

SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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HELD:

Thursday, February 25, 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. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

5 MR. PERRY: Here.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

7 MR. ROGAN: Here.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

9 MR. EVANS: Here.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Here.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

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

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

16 AGENDA FOR THE CITY PLANNING COMMISSION
17 MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 24, 2016.

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

20 MS. REED: 3-B. AGENDA FOR THE BOARD
21 OF ZONING APPEALS MEETING TO BE HELD MARCH
22 9, 2016.

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

1 this time?

2 MS. EVANS: I have a brief one. I
3 want to remind everyone that Tuesday, March
4 1, is St. David's Day so I'd like to say
5 cymru am byth to all my close family and
6 friends and I hope they enjoy a great day.
7 Thank you.

8 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, I have one. Our
9 office has been receiving quite a few
10 complaints regarding a blinking yellow
11 traffic signal at the intersection of
12 Wyoming Avenue and Vine Street and it's been
13 doing this for a few days now. We spoke to
14 the DPW dispatcher and he informed us that
15 this light will be on blinking for awhile.
16 There was an accident at this intersection
17 and the pole was torn out so it will be
18 fixed soon. Thank you.

19 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you,
20 Mr. Gaughan. On Sunday, February 28, there
21 will be a rally for Gene Lalley held at
22 Walter's Park. The time for the event will
23 Sunday from 2 to 6. Tickets are \$20 which
24 will include a light buffet with beer and
25 wine. Anyone else have any comments?

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

3 MR. WECHSLER: This evening since we
4 have some people that are new, may I jut ask
5 everyone to please state their name so it
6 can be part of the record. Thank you.
7 Gerard Hetman.

8 MR. HETMAN: Good evening, Council.
9 Gerard Hetman, Lackawanna County's Community
10 Relations Department. Good to see you guys
11 again. Sorry I missed last week, I'm still
12 a little bit under the weather, so just bear
13 with me. First, regarding my homework from
14 Mr. Evans, I remember you said you are in
15 charge, the request on the new home
16 construction tax waiver. The commissioners
17 are interested in this idea. They would
18 like to meet with city council staff -- or
19 council members and staff, any staff from
20 the mayor's office and the administration
21 that the city would see appropriate first.
22 Our office will be in touch with Ms. Reed in
23 City Council's office and the Mayor's office
24 to schedule a meeting. The commissioners
25 have been studying it and they are very much

1 interested in it. We just want to make sure
2 we go forward with it in a good way with all
3 three taxing bodies together.

4 And just two items to note this
5 month, the Area Agency on Aging for
6 Lackawanna County now has an outreach
7 service consultant available to help seniors
8 fill out an application for programs such as
9 LIHEAP, PACE, rent rebate and other social
10 programs. His name is Howard Macintosh.
11 Mr. Macintosh will be able to schedule
12 visits to senior centers and high rises in
13 the county. He is also available to come
14 out in person for any home visits for folks
15 that can't make it out. You can contact him
16 by calling the Area Agency on Aging at
17 570-963-6740. His public schedule is also
18 available on-line in three month intervals
19 at www.LackawannaCounty.org.

20 And also Penn State Extension of
21 Lackawanna County is offering their annual
22 master gardener training Tuesdays and
23 Thursday nights beginning March 8. To
24 register call 570-963-6842 or e-mail
25 LackawannaMG@ESU.EDU. It's a really good

1 program for anyone interested in home
2 horticulture, agriculture regarding your
3 landscaping with networking, professional
4 tip sharing and community service at Penn
5 State Extension. I know they have worked on
6 the downtown planter project in the past and
7 have done some good work, not just at their
8 homes but out in the community including
9 here in our downtown so that's all we have
10 and, again, we will be in touch on the tax
11 waiver. Believe me, it hasn't been pushed
12 off to the side. All three commissioners
13 and our staff do have an added interest in
14 that and we will be in touch again so we
15 want to make sure everybody is on the same
16 page and we do go forward with it it's done
17 together, we'll be able to kick around some
18 other ideas on it. I think it's a good
19 opportunity for correspondence and I think
20 now with the new council, the school board
21 and the new commissioners this might be one
22 of our first steps together to make good
23 progress in the city and in the area.

24 So, again, thank you and thanks for
25 Mrs. Reed for accommodating me last week. I

1 did call in to let you know I wouldn't be
2 here, thanks for taking the call and we'll
3 see you guys soon. Thank you. Have a good
4 night.

5 MR. WECHSLER: Thanks. We
6 appreciate it. Bob Bolus.

7 MR. BOLUS: Bob Bolus, Scranton.
8 Good evening, Council. A couple of ideas
9 that I have kind of bounced around since I
10 have been coming here as to maybe how we can
11 clear up some of the mess. You know, I'm
12 going to ask a couple of questions here and
13 you can take it in consideration. Has the
14 city considered approaching Lackawanna
15 County to save money by getting services
16 that all of the buildings by using the new
17 wireless network designed by Coronex? This
18 system has reduced the County's
19 telecommunication costs by an estimated
20 \$400,000 per year. Since the taxpayers are
21 already paying for the system, shouldn't the
22 city taxpayers also have an opportunity to
23 save our costs by sharing this taxpayer fund
24 and network? I'm aware that the city has a
25 connection to the county, the administration

1 building, I'm more concerned about the fire
2 station, DPW, authorities and other things
3 that we have in this city that we can save a
4 tremendous amount of money by the benefiting
5 of the system.

6 You know, it's remarkable
7 connection, it's a remarkable savings, and
8 it's staring us right in the face and a city
9 that's in desperate need of savings instead
10 of expenditures, and I think it should be
11 something that should be considered and
12 council should get with them. I think we
13 need to marry up with people. I think we
14 need to share ideas and share concepts and
15 try and move Scranton in a direction that's
16 positive than being negative. No more than
17 the sale of the Sewer Authority. No matter
18 who buys it, they are going to make money.
19 Remember, to due repairs and there is more
20 money, federal, state grants to do upgrades
21 and things across the country that are being
22 done so to rush into judgment and say let's
23 set the Sewer Authority and hammer the heck
24 out of the people in the city because we
25 have all been involved in business, where do

1 you make your money? You sell a product,
2 you get your costs, you get everything else
3 in and then you figure out much am I putting
4 in my pocket and how much is going to be for
5 repairs or replacement, inventory down the
6 road.

7 So if anybody is blinded to think
8 that is a golden goose it's only dumping
9 money down a black hole in the City of
10 Scranton again because we mismanaged funds
11 time and after time after time. There is
12 going to be no change to it. We are going
13 to get out of the hole and blow the money
14 away and we are not going anywhere, as we
15 always have.

16 I brought up in the past about
17 realtor signs, a fee being paid. I haven't
18 seen anything about it or heard anything
19 about it, but it's an income. As small as
20 it may be, it's an income. You have all of
21 the nonprofits in this community, yet, no
22 one has gone after a nonprofit yet to share
23 the expenses in this city in a fair and
24 equitable way of. Not a few token dollars,
25 they are going free police, they are getting

1 fire, they are getting everything in the
2 benefit of the City of Scranton, plus they
3 are going to use our name, City of Scranton,
4 that the taxpayers make that name.

5 You know, it just turns your stomach
6 that we are letting people take a free ride
7 yet you want to sell your authority, money
8 making businesses that we have here and you
9 want to give them away. I brought up about
10 the mall, the assessment on the mall, has
11 anybody bothered to check the assessment to
12 see if I'm right or wrong? It's based on \$3
13 million on the mall. Where are we going?
14 On a mall that was worth 20, 30 million
15 dollars that I pay on a church a half a
16 million dollars that was worth \$2 so where
17 is the fairness and equitable solutions in
18 this city that allow us to want to develop
19 something rather than ignore it and get away
20 from it? We had development plans for that,
21 but the way we were treated in the city and
22 the ideas it's ridiculous so you are not
23 going anywhere unless you guys start putting
24 some leadership out there.

