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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Wednesday, May 4, 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
(NOT PRESENT)
- TIM PERRY
- LORI REED, CITY CLERK
- JAMIE MARCIANO, 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. MARCIANO: Mr. Perry.

5 MR. PERRY: Here.

6 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

7 MR. ROGAN: Here.

8 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Evans.

9 MR. EVANS: Here.

10 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan. Mr.

11 Wechsler.

12 MR. WECHSLER: Here. Mr. Gaughan
13 was unable to attend tonight's meeting due
14 to a family issue.

15 MR. EVANS: I make a motion to
16 appoint Councilman Rogan as temporary
17 chairperson for at Committee on Public
18 Works.

19 MR. PERRY: Second.

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

22 MR. PERRY: Aye.

23 MR. EVANS: Aye.

24 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

25 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The

1 ayes have it and so moved.

2 Dispense with the reading of the
3 minutes.

4 MS. REED: THIRD ORDER. 3-A.
5 MINUTES OF THE SCRANTON-LACKAWANNA HEALTH &
6 WELFARE AUTHORITY'S ANNUAL REORGANIZATION
7 MEETING HELD JANUARY 21, 2016.

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

10 MS. REED: 3-B. AGENDA FOR THE BOARD
11 OF ZONING APPEALS MEETING TO BE HELD MAY 11,
12 2016.

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

15 MS. REED: 3-C. SINGLE TAX OFFICE
16 CITY FUNDS DISTRIBUTED COMPARISON REPORT
17 2016-2015 YEAR TO DATE APRIL 30, 2016.

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

20 MS. REED: 3-D. TAX ASSESSOR'S
21 REPORT FOR HEARING DATE TO BE HELD MAY 25,
22 2016.

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

25 Do any council members have

1 announcements at this time?

2 MR. PERRY: Yes, I have an
3 announcement. The Minooka Lions would like
4 me to remind everyone that they are taking
5 applications for their annual scholarship.
6 This scholarship is for anyone at any age as
7 long as they are currently in school at the
8 moment. They can apply more than once and
9 it can be a college, tech school, beauty
10 school, etcetera, as long as they are
11 currently enrolled. For details contact any
12 Lions member or applications are available
13 at Castaldi's market, Joyce's Cafe or
14 Diskin's saloon. Applications are due in
15 June, so don't delay.

16 And the Lions are also looking for
17 companies to sponsor this year's
18 scholarship. Anybody looking to sponsor a
19 scholarship contact Minooka Lions or any
20 Minooka Lions member send me an e-mail at
21 Tperry@scranton.com. That's all.

22 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Anyone
23 else?

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

1 MR. WECHSLER: Joan Hodowanitz.

2 MS. HODOWANITZ: Joan Hodowanitz,
3 resident and taxpayer. I'm not giving up on
4 the 2014 audit. I still have not seen it
5 posted to the City's website. The city has
6 had it since March 15 and if memory serves
7 today is May 4. I think that should be
8 posted to the website as soon as possible so
9 that citizens have a chance to view it other
10 than standing in the library or at the City
11 Clerk's desk.

12 Has SB & Company scheduled an exit
13 briefing yet on the audit?

14 MR. WECHSLER: There is not an exit
15 briefing scheduled but there is a
16 teleconference between myself, Mr. Evans and
17 Mr. Bulzoni and him.

18 MS. HODOWANITZ: Has a date been
19 scheduled for that?

20 MR. WECHSLER: Yes, May 23.

21 MS. HODOWANITZ: And after that,
22 would you be able to give some information
23 to the public about the audit?

24 MR. WECHSLER: Hopefully.

25 MR. HODOWANITZ: Will you be able to

1 publish a summary in the Times-Tribune of
2 the fiscal affairs for that year?

3 MR. WECHSLER: Hopefully. I have
4 never done it before, I don't believe it's
5 ever been done before so I'm not sure how
6 it's going to work.

7 MS. HODOWANITZ: Well, a few days
8 ago Newton Township and West Abington did
9 theirs so you might take a look at what they
10 published. Is there any information on when
11 the mayor might deliver his 2016 state of
12 the city address?

13 MR. WECHSLER: We have not heard
14 anything yet.

15 MS. HODOWANITZ: Because the one
16 last year was done on May 1 so we have hit
17 the year point. Oh, I saw the article in
18 the paper about the city is reconsidering
19 the garbage fee. Just to make sure people
20 feel really, really good about paying the
21 garbage fee I live in the Forum. Now, the
22 Forum is a nine story condo building, floors
23 two to nine comprise 80 apartments, and the
24 first floor has a number of commercial
25 units, we pay a private waste hauler

1 annually, and our annual contract is \$4,800.
2 So do the math and you figure out that we
3 pay far less than what the average citizen
4 pays for their trash hauling, and that
5 includes recycling, too.

6 The Globe Store that the county has
7 decided to buy and move into, does anybody
8 got an idea of what was the city's portion
9 of the tax revenue on that building?

10 MR. EVANS: The paper reported it
11 was around \$108,000.

12 MS. HODOWANITZ: 108,000. I don't
13 what anybody else thinks, but if I had to
14 guess if the property on Adams Avenue is
15 ever sold it will probably be sold to the
16 University of Scranton. If that happens, it
17 comes off the tax roles, so I don't think
18 that's a -- I don't think that was a wise
19 move at all.

20 And I saw the article in the paper
21 on the Scranton Parking Authority looking at
22 their challenges and changes, they were
23 supposed to have had a meeting last night
24 but it got cancelled, I'm not quite sure
25 when it's going to be rescheduled, but when

1 you read in the article it appears that
2 there is going to be a seven member board of
3 directors created to oversee the parking
4 assets after they are sold and Scranton is
5 going to get two or three seats on that
6 board and apparently the board is going to
7 do things like set rates, budgets, decide on
8 capital projects and the mayor's plan calls
9 for in DC to lease the assets for up to 40
10 years and in return pay a undisclosed
11 upfront fee to the city. I'm not quite
12 sure, you know, how all of this is going to
13 work out, but I'm getting a little tired of
14 all of these undisclosed fees and haven't
15 figured out what we are going to do with
16 storm water and we don't know what the role
17 of the third party administrator of the
18 pension funds is going to be. I have a
19 feeling, you know, that we are groping in
20 the dark here in many ways. I think a lot
21 of the citizens would like to know, you
22 know, we have been discussing the Parking
23 Authority for what two years since Mayor
24 Courtright came into office? You ought to
25 be closer to at least a ballpark figure of

1 what kind of money the city is going to get
2 for this deal and we already know according
3 to this article that parking rates are going
4 to go up, the meter rates are going to go
5 up, and they are going to standardize the
6 garage rates between 90 and 132 dollars per
7 month so more next week.

8 MR. WECHSLER: Albert Young.

9 MR. YOUNG: Good evening, gentlemen,
10 47 years of broken promises here. Two weeks
11 ago Elaine and I were here to update the
12 council about the Meadow Brook Creek problem
13 that we have in our backyard. At that time
14 we showed you an updated picture. The new
15 picture showed a small increase in the size
16 of the hole, a crater, by the way. Now,
17 last Friday afternoon Councilman Gaughan
18 paid us a visit, and let me tell you his
19 facial expression and his vocal expression
20 tells it all. There is a problem and the
21 picture does not show the problem and
22 Saturday morning, the following day, we had
23 a visit from a contractor that we have had
24 out a couple of times and this firm had been
25 recommended to us by Pace Construction to

1 give us a proposed estimate on repairs.
2 They actually walked into hole. The
3 property next door on the upper side has
4 they found an additional 20 feet of broken
5 conduit. The one side of the conduit is
6 totally broken away, the lid or the top has
7 a big crack in it. These people were told
8 then to not park their car as close as they
9 have been.

10 Now, this is not only a health
11 problem because of the stench of the former
12 sewer runoff in there, it's a safety hazard
13 because it's now getting to the point where
14 every rainstorm we have it gets bigger and
15 now because of everything it's an emergency
16 situation. There is an old adage, the
17 wheels of industry grind very slowly, but
18 now from our eyes the political arena is
19 moving in reverse. As you can see, 47 years
20 of broken promises.

21 We are asking all involved, every
22 politician that's involved, city, state,
23 local, whatever, to get involved and find
24 emergency funds to fix this problem ASAP.
25 This is a problem that is not going to go

1 away unless we get emergency monies to fix
2 the hole.

3 Now, lately, and I'm going back as
4 far as last Thursday or Friday it was
5 brought to my attention that back in 1991
6 former council signed a resolution and
7 Mr. Pocius, his name is on that resolution
8 to repair this conduit in it's entirety
9 after phase one was finished they gave a
10 resolution that was supposed to have given
11 them two years to get themselves together
12 and finish this project. Well, here we are
13 25 years later and need I say more.

14 Now, my wife and I sat in an
15 attorney's office this morning to find out
16 what can be done, should be done, and I
17 really do not want to drop \$3,500 for legal
18 fees to sue whomever is involved and I don't
19 think the city wants a problem like this
20 either. We are asking help from you folks
21 to get this thing and expedite it yesterday.
22 Not tomorrow, yesterday.

23 We are also asking that the rest of
24 council and the legal team here and the
25 reporter come out and visit and see what we

1 are talking about. This is a problem. A
2 big problem and, please, come out. I
3 really, really would like somebody to visit
4 and see what's going on out there. Until
5 you see it for yourself, and thank God Tom
6 Welby is here, he can vouch for whatever we
7 have been saying right along, he is the only
8 one that I can honestly say other than now
9 Bill Gaughan has really inspected this
10 property. I need help, we need help, and
11 our next door neighbor is going to need
12 help. We are talking about 60 feet of
13 conduit at this point between the two
14 property. Thank you, gentlemen.

15 MR. EVANS: Thank you.

16 MR. WECHSLER: Robert Bergman.

17 MR. BERGMAN: Thank you for
18 listening to me. I occupy the second half
19 of the home at 1713-1715 Wyoming Avenue. My
20 wife and I have lived there, raised our
21 family, our children and our grandchildren
22 visit for 41 years. Well, at least 40,
23 maybe 45 years, 45 years. When we first
24 moved in back in June of '71 there was a
25 hole in the backyard. We called the city

1 and Al Magnotta at that time sent someone
2 out, city workers, and they put a plate and
3 that plate is still intact. It's 45 years
4 later. For decades things were okay, but
5 now the same situation has deteriorated
6 further. Areas over the last couple of the
7 years have opened up. We have a hole. It's
8 now a huge hole. A child, person, a
9 motorcycle, pets, can fall into the hole.

10 We are not asking for a project we
11 are just asking that the current situation
12 be dealt with, be repaired. It's an
13 emergency. It's serious and going on for
14 years. The city under two different
15 administrations sent DPW people out. These
16 people came out and they put plants and they
17 put metal areas over the hole and the
18 situation was good. It was a Band-Aid,
19 everyone knew it was a Band-Aid but we
20 appreciated it. A couple of years ago you
21 guys came out. A year or so later they came
22 out because the hole kept getting bigger and
23 the steel coverings began to recede into the
24 hole.

