

SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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HELD:

Thursday, June 2, 2016

LOCATION:

Council Chambers

Scranton City Hall

340 North Washington Avenue

Scranton, Pennsylvania

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

JOSEPH WECHSLER, PRESIDENT

PATRICK ROGAN, VICE-PRESIDENT

WAYNE EVANS

WILLIAM GAUGHAN

TIM PERRY

LORI REED, CITY CLERK

KATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

AMIL MINORA, SOLICITOR

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

3 MR. WECHSLER: Roll call, please.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

5 MR. PERRY: Here.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

7 MR. ROGAN: Here.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

9 MR. EVANS: Here.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Here.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

13 MR. WECHSLER: Here. An executive
14 session was held on Tuesday evening, May 31,
15 to discuss the leasing of real estate.

16 MR. EVANS: I like to make a motion
17 to take from the table Resolution No. 35,
18 2016.

19 MR. ROGAN: Second.

20 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?
21 This resolution pertains to the Act 47 grant
22 that was tabled at last week's meeting.
23 This legislation will be placed in Seven
24 Order for a final vote. All those in favor
25 signify by saying aye.

1 MR. PERRY: Aye.

2 MR. EVANS: Aye.

3 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

4 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

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

7 There will also be a motion to
8 suspend the rules to move Item 6-C to
9 Seventh Order for a final vote. If anyone
10 wishes to speak on either the grant
11 application or the liquor license transfer
12 may do so during Fourth Order Citizens'
13 Participation. Dispense with the reading of
14 the minutes.

15 MS. REED: THIRD ORDER. 3-A.
16 SINGLE TAX OFFICE CITY FUNDS DISTRIBUTED
17 COMPARISON REPORT 2016-2015 YEAR TO DATE
18 5-31-16.

19 MR. WECHSLER: Are there any
20 comments? If not, received and filed. Do
21 any council members have announcements at
22 this time?

23 MR. PERRY: I have one. The
24 Scranton Police Department is going to have
25 a breakfast buffet tomorrow for the

1 Pancreatic Cancer and Action Network. It's,
2 like I said, tomorrow, June 3. The time is
3 going to be 6:30 a.m. until noon. The
4 tickets are just \$10 per person and they are
5 available at the door so if you are hungry
6 when you wake up please stop by, it's going
7 to be at the Trolly Bistro at the Hilton
8 Scranton Conference Center on the corner of
9 Adams and Lackawanna Avenue. Stop by and
10 get some breakfast for a good cause.

11 MR. ROGAN: There is a family fun
12 fair being held this Saturday, June 4, from
13 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. It will be held at
14 Geisinger Mt. Pleasant. There will be food,
15 fun and games. It benefits the Children's
16 Miracle Network. All are welcome to attend
17 and Geisinger Mt. Pleasant is at 531 Mt.
18 Pleasant Drive in Scranton.

19 MR. GAUGHAN: And I also have one,
20 the first annual Tripp Park Community Center
21 golf outing will be held Saturday, June 18
22 at Pine Hills Country Club in Taylor. Pole
23 sponsorship cost is \$100, \$8 per golfer or
24 \$320 per team. Please contact CJ Malarki
25 for more information at 570-840-9436.

1 MR. WECHSLER: And, yes, we would
2 like to remind everyone that the Connors
3 Parks chicken barbecue is on Sunday, and
4 also a Serving Seniors annual summer event
5 honoring the former past chairman Bill
6 Tonkin will be held Sunday from 3 to 7 at
7 Waldorf Park.

8 MS. REED: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'
9 PARTICIPATION.

10 MR. WECHSLER: Liz Callela.

11 MS. CALLELA: Hi. Liz Callela, city
12 resident and taxpayer, confidential
13 secretary to the city controller. Okay, I
14 would like to first say this is not a
15 comfortable position for me to be in, I do
16 not like public speaking, but I did feel
17 compelled to come here tonight to discuss
18 the grant that was tabled last week.

19 First of all, I'd like to ask
20 Mr. Rogan why the financial chair was not
21 involved in the decision to change the
22 allocations placed in the grant? In fact,
23 he didn't even know about it until an hour
24 before the meeting. At the meeting, I quote
25 Mr. Evans saying, "This is a mess."

1 Mr. Gaughan as saying, "I'm
2 befuddled."

3 And so am I befuddled. This does
4 not seem to be fair to your colleagues.
5 They were put on the spot and uninformed. I
6 need to ask Mr. Rogan how and why this
7 became his sole responsibility. As you
8 stated last week at the meeting you do take
9 responsibility for this. I would like to
10 know how you came up with the numbers, the
11 different allocations in the grant that was
12 applied for and sent to the state, which I
13 thought was already in the process.

14 In 2010, for the 2011 budget, when
15 you were part of the super majority the
16 non-union administrative department heads
17 and staff suffered a 7 to 20 percent pay cut
18 depending on their salaries and you said at
19 that time you would not have any problem
20 looking into the future to cutting their
21 salaries more, which I believe you did. You
22 thought at that time they didn't deserve
23 what they were making, and last week you
24 said department heads work hard, and I agree
25 with that, and they deserve raises, and I

1 agree with that, just not that much. So
2 which is it? I don't know if they do or
3 they don't deserve it, depending on the year
4 maybe, I'm not sure.

5 Also, in 2014 there was a grant
6 applied for where there was an increase for
7 the mayor's confidential secretary for
8 \$5,000. There was no problem with it, it
9 was voted on, accepted and we moved on.

10 There was also a budget passed with
11 a salary increase for the confidential
12 secretary to the Law Department, there were
13 no questions on that issue as well. For the
14 record, I do want to state I have no problem
15 with hardworking individuals receiving a
16 raise. What I do have a problem with is we
17 pick and choose. Some get it, some don't.
18 However, here we stand in 2016 with a
19 similar grant in place and now all of a
20 sudden pay increases for a secretary are too
21 high.

22 I would like to make it perfectly
23 clear it was not a raise, it was just simply
24 putting back what you took away six years
25 ago, the grant money was to be reinstate

1 salaries of people that were cut in 2011.

2 I do want to tell everybody here
3 that I have worked for the city for the
4 past eight and half years and in that time
5 period I am the one and only single city
6 employee that has not received a single cent
7 the whole time I have been here. When I
8 started my job here there were four
9 confidential secretaries, all of which made
10 the same salary. Now there are three, and
11 each one makes almost seven to eight
12 thousand dollars more than I do. I would
13 like to remind you that I am a confidential
14 secretary to the only other elected official
15 in this building so maybe you could answer
16 why I make less than I did the day I
17 started, work ten hours more a week -- or
18 pay actually for that. I do believe that I
19 deserve some compensation. I come to work
20 every day, I'm prepared, and I do a good job
21 for the city.

