two years?

15 MR. GAUGHAN: Actually the policy is
16 in place. There's an ordinance for alternate
17 side of the street parking. You would just
18 have to enforce it.

19 MS. SCHUMAKER: Do you plan --

20 MR. GAUGHAN: I have met with the
21 Mayor and the DPW Director last winter. And I
22 asked them about it. And they said they would
23 consider it. I haven't heard anything from
24 them.

25 MS. SCHUMAKER: Okay. Thank you.

1 You might want to check on that. Again, on 6-B
2 tonight as long as you're opening the budget
3 for this year I notice we have the figures for
4 the real estate taxes which are off by almost 2
5 million dollars.

6 So I think you might want to since
7 they were at a collection rate last year I
8 believe 87 percent and you avoided going over
9 the threshold of 6 percent for this year for
10 the taxes by increasing the collection rate to
11 89 percent, I think you might want to consider
12 opening that item as well and reducing what you
13 expect to get from real estate taxes because I
14 don't believe you're going to get them.

15 And so I think you should consider
16 that a more realistic amount. Also I would
17 like to know where Mr. Bulzoni or the budget
18 administration's position was advertised. We
19 were going to seek the best which I would
20 assume would be going to some association of
21 municipal --

22 MR. ROGAN: It was in the
23 Pennsylvania Municipal League's bulletin.

24 MS. SCHUMAKER: And that's any
25 other?

1 MR. ROGAN: I -- and that's only
2 because I saw it there, not because I asked the
3 question. I did see it advertised there.

4 MS. SCHUMAKER: I would like to know
5 other than on the website. And then the
6 Administrative Code -- well, first let me read
7 just two sentences from an article, Scranton
8 makes full pension payment on time that was in
9 the December 31st, 2015, Scranton Times
10 Tribune.

11 It says: Mr. Bulzoni said he was
12 able to make the full payment this year by
13 temporarily borrowing money from several
14 accounts that had a cash balance. That money
15 will be immediately -- will immediately be
16 repaid into those accounts once the city
17 obtains its tax anticipation loan on January
18 4th, he said. The Administrative Code reads as
19 follows:

20 The business administrator shall
21 have the power to authorize the transfer of any
22 unexpended balance of any appropriation item or
23 any portion thereof within a department. But
24 if it is between departments, then the business
25 administrator shall make such a transfer with

1 approval of Council. That should have happened
2 last December before this was done.

3 It should have been on the agenda
4 last week. It should be on the agenda tonight.
5 I know you pass it. But you are not adhering
6 to the Administrative Code. There are other
7 examples of this too.

8 I believe we need to know where
9 those monies were transferred from and when
10 they were repaid. I know we got the TAN. So
11 could we get that information on the agenda for
12 next week?

13 MR. EVANS: We'll try.

14 MR. GAUGHAN: I think maybe we
15 should have our Solicitor look at that and get
16 his opinion on it.

17 MS. SCHUMAKER: Opinion on whether I
18 read correctly the Administrative Code?

19 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes -- no, not whether
20 you read it correctly but assess the situation
21 and see what he thinks.

22 MS. SCHUMAKER: Thank you.

23 MR. WECHSLER: Is there anyone else
24 that would like to address Council?

25 (No response.)

1 MS. REED: FIFTH ORDER. 5-A.
2 MOTIONS.

3 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Perry, do you
4 have any motions or comments?

5 MR. PERRY: No, I just have one
6 comment. Mr. Ellman, I know you handed me some
7 pictures of the situation that you talked about
8 before about that truck and just the overall
9 noise nuisance I'm guessing that's created in
10 your neighborhood.

11 I will get to work on this this week
12 and hopefully will have some definitive answers
13 for you on Thursday. If not, I'll have more
14 information for you. You could definitely get
15 in contact with me through my e-mail address
16 and we can correspondence that way if that
17 works for you.

18 But one way or another I will get an
19 answer. It might not be the answer that you
20 want. But I'll definitely get an answer for
21 you. That's all I have, Mr. President.

22 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you.
23 Mr. Rogan.

24 MR. ROGAN: Yes, two very brief
25 items regarding item 5-C the contract with

1 Turnkey Taxes, I do have some concerns
2 regarding this legislation. I do know that we
3 discussed in the caucus sending some questions
4 to the Tax Collector to see what the current
5 efforts are regarding collecting the Business
6 Privilege and Mercantile Tax.

