

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Thursday, May 12, 2016

LOCATION:

Council Chambers

Scranton City Hall

340 North Washington Avenue

Scranton, Pennsylvania

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

- JOSEPH WECHSLER, PRESIDENT
- PATRICK ROGAN, VICE-PRESIDENT
- WAYNE EVANS
- WILLIAM GAUGHAN
- TIM PERRY

- LORI REED, CITY CLERK
- KATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK
- AMIL MINORA, SOLICITOR

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

3 MR. WECHSLER: Roll call, please.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

5 MR. PERRY: Here.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

7 MR. ROGAN: Here.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

9 MR. EVANS: Here.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Here.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

13 MR. WECHSLER: Here. An executive
14 session was held this evening to discuss the
15 matter concerning litigation. Dispense with
16 the reading of the minutes.

17 MS. REED: THIRD ORDER. 3-A.
18 MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE
19 SCRANTON REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY FOR THE
20 MONTHS OF JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH AND APRIL
21 2016.

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

24 MS. REED: 3-B. MINUTES OF THE
25 REGULAR MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF SCRANTON

1 HOUSING AUTHORITY HELD APRIL 4, 2016.

2 MR. WECHSLER: Are there any
3 comments? If not, received and filed. Do
4 any council members have announcements at
5 this time?

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, I have one. Just
7 a reminder that Armed Forces Day parade will
8 be May 21. The Arms Forces Day parade will
9 start at 11 a.m. at the Gino Merli Veteran's
10 Center on Vine Street and Penn Avenue.
11 There are eight local marching bands and the
12 Army material support band will play before
13 and after the parade. So I would ask
14 everybody to get out and make sure they
15 honor our vets this year.

16 Also, the Lackawanna River Corridor
17 Association is pleased to announce the 29th
18 annual Riverfest will take place on
19 Saturday, May 14, 2016. Riverfest is the
20 major fundraiser and community outreach
21 event held each year by the River Corridor
22 Association and it's affiliate, the
23 Lackawanna Valley Conservancy. Both are
24 community based not for profit conservation
25 organizations with a shared mission to

1 promote the appropriate protection,
2 conservation and management of the
3 Lackawanna River and it's watershed
4 resources. The riverfest, like I said, will
5 be held at Sweeney Beach. The site is
6 accessible from 40 Popular Street in
7 Scranton. So you follow Wyoming Avenue to
8 this intersection with Popular Street near
9 Scranton Prep, turn west and follow Popular
10 Street for four blocks and turn left and you
11 will be at Sweeney's Beach, so hopefully
12 everybody could make it out and support that
13 great event. Thank you.

14 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Anyone
15 else?

16 MS. REED: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'
17 PARTICIPATION.

18 MR. WECHSLER: Joan Hodowanitz.

19 MS. HODOWANITZ: Joan Hodowanitz,
20 resident and taxpayer. During Fifth motions
21 would you please explain the background to
22 item 5-b referenced garbage fee and give a
23 little background for the people as to what
24 that's all about. I know you discussed it
25 in your caucus. Also, if various councilmen

1 could comment on in motions about the
2 allegations made by Steve Corbett with
3 regard to some 24 employees in the police
4 department who are delinquent in their
5 garbage fees and what you thinks should be
6 done about municipal employees who do not
7 pay their taxes or fees, I'd like to hear
8 your opinions on that.

9 I was disappointed once again to see
10 that the 2014 city audit is not yet on the
11 city's website. It has been two months. I
12 don't know what the hold up is, but I think
13 it's important for citizens to have access
14 to that document electronically. If they
15 were to come here and ask for a paper copy
16 they would be paying over \$25.

17 Any information on your conference
18 call with regard to the audit, Mr. Wechsler?

19 MR. WECHSLER: It's scheduled for
20 May 23.

21 MS. HODOWANITZ: May 23, good. I
22 would be interested in hearing the feedback
23 from that and hopefully after that you will
24 be able to publish the summary of fiscal
25 affairs, I'll be looking for that.

1 I have not heard or been able to
2 find any information on when the mayor is
3 going to give his 2016 state of the city
4 address, does anybody have any information?

5 MR. WECHSLER: No.

6 MS. HODOWANITZ: Okay. Yesterday
7 morning I attended the various pension board
8 meetings and one of the topics that came up
9 for discussion was the RFP for the pension
10 fund manager trustee. That basically is the
11 financial advisor to the Composite Pension
12 Board and they advise on how to invest the
13 pension funds, and the bids are due to be
14 opened May 20 at 10 a.m. in this room. What
15 surprised me is I got a copy of the RFP and
16 there was quite a bit of financial data
17 appended to it for a both calendar years
18 2014 and 2015, and I checked and it appears
19 that the data from 2014 came out of the
20 audit and I'm surprised because SB & Company
21 gave the city an adverse opinion with regard
22 to the calculation of the pension fund
23 liability numbers and the 2014 audit.
24 Basically those numbers are not necessarily
25 credible so here we have an RFP which

1 includes those numbers, and in case anyone
2 is interested the total unfunded pension
3 liability for 2014 was \$151.1 million, and
4 according to the RFP that number increased
5 in 2015 to \$162.7 million. That's the
6 unfunded liability, so I'm just curious to
7 see how much of the Sewer Authority sale
8 money is going to go into super fund the
9 pensions and what kind of difference it's
10 going to make anyway.

11 Another topic that came up for
12 discussion was the RFP for the third party
13 administrator, which is one of the pension
14 reforms supposedly that the mayor is working
15 on. Apparently, they are trying to develop
16 that RFP as we speak and I think that each
17 member of the council should be getting a
18 copy of that RFP and looking at it closely
19 because it's supposed to provide a layer of
20 oversight to the management of the pension
21 funds. I'm hoping that the role is defined
22 in such a way that a third party
23 administrator is not a mere figurehead that
24 would defeat the purpose.

25 I was extremely disappointed when he

1 attended the Firefighters Pension Board to
2 see that they have a big problem. They are
3 running out of membership. The mayor has
4 not been appointing new members and, in
5 fact, when one of the firefighters had to
6 leave they lost their quorum and they were
7 not able to adjourn. Now, this is something
8 you should really discuss with the mayor
9 because it means that if they cannot have a
10 quorum and a firefighter wants to retire
11 they can't do anything with this paperwork.
12 That is unacceptable. They had a person
13 ready to sit on the boards since January and
14 the mayor has done nothing and they have
15 been trying to get his attention. I think
16 that have you have an obligation to the
17 firefighters of the city to see that their
18 interests are also protected. Thank you.

19 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Fay
20 Franus.

21 MS. FRANUS: Fay Franus. First I'd
22 like address something that was discussed
23 last week by Pat Clark from Friends of
24 Lackawanna. Mr. Evans, you stated that you
25 would discuss with your fellow council

1 members if you could get in touch with
2 Attorney Shrive to put a date on when he
3 would get his opinion, has that taken place?

4 MR. EVANS: No, we haven't had time
5 to do that, but I definitely agree with
6 that, I want to get a firm date on when we
7 expect that to happen.

8 MS. FRANUS: I tend to agree with
9 everything Pat Clark said. He definitely
10 thinks there is a lot of politics going on
11 here.

12 MR. EVANS: I wouldn't know about
13 the politics side.

14 MS. FRANUS: No, well, I'm just
15 telling you my opinion. I agree if
16 Mr. Shrive wanted to give an opinion he
17 could very easily have, he is just not doing
18 it.

19 MR. GAUGHAN: I did talk to Attorney
20 Shrive today because we had a meeting with
21 him and some other people about storm water
22 issues, and I did ask him about the leachate
23 opinion and he said that it should be
24 forthcoming soon. What that means, I asked
25 him if he could give me a definite date and

1 he could not.

2 MS. FRANUS: Thank you. Another
3 thing, as far as the back room caucuses are
4 concerned, a couple of weeks ago, maybe
5 three weeks ago or whatever, it was said in
6 the back room that no one out here could
7 hear the people at home that Attorney Minora
8 said he did not want to get involved with
9 any of us and you, Mr. Wechsler, said you
10 did not want to get involved. That's
11 something you don't want to say out in the
12 public.

13 MR. WECHSLER: I don't know what you
14 are speaking of, I'm sorry.

15 MS. FRANUS: Pardon me?

16 MS. WECHSLER: I don't know what
17 you're speaking of, sorry.

18 MS. FRANUS: We are talking about
19 this leachate stuff in Greenridge.

20 MR. WECHSLER: We have been involved
21 from day one. I don't know how you can say
22 we don't want to be involved.

23 MS. SCHUMACHER: Because it was
24 said, because you said it. You can say
25 easily out here I see -- when I see you on

1 television, oh, you are going to contact
2 Mr. Flynn and you are going to do all of
3 this and do all of that, you even wanted the
4 Dunmore Councilman to get involved to show
5 some support, but yet you don't want to
6 yourself. That's what you said in the back
7 room.

8 MR. WECHSLER: I think you are
9 wrong.

10 MS. FRANUS: No, I'm not wrong. And
11 Mr. Minora said it as well. That's why I
12 think caucuses should be held in the front
13 room out here so people could hear exactly
14 how you really truly feel. Just like when I
15 went back there one time and Mr. McGoff had
16 four councilmen with people coming in from
17 the city to discuss matters against the
18 Sunshine Law, but who would know that
19 anybody would know that because I know you
20 say it's open to the public, but you can bet
21 everybody in the City of Scranton is not
22 going to go in the back room. It would be
23 much easier for them to watch it on camera
24 so I think there's a lot of crap going on
25 here.

1 Mr. Gaughan, how do you feel about
2 having anybody that comes into the caucus to
3 discuss matters to come out here in chambers
4 versus in the back room?

5 MR. GAUGHAN: If it's a matter of
6 consequence and it's something that's
7 important I have no problem meeting out here
8 and sitting here in my chair and having a
9 public caucus. It doesn't bother me in the
10 least.

11 MS. FRANUS: Mr. Wechsler, do you
12 see people should be out here or it should
13 be in the back room?

14 MR. WECHSLER: No, I think that the
15 caucuses that we had that are public are
16 necessary and on occasion when we have the
17 meeting in the back it's just discussing the
18 agenda there is no reason for that to occur.