25 Now, onto an experience here, a

1 couple of weeks ago in the courtroom,
2 Mr. Wechsler, you are very familiar with the
3 containers on my property, and of my
4 so-called neighbors in the community that
5 have written things on Facebook or put in
6 the paper that are very derogatory and
7 negative, and I've been on the mountain 20
8 some years. I used to be part of the East
9 Mountain Neighborhood Association as the
10 director. I have contributed to that
11 mountain. The problem is they don't know
12 the difference between a trailer and a
13 container, okay? But we paid the price, we
14 played around, we complied with their order.
15 I went to Court hearing right here and talk
16 about prejudice and antagonism directed at
17 us by a judge there appalled me. They
18 didn't even give us an opportunity, said you
19 have had your day in Court, we never got to
20 say a word. Never produced evidence, had
21 witnesses that are in the trade to teach and
22 educate not only the people of East Mountain
23 but the judicial the difference between
24 trailers, containers and stuff and talk
25 about, you know, I see all of the stuff in

1 the news he goes, "Your had your day in
2 Court but you not allowed to speak."

3 Of course, our appeal will suffice,
4 but, you know, I see all this stuff on TV
5 every day about racism and I'll tell you
6 this is the first time I really, really and
7 truly, and I've got friends in all
8 nationalities all over the world. I just
9 came back from the seminar and the Iwo-Jima
10 reunion --

11 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr. Bolus.

12 MR. BOLUS: -- in Washington, D.C.,
13 with survivors of Iwo-Jima, both black,
14 Americans and everyone else, and I'm very
15 good friends with four star generals, this
16 is the first time I ever felt that racism
17 was taking place in our community and it
18 really turned my stomach and I believe with
19 your zoning officers and your Zoning Board
20 here it's a very selective enforcement that
21 they are doing and they need to be drawn in.
22 Thank you.

23 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr. Bolus.
24 Doug Miller.

25 MR. MILLER: Good evening. Doug

1 Miller, Scranton. You know, just kind of
2 taking a look at some of the things that
3 have transpired over the course of the time,
4 you know, reading the papers over the last
5 few weeks. You know, we just keep waltzing
6 around this and just keeping talking about
7 the same issue just time and time again,
8 pensions, the Supreme Court award and it
9 just got to the point where it's kind of
10 almost become comical at this point, and I
11 hate to say that because just the
12 seriousness and the attitude of this issue,
13 but it quite frankly is comical, and the
14 reason I say it's comical is because the
15 elected people we have in this community
16 haven't done a darn thing to try and solve
17 the problem.

18 You know, I listen to speakers come
19 up and they have concerns and, you know, we
20 just don't have the council listening to the
21 people and the only issue I have tonight
22 simply is I'd ask this council is one of you
23 finally going to step back and represent the
24 people of this city? And, you know, we talk
25 about audits, we talk about a lot of things,

1 and I just think at this point it's
2 ridiculous because if we need an audit
3 truthfully, gentlemen, if we need an audit a
4 this point to tell us the things we should
5 already know then we have got a real serious
6 problem because you all should educated
7 yourself at this point as to where we stand
8 financially and realize that selling off
9 assets or leasing assets is not a solution
10 to this city's problems, it's only just
11 going to calls further decay because
12 ultimately the people that really suffer
13 throughout all of this are the taxpayers
14 and, quite frankly, a lot of you guys don't
15 care because what happens is when you put
16 political hacks in these positions who are
17 put in by special interests and only
18 represent those interests, you know, we talk
19 about campaign finances reports here that a
20 speaker brought forward, Mr. Morgan, and if
21 that doesn't really just highlight where our
22 elected officials really stand, how the good
23 'ole boy network has just totally dominated
24 this city for decades, I mean, you just look
25 at the names and who is contributing to who

1 and whose hands is in whose pocket.

2 But most importantly, we have people
3 that are our elected officials whose hands
4 are in the pockets of the taxpayers and you
5 just continue to screw them over year after
6 year because you don't care. I mean, take a
7 look nationally, we have a very important
8 election coming up and I think it's come to
9 the point where not only on a national
10 level, but even on a local level we need to
11 start electing people who are just going to
12 come forth and tell the truth. They are not
13 going to sugar coat anything, they are not
14 going to play a game, they are not going to
15 represent special interests.

16 You know, let's take the city for an
17 example, and this goes on all over the place
18 because we'll use here because this is what
19 we know, and this isn't to be disrespectful
20 towards any of the rank and file union
21 employees because I have a lot of respect
22 for what they do and the profession they do
23 and they keep this city safe, but when you
24 look at the union leadership and how they
25 have had a consistent pattern of hand

1 selecting our council candidates and our
2 mayoral candidates and electing them because
3 of the small amount of percentage of people
4 that actually come out to vote, which is
5 pathetic, and you look at the small amount
6 of people that come out which, you know, you
7 account for your union members and the rank
8 and file and how they have just decimated
9 the city with one political parasite after
10 another, and then you have to ask yourself
11 the people that we put in these seats are
12 they really representing us are they looking
13 out for the special interests?

14 And I think that's what the
15 residents of this city have to start asking
16 yourselves, and I think they have already
17 come to that and they see because we are
18 faced with millions of dollars in pensions,
19 we are faced with millions of dollars in
20 Supreme Court awards, everybody wants,
21 wants, wants, wants, wants, okay, there is
22 not left to give. Maybe the taxpayers
23 finally want something because you pound the
24 living hell of them year after year and you
25 have overtaxed them what do they get in

1 return besides everyone else and the special
2 interest that want, want, want, well, maybe
3 we should start looking out for the little
4 guy that we just continue to just neglect.

5 There is nothing left in this
6 community. The young people they are
7 fleeing, they are done, this is nothing
8 here. We have pumped hundreds of
9 thousands into the downtown, there is
10 nothing here, look around. We have got an
11 empty mall. We've got empty store fronts.
12 We've got the 500 block of Lackawanna Avenue
13 that's mostly vacant, all right, and it's
14 just pathetic. We have invested nothing
15 into the neighborhoods and, you know, it's
16 just -- it's really sad to see where we are.

17 You know, I think it was
18 Mr. Sbaraglia who I think really summed it
19 up the best out of anyone, you just continue
20 to loot this city and you are just sucking
21 it dry until there is absolutely nothing
22 left, and it's really sad to see where we
23 are because, you know, the city is in
24 deplorable condition, we bring in
25 consultants, we bring in all of these

1 so-called experts to tell us things and to
2 try and come up with plans that we elected
3 you people to come up with but the problem
4 is when you elect people that have nothing
5 upstairs and have nothing to offer but
6 they're good at photo-ops and getting their
7 pictures taken and, you know, all of that
8 ridiculous nonsense that's what you get and
9 that's why this city is in deplorable
10 condition because we have elected
11 incompetent people --

12 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr.
13 Miller.

14 MR. MILLER: -- who are unqualified
15 and --

16 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr.
17 Miller.

18 MR. MILLER: -- you're welcome, and
19 we need to do something about it. We are
20 not going to be bullied by people who think
21 they are above us.