7 So this is an item that I will
8 introduce this week but continue to review
9 before the final passage. And just one other
10 point. I want to congratulate our fire
11 department and the American Red Cross. This
12 week they installed over 200 smoke detectors
13 throughout neighborhoods in the city.

14 And this was done free of charge for
15 the residents of Scranton. So it's definitely
16 a good preventative measure to save lives in
17 the City of Scranton. So great job to the Red
18 Cross and to our fire department. And that is
19 all. Thank you.

20 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr. Rogan.
21 Mr. Evans.

22 MR. EVANS: Yeah, brief comment.
23 Last week a speaker mentioned that this Council
24 passed every ordinance that came before us and
25 denied none. I just want to clarify a little

1 bit of that. We had 56 ordinances that we
2 passed last year, most likely 80 percent of
3 those are routine ordinances that did pass with
4 a 5-0 vote. 20 percent of them are ones that
5 demand and should have deep conversations and
6 debate which equate to about 10 ordinances.

7 Of those 10, five we amended to make
8 them better instead of just outright denying
9 the amendment -- or the ordinance itself. So I
10 thought in many cases we were thoughtful and
11 improved the ordinances in those cases.

12 What people don't know as well under
13 Mr. McGoff at least five or six other
14 ordinances never saw the light of day. They
15 were never put on the agenda. They weren't
16 ready for prime time. And we decided that on
17 our own through Mr. McGoff because that was the
18 right thing to do.

19 Many of them were to raise fees.
20 And we decided that that was not the direction
21 that we wanted to take that. We want to send a
22 different message to the business community
23 that we were no longer doing business as usual.
24 So in a sense those ordinances were a negative
25 vote before they even got to us.

1 So I just want to clarify that that
2 it isn't always what it appears to be that
3 sometimes we are doing things like that and
4 saying no in a different way. So that's all I
5 have for now.

6 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you.
7 Mr. Gaughan.

8 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, thank you. We
9 received -- all of us received a complaint this
10 week about an issue in the 600 block of
11 Campbell Street in South Side. And I had
12 spoken to a woman who lives in that area also
13 this week.

14 There is extreme water runoff that
15 freezes on the side of the street. And it
16 makes it very difficult for people in that area
17 to park. If they are parking the right way and
18 adhering to the parking laws, they have to park
19 going up a hill. And when they're trying to
20 get out of their car, it's very difficult.

21 So we did send correspondence to the
22 DPW Director and the City Engineer to see if we
23 can get somebody up there to take a look at
24 that issue and hopefully resolve it maybe with
25 some drainage, pipes, or something of that sort

1 because the gentleman that sent the e-mail
2 included pictures. And it does look very
3 dangerous.

4 A few weeks ago, I had mentioned the
5 city's efforts in recycling and recycling
6 collections and the numbers that are reported
7 to DEP. I wasn't able to attend the meeting
8 that was held, but I did receive a memo on the
9 meeting.

10 And I was very happy to see that the
11 city is going to aggressively start to update
12 its recycling efforts in the city. Just a
13 couple notes from this meeting that I think are
14 important. First of all, the city is going to
15 be working on updating a commercial mailing
16 list.

17 Since commercial recycling is
18 mandated in the city, we will be issuing
19 notification letters to city businesses and
20 following up these letters with phone calls and
21 then discuss the recycling requirements for
22 those businesses. The goal of this new-found
23 effort is to double reportable commercial
24 recycling tonnage in 2016 and triple the
25 tonnage in 2017.

1 This in turn will allow us to
2 receive more grant money from DEP which we can
3 then spend on things like updating our fleet
4 for the DPW, which I think is very important.
5 Some of the other items, the city's recycling
6 ordinance dates back to 1989.

7 And I received a copy of that
8 tonight that I'm looking over. No revisions
9 have been made since that time. So our
10 recycling consultant along with officials from
11 the city are looking to work on a draft
12 ordinance based on ordinances that have
13 recently been passed in Blakely and other
14 municipalities throughout the state to update
15 our legislation.

16 The city is also going to try to
17 secure cooperation with downtown landlords to
18 institute recycling programs for the larger
19 apartment complexes in that vicinity and
20 throughout the city. And most importantly, the
21 city is going to apply for a Technical
22 Assistant Grant from DEP to review the Refuse
23 Program.