25 So that we have a situation now

1 where there is a nothing that can be done
2 Band-Aid wise, nothing to cover, it's too
3 big. It's got to be repaired from the
4 inside out and that would take a certain
5 amount of time. It's not a big project. We
6 are not talking millions of dollars for the
7 whole neighborhood, we are talking one
8 property, the neighboring property and
9 people that looked at it they have indicated
10 probably a week, seven days, they are giving
11 estimates so that if you gentlemen saw the
12 area, whether you did anything or not, you
13 would realize it is an emergency, it's
14 serious and it's dangerous.

15 When it rains heavily it floods and
16 the water erodes the area. Sometimes the
17 water cops up and it goes into our basement
18 if it rains heavily. It's no fun getting up
19 at 2 or 3 o'clock in the morning after a
20 rainstorm hoping that the gas is not leaking
21 the electricity is not in jeopardy, we have
22 done that, I have done that. We wait for
23 the rain to stop, I go downstairs, woof,
24 okay, no problem today, no fire, no gas, see
25 what happens. Light rain is no problem.

1 Heavy rain is a disaster and it can be
2 life-threatening to us living there.

3 I saw a ferret come out one day and
4 that's kind of cute, and I said to my wife
5 -- we saw a ferret. I said, "Next time we
6 saw rats in backyard we will go out the
7 front door."

8 We don't own the property. It's not
9 our house but it is our home. We have been
10 there 45 years and we care about this and we
11 have nothing gained from what you guys do
12 except peace of mind in our home where, as I
13 said, we raised our family and we plan on
14 staying, but the thought of animals, rodents
15 coming out is a health issue and it's
16 serious problem.

17 So I'm asking that something be done
18 to deal with this immediate individual
19 particular problem confronting the two
20 properties, the 1713 and 1715 Wyoming
21 Avenue. Thank you.

22 MR. WECHSLER: Mrs. Reed, could you
23 please see if we could contact the
24 administration and contact them to see if
25 they can do an emergency declaration for

1 just the repair? When this conversation
2 started earlier this year, we heard huge
3 numbers for the total project that was going
4 to require the city to have a significant
5 amount of cash to put in the project, for
6 the whole project, so in this instance
7 perhaps maybe we could request if an
8 emergency declaration could be made by the
9 administration for just a temporary repair
10 for this place now. I understand there was
11 estimates, are there any dollar amounts that
12 you -- any dollar amounts that you have
13 heard yet?

14 MR. BERGMAN: I don't have that
15 because I'm not the owner. The owner
16 probably has that information because he
17 spoke directly to a -- few people speak to
18 me, I'm simply a tenant.

19 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Young, if you
20 have an estimate would you drop it off?

21 MR. YOUNG: As soon as I get the
22 estimate I will drop it off. I fully
23 expected to have it tonight but,
24 fortunately, I did not get it and I will
25 make copies for everyone. What they did say

1 one they were out we talking about 50 to 75
2 thousand dollars for approximately 60 feet
3 of repair.

4 MR. WECHSLER: So we'll request and
5 see if an emergency declaration can be made
6 for this project without having an impact on
7 any, you know, worsening the problem down
8 the line or impacting the potential -- the
9 larger project, that's also we don't want to
10 throw good money after bad but if it's
11 something we can do a emergency certificate
12 and get some relief we will pursue that.

13 MR. YOUNG: That's all I'm asking is
14 a repair until we get the whole situation
15 remedied down the road.

16 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you.

17 MR. YOUNG: Thank you.

18 MR. WECHSLER: Les Spindler.

19 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening,
20 Council. Les Spindler, city resident and
21 homeowner and taxpayer. President Wechsler,
22 what was the reason Councilman Gaughan
23 couldn't make it tonight?

24 MR. WECHSLER: He had a family
25 situation.

1 MR. SPINDLER: Oh, okay. Well, I
2 hope everything is okay because it seems
3 kind of convenient because last night I
4 received a phone call, if you go on Facebook
5 and if people want to look at it themselves
6 they can go to Lackawanna County and Beyond
7 and when you go on there you see a video of
8 Councilman Gaughan.

9 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Spindler, I would
10 like to stop you there because I'm not sure
11 if that's been proven or not.

12 MR. SPINDLER: Well, I saw it with
13 my other two eyes and so did many other
14 people who have seen it already.

15 MR. WECHSLER: I think that's your
16 opinion.

17 MR. SPINDLER: Pictures don't lie.
18 Anyway, I will address this when he is back
19 here and I just think in my own opinion it's
20 totally inappropriate for an elected
21 official to act that way. I will discuss it
22 face-to-face when he is here.

23 Back to something I have spoken
24 about for years and years the garbage fee.
25 I did see it already in the paper that the

1 city is looking into maybe lowering or
2 waiving it, as I have said for years I think
3 it's illegal and should be done away with.
4 The reason it was instated in the first
5 place was to pay off the tipping fees and I
6 saw in the paper the other day where he had
7 by the end of this year the tipping fees
8 will be paid off so I don't see any reason
9 why we need a garbage fee of any reason of
10 anyway. Whether it's per bag or a hundred
11 dollars or whatever. If the tipping fee is
12 paid off we shouldn't need a garbage fee.
13 We pay our property taxes for that. We
14 shouldn't have to pay any more to get our
15 garbage picked up. So hopefully this will
16 be ended by the end of the year.

17 Next thing paving, which I've been
18 speaking about for awhile, and I brought
19 this up, Luzerne Street, it's getting worse
20 by the minute and I think the utility or
21 whoever dug it up should be responsible to
22 repair that. That's one of the main
23 thoroughfares in the city, it's highly
24 traveled ever day and it's a mess.

25 MR. ROGAN: We have been in contact

1 with the utility, a number of us on council
2 have been and, unfortunately, they don't
3 answer to us the way the DPW would, but we
4 keep pushing the issue with them, and I
5 don't even drive on Luzerne Street, I take a
6 different road just because it's so bad and
7 with all the rain we had over the last week
8 it has gotten even worse.

9 MR. SPINDLER: I think these
10 utilities are totally out of control. They
11 are digging up streets, they don't repair
12 them correctly when they are done. I was
13 driving down Rebecca Avenue the other day,
14 and I forget what block it is, it was just
15 newly paved I saw for length of the block
16 two cuts and they were going to dig up the
17 whole street the length of the street. This
18 is ridiculous. You mean to tell me they
19 didn't know that they were going to dig it
20 up before it was paved? They are out of
21 control and they are ruining the streets of
22 this city. Something has got to be done
23 with these utilities.

24 Lastly, I was away for a weekend
25 attending a happy occasion, my daughter

1 graduated college, came back Monday with a
2 message on machine of people representing
3 the IRS telling me I was defrauding the IRS
4 out \$11,000. I listened to them for awhile
5 and they did have my attention, but finally
6 I hung up on them, but before I hung up they
7 said, "If you hang up on us there will be a
8 sheriff at your house in 45 minutes to
9 arrest you."

10 I called my accountant, he said it's
11 a scam. He said they get calls from a
12 couple of people of every day so if anybody
13 gets a call, I know that they said it was in
14 the paper, but I didn't see it, but if
15 anybody gets this call you can call the
16 Treasury Department at 1-800-366-4484. They
17 said there is not much they can do. I don't
18 know why they can't do anything because it's
19 a wireless caller, if they are using a cell
20 phone they should be able to track that and
21 they are not American people that are doing
22 this. The person talking I could barely
23 understand them. They had a heavy accent of
24 some descent, I don't know what it is, but
25 these people should hopefully they are

1 caught and locked up because they are trying
2 to extort money out of people and this is
3 wrong and they said -- my accountant said
4 they are mostly targeting elderly and the
5 elderly might be scared. You know, they
6 asked me how much could I get for my car if
7 I sell it, blah, blah, blah. The elderly
8 might go through with it and send these
9 people money. Hopefully these people are
10 caught and brought up on charges. That's
11 all I have tonight. Thank you for your
12 time.

13 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you,
14 Mr. Spindler. Bill Jackowitz.

15 MR. JACKOWITZ: Good evening, city
16 council, Jamie, stenographer, Lori, Amil.
17 Bill Jackowitz, South Scranton resident.
18 Well, first of all, I'm here with good news,
19 Luzerne Street has been paved. I just drove
20 down it about a half hour ago, 45 minutes
21 ago, it's been paved. They didn't do a very
22 good job but it has been paid, so that
23 should end that one hopefully.

24 MR. ROGAN: Now I can go back to
25 traveling Luzerne Street.

1 MR. JACKOWITZ: You can use Luzerne
2 Street, Pat, it's been paved.

3 Okay, garbage fees seems to be a
4 very popular subject tonight. The garbage
5 fee, somebody really needs to look into
6 because 300 bucks is a lot of money. I know
7 other areas probably pay more but, you know,
8 per bag and whatever, but, you know, that's
9 supposed to be paid out of our taxes.
10 That's what people pay taxes for. That's a
11 public service picking up the garbage, DPW,
12 plus it was only going to be for the tipping
13 fees and that should be done this year so
14 let's hope somebody really looks into that
15 seriously and does something about it and
16 maybe either eliminate it completely or
17 reduce it to a nominal fee of some sort, you
18 know, that the city can survive on because I
19 don't know, I just don't think it's right.
20 I don't know if it's legal or illegal, but I
21 don't think it's right at all.

22 Okay, basically -- oh, what
23 questions and problems can the citizens of
24 Scranton come to city council with and ask
25 for an answer to these questions so we can,

1 you know, maybe solve this problem that we
2 have had for years with people coming up
3 asking questions and never getting answers
4 and so on and so forth? You know, and as
5 far as letters, Right-to-Know letters, they
6 are almost useless because it could take six
7 months to a year to get an answer if you
8 ever get an answer so if we can find out
9 what questions city council can actually
10 answer and, you know, what problem areas you
11 as a city, as a legislative body actually
12 deal with so that the speakers will have a
13 better idea of what they can ask and what
14 they shouldn't ask, you know, so if someone
15 can work on that and maybe --

16 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Jackowitz, all of
17 the questions that are made are to us and to
18 get back and referred back to the
19 administration, actually there is very few
20 questions that are directly answered, that
21 can be answered by city council because a
22 lot of the specific details come from the
23 administration so if the administration
24 isn't forthcoming to us it's difficult for
25 us to provide you with the answers.

1 MR. JACKOWITZ: Right, I understand
2 that. That's what I'm trying to say, what
3 questions can we ask? Can we just ask
4 questions on legislation and that's it?

5 MR. WECHSLER: We try to answer all
6 of the questions that we can, but there are
7 some questions that require further details
8 from the administration and we don't have
9 them.