19 MS. FRANUS: Not council members by
20 yourself, I'm not saying that, I'm saying
21 when you have guests come in like Mr.
22 Bulzoni or somebody else or anybody else
23 other than council members don't you think
24 they should be out here in the front room so
25 people could hear what they are saying?

1 MR. WECHSLER: Right now our opinion
2 is some of those meetings are held in the
3 office.

4 MS. FRANUS: I know that, I said, so
5 why don't you want them out here?

6 MR. WECHSLER: It's not that I -- I
7 don't see the need for all of them to be out
8 here.

9 MS. FRANUS: You don't, because you
10 don't want the people to know what's going
11 on.

12 MR. WECHSLER: That's not --

13 MS. FRANUS: It's absolutely true,
14 because if you didn't you would have them
15 out here. Janet Evans said if you don't
16 want to come in front of the cameras you're
17 not coming at all. That's the way you
18 should have it, transparency.

19 MR. WECHSLER: Think we have a level
20 of transparency.

21 MS. FRANUS: No, you do not. You
22 absolutely do not. The proof is in the
23 pudding with all of the people in the back
24 room that nobody comes out here. That's
25 proof enough. Nobody comes out here. Very

1 few, I should say.

2 Now, this garbage fee, the city and
3 the people that work in the City of Scranton
4 that should come out of their pay if they
5 don't pay. Policemen, the firemen, the
6 school directors, anybody involved in the
7 city. Teachers, everybody, and why should
8 we senior citizens and everybody else that
9 pays their bill pay for people that don't.
10 That's outrageous. First of all, we
11 shouldn't be paying anything at all because
12 it came out of our taxes for years since I'm
13 small so this is just a money maker thing
14 for the city. First of all, you even
15 admitted it was too much money so it's a
16 disgrace, so you are going to add 10 percent
17 more. Big deal. The people aren't paying
18 and why, you have a right to file liens and
19 why haven't you filed liens, Mr. Wechsler?
20 Why haven't you proceeded in filing liens?

21 MR. WECHSLER: We have started the
22 process of the filing liens.

23 MS. SCHUMACHER: What's taking you
24 so long?

25 MR. WECHSLER: It's a legal process.

1 It takes --

2 MS. FRANUS: You've had years and
3 you haven't filed one lien.

4 MR. WECHSLER: We started the
5 process here.

6 MS. FRANUS: When?

7 MR. WECHSLER: Last year.

8 MS. FRANUS: Has there been a lien
9 served yet?

10 MR. WECHSLER: No, there has not.

11 MS. FRANUS: So what takes so long?
12 A year to file a lien.

13 MR. WECHSLER: It's a legal process.

14 MS. FRANUS: I know that. Does it
15 take a year to file a lien?

16 MR. WECHSLER: So far it has.

17 MS. FRANUS: Are you going to file
18 hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of liens
19 from the people that don't pay?

20 MR. WECHSLER: We can only file
21 liens back to 2011.

22 MS. FRANUS: And you also said that
23 you could have an ordinance passed that go
24 back further than three years.

25 MR. WECHSLER: We are going to look

1 into that, yes, but right now we can only go
2 back to 2011.

3 MS. FRANUS: I know right now you
4 don't, but you certainly should. You
5 shouldn't be looking into it, you should be
6 doing it, not looking into it. Why should
7 people that didn't pay three years, the past
8 three years get away with it. That law
9 should have been in --

10 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you.

11 MS. FRANUS: That law should have
12 been a law years and years ago.

13 MR. WECHSLER: It should have been,
14 but none of us were here then and none of us
15 were --

16 MS. FRANUS: You are here now.

17 MR. WECHSLER: Correct, and we are--

18 MS. FRANUS: You are here now, so
19 that law --

20 MR. WECHSLER: Ma'am, I fail to see
21 your argument that we are here and we are
22 doing it.

23 MS. FRANUS: No, you're not. Until
24 I see an ordinance saying you will go
25 further than three years you are not doing

1 it. Just like the liens, I'm going to check
2 and see how it takes to file a lien.

3 MR. WECHSLER: I have to check in
4 with the Treasurer and the City Solicitor's
5 Office every other week to see what the
6 status of the liens is.

7 MS. FRANUS: And also get that law
8 going for anybody past three years, and I
9 think every person that doesn't owe that
10 should be in the paper. Every single person
11 you should make it a point to make that
12 public record in the newspaper. You do it
13 with tax sales, you should do it with the
14 garbage fee.

15 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Albert
16 Young.

17 MR. YOUNG: Albert Young. Council
18 members, first of all, I would really like
19 to thank Jim Lockwood for the great article
20 that he put in the paper last Friday about
21 the Meadow Brook Creek situation that we
22 have ongoing. It was a tremendous article.
23 I hope everybody here has seen it. If not,
24 pick it up on the news.

25 Now, the mayor showed up after

1 council last Wednesday night at 8:30 and
2 knocked on the door. We almost fell off the
3 chair, but he saw the hole. Unlike most
4 council members that I have invited except
5 for Bill Gaughan, I have invited every one
6 out to see what is going on with that hole.
7 It doesn't have just a picture to tell the
8 story. You need to see what is going on
9 there. Gentlemen, it is crater and it's
10 only going to get bigger as this thing --
11 the weather gets worse. We need a fix.

12 Now, Senator Blake is moving in
13 reverse on this situation because he is
14 holding up information for whatever reason
15 he is holding this information up. Channel
16 16 has waited since last Friday to put a
17 segment on the air. They met us at the door
18 on Friday morning and Stacy Langan and her
19 photographer put up a segment, but Senator
20 Blake has not come through with information.

21 It has been mentioned that somewhere
22 along the line that there was application
23 made to PEMA for emergency funds, I have not
24 heard whether this application is in effect
25 or not but, gentlemen, please, if you have

1 any pull let's get it started. I can't wait
2 forever.

3 Now, my estimate, unfortunately, I
4 have bugged the contractor that I had in the
5 hole three weeks ago, I have three calls
6 into him, he still has not sent it to me.
7 Again, as soon as I get it you will get it
8 so that we are all on the same page, and I
9 feel that anybody within the political arena
10 that feels -- would feel that if they had
11 this situation in their backyard it would
12 have been taken care of before this instead
13 of waiting three or four years or in my case
14 we put up with this problem for 47 years. I
15 think Blake and some of the others have a
16 fixed sensation of figuring out that the
17 long-term fix on this is going to be the
18 best way to go. Wrong. I feel that by the
19 time they get the easements, the money, and
20 bids and everything else I'll be 90 years
21 old before the first shovel full of dirt is
22 turned on this situation for a lousy 1350 or
23 80 feet to fix this thing. I'm sorry, I
24 just feel that this thing is moving in
25 reverse.

1 MR. GAUGHAN: Mr. Young, if I could
2 interrupt you for a minute?

3 MR. YOUNG: Oh, go ahead. I was
4 just going to say, I'd like to have this
5 thing all finished as far as the temporary
6 fix is concerned by Labor Day. That's
7 asking a lot, but I think if it is moved
8 along it could happen. And Marty Flynn
9 showed up the other day, I think he had a
10 guilty conscience because it's the first
11 time he has showed up in three and a half
12 years. Blake and Larry West have not been
13 out in four years.

14 So, again, gentlemen, I invite you
15 all, I really do. I would like you to see
16 this hole so that something can be done
17 ASAP.

18 MR. GAUGHAN: Mr. Young, what I was
19 going to say is I was at a meeting today
20 regarding storm water and your issue came
21 up, Mr. Pocius and Jason Shrive, the city
22 solicitor, said there are various meetings
23 going on, but what I said to them and what
24 I'll say to you, and I think we spoke about
25 this when I came out to your house, being

1 fixated on a long-term fix for this thing is
2 not going to help you or anybody in that
3 area because in two, three, four, five years
4 not only you said you are going to be 90
5 years old, I don't think so; right?

6 MR. YOUNG: I'm 75 right now.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay, well, not only
8 in two or three or five years I don't think
9 you will have a yard.

10 MR. YOUNG: Oh, I know that.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: You might not have a
12 house. You might not have a retaining wall
13 that's back there. This is emergency. When
14 we sat out there and I looked at that hole
15 firsthand I couldn't believe it. You could
16 fit two or three cars in this thing, and not
17 only that but there's a six-year-old girl
18 that lives next door so just the fact the
19 city knows about this issue makes us
20 responsible for it. Whether the Chesapeake
21 Bay project or the Meadow Brook, I don't
22 care about that. How many politicians does
23 it take to fill a hole? Find the fix, get
24 the funding and fix the problem.

25 So I think what we should do is send

1 a letter to Governor Wolf, Senator Casey,
2 John Blake and obviously we have the
3 council, let them though that we want
4 emergency funding and we want it immediately
5 because this is an emergency and this is a
6 safety hazard, and my fear is that somebody
7 is going to get hurt out there and then who
8 is going to be responsible for it? So, you
9 know, I really feel bad for you two and all
10 of the neighbors on that block because when
11 you walk outside of your house you can't
12 even sit on your porch because of the stench
13 so something has to be done.

14 MR. EVANS: And I would say to be
15 honest with you I think the city should go
16 out and fix it or hire somebody to fix it
17 and then worry about the money later.

18 MR. YOUNG: That's --

19 MR. EVANS: And then go after Blake
20 and go after Casey and then and go after
21 Cartright, but get them on the -- just do
22 the job, you know? I mean, this is really
23 irritating to me to be perfectly honest with
24 you that you have to wait this long, this
25 situation is so grievous and they just allow

1 it to happen. I read the comment that the
2 mayor made in the paper that was last week
3 and nothing has been done.

4 MR. YOUNG: Oh, I have a letter from
5 Senator Casey stating that he will not be
6 involved any further and this was three
7 years ago on the federal level. We asked
8 him, and it's unfortunate, but we got him at
9 an embarrassing time when he was in the
10 dentist chair to give us some help and --

11 MR. EVANS: Finish your comment.

12 MR. YOUNG: At that point he said he
13 would give us some help, but he did give us
14 a couple of ideas to where to proceed and
15 then within a year and a half Casey wrote us
16 a letter saying, "I will not be involved any
17 longer."