24 I know it's been batted around about
25 the pay as you throw program. It could be the

1 worst idea in the world, maybe it is, maybe it
2 isn't. But I do think we should at least study
3 it and take a look at it and see if it could be
4 successful in the city because I think that is
5 important. Other than that, I don't have
6 anything this week. Thank you.

7 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you,
8 Mr. Gaughan. Just a few things, as requested
9 to touch on item 5-C, 5-C is an effort by the
10 administration to make an analysis with the Tax
11 Collection Department on the percentage or
12 amount of people that pay the Business
13 Privilege Tax and the Mercantile Tax.

14 There has been some questions asked
15 here at Council to ascertain the numbers of
16 people that are paying the tax and establishing
17 how many are paying and how many should be
18 paying. As of right now, I do not have the
19 financial cost to that program. But we will
20 get it before next week.

21 Item 5-D is another attempt by the
22 administration to assist the public in a more
23 transparent effort to post financial statements
24 such as the budget on the city's website. As
25 we sit here on Council, we do have several

1 requests for information to be placed on our
2 website. And this is an effort by the
3 administration to do that.

4 The successful bidder -- there was
5 two bids received and the company will charge
6 us \$11,000 annually for that fee. In addition
7 to that, I just have a comment. I have been
8 contacted by the Oakmont Neighborhood
9 Association.

10 The area where they're situated on
11 is very close to Route 307. And a lot of
12 traffic passes through there as a shortcut back
13 and forth avoiding parts of Interstate 81. The
14 group has asked to have a -- I think they're
15 going to have a meeting where Chief Graziano
16 will be invited to attend just to contact on
17 some of the issues that Oakmont and even East
18 Mountain have.

19 There's several of these small --
20 unless they happen to you, they're not small --
21 break-ins into vehicles and more or less
22 nuisance crimes that are occurring more and
23 more in the East Mountain Oakmont areas. So
24 that will be an opportunity for the Chief to
25 discuss that with the residents there.

1 Also the Oakmont Association has
2 been for the past few years doing a nice job in
3 the small park that's located in their
4 neighborhood. And they are just interested in
5 seeing what obligations they have to the city
6 and what obligation the city has to them in
7 terms of the park. And that's all I have at
8 this time.

9 MR. GAUGHAN: I have one more issue.

10 MR. WECHSLER: Okay. Mr. Gaughan's
11 got another one.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: Sorry. I was asked
13 last week and again this week to update
14 everyone on the paving program. As you know
15 last summer we were supposed to have the 2 and
16 a half million dollar paving program throughout
17 the city but it got held up.

18 The administration wasn't able to
19 provide a definite timeline yet. But they are
20 hopeful that the paving will begin in the
21 spring and the bidding process will start up
22 probably sometime in February. But that's not
23 a definite date.

24 I also did request this week for the
25 meeting minutes from SRA. We currently don't

1 receive them. So I think that's important that
2 we start receiving those. And that's all I
3 have. Thank you.

4 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you.

5 MS. REED: 5-B. B.

6 FOR INTRODUCTION AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE
7 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE
8 CITY OF SCRANTON TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY ACTIONS
9 TO SUBMIT TO THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
10 HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD) THE
11 2015-2019 ANALYSIS OF IMPEDIMENTS TO FAIR
12 HOUSING CHOICE FOR SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA.

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

16 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

17 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

21 MR. PERRY: Aye.

22 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

23 MR. EVANS: Aye.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

25 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The

1 eyes have it and so moved.

2 MS. REED: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION A
3 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
4 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER
5 INTO A CONTRACT WITH TURNKEY TAXES, INC. TO
6 PROVIDE THE CITY OF SCRANTON AUDIT DISCOVERY
7 SERVICES FOR ACT 511 TAXES INCLUDING BUSINESS
8 PRIVILEGE AND MERCANTILE TAXES FOR A THREE (3)
9 YEAR PERIOD WITH A ONE (1) YEAR EXTENSION
10 PROVISION.

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

14 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

15 MR. EVANS: Second.

16 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question,
18 just a couple brief comments about this.
19 Number one, this legislation will enable the
20 Single Tax Office to more effectively collect
21 Act 511 taxes, specifically the Business
22 Privilege and the Mercantile Tax.