10 MR. EVANS: Certainly legislation is
11 something we should be able to answer for
12 you, but preceding business is open for
13 question.

14 MR. JACKOWITZ: Okay, so it's open
15 for a question but maybe not an answer;
16 right?

17 MR. EVANS: Well, we certainly try
18 to get the answer, yeah.

19 MR. JACKOWITZ: Okay, I'm getting a
20 little ahead of myself here, just in case
21 this happens to become a possibility in
22 Scranton and in Lackawanna County because I
23 see a lot of Lackawanna County
24 representatives here tonight, these unisex
25 bathrooms, you know, that they are trying to

1 pass now where people who have had sex
2 changes can have the option of which
3 bathroom they want it use, that possibly may
4 come to Pennsylvania some day or many come
5 to Scranton, well, if it does I hope the
6 legislation that is passed is that you use
7 the bathroom that your equipment downstairs
8 requires, okay? Because it's getting out of
9 hand. I mean, you know, so just keep that
10 in mind in case you guys are still on city
11 council when it comes up. Just keep that in
12 mind, okay? I a appreciate that.

13 MR. WECHSLER: I can't wait until we
14 deal with issues like that.

15 MR. EVANS: Appreciate the words of
16 the wise. I appreciate that.

17 MR. WECHSLER: Tom Welby.

18 MR. WELBY: That's a tough act to
19 follow.

20 MR. WECHSLER: That could have been
21 you, Tom.

22 MR. WELBY: Tom Welby, 119 Park
23 Drive in Scranton, but first I'm here on
24 behalf of the state representative Marty
25 Flynn and, Mr. President, I don't mean to be

1 piling on with, but I have probably have
2 questions here that with all due respect
3 council can't directly answer but if you
4 would pursue the questions we would
5 appreciate it and that is Representative
6 Flynn is asking me to be here to ask in
7 particular some answers to questions on this
8 serious dilemma facing our neighbors in
9 Greenridge.

10 First, regarding the September 4
11 incident with that horrible stench leaving
12 black fluid passed through the Greenridge
13 and Dunmore neighborhood, while the landfill
14 was ruled out as the source of that issue it
15 that's just not enough of an answer for any
16 of us and I know that it's not enough of an
17 answer for you as well. We still really
18 need to know where did it come from, what
19 has been done and what is being done to
20 prevent it from happening in the future.

21 Secondly, regarding the Monahan
22 Avenue Reeve Street line, the line that is
23 used as an alternative for leachate,
24 supposedly every now and then leachate could
25 travel down through this line when there is

1 a problem with the dedicated line. We have
2 been told that it has happened. Until we
3 have answers to all of the questions, all of
4 the questions that are asked by the
5 Greenridge Neighborhood Association we
6 respectfully ask that if the dedicated
7 sanitary sewer line is dedicated for the use
8 of leachate is not able to carry the volume
9 of leachate produced at the landfill then
10 all of that volume is to be held back until
11 the dedicated line is able to safely
12 transport that fluid for the use of whatever
13 it takes to meet that and whether it be a
14 retention area or whatever it might be. We
15 also ask that access to that Monahan Avenue
16 Reeve Street line be terminated and that it
17 not be allowed to transport any leachate or
18 any usage whatsoever.

19 Now, if I can put my Tom Welby hat
20 on for just a moment. Two things, one
21 regarding the young family and all of the
22 other residents out on Penn Avenue along
23 Meadow Brook Creek area it's a horrible
24 problem that they are dealing with and any
25 one of us if we had that problem, a big hole

1 like that that literally a car can fit in
2 our back yards if he we had that going on
3 for a couple of months I think we would be
4 pretty upset. I have paperwork in
5 Representative Flynn's Office that goes back
6 to Representative Gaynor Cawley from 1994
7 when they were dealing with that issue and
8 it still isn't resolved.

9 I was over there a few weeks ago and
10 I was trying to help them pull out some
11 shrubs that were hanging literally 830
12 percent of the shrub was falling into the
13 hole and we tried to pull it out and save
14 it, save one shrub for him, when all of the
15 rest of them had fallen in. I was standing
16 there the edge of the sidewalk gave way and
17 I fell in, but it's just not a safe issue,
18 and I don't think kids have changed from
19 when I was a little younger, kids go running
20 through yards and it's just a horrible
21 possibility of a tragedy happening there and
22 we just can't allow that possibility to
23 exist.

24 I have think if it came to it if a
25 tragedy did occur even though the city

1 know, participates in a lot of cleanups. I
2 have been participating in cleanups with
3 every one of you here and that kind of work
4 is really appreciated, but if you would go
5 to a per bag fee you know what's going to
6 happen, all the alleys, the less traveled
7 streets, along the trails and along the
8 rivers we have all worked so hard to clean
9 up they are going to be strewn with bags
10 from people that aren't going to pay that
11 dollar fee or whatever it is for that per
12 bag fee. They will chose to throw away on
13 the sides of our roads instead.

14 I ask instead that you consider
15 further enforcement of the apartments for
16 multiple residences in buildings that
17 perhaps are only being charged for one of
18 them. I know some houses, and we all know
19 where there is four or five dwellings in one
20 building and they are probably only paying
21 one, if that, so if we can consider that
22 instead. Thank you.

23 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Welby, just
24 please one minute. We welcome
25 Representative Flynn's efforts to become

1 involved in this issue. City council has
2 been working on this since initially when
3 the smell was first detected back in the
4 fall. Perhaps we could enlist him to get
5 some answers from the Department of
6 Environmental Protection. They are the ones
7 that issued the study. I would be happy to
8 work with Mr. Flynn and see if we could set
9 up a meeting between him and myself and
10 anyone else from city council who would like
11 to become involved.

12 MR. WELBY: He would like, and with
13 all due respect to that state agency,
14 perhaps a public forum with them invited
15 here we would love to join you at that and I
16 suspect Senator Blake's would also join you
17 here if perhaps -- would that be acceptable
18 if our office --

19 MR. WECHSLER: Do you think
20 Representative Flynn would arrange that? We
21 haven't had much success with that.

22 MR. WELBY: We definitely will.

23 MR. WECHSLER: In addition, we have
24 been in contact with our city solicitor
25 Jason Shrive about getting information about

1 his legal opinion on the status of the
2 dedicated line that was protected a long
3 time ago so earlier we have already fought
4 this fight, we don't want to fight it again
5 so I also would encourage Representative
6 Flynn in becoming actively in our efforts,
7 also, to get that letter.

8 We also contacted Attorney Shrive
9 this week to set up a meeting with myself
10 and Mr. Gaughan and members of Friends of
11 Lackawanna, also, to get some answers so I
12 am really encouraged to see that
13 Representative Flynn wants to become
14 involved with this because really for right
15 now, as you can see tonight, city council is
16 the place where everyone is coming for to
17 answer it and, unfortunately, we can only
18 stir pot, we can't provide the answers or
19 the remedy right now that everyone desires
20 so I welcome -- I welcome Rep Flynn's
21 involvement.

22 MR. WELBY: Okay, if it's okay with
23 council then is all right if I work with Ms.
24 Reed and invite them to a public forum here?

25 MR. WECHSLER: Definitely. If you

1 want to get Senator Blake, Senator Farina,
2 whoever, because like I said city council
3 has kind of been out on this limb since
4 September. We welcome anybody with the
5 effort.

6 MR. EVANS: Tom, to give you an
7 update where we are we requested Attorney
8 Shrive to give us an opinion on the
9 settlement and he kicked it down the road to
10 the Sewer Authority for an opinion by their
11 solicitor and that's where we are right now.
12 He doesn't want to render his decision or
13 opinion until he gets one from the Sewer
14 Authority, but we are not going to wait
15 forever. The neighbors over there deserve
16 much better than that. We have a settlement
17 that we think should be still in effect and
18 it's being violated and we want to get in
19 front of a judge at some point in time to
20 say why it's being violated and if it's
21 being violated what are the recourses, so I
22 think we are that close, I think we are
23 close to getting something done on this
24 thing, but I think you are right that they
25 have some sort of public caucus or a session

1 with all of the stakeholders in addition to
2 the elected officials it would go a long way
3 to moving this forward.

4 MR. WECHSLER: Okay. Good. Thank
5 you.

6 MR. WECHSLER: We appreciate that.
7 Anything -- we have kind of been on our own
8 here so any assistance from higher ups would
9 be great.

10 MR. WELBY: Okay. Thank you.

11 MR. WECHSLER: Pat Clark.

12 MR. CLARK: Good evening.

13 Mr. Welby, I'd just like to update on your
14 thoughts and holdings of leachate up there,
15 the information we have is that Keystone
16 Landfill has lagoons up there with the
17 capacity to hold 11 million tons of
18 leachate. They discharge about 80,000
19 gallons a day, so they have a capacity --
20 I'm sorry, gallons. They have a capacity to
21 hold 11 million tons on site, they discharge
22 80,000 tons a day. They don't ever need to
23 use them.

24 We have been on this landfill issue
25 for a couple of -- almost two years now and

1 we appreciate the time that you all have
2 given us in terms of the leachate issue as
3 concerned as well, one of my questions I
4 just wanted to clarify, Attorney Minora,
5 last time you were here I was unclear on
6 your reason that you did not want to issue
7 an opinion, can you clarify that for me?

8 MR. MINORA: Beg your pardon? I
9 didn't hear you.

10 MR. CLARK: A couple of meetings ago
11 you felt that you weren't in the position to
12 render an opinion on this matter, I was
13 unclear as to why, that meaning was unclear,
14 can you clarify that for me, please?

15 MR. MINORA: A couple of reasons.
16 First of all, my opinion has no enforceable
17 power for the city. It doesn't bind the
18 city to anything, it would be my personal
19 opinion. I have a number of documents
20 available to me and I think I could look a
21 those and come to some conclusions, but they
22 would be my conclusions and mine only and so
23 they add nothing to the dialogue, they don't
24 help council in any way, which is my job.

25 MR. CARTER: What types of issues

1 would you issue opinions on if not something
2 like this?

3 MR. MINORA: Beg your pardon?

4 MR. CARTER: What types of issues
5 would you issue an opinion on if not
6 something like this?

7 MR. MINORA: I give opinions to
8 council on questions that they raise that
9 involve legislation. This is a question
10 about litigation. This council cannot
11 litigate on behalf of the city.

12 MR. CARTER: Understood.

13 MR. MINORA: The only person who can
14 bring litigation on behalf of the city is
15 the city solicitor.

16 MR. CARTER: Correct.

17 MR. MINORA: So I am usurping his
18 authority by giving opinions on litigation
19 so that's not my job. That's actually what
20 I should not do.

