

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, July 28, 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
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. At this time
14 we have a proclamation.

15 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay, this is a
16 proclamation to honor Mia Nonnenberg and
17 this si Mia Nonneberg's family.

18 WHEREAS, the COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
19 SCRANTON is desirous of honoring "MIA
20 NONNENBERG", daughter of martin and Linda
21 Nonneberg, and sister of Matt; and

22 WHEREAS, "MIA" began her competitive
23 swimming career at age 10 when she joined
24 the Scranton Sea Knights. "MIA" then joined
25 the Blue Dolphin Aquatics, one of the area's

1 USA Swim Clubs, coached by Joe Thier and Dom
2 Russo; and

3 WHEREAS, as a Scranton Preparatory
4 School student under a coaching staff headed
5 by Joe Their and assistant coach Jen
6 Biscotto, "MIA" completed each regular
7 season, including district competitions,
8 undefeated in all four years and high school
9 and won a state title; and

10 WHEREAS, after medaling at both the
11 Junior National and National competitions
12 under Blue Dolphin Aquatics, "MIA" comitted
13 to the University of Alabama; and

14 WHEREAS, since beginning her college
15 swimming career with the Crimson Tide, "MIA"
16 has qualified for the SEC and NCAA D-1
17 championship swim meets and was selected as
18 the Most Valuable Swimmer for both her
19 Freshman and Sophomore years; and

20 WHEREAS, selected by her peers and
21 coaching staff, "MIA" was names the
22 2016-2017 Team Captain at Alabama; and

23 WHEREAS, this July, "MIA" competed
24 against the top swimmers in the nation,
25 including former Olympians, at the United

1 States Olympic Trials, placing 13th in the
2 400 Individual Medley, 19th in the 200
3 Butterfly, and 29th in the 22-- Individual
4 Medley; and

5 WHEREAS, "MIA" is continuing to
6 train for her next competition, the United
7 States Open Swim Championships at the
8 University of Minnesota starting August 2,
9 2-16 and for her upcoming college swim
10 season as a junior.

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that
12 on Thursday, July 28, 2016, Scranton City
13 Council wishes to congratulate "MIA
14 NONNENBERG" for her outstanding achievements
15 and extend their best wishes for success to
16 her, her family and her coaches.

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this
18 Proclamation be made a permanent part of the
19 Record of this Council, as lasting tribute
20 to "MIA NONNENBERG".

21 MR. WECHSLER: I have a few
22 announcements here. Those are on Fifth
23 Order items. Council will recess for the
24 month of August and will resume meeting on
25 September 1. As always, if any residents

1 have questions or concerns they may contact
2 the office at 570-348-4113. Messages left
3 with the members of council will still be
4 provided to us during this type.

5 Also, National Night Out will be
6 held this Tuesday, August 2, at 6 p.m. at
7 Scranton High School. There is no charge to
8 attend and everyone is invited. The event
9 was created to increase awareness about
10 police programs in our communities,
11 especially neighborhood watch groups. It's
12 a great event and provides us an opportunity
13 to show support to our men and women who
14 serve and protect us.

15 Just a note about tonight's meeting,
16 there was an anticipation that we may be
17 talking about the changes out in Greenridge
18 to the traffic plan, that will not be
19 discussed this evening.

20 Also, Scranton City Council
21 listening to the concerns of mostly from the
22 neighborhoods in Greenridge has sent this
23 letter to Attorney Shrive. "This is a
24 request for council on behalf of the Friends
25 of Lackawanna and the Greenridge

1 Neighborhood Association. Council requests
2 that you explore every legal avenue
3 available to the City to shut down use of
4 the Monahan/Reeves Sewer line by Keystone
5 Sanitary Landfill. We are enclosing a
6 copy of Attorney Minora's memorandum to
7 council reviewing the permitting history of
8 the Monahan/Reeves line to KSL. The GRNA
9 may well have a viable Mandamus Action
10 against the Scranton Sewer Authority to
11 require SSA to enforce any permit violations
12 by KSL. Please let us know how you intend
13 to proceed."

14 This letter was signed by the entire
15 city council. To summarize what it is, we
16 have heard opinions from the Scranton Sewer
17 Authority solicitor, the city solicitor,
18 council solicitor, all of the opinion that
19 the Scranton Sewer Authority within its
20 right in terms of the use of the Greenridge
21 line from Keystone Sanitary Landfill.

22 We have been approached by
23 repeatedly neighbors and neighborhood groups
24 asking us to push this issue further so we
25 are going to do that. We are going to ask

1 Attorney Shrive and the mayor to pursue
2 legal action against the Sewer Authority.
3 At this time, we feel really if this is not
4 successful it's going to have to be followed
5 by private action by either Friends of
6 Lackawanna or the Greenridge Neighborhood
7 Association and they may be in their rights
8 as we mentioned in the letter about a
9 mandamus action so we had told the neighbors
10 that we were going to do this and we did it
11 so this letter will be sent out tomorrow to
12 Attorney Shrive and we'll see where it gets
13 us.