23 And as mentioned in the legislation,
24 it may also work for the Amusement Tax. The
25 important point here is that the Single Tax

1 Office as I think Mr. Wechsler mentioned will
2 continue to collect these taxes. So this
3 contract is not giving any authority for
4 Turnkey Taxes to collect anything. So they are
5 not a collection agency.

6 The software program will assist in
7 identifying businesses which are eligible but
8 not presently paying the taxes. As it relates
9 to the cost, there are two options that the
10 city can choose from. Option number one, the
11 Turnkey Tax -- the city will pay Turnkey Taxes
12 \$1,000 a month plus 20 percent of the amount of
13 taxes deposited.

14 The monthly fee will be deferred
15 until the first identified monies are
16 deposited. And option two, would be 25 percent
17 of the amounts deposited. As Mr. Rogan
18 mentioned before I do have a couple questions.
19 We did discuss this in the caucus. My first
20 question is what is the current process from
21 the Tax Office for collecting Business
22 Privilege and Mercantile Taxes. I would like
23 an update on that by next week.

24 And I also believe that we need to
25 find out if we do go ahead and grant this

1 company this contract, what procedures are in
2 place to ensure that the Single Tax Office is
3 going to effectively collect this tax. All
4 this company is going to do is give them the
5 software to identify the business.

6 Obviously one of the main problems
7 here is that it's not being collected. So how
8 are we going to do that? What's the plan to
9 collect those taxes? So hopefully we'll hear
10 an answer by next week. Thank you.

11 MR. ROGAN: I would agree with what
12 my colleague mentioned. I have similar
13 concerns. And one of them being that if the
14 Single Tax Office isn't currently collecting
15 these taxes, why have a consultant come in,
16 tell them what they're doing wrong and then
17 they take a cut of the money when it could be
18 done through an agency like Berkheimer which
19 does the wage tax.

20 Although when they initially took
21 over, I didn't think it was a good idea. But
22 they seem to be doing a pretty good job. So I
23 am interested to see the responses from the Tax
24 Office. So we need to see what the most
25 efficient way to collect these taxes is and how

1 we can get the most bang for our buck, whether
2 to continue collecting them in-house through
3 the Single Tax Office or if this service comes
4 back if they're doing a poor job to look at
5 other options at that point in time.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: I just want to make
7 one clarification. I don't think that this
8 company is going to come in and say whether or
9 not the Tax Office is doing a good job or not.
10 They're just going to be tasked with
11 identifying the businesses which are eligible
12 but don't presently pay the tax.

13 And I am not advocating that the
14 collection of the Business Privilege and the
15 Mercantile Tax get farmed out to a collection
16 agency. I think that should be kept in-house
17 and employees of the Single Tax Office should
18 collect it.

19 I just want to know what's the
20 process, what has been going on the past few
21 years and what is the problem that we're not
22 collecting this tax. Thank you.

23 MR. ROGAN: We definitely agree on
24 that. And my thing is, if we do go through
25 with doing this report and it comes back that

1 there are a very large amount of businesses
2 that aren't currently being paid, maybe the
3 Single Tax Office is doing something wrong --
4 not something wrong, but they could be doing
5 something better or it could be done better
6 privately.

7 Something to look at obviously.
8 We'll see what the responses come back from the
9 Single Tax Office. And I think we have the
10 final vote next week.

11 MR. WECHSLER: Yeah, well, as we
12 discussed in caucus Business Privilege and
13 Mercantile Tax are one of the most despised
14 taxes in the city and one of the -- two of the
15 taxes that are one of the biggest detriments to
16 growth of our area.

17 Hopefully that this evaluation
18 perhaps leads to the elimination of both of
19 those taxes and substitute it with something
20 else. All those in favor of introduction
21 signify by saying aye.

22 MR. PERRY: Aye.

23 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

24 MR. EVANS: Aye.

25 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

3 MS. REED: 5-D. FOR INTRODUCTION A
4 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
5 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER
6 INTO A CONTRACT WITH MUNISERVICES, LLC FOR CITY
7 OF SCRANTON ONLINE FINANCIAL DATA PRESENTMENT
8 SERVICES FOR A THREE (3) YEAR PERIOD WITH A ONE
9 (1) YEAR EXTENSION PROVISION.