21 MR. CARTER: Okay, we can agree to
22 disagree on whether or not that's usurping,
23 my question is, Councilman Evans, you had
24 mentioned updates, we got an update today as
25 well, or yesterday from Attorney Shrive

1 requested meetings with you guys, we met in
2 February, to set the stage on timing, we are
3 now in May. You all asked Attorney Shrive
4 for his opinion, he then for some reasons
5 asked SSA for documents, which he can get
6 himself and their opinion, we know SSA's
7 opinion on this matter. They, in fact,
8 issued their opinion is clear, there is no
9 question that we can do it, we did it. We
10 asked for a meeting then, as you just
11 alluded to with him as well, and his
12 response was not for a meeting, he said,
13 "Well, put all your findings in writing as
14 well and let me know and then I'll
15 deliberate and issue my opinion on that."

16 It's odd, he is acting as though --
17 and I don't him personally at all, he is
18 acting although he is a judge, he wants
19 people to submit briefs and then he'll -- -

20 MR. WECHSLER: We did ask him for
21 his opinion so he needs to collect the
22 information so I don't have as much problem
23 with as you do because if you want his
24 opinion he needs to get all of the facts.

25 MR. CLARK: But he gets the fact

1 himself. He is the looking for everyone
2 else to write opinions and then he'll
3 summarize that. We got that letter
4 yesterday.

5 MR. WECHSLER: I don't want to get
6 in an argument here, a request was made for
7 us to get an opinion from Solicitor Shrive.

8 MR. CLARK: Right.

9 MR. WECHSLER: We did that.

10 MR. CLARK: Correct.

11 MR. WECHSLER: We are pursuing that
12 opinion.

13 MR. CLARK: Excuse me?

14 MR. WECHSLER: We are pursuing that
15 opinion.

16 MR. CLARK: Right. My question is
17 pushing forward on the time, you mentioned
18 you are getting close on -- we are a couple
19 of months in from the start, I know he got
20 it a couple of weeks ago. The letters seem
21 to about a two-week pace here. I'm thrilled
22 we are pursuing a resolution on this or at
23 least an opinion, do we have a timeline on
24 that or is it just open?

25 MR. WECHSLER: It's open.

1 MR. CLARK: So really it's political
2 ping pong that is playing; right?

3 MR. WECHSLER: Well, it's not
4 political ping ponging --

5 MR. CLARK: Not by you, by them.

6 MR. WECHSLER: No, but the thing is
7 you came and asked us to do something and we
8 did it so your comments to us about
9 Solicitor Shrive should be placed to him.
10 We will listen to your --

11 MR. CLARK: We did, but he won't
12 meet, he wants a written opinion so my
13 question is have there been an indicated
14 timeline on which he will --

15 MR. WECHSLER: No, there has not
16 been.

17 MR. CLARK: Are you willing to put a
18 timeline forth and say, "We would like this
19 by whatever."

20 MR. WECHSLER: We can set any
21 timeline we want, but it has no constraint
22 on him. We can't make him come to a
23 meeting.

24 MR. CLARK: Are you taking their
25 opinion at it's face value or is that --

1 MR. EVANS: Well, we haven't seen
2 his opinion yet so we'll see what it says.

3 MR. CLARK: Regardless of what it
4 comes down to is council getting any opinion
5 themselves at all or is Attorney Shrive's
6 opinion?

7 MR. WECHSLER: We've looked at all
8 of this ourselves, we have our opinions as
9 well, but as Solicitor Minora said we are
10 not allowed to initiate litigation.

11 MR. CLARK: Correct. Just one last
12 question then just so I'm clear is there a
13 time soon which you will put a date in
14 writing and say can we have this opinion by
15 a firm date because if not it will go
16 forever.

17 MR. WECHSLER: Again, we amongst
18 ourselves discuss setting a date and go from
19 there, but we don't have any pressure to
20 make him go through with that.

21 MR. EVANS: We'll talk about that, I
22 think that's appropriate to do that, but
23 again, as Council President Wechsler said,
24 they don't have to adhere to that date but I
25 have no problem putting a hard date on it

1 for an answer.

2 MR. CLARK: Thank you.

3 MR. EVANS: You're welcome.

4 MR. WECHSLER: Ruth Burke.

5 MS. BURKE: Good evening, thank you.

6 Ruth Burke. I really just a follow-up again
7 on the same topic that I spoke about last
8 week, has there been any idea along with the
9 garbage fee about promoting recycling, which
10 plays into that issue that I think is part
11 of the City's responsibility to promote
12 recycling to avoid maybe the overall cost
13 for sending -- the City sending garbage.

14 MR. ROGAN: We did get a list in our
15 mailbox and I plan on reading this under my
16 comments.

17 MS. BURKE: Is that from Lackawanna
18 County?

19 MR. ROGAN: It is, with all of the
20 items that are permissible and those that
21 aren't.

22 MS. BURKE: Yeah, and as I
23 understand it the county has that policy and
24 I know the city then each, each borough or
25 city, determines what they pick up at the

1 curb, but on top of that I think the city
2 should do something.

3 MR. WECHSLER: Yeah, this year we
4 did-- we hired a recycling coordinator and
5 we also are working with a consultant this
6 year in developing recycling to improve our
7 recycling because we understand how much we
8 are not doing.

9 MS. BURKE: Right. I mean, the
10 motivation to have a lower garbage fee, part
11 of that is to understand that if you recycle
12 more your garbage fee, you know, in some of
13 proposals might be less, you know.

14 MR. EVANS: Absolutely.

15 MR. WECHSLER: Definitely.

16 MS. BURKE: I find that important.

17 MR. ROGAN: One of the big problems,
18 also, is televisions. I know I've noticed
19 it in my neighborhood, I'm sure many of you
20 have, also. Our DPW cannot pick up
21 televisions.

22 MS. BURKE: Well, they were free to
23 go to the Recycling Center until the end of
24 the month.

25 MR. ROGAN: Right, and I know I

1 believe --

2 MS. BURKE: Last month.

3 MR. ROGAN: And I know, I believe
4 Representative Flynn's office did do a
5 recycling drive for TV's. Marywood also has
6 for electronics, but electronics something
7 that this is a new issue, you know, because
8 they used to be able to put them in the
9 dump, they used to be able to go the
10 Recycling Center and now that's changed so
11 that's an emerging issue as well. You know,
12 the last thing we want to see is people
13 smashing up TV's and putting them in the
14 waste.

15 MS. BURKE: And then, of course, I'm
16 just, again, telling you that my position
17 and my neighbors of supporting the efforts
18 to get this issue with the change in this
19 Sewer Authority agreement, it should have
20 been really done much sooner than this
21 letter two weeks ago, you know. It really
22 is something that the city residents feel
23 very strongly about.

24 MR. WECHSLER: And I don't know if
25 you can answer this, is the same efforts

1 being made on Dunmore council? I mean, we
2 are doing it, but I haven't seen anywhere we
3 there has been any pressure on Dunmore
4 council for this issue and I just if anybody
5 can answer me later on.

6 MS. BURKE: Well, I mean, we were
7 the Greenridge Neighborhood Association
8 where this conversation started.

9 MR. WECHSLER: I know some of the
10 members of Dunmore, but to be honest with
11 you really right now Scranton City Council
12 is in the lead on this and until tonight
13 when Representative Flynn sent Mr. Welby
14 here we haven't heard from anyone else, so
15 we would be happy and encourage anyone who
16 wants to participate with us.

17 MS. BURKE: And, of course, the
18 petition was based on the fact that the city
19 council was named in the agreement.

20 MR. WECHSLER: We understand that
21 it's a city issue, also, but, you know, when
22 we attended the session "Let's Stop Trash"
23 it was more of a regional issue and I really
24 would like it to be a regional issue because
25 this stuff starts off in Dunmore or Throop

1 or wherever it starts off at and when the
2 landfill, if it expands, is going to more of
3 it, so we don't mind running with the ball,
4 but, boy, we would sure like some support
5 from some other municipalities, and from
6 other elected officials as well.

7 MR. EVANS: Especially in Dunmore
8 who has a strong council form of government
9 so they can make decisions that we can't
10 make, but they would be a big help.

11 MS. BURKE: Well, I mean, what's the
12 venue, what's the avenue that citizens can
13 contact the mayor and get a response? I
14 mean, is there a -- does he have a website
15 that he takes?

16 MR. WECHSLER: Yes, the mayor's
17 phone number is in the book and he has an
18 e-mail as well.

19 MS. BURKE: Maybe that's our next
20 move --

21 MR. WECHSLER: I would say an
22 additional move -- I'm sorry, I didn't mean
23 to cut you off. Like I said, we have been
24 doing this here and I'm getting a little
25 blow back that we are not trying hard

1 enough, but right now we are the only one
2 that's trying.

3 MS. BURKE: Right. Just voicing my
4 support.

5 MR. WECHSLER: So got to put a
6 little bit more pressure there is two state
7 reps in this area, there is a state senator,
8 there is Dunmore, there is Throop, there is
9 a lot of elected officials that aren't being
10 pressured as we are. We are responding to
11 the pressure, we are doing it, but, boy, I
12 sure would love any support from anybody.

13 MS. BURKE: Well, I appreciate your
14 effort. Thank you.

15 MR. EVANS: To contact the
16 administration www.Scrantonpa.gov.

17 MS. BURKE: Okay, thank you.

18 MR. EVANS: There should be
19 information on there about how to contact
20 the mayor's office.

21 MR. WECHSLER: Is there anyone else
22 who would like to address council?

23 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,
24 citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians,
25 well, your 7-B is coming up again, the

1 borrowing of 80 plus million plus not
2 knowing a lot of things that go with that
3 agreement, I know some people were supposed
4 to continue to be paid for the life of the
5 agreement, which I don't I didn't quite
6 understand it because you know there is a --
7 (unintelligible) at it's best so a lot of
8 that just went by the wind I guess you might
9 say, but that did stick to me.

10 The other thing that stuck to me was
11 the two bond issues that were like 8 percent
12 or 9 percent what exactly was the percentage
13 on them two bond issues that you want to
14 repay?

15 MR. WECHSLER: That is the ceiling
16 on the interest rate, 8 percent.

17 MR. SBARAGLIA: No, I'm talking
18 about the bond issues that are in effect
19 today?

20 MR. EVANS: The PNC.

21 MR. SBARAGLIA: That you are going
22 to redeem them?

23 MR. EVANS: Yes, that's a variable
24 rate so I think it was three and a half to
25 four right now.

1 MR. SBARAGLIA: Three and a half to
2 four percent?

3 MR. EVANS: Variable rate, but the
4 bigger problem with that is PNC does not
5 want to renew it so it may be a moot point.

6 MR. SBARAGLIA: I realize that. The
7 fact that we are going to be borrowing
8 around 6 or 7 percent.

9 MR. EVANS: Well, if we are
10 borrowing 7 percent it's a dead deal.

11 MR. SBARAGLIA: Then I don't know
12 why we would want to turn them bonds in if
13 we are paying a lower rate on them, that
14 doesn't make common sense, but the city
15 doesn't make common sense.