22 MR. WECHSLER: Paul Casparro.

23 MR. CASPARRO: Thank you for
24 allowing me to speak, Mr. President. My
25 name is Paul Casparro. I'm the president,

1 business representative locally for IBEW. I
2 live at 1720 McDonough Avenue in Scranton.
3 I'm here to talk tonight about the city
4 electrical licensing ordinance and the new
5 definition that was put in and the first
6 reading was last week, and that definition
7 is journeyman/contractor. It's a definition
8 that should be deleted from the city
9 electrical ordinance for a number of
10 reasons:

11 First, the City of Scranton should
12 not allow journeymen electricians to pull
13 permits to work on residential buildings,
14 one and two family dwellings and townhouses
15 because of the safety factors and liability.
16 This will allow anyone with a pickup truck
17 and a van to go to city hall, secure a
18 permit, and go out to the public and perform
19 electrical work. How do we know that these
20 so-called electricians are qualified? Where
21 do they get their training? How long do
22 they train for? Do they get upgrade -- do
23 they upgrade their training every year? Do
24 they have liability insurance? If a house
25 burns down people get killed are you,

1 Council, going to accept personal liability?
2 Do you have liability insurance for a
3 million dollars or more? What happens if
4 the family sues and wins, does the city take
5 responsibility? When a home or business in
6 the area burns down and they can't find a
7 cause for the fire what do they say? It's
8 electrical.

9 The license contractors who are
10 doing the work now and have taken and passed
11 tests have liability insurance and have gone
12 back to school each year to get their 12
13 CEU's to renew their license and are staying
14 educated in the newest technologies. These
15 contractors don't have to go to the
16 electrical supply houses or to a Home Depot
17 or Lowe's and ask questions on how to do
18 work. We have seen that numerous times.

19 There are apprenticeship programs,
20 local unions, international association of
21 electrical inspector associations, national
22 fire protection association. Career
23 Technology Center, Johnson College,
24 Penn-Tech where these people can go and get
25 trained and work for five years and gain

1 valuable experience and then test out and
2 become a qualified and responsible
3 contractor with liability insurance.

4 Does the Mayor of the City of
5 Scranton, the city electrical inspector, Mr.
6 Hinton or you, Council, have the courage to
7 go to a family and tell them that someone
8 died in a fire because of faulty electrical
9 work done by an unqualified electrician in
10 the city allowed to get a permit to do the
11 work? How can you live with yourself.
12 Please reconsider putting this definition
13 into the city ordinance. Thank you.

14 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Rick
15 Schraeder.

16 MR. SCHRAEDER: Rick Schraeder,
17 business manager of IBEW Local 81 in
18 Scranton. I want to thank the council for
19 the opportunity to speak and address you
20 here tonight. I'm also speaking on the
21 ordinance on a journey worker/contractor.
22 Although, I think it might have been
23 well-intended, I think it's very important
24 that the council has some information from
25 some professional who have been in the

1 business for decades and understand some of
2 the safety factors that are involved with
3 the wiring. And, although, residential
4 wiring I can understand the concept of
5 council, especially if they don't have a
6 thorough of the understanding of the
7 electrical industry and knowing how
8 everything need to done I can understand
9 their thinking well, it's a residential
10 property and possibly it doesn't need the
11 expertise that commercial and industrial
12 sites need. I would beg to differ and I
13 want to you just consider some of the things
14 that we are going to say.

15 The residential, if there is a
16 fire, a fire in the city, I think that you
17 would all agree most of them are residential
18 fires. There is very few that are in
19 commercial or industrial sites. Not to say
20 that can't happen, but most of the lives
21 that are lost by the residents of the City
22 of Scranton are in fires and residences. I
23 think that we have to be very vigilant on
24 what takes place where our families are
25 living, so I want you to consider this

1 ordinance and realize that safety is the
2 main factor that we are talking about here.

3 The fact that you would allow a
4 journeyman, and I'm not saying they are not
5 capable, I'm not saying there isn't people
6 out there that could do it, I feel confident
7 that are journeymen can do it, I think there
8 is a lot of other issues. I think that once
9 you opened that door, and when I say "ours"
10 that's because they go through a five-year
11 program. I'm sure there is other people out
12 there that didn't go through our program
13 that are still cable of doing it.

14 There is people that have their
15 electrical contractor license and they have
16 been here. I think that's a source of
17 revenue for the city. I think that it's
18 important for them to continue to make sure
19 that the contractors do that. The
20 contractors carry electrical -- or they
21 carry insurance for the jobs that they do.
22 I think that we need to step back and take a
23 look at that, that they are going to be
24 responsible. It's their business that's at
25 stake, it's not a guy that thinks he can

1 wire a receptacle or a switch going in and,
2 therefore, putting in that he knows how to
3 put a service in and he knows the proper
4 grounding and he knows the proper wiring
5 methods and techniques and circuitry and the
6 National Electrical Code.

7 The National Electrical Code, for
8 those of you that don't know, is the Bible
9 in the United States for electrical
10 installations. The prior speaker,
11 Mr. Casparro, we are fortunate to have him
12 in the city in the fact that is he the
13 Chairman of Code Panel No. 3, the National
14 Electrical Code. You open that book, he is
15 listed as the chairman. Them chairmanships
16 are usually reserved for people from
17 Westinghouse or General Electrical, but
18 because of his knowledge of the industry and
19 what he has done over the years, he was our
20 training director for many, many years and
21 he goes and updates his skills every year,
22 as our instructors do, so that they would be
23 able to be proficient and safe with what
24 they do out there.

25 I think that that's something that

1 we need to consider that we have people that
2 are not only qualified for doing it, but we
3 have people that are properly insured for
4 doing it. I don't think a contractor is
5 going to put his whole business at risk for
6 the sake of trying to circumvent getting
7 around some type of a license fee or getting
8 around something else that needs to be done,
9 so I think that we are going to open the
10 doors for people that maybe we don't want
11 wiring our houses, that's where our families
12 live, and I certainly know that each and he
13 every one of you care about your families
14 deeply, I know you care about this city.

15 So all I could do is to ask you to
16 please reconsider the safety factor and
17 what's going to take place, I don't want to
18 see the city or its residents compromised
19 for the sake of letting some other people go
20 out and pull permits that really don't have
21 a lot of skin in the game and they are going
22 to be able to go out and do electrical work
23 where we live and our families live. Please
24 consider this when you are taking this into
25 account, this ordinance. I want to thank

1 you for the time to speak here tonight and I
2 certainly asks that you do not pass this
3 ordinance. Thank you.

4 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Joan
5 Hodowanitz.

6 MS. HODOWANITZ: Joan Hodowanitz,
7 Scranton. Mr. Wechsler, I understand that
8 you have a seat on the Composite Pension
9 Board but your job prevents you from
10 attending the meetings, so Mrs. Reed attends
11 as your proxy, but you do receive a copy of
12 the monthly Mellon investment reports, have
13 you had a chance to look at the January
14 report in detail?

15 MR. WECHSLER: No, I have not.

16 MS. HODOWANITZ: You need to go back
17 and look at it, okay? Buried in a lot of
18 extraneous data in this month's report on
19 page 14 is a breakdown of asset values for
20 equities, bonds, and cash. As you should
21 you know, the market value at the end of
22 December was \$51,994,351. In January it
23 dropped to \$49,157,210.

24 Now, the line for cash has only one
25 item, US cash equivalence. It's a very

1 strange line because according to Mellon
2 this includes receivables, payables, and
3 accruals. Well, I don't know what version
4 of the GAP they use, but payables are not
5 part of cash equivalence in any universe
6 that I know, but be that as it may. US cash
7 equivalence in the end of December were
8 \$6,628,487 and at the end of January, one
9 month later, it dropped to a negative
10 \$350,413. That's a change of almost \$7
11 million or one-seventh of the entire fund.
12 What happened to that money?

13 Now, there might be a perfectly
14 logical explanation, but for the life of me
15 I can't imagine what it is, and I think this
16 is a red flag and you or your proxy at the
17 next meeting need to raise the hand and say,
18 "Excuse me, Mr. Mellon, what happened here?"

19 When the Mellon representatives give
20 their little briefing they don't like to
21 dwell on the negatives. This is one reason
22 why I think these kinds of documents should
23 be readily available to any member of the
24 general public who requests them.