10 MR. WECHSLER: May I have a motion?
11 At this time I'll entertain a motion that 5-D
12 be introduced into its proper committee.

13 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

14 MR. EVANS: Second.

15 MR. GAUGHAN: 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 ayes have it and so moved.

25 MS. REED: SIXTH ORDER: READING BY

1 TITLE FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 6, 2016 - AN
2 ORDINANCE AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 57
3 OF 1996 (AS AMENDED), ENTITLED "DEFINING AND
4 AUTHORIZING TAX EXEMPTIONS FROM REAL PROPERTY
5 TAX IN ORDER TO STIMULATE RESIDENTIAL
6 DEVELOPMENT IN CERTAIN AREAS IN THE CITY OF
7 SCRANTON, ESTABLISHING AN EXEMPTION SCHEDULE
8 AND PROCEDURES FOR OBTAINING EXEMPTIONS,
9 PROVIDING FOR NON-PERMISSIBLE EXEMPTIONS, AND
10 LIMITING AMENDMENTS HERETO" BY INCREASING THE
11 ASSESSMENT VALUATION IN SECTION 2 PARAGRAPH
12 1.B. FROM \$250,000.00 TO \$500,000.00 AND
13 EXTENDING THE EXEMPTION PERIOD IN SECTION 11.
14 AUTOMATIC TERMINATION TO AN ADDITIONAL TEN (10)
15 YEARS FROM THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS
16 ORDINANCE.

17 MR. EVANS: I would like to make a
18 motion to table item 6-A.

19 MR. ROGAN: Second.

20 MR. WECHSLER: There's a motion on
21 the floor and a second to table item 6-A. On
22 the question?

23 MR. PERRY: On the question, I just
24 want to say that this is a -- I feel it's a
25 really important piece of legislation and, you

1 know, I agree with the decision that we want to
2 table this because we want to take a really
3 good look at this and make sure that we make
4 this as beneficial as possible.

5 I know something that I campaigned
6 on and something that we all know is that we
7 need growth in the City of Scranton. And for
8 us just to push this through as is, I don't
9 think would be doing the city enough justice.
10 And I think we really need to make sure when we
11 put this out that it's going to give the
12 citizens and anybody who wants to build in the
13 City of Scranton their most bang for the buck.
14 So that's all I have.

15 MR. EVANS: On the question, I do
16 agree and the reason I asked to table it too
17 it's also to give us an opportunity to sit down
18 with the school district and sit down with the
19 county and ask them to participate because the
20 more taxing bodies that are participating, the
21 more impact this legislation will have.

22 On the second side of it, you know,
23 we want to really look at other opportunities
24 possibly apartment conversions to condos. I'll
25 give you an example, simple change like that

1 could create tremendous revenue -- tax revenue
2 for the city. And we have to find ways to grow
3 the city, grow our tax base.

4 So example would be, if you take
5 Building -- and downtown Building A has 60
6 apartments. And those 60 apartments are
7 converted into condos. On conservative side,
8 they might be paying 4,000 a year in taxes once
9 they're converted. That's \$360,000 in tax
10 revenue for those apartment units. So did I
11 say -- 90 units.

12 That building may currently pay
13 Building A \$60,000 a year in taxes, six times
14 the revenue generated by one conversion. And
15 the taxes still continue for the commercial
16 side of the building as well as the office. So
17 it's a lot of possibilities with this. That's
18 why we want to take our time to get it right.

19 But we think the opportunities are
20 there to do something very, very special. And
21 I think the way we have to look at it as the
22 downtown by creating more homeowners stabilizes
23 the downtown but also allows for tax base that
24 will grow that will support the neighborhoods
25 because that's what we have to do at the end

1 of the day is grow the tax base to allow for
2 the neighborhoods to flourish as well and also
3 at some point in time reduce the burden on
4 those residents as well. So that's the main
5 reasons why I asked to table the legislation
6 tonight.

7 MR. WECHSLER: Yes, as after last
8 week's meeting we did contact the -- by mail we
9 did contact the Lackawanna County -- each
10 Commissioner and we also contacted the Scranton
11 School District -- the leadership at the
12 Scranton School District.

13 So, Mr. Hetman, perhaps you could
14 let the County Commissioners know we are
15 seeking an answer to this because we would like
16 to move it along and get it in place as soon as
17 possible.