16 But, anyway, that's another problem,
17 and the bigger problem is if the mayor gets
18 that \$9 million before the end of the year
19 and pays the bond issue our city employees
20 this year is going to cost us over \$200
21 million. Do you think we are getting the
22 best money for our payment? 200 million is
23 a lot of money to spend on public employees
24 either for their pensions or I'm not even
25 considering their pay, this year's pay, I'm

1 just saying what we are spending total on
2 the public employees. I think 200 million
3 is a lot. I don't know how you can sit with
4 a straight face, I would have been in that
5 mayor's office every darn day telling them
6 how much of that 95 million can be used to
7 pay off the Court awards and how much will
8 be placed into the pension fund instead of
9 doing what you are doing, but that would
10 make sense and you don't make sense. The
11 only person that really made sense coming to
12 council was the kid wanting to legalize pot
13 because, believe me, if we all become
14 potheads then we would agree with the way
15 the city is being run. Thank you.

16 MR. WECHSLER: Anyone else?

17 MR. AMICO: I'm Vince Amico from
18 Dunmore, Dunmore councilman. Mr. Wechsler,
19 I just have one thing I'd like to clear up,
20 you said you were looking for help from
21 Dunmore, Throop, other municipalities and
22 I'm not just confused as to -- I was paying
23 attention, but I might have missed what you
24 are actually looking for.

25 MR. WECHSLER: Yeah, I'm not sure if

1 anyone has gone to Dunmore Council and asked
2 these same questions, has anyone done that?

3 MR. AMICO: Well, correct me if I'm
4 wrong, but the issue that we're --

5 MR. WECHSLER: I agree with you.
6 What I'm saying is.

7 MR. AMICO: No, because we are
8 not -- Dunmore is not a party in that -- we
9 weren't a party in that agreement so the
10 issue --

11 MR. WECHSLER: But the --

12 MR. AMICO: -- we are here for is
13 between the City of Scranton, Keystone and
14 the Sewer Authority.

15 MR. WECHSLER: I agree.

16 MR. AMICO: Dunmore has no thing to
17 do with this.

18 MR. WECHSLER: But the more voices
19 commenting on it I think --

20 MR. AMICO: I agree. Personally I
21 don't think people even know that they were
22 wrong -- the people of Greenridge feel and
23 believe that they were, you know, taken
24 advantage of in this situation.

25 MR. WECHSLER: But to me for the

1 sake of one block from Greenridge Street,
2 this side is Scranton, this side is Dunmore.

3 MR. AMICO: Right, I agree with
4 that.

5 MR. WECHSLER: So I don't think the
6 leadership of Dunmore is as concerned about
7 it as we are. That's all.

8 MR. AMICO: I'm with you on that
9 one, but as far as us, as far as people of
10 Dunmore I don't think they feel as if they
11 were -- I don't even think they know what's
12 going on as much as the residents of
13 Greenridge because Greenridge is originally
14 who initiated this issue 20 years ago.

15 MR. WECHSLER: Sure.

16 MR. AMICO: And now they feel as if
17 they are being taking advantage of if
18 something happened without their --

19 MR. PERRY: I think Mr. Wechsler's
20 point is Dunmore is part of the Sewer
21 Authority which kind of puts us in the same
22 boat with the Sewer Authority being
23 involved, the City of Scranton being
24 involved, and Keystone being involved.

25 MR. AMICO: Correct.

1 MR. PERRY: So, again, we are just
2 looking for, you know, the more heads at the
3 table the better.

4 MR. AMICO: Okay. Sounds good.
5 Thank you for your time. I appreciate it.

6 MS. SCHUMACHER: Marie Schumacher.
7 First, could you give me, I guess,
8 Mr. Wechsler, what the current status of the
9 rental registration program is and what we
10 are going to -- it's going to come to
11 resolution?

12 MR. WECHSLER: Well, Councilman
13 Evans will give you more input on that, but
14 right now we are trying to put legislation
15 together.

16 MR. EVANS: Yeah, there is a draft
17 that's completed and Attorney Minora is
18 reviewing the draft. Once he reviews the
19 draft we will be ready to go.

20 MS. SCHUMACHER: Thank you. And
21 then, also, if you recall last December you
22 said that we could \$75 million, which is
23 what the mayor apparently is intending to
24 put towards the pensions would bring us to
25 the 50 percent level of funding, what would

1 the MMO be next year at 50 percent?

2 MR. EVANS: Well, I'm not sure where
3 you getting the 75 million that the mayor
4 said he was going to put into the pensions.

5 MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, he said he
6 was going to come up -- okay, roughly \$95
7 million and he said he is going to take 20
8 to pay off --

9 MR. EVANS: Some higher earning
10 debt.

11 MS. SCHUMACHER: And so that leaves
12 75.

13 MR. EVANS: I'll be honest with you,
14 from my perspective none of that has been
15 decided as far as what money is going where.
16 He can tell us all he wants and he can, you
17 know, may read something in the paper, but I
18 have not been privy to any conversation
19 about the money going into pensions and how
20 much.

21 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay, but if we
22 were at the 50 percent level would the MMO
23 be?

24 MR. EVANS: I'll check and see if we
25 can find out if we get to 50 percent.

1 MS. SCHUMACHER: Thank you. And has
2 council yet invited Mayor Courtright to a
3 council meeting to answer our questions on
4 the Sewer Authority assets sale?

5 MR. WECHSLER: We are still waiting
6 for the details, the final details for
7 ourselves.

8 MS. SCHUMACHER: Final details of
9 what?

10 MR. WECHSLER: The Sewer agreement.

11 MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, you have the
12 agreement; right?

13 MR. WECHSLER: It hasn't been
14 finalized yet.

15 MS. SCHUMACHER: It was voted on,
16 yeah, it was finalized.

17 MR. WECHSLER: But it's not --

18 MS. SCHUMACHER: No, that was voted
19 on.

20 MR. ROGAN: Council role, as was
21 mentioned, is just to dissolve the
22 authority. Our biggest role is what you
23 talked about previously if there are --if it
24 goes through as to how to spend the proceeds
25 as Mr. Evans mentioned. That hasn't been

1 determined yet.

2 MS. SCHUMACHER: But we are
3 asking -- I am asking as a citizen and know
4 other people are interested in the answers
5 to the questions that I have raised and
6 nobody seems to respond. Mayor Courtright
7 did say when he was before the League of
8 Women Voters that he would come any time. I
9 mean, if you don't even ask you won't get a
10 refusal certainly, but you won't get him in
11 here either. What other route would be
12 recommend to get the answers that the
13 citizens and taxpayers have?

14 MR. WECHSLER: The pressure has to
15 be put on the mayor.

16 MS. SCHUMACHER: You haven't even
17 asked him yet though you are saying to come
18 to this council and that's when I'm asking
19 for.

20 Okay, pension reform. Maybe during
21 Fifth Order each of you could say what you
22 consider, if you consider the pensions we
23 have now sufficient reformed or what else
24 you want to see that would be most
25 appreciated. And at the Lackawanna County

1 Commissioners meeting today it was stated
2 that their Chief of Staff Wallace will be
3 meeting with the other taxing bodies of the
4 city to determine what the impacts, both
5 positive and negative, of their purchase of
6 the Globe Store will be. Will you be
7 represented on that? You, I mean, council.

8 MR. WECHSLER: Actually, today we
9 received a correspondence from the county
10 and we are setting up a meeting with
11 Mr. Wallace to explain those details to us.

12 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay, do you have a
13 date for that?

14 MR. WECHSLER: Sometime next week.

15 MS. SCHUMACHER: Next week. Okay,
16 before the meeting next week or after?

17 MR. WECHSLER: I'm not sure. I'm
18 going to be out of town the next two days so
19 it depends on when we can get together and
20 we do have other things on our plate as
21 well.

22 MS. SCHUMACHER: Then 307 South,
23 remember we talked about deep depression on
24 the shoulder and sort of got the state to
25 come in once again and pile a bunch asphalt

1 in there. I noticed that the Sewer
2 Authority did some work on the other side,
3 on the east side of -- I guess that's
4 east -- the lookout side of the area, but it
5 looks as though other areas of the shoulder
6 are starting to fall back down which leads
7 me to believe that maybe the problem has not
8 been solved. Has anybody asked engineering
9 whether or not that storm water is flowing
10 down 307 from Snook Street down?

11 MR. EVANS: No.

12 MR. WECHSLER: Could somebody do
13 that? Thank you.

14 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening, Council.
15 Dave Dobrzyn, resident. Taxes paid. Now,
16 once again, several issues that have been
17 ongoing, the DEP, our friends from the Tea
18 Party are closing down the DEP, four
19 different mobile vans have been
20 decommissioned I guess you would call it,
21 and several laboratories are losing their
22 certifications so if you know a Tea Party
23 State Assemblyman, send them a nice letter
24 thanking them because some day it's just
25 going to gang up. It's like those people

1 have all kinds of concerns with this.

2 Now, getting onto trash, I stopped
3 at a local market on my street, Crown
4 Avenue, and I asked him how much privatized
5 trash costs. Now, this is only an opinion,
6 a lot of this trash is cardboard, a lot of
7 it is lottery tickets, like those scratch
8 offs that people throw away and cardboard
9 boxes, but at any rate it's about three
10 large barrels of trash and he pays \$75 per
11 month, \$900 per year give or take a few,
12 probably take a little more than that, and
13 if he does not the pay the bill this month
14 his trash does get removed. You know where
15 I'm talking about, Wayne. So if I play my
16 guitar too loud Wayne will hear it, but the
17 point being that I would like to point out
18 that is very expensive for this man and in
19 reality I don't think we are going to find
20 once DPW is dissolved of trash you are not
21 going to find the deal sweeter, you are
22 going to wish it was back.

23 Now, last week I hoped that
24 communication from the County was reprinted
25 and passed along to you people with all of

1 the recycling items and if not the
2 communications person from the county Mr.
3 Hetman said he was going to send you guys an
4 e-mail, so maybe it's in your computer there
5 and you could look it over that way, but I
6 think it's time to authorize the DPW to
7 leave the recyclables behind and notify the
8 address of unacceptable practices.

9 Also, the County abandoning the
10 electronics is unacceptable. First thing
11 that my wife said is when do we get our
12 first computer on the lawn? That was the
13 first. Oh, they are not taking electronics
14 anymore? When are the electronics going to
15 start getting deposited on our lawn?

16 So, you know, personally I think we
17 should send them some kind of a letter and
18 ask them to please reconsider that. Once
19 again, somehow there was a Tea Partier
20 involved there, too. All of a sudden we are
21 cutting back services telling people what a
22 big ole' favor they are doing as government.