18 Now, as far as the Governor's Office
19 I know that Tom Welby has been involved with
20 talking to the Governor's Office this week,
21 he has made application through them.
22 Again, this is some of the update, I know
23 that somebody has been talking to you,
24 Mr. Wechsler.

25 MR. WECHSLER: Yes, I spoke to the

1 mayor this week and got an update.

2 MR. YOUNG: I spoke to him this
3 afternoon and he again has stated that
4 Senator Blake has not gotten back to him.

5 MR. WECHSLER: I spoke to the mayor
6 this morning again as a follow-up before the
7 meeting, you know, he is in contact with
8 Larry West and that's the contact person in
9 Senator Blake's Office in this matter.

10 MR. YOUNG: As far as Mr. Pocius is
11 concerned, I haven't seen him in five years.

12 MR. EVANS: I want to make one more
13 comment, you know, Senator Blake doesn't
14 have a shovel and a backhoe, Senator Casey
15 doesn't have a shovel and a backhoe, Matt
16 Flynn doesn't have a shovel and a backhoe,
17 but we do and we have a Sewer Authority that
18 has lots of equipment and we have the
19 ability to pay a contractor if we have to.

20 MR. YOUNG: Exactly.

21 MR. EVANS: You take care of the
22 emergency then you go get the money
23 afterwards. This is ridiculous.

24 MR. YOUNG: Exactly.

25 MR. EVANS: Well, I'll be out this

1 weekend to take a look at it. I apologize
2 for not being out there.

3 MR. YOUNG: Just knock on the door,
4 somebody will answer. Thank you for your
5 time.

6 MR. WECHSLER: Andy Sbaraglia.

7 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,
8 citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians,
9 when you borrow the 41 million, which will
10 be paid back 80 million, what did PEL have
11 to say about that? Pennsylvania Economy
12 League, we all know what it is, what do they
13 say?

14 MR. WECHSLER: They are in favor of
15 us --

16 MR. SBARAGLIA: They are in favor of
17 you borrowing \$80 million, is that what you
18 are telling me?

19 MR. WECHSLER: They are favor of us
20 satisfying our debts.

21 MR. SBARAGLIA: No. Borrowing \$80
22 million, what did they say about that?
23 Satisfying your debt could be done in many
24 other ways. Now, the \$95 million, how much
25 does PEL want put into the pension plans?

1 MR. WECHSLER: We have not been
2 given that number yet.

3 MR. SBARAGLIA: When are you going
4 to do it? I mean, we should be working on
5 all these things along ago instead of
6 looking for nickeling and dime things. I
7 mean, for you to say to a person you can't
8 smoke in one of our public parks even though
9 there is no children there because we want
10 the 25 bucks so you can fine them, this is
11 what is wrong with this city. You are
12 nickeling and diming everyone and you don't
13 have no solutions and not trying to make any
14 solutions.

15 I mean, common sense would have told
16 you long ago if that hole was in the ground
17 was such a danger the Sewer Authority could
18 have done it and billed the city and I'm
19 sure you could have found money to pay for
20 it because they have all of the equipment,
21 you are right. They could have done it long
22 ago, but that isn't the way the city works.
23 We are a family and we have to take care of
24 the family so somewhere along the line some
25 family member is going to get a contract to

1 do that job. There is no question about it.
2 That's why the city is declining. I mean,
3 you even notice in the paper where you got
4 some conflict of interest for the city
5 policemen and his father moving in the city.
6 I don't know if you are going to grant him
7 money, is that what the conflict of interest
8 was or anything like that? All it said was
9 he wanted to move in the city and there
10 might be a conflict of interest. I don't
11 think any businessman that moves in this
12 city would be a conflict of interest unless
13 some deal has been worked out between the
14 family and him.

15 That's the trouble with the city.
16 Somewhere along the line common sense must
17 prevail but we have no common sense. I told
18 you a long time ago the only real kid that
19 made sense was the kid trying to get pot
20 passed in the city. I guess if we all took
21 pot we would understand the city better, but
22 that's not the point, the point is you are
23 going to not put that money into the fund
24 for the police and firemen because you want
25 to keep everybody outside of the city still

1 paying that 104 bucks, I think onto it --
2 no, 152, you want them to keep paying that
3 152 and the only way you can do that is to
4 keep the policemen and firemen fund
5 underfunded. This is what you are working
6 on. That's not the way to work.

7 I mean, if we got 95 million then
8 place it into the pension fund. We still
9 have enough money from everywhere else you
10 are collecting to run the city, but let's
11 not go that way. We needed a contract for
12 streetlights. Did we need the streetlights
13 changed? Yeah, in the future, but not now.
14 We are in a financial quagmire. First you
15 straighten out the finances and then you
16 start giving contracts, but that isn't the
17 way the city works. This city, I told you,
18 the political system in the city runs on two
19 things patronage and contracts so you are
20 going to be giving a lot of contracts and
21 patronage to keep the party happy, not the
22 citizens of the Scranton happy. That's the
23 sad part about it. I meant it a long time
24 ago, we should have never changed our way of
25 electing councilmen. They should have been

1 elected by district and not by at large. By
2 doing that, you take a certain number of
3 voters that can put a lot of pressure on
4 different candidates more than they should.
5 In other words, if a man ran in his own
6 district his people in that district would
7 be the only person that could vote for him,
8 not somebody outside of the district and
9 that's part of decline. Thank you.

10 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Morgan.

11 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.
12 Lee Morgan. You know, Mr. Gaughan asked a
13 really I thought it was a comical question
14 how many politicians does it take to fill a
15 hole. I think that if we could put all of
16 the politicians in a hole and then use a
17 bulldozer or backhoe to backfill it our
18 problems would be over because to be real
19 honest with you it doesn't take this long to
20 solve a problem, and if this gentleman is
21 waiting 47 years he in the wrong venue, he
22 belonged in the Court because it's going
23 to -- somebody should have gave an order to
24 fix this.

25 And, you know, this bring something

1 to light here today the sale of the Scranton
2 Sewer Authority. If you can't figure out
3 that's wrong by now. You know, I hope a lot
4 of people would pay a lot of attention to
5 what Andy just said today here because it's
6 true. Everything that that man said from
7 this podium today was true and, you know,
8 after such a long period of time and no real
9 solutions and when I had a conversation with
10 the gentlemen from the PEL who told me that
11 2012 the city could have filed bankruptcy
12 but chose not to, this isn't about
13 protecting the interest of the people in
14 this city.

15 You know, I only have one more child
16 left here who lives in the city and my
17 family has been here a long time to my
18 detriment and to many other others, and my
19 one son is going to move to Texas in a
20 couple of more days, just graduated from
21 Penn State, but that's not the most relevant
22 point here, but the things he says to me
23 when he comes here that, "I can't drive my
24 car on these streets, they are just not -
25 they's just ridiculous, and the city is a

1 slum."

2 And when you go other places and he
3 see it and then you see the silliness that
4 this council presents to the residents every
5 day, and it's just not this council, this is
6 councils going back decades as long as I
7 have been here, and all you know how to do
8 is transfer money from one account to
9 another, take care of the people in the
10 political pipeline. I mean, even this
11 garbage fee situation why isn't this just a
12 tax increase? Why do we have even have a
13 garbage fee? Why? Why are we paying a fee
14 for the Department of Public Works to come
15 and pick up our garbage? It should be in
16 our taxes. Look it, the residents of this
17 city their eyes may glaze over, but
18 basically because the tax increase is coming
19 here are just -- I don't know how somebody
20 could get their mind around what's coming
21 because instead of this council making cuts
22 to the budget, controlling, spending, it's
23 like Andy said and it's been like that for a
24 long time, let's borrow some money, let's
25 hold our nose and pass his budget, let's go

1 do something else, but you know what, you
2 are running out of residents, and the people
3 who vote and the people who come here -- if
4 you are a resident of this city and you come
5 to this council and ask for something to be
6 solved you are in the wrong place because
7 this council can't even figure out why they
8 are here and, you know, you see it.

9 And, you know, there is some
10 legitimacy to people talking about what's
11 taking place in the caucuses. People's
12 business should be done in public, but then
13 the residents of this city forgot a long
14 time ago how to elect people that represent
15 them, and this is why we have the council we
16 have. This is why this council is going to
17 allow the Scranton Sewer Authority to be
18 sold off. This is why this happened when
19 there was a tax on Mr. Scopelliti, who I
20 happened to sit down and talk to about what
21 was taking place in the Scranton Parking
22 Authority who had a real plan to do all he
23 could, but then you know what? He spent too
24 much time listening to politicians and their
25 solicitors, okay? But they are never going

1 to solve one of your problems because they
2 are going to use all of their tools to hold
3 you down and extort you for every penny they
4 can get out of you and when you can't pay
5 anymore they are going to sell your assets.
6 Why? Well, because they can use the Courts
7 as an instrument to steal your property, and
8 I honestly think something that some people
9 think is very, very silly or crazy, I think
10 when people come and post your house to sell
11 it you should shoot them, and then guess
12 what? It will stop because people are going
13 to say, "Holy God, those people are out of
14 their mind, they are shooting people now."

15 But if you look to this council and
16 this government to help you that's not what
17 it's about. It's not about empowering you
18 anymore, it's about enslaving you, and the
19 slaves don't have enough sense to pick their
20 head up and go to the ballot box and get rid
21 of all of the political hacks, including the
22 judges, because they are all connected. All
23 of the politicians are connected by the
24 ballot box. Thank you.

25 MR. ROGAN: You know, that was one

1 of the most ridiculous things I think I
2 heard in this chamber in a long time, that
3 people moving into the city should be shot--

4 MR. MORGAN: Not the people, the
5 politicians. They should shoot the people
6 who are coming --

7 MR. ROGAN: You shoot people.

8 MR. MORGAN: -- to sell their
9 properties because you haven't followed
10 any --

11 MR. ROGAN: -- go shooting anyone.

12 MR. MORGAN: -- in the city for a
13 long time.

14 (Mr. Wechsler bangs the gavel.)

15 MR. MORGAN: Making statements when
16 somebody walks away from the podium --

17 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Morgan --

18 MR. MORGAN: -- just goes to prove
19 how ignorant you really are.

20 (Mr. Wechsler continues to bang the
21 gavel.)