22 I would like to close in saying if
23 you have any financial knowledge you would
24 have known and would have seen that this has
25 been the case over the years. It was the

1 ends justify the means here. I think you
2 need to reevaluate the competence in this
3 position and stay in your lane. I believe
4 that the financial chair should have been
5 involved in this decision and I would like
6 to state again, I have no objection to
7 anybody receiving a raise for work hard
8 done. I don't believe anybody should go
9 eight and a half years and make less than
10 the day they started, okay.

11 I would like to thank you for your
12 time and consideration on this matter, and I
13 hate to run but I've got to back to my
14 second job. Thank you very much for your
15 time.

16 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

17 MR. WECHSLER: Joan Hodowanitz.

18 MS. HODOWANITZ: Joan Hodowanitz,
19 city resident and taxpayer. I want to
20 remind everybody that the Friends of
21 Scranton Public Library are conducting their
22 quarterly book sale that was Library
23 Express, second floor of the Steamtown Mall.
24 It will go on through Sunday. On Sunday, if
25 you by one of our \$5 canvas tote bags you

1 will get to fill it with books and all of
2 the books you put in there will be free.

3 My compliments to the city clerk, I
4 saw in the paper May 30. I think this is a
5 first, this ought to be in historical
6 records, the summary of fiscal affairs for
7 the 2014 audit and I just have a few
8 comments I want to make. It's two parts,
9 it's the balance sheet of government funds,
10 which is taking from page 20 of the audit
11 and it states the revenue, expenditures and
12 changes in fund balance which was taken from
13 page 22. The only issue I have is you chose
14 the categories of assets, total assets,
15 liabilities, total liabilities for the
16 balance sheet. If it were correctly worded
17 it would say "Current assets, total current
18 assets and current liabilities, total
19 current liabilities."

20 For those of you who are familiar
21 with balance sheets used in accounting you
22 have to distinguish between current assets
23 and liabilities, which are short term, one
24 year or less, long-term goes out to infinity
25 so if you look on page 17 the statement of

1 deposition you would have seen that the
2 actual total assets, current and long-term,
3 is \$255,470,156, not as reported in the
4 paper \$36,080,811.

5 And if you looked at page 18 of the
6 audit you would have seen that total
7 liabilities, current and long-term, is a
8 whopping \$436,566,602 not as reported in the
9 paper \$23,811,645, and keep in mind that
10 total liabilities, that \$436 million is a
11 year and a half old figure. It's certainly
12 gone up since then. Also, embedded in that
13 number is a total pension unfunded
14 liabilities which the auditor says is under
15 estimated since it did not use a single
16 blended discount rate, use the 8 percent.

17 So basically what the citizens need
18 to know is read the entire document, which
19 is now on the website, and understand that
20 our total long-term liabilities are
21 somewhere north of half a billion dollars,
22 okay? But kudos to the city clerk. This is
23 the first that it even went into the paper,
24 now we need to continue.

25 Do we have a status on the parking

1 garages? You said there was a meeting
2 coming up and you were going to get an
3 update?

4 MR. WECHSLER: We did have a
5 confidential update on Tuesday.

6 MS. HODOWANITZ: Is there anything
7 you can report during motions?

8 MR. WECHSLER: No, it's
9 confidential.

10 MS. HODOWANITZ: Okay. I'm still
11 waiting to see what the total bill from PFM
12 is going to be, they were working on this
13 since 2014 and their billable hours run as
14 high as \$275 per hour depending on the
15 manager working. What is status of the
16 financing for the Court award, is it still
17 on track since we have a 30 June deadline?

18 MR. WECHSLER: We haven't heard
19 anything to say that it's not on track.

20 MS. HODOWANITZ: Thank you. And
21 with regard to what Liz said about the
22 salaries, I sat in the caucus I think it was
23 two weeks ago when Mr. Bulzoni stated that
24 if he could change the salaries he would
25 make them even higher, so I personally do

1 not understand what caused the turn around
2 in the reductions and I hope that has
3 nothing to do with the fact that the
4 Controller's Office has the role of
5 oversight, a public watchdog oversight role
6 over the administration so I hope there is
7 nothing political in the determination of
8 those numbers, but it's strange that Mr.
9 Bulzoni said they are underpaid even with
10 the original raises that were proposed and
11 that they did an excellent, professional
12 job, and I think you were all present when
13 he made those statements, so I would like an
14 explanation for why the change in the
15 reduction of salaries and I'd like it to be
16 very specific. Thank you.

17 MR. WECHSLER: Les Spindler.

18 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening,
19 Council. Les Spindler, city resident and
20 homeowner and taxpayer. Two week ago when I
21 was here, Councilmen Wechsler, you and
22 Councilman Gaughan interrupted me while I
23 was speaking. Councilman Wechsler, you
24 interrupted Lee Morgan when he was speaking.
25 I don't think that's right. When you speak

1 we can't interrupt you, we only have five
2 minutes, we shouldn't be interrupted. If we
3 are not saying something vulgar or insulting
4 or threatening you have no right
5 interrupting us until you speak. We can't
6 interrupt you, you shouldn't interrupt us.
7 That's violating our freedom of speech.

8 They tried to doing that under the
9 Gatelli dictatorship and we had the ACLU
10 come in here and they put an end to that.
11 If you want us to get in touch with the ACLU
12 again we can do that so I don't want to be
13 interrupted anymore or else the ACLU will be
14 getting a call.

15 Moving on, we haven't had a
16 competent Finance Chair on this council
17 since Frank Joyce left. Week after week
18 people come here and ask questions about
19 finances and nobody has an answer. When
20 Frank was Finance Chair he has facts and
21 figures every single week, and Councilman
22 Rogan can back me up on this I know that.
23 Frank had his facts every single week, if he
24 couldn't answer your question tonight he
25 would answer it next week, but he was

1 prepared every single week and he had the
2 answers for people.

3 It seems like Finance Chairs are
4 just voted on just to vote somebody in, they
5 are not competent, and I think somebody
6 competent should be up there.

7 Next, I always see joggers and bike
8 riders on the city streets. That's just an
9 accident waiting to happen like last year at
10 Harvey's Lake when a young woman was killed
11 while she was jogging on the street. The
12 streets are for motorized licensed vehicles,
13 not joggers or bike riders. Last week I was
14 riding down Seventh Avenue by Redner's, a
15 bike rider cut me off. It's hard enough
16 looking for bad drivers and worrying about
17 joggers or bike riders, so I don't know
18 whether there's an ordinance on the books.
19 If there isn't, I think one should be looked
20 into. There is trails people that can job
21 on and ride bikes, there is many places that
22 they can jog and ride bikes other than city
23 streets. It's an accident waiting to
24 happen.

25 Lastly, there is a story in the news

1 the other day a man in Texas had a \$200
2 speeding ticket, he walked in with \$200
3 worth of pennies and two buckets, dumped
4 them on the table and walked out. My point
5 is if something isn't done with this illegal
6 garbage fee next year that's the way I'm
7 going to pay my garbage fee. I'm going to
8 go to the bank, get \$300 worth of pennies,
9 go down to the Treasurer's Office, dump them
10 on the counter and walk out and I urge
11 everybody else to do that. As I have said
12 for years, this fee is illegal. We pay our
13 property taxes to have our garbage picked up
14 so unless the Treasurer's Office wants a big
15 headache on their hands I think you people
16 should get rid of that garbage fee next year
17 because the tipping fees will be done and
18 that's why the garbage fee was put in.
19 Thank you for your time.