23 Now, on 7-A, once again I'm
24 requesting that those signs and bans on
25 cigarettes, and I totally, totally support

1 it out of the children's areas and so forth,
2 but I hope we are not going to go with a
3 total ban all over the parks, and I
4 certainly don't want law enforcement
5 involved. There is enough burglaries and
6 break ins and stuff in my neighborhood, and
7 especially down below, that we don't need to
8 tie any police resources up and I don't like
9 paying for intolerance and at Brannigan's
10 and the Ritz my brother was paid \$15 for a
11 five-man band because the owner said, "Well,
12 if we are going to go have this kind of
13 crowd showing up, run around the corner and
14 the kids were hanging off the chandeliers.

15 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you,
16 Mr. Dobrzyn.

17 MR. DOBRZYN: Thank you. Have a
18 good evening.

19 MR. WECHSLER: Anyone else?

20 MR. HETMAN: Good evening, Council.
21 Gerard Hetman from Lackawanna County's
22 Community Relations Department. Just to
23 follow up on Mr. Dobrzyn's comments, first
24 he had requested from me, and maybe there
25 was a little bit of misunderstanding there a

1 copy of the flyer that the commissioners had
2 printed and distributed regarding recycling
3 several years ago describing what was
4 accepted or not accepted at the recycling
5 center in municipal recycling pickup. I did
6 e-mail an electronic copy of the flyer that
7 I had in my records to him, if counsel would
8 like to see that we can forward that to you
9 as a sample. Of course, that has the old
10 logo and the old information on it from the
11 past administration, but we did keep those
12 on file if you wanted to see that for
13 reference we would be happy to supply that
14 to you.

15 Second, regarding the recycling
16 center and the electronics, the policy now
17 is that the center does accept electronics,
18 I believe there is a \$1 fee, and I believe
19 we have discussed this before, a \$1 fee per
20 pound for all of the electronic items
21 brought to the recycling center, and I know
22 that's a hardship and it's not the ideal
23 solution, but under the current state laws
24 this is a statewide issue and each recycling
25 center and recycling entity has chosen

1 different ways to deal with the problem
2 until a statewide fix is implemented at the
3 state level and this is the one that
4 authority has chosen to make it still
5 accessible and affordable for all to access
6 that, so the center does accept electronics,
7 but there is just a \$1 fee.

8 Just one last thing, on the letter
9 from Mr. Wallace, Mr. Wallace will look
10 forward to meeting specifically with Mr.
11 Bulzoni, we had also copies him on the
12 letter to the mayor, but certainly we could
13 ask if any members of council wanted to meet
14 with him, we would be happy to do with that.
15 He is willing certainly to discuss the issue
16 of the Globe Store sale and he asks if that
17 would impact the city and the school
18 district with both the city and school
19 district at your discretion.

20 So thank you, and that's all I have,
21 gentlemen, have a great night.

22 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you.

23 MS. SEITZINGER: Good evening,
24 Council. Kara Seitzinger, city resident and
25 taxpayer. First off, I was here two weeks

1 ago, as you know, and I kind of went hard at
2 you, I think, a little bit and I hope that
3 you understand. I want to apologize. If
4 you took it the wrong way, the reason for my
5 questions that I posed is because I simply
6 am still so miffed at the entire situation.
7 I'm so miffed at the fact that we have a
8 Court settlement agreement that has been
9 violated. It's clear. I mean, in my
10 opinion it's clear, but again, I don't have
11 my law degree, so that being said I really
12 methodically went through the questions, I
13 listed them, I posed them, and I put them to
14 you all because I think that you do care. I
15 believe -- I elected four or five of you
16 myself, I went to the polls and did that and
17 I worked for some of you for your campaigns
18 and so I know that there is this give and
19 take, there has also been, you know, I don't
20 like when people bash the administration, I
21 don't like when people bash council members.
22 I watched it for years and it has made me
23 ill to the point where I couldn't even watch
24 council meetings, and I don't think it's
25 fair because it's a tough job to be in

1 political office, but when you run that's
2 what you take on, and I think that our
3 current mayor, you know, always sort of
4 bashed our former mayor of not being present
5 and apparently he is not present at least to
6 us. You have reassured us that you can --
7 you have his ear and for me I am going to
8 trust you in that, so that's my mea culpa
9 because I heard Mr. Evans, I turned the TV
10 on for a minute last week, I couldn't get
11 here because I did make a vow to be here
12 until this was resolved, but my daughter had
13 an asthma attack and I couldn't be here so I
14 did hear him say that. I certainly don't
15 mean to be disrespectful in any way because
16 there is enough of disrespectful people that
17 come into this forum and it's just not fair.

18 Secondly, I'm going to address the
19 issue because Tom Welby came last week, a
20 friend of Marty Flynn's contacted me as an
21 intermediary saying that he was willing to
22 come a Greenridge neighborhood meeting and
23 speak and I, of course, with the Greenridge
24 neighborhood president got the approval to
25 invite Marty and tell him he can come at any

1 time, but our one stipulation was that
2 Mr. Flynn had to attend not Mr. Welby or
3 anybody else in Mr. Flynn's position.

4 Mr. Welby had texted me back the
5 next morning that he thought he was in
6 session, it's an open-ended meeting. We
7 elected Mr. Flynn, we can unelect Mr. Flynn,
8 and so I really feel, I agree that you have
9 taken the lead but he is also our
10 representative and many of us put him into
11 office and to not take a stance on it or to
12 say you weren't sure that that's what
13 occurred, these are conversations or text
14 messages that Mr. Flynn sent to a friend
15 it's simply not fair. So if we can get some
16 type of a forum I think that that is
17 absolutely on par.

18 And now while we are on the subject
19 of political officials, Vince Amico is a
20 newly elected Dunmore councilman. Vince
21 Amico is the only councilman who ran on the
22 platform against the leachate, KSL, and he
23 won by an overriding margin. If you go to a
24 Dunmore meeting, and I have not myself
25 because I don't know that they welcome

1 Scranton residents nor did I necessarily
2 have the time but I probably should make it,
3 this has been addressed again and again and
4 again, but I'm sure that you all know that
5 many municipal facilities in the Borough of
6 Dunmore have been built by the very members
7 who benefit from Keystone Landfill, so that
8 being said I think that it's very -- a
9 little bit unfair to Mr. Amico to say that
10 where is Dunmore. I think we know where
11 Dunmore stands in this entire situation.

12 I had a couple of the questions,
13 Mr. Evans already answered them for me so
14 I'm just going to ask them really quickly.
15 The time limit, I know we have not placed a
16 time limit, is that something this we can
17 do?

18 MR. EVANS: Yes.

19 MR. WECHSLER: Yes, I mean, we sent
20 the letter to Mr. Shrive on Monday, I
21 believe.

22 MR. SEITZINGER: Okay.

23 MR. WECHSLER: We had a request on
24 Thursday, we sent it on Monday.

25 MS. SEITZINGER: Is somebody willing

1 to take on the task here on council of
2 following up with Mr. Shrive on that?

3 MR. WECHSLER: We have all taken
4 that task, we all have.

5 MS. SEITZINGER: Okay.

6 MR. ROGAN: As far as the timeline
7 goes, I think what might be fair is I don't
8 know how long it takes to write a legal
9 opinion, I don't think any of us do, but
10 maybe we can consult with our attorney on
11 how long that process takes and then come up
12 with a good timeline, but it's been a few
13 weeks already.

14 MS. SEITZINGER: I think another
15 week is more fair.

16 MR. WECHSLER: And I'm not defending
17 anyone, but Attorney Shrive is involved with
18 the Sewer Authority deal, the Parking
19 Authority deal, the discussion of the
20 settlement, and we are all familiar with the
21 workload that the city solicitor's office
22 has and we are anxious to get this thing
23 answered, but there are other things on his
24 plate.

25 MS. SEITZINGER: I'm sorry, can I

1 have another minute?

2 MR. WECHSLER: Go ahead.

3 MS. SEITZINGER: And I understand
4 that having been in that office myself. I
5 do understand that, but there are some real
6 conflicts of interest going on and I just --
7 I honestly, this sale is going to go through
8 and then we are going to have to answer to
9 Pennsylvania American Water, it's going to
10 wind up, as I said again, in litigation of
11 some kind and it's not going to be good.

12 My other two questions were does the
13 Scranton Sewer Authority Board discuss
14 and/or approve permits during their
15 meetings, if you know, and if you don't know
16 can you pose that question? Is Gene Barrett
17 aware of permit amendments to legal
18 litigation and if so can you please pose
19 that question.

20 The last two things I had were that
21 we have the yellow ribbons available at the
22 Greenridge Neighborhood Association, we meet
23 every Tuesday -- or, I'm sorry, the second
24 Tuesday of every month, our next meeting is
25 next Tuesday at 7:00 625 Deacon Street in

1 Dunmore, and you are all welcome to come,
2 pick up a ribbon, anyone in the City of
3 Scranton.

4 And, finally, the Scranton Sewer
5 Authority will have a meeting tomorrow at
6 6:30 and I encourage every single Scranton
7 resident to attend that meeting.

8 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Anyone
9 else?

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

11 MOTIONS.

12 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Perry?

13 MR. PERRY: Yeah, I wasn't going to
14 speak, but I want to address what Ms.
15 Schumacher said. As far as funding for the
16 pension goes, if we are going to fund the
17 pensions we are going to need pension reform
18 as well because at this point in time if we
19 don't fix what got us to this point that
20 money that we fund the pension with I feel
21 is never going to be able to catch up with
22 itself.

23 Now, as far as I like ideas, some
24 things that I would like to see, some of the
25 things that I would like to see as far as

1 pension reform goes, and this will all be,
2 you know, negotiated the next CVA -- with
3 the FOP, how about we increase the age of
4 the collection. If we can extend the time a
5 little bit when pensions are received that
6 might take some weight off of us.

7 Obviously, the other idea is to
8 increase the amount of pension percentage
9 that is being put in by the FOP and by the
10 Fire Department. That is something that
11 will also offset it.

12 But something to think about as well
13 when we are dealing with the pensions, the
14 police officers from the FOP they do not get
15 social security and lot of people don't
16 realize that so when they retire their
17 pension is the only thing they have to live
18 on. I know I paying social security, most
19 of us do, they do not and they are not
20 allowed to collect social security when they
21 retire, so we need to keep that in mind.

22 We also need to keep in mind that
23 the city solvency comes first and, you know,
24 I do believe that we need to fund the
25 pensions to right this ship in the city but

1 to keep that city ship afloat we need some
2 kind of pension reform as well, and those
3 two ideas are something that I would be for
4 100 percent, and that's all I have today,
5 Mr. Wechsler.

6 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Rogan?

7 MR. ROGAN: Yes, a couple of items.
8 First, I would like to congratulate the
9 students at West Scranton Intermediate
10 School. They did have a ceremony today, I
11 was planning on attending but I had a
12 meeting I couldn't move around. This is
13 actually the second year in a row that the
14 students at West Scranton Intermediate
15 School finished in the top 1 percent of a
16 national contest with CSPAN. The students
17 put together a project and they did it on
18 immigration, and I was actually working for
19 Congressman Barletta at the time and he was
20 one of the individuals who they interviewed
21 for the contest.