25 And another document that we should

1 all get to know and love very carefully, the
2 2014 audit, which is now 270 days late.

3 This is from the 2013 audit, page 34. This
4 is a statement of fiduciary net position of
5 the pension trust fund. Total assets at the
6 end of 2013 \$49,125,183. Total liabilities,
7 if you could believe this, for the end of
8 the year, \$62,314.

9 Now, if you believe that I'm going
10 to sell you a bridge because you should know
11 that we are millions and millions and
12 millions of dollars in unfunded liability,
13 but that's never really explained in the
14 audit or in the note ten which goes on for
15 page after page. The only thing you will
16 find on page 68 of note is that at the
17 beginning of 2013, January 1, pension
18 benefit obligation, not liability,
19 obligation, a nice little word was
20 \$150,279,280. So the Governmental
21 Accounting Standards Board issues a
22 statement 67 and 68 effective 2014 and '15
23 in which they require municipalities and
24 pension plans to include a net pension
25 liability on their balance sheet. So you

1 are not going to see total liabilities of
2 \$62,000, you are going to see the actual
3 unfunded liability.

4 Now, that's one of the reasons why
5 I'm eager and breathlessly awaiting the 2014
6 audit because I want to see how SB & Company
7 approach this little gem as they slowly
8 slide into public disclosure of our
9 disaster. My bottom line is, as
10 representatives of the City of Scranton,
11 elected officials, you have a fiduciary
12 responsibility to look at these numbers with
13 a critical eye. If they confuse you, if you
14 don't understand these documents, get
15 yourself a student from the University of
16 Scranton and have them sit down with you,
17 get a University professor, you need to know
18 what these numbers mean, and I as a citizen
19 is going to keep asking the questions.
20 Thank you.

21 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Ron
22 Ellman.

23 MR. ELLMAN: Council. There is
24 someone that ought to be sitting up there
25 along with Andy and Marie and maybe Bob

1 Bolus and Doug, people that care. You
2 people are just turning your back on this
3 city.

4 Mr. Rogan, I saw in the paper that
5 you very concerned about the quality of life
6 for the residents, why aren't you concerned
7 about me and the people in the 2600 North
8 Main? Two years I have been complaining
9 about stuff. Nothing ever done. Let me
10 tell you, there is 19 houses, properties
11 along there, 19. Ten of them are retired
12 senior citizens and one died last -- two
13 weeks ago, two Thursday nights ago. Two of
14 them are for sale and one is an abandoned
15 piece of property and a couple of the other
16 others are younger people. You have turned
17 you your back on that whole street because
18 you have allowed one person to dictate how
19 it's going to be. You can pass a bill in 15
20 minutes to cut your grass or not have a
21 couch on the porch or hire Bulzoni but you
22 can't -- you refuse to address this lousy,
23 painted up Martin bread truck that effects
24 the whole neighborhood.

25 MR. ROGAN: I don't want to argue

1 with you about this, but you have been going
2 on for weeks --

3 MR. ELLMAN: No, you talk with I'm
4 done because I'm leaving when it's over to
5 watch Mr. Trump anyway.

6 MR. ROGAN: Well, doesn't your
7 neighbor make a living by driving that
8 truck? He drives truck for a living;
9 correct?

10 MR. ELLMAN: Yes.

11 MR. ROGAN: So how could we tell him
12 that he can't make a living?

13 MR. ELLMAN: We have been going over
14 this for two years. You people refuse to
15 address it and that's that. I told you in
16 April I'm going down, April 1 with an
17 attorney and ask for a reduction in my house
18 taxes and I guess the rest of the
19 neighborhood would do it when they see what
20 happens if I get turned down or no the.
21 That's the only way we can fight you people
22 because all you listen to is Amoroso to
23 raise taxes. We don't get nothing our
24 money. Nothing.

25 I get police, I'm happy with the

1 sanitation people, they do a good job, and
2 the firemen. I just mention Amoroso, he has
3 all of this say so and he is not a member of
4 the community, he doesn't pay taxes. Look
5 at Bulzoni. What has Amoroso done in what,
6 a year and a half? What has he done
7 positive for the city? What has Bulzoni
8 done? Tell me one thing he has done
9 positive for the city? What's Mayor
10 Courtright done something positive for the
11 city? See, silence is your answer.

12 Mr. Perry, last week you put your
13 arm around me and you said, "I'm going to
14 look into this big truck and see why it's
15 parked there and blah, blah, blah."

16 Nothing was done. Not a one of you
17 picked up a phone and asked the police to
18 put a citation on that truck and the police
19 told me that's all that needed to be done, a
20 policeman. It weighs 40,000 pounds, the
21 city code said over 15,000 pounds is not
22 allowed. The whole house ought to be
23 condemned. What you have done is allowed
24 somebody that rents a room to park I guess
25 it's a 25, 30 year-old big, dusty tractor on

1 a lawn, now it's a big filthy dirty mess and
2 the whole house is just terrible looking.
3 It's an eyesore for anybody that goes by
4 that.

5 Well, before I go watch Mr. Trump I
6 was informed, somebody said they believe
7 that Scranton -- I mean, that Pennsylvania
8 has the second highest water rate in the
9 country or maybe it was Scranton. Anyway,
10 the way that the oil companies are sucking
11 up water from every stream and lake and
12 reservoir in the state for their oil wells
13 we'll be buying water from other states in
14 the near future. This was somebody
15 associated with the business. Can you
16 imagine what our water bill is going to be?
17 Then with the surcharges can you imagine
18 what the Sewer Authority is going to be if
19 you are ridiculous enough to let it go?
20 They just need -- you got thousands of
21 people have lost their homes in the last
22 eight of 10 years. Thousands. And I don't
23 guess most of them stayed around to see how
24 the city is going to carry on without them.

25 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you,

1 Mr. Ellman.

2 MR. ELLMAN: Sir?

3 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you very much.

4 MR. ELLMAN: All right. I'll go
5 watch -- you tell me to shut up and sit
6 down, you can tell me to shut up and go out
7 the door right now. I'll go watch
8 Mr. Trump. Get some education. You people
9 aren't helping this city.

10 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you,

11 Mr. Ellman.

12 MR. ELLMAN: You are the demise of
13 this city.

14 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Ellman, you had
15 your time. Thank you. Is there anyone else
16 who would like to address council?

17 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,
18 citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians, I
19 enjoyed the little talk from the building
20 trades, but we all know the main reason for
21 you even bringing that piece of legislation
22 up was money. You want more people to come
23 down and get permits. Would a few homes
24 burn up extra? Well, so what? We got our
25 permit money in from all of these other guys

1 coming. It has nothing -- you don't know
2 what an apprentice program is for the
3 electrician. It's a five-year program, and
4 that's just to become an apprentice before
5 you become a journeyman.

6 I'm an elevator mechanic, okay? I
7 have 40 years in solving elevators. That
8 was my job. I applied by the Codes from the
9 state, thank God. The state oversee
10 whatever I done, but I don't know where you
11 are coming from. That money you are getting
12 from that extra permits can't be that much.
13 How much do you think it's going to be, a
14 million dollars? But if the electricians
15 are right and you endangering people that
16 money isn't worth it, that becomes blood
17 money, and I would never want to have that
18 on my conscience. Maybe I'm little more
19 sensitive than everyone else because I took
20 pride in my work. I took pride in my
21 country, I took pride in a lot of things,
22 but my biggest thing now is trying to bring
23 pride back to the city.

24 This council, last council, way back
25 when, when Mr. Doherty first come and

1 changed the bidding process, now you are
2 going back to the same thing, but I can't --
3 Mr. Rogan, I don't understand you. You were
4 there when all of them debts that wasn't
5 paid in from them non-bidder contracts were
6 on the books, why would you go back to the
7 same situation that put us in trouble then?
8 I don't quite understand it. Why do you
9 think Janet changed that, because she loved
10 to change it or she wanted to get extra
11 money to the Scranton Times? You think she
12 did it to make the Times a little richer or
13 to make the city a little more
14 accountability?