22 MR. MORGAN: If you want to say
23 something, say something while I' at that
24 podium.

25 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Morgan, you are

1 out of order.

2 MR. MORGAN: I may be.

3 MR. ROGAN: You definitely are.

4 MR. MORGAN: Well, I don't care if I
5 am out of order or not, say something when
6 I'm at the podium.

7 MR. ROGAN: Go on back up.

8 MR. WECHSLER: No, he is done. Mr.
9 Morgan, you are out of order.

10 MR. MORGAN: Well, feel free to do
11 it in next week and save your comments.

12 MR. ROGAN: Well, I'm going to make
13 the comments now.

14 MR. MORGAN: Yeah, because you don't
15 have the nerve to say it while I'm at the
16 podium.

17 MR. ROGAN: I'll say it next week to
18 you at the podium.

19 MR. MORGAN: Well, you should.

20 MR. ROGAN: For somebody to come up
21 here and say people should be shot in the
22 city is ridiculous.

23 MR. MORGAN: People are stealing and
24 selling your property because this
25 government won't take care of it's residents

1 is a disgrace.

2 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Morgan, you are
3 out of order.

4 MR. MORGAN: And to say in distress
5 for over decades and selling all the city's
6 assets is a disgrace. Period.

7 MR. ROGAN: And you are there
8 advocating for violence. That's the
9 solution?

10 MR. MORGAN: No, I'm saying we're
11 passed the point of looking to government
12 for solutions because you want to levy
13 people's property and make it worthless.

14 MR. WECHSLER: Is there anyone else
15 who would like to address council? Yes,
16 please come up. State your name.

17 MS. MOONEY: Samantha Mooney, I'm a
18 Greenridge resident.

19 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you.

20 MS. MOONEY: I actually have been to
21 the hole, my daughter and the girl next door
22 are friends and we have played there and I
23 guarded it as my children don't go there,
24 but I actually had my notes for a different
25 meeting. I was set to go to the Scranton

1 Sewer Authority meeting and when I got there
2 the door was locked so I was just wondering,
3 so I came here hoping for answers. Do we
4 know why their meeting was cancelled or why
5 it was not posted?

6 MR. EVANS: No.

7 MS. HODOWANITZ: She does.

8 MS. MOONEY: Oh, okay, I'll talk to
9 you later, and then I do have also one other
10 question as I was thinking about it more
11 from the other day, I'm going to say
12 probably two or three weeks when I was here
13 last, Michelle Dempsey had brought up that
14 the 1990 settlement order regarding the
15 leachate line is what I am addressing, sorry
16 I changed topics, that at that point the
17 council did have the authority, I guess it
18 would be executive authority in a way,
19 because you did sign, not you personally,
20 but the council signed the settlement
21 agreement. So at that point in time the
22 council did have the authority, and I was
23 wondering if we ever found out what changed
24 in the code or what restricted your
25 authority so you can't do that now?

1 MR. WECHSLER: I'll let Solicitor
2 Minora answer you, but only signed as a
3 party to the agreement. We didn't have the
4 executive authority, but Solicitor Minora
5 I'll let him answer.

6 MS. MOONEY: Sure.

7 MR. MINORA: You are asking about
8 whether or not we should file a lawsuit
9 against the Sewer Authority?

10 MS. MOONEY: No, not exactly. I'm
11 asking what changed from 1990 to now to
12 restrict council's authority since council
13 was a signatory to the settlement agreement
14 since they were in court they were using an
15 executive function, so to say, it wasn't the
16 mayor's signature on it, I'm wondering what
17 law or code changed?

18 MR. MINORA: Nothing has changed.
19 We never had the ability to issue permits at
20 the time, we don't have an ability to do
21 issue permits now. We didn't --

22 MS. MOONEY: Sure. I'm --

23 MR. MINORA: Can I answer your
24 question?

25 MS. MOONEY: Sure, sorry, I

1 apologize.

2 MR. MINORA: We don't have the
3 ability to -- and we didn't have it at the
4 time to enforce permit violations, we don't
5 have the ability now to enforce -- govern
6 permitting violations now so nothing has
7 changed. What happened at that time was the
8 city, not city council, the city involved
9 themselves in a question between the Sewer
10 Authority and a permittee. The Court's
11 ruled the city had absolutely no right to do
12 that, we were interfering with a contract
13 between another governing body and a private
14 individual. The Court ruled against the
15 city, there was a settlement because there
16 was going to be a judgment against the city
17 in probably millions of dollars at the time,
18 so the city settled with that individual as
19 a result of the interference with the
20 private contractor so none of that has
21 changed. None of that has changed.

22 Why the city council was asked to
23 sign a contract at that time I don't know.
24 City council doesn't sign contracts on
25 behalf of the city. We have contracts here,

1 we have them today and we'll have them next
2 week and we've probably them have dozens of
3 times in the past. We approve the ability
4 of the executive to sign a contract and that
5 was done at the time, and we'll do one again
6 tonight but we won't sign it, nobody on
7 council will sign it. It's not our job to
8 sign it. It's the executive's job to sign
9 it. It's the executive's job to enforce
10 contracts if they are violated. If that was
11 a contract that they feel that has been
12 violated then they can enforce it. We have
13 no standing. Standing is the most
14 fundamental thing that you must have to walk
15 into the Court to bring an action. Council
16 has no standing. Pennsylvania Supreme Court
17 is clear on that. I have case law that is
18 absolutely clear we have no standing to
19 bring a lawsuit on behalf the city for a
20 license or permit violation.

21 MR. GAUGHAN: Can I jump in here for
22 a second?

23 MS. MOONEY: Absolutely.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: Would that -- because
25 council signed the agreement in 1990 would

1 that give us the standing though because it
2 was past precedence?

3 MR. MINORA: The signature to it had
4 nothing to do with it. It's a matter of --
5 standing has nothing to do with your
6 signature, it has to do with the issues as
7 they affect you individually or your body
8 individually in this case. The case law is
9 clear about that. I have Supreme Court
10 cases that are, you know, within the last
11 couple of the years which is essentially
12 brand new coming from the Pennsylvania
13 Supreme Court on this.

14 MS. MOONEY: But I think Mr. Gaughan
15 may be onto something, if I'm a party to a
16 contract and somebody violated my contract
17 then I would have standing --

18 MR. MINORA: City Council --

19 MS. MOONEY: -- and if they are a
20 signatory on there --

21 MR. MINORA: City council is not a
22 party to a contract.

23 MR. MOONEY: They signed it though.

24 MR. MINORA: They are not a party to
25 the contract. The City of Scranton is a

1 party to the contract. City council is not
2 a party to any contract that we are going to
3 approve tonight, approved last week or
4 approved next week. We are not a party to
5 it.

6 MS. MOONEY: Yet, it's not the
7 mayor's signature on this particular
8 document so --

9 MR. MINORA: It's the City of
10 Scranton that is the party. City council
11 has no standing. That's not me saying it,
12 that's the Pennsylvania Supreme Court saying
13 it.

14 MS. MOONEY: I guess my plea, my
15 beck, is what ever council did to interfere
16 last time as a resident of Greenridge I'm
17 begging you to interfere again because at
18 this point in time the reason why I showed
19 up, one to show up at the Scranton Sewer
20 Authority meeting is obviously you gave our
21 petition to the mayor, the mayor then
22 requested his solicitor to contact the other
23 solicitor to get an opine, and that has not
24 happened from my understanding at this point
25 in time, so I wanted to ask when that was

1 going to happen so we can move forward.

2 MR. GAUGHAN: I actually talked to
3 Attorney Shrive today and he told me that he
4 was still waiting for more documents from
5 Attorney walker, and then he would have his
6 opinion soon. Now, do I -- you know, the
7 documents are available, I have seen them,
8 so why we are waiting for information I have
9 no idea, I can't answer that.

10 MS. MOONEY: Sure.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: But I'm just as
12 concerned as you and everybody else in
13 Greenridge. This is a major issue and from
14 what I can see the agreement was violated,
15 it's pretty clear to me, but an attorney is
16 going to have to give an opinion on that
17 and, you know, I don't want to see this drag
18 on any longer than you do or anybody in
19 Greenridge because the health and safety of
20 the residents are involved and that's
21 important.

22 MS. MOONEY: My other concern, if I
23 may just ask one more question or raise more
24 one issue.

25 MR. GAUGHAN: Sure.

1 MS. MOONEY: Is since Meadow Brook
2 is part of an CSO, a consolidated sewer
3 overflow there is a -- it is very possible
4 that there is raw sewage in that hole, poop,
5 now that the permit has now allowed for
6 leachate to run down that and I think that
7 permit also bypasses could be raw leachate
8 untreated by KSL's treatment plant. Raw
9 leachate, leachate in general four drops of
10 it makes an entire swimming pool toxic so my
11 concern is my child playing next to raw
12 leachate and poop in this hole. I would beg
13 of you, again, begging of you guys to please
14 help us.

15 MR. EVANS: Thank you.

16 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening,
17 Council, Marie Schumacher. First, an agenda
18 item, on 5-C why is Nay Aug excluded? Last
19 year you passed an anticipated revised
20 recovery plan that included shared services
21 and municipal cooperation. I have asked
22 this every year, might the cost have been
23 lower if the city and the authority had
24 combine their purchase? What are the
25 chances of expanding shared services if we

1 can't even manage cooperation with the city
2 authority? Slim to none, I would guess.

3 MR. WECHSLER: There was only one
4 bidder. There was only one bidder.

5 MS. SCHUMACHER: It doesn't matter
6 if. You combine if -- if they had combined
7 it still might have been a lower price.

8 MR. WECHSLER: The one bidder --

9 MS. SCHUMACHER: My five minutes
10 now, and I will ask that the rest of the
11 comments I'm asking for being replied in
12 Fifth Order. The following ups,
13 Mr. Gaughan, I hope you have the number of
14 retention ponds for which the city has
15 resumed the deeds tonight?

16 MR. GAUGHAN: I do not. Mr. King
17 has not got back to me with that
18 information.

19 MS. SCHUMACHER: I hope you will
20 share during Fifth Order what you have
21 learned at your storm water meeting that you
22 have had this week.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: Not much of anything
24 new, but I will.