20 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Albert
21 Young.

22 MR. YOUNG: Good evening, Council,
23 Albert Young, Scranton, Pennsylvania. Since
24 I was here last, a couple of weeks ago,
25 apparently there has been a misunderstanding

1 or a difference of opinion, I have talked to
2 two council members since then, but there is
3 an article in this morning's paper that I
4 have a couple of questions on.

5 Now, part of the problem with the
6 misunderstanding I feel is that when
7 information is gathered between all of us it
8 seems that it's me that makes the phone
9 calls to find out what the information is
10 instead of coming round robin, and actually
11 at this point I really don't care as long as
12 things are progressing the way they are.

13 I am perplexed as to why in the
14 paper it says bid price was posted. To me,
15 this puts out an alert to anybody else
16 coming in, apparently you are looking for
17 two additional bids on this so-called
18 emergency program, and that puts my man out
19 of the ballpark because all someone has to
20 do is underbid it by \$100 and you can say
21 good by to whatever I did.

22 I do know that talking to council
23 that there is supposed to be some kind of a
24 paper coming so that I'm aware of who is
25 coming and when they are coming. I hope

1 they are as good a company as I had come out
2 the first time.

3 Third thing is I read that Colleen
4 Connelly is involved. Now, I know she is
5 DEP. She is always involved. This gal has
6 no clue. She has never been in my yard,
7 never, ever, and she has been a thorn in
8 this program's side since it's inception.
9 Now, I have here the quote from the paper,
10 and I'm going to read it verbatim because I
11 would like some kind of interpretation as to
12 what her thoughts are. "DEP Spokesman
13 Colleen Connelly said her agency awaits
14 plans from the city on what the work will
15 entail." Well, we know what it's going to
16 entail. "When those plans are received, DEP
17 will schedule an inspection and determine if
18 --" if, an emergency water encroachment
19 permit can be issued. This is quite a
20 unique situation, stated by Colleen
21 Connelly."

22 Now, I really am perplexed as to
23 where this puts this program. If there is
24 going to be an emergency DEP permit or is
25 there not? If there is not, then what is

1 the permit going to be? Is it going to be a
2 general permit issued by DEP? I don't know,
3 and I'm sure you folks sitting there don't
4 know, but --

5 MR. EVANS: Well, the first part she
6 is referring to is that one of the
7 requirements is they have to have a design,
8 and that's John Pocius, the city engineer,
9 is working on the design for DEP and for the
10 bid process as well. Everybody knows what
11 has to be done, but we still have to go
12 through the motions of having a design
13 submitting.

14 Second part why she is saying if,
15 they are her words, I have no idea, but we
16 are committed to the project, we expect the
17 project to happen and we expect it to happen
18 relatively soon.

19 MR. YOUNG: Well, just the way it
20 was stated has me thinking, and this is one
21 of the reasons why my statement appeared in
22 the paper because I know that she has really
23 put a thumb on this whole program over the
24 years and, you know, it's really put us
25 behind the times as far as getting this

1 project finished before now.

2 MR. WECHSLER: I know for council,
3 Mr. Young, we have really been relying on
4 Mr. Pocius. We have not been relying on
5 Colleen Connelly.

6 MR. YOUNG: Good.

7 MR. WECHSLER: So that's where we
8 have are taking our --and she is a spokesman
9 so she is trained to be a spokesman not an
10 engineer, but we have been taking Mr. Pocius
11 and Mr. Bulzoni -- that's where we are
12 coming from with our information.

13 MR. YOUNG: And years ago when she
14 put her two cents worth in we had to go over
15 her head and go to Harrisburg because she
16 stopped the program then, and I would hope
17 that this is not going to happen this time
18 around, and with --

19 MR. WECHSLER: I don't mean to
20 interrupt you, but we are confident that
21 this moving along. It's moving along at a
22 governmental pace, but it's --

23 MR. YOUNG: Well, I know, but a
24 snail's pace is better than no pace at all
25 at this point, but thank for your time and

1 whatever happens happens at this point.

2 MR. WECHSLER: It will be a good day
3 when you aren't in the paper anymore.

4 MR. YOUNG: You better believe it.
5 Thanks again.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

7 MR. WECHSLER: Is there anyone else
8 who would like to address counsel?

9 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening, Council.
10 Dave Dobrzyn, resident, taxes and fees paid
11 in full. For tonight, we have Rules of
12 Council here, and I do have to express
13 disagreement on number three. I don't think
14 that it's proper to commit to anything just
15 on these sheets. What I'd like to talk
16 about is old ordinances. It occurred to me,
17 and I haven't gone through a lot of them
18 that some are old, they're archaic, they
19 have been overruled in Courts and they just
20 shouldn't exist and it's really unfortunate,
21 but somewhere down the line if someone
22 decides to begin enforcing one of these then
23 they are within their right. For instance,
24 in some states we had laws governing
25 behavior of couples or whatever and it's

1 just not right to bring these back up and
2 reinforce them or relegislate them, it's
3 time that we have a sunshine on some of
4 these. For instance, we have an ordinance
5 on homes and turning them to rental units
6 and in some cases, in many cases, it's well
7 and proper because there is not enough room
8 but now I'm going to mention the person's
9 name, one of your favorites, Lee Morgan. He
10 bought a house down on Stafford Avenue and
11 he was banned from the city from renting it
12 out. Now, we are always complaining about
13 absentee landlords, here you have a landlord
14 living in the same dwelling. He fixed it up
15 pretty nice. He has off-street parking and
16 there is plenty of parking at the curb,
17 also, and I would say either like four
18 average size vehicles very comfortably with
19 a property line and he is banned from
20 renting any apartments out and, you know,
21 year in and year out his attitude has been
22 soured because of that and that might be a
23 reason. He certainly tried in Court and
24 lost, and the rule is that if a house goes
25 vacant for one year then it returns to a

1 single dwelling and that's fine and dandy
2 for a six-room house you really shouldn't be
3 breaking up three room apartments upstairs
4 or something like that, I would never
5 consider that with my home, but this place
6 is so gigantic it's like the size of a barn
7 and he cannot rent this out. I mean, I'd
8 like to suggest that maybe some of his bad
9 attitude at times is possibly related to
10 this situation so we really need to start
11 going through these old ordinances and
12 dumping them if they are not proper and put
13 some common sense to them as for lack of a
14 better phrase because they just don't hold
15 up.