15 She tried to bring accountability to
16 the city. You don't have no accountability.
17 People do not believe in you. I don't care
18 what you think, they do not believe in you.
19 Just go out and ask them. Ask them why you
20 would take a \$10,000 bid and double before
21 it has to come before you. Why? It smells
22 of a cover up. It comes to cover up, like,
23 well, let's take the streetlight down there
24 in Parker Street that we gave a contract
25 for, how many more contracts are we going to

1 give out for that to say the light goes on
2 yes and off. Red, yellow, green, but we
3 needed to send somebody down there and spend
4 \$5,000 to tell that.

5 Now you got another person that got
6 a contract to tell you to put the cans in
7 the red containers and the cans for bottles,
8 the garbage in the other container, but we
9 needed a contract for that, too, because
10 people don't quite understand what is red
11 and what is blue. I don't quite understand
12 the way we need contracts for. I'm sure
13 somebody down there in the DPW could tell
14 the people what container to use for what
15 product for throw away.

16 This is what's wrong with this city.
17 Simple things that we could do we have been
18 given contracts for. Why do we give out
19 contracts? Contributions come back. If one
20 of make a study of all of the contracts you
21 came out and who paid what to what
22 politicians campaign I think it would come
23 back.

24 I would looked at Mayor Doherty, I
25 had all of his contributions and at that

1 time more money came from outside of the
2 city than inside of the city. That was a
3 red flag. Everybody should have known that.
4 And this is how we are going back to. I was
5 the one that said that give the mayor a
6 higher salary, I believe that. I believe
7 what you get paid for, but I can see we are
8 going to be in real, real trouble. Thank
9 you.

10 MR. ROGAN: Before the next speaker
11 I want to clear something up regarding the
12 contractor licenses, with these changes it
13 doesn't mean that anyone can go down and get
14 a permit. There still are regulations in
15 place and this is reading right from the
16 legislation. It says, "The applicant must
17 produce their W-2 forms for four years of
18 employment under a master contractor."

19 So it's not like any one of us up
20 here who doesn't work in these fields could
21 go and get a permit and begin to work.
22 There are still requirements that need to be
23 met.

24 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you.

25 MS. SCHUMACHER: Marie Schumacher.

1 Before I leave the podium this evening I
2 will be giving Jamie, for council, she can
3 either copy it for each of you, but I do
4 suggest that you read it, although, I think
5 you probably already have the full copy in
6 the office and others around the -- around
7 the building. The title of it, after all of
8 the questions I have been asking, it is the
9 City of Scranton and Scranton Sewer
10 Authority Storm Water Management System
11 Review. It's both the municipal sanitary
12 sewer system and the combined system.

13 Now, anyone who doesn't understand
14 that water, storm water is a big issue in
15 the City of Scranton probably wasn't out and
16 about last night. Storm water issues are
17 requiring resolution -- requiring resolution
18 are abundant and effect the quality of life
19 due to some storm water flooding and damage.
20 For others, storm water is a big issue for
21 all property owners and the Scranton Sewer
22 Authority ratepayers as dealing with storm
23 water takes money, in many cases lots of
24 money. Given the American Water's proposal
25 did not include storm water, at least three

1 alternatives seem possible. Either the city
2 contracts with American Water to assume the
3 MS-4 management or we did it in-house or we
4 reject the sale and allow the Sewer
5 Authority to function per the long-term
6 control plan and transfer the MS-4 permit to
7 them, which is what the recommendation and
8 report was.

9 All options involve extracting more
10 fees from property owners unless any of you
11 are able to provide another alternative. I
12 doubt that you can. Property owners need to
13 know which alternative each of you supports.
14 So next week I will give part of my five
15 minutes to have each of you tell me what
16 your option of choice is for dealing with
17 the storm water after you review the
18 materials I'm providing here tonight.

19 Until such time as this
20 administration decides to provide some
21 transparency to what they have up their
22 sleeve, I favor rejecting the American Water
23 sale, but I'm open to partial lease and
24 certainly some light on what they are about.
25 The first question that needs answering is

1 whether it is legally possible for the city
2 to transfer the MS-4 permit to a private
3 entity, albeit one that is accountable to
4 the Public Utility Commission. The next
5 question is which entity would be more
6 responsive to ratepayers' storm water
7 issues, a private corporation or a municipal
8 authority?

9 According to the report which was
10 issued on the 31st of October, 2013, the
11 MS-4, which again is the sanitary storm
12 water, makes up 37 percent of the entire
13 system and the Scranton Sewer Authority
14 currently owns all of the infrastructure.
15 If the MS-4 management is brought in-house
16 would the city have to buy back the 37
17 percent from the Sewer Authority or will it
18 be transferred free of charge?

19 Per the report, the Sewer Authority
20 has an extensive mapping system for the CSS,
21 again, the storm water portion of the
22 system, or the combined, but the MS-4
23 remains unmapped. How is it possible to
24 transfer something for which no map exists?
25 Could this mapping be accomplished prior to

1 the planned execution of the sale and if so
2 at what price? We need those answers.

3 Now, again, from the report, while
4 the City lacks in capacity and
5 organizational structure to handle storm
6 water management activities, the Sewer
7 Authority has been playing a major role in
8 assisting with the maintaining, assisting
9 with, and maintaining the functions of the
10 storm water system. A decision on the MS-4
11 permit home is sorely needed. If the permit
12 stays with the city we need a budget for
13 personnel and equipment required and an
14 estimate of the annual value of what the
15 assistance from the sewer authority has been
16 because we are going to have to provide it.

17 May I finish? Thank you. We also
18 would need to quantify in dollars the MS-4
19 assist as it should be removed from the
20 current rate and the reduced rate should
21 form the basis for the 10 year 1.9 increase.
22 Otherwise, we are paying twice. If the
23 permit is transferred, we need to know how
24 much this will cost the ratepayers. It
25 would appear a storm water user fee, as

1 recommended in the report, is a given, but
2 we need details and we need it now. October
3 is fast approaching and you have a lot of
4 other items coming up and this is an
5 important issue. There are still a lot of
6 projects that need to be done. I'm going to
7 give one to the Scranton Times, I hope that
8 they will start digging into this and making
9 some comments. Thank you.

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

12 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening, Council.
13 Dave Dobrzyn, resident and taxpayer. On
14 that pension issue, once again we are paying
15 excessive taxes over Wall Street and their
16 bailouts. We are bailing out Wall Street
17 because they don't want to return the money
18 and that's why they were given the bailout
19 was to return the money to the accounts that
20 lost money. There is a \$26 million deficit
21 between what they -- in our account because
22 of Wall Street and who knows that should
23 have earned a lot of money and held the
24 economy since then.

25 When I mentioned about nobody going

1 to prison, I don't mean some local persons,
2 some council person or a mayor, I mean
3 people on Wall Street that are responsible
4 for this rip off and I'm fed up with it and
5 I'm tired of it. Time to start voting
6 accordingly.

7 On the trash, once again, we need a
8 conversion barrel. I'm going to have start
9 taking some pictures around the
10 neighborhood, and I don't walk really far
11 anymore because the doctor told me, my
12 podiatrist told me he'd nickname me stumpy
13 if I don't behalf myself, but, I mean, it's
14 just the atrocious and bags are unacceptable
15 whether they are a reduced rate or they are
16 paying a whole \$300 a year.