25 MS. SCHUMACHER: And, Mr. Evans, I

1 guess since we don't have the 2017 MMO at 50
2 percent it's time to go to the AG to get
3 that? Is that the next person I go to?

4 MR. EVANS: It is interesting, I saw
5 the legislation -- I'll talk about it in
6 Fifth Order, I don't want to take your time.

7 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay, and then how
8 are the tobacco free zones in the parks be
9 enforced? Is this going to be a police
10 effort? Are we going to have a special duty
11 like we have for parking enforcement and
12 quality of life or --

13 MR. GAUGHAN: Do you want me to
14 answer it now?

15 MS. SCHUMACHER: If it's quick,
16 yeah.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Well --

18 MS. SCHUMACHER: Fifth Order. Fifth
19 Order.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: I'll wait.

21 MS. SCHUMACHER: Fifth Order is
22 fine. Okay, and then when, I don't even
23 know whose committee is falls into, but
24 when, if ever, will the city consider a
25 single property tax assessment and millage?

1 Mr. Rogan, back in March of 2015 you
2 voted in favor of the revised recovery plan
3 with no qualms, yet that included the sale
4 or lease of the Sewer Authority proceeds
5 which shall be used to reduce the unfunded
6 liabilities of city pension funds, yet last
7 week you spoke against using the Scranton
8 Sewer Authority funds for proceeds to fund
9 the pensions, so during Fifth Order if you
10 could tell me why you changed your position
11 on this I would appreciate it.

12 MR. ROGAN: It's not a change in
13 position. It was --

14 MS. SCHUMACHER: My time.

15 MR. ROGAN: Well, you ask the
16 questions so I'll give you an answer.

17 MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, you can do it
18 in Fifth Order there. I mean, you get
19 unlimited time. Is the pension one call
20 systems agreement authorized last May to
21 identify all of the facilities that are
22 owned by the city and locate the same on
23 mappings complete? Does anybody know that?
24 Just yes or no. Whose committee does that
25 fall into?

1 MR. GAUGHAN: That would be mine,
2 but I'm not sure. I can find out.

3 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. Now, paving,
4 as I understand it, was paid for with a
5 ten-year, low interest loan from the
6 government so I really find it disingenuous
7 at best that they are -- the mayor has signs
8 at the beginning of every street that has
9 been milled but not paved saying it's our
10 tax dollars at work. It's not. It's our
11 future tax dollars at work. It's debt;
12 correct? Yeah. Don't make it sound like
13 we've already paid for it with what we have
14 put in.

15 And then that proposed impact on the
16 city debt chart, instead of six more years
17 with a \$14 million debt service excluding
18 the TAN we will now have 11 more years of
19 roughly \$30 million debt service including
20 probably the TANS. That's a lot of money.
21 So what's on the horizon to pin our hopes
22 on? We have got a secret energy strategy,
23 four council committees that haven't been
24 heard from in almost a year. We have a
25 government funded group creating a framework

1 for a downtown revitalization if we can come
2 up with 75 grand, and so it goes. When, if
3 ever, will the city realize they may do all
4 of the studies they please, but not much
5 will happen until the rates of property
6 taxation and wage taxation, etcetera, are
7 brought into equality with the surrounding
8 at least contiguous communities. However,
9 that can't happen because the majority of
10 our large expenses public safety, pensions,
11 debt service, so where do each of you see
12 the opportunity?

13 And, finally, Mr. Wechsler, I would
14 appreciate if you would share why we can
15 only go back three years to collect on the
16 trash, unpaid trash fees. Thank you.

17 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening, Council.
18 Dave Dobrzyn, taxes and fees. I would also
19 like to find out why we can only go back to
20 2011, you know, there is one person -- it
21 was pointed out to me from somebody that he
22 knew in the neighborhood, a landlord that
23 had five or six dwellings or rental
24 properties, and he hadn't paid ever a
25 tipping fee and he was at about \$15,000. He

1 rides around in a Corvette all day like a
2 big shot, he runs for public office, but I
3 think I shamed him into just dropping up.
4 Anybody that owes \$15,000 does not deserve
5 public office, they deserve a few other
6 public accommodations maybe.

7 And, yeah, I'd like to see at least
8 liens put on it, and maybe we could do
9 something with these -- some of these older
10 people that can't pay put a lien against the
11 house and lot of them go up for -- Wayne
12 might know a lot about this, for Medicaid
13 spend downs and liens, so if we have it
14 registered we might get our money.

15 MR. EVANS: Yeah.

16 MR. DOBRZYN: But if we don't have
17 it registered as a lien against it then
18 Medicaid might get it, the federal
19 government just love us, get all the more of
20 our money.

21 I have a complaint about pending
22 legislation, you can't see what's in it. So
23 any time you come up here and talk about
24 pending legislation you are blowing smoke.
25 You are getting a little tiny thing. I have

1 a computer, I have a computer service and I
2 can look up this legislation so if I'm
3 incorrect please correct me, but how do you
4 comment on something that you don't even
5 know what's in the legislation? I mean, it
6 doesn't make any sense.

7 Now, did anybody ever read "Lives
8 Per Gallon"?

9 MR. GAUGHAN: What was that?

10 MR. DOBRZYN: "Lives Per Gallon."

11 It's a book.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: No. No.

13 MR. DOBRZYN: And according to this
14 author if you live near a busy thoroughfare
15 from infancy to 20 years old you will loss 5
16 percent -- or 20 percent of your lung
17 capacity so I just wanted to point that out.
18 Now, last week we did pass our smoking ban
19 in parks even though it's open air, even
20 though automotive is way more harmful in my
21 generation we had tetraethyl lead and that's
22 where most of the lead poisoning came from
23 with my generation in those ghetto kids, not
24 chewing on paint chips. That was a lie and
25 it's still a lie because it's still -- we

1 are still removing lead paint from homes and
2 such that other than you actually eating it
3 it would never do.

4 Now, we have Molly Brannigan's, that
5 was a smoke free bar and they wound up going
6 to \$650,000 in closing which has never been
7 repaid. My brother played down at the Ritz
8 in a combo and I went there four nights and
9 one night wasn't him, but the three nights I
10 was sitting and thinking how long is this
11 going to go on because there were so few
12 people in there, and the fourth night they
13 showed up and for five people and about 30
14 or 40 thousand dollars worth of equipment,
15 years of music studies, they got \$3 a piece.
16 I went around the corner to the Hardware
17 Bar, I didn't even go in because I don't
18 care for that gooey kids stuff that much,
19 but the kids are hanging off the ceilings
20 so, hanging off the chandeliers so now the
21 point being we have a new concession at Nay
22 Aug and intend to get in touch with the Na
23 Aug authorities, and this guy is really
24 putting some effort into it and I don't want
25 to see people chased out of Nay Aug Park

1 over a cigarette 100 feet away from somebody
2 else.

3 So, all right, well, let it go until
4 next week, but also there was a letter to
5 the editor, I'll make it quick, on disposal,
6 he was cleaning but his parent's house and
7 he took three televisions up there and they
8 wanted \$100 to dispose of them.

9 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you.

10 MR. DOBRZYN: Great, the will be on
11 our front porches or front yards some day.
12 Right, Wayne?

13 MR. WECHSLER: Anyone else.

14 MR. JACKOWITZ: Bill Jackowitz,
15 Scranton resident. Good evening, Scranton
16 City Council. Good evening, Kathy,
17 stenographer, Lori and Amil. How long does
18 it take to fill a hole in Scranton? Is 43
19 years long enough?

20 MR. EVANS: Yeah.

21 MR. JACKOWITZ: You think 43 years
22 is long enough? Why hasn't it been done?
23 Why hasn't it been done? I don't want to
24 hear it's the administration problem.

25 MR. GAUGHAN: No, the answer that we

1 have gotten is fund, the other answer that
2 we have gotten is if the city touches it the
3 city then becomes responsible because it's
4 part of the larger Chesapeake Bay watershed
5 deal.

6 MR. JACKOWITZ: Well, somebody is
7 responsible.

8 MR. GAUGHAN: And I agree with you,
9 and I had a conversation today about it with
10 Mr. Pocius, Don King and Jason Shrive and a
11 couple of other people and, you know, they
12 realize that this is important and it needs
13 to get. There is conversations going on
14 with Senator Blake and others in the state
15 to try to get state finding. So, you know,
16 I know council is going to stay on this
17 because is this cannot go on any longer. I
18 understand that the overall project could
19 take up to five years, but in their case
20 this is a great emergency and you really do
21 have to go out there and see for yourself to
22 how understand how big of a deal it its.

23 MR. JACKOWITZ: The bottom line is
24 nothing is being done. All it is talk and
25 talk is nothing but words and doesn't mean

1 anything until the words are put into
2 action, and so far there has been no action
3 so I think it's about time that someone,
4 whether it be council, whether it be the
5 mayor, whether it be DPW or whoever it be
6 someone help these poor people out. They
7 have suffered long enough.

8 MR. WECHSLER: I agree with you.
9 Council does not have a backhoe, we have
10 been the ones pushing this.

11 MR. JACKOWITZ: I understand.

12 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Young came here.

13 MR. JACKOWITZ: You should be
14 pushing the mayor and the DPW --

15 MR. WECHSLER: We are. We are.

16 MR. JACKOWITZ: -- every single day.
17 As a city council --

18 MR. WECHSLER: You think Mayor
19 Courtright would have been out to visit that
20 scene on Friday -- or on Thursday if we did
21 not start pushing it here?

22 MR. JACKOWITZ: Right, but I would
23 be pushing it --

24 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Jackowitz --

25 MR. JACKOWITZ: Obviously, you are

1 just giving a little shove, you need to give
2 it a push.

3 MR. WECHSLER: What would you
4 recommend for us?

5 MR. JACKOWITZ: I recommend that if
6 you go to the mayor's office and the DPW
7 director's office and John Pocius's office
8 every single day and bring the subject up --

9 MR. WECHSLER: We have been. The
10 mayor went out to the site on Thursday and
11 took responsibility as best I read in the
12 paper. I don't know what else as a council
13 we can do. You can go to his office every
14 day and --

15 MR. JACKOWITZ: I'm saying council
16 has more influence than a private citizen
17 does.

18 MR. WECHSLER: Well, we've already
19 done that and the mayor went out to the hole
20 and took responsibility for it. It was in
21 the paper.