16 I mean, one person that served on
17 council years ago I got the impression that
18 just about every house you walk should have
19 been condemned if it's old, or torn down, to
20 create more space. Well, you know, cities
21 are way more efficient at dealing with
22 things like sewage and infrastructure
23 problems because we can fit more people and
24 you really don't need all of that property.
25 I mean, I live on a property with two and

1 three quarters acres and just about the time
2 you took your guitar out on the lawn and
3 wanted to sit and relax here comes the guy
4 with the lawnmower, you know? Oh, joy. And
5 you just had to wait until Saturday, but --
6 Sunday, but it's time that we consider some
7 dropping some of these and changing them and
8 looking for some rhyme and reason into them.

9 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you,
10 Mr. Dobrzyn.

11 MR. DOBRYZN: Have a good evening,
12 and once again, just quickly, somebody stole
13 my recycle bucket last week, I'd appreciate
14 if you'd return it if you are out there
15 listening. Thank you.

16 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Anyone
17 else?

18 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening, Marie
19 Schumacher. I would like to say that I
20 think passing that last week, 7-H for the
21 18, I don't know, some \$375 on yet another
22 study when we are in the shape we are in was
23 not a good thing to do and I don't
24 understand if it had to be funded why it
25 wasn't funded through OECD and using federal

1 money instead of operating funds. In other
2 instances you say every penny counts, but
3 then out the window goes \$18,000 and I'm
4 quite sure this again is going to be another
5 study that will be put on the shelf to
6 gather dust.

7 And, again, you know, what's been
8 said about the raises that were supposed to
9 be part of that grant, we have got \$18,000
10 for that, but I won't repeat some of the
11 things that were said about the salaries
12 back in the caucus now, but I do believe
13 that rushing into, which is I believe what
14 you did, and then having it reach the
15 employees and then pulling the rug out from
16 underneath them when they thought they were
17 going to be get restored to a salary they
18 had in 2010 this is not a -- yes, it's a
19 raise, an increase in salary, I don't know
20 what they are making now, but they have not
21 had a penny since 2010 so I think it's
22 dishonorable to modify that now and, again,
23 I don't even know if it would effect the
24 grant.

25 And now I would also like to know

1 whether or not Sandone Tire has ever paid
2 for replacement of any of the fire equipment
3 that was loss during the fire at their
4 facility?

5 MR. WECHSLER: No, they have not.

6 MS. SCHUMACHER: They have not. Do
7 they plan to, do you know?

8 MR. WECHSLER: I know Chief DeSarno
9 had discussed it but I don't know how far he
10 got with it.

11 MS. SCHUMACHER: And the LERTA that
12 that was discussed last week or the Clover
13 Management actually, the issue with what's
14 going on down there, I have heard from a lot
15 of people who are very upset and had to move
16 out because of the increases in, can't you
17 pull the LERTA if they are not doing what
18 they said they would do when they brought
19 the proposal before council and had it
20 approved? I think that certainly would be
21 an appropriate thing to do.

22 Now, I'd like to move to something I
23 have been working on for the last 15 months.
24 I have been recording every property
25 transaction, the assessed value, what the

1 house sold for and calculating what would be
2 the common level ratio. As you know, the
3 common level ratio is supposed to be the
4 assessment times the common level ratio
5 should pretty much bring you to market
6 value, that is not the case. I did do this
7 for one year and I'll be bringing you as I
8 have time to compile everything because I
9 think it speaks of the need for you people
10 to get truly involved and go down to the
11 county and take your shoe off and pull a
12 Kruchev and bang on the table. We are in
13 bad shape in the City of Scranton compared
14 to everybody else.

15 One thing I did do -- it took 97 --
16 or, excuse me, 87 pages of notebook to do
17 those -- make those calculations for the
18 year. I went through and I did a page by
19 page just to get an idea of where it was
20 going and what I did was I took Scranton,
21 the number on -- on each page the number of
22 properties that were below the common level
23 ratio by the actual market price and then
24 all of the rest of the county and then I
25 also took the highest common level ratio on

1 that page and I did it for Scranton and I
2 did it, again, all other, and what I found
3 was that 31.6 -- may I finish with this
4 thought?

5 MR. WECHSLER: Go ahead.

6 MS. SCHUMACHER: Thank you. 31.6
7 percent of the Scranton properties that were
8 sold last year or during that year I was
9 calculating it were below the common level
10 ratio, and only 16.3 percent of the rest of
11 the county were below the common level ratio
12 and when you took the highs it was -- the
13 high for the City of Scranton was 15.3 and
14 the CLR for the rest was 30.2.

15 Now, next week I'll go into why this
16 matters on your tax bill, it's something
17 like, you know, if you use those and make
18 the calculations the people in Scranton are
19 paying about 2.5 more than what they should
20 be if they had the correct and the people at
21 the high end who were that 30.2 are paying
22 the lowest so we have lot of work to do. I
23 have been calculating just the Scranton
24 properties now from the time I stopped the
25 complete year and 55 so far, this was the

1 19th of March through today, 55 of the 123
2 Scranton properties that were sold 44.7 were
3 below the common level ratio. We have lot
4 work to do. It's important to the city and
5 it's time to get involved in a big way. I
6 will be back with other things from my
7 analysis as I calculate them. Thank you.

8 MR. WECHSLER: Anyone else?

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

10 Motions.

11 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Perry?

12 MR. PERRY: I just have a couple of
13 things. As far as 7-A goes, I was and am
14 for the increases for the salaries. Again,
15 we are not -- it's not like we are going
16 above and beyond for our non-union
17 employees, what we are doing is just trying
18 to restore what they were at a prior time.

19 One thing I will never do is point a
20 finger. It gets you absolutely nowhere. I
21 believe in the here and now and here we are
22 and what we need to do is to make our valued
23 employees whole again and that's on us,
24 that's on our administration, and that's on
25 this council.

1 I will agree to the concessions on
2 7-A for two reasons, the first reason is
3 because without these concessions I fear
4 that all raises will be lost and anything is
5 better than nothing at this point, and the
6 second reason is because I fully plan on
7 reserving the right to fight to get all of
8 these employees whole again where they were
9 before come budget time, and it's up to the
10 administration and this council to find out
11 how to do that. There is really no other
12 way to put it. We need to figure out how to
13 get it done and make it happen. That's 7-A,
14 and I was on the record with that before so
15 that's really nothing new.

16 Ms. Hodowanitz, I am going to look
17 into the police and fire court award and see
18 if we are on track for the end of the month.

19 Mr. Spindler, I will look into the
20 biker and jogger ordinances and see where we
21 are, you know, some are a share lane, I know
22 they want you off the sidewalks but they
23 don't want you on the streets so where do
24 they go what do they do, so it's really a
25 quite fuzzy area so I like to bike, too, so

1 it would be nice to know where it actually
2 legally could do that without interrupting
3 everything.

4 And then, Ms. Schumacher, as far as
5 the Sandone Fire I'll get in the touch with
6 the chief and see if there is any movement
7 in any kind of equipment reimbursement.
8 That's all I have right now.

9 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you.