18 MR. EVANS: Gerard, you're in
19 charge. Make it happen.

20 MR. WECHSLER: You didn't know you
21 were going to get a job when you came here
22 today. Anyone else? All those in signify by
23 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-B. READING BY TITLE
6 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 7, 2016 - AN ORDINANCE
7 AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 58, 2014, AN
8 ORDINANCE ENTITLED "GENERAL CITY OPERATING
9 BUDGET 2015" BY TRANSFERRING \$8,280.00 FROM
10 ACCOUNT NO. 01.401.16090.4299 (NON-DEPARTMENTAL
11 EXPENDITURES-UNENCUMBERED EXPENSES PRIOR YEAR
12 OBLIGATIONS) TO ACCOUNT NO. 01.011.00078.4470
13 (DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY-BUREAU OF FIRE
14 TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION) TO PROVIDE
15 SUFFICIENT FUNDS TO REIMBURSE FIVE (5) CADETS
16 THAT ATTENDED THE HACC ACADEMY FOR FOURTEEN
17 (14) WEEKS.

18 MR. WECHSLER: You heard reading by
19 title of item 6-B. What is your pleasure?

20 MR. ROGAN: I move that item 6-B
21 pass reading by title.

22 MR. EVANS: Second.

23 MR. WECHSLER: On the question? All
24 those in favor signify by 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: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR
7 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES FOR
8 ADOPTION RESOLUTION NO. 2, 2016 - APPOINTMENT
9 OF MICHAEL J. PARKER, ESQUIRE, 308 PARK EDGE
10 LANE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, AS A MEMBER OF
11 THE BOARD OF THE SCRANTON SEWER AUTHORITY. MR.
12 PARKER WILL BE REPLACING JOSEPH X. GARVEY, JR.
13 WHOSE TERM EXPIRED DECEMBER 31, 2015. MR.
14 PARKER WILL BE APPOINTED TO A FIVE (5) YEAR
15 TERM EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2016 WHICH WILL
16 EXPIRE ON JANUARY 1, 2021.

17 MR. WECHSLER: As Chairperson for
18 the Committee on Rules, I recommend final
19 passage of item 7-A.

20 MR. ROGAN: Second.

21 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

22 Roll call, please.

23 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

24 MR. PERRY: Yes.

25 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

1 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

2 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

3 MR. EVANS: Yes.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

5 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

7 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby
8 declare item 7-A legally and lawfully adopted.

9 MS. REED: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION BY
10 THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS FOR ADOPTION
11 RESOLUTION NO. 3, 2016 - AUTHORIZING THE
12 DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS OF
13 THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO SIGN AND SUBMIT THE
14 PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
15 ("PENNDOT") APPLICATION FOR TRAFFIC SIGNAL
16 APPROVAL FOR TRAFFIC SIGNAL PERMIT NOS. 06558,
17 06467 AND 40032 FOR TRAFFIC SIGNALS TO BE
18 INSTALLED AND/OR MODIFIED AT THE INTERSECTIONS
19 OF PITTSTON AVENUE (SR 11) AND HICKORY STREET,
20 PITTSTON AVENUE (SR 11/SR 3023) AND BIRCH
21 STREET (SR 11) AND PITTSTON AVENUE (SR 3023)
22 AND ELM STREET.

23 MR. WECHSLER: What is the
24 recommendation of the Chairman for the
25 Committee on Public Works?

1 MR. GAUGHAN: As Chairperson for the
2 Committee on Public Works I recommend final
3 passage of item 7-B.

4 MR. EVANS: Second.

5 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question
7 as I mentioned last week I'm very happy that
8 we're passing this legislation. I travel these
9 streets every day and these interactions
10 especially in the morning are an absolute
11 nightmare. So hopefully this measure will
12 improve safety in that area of South Side.

13 MR. WECHSLER: 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 adopted.
25 If there is no further business, I'll entertain

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a motion to adjourn.

MR. ROGAN: Motion to adjourn.

MR. WECHSLER: This meeting is
adjourned.

C E R T I F I C A T E

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2
3 I hereby certify that the proceedings and
4 evidence are contained fully and accurately in the
5 notes taken by me of the above-cause and that this copy
6 is a correct transcript of the same to the best of my
7 ability.

8
9
10 _____
11 Maria McCool, RPR
12 Official Court Reporter
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