22 MR. EVANS: It must be true.

23 MR. JACKOWITZ: Okay, he took
24 responsibility for it so what is he doing
25 about it?

1 MR. WECHSLER: He took
2 responsibility for it.

3 MR. GAUGHAN: Like I just said,
4 there has been meetings that have been
5 ongoing, there is an effort to get emergency
6 funding. I do know that, I was at a meeting
7 today where it was discussed.

8 MR. JACKOWITZ: Okay. Well, if I
9 was this gentlemen I know I would do, I
10 would go to the national news media, I would
11 go to CNN, I would go to Fox, I would go to
12 MSNBC, I would go to all of the national
13 news media like they do in other parts of
14 the country when they have holes opening up
15 and on their property, and hopefully someone
16 would send a film crew and report it here
17 and I would tell my story to the nation
18 about how no one in Scranton wants to do
19 anything to fill a hole that's been there
20 for 43 years, and I would tell the story. I
21 would tell it just like it is, how many
22 people I have contacted, who I've contacted,
23 when I contracted, and they can look at the
24 hole, the film crew can film and see the
25 hole is still here and every time we go

1 somewhere to talk to somebody we get a run
2 around. No one wants to accept
3 responsibility and nobody wants to do
4 anything about it except, like I said, words
5 are nothing but words. They mean nothing
6 until they're put into action and right now
7 we need to see some action.

8 Mr. Wechsler, I got a question, do
9 you and PEL really believe that if you pay
10 off a bill with borrowed money and make a
11 bigger bill that you have paid off a debt?

12 MR. WECHSLER: No.

13 MR. JACKOWITZ: Do you believe that?

14 MR. WECHSLER: But you can
15 reorganize your debt, yes.

16 MR. JACKOWITZ: You can reorganize
17 it, yes, but did you pay off a debt or did
18 you create another debt?

19 MR. WECHSLER: If you borrow to pay
20 a debt you still have debt, but you can
21 recreate it, you can refinance it or
22 recreate your debt.

23 MR. JACKOWITZ: Right. Exactly, and
24 that seems to be the revolving door that we
25 in the City of Scranton because we borrow

1 money to pay this off and borrow money to
2 pay this off, obviously city council and the
3 administration knows something that the
4 citizens don't know because they honestly
5 keep saying that we are going to get out of
6 this. Well, we are not going to get out of
7 this because we are losing more people,
8 every time the taxpayer leaves the city the
9 city is losing money. Every time a house
10 gets condemned or gets tore down we are
11 losing money, but yet we keep being told
12 have patient, be patient, we are going to
13 get out of this. Well, if we continue to
14 borrow money and borrow money and borrow
15 money we are never get out of this unless
16 the city council and the administration
17 knows something that the people don't know
18 about it, that there's a secret magic wand
19 or something can be waived and everything
20 will disappear and everything will go away.
21 I don't think that's right. I don't think
22 it works that way.

23 And, Pat, did you like that, it
24 wasn't a paving job they did on Luzerne
25 Street but there was a patch job, was it

1 better?

2 MR. ROGAN: Well, it's a start.

3 MR. JACKOWITZ: That's like I said
4 last week it wasn't the best job in the
5 world but --

6 MR. ROGAN: It's a start.

7 MR. JACKOWITZ: -- at least it's a
8 start. There's a couple of holes that they
9 found and got patched.

10 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Anyone
11 else?

12 MS. REED: FIFTH ORDER. 5-A.
13 MOTIONS.

14 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Perry, do you
15 have any comments?

16 MR. PERRY: Yes, I just have one
17 comment, the news story that broke,
18 breaking, I just want to make a comment. In
19 regard to the allegations that there are
20 city employees with outstanding fees, I just
21 want to give you my thoughts real quickly on
22 that. When you have loyal, hardworking, low
23 income citizens and also citizens on fixed
24 incomes that can consistently pay their fees
25 and taxes on time and more importantly pay

1 the city employee's wages and salaries and
2 then have city employees not come through on
3 their end by paying the same fees and taxes
4 that's wrong. That's wrong on a lot of
5 levels. Now, I know there is some times
6 issues with incorrect billing, but if these
7 allegations are true I'm asking any city
8 employee, whether it be police, fire or
9 otherwise to not do what only you are
10 obligated to do but do the right thing, and
11 I would like you to make this right and get
12 caught up as quickly as possible.

13 Now, if this plea falls on deaf ears
14 then know that you are on notice that this
15 council will take any legal avenue to
16 collect the debt. That's all I have.

17 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr. Perry.
18 Mr. Rogan?

19 MR. ROGAN: Yes, I wasn't planning
20 on talking about this tonight, but I guess I
21 have to, I know Councilman Gaughan and Evans
22 addressed this, you know, we meet every week
23 and the vast majority of the people that
24 come to our meetings have a concern, a
25 neighborhood concern, questions about the

1 city regarding budgetary issues, audits, the
2 inner workings of the city, but over the
3 last few months the rhetoric of some has
4 really bothered me and I know it's bothered
5 some of my colleagues as well. In the last
6 month, we've heard disparaging remarks
7 against the former council president, who
8 has passed away, we have heard that people
9 selling their homes should be shot. I don't
10 think that type of rhetoric is appropriate
11 for this forum.

12 We certainly appreciate the
13 residents coming with problems, with
14 complaints. You don't like how I voted on
15 an issue yell at me about it, but don't
16 degrade people, especially those who are
17 deceased, which we have heard in the last
18 month, don't say the people should be shot
19 and say the people of Scranton are idiots
20 because they are not. We have a great city,
21 we have problems, and that's why we are here
22 because we have problems and we are doing
23 our best to try and fix a number of issues
24 every day, but I certainly appreciate those
25 who come here with issues they want to see

1 fixed, with criticism whether it be
2 constructive or not on the issues not based
3 on personalities or general attacks.

4 Moving on regarding what Mr. Perry
5 mentioned, and every city employee needs to
6 pay their garbage fee and their taxes. That
7 being said, it always seem that there is --
8 the media will cast a group and they'll say,
9 you know, this group of people don't do
10 this, there are probably a certain number of
11 city employees, and I would bet to say
12 within every department that owe the city
13 money whether it's on taxes, garbage fees,
14 etcetera, those need to be paid, but also
15 keep in mind that the vast majority of city
16 employees and city residents do pay their
17 fees and it's certainly an investigation
18 that needs to take place on what's going on
19 with any city employees that owes a back
20 garbage fee. If it -- as Mr. Perry
21 mentioned, if it something that a house was
22 purchased and the title company missed it,
23 title attorney missed that, obviously that's
24 a much different issue than somebody who
25 gets the bill and throws it in the garbage

1 or where there's an error with the bill
2 which, unfortunately, is all too common with
3 the city.

4 That gets to the larger point that
5 we have been talking about for quite some
6 time on here that we need to fundamentally
7 change our how garbage is paid for and
8 collected within the City of Scranton, it's
9 not working. Somebody mentioned there is
10 TV's strewn across the city since DPW can't
11 pick them up, that's not the DPW's fault,
12 the recycling center will not take those --
13 or the dump will not take those TV's and the
14 recycling won't anymore that's a problem.
15 Luckily, some have stepped in. I know Marty
16 Flynn's Office has done recycling drives for
17 used electronics and the recycling program
18 in general is not what it should be within
19 the city. These are issues that I'm looking
20 forward to working with my colleagues over
21 the next few years to get addressed and
22 hopefully sooner.

23 Regarding a question that was asked
24 on the recovery plan, and yes, I did vote
25 for the recovery plan, the recovery plan is

1 a very thick document, probably as thick as
2 this piece of paper here, did I agree with
3 everything in it word for word? Of course
4 not, but I also didn't say last week that no
5 money should be put in the pension fund
6 from any windfall of the sale. I certainly
7 believe some should, but I don't think we
8 should put all of our eggs in one basket and
9 put say \$90 million into a pension fund when
10 there is other liabilities, other high
11 interest debts that can be paid off.

12 Infrastructure improvements that can be
13 done, project agreements to fix the Young's
14 problem, paving, bridges, Lackawanna Avenue
15 bridge was just reduced -- the weight was
16 reduced I believe it was about a month ago
17 because of the condition and I know that's
18 causing problems for some local businesses.
19 That's one of the main thoroughfares to get
20 from downtown into West Scranton and the
21 other route for special truck traffic is too
22 narrow going up Linden, so those are things
23 that need to be addressed. That is all I
24 have for now. Thank you.

25 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you.

1 Mr. Evans.

2 MR. EVANS: Thank you. On the liens
3 of delinquent garbage property owners, if I
4 recall there was no plan in place to do any
5 liens until this city council stepped in and
6 pressured the administration to pursue that
7 and while it's slower than we anticipated or
8 slower than we want, we are probably most
9 well responded for making that happen.

10 On the single tax, property tax
11 millage I agree 100 percent that's something
12 we should be working towards, but to do it
13 prior to a reassessment it just doesn't
14 work, but if we get a reassessment it will
15 work and something we really have to look
16 at.

17 There's a principal in architecture
18 called less is more. It's used as a
19 description for what is known as the
20 minimalist movement, it's a concept that's
21 rarely displayed in government circles. In
22 fact, you can say the government in Scranton
23 is no exception, in fact, we make it a
24 poster child for a subtle different
25 variation of that principal which I would

1 like to call less pays more principal.
2 Property taxes, usages and fees, mercantile
3 and business privilege taxes, rental
4 registration fees, garbage fees, this
5 government has used this principal over and
6 over again. Whenever there is a budget
7 crunch or a need for additional revenue this
8 government simply invokes the less pays more
9 principal. We raise taxes and fees in an
10 attempt to raise revenue, and in generally
11 it works for the short term because
12 individuals do need time to react, but in
13 the long-term the anticipated gains become
14 less and less as those that resist the
15 increase find a way not to pay or leave our
16 city or close their businesses or walk away
17 from their homes, and we are left again with
18 the less pay is more situation as only the
19 good citizen, the good property owner, and
20 the good business owners pay up and continue
21 to carry the load for those that have fled
22 and continue to flee.