10 Mr. Rogan.

11 MR. ROGAN: Yes, thank you. First
12 regarding Item 7-A and amendments, my
13 position on this has actually been the same
14 since we had the meeting in the back room.
15 I did express concerns to Mr. Bulzoni when
16 he initially proposed this to us about
17 increasing salaries by this level when taxes
18 have gone up as much as they have. I have
19 had a number of concerns about many of the
20 items in this package, in particular, the IT
21 Department and \$22,000 of increases where
22 it's been well documented that council and
23 speakers on council have had many issues
24 getting things done within that department,
25 as well as other increases I felt were far

1 too high. This brings them down. I do
2 believe the department heads certainly
3 deserve increases, of what amount of
4 increase is what makes is difficult, and why
5 certain department heads were chosen and not
6 others is something that I don't know.

7 I do believe the Law Department or
8 city solicitor does a great job and he is
9 left out on this list. I'm upset about the
10 LIPS director who has to go out, you know,
11 many times in the middle of the night to
12 condemn properties was left off the original
13 list, so I do think the amendment, the
14 proposed amendment that was talked about
15 briefly last week, makes it a little more
16 palatable than the very large amounts that
17 were in the initial proposal.

18 A little bit about my involvement, I
19 did not craft the amendment. I know
20 Councilman Wechsler touched on that a little
21 bit last night, but I did express concerns
22 from day one about the numbers to Mr.
23 Bulzoni and also to the mayor very strongly
24 over that weekend, and I know there were
25 others that had concerns as well so I'm sure

1 we will be talking more about that when that
2 comes up.

3 This week we did have an executive
4 session, as Councilman Wechsler mentioned,
5 and while we can't go into the details I do
6 know that there will be a press conference
7 tomorrow announcing part of the plan
8 regarding the Parking Authority and the
9 partnership with John Basalyga at the mall.
10 I am very optimistic particular about what
11 the future holds for the downtown,
12 especially with Mr. Basalyga's leadership
13 and really the risk that he is taking to
14 invest in our downtown. So far we have
15 already been beginning to see those
16 dividends pay with the mall, some new
17 tenants coming in, a facelift, and I'm very
18 encouraged that he is going to be able to
19 get the job done in the downtown.

20 Recently there has been a couple of
21 crime stories that have been in the paper,
22 just recently a juvenile murder occurred in
23 the city and obviously our heart goes out to
24 the victim of that crime, and I did get a
25 note in speaking from the police chief

1 violent crime in the City of Scranton has
2 actually decreased, it's been on the
3 decrease, but juvenile violent crime has
4 been on the increase, so there is a
5 disconnect there between the adult crime and
6 the juvenile crime on the violent side and I
7 believe the last two murders that occurred
8 in the City of Scranton were done by
9 juveniles so that's something that's
10 definitely disturbing to hear.

11 And finally, over the weekend I was
12 able to attend a number of Memorial Day
13 ceremonies and I'd like to thank all the
14 veterans for those that did such a nice job
15 putting those ceremonies together to honor
16 the fallen veterans. Thank you.

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

19 MR. EVANS: Thank you. I'm going to
20 discuss 7-A later on the agenda items, but
21 for now I'm going do the reassessment. Of
22 course, I'm on record over and over again
23 I'm in favor of a countywide reassessment,
24 we have to get that done. I also favor that
25 we should put on a county to act and if they

1 don't act then the city should take them to
2 Court, it's that simple because our property
3 owners are getting crushed. It's not fair
4 to them, it's not fair to us, it's not fair.
5 We are not going to have the growth we need
6 and the equitable tax base we need if we
7 don't have a reassessment, and I will
8 personally, I'll guarantee you, over the
9 next few months I will be visiting the court
10 administration building and the
11 commissioners to make our case for
12 reassessment.

13 Also, I'd like to see if my
14 colleagues would go along sending a letter
15 to the city solicitor asking him to render
16 his opinion on the leachate line by June 16.
17 He expected it by this end of this week to
18 get the information from the Sewer Authority
19 solicitor so I would expect he's had two
20 weeks to get that done so if it's okay I
21 would like to get that letter sent for the
22 June 16, hard date on June 16 and see if we
23 can get an opinion by that date?

24 MR. GAUGHAN: I would agree.

25 MR. EVANS: That's all I have for

1 now. I'll discuss other items as we move
2 forward.

3 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr. Evans.
4 Mr. Gaughan?

5 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, just to touch on
6 the leachate issue, we did receive an e-mail
7 from Attorney Shrive that he is was awaiting
8 on receiving information from the Sewer
9 Authority. My only problem with that is
10 all -- I believe all of the information that
11 he is going to get from the Sewer Authority
12 is everything we already know. What we are
13 asking for is an opinion from the city
14 solicitor, and I do agree with Mr. Evans on
15 putting a deadline on the city solicitor's
16 rendering of that opinion because we recess
17 in August and I do not want to recess
18 without an opinion from the city solicitor.
19 This issue is too important, there is too
20 many families and too many people involved
21 in Greenridge and we need to put this thing
22 to bed and disable that line and get this
23 thing under control, so hopefully we will
24 receive something by June 16.

25 Residents of Greenridge are

1 requesting a stop sign to be placed at
2 Capouse Avenue and Woodlawn Street. The
3 area is extremely dangerous with speeding.
4 There is a stop sign on Wyoming and
5 Woodlawn, but not on Capouse and Woodlawn so
6 I would request that we send this to the
7 city engineer and ask if you would review
8 it.

9 Also, I received a complaint about
10 speeding on West Elm Street that I will pass
11 along to Chief Graziano. We talked a little
12 about in the caucus about a lot, a vacant
13 lot that was overgrown at 1218 South Webster
14 Street, so we sent that along to the
15 Licensing and Inspections Department and
16 hopefully we can register that with the
17 Foreclosure Registration Program.

18 And that is all I have this week.
19 Thank you.

20 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr.
21 Gaughan. Just to touch on a few things, I
22 was contacted this week by a resident in the
23 1400 block of South Irving Avenue about poor
24 road conditions there. This is something
25 that's been ongoing since I have been on

1 council and this street did not make the
2 paving list so if we are able to see if
3 there is anything else we could do to help
4 the situation up there.

5 In regards to the meeting that we
6 had on Tuesday night, although we are not
7 allowed to discuss the particulars of the
8 arrangement, I just want to touch a little
9 bit on the process that we were told as how
10 this is going to happen. The Parking
11 Authority when the deal is about to be
12 finalized will have a public meeting for
13 citizen's commentary on the proposed
14 arrangements, so the first meeting that will
15 be held will be by the Parking Authority, so
16 I would encourage anyone who has questions
17 or concerns to attend that meeting.

18 Then city council's role in this
19 will be there will be a public caucus where
20 the city council will be presented details
21 on the lease agreement and also at that time
22 city council will be allowed to ask
23 questions at that time. Basically right now
24 what we are seeing is that public comment
25 besides at our podium if you have questions

1 I believe the place to get those answers
2 will be at the Parking Authority meeting.
3 Our caucus will be a caucus for council, and
4 as such there will not be questions from the
5 public, so in-between the Parking Authority
6 meeting and city council meeting if
7 residents have questions that they would
8 like us to ask I would ask them to get them
9 to us so we could ask them, so that seems to
10 be process that this is going to follow
11 through the lease agreement.