17 Also, last week it just slipped my
18 mind and I must be getting old, but it was
19 Spring Brook trash that the firemen up on
20 East Mountain were complaining about, people
21 coming from Spring Brook throwing things.
22 Like, the one day they said there was a car
23 axel up there, a whole big axel. They went
24 to a fire, came back, the building was empty
25 and there was a car axel. They could have

1 probably got a probably pennies at the junk
2 yard anyway, stupid jerks.

3 And, also, a little another thing on
4 recycling. Yesterday, I think it was, on
5 the news they had a case that the garbage
6 truck caught fire and they had to dump out
7 in the middle of the street to get the fire
8 out and no word of lie at least 50 percent
9 of that truck was cardboard, recyclable
10 cardboard so we are paying to have it thrown
11 away when we could actually be getting a
12 grand.

13 And a thought came to me when people
14 come up and holler and they accuse me of
15 national concerns but these trade packs have
16 everybody to a point where there is no money
17 to spend, so that's where the stores are
18 empty, full of goods but empty. It's just
19 the exact opposite of what we had in Russia
20 and the USSR during the great -- they called
21 it the great stagnation during the Brezhnev
22 period people would stand in lines for bread
23 for hours or whatever and we have all of the
24 bread we need, but no bread to buy it with
25 so call your congressman.

1 And when Ron comes up and hollers a
2 lot, maybe we should get somebody from the
3 Lung association over there and see what all
4 of that diesel fumes and stuff in his house
5 does to him. You know, if some of these
6 people run around and they want to turn the
7 ballpark into a no smoking stadium and it
8 used to be an all-purpose stadium before all
9 of the financial trouble with the Red
10 Barons, we kicked out the old foggie and his
11 stogie, we could had just an area where the
12 old foggie could have went and seen the game
13 and, you know, I have to question open air
14 smoking with our city parks. I just have to
15 question that. I don't think it should be
16 going on in the playground or in a swimming
17 pool or something like that, so they have my
18 blessing with putting signs up there, I'm
19 all for it, but don't tell me that somebody
20 a hundred yards away from a playground
21 having a cigarette is some kind of
22 hellacious risk to anybody. I don't mean to
23 be mean about that because basically I'll
24 tell you what, I voted for everybody up
25 there, so I want you to succeed so I don't

1 feel foolish. Thank you and have a good
2 night.

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

6 MS. REED: FIFTH ORDER. 5-A.
7 MOTIONS.

8 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Perry, do you
9 have any motions or comments this evening?

10 MR. PERRY: Yeah, just two. The
11 first one is for Mr. Ellman before you get
12 your coat on and sneak out the back door on
13 me. I did take a drive over the next day to
14 take a look at that truck. I didn't see it
15 there at the time, but I did forward the
16 address onto the Scranton Police Department
17 to take a drive by and look to see if there
18 is any infractions that they could address.
19 They didn't get back to me so I don't know
20 what or anything they saw, but I will be
21 sure and follow-up on that. I don't want
22 you to think that that hug was an empty hug.
23 It absolutely was not.

24 And the second thing, to speak to
25 about the agenda tonight about the

1 journeymen, I know the two gentlemen in the
2 back brought it up, I will vote to send it
3 to Seventh Order tonight, but I will reserve
4 the right, of course, to change my mind
5 going forward it. Something that as I was
6 reading on and on, what concerns me I want
7 to make sure of the City's intent for
8 bonding, you know, insurance. Anybody who
9 does work in the city should be insured and
10 I want to make sure that's -- that should be
11 a stipulation. I know it's a stipulation
12 with master license and contractors, so if a
13 journeyman has the qualifications, and I
14 believe the qualifications we are asking for
15 are four years of W-2's and work under
16 master contractor, master licensed, and a
17 letter of recommendation and that just shows
18 us that they have the skill, but skill alone
19 shouldn't necessarily entitle you to work on
20 someone's house because now you become a
21 business and that should be insured and
22 that's some -- I just want to make sure that
23 the city is really wrapping their head
24 before we go ahead so that's something I do
25 want to take a look at. I don't think it's

1 anything that I do believe the license and
2 the item is well and it's really put forth
3 to the city in a good way, but as of right
4 now that's a sticking point that I want to
5 look into further. That's all I have.

6 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you.

7 Mr. Rogan?

8 MR. ROGAN: Yes. Just to echo on
9 what Mr. Perry said, I spoke on this last
10 week and obviously there have to be controls
11 in place, not anybody could go down to city
12 hall to get the permits to do, you know, to
13 do contracting work. From the presentation
14 that Mr. Hinton gave us and reading through,
15 I do feel confident that this legislation is
16 good. It opens up the market and increases
17 competition, which will reduce prices for
18 those seeking construction services.

19 I do agree with Mr. Perry though
20 that, you know, on the insurance end, that
21 is a concern, that's something I agree that
22 we do need to take a look at and it's
23 something within the next week I think we
24 should get an answer from Mr. Hinton on.

25 Onto other items, a bit of very good

1 news actually, if you recall, I think it was
2 probably or four or five months ago now
3 council -- we had a caucus with Denny
4 Gallagher, director of DPW, and John Pocius,
5 our city engineer, regarding street paving
6 in the city and because of the fact that
7 Penn-DOT was doing so much paving at that
8 time you couldn't get a fair price. There
9 were only a couple of bidders. I am pleased
10 to report that on the rebid which was done
11 there were a number of bidders, I believe it
12 was six bidders, where in the past some of
13 these phases only had one bidder, and the
14 breakdown if the city had gone through and
15 done this paving project when the initial
16 plan was, the lowest bids of all three
17 phases totaled a little over \$2.6 million.
18 By waiting and rebidding the current cost
19 for this exact same project is 2.2 -- about
20 \$2.3 million. The savings is actually
21 \$349,499.14 so that's a very significant
22 savings by waiting and rebidding this
23 project to a time where we could have more
24 competition.

25 So I did speak to the mayor

1 regarding the paving list. It does appear
2 that the entire list can be completed with
3 these lower bids. If we had to pay the
4 higher amount either the city would have had
5 to remove streets from this paving list or
6 we would have had to use other funding
7 sources to do that as well. In addition to
8 this paving project, which has been on the
9 books for quite awhile, the OECD paving list
10 was put out to bid and that is going to be
11 focused on North Scranton, a number of
12 streets, ten streets actually, partial of
13 Main Avenue, School Street, Edna Avenue,
14 William Street, Margaret Avenue, Golden
15 Avenue, Partridge Avenue, Spring Street,
16 Belmont Terrace, Farview Street as well as
17 18 stops on the curb cuts will be paved this
18 year, and I want to thank Tom Preambo from
19 OECD. He actually not only provided a map
20 that highlighted the streets, and looking on
21 the map it is a tight little area so almost
22 that whole neighborhood will have new
23 updated streets and I know this part of town
24 in North Scranton there is a lot of problems
25 with potholes and problems with our streets

1 which is prevalent all throughout the city,
2 but these two paving projects will do a lot
3 to help the city and I really have to
4 commend Denny Gallagher, our DPW director,
5 and our city engineer, John Pocius, for
6 presenting the option of delaying this
7 project to us and pushing forward with it.
8 Although we wish the streets were paved,
9 certainly saving \$350,000 and being able to
10 pave even more streets was well worth it so
11 I'd like to thank them as well as the
12 administration for their foresight on this
13 issue, and that is all. Thank you.

14 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you.

15 Mr. Evans?

16 MS. EVANS: Thank you. First of
17 all, I'd like to thank the gentlemen from
18 the IBEW that came tonight. You certainly
19 made your case, gave us a lot to think
20 about. I'm going to ask Director Hinton for
21 sure, you know, to give some clarification
22 on the journeymen definition because I think
23 there is some issues here we need to address
24 and it's something that was well thought out
25 by you guys and I really appreciate that you

1 came tonight.