14 Dispense with the reading of the
15 minutes.

16 MS. REED: THIRD ORDER. 3-A.
17 LACKAWANNA COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
18 SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT EVALUATION
19 REPORT REVIEWED JULY 12, 2016.

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

22 MS. REED: 3-B. AGENDA FOR THE CITY
23 PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING HELD JULY 27,
24 2016.

25 MR. WECHSLER: Are there any

1 comments? If not, received and filed.

2 MS. REED: 3-C. MINUTES OF THE
3 SCRANTON LACKAWANNA HEALTH AND
4 WELFARE AUTHORITY'S REGULAR BOARD MEETING
5 HELD JUNE 16, 2016.

6 MR. WECHSLER: Are there any
7 comments? If not, received and filed.

8 Do council members have
9 announcements at this time?

10 MR. EVANS: I have one. The second
11 annual craft fair will be held at Connor's
12 Park at 515 Orchard Street in South Scranton
13 Saturday, August 6, between 10 and 3. There
14 will be refreshments, basket raffles, music
15 and more. Over 75 vendors, artists and
16 crafters will be in attendance. It's free
17 admission and all money raised will benefit
18 Connor's Park improvements.

19 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, I have one. The
20 fourth annual Arts on the Square will take
21 place this Saturday, July 30, from noon to
22 eight p.m. on courthouse square in downtown
23 Scranton. More than 100 vendors and two
24 stages of local live music are just part of
25 the day's offering. Visit

1 www.Scrantonmade.com for more information
2 and a full schedule events. Thank you.

3 MR. WECHSLER: Also, while we are on
4 recess the Bob McGoff run/walk will be held
5 at Nay Aug on August 28, and also this
6 weekend please visit if you can the St.
7 Joseph's picnic.

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

10 MR. WECHSLER: Joan Hodowanitz.

11 MS. HODOWANITZ: Joan Hodowanitz,
12 city resident and taxpayer. Let me just
13 begin by saying have a wonderful August
14 recess and then on September 1 we come back
15 ready and raring to go to work because we
16 have lot of things to accomplish during the
17 rest of the year.

18 I went to the event that the
19 community hosted on Sunday to recognize
20 fallen police officers around the country.
21 It was very well done and Captain Graziano
22 represented the Scranton Police Department
23 very well and as with the Night Out event
24 that's upcoming I think it's important that
25 the general public support the police

1 department during events like this. One of
2 the most important things we can do is to
3 foster good relationships between our law
4 enforcement personnel and the general
5 public.

6 Lest you forget, the 2015 audit is
7 now 58 days late. I'm expecting that
8 sometime in August State Auditor General
9 Depasquale will release his audit on a
10 municipal pension funds. I don't know
11 whether I'll see you there, but I intend to
12 be at that press release if the general
13 public is allowed to attend. We just need
14 to see what they say.

15 And another thing that's about to
16 rare it's ugly head is the 2017 operational
17 budget planning process. In regard to that,
18 it seems that we always find ways of funding
19 things that we need to get funded, usually
20 with grants or increased revenue or a new
21 fee and I was concerned after Monday's
22 rainstorm when I read in the paper that the
23 County's Gateway Center had suffered damage
24 to some of it's record. If I recall about
25 two years ago didn't we have a water

1 incident in this building where we had some
2 records damaged? And I talked to Controller
3 Gary DiBileo, it was his office where the
4 damage occurred, and he gave me a tour of
5 the Gateway Center and, fortunately, most of
6 the records that suffered water damage were
7 working papers for an audit that have been
8 put aside to dry and hopefully they will not
9 be lost, and they are well on their way to
10 fully digitizing all of their operations.
11 In fact, they are on their way to digitizing
12 all of their old records. The intent is to
13 go back to 1878 when the county was created,
14 and so the question I raise is where does
15 the city stand on digitizing it's operations
16 and digitizing it's past records because
17 record keeping is an essential function of
18 government, okay? And you know we have had
19 at least one incident of water damage to our
20 records. You never know when there might be
21 a fire. We cannot depend on those paper
22 records forever, we need to get backed up
23 electronically, whether they can be put on
24 the cloud or in some way stored so that they
25 will always be accessible, nor do we want

1 another situation like we did with the
2 double pensions where we could not locate
3 the audio tapes of the Pension Board
4 meetings.

5 You know, we are losing control of
6 what you have in this building and a lot of
7 it is historically very, very important,
8 probably legally very important, so as you
9 go into the 2017 budgetary process maybe
10 somebody should address how we are going to
11 get ourselves into the 21st century.