22 And a proclamation was presented to
23 them today during the award ceremony, which
24 we have a copy of here, and Scranton Council
25 wishes to congratulate Fiona Evans and Abbey

1 O'Brien on their outstanding achievement and
2 their parents John and Kathleen Evans and
3 Mark and Linda O'Brien as well as their
4 teacher Mr. Eric Mannheim.

5 This is two years in a row. Last
6 year I was able to attend the ceremony they
7 had at the intermediate school to view the
8 presentation and is great to see a local one
9 of our schools, one that I went to, compete
10 on a national level and make it in the top 1
11 percent so big congratulations to them.

12 Recycling and garbage was brought up
13 quite a bit this week through the media and
14 also at our council meeting. As you know, I
15 have been a long proponent of changing our
16 current structure in the City of Scranton to
17 either a per bag fee or privatization of the
18 Department of Public Works. In the
19 meantime, there is something that everyone
20 can do to help to keep costs down and that
21 is to recycle.

22 Many of the items, and this is
23 actually the list that Mr. Hetman mentioned
24 from the county that we have, many items
25 that can now be recycled that just a few

1 years ago couldn't, for instance, in your
2 red bin that goes out every other week,
3 which most of us call the newspaper bin,
4 it's not limited to just newspapers anymore.
5 My newspaper bin, my paper bin, is always
6 filled to the brim and I don't even buy the
7 Scranton Times. Some of the items that can
8 put in there, newspapers, magazines,
9 catalogs, mail, envelopes, cereal boxes,
10 cracker boxes, pizza boxes, that's the one
11 this fills mine, paper towel rolls,
12 construction paper, light weight boxes,
13 cardboard boxes. Any type of cardboard you
14 have you can put in these boxes, in these
15 bins and put it out in what was
16 traditionally the paper, the newspaper bin.

17 In the blue, the mixed bins, which
18 is traditionally glass bottles, plastic
19 bottles you could do glass bottles and jars,
20 aluminum and steel cans, beverage and food
21 containers, plastic bottles and tubs with
22 the tops, milk, yogurt, soda, water, soup
23 and margin containers. That's plastic as
24 far as that goes.

25 Speciality items, leaves, brush,

1 grass, motor oil, tires, Styrofoam, compact
2 fluorescent lamps, which are those little
3 spiral bulbs which contain mercury in those
4 and other household hazardous waste you can
5 call 570-963-2017, extension one, for
6 information regarding those speciality
7 items.

8 Items that are not supposed to be
9 thrown out in the recycling bin are food
10 wrappers, foam dishes and cups, wraps,
11 films, plastic bags, Ziplock bags, Saran
12 Wrap types, snack bags, windows, broken
13 glass windows are not recyclable. You can't
14 put those in with your glass bottles.
15 Plastic cups, Solo-style cups, eye glasses,
16 I was surprised to see that one on the list,
17 you can donate those to your local Lions
18 Club. Toys, mugs, straws, and planted pot,
19 potted plats, those items cannot be
20 recycled.

21 So that's a run down of the list of
22 items that can and can't be recycled. There
23 are others I'm sure you can think of, but
24 again, you are call the Office of
25 Environmental Sustainability with any

1 questions or direct it to city council and
2 we will find those answers.

3 But as I have mentioned, and I know
4 Councilmen Evans has been mentioned
5 repeatedly, there are a lot of people in the
6 City of Scranton that aren't recycling.
7 It's heartbreaking and it's very
8 unfortunate. By not recycling not only you
9 are you hurting the environment and adding
10 more garbage to our landfill but you are
11 costing yourself more money. We have to pay
12 for every ton or garbage we dump and with
13 recycling not only do we save on those costs
14 for the tipping fees we are also receiving
15 grants back, so I'd like to encourage
16 everyone to recycle, and I'd really like to
17 see the Scranton Times, as much as I bash
18 the paper we do have a good reporter here,
19 Jim Lockwood, and I would like to see the
20 Times do some publication of this because
21 many people don't know that you can do a lot
22 more than just your newspaper and just your
23 bottles and cans.

24 A couple of other items, the Sewer
25 Authority deal has been brought up quite a

1 bit and specifically the proceeds. As I
2 mentioned earlier, there hasn't been a
3 determination on how the proceeds are going
4 to be used and what percentages.
5 Personally, I would like to see a mix of --
6 obviously, some funding does have to go into
7 the pensions, but we also have a number of
8 high interest debt obligations that need to
9 be paid off, and I think a mix between those
10 items and possibly some infrastructure
11 improvements throughout the city would be a
12 good balance on how to best use those
13 proceeds. I particularly would like to see
14 debt paid off that has attached millage so
15 by paying off the debt residents can receive
16 -- see a little bit of a savings in their
17 tax bill as well. So I think it needs to be
18 an all of the above approach, we can't put
19 all of our eggs in one basket. We can't put
20 all of the money into the pension fund, we
21 can't use it all to pay off debts
22 specifically, there needs to be a balance
23 that's struck. And I'm looking forward, I
24 know the administration is working on that
25 analysis to see what the best way to move

1 forward is so that's something that I'm
2 looking to forward to.

3 Finally, I received a memo today
4 from Linda Aebli from the Office of Economic
5 and Community Development, this is regarding
6 the Community Development Block Grant Plan
7 for 2017. That covers all the grants that
8 many times we get speakers asking --
9 lobbying for their organizations the week
10 prior or sometimes the month prior. The
11 time to do that is actually now. Monday,
12 June 6 is when the Community Development
13 Block Grant Program, the HOME Investment
14 Program and the Emergency Solutions Grants
15 when applications will first be available.
16 They are available both online at the City's
17 website and by contacting the OECD Office
18 at 570-348-4216. The application period
19 runs from June 6 to August 5 at 3 p.m.
20 Applications won't be taking any later than
21 August 5 at 3 p.m.

22 And I know every year we have number
23 of groups that contact us past the deadline,
24 they were upset that they didn't apply, and
25 if groups aren't applying we can't allocate

1 funds to groups that don't apply, so all the
2 little leagues, football leagues that are
3 out there, community groups that are looking
4 for this funding now is the time to start
5 getting your paperwork together to contact
6 the city to apply, and that is all I have.
7 Thank you.

8 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you.

9 Mr. Evans?

10 MR. EVANS: Thank you. Well,
11 apparently recycling is a hot topic tonight
12 so while we are waiting for the city to take
13 initiative to press for state grant where we
14 will find out ultimately what the true cost
15 of collection really is, I know we put into
16 the budget this year a job for recycling
17 coordinator, and I think we have recycling
18 consultant as well so if we can I would like
19 see some sort of report from both of those
20 individuals to find out what is happening,
21 what they are doing to increase the
22 recycling in the interim in the city so if
23 we can do that that would be a big help.

24 On a lighter note, Councilman
25 President Wechsler, Councilmen Gaughan, City

1 Clerk Lori Reed and myself competed again as
2 a city council team in the annual contest
3 "You Live Here, You Should Know This", the
4 fundraiser benefiting the Lackawanna
5 Historical Society. Again, we made the
6 semi-finals with another great performance
7 and we had a lot of fun. We did run into a
8 bit of a buzz saw though in the semis and
9 had to bow out right before the finals, but
10 again, we had a great time.

11 On pension reform, as we all know I
12 have been and advocate of pension reform
13 since I have been on City Council. In
14 working with my colleagues and others, I
15 plan on putting together a comprehensive
16 list of reforms that I want to see put in
17 place prior to any infusion of money into
18 the underfunded and underperforming pension
19 plans, but one thing that can be done
20 sooner, rather than later, is what I have
21 been asking of the mayor for over 18 months,
22 the administration should immediately begin
23 the process of putting all nonunion
24 personnel and the cabinet members, including
25 the mayor, into a 401K-style plan.

1 Sometimes it's important to lead by example
2 and this would definitely send a positive
3 message to set the stage for further pension
4 reforms prior to the sewer deal closing so
5 I'm hoping the mayor finally pays attention
6 to my requests. It's a simple fix. I think
7 it's a sound business practice for him to do
8 that, and again, show leadership by example
9 and let's get this thing done. That's all I
10 have for now.

11 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Just to
12 follow up on the comments that were made
13 about pension reform, we have been pursuing
14 this really since we became a group on city
15 council, but one issue that seems to be
16 forgotten all of the time is that actually
17 we need reform in the state. Scranton is
18 the only Class 2-A city in Pennsylvania and
19 as such we are obligated to pay our pensions
20 in direct defined benefits. At this time,
21 we are not allowed to go to a 401-K-type of
22 plan even if everyone agreed to it in
23 negotiations we are not able to do that at
24 this time in our contract so that is a some
25 effort that we need from the reform from the

1 state as well.

2 Mr. Rogan had mentioned the
3 celebration today of the West Scranton
4 students, and I would like to thank
5 Mrs. Lori Reed who went and represented us
6 today and she did a great job and I do
7 appreciate her taking time out of her day to
8 go over and represent us. She also was the
9 smartest one on the team the other night.
10 We take advantage of whoever we can to help
11 us.

12 MR. EVANS: She got that Gerry
13 McNamera one.

14 MR. WECHSLER: I'm glad you got that
15 or you would have to move from West
16 Scranton, but I just wanted to thank, as I'm
17 sure everyone would be celebrating this
18 Sunday is Mother's Day so I would like to
19 wish everyone a happy Mother's Day. My
20 mother is no longer with us, but I do think
21 about her often, so enjoy your mom if you
22 still have her. That's all I have tonight.
23 Thank you.

24 MS. REED: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION -
25 AN ORDINANCE - ADOPTING AND APPROVING AN

1 AMENDMENT TO THE ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION
2 OF THE SCRANTON-LACKAWANNA HEALTH AND
3 WELFARE AUTHORITY, AS PROPOSED BY RESOLUTION
4 OF THE BOARD OF THE AUTHORITY; SETTING FORTH
5 THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT; AUTHORIZING SAID
6 AUTHORITY AND PROPER OFFICERS THEREOF TO
7 EXECUTE, VERIFY AND FILE APPROPRIATE
8 ARTICLES OF AMENDMENT; AND REPEALING ALL
9 ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES
10 INCONSISTENT HEREWITH.

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

14 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

15 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

19 MR. PERRY: Aye.

20 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

21 MR. EVANS: Aye.

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

24 MS. REED: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION - A
25 RESOLUTION - APPROVING, IN ACCORDANCE WITH

1 SECTION 1447(F) OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE
2 OF 1986, AS AMENDED, A PLAN OF FINANCING OF
3 THE SCRANTON-LACKAWANNA HEALTH AND WELFARE
4 AUTHORITY; AND DECLARING THAT IT IS
5 DESIRABLE FOR THE HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE
6 OF THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON FOR
7 THE SCRANTON-LACKAWANNA HEALTH AND WELFARE
8 AUTHORITY TO UNDERTAKE A PROJECT FOR THE
9 UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON.