2 On another front, there was a recent
3 article in the Scranton Times about the
4 current state of Scranton's municipal
5 pensions points to a larger issue. There is
6 a systemic and cultural divide that has been
7 in the making for generations. During that
8 time, the goose that laid the golden egg has
9 lot since passed away and the money tree has
10 been cut down and the stump has been
11 removed. Our taxpayers are no longer able
12 to foot the bill, yet, there are those that
13 simply have not gotten the memo. We have no
14 money, yet we are left fighting back
15 lawsuits and double pensions and not because
16 money is to be given back but because
17 certain individuals want to continue those
18 double pensions forever. We are left
19 fighting retirees for pay increases to their
20 pensions, not because they don't deserve
21 them, but because we have pension plans that
22 are among the worst in the state. We are
23 left to fight one of the uniform unions to
24 determine if they have to wait until age 55
25 to retire or they can retire any time

1 because of a clerical error that city
2 council has since corrected.

3 All of these actions are different
4 and unique in their own way but in other
5 another way they are all the same. They
6 stem from the same culture that brought us
7 \$5.2 million annually in disability pension
8 payments, ten times the average of cities
9 our size across the state. It's the same
10 culture that has brought us workmens' comp
11 claims five times the average of cities our
12 size across the state. It's the same
13 culture that seems to fight pension reform
14 at every turn, reform that can ultimately
15 save their own pensions. Yet, I'm baffled
16 by the silence from those impacted the most,
17 the many great employees who are paying into
18 a system that is a broken. Why aren't they
19 demanding reform?

20 Also, I have implored the mayor for
21 over 18 months to become more engaged with
22 pension reform. You just can't occasionally
23 pop in and pop out in this situation like
24 Groundhog Day. In many respects it should
25 be priority one. And then there is a lack

1 of inaction from Harrisburg where they seem
2 to be incapable of even negotiating a budget
3 never mind happening tackling the heavy
4 lifting that's needed for municipal pension
5 reform. So if we don't find a way to get to
6 the table soon and put this cultural divide
7 behind us and begin the real work of pension
8 reform together then our destiny may be just
9 simply receivership and/or bankruptcy. We
10 have outrun this for many decades and we may
11 be able to outrun this a little bit longer,
12 but I am certain we can no longer hide and
13 run from the truth. That's all I have
14 tonight. Thank you.

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

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, just a few items.
18 First of all, I'd like to thank
19 Mr. Schraeder and Mr. Casparro for coming
20 tonight and giving their comments and I'm
21 going to take them into serious
22 consideration. I think we need to work
23 closely with our building trades and I would
24 like to meet with you two gentlemen next
25 week before the final vote so we can discuss

1 your concerns further so I thank you again
2 for coming tonight.

3 Mr. Rogan mentioned the OECD spring
4 paving project. Also of note, there are 18
5 stop sign in the North Scranton area where
6 the streets will be paved that will be
7 replaced as part of this project, which I
8 think is it very important.

9 I'd like to take a minute to
10 acknowledge a gentlemen from Hemlock Street
11 Bernie Ott in South Side who donated a
12 basketball hoop to the city this week. I
13 met with him this week and got in contact
14 with our Parks and Rec Department who agreed
15 to pick it up so I thank him very much.

16 I would like to spend a moment and
17 talk about a meeting that myself and
18 Councilmen Evans had with a representative
19 from the Friends of Lackawanna this week who
20 is fighting the expansion of the landfill
21 and I'm extremely concerned by the
22 information that we were provided and I'd
23 like to take a minute and read a summary of
24 the events that have taken place.

25 On separate occasions, Keystone

1 Sanity Landfill has admitted to discharging
2 treated leachate down the Greenridge sewer
3 line, including the night of the solvent,
4 foul odor incident September 24, 2015. Such
5 discharges violate the landfill's waste
6 water discharge permit issued by the
7 Scranton Sewer Authority in March 2012
8 that's good through March 2017. The Sewer
9 Authority permit only allows the landfill to
10 discharge its treated leachate through the
11 dedicated line. The landfill and Sewer
12 Authority have unilaterally -- or the Sewer
13 Authority seems to have unilaterally changed
14 the permit on December 17, 2015, after the
15 odor incident in Greenridge to allow the
16 landfill to discharge the treated leachate
17 down the Greenridge line as well, and this
18 appears to be a violation of the waste water
19 permit and settlement agreement with local
20 residents from 1990 in the City of Scranton,
21 which is very concerning.

22 Just to give a little background on
23 this, back in the late 1980's Scranton City
24 Council and residents strongly objected to
25 the flow of leachate through the Greenridge

1 combined sewer overflow lines because it was
2 more likely for leachate to overflow
3 directly into the Lackawanna river, back up
4 into resident's home or for toxins and
5 smells to reach residents above grade. The
6 landfill sued the city citing a 1987 letter
7 from the Sewer Authority and in 1990 a
8 settlement agreement was reached which lead
9 to the construction of the sewer line that
10 was not combined sewer overflow and
11 dedicated only to landfill leachate. This
12 dedicated line runs through Spordville,
13 Bunker Hill and the Hill section and onto
14 the Sewer Authority treatment plant.

15 Because part of the line is up hill,
16 it has to be pumped where as the Greenridge
17 line is gravity fed. We have asked our
18 solicitor to review the settlement agreement
19 and the landfill's waste water discharge
20 permit, which as I mentioned was changed on
21 December 17, 2015, to determine whether or
22 not the landfill is in violation of the 1997
23 settlement agreement with the City of
24 Scranton.

25 And I would also ask once we find

1 out information from our solicitor that a
2 letter be sent to the Sewer Authority, DEP
3 and NEPA inquiring as to why this discharge
4 permit was allowed to be changed to allow
5 leachate to run through the Greenridge line.
6 I also would like to know who monitors the
7 Greenridge line and what happens when a
8 permit is violated. How does the Sewer
9 Authority know when an unpermitted line is
10 used and how much leachate is sent down and
11 how often. These are questions that have
12 been raised in the past and I think we need
13 answers.

14 I continue to have serious concerns
15 about leachate running through Greenridge
16 and the question of whether or not the
17 landfill should be allowed to expand. In my
18 opinion, these are two of the most
19 significant issues facing our city and our
20 region. Will we continue to be a dumping
21 ground for out-of-state trash? Will the
22 landfill become a symbol for our region? I
23 will always believe that the health, safety,
24 and welfare of our residents should come
25 first. So hopefully when our solicitor is

1 back next week we will have an answer on
2 some of those issues.

3 Mrs. Reed, have we received any
4 responses from Mayor Courtright in regards
5 to the correspondence that this council sent
6 last week?

7 MS. REED: No.

8 MR. GAUGHAN: I have to admit that I
9 continue to be dismayed by the lack of
10 communication and cooperation from Mayor
11 Courtright on serious issues that face our
12 city and legitimate questions and concerns
13 that this council has. When the mayor ran
14 for office, he promised to be the sixth
15 council person yet he rarely interacts with
16 us or answers any questions that we have.
17 We desperately need leadership in this city.
18 Two years ago I asked who was fighting for
19 the City of Scranton? The question still,
20 in my opinion, remains unanswered. It's
21 becoming very clear on many issues, some of
22 which Councilman Evans brought up that Mayor
23 Courtright would rather follow than lead.
24 Thank you.

25 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you,

1 Mr. Gaughan. Just to follow up on some of
2 the comments that Mr. Gaughan made, since
3 September city council has really taken the
4 lead for the city in regards to these issues
5 with both the smell and the leachate and
6 actually the tire fire in downtown Scranton.
7 We have been in communication with DEP, we
8 have been in communication with the Sewer
9 Authority, and right after the fact that
10 this information was received by Mr. Gaughan
11 and Mr. Evans we did instruct our solicitor,
12 Mr. Minora, to begin investigating his end
13 why he could find out what the simple phone
14 call. He has reached out to some of these
15 parties that were involved in this suit and
16 we are going to wait to hear back from him
17 and report -- wait for his report to us as
18 to see where we would go from here, but I am
19 proud the work with city council has done
20 since last September in taking the lead on
21 this issue and we will continue to take the
22 lead on this issue because it's very
23 important to our community.