23 Let me give you some examples of
24 what could have been and possibly could be
25 done in the future if the rental

1 registration ordinance for decades, this
2 failed legislation has been revised over and
3 over and over and again, and yet here we are
4 20 plus years later after the initial
5 legislation was introduced with estimates of
6 15 to 20 percent of all rental units
7 registered. It's hard to put a real number
8 on that because the city doesn't even know
9 how many rental units there really are so we
10 have maybe 15 percent of those registered
11 and they are paying for everyone else that's
12 not so clearly we have the less paying more
13 principal in full effect.

14 So what can be done? The city
15 council will be unveiling an ordinance over
16 the next few weeks that will be laser
17 focused on the registration because we have
18 a registration problem, we do not have an
19 inspection problem. And by focusing on
20 registration we can increase the level of
21 participation and reduce the fee for all who
22 register and then we can begin a new
23 principal called more paying less.

24 Let's look at another example, the
25 garbage fee. Because of the ineptness and

1 poor policy existing rental registration
2 ordinance and past ordinances we are missing
3 out on hundreds and hundreds of thousands of
4 dollars of uncollected garbage fees because
5 rental units have not been identified and
6 registered. Additionally, because we don't
7 have a comprehensive policy or plan that I'm
8 aware of that will drive a dramatic increase
9 in curb side recycling, we are therefore
10 taking an unknown amount of unnecessary
11 tonnage daily to the landfill that should
12 have been recycled so we are left with the
13 \$300 garbage fee and we are left knowing
14 once again that less are asked to pay more.

15 So what can be done? The city
16 council has asked for a full review and
17 study on the actual cost of picking up our
18 refuse and determine once and for all what
19 the fee should be moving forward, but for
20 some relief may not have to wait. Tonight
21 we are entertaining legislation that won't
22 freeze the penalty when a garbage fee
23 becomes delinquent. While I'm not
24 necessarily opposed to this, what are we
25 going to do to increase the level of

1 participation prior to getting to
2 delinquency? So to that point, in front of
3 you doing the simple fix possibly within
4 this legislation that would call for a 10
5 percent discount to those property owners
6 that pay the garbage fee in full by May 1
7 beginning in 2017. This step would not only
8 reward those who pay early in a significant
9 way, but it will increase the collection
10 rate and bring increased cash flow to the
11 city during those times the city is
12 struggling to pay it's own bills. If this
13 can be done in conjunction with some of the
14 other issues that I just described, I think
15 we can agree that he can begin with a more
16 paying principal again and again and again.

17 For every fee and tax that this
18 government seems to stay awake at night
19 trying to dream up through inefficiency,
20 ineptness and lack of vision we have always
21 asked the few to continue to pay more, but
22 by lowering and eliminating unnecessary fees
23 and writing legislation that encourages the
24 more to pay less instead of discouraging
25 more not to pay, we can begin to create an

1 environment that fosters growth because
2 clearly, again, clearly the less pays more
3 principal has been the ultimate failure.
4 That's all I have for now. Thank you.

5 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Gaughan?

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes. Thank you. A
7 couple of things. First on the tobacco free
8 smoke ordinance that was passed, to answer
9 Mrs. Schumacher's question about who
10 enforces it, the police will enforce this,
11 but for me when we first started talking
12 about this and the eventually passed it, it
13 was supposed to be a more of an educational
14 initiative. I don't expect that, you know,
15 this will become a very stringent law. The
16 sign was supposed to really be enforced by
17 the people that use the park, so do I expect
18 that there will be smoking patrols at all of
19 the parks? No. It was supposed to be, like
20 I said, more of an educational initiative
21 and something that will make the parks, in
22 my opinion, more safe and healthy for the
23 children to use it.

24 I do have an update on the city
25 paving project from the city engineer. I

1 asked for that the other day just to give
2 residents an update on where we are at. The
3 roads that have been paved to date or
4 Dexter, Dale, Lawler, Horatio and Luzerne
5 Street. The roads which have received
6 scratch coat and will be paved today and
7 tomorrow are Cameron, Merrifield, Dewey and
8 Washburn Street, and the roads that have
9 been milled to date will probably be paved
10 next week are Fillmore, Cherry, Fig, Watson,
11 Dickins, Arnold, Mary, Yesu Lane and Yesu
12 Drive.

13 Also, the city engineer wanted
14 people to know that there is ongoing
15 waterline work in the area off of the bottom
16 Division Street. They will go back and
17 finish paving Division Street once the heavy
18 trucks are gone and the water main work is
19 complete so Division Street will be finished
20 in case anyone in this area was concerned.

21 I did receive a request this week
22 that a one-way sign needs to be replaced at
23 the corner of Hampton Street and Tenth
24 Avenue and we are going to send that to the
25 DPW so that that can be replaced. I also

1 received a request for a stop sign at
2 Prospect Avenue and Birch Street so we will
3 send that to the city engineer and get that
4 process started.

5 I believe Councilman Evans mentioned
6 this last week or the week before, but I
7 hope that we can and I'd like to schedule a
8 public caucus with Joyce Hatala, our
9 recycling consultant, Dennis Gallagher and
10 Tom Lynch, who is our recycling coordinator
11 to provide sort of an update on recycling
12 efforts in the city, and I would like a full
13 update on all efforts to date to improve the
14 recycling program in Scranton. So hopefully
15 we can schedule that if there is no
16 objection maybe next week or the week after.

17 I attended the Greenridge
18 Neighborhood meeting last night and a couple
19 of interesting concerns were brought up and
20 one of the ones that I'd like to talk about
21 for a second is that there are apparently
22 numerous houses in Greenridge that are being
23 sold out or being used as bed and
24 breakfasts. There is a website called
25 AirBnB. I actually went on it and there is

1 a lot of houses in Scranton that are being
2 advertised as bed and breakfasts, some as
3 low as \$22 a night. What the residents in
4 Greenridge are very concerned about is that
5 there is out-of-state license plates all
6 over the place, people that they don't know.
7 It's degrading their neighborhood and they
8 are very concerned about it, so I would like
9 to ask for an investigation into this issue
10 by the Licensing and Inspections Department
11 and I would like a report back on what is
12 going on in Greenridge and possibly all over
13 the city. I believe that, first of all, I
14 don't know that this is regulated and it's
15 not allowed in a R-1-A zone and I believe
16 that this is it a serious danger to our
17 neighborhood and it opens up a whole can of
18 worms and other questions. So hopefully we
19 can send something out to Director Hinton
20 and get an answer on that.

21 MR. EVANS: Just if I can interrupt
22 you briefly?

23 MR. GAUGHAN: Go ahead.

24 MR. EVANS: I talked to Zoning
25 Officer Sweeney today about this same issue

1 and I know he is looking into it and isn't
2 permitted in that zone. It is permitted, so
3 people know, in an R-2-0 zone, but not
4 permitted in an R-1-A or R-1 zone so they
5 are looking into it. They are talking to
6 the people that own the property or
7 properties, I should say, so I think you are
8 going to see it coming to a head, but they
9 are looking into it.

10 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay, great. Thank
11 you. And just one final comment on the
12 allegations that city employees may owe
13 thousands of dollars in garbage fees which,
14 if true, I think is an absolute disgrace,
15 but one of the ways I think that we could
16 curtail this problem is a program that is
17 done in Philadelphia, Chicago and possibly
18 other cities and it's called the Employee
19 Indebtedness Program, and basically
20 employees who do not pay their outstanding
21 debts in full or through a payment agreement
22 with the city will be subject to involuntary
23 payroll deductions so their payment will be
24 garnished from their paycheck. The city
25 requires new hires to be in full financial

1 compliance with the city before they are
2 hired. I think that is something important
3 and something that I have asked our
4 solicitor to look into and I think that if
5 we are and that is the legal way to do it I
6 think that we should come up with
7 legislation and try to curtail this issue.
8 If we are going to expect the people of this
9 city to be in good standing and pay their
10 bills, especially the garbage bill, on time
11 then we should hold our employees to that
12 standard, also. So I did ask Solicitor
13 Minora and hopefully we will have something
14 further on that next week.

15 Also, some of the other interesting
16 things I think we should look into, and I'm
17 not sure that we do this is that citizens
18 who are appointed by the mayor to serve on
19 any board within the city should be vetted
20 to make sure that they are not delinquent in
21 any bills owed to the city. If they are
22 they should not be put on the board.

23 Also, vendors doing business with
24 the city should be checked twice for
25 compliance, once before the contract is

1 award and again at the end of the contract.
2 If the vendor falls out of compliance by the
3 end of the contract, the controller should
4 withhold until the vendor comes into
5 compliance. So these are some of the things
6 that we should look into doing, and that is
7 all I have this week. Thank you.

8 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you,
9 Mr. Gaughan. I don't have too much to add
10 to that, I also many quite concerned about
11 anyone who doesn't pay the garbage tax, and
12 I know this issue has come to the head
13 because these people may be city employees,
14 but I really believe that the city should be
15 more aggressive in collecting delinquent
16 fees from all residents. I don't think it's
17 fair to single out one group, but it does
18 identify a problem that we do have in the
19 city.

20 Unfortunately, the garbage bills
21 that exist before 2011, the record keeping
22 is in such poor shape that it is going to be
23 a problem for us to go back and collect
24 those efficiently, not that we are not going
25 to try, but I do believe that we have to go

1 back and take a look at those bills and see
2 what we can do to collect them. This city
3 council again, has been in the forefront of
4 trying to collect liens. We are citizens as
5 well as you are, we pay our garbage fees and
6 we are just as frustrated as everyone else
7 is when these fees aren't paid so city
8 council has been in front this trying to be
9 more efficient in collecting our garbage
10 fees and I do believe that Solicitor Minora
11 can investigate per Mr. Gaughan's request.
12 All we can perhaps add another tool to our
13 tool box in terms of collecting delinquent
14 fees.

15 I was contacted this week by a
16 resident on Hemlock Street who had a tree
17 problem. The crews had been out to cut the
18 tree today but discovered it was full of
19 bees, so as I said to Mrs. Reed it's all
20 about the birds and the bees and this time
21 the bees won, but the crews will be back out
22 once the bee problem could be settled.