12 I'm not sure what details will be
13 available tomorrow at the press conference
14 since there is no final deal as of yet, so
15 the details tomorrow seem to me is going to
16 be an outline of proposed involvement of
17 Mr. Basalyga and the mall, I'm not sure what
18 else is going to be discussed tomorrow so we
19 will find out when you find out. And other
20 comments I will have on the legislation.
21 Thank you.

22 MS. REED: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION -
23 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
24 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE
25 AND ENTER INTO SUPPLEMENTAL ENGINEERING

1 AGREEMENT NUMBER 041746-D WITH BUCHART-HORN,
2 INC. TO FURTHER SUPPLEMENT THE AGREEMENT TO
3 INCLUDE THE REVISED DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS
4 ENTERPRISE (DBE) PROGRAM ASSURANCE FOR
5 FEDERALLY-FUNDED AGREEMENTS; TO REVISE THE
6 NONDISCRIMINATION/SEXUAL HARASSMENT CLAUSE;
7 TO INCLUDE THE REVISED CONTRACTOR INTEGRITY
8 PROVISIONS; TO INCLUDE THE AMERICANS WITH
9 DISABILITIES ACT PROVISIONS; TO INCLUDE THE
10 REVISED SECTION ENTITLED "PUBLICATION 442
11 SPECIFICATIONS FOR CONSULTANT AGREEMENTS FOR
12 PROJECT DEVELOPMENT SERVICES"; AND FOR AN
13 INCREASE IN COST UNDER PART III OF THE
14 AGREEMENT OF \$12,210.96 FOR THE ROCKWELL
15 AVENUE BRIDGE PROJECT.

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

19 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

20 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

24 MR. PERRY: Aye.

25 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

1 MR. EVANS: Aye.

2 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

5 MS. REED: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION -
6 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
7 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE
8 AND ENTER INTO A SUPPLEMENTAL REIMBURSEMENT
9 AGREEMENT NO. 041222-E WITH THE COMMONWEALTH
10 OF PENNSYLVANIA FOR THE PURPOSE OF
11 INCREASING AND RE-ALLOCATING THE FUNDS
12 ALLOCATED FOR DESIGN, RIGHT OF WAY, UTILITY
13 COSTS AND CONSTRUCTION FUNDING FOR THE
14 ROCKWELL AVENUE BRIDGE PROJECT.

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

18 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

19 MR. EVANS: Second.

20 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

21 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.

22 This legislation an reimbursement agreement
23 is just to cover additional costs related to
24 the environmental work and changes made to
25 the foundation. This is going to be

1 approved by PennDOT and it's a standard
2 procedure just as when we just voted on with
3 5-B. Thank you.

4 MR. WECHSLER: All those in favor of
5 introduction signify by saying aye.

6 MR. PERRY: Aye.

7 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

8 MR. EVANS: Aye.

9 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

12 MS. REED: 5-D. FOR INTRODUCTION - A
13 RESOLUTION - APPROVING THE FINANCING BY THE
14 SCRANTON-LACKAWANNA HEALTH AND WELFARE
15 AUTHORITY OF CERTAIN CAPITAL PROJECTS FOR
16 THE BENEFIT OF MARYWOOD UNIVERSITY, A
17 PENNSYLVANIA NOT-FOR-PROFIT CORPORATION
18 SERVING THE PUBLIC; DECLARING THAT IT IS
19 DESIRABLE FOR THE HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE
20 OF THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON,
21 LACKAWANNA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AND THE
22 AREA SERVED BY MARYWOOD UNIVERSITY TO HAVE
23 THE PROJECTS PROVIDED BY AND FINANCED
24 THROUGH THE AUTHORITY; DESIGNATING THE MAYOR
25 OF THE CITY, OR, IN HIS ABSENCE, THE

1 PRESIDENT OR VICE PRESIDENT OF THE CITY
2 COUNCIL, AS THE PERSON TO ACT ON BEHALF OF
3 THE CITY COUNCIL AS THE "APPLICABLE ELECTED
4 REPRESENTATIVE" WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE
5 INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986, AS AMENDED;
6 AUTHORIZING SUCH MAYOR OF THE CITY OR THE
7 PRESIDENT OR VICE PRESIDENT OF THE CITY
8 COUNCIL OF THE CITY TO TAKE CERTAIN ACTIONS
9 ON BEHALF OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY AS
10 SUCH "APPLICABLE ELECTED REPRESENTATIVE";
11 AND AUTHORIZING OTHER NECESSARY AND
12 APPROPRIATE ACTION.

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

16 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

17 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

21 MR. PERRY: Aye.

22 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

23 MR. EVANS: Aye.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

25 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The

1 ayes have it and so moved.

2 MS. REED: 5-E. FOR INTRODUCTION -
3 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
4 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE
5 AND ENTER INTO A SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT BY AND
6 BETWEEN THE CITY OF SCRANTON ("CITY") AND
7 TEAMSTERS LOCAL 229 ("THE UNION").

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

11 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

12 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

16 MR. PERRY: Aye.

17 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

18 MR. EVANS: Aye.

19 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

22 MS. REED: SIXTH ORDER. 6-A.
23 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.
24 28, 2016 - AN ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE
25 INSTALLATION OF A R7-302 NO PARKING

1 SYMBOL/ARROW SIGN (LEFT) (12" X 18") 20 FEET
2 AHEAD OF CROSSWALK ON THE SOUTHEASTERLY
3 CORNER OF SANDERSON AVENUE AND DEACON
4 STREET; R7-302 NO PARKING SYMBOL/ARROW SIGNS
5 (12" X 18") ALONG THE SOUTHERLY SIDE OF
6 DEACON STREET FROM SANDERSON AVENUE TO
7 BOULEVARD AVENUE WHICH WILL DESIGNATE THIS
8 SIDE FOR "NO PARKING" AND MAINTAIN TWO WAY
9 TRAFFIC IN THE 700 BLOCK DEACON STREET.

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

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

14 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

17 MR. PERRY: Aye.

18 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

19 MR. EVANS: Aye.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

23 MS. REED: 6-B. READING BY TITLE -
24 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 29, 2016 - AN
25 ORDINANCE- CREATING AND ESTABLISHING

1 SPECIAL CITY ESCROW ACCOUNT NO. 02.229619
2 ENTITLED "2016 AWARD BONDS" TO ACCEPT FUNDS
3 RECEIVED FROM A LEASE AGREEMENT REFUNDING
4 THE REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY'S VARIABLE RATE
5 DEMAND LEASE REVENUE BONDS, SERIES OF 2008
6 AND TO DISBURSE THE FUNDS RECEIVED FOR
7 PAYMENT OF THE POLICE AND FIRE AWARD
8 SETTLEMENTS.