24 In regards to some of the comments
25 Mr. Rogan made about the paving, when I sit

1 here and I listen to our speakers and they
2 ask what good has any of you done, I think
3 right now we can point to the fact that this
4 paving program is going to take place in
5 2017. People that -- '16, I'm sorry.
6 People that have been in a hurry just to get
7 something done who have let the contract out
8 last year and left some of the streets off
9 but I think the leadership provided by
10 council, the administration and
11 Mr. Gallagher and Mr. Pocius demonstrated
12 the fact that we are working smart currently
13 and getting more bang for our buck so the
14 program in 2016 will be a great success
15 because of our due diligence I believe.

16 Tonight Mr. Schraeder and
17 Mr. Casparro were here and based upon the
18 meeting that I had with them earlier this
19 last week part of our goal in this new
20 contractor registration was to reach out to
21 the building trades to get their comments
22 and input on the this new legislation. I
23 appreciate you coming tonight, they had
24 expressed these concerns to me earlier, but
25 I did encourage them to come to council and

1 get them on the public record. Now they are
2 out in the open and we do want to get some
3 answers from Mr. Hinton in terms of further
4 definitions and protections for our citizens
5 in this new legislation, especially
6 concerning the liability insurance that I
7 think is one of the main issues so I do
8 appreciate your comments and we are going to
9 work towards addressing those in the
10 legislation.

11 This week we were informed that the
12 city is going to receive a grant from the
13 Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board in the
14 amount of around \$38,600. It is my idea to
15 take that money as it comes in and apply it
16 to perhaps the program where we purchased
17 new stop signs for the neighborhoods. We
18 have received several complaints in our
19 neighborhoods about faded and old stop
20 signs.

21 Mrs. Reed spoke to Director
22 Gallagher today and he is of the opinion,
23 and I agree with him, that instead of
24 rehabilitating signs he is going to evaluate
25 how many stop signs we can purchase with

1 this type of grant, and I do believe that
2 this is the type of money that is better
3 spent on a specific program than entering
4 the general fund where it just becomes part
5 of the general fund. So we will be
6 reviewing that information and we'll let you
7 know how we make out with that.

8 I do want to thank Marie Schumacher
9 for her due diligence in her presentation
10 this evening on the storm water management
11 plan, but I've got to tell you right now I
12 will not be ready to answer any questions in
13 regard to the storm water management plan.
14 Right now the situation with the sale of the
15 Sewer Authority, all of the information
16 rests with the Sewer Authority. The Sewer
17 Authority is handling the whole sale.
18 Currently right now the information has not
19 been released to us concerning the storm
20 water management plan as it's going to fit
21 into the system so personally I will review
22 the information that you provided, but I
23 will not be offering an opinion next week on
24 the storm water management plan until we can
25 see all of the information that's received

1 as this process goes on. And that's all I
2 have this evening. Thank you.

3 MS. REED: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION -
4 AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL
5 NO. 108, 2015, AN ORDINANCE (AS AMENDED)
6 ENTITLED "AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.
7 14, 2010, ENTITLED AN ORDINANCE "AMENDING
8 THE ADMINISTRATIVE CODE OF THE CITY OF
9 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, SECTION 6-14
10 CONTRACTS, SUBSECTION (A) TO REDUCE THE
11 AMOUNT ABOVE WHICH COMPETITIVE BIDDING IS
12 REQUIRED FROM \$20,000.00 TO \$10,000.00 AND
13 TO REDUCE THE AMOUNT ABOVE WHICH QUOTES MUST
14 BE OBTAINED FROM \$5,000.00 TO \$4,000.00" TO
15 INCREASE THE AMOUNT ABOVE WHICH COMPETITIVE
16 BIDDING IS REQUIRED FROM \$10,000.00 TO
17 \$19,400.00 AND TO INCREASE THE AMOUNT FROM
18 WHICH QUOTES MUST BE OBTAINED FROM \$4,000.00
19 TO \$10,500.00 TO BE IN LINE WITH
20 COMMONWEALTH STANDARDS AND OTHER SIMILARLY
21 SITUATED MUNICIPALITIES WITH REGARD TO
22 BIDDING THRESHOLD" TO CORRECT A
23 TYPOGRAPHICAL ERROR IN THE NOW THEREFORE
24 CLAUSE BY CHANGING THE AMOUNT FROM WHICH
25 QUOTES MUST BE OBTAINED FROM \$4,000.00 TO

1 \$10,500.00 TO \$10,500.00 TO \$19,399.99.

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

5 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

6 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

10 MR. PERRY: Aye.

11 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

12 MR. EVANS: Aye.

13 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

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

17 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.
18 10, 2016 - AN ORDINANCE - REPEALING FILE OF
19 COUNCIL NO. 52, 2006, AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED
20 "AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 155, 1999
21 TO CHANGE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR TAKING THE
22 MASTER ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR'S LICENSE EXAM
23 AND TO CHANGE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR TAKING
24 THE MASTER PLUMBERS LICENSE EXAM."

25 MR. WECHSLER: You've heard reading

1 by title of Item 6-A, what is your pleasure?

2 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-A
3 pass reading by title.

4 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

7 MR. PERRY: Aye.

8 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

9 MR. EVANS: Aye.

10 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

13 MS. REED: 6-B. READING BY TITLE -
14 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 11, 2016 - AN
15 ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.
16 155, 1999 AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED "PROVIDING
17 FOR THE LICENSING AND REGULATING OF
18 CONTRACTORS DOING BUSINESS IN THE CITY OF
19 SCRANTON INCLUDING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE
20 GRANTING OF PERMITS AND FEES FOR SAME;
21 PROVIDING PENALTIES AND RIGHTS OF APPEAL" BY
22 ADDING AND DELETING DEFINITIONS, UPDATING
23 THE DEPARTMENT NAME AND DIRECTOR'S TITLE,
24 UPDATING APPLICATION FORMS, THE REQUIREMENTS
25 FOR CONTRACTORS LICENSE, LICENSE FEES,

1 ISSUANCE OF PERMITS, CONFORMANCE TO CODE,
2 REVOCATION, SUSPENSION, DENIAL, PROHIBITED
3 ACTS, STOP WORK, CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY
4 AND TEMPORARY CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY,
5 PERMIT FEES, INSPECTIONS, FINES FOR
6 VIOLATIONS AND APPEALS PROCEDURE AND
7 DELETION OF SECTIONS 17, 19, AND 22 IN THEIR
8 ENTIRETY.

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

12 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

13 MR. EVANS: Second.

14 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

15 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.
16 I am going to be voting "yes" for this
17 tonight just to move it into Seventh Order
18 next week for a final vote taking into
19 consideration Mr. Schraeder and
20 Mr. Casparro's comments tonight and
21 hopefully we will get together early next
22 week and have further discussions about your
23 concerns. Thank you.

24 MR. WECHSLER: Yes, I think we all
25 share the same opinion as Mr. Gaughan. All

1 those in favor signify by saying aye.

2 MR. PERRY: Aye.

3 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

4 MR. EVANS: Aye.

5 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

6 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The
7 eyes have it and so moved.

8 MS. REED: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. NO
9 BUSINESS AT THIS TIME.

10 MR. WECHSLER: If there is no
11 further business, I'll entertain a motion to
12 adjourn.

13 MR. ROGAN: Motion to adjourn.

14 MR. WECHSLER: Meeting adjourned.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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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