23 I have been sitting here since we
24 had the exchange with Mr. Rogan and one of
25 our citizens. Believe it or not, I do

1 embrace citizens' participation. I do
2 believe that it's the thing that churns this
3 meeting. I welcome anyone to come to this
4 meeting and offer their comments, but
5 unfortunately, and I have no way to control
6 this, to me it's irresponsible and
7 intolerable what went on tonight. Mr. Rogan
8 made a comment and there is no reason for
9 him to be yelled at from the gallery. To
10 me, it disrespects you people who come every
11 week, say your piece, make your comments,
12 wait for answers, and come back and do the
13 same thing the following week. It's a
14 commitment that you have made to the city.
15 I don't believe that someone shouting from
16 the gallery serves anyone's purposes and if
17 Mr. Morgan had stayed I would have said the
18 same thing and I will tell it to him again
19 next week.

20 I don't agree with everything that's
21 said at the podium, but I do respect your
22 right to say it, and as I said before, I
23 will give the latitude to be as wrong as you
24 want to be, but someone shouting out from
25 the audience like that to me is a disrespect

1 not to us, because we are elected, it's a
2 disrespect to you people that follow the
3 rules and I don't how I can control it, but
4 I think you might want to police people in
5 the gallery as well because it is an insult
6 to you, I think. And that's all I have at
7 this time.

8 MS. REED: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION -
9 AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL
10 NO. 5, 2016 - ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE
11 AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 17, 1994
12 ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE (AS AMENDED)
13 AUTHORIZING THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY
14 OF SCRANTON TO ENACT 'A WASTE DISPOSAL AND
15 COLLECTION FEE' FOR THE PURPOSE OF RAISING
16 REVENUE TO COVER THE WASTE DISPOSAL AND
17 COLLECTION COSTS INCURRED BY THE CITY OF
18 SCRANTON FOR THE DISPOSAL OF REFUSE", BY
19 IMPOSING A WASTE DISPOSAL AND COLLECTION FEE
20 OF \$300.00 FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2016 AND THE
21 SAME SHALL REMAIN IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT
22 ANNUALLY THEREAFTER" BY IMPOSING INTEREST AT
23 THE RATE OF TEN PERCENT (10%) PER ANNUM ON
24 THE WASTE DISPOSAL AND COLLECTION FEE.

25 MR. WECHSLER: At this time, I'll

1 entertain a motion that Item 5-B be
2 introduced into its proper committee.

3 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

4 MR. EVANS: Second.

5 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

6 MR. EVANS: On the question, I would
7 like to ask Attorney Minora if he could take
8 a look at this legislation to see if my
9 comment about inserting a possible amendment
10 for a 10 percent discount for next year is
11 appropriate in this legislation or something
12 we can look at down the road on the type of
13 legislation. If you can look at that
14 legislation next week.

15 MR. MINORA: Can I give you an
16 answer next week?

17 MR. EVANS: Yeah, absolutely.
18 That's all I have.

19 MR. WECHSLER: Anyone else? All
20 those in favor of introduction signify by
21 saying aye.

22 MR. PERRY: Aye.

23 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

24 MR. EVANS: Aye.

25 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

3 MS. REED: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION -
4 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
5 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE
6 AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH MAIN POOL AND
7 CHEMICAL COMPANY, INC. FOR SEASONAL
8 CHEMICALS FOR SWIMMING POOLS EXCLUDING NAY
9 AUG POOL FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2016.

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. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

24 MS. REED: 5-D. FOR INTRODUCTION -
25 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND

1 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE
2 AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH WALSH
3 ELECTRICAL, INC. TO PERFORM MAINTENANCE OF
4 STREET LIGHTS FOR A TWELVE (12) MONTH PERIOD
5 FROM MAY 1, 2016 THROUGH APRIL 30, 2017.

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

9 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

10 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

14 MR. PERRY: Aye.

15 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

16 MR. EVANS: Aye.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

20 MS. REED: 5-E. FOR INTRODUCTION - A
21 RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
22 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND
23 ENTER INTO A LEASE AGREEMENT WITH HORSEPOWER
24 HARLEY DAVIDSON, INC. TO LEASE FIVE (5)
25 POLICE PACKAGE MOTORCYCLES FOR THE CITY OF

1 SCRANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT.

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

5 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

6 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

10 MR. PERRY: Aye.

11 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

12 MR. EVANS: Aye.

13 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

16 MS. REED: 5-F. FOR INTRODUCTION - A
17 RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
18 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND
19 ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH TURNKEY TAXES,
20 INC. TO PROVIDE THE CITY OF SCRANTON AUDIT
21 DISCOVERY SERVICES FOR ACT 511 TAXES
22 INCLUDING BUSINESS PRIVILEGE AND MERCANTILE
23 TAXES TO THE END OF 2017 WITH A POSSIBLE ONE
24 (1) YEAR EXTENSION PROVISION THROUGH THE END
25 OF 2018 IN THE EVENT THE TRANSITION TO A

1 PAYROLL TAX HAS NOT BEEN COMPLETED.

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

5 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

6 MR. EVANS: Second.

7 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

8 MR. ROGAN: Yes. I voted against
9 this legislation last time as we all did, it
10 failed 5 to 0. I still do have a number of
11 reservations, and the legislation is
12 different. It did come back in a different
13 form with a one-year period instead of I
14 believe it was a four or five-year period
15 regarding a transition from a payroll tax --
16 from a mercantile tax to a parole tax, so I
17 will be listening with open ears to the
18 business administrator's position on this
19 and why this will be a positive for the
20 city. I still have a lot of reservations
21 regarding this legislation and before we get
22 into a final vote and I will lay them out,
23 but I am willing to listening to the
24 business administrator why this should be
25 done.

1 MR. EVANS: On the question, it's no
2 secret that I disdain these taxes and I
3 voted in the negative the first time, but
4 the reason was, the primary reason was the
5 fact that it was allowed to be open-ended
6 and the previous legislation there was no
7 end in sight to continuing to collect the
8 mercantile and business privilege tax
9 because we didn't have what I felt was a
10 real commitment from the city to a
11 conversion to a payroll tax which is far
12 more equitable across the board and I think
13 will allow the city businesses to grow
14 versus this Draconian tax that just does a
15 number on all types of business and has for
16 the last 40 plus years.

17 So I appreciate that the city sent
18 it back in a format that basically came out
19 of the conversations I had with Mr. Bulzoni
20 and so I'm looking forward to some debate
21 and getting his comments, again, probably in
22 a caucus prior to our final vote but I
23 certainly will vote tonight to move it
24 forward.

25 MR. WECHSLER: Anyone else? All

1 those in favor of introduction signify by
2 saying aye.

3 MR. PERRY: Aye.

4 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

5 MR. EVANS: Aye.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

9 MS. REED: SIXTH ORDER. 6-A.
10 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.
11 26, 2016 - AN ORDINANCE - ADOPTING AND
12 APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE ARTICLES OF
13 INCORPORATION OF THE SCRANTON-LACKAWANNA
14 HEALTH AND WELFARE AUTHORITY, AS PROPOSED BY
15 RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF THE AUTHORITY;
16 SETTING FORTH THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT;
17 AUTHORIZING SAID AUTHORITY AND PROPER
18 OFFICERS THEREOF TO EXECUTE, VERIFY AND FILE
19 APPROPRIATE ARTICLES OF AMENDMENT; AND
20 REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF
21 ORDINANCES INCONSISTENT HEREWITH.

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

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

1 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

4 MR. PERRY: Aye.

5 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

6 MR. EVANS: Aye.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

8 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The
9 ayes have it and so moved.

10 MS. REED: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR
11 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC
12 WORKS - FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF THE COUNCIL
13 NO. 25, 2016 - AUTHORIZING THE INSTALLATION
14 OF A STOP SIGN AT THE NORTHERLY APPROACH OF
15 DURKIN AVENUE AT GILBERT STREET.

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

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

22 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

25 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

1 MR. PERRY: Yes.

2 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

3 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

5 MR. EVANS: Yes.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

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

12 MS. REED: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION BY
13 THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION -
14 RESOLUTION NO. 25, 2016 - APPROVING, IN
15 ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 1447(F) OF THE
16 INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986, AS AMENDED, A
17 PLAN OF FINANCING OF THE SCRANTON-LACKAWANNA
18 HEALTH AND WELFARE AUTHORITY; AND DECLARING
19 THAT IT IS DESIRABLE FOR THE HEALTH, SAFETY
20 AND WELFARE OF THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF
21 SCRANTON FOR THE SCRANTON-LACKAWANNA HEALTH
22 AND WELFARE AUTHORITY TO UNDERTAKE A PROJECT
23 FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON.

24 MR. WECHSLER: As Chairperson for
25 the Committee on Rules, I recommend final

1 passage of Item 7-B.

2 MR. ROGAN: Second.

3 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

4 Roll call, please?

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

6 MR. PERRY: Yes.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

8 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

10 MR. EVANS: Yes.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

14 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby

15 declare Item 7-B legally and lawfully

16 adopted.

17 MS. REED: 7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION BY

18 THE COMMITTEE ON RULES FOR ADOPTION -

19 RESOLUTION NO. 26, 2016 - APPOINTMENT OF

20 MARGARET CONLON, 116 SOUTH HYDE PARK AVENUE,

21 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA 18504, AS A MEMBER OF

22 THE MUNICIPAL INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

23 AUTHORITY (MIDAS) EFFECTIVE APRIL 27, 2016.

24 MS. CONLON IS BEING APPOINTED TO A THREE (3)

25 YEAR TERM THAT WILL EXPIRE ON APRIL 27,

1 2019.

2 MR. WECHSLER: As Chairperson for
3 the Committee on Rules, I recommend final
4 passage of Item 7-C.

5 MR. ROGAN: Second.

6 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?
7 Roll call, please?

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

9 MR. PERRY: Yes.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

11 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

13 MR. EVANS: Yes.

14 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

15 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

16 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

17 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby
18 declare Item 7-C 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.
24
25

C E R T I F I C A T E

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

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