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

11 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-B
12 pass reading by title.

13 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

16 MR. PERRY: Aye.

17 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

18 MR. EVANS: Aye.

19 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

22 MS. REED: 6-C. READING BY TITLE -
23 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 30, 2016 - AN
24 ORDINANCE - APPROVING THE TRANSFER OF A
25 RESTAURANT LIQUOR LICENSE CURRENTLY OWNED BY

1 WILLIAM F. RINALDI T/A PASTA GRILL LICENSE
2 NO. R-13201 TO PHOENIX THEATRES
3 ENTERTAINMENT, LLC FOR USE AT 301 LACKAWANNA
4 AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA AS REQUIRED
5 BY THE PENNSYLVANIA LIQUOR CONTROL BOARD.

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

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

10 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

13 MR. PERRY: Aye.

14 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

15 MR. EVANS: Aye.

16 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

19 MR. EVANS: I make a motion to
20 suspend the Rule to move Item 6-C to Seventh
21 Order to be considered for final passage.

22 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

25 MR. PERRY: Aye.

1 MR. EVANS: Aye.

2 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

3 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

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

6 MS. REED: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A -
7 PREVIOUSLY TABLED - FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE
8 COMMITTEE ON FINANCE - FOR ADOPTION -
9 RESOLUTION NO. 35, 2016 - AUTHORIZING THE
10 CITY OF SCRANTON, LACKAWANNA COUNTY,
11 PENNSYLVANIA THROUGH THE OFFICE OF BUSINESS
12 ADMINISTRATION TO MAKE APPLICATION FOR A
13 GRANT THROUGH THE COMMONWEALTH OF
14 PENNSYLVANIA, DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND
15 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, A COMMUNITY
16 DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT(CDBG) GRANT FOR
17 FINANCIAL AID UNDER AUTHORITY OF THE
18 MUNICIPALITIES FINANCIAL RECOVERY ACT, ACT
19 47 OF 1987, AS AMENDED AND IF THE GRANT
20 APPLICATION IS SUCCESSFUL, AUTHORIZE THE
21 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS
22 TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY
23 TO ACCEPT AND DISBURSE THE GRANT FUNDS.

24 MR. ROGAN: I make a motion to amend
25 the proposed salary increases included in

1 the Act 47 grant application as follows:

2 In the Office of City Controller,
3 deputy controller, from \$7,000 to \$4,000.
4 Performance auditor from \$7,000 to \$4,000.
5 Confidential secretary from \$5,000 to
6 \$2,000. In the Office of Information
7 Technology, the IT manager, from \$10,000 to
8 \$5,000. The network systems assistant from
9 \$5,000 to \$3,000. The IT manager assistant
10 from \$7,000 to \$1,000. The Public Works
11 Director from \$7,000 to \$5,000. The City
12 Treasurer from \$7,000 to \$5,000. The City
13 Clerk from \$7,000 to \$5,000, and adding from
14 \$5,000 for the Licensing and Inspections
15 Director.

16 I further move that the Act 47 grant
17 applications be amended in all respects to
18 be consistent with the aforementioned salary
19 amendments prior to submission.

20 MR. EVANS: Second.

21 MR. WECHSLER: We have a motion on
22 the floor and a second, on the question?

23 MR. EVANS: On the question. While
24 I'm supportive of this legislation I'd like
25 to take a minute to explain that support and

1 also be able to discuss my position on
2 salary increases to non-union members and
3 cabinet members, and as usual my perspective
4 may be contrary to most conventional
5 political assessment.

6 It's important to know that this
7 legislation was linked to a grant
8 application that hopefully will develop a
9 plan of strategy for storm water management.
10 This is something I have been calling for
11 for months and it is imperative that we move
12 forward on this, but on the salaries, as I
13 said last week, this has turned into a bit
14 of a mess, but my position has been
15 consistent, salaries of most of the cabinet
16 members and non-union employees are clearly
17 way below levels of comparable cities. I
18 view all pay raises for non-union members in
19 the context of the position, not the
20 individual currently in the position.

21 If we are to retain and attract
22 qualified and quality individuals to lead
23 this city, we must find a way to begin to
24 pay them with the market has determined what
25 they should be paid. In many cases, those

1 salaries are between 25 percent and 50
2 percent what the salaries are for similar
3 positions in other cities.

4 While a case can be made as to how
5 we can give pay raises when we continue to
6 be distressed and continue to burden our
7 taxpayers I understand that, but like how
8 can we try to not go out and find and retain
9 the best possible talent that we can to lead
10 us out of this decades old abyss. I'd like
11 to put the perspective on what this increase
12 actually equates to in next year's budget.
13 It would most likely be less than .025
14 percent of the total budget .025 percent.

15 Also, while some may agree with the
16 mayor's changes to the grant to reduce the
17 increase in salaries, I actually find it to
18 be another lost opportunity. If the state
19 is willing to give us a grant to pay the
20 increase this year, and 66 percent of the
21 increase next year and 33 percent the
22 following year why wouldn't we ask for more
23 rather than less?

24 I urge the mayor and the
25 administration to begin to come up with a

1 long-term plan and strategy for salary
2 increases for non-union personnel as well as
3 looking into separate merit increases that
4 would be more performance not just
5 seniority. Reward performance. That's
6 something I think I have ever heard in this
7 building. The private sector has been doing
8 that for decades and it's time for us to
9 take a look at it.

10 Because the administration proposes
11 pay increases next year in the budget and
12 expects our taxpayers to foot 100 percent of
13 the increase when we could have had a grant
14 paying for 66 percent of that increase then
15 the logic would have been lost on me. While
16 I am supportive of an increase in salaries,
17 I'm not a fan of poor planning and I'm
18 certainly not a plan of lack of vision.
19 That's all I have on that. Thank you.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question,
21 I will be voting against this amendment and
22 it's legislation tonight for a number of
23 different reasons. First of all, to say
24 that was a mess in my opinion is an
25 understatement. I still haven't seen a

1 justification for why these salaries were
2 lowered and why this grant application was
3 altered. You have someone going from \$7,000
4 to \$4,000, 7,000 to 1,000, a position being
5 added. I believe that we asked last week
6 for the mayor to provide something to
7 explain why this grant application was
8 amended, we did not receive that. So,
9 again, it shows to me a complete lack of
10 foresight on the part of Mayor Courtright.

11 The original intent, in my opinion,
12 of this grant should have been for the very
13 important funding of the storm water study
14 and the acquisition of a server for the
15 police department to help with body cameras.
16 I don't believe Mayor Courtright should have
17 tacked on salary increases and then in the
18 next week altered it without any sort of
19 explanation. I'm simply not comfortable in
20 increasing any salaries outside of the
21 normal budget appropriations. Increasing
22 salaries on this level should be done within
23 the full context of a budget.

24 Again, I would ask where is the
25 justification in this grant application

1 without that and for the other reasons I
2 cited I can't in good conscience vote for
3 this legislation. Thank you.