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

13 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

14 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

18 MR. PERRY: Aye.

19 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

20 MR. EVANS: Aye.

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

23 MS. REED: 5-D. FOR INTRODUCTION -
24 A RESOLUTION - APPOINTMENT OF MARGARET
25 CONLON, 116 SOUTH HYDE PARK AVENUE,

1 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA 18504, AS A MEMBER OF
2 THE MUNICIPAL INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT
3 AUTHORITY (MIDAS) EFFECTIVE APRIL 27, 2016.
4 MS. CONLON IS BEING APPOINTED TO A THREE (3)
5 YEAR TERM THAT WILL EXPIRE ON APRIL 27,
6 2019.

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

10 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

11 MR. EVANS: Second.

12 MR. WECHSLER: On the question? On
13 the question, we have received a letter of
14 interest and resume from Mrs. Collins as we
15 requested.

16 All those in favor of introduction
17 signify by saying aye.

18 MR. PERRY: Aye.

19 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

20 MR. EVANS: Aye.

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

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

24 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.
25 25, 2016 - AN ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE

1 INSTALLATION OF A STOP SIGN AT THE NORTHERLY
2 APPROACH OF DURKIN AVENUE AT GILBERT STREET.

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

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

7 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

10 MR. PERRY: Aye.

11 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

12 MR. EVANS: Aye.

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

15 MS. REED: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR
16 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC
17 WORKS - FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF THE COUNCIL
18 NO. 23, 2016 - AN ORDINANCE - CREATING
19 TOBACCO-FREE AREAS AT LOCAL PARKS AND
20 PLAYGROUNDS IN THE CITY OF SCRANTON.

21 MR. WECHSLER: What is the
22 recommendation of the Chairperson for the
23 Committee on Public Works?

24 MR. ROGAN: As temporary Chair for
25 the Committee on Public Works, I recommend

1 final passage of Item 7-A.

2 MR. EVANS: Second.

3 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

4 Roll call, please?

5 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Perry.

6 MR. PERRY: Yes.

7 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

8 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

9 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Evans.

10 MR. EVANS: Yes.

11 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler.

12 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby

13 declare Item 7-A legally and lawfully

14 adopted.

15 MR. EVANS: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION
16 BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE - FOR ADOPTION -
17 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 24, 2016 - AN
18 ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE LEASE OF CERTAIN
19 REAL PROPERTY TO THE REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
20 OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA (THE
21 "AUTHORITY") PURSUANT TO A LEASE AGREEMENT;
22 AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE INCURRENCE OF
23 LEASE RENTAL DEBT IN THE MAXIMUM PRINCIPAL
24 AMOUNT OF FORTY-NINE MILLION DOLLARS
25 (\$49,000,000), PURSUANT TO THE ACT OF THE

1 GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF
2 PENNSYLVANIA, 53 PA.C.S., CHAPTERS 80-82, AS
3 AMENDED, KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT
4 DEBT ACT; DETERMINING THAT SUCH DEBT SHALL
5 BE INCURRED UNDER THE DEBT ACT AS LEASE
6 RENTAL DEBT TO BE EVIDENCED BY A CERTAIN
7 SUBLEASE AND GUARANTY AGREEMENT OF THE CITY
8 SECURING GUARANTEED LEASE REVENUE BONDS OF
9 THE AUTHORITY TO FINANCE A PROJECT FOR THE
10 AUTHORITY CONSISTING OF ALL OR ANY OF THE
11 FOLLOWING: (1) ACQUIRING THE AUTHORITY'S
12 LEASEHOLD INTEREST IN SUCH REAL PROPERTY
13 SUBJECT TO THE LEASE AGREEMENT FROM THE CITY
14 AND IN CONNECTION THEREWITH CURRENTLY
15 REFUNDING THE AUTHORITY'S GUARANTEED
16 VARIABLE RATE DEMAND LEASE REVENUE BONDS,
17 SERIES OF 2008; AND (2) PAYING THE COSTS AND
18 EXPENSES OF FINANCING SUCH PROJECT; BRIEFLY
19 DESCRIBING SUCH PROJECT FOR WHICH SUCH DEBT
20 IS TO BE INCURRED; DECLARING THE GUARANTY OF
21 SAID AUTHORITY'S GUARANTEED LEASE REVENUE
22 BONDS TO BE A PROJECT OF THE CITY FOR WHICH
23 LEASE RENTAL DEBT IS TO BE INCURRED;
24 AUTHORIZING CERTAIN CITY OFFICERS TO
25 PREPARE, CERTIFY AND FILE WITH THE

1 DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC
2 DEVELOPMENT THE DEBT STATEMENT REQUIRED BY
3 SECTION 8110 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT
4 DEBT ACT AND AUTHORIZING THE PREPARATION OF
5 A DEBT STATEMENT AND BORROWING BASE
6 CERTIFICATE; APPROVING THE FORM OF, AND
7 AUTHORIZING, SUBJECT TO CERTAIN CONDITIONS,
8 EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF THE AFORESAID
9 LEASE AGREEMENT AND SUBLEASE AND GUARANTY
10 AGREEMENT; SPECIFYING THE AMOUNT OF THE
11 GUARANTY OBLIGATION OF THE CITY PURSUANT TO
12 SUCH SUBLEASE AND GUARANTY AGREEMENT AND THE
13 SOURCES OF PAYMENT OF SUCH GUARANTY
14 OBLIGATION; REPEALING INCONSISTENT PRIOR
15 ORDINANCES; SETTING FORTH CERTAIN CONDITIONS
16 TO THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF THE
17 AFORESAID LEASE AGREEMENT AND SUBLEASE AND
18 GUARANTY AGREEMENT; AUTHORIZING THE PROPER
19 OFFICERS OF THE CITY TO TAKE ALL REQUIRED,
20 NECESSARY OR DESIRABLE RELATED ACTION IN
21 CONNECTION WITH SUCH PROJECT AND THE
22 EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF THE LEASE
23 AGREEMENT AND SUBLEASE AND GUARANTY
24 AGREEMENT; APPROVING THE FORM AND
25 DISTRIBUTION OF A PRELIMINARY OFFICIAL

1 STATEMENT OR PRELIMINARY LIMITED OFFERING
2 MEMORANDUM AND AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT OR
3 LIMITED OFFERING MEMORANDUM WITH REGARD TO
4 THE GUARANTEED LEASE REVENUE BONDS;
5 APPOINTING VARIOUS PROFESSIONALS; PROVIDING
6 FOR THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THIS ORDINANCE; AND
7 DECLARING SAID PROJECT DESIRABLE FOR THE
8 HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE OF THE RESIDENTS
9 OF THE CITY.

10 MR. WECHSLER: What is the
11 recommendation of the Chairperson for the
12 Committee on Finance?

13 MR. EVANS: As Chairperson for the
14 Committee on Finance, I recommend final
15 passage of Item 7-B.

16 MR. ROGAN: Second.

17 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

18 MR. ROGAN: On the question, I would
19 just like to say this is an issue that has
20 been ongoing since I first ran for council
21 in 2007, which was the labor battle between
22 the previous mayor and our public safety
23 unions. Unfortunately, the results to the
24 taxpayers is more debt that we have,
25 unfortunately, have no choice to approve it.

1 It is my hope that this debt and this issue
2 serves as a reminder to all of us in future
3 labor negotiations on what can be do and
4 what can't be done.

5 Unfortunately, the dice were rolled
6 in the past and obviously the city lost and
7 this debt, unfortunately, is a big part of
8 former Chris Doherty's legacy and today we
9 work on cleaning that up. I would like to
10 commend the mayor and particularly Business
11 Administrator Dave Bulzoni for being able to
12 obtain financing. For many years the city
13 wasn't even in a position to borrow money to
14 pay this debt and we are paying interest at
15 the rate of over \$100,000 per month.
16 Fortunately, we would still be paying
17 interest now at a lesser rate and with some
18 of the interest that was earned going into
19 pension fund so this is something I'm glad
20 is finally going to be off the backs of
21 elected officials and of the taxpayers,
22 unfortunately, the paying for this debt is
23 going to last a long time and it's all
24 because of a deciding to fight instead of
25 sitting down and negotiating in good faith.

1 MR. EVANS: On the question, I'm
2 very hopeful that the city gets the
3 necessary financing to do this deal but an
4 interest rate that we can live with. As a
5 cautionary note, if this interest rate comes
6 in higher than we anticipate, we also have
7 to have the courage to walk away from that
8 deal so I'm very hopeful that it's going to
9 be get done and it's going to get done
10 properly and done with, again, an interest
11 rate we can live with, but we have to have
12 the courage to walk away if that is not the
13 case. That's all I have.

14 MR. WECHSLER: Yes, and to echo
15 Mr. Evans' comment, we did have a work
16 session with the administration and Business
17 Administrator Bulzoni made that statement
18 that he understands that there is a break
19 even point for this deal, and if we don't
20 meet that threshold from my understanding in
21 talking to him we won't proceed with it so I
22 think they understand that going in.

23 Today the Redevelopment Authority
24 voted on their portion of this process and
25 they did respond to our request, they did

1 lessen their fees for their role that they
2 are going to play in the respective
3 negotiations, I believe it's going to be --
4 their fees are going to be around \$40,000,
5 which is significantly lower than normal so
6 we are happy that they understood the
7 importance of this situation and acted
8 responsibly.

9 MR. PERRY: Yeah, on the question,
10 this has been going on a long time in the
11 city and while us, the taxpayers, it's not
12 over for us yet because we will have to pay
13 this, the fighting is over, and the decision
14 has been made and due to the work, as
15 Mr. Rogan said, of the administration and
16 Mr. Bulzoni they did somehow get some
17 financing for this which we were in search
18 for a very long time, and to echo what
19 Mr. Evans said, and it does need to be
20 reasonable because we were paying \$100,000 a
21 month in interest and on top and on top
22 without an end in sight, and I have all of
23 confidence in the world that when we get our
24 interest rate that it will be much kinder,
25 much kinder than \$100,000 a month and will

1 also give us an end of the road, whereas,
2 before that there was no end of the road and
3 it just kept getting larger. Once we pass
4 this today, we allocate that financing and
5 make our first anticipated payment this
6 November that road becomes shorter every day
7 instead of longer. That's all I have.

8 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Roll
9 call, please?

10 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Perry.

11 MR. PERRY: Yes.

12 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

13 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

14 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Evans.

15 MR. EVANS: Yes.

16 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler.

17 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby
18 declare Item 7-B legally and lawfully
19 adopted.

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

22 MR. ROGAN: Motion to adjourn.

23 MR. WECHSLER: Meeting adjourned.

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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