4 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Yes, on
5 the question, since this information came
6 out I know myself and probably other council
7 members have also been approached by other
8 employees of the city also wondering why
9 they aren't included in any of these grant
10 programs and I can't answer that question.
11 When we look at this information I think the
12 problem was that the dollar values of the
13 initial raises were issued prematurely. We
14 had justification from Business
15 Administrator Bulzoni on area salaries and
16 things like that and he made a good case for
17 that, but after we went through this and
18 hearing from some of the other departments
19 as well it became clear that maybe we
20 couldn't do as well as we thought we could
21 do for the employees. I agree that
22 everybody should be restored to where they
23 were at, but based on some of the
24 conversations that we had and there is other
25 people in the city, also, who weren't able

1 to get in the grant program that may never
2 get a raise if this is the only way we are
3 going to do this, so we do have to prepare
4 for an increase in salaries as we increase
5 or performance as a city.

6 The city is functioning better now
7 and I feel bad for the people that haven't
8 been given a raise, but I have worked in an
9 industry also where I went eight years
10 without a raise, and the reality is we tried
11 to do the best we could with this and,
12 unfortunately, this is where we ended up,
13 but as Mr. Gaughan stated, the main focus of
14 this grant and why it has to proceed is
15 because of the main purpose of this grant is
16 for the technology and the storm water
17 manning. So, unfortunately, it got saddled
18 with this issue. I will be voting for it,
19 and like I said, unfortunately, it came up
20 this way.

21 MR. GAUGHAN: Can I add one thing?
22 You know, the truth of matter here I think
23 is somebody complained they weren't included
24 and then they got bumped and everybody else
25 was lowered so to me there is no rhyme or

1 reason behind this and that's why I don't
2 want be a part of this. If this was
3 presented in a professional way I might
4 consider it, but this thing, as Mr. Evans
5 has said, is a mess, so I can't be a part of
6 this and that's why I won't be voting for
7 it.

8 MR. WECHSLER: All those in favor of
9 the motion to amend Item 7-A signify by
10 saying aye?

11 MR. PERRY: Aye.

12 MR. EVANS: Aye.

13 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

14 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed?

15 MR. GAUGHAN: No.

16 MR. WECHSLER: The ayes have it and
17 so moved.

18 What is the recommendation of the
19 Chairperson on the Committee on Finance?

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

23 MR. ROGAN: Second.

24 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

25 MR. ROGAN: Yes, I'd just like to

1 make a few additional comments on this
2 legislation. I agree with much of what has
3 been said by my colleagues, but there are a
4 few department heads that I do want to
5 single out in a good way and they do deserve
6 increases far in excess of what is in this
7 grant, but as was mentioned by some of my
8 colleagues I cannot in good conscience vote
9 for these type of increases when taxes have
10 been going up every year.

11 Our Public Works director is always
12 very accessible to council, always answers
13 all of the questions that are posed and we
14 certainly thank him for doing a great job.

15 Our city treasurer I think out of
16 probably all of the department heads is
17 always here very late into the night, we see
18 him I'd say almost every Thursday at 6:00,
19 6:15 when we are going into city hall and a
20 call never goes unreturned from that office.
21 I have been working with the Treasurer on a
22 number of the questions for our constituents
23 and he has always gone above and beyond for
24 the council and for the residents.

25 Our city clerk, Lori, does an

1 amazing job. What the residents see here on
2 Thursdays is a result of a long week of
3 preparation by Lori, Cathy, Jamie, along
4 with our Solicitor Amil Minora.

5 The LIPS director, Pat Hinton, I
6 firmly believe that he does an amazing job.
7 It's probably one of the hardest departments
8 to be director of because there are probably
9 more complaints in this department than any
10 other department within the city.

11 Councilman Evans and myself had the pleasure
12 of working with him over an extended period
13 of time working on a revised rental
14 registration ordinances, and as I mentioned,
15 the LIPS director often times has to go out
16 all hours of the day to condemn homes that
17 may have been part of a drug bust or there
18 was a fire and it truly is a 24/7 job.

19 With that being said, although I'm
20 very happy the motion to amend this
21 legislation passed by reducing the total
22 burden by \$32,000, I will be voting "no" on
23 the final legislation.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: I'd just like to add
25 one thing, you know, with you will due

1 respect, Mr. Rogan, I find this whole thing
2 funny because in 2010 you voted to lower
3 everybody's salaries, now you made a motion,
4 I don't understand your motion. Why would
5 you make a motion to amend it and then vote
6 against it?

7 MR. ROGAN: Well, it was to reduce
8 -- rather than seeing the amount, the total
9 amount passed, which I felt it was going to,
10 I knew we talked that we were against it the
11 first week it came out, rather than seeing
12 it pass at that high of an amount, by
13 amending it we reduce the total amount of
14 the grant, which is better than where it was
15 in my opinion, but it still doesn't get me
16 to a "yes" vote.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Right.

18 MR. EVANS: On the question,
19 naturally that's my quandary because I don't
20 think we are taking full advantage of the
21 grant and we should have went for the higher
22 amount, but I don't want to throw the baby
23 out with the bath water because the other
24 initiatives within this grant are far too
25 important to vote no on for me, but again,

1 I'm going to keep pressing the
2 administration to come up with a
3 comprehensive plan and strategy for the
4 increases to the people the deserve it, or I
5 should say the positions that deserve them.
6 I more interested in having salaries
7 commiserate with those responsibilities, so
8 in the future and presently we can retain
9 and keep the best possible people we can to
10 the help us lead this city, so that is all I
11 have for now.

12 MR. WECHSLER: Roll call, please?

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

14 MR. PERRY: Yes.

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

16 MR. ROGAN: No.

17 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

18 MR. EVANS: Yes.

19 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: No.

21 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

22 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby
23 declare Item 7-D, as amended, legally and
24 lawfully adopted.

25 MS. REED: 7-B - FORMERLY 6-C - FOR

1 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES -
2 FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 30,
3 2016 - AN ORDINANCE - APPROVING THE TRANSFER
4 OF A RESTAURANT LIQUOR LICENSE CURRENTLY
5 OWNED BY WILLIAM F. RINALDI T/A PASTA GRILL
6 LICENSE NO. R-13201 TO PHOENIX THEATRES
7 ENTERTAINMENT, LLC FOR USE AT 301 LACKAWANNA
8 AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA AS REQUIRED
9 BY THE PENNSYLVANIA LIQUOR CONTROL BOARD.

10 MR. WECHSLER: As Chairperson for
11 the Committee on Rules, I recommend final
12 passage of Item 7-B.

13 MR. ROGAN: Second.

14 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

15 Roll call, please?

16 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

17 MR. PERRY: Yes.

18 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

19 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

20 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

21 MR. EVANS: Yes.

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

25 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby

1 declare Item 7-B legally and lawfully
2 adopted.

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

5 MR. ROGAN: Motion to adjourn.

6 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