12 It doesn't have to be done
13 overnight, it doesn't have to be done in one
14 year, a lot of cities have a ten-year
15 program where they do 10 percent of the
16 records or you could even have a 20-year
17 program and do 5 percent of the records, but
18 where there is a will there is a way and I
19 think you need to make that a priority
20 beginning the next budgetary year so that we
21 don't have a situation where we can't find
22 the record or it's destroyed because nobody
23 got it electronically preserved. Thank you.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

25 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Les

1 Spindler.

2 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening,
3 Council. Les Spindler, city resident and
4 homeowner and taxpayer. I have to shake my
5 head. I mean, what Mia Nonneberg did was
6 great, but a proclamation to a swimmer but
7 no proclamation to a hero firefighter that
8 saved three lives. No proclamation to an
9 NFL quarterback, Matt McGloin, playing with
10 the Raiders. Nobody else has ever played
11 quarterback in the NFL from this city, but
12 we give a proclamation to a swimmer. Makes
13 me shake my head. Where is your priorities?

14 Moving on, Councilman Gaughan, last
15 time I was here you said that you thought
16 Mayor Courtright should attend the -- I lost
17 my train of thought, the pension meetings.
18 Every time something comes up you say
19 something about Mayor Courtright. All of
20 this stuff was dropped on Mayor Courtright's
21 lap. None of this was his fault. This
22 pension was authorized by Mayor Doherty, not
23 Mayor Courtright. Where were you when Mayor
24 Doherty did that? Where were you when Mayor
25 Doherty failed to negotiate with the unions

1 causing a huge Supreme Court decision?
2 Where were you when Mayor Courtright was
3 borrowing and spending this city almost into
4 bankruptcy? No where to be found. I was
5 here. I complained week after week, but now
6 you put all of the blame on Mayor
7 Courtright. I don't know where you were for
8 all of these years when Mayor Doherty was
9 killing the city.

10 Lastly, I watched the Democratic
11 convention last night and Vice President
12 candidate Tim Kaine was speaking and he said
13 he got his start winning a seat on city
14 council in Richmond, Virginia, and he said
15 the main thing he did was listen to the
16 people. I said, boy, what a novel idea, a
17 councilman that listened to the people.
18 Maybe if we had that in Scranton, we
19 wouldn't have had a terrible parking deal
20 passed a few weeks ago. That's all I have.
21 Thank for your time.

22 MR. WECHSLER: Kara Seitzinger.

23 MS. SEITZINGER: Good evening,
24 Council. Kara Seitzinger, resident of the
25 City of Scranton. I actually came here to

1 give two announcements, if that's okay, but
2 in the interim I just wanted to ask, and I
3 know you did comment about it, do we have
4 Paul Walker's opinion yet in supporting
5 documentation?

6 MR. WECHSLER: We are still trying
7 to get that.

8 MS. SEITZINGER: That was my only
9 question. Okay. Thank you so much. I
10 agree. Listen, we have -- we have hashed
11 and rehashed this, everybody knows
12 everyone's position in this. There is
13 council, there is the mayor, and the
14 administration, there is the Sewer
15 Authority, there is KSL and so I think that
16 at this point we are going to agree to
17 disagree, whoever may be on whatever side
18 that might be, but our intention is always
19 the health, safety and welfare of our
20 residents. The rainstorm, I wish you could
21 come into Greenridge, it's so bad. Every
22 one of my neighbors on Columbia Street has
23 had Serve Pro. I talked to Serve Pro today
24 when I ran home at lunchtime and my neighbor
25 across the street they are retired, their

1 whole basement they ruined everything and
2 there is no flood insurance. We don't
3 qualify for flood insurance because we are
4 high up. We are not a flood plain, and so
5 it's just -- I have secured samples and we
6 will send them out to independent, you know,
7 authorities and we will certainly -- I can't
8 discuss that further, but it is what it is.

9 And I really want to thank you,
10 Mr. Wechsler and Mr. Gaughan for coming to
11 the DEP hearing and to voice your concerns
12 on behalf of the Greenridge neighborhood
13 because unbeknownst to that line now runs
14 under Prescott school, too so,
15 unfortunately, Mr. Minora, it's in your
16 neighborhood, too, and I don't know if you
17 knew that, but if you look at that it does,
18 it's an offshoot, so it effects it with the
19 storm water instability, it's going to
20 effect everything. The water came up
21 through the toilets, through drains. My
22 house got some, too. Thank God it's not as
23 bad as my neighbors across the street, but
24 we are going to agree to disagree, so -- not
25 you guys, but just in general. So, in other

1 words, what I want to say what is I thank
2 you, I appreciate it.

3 This Tuesday, as Mr. Wechsler said,
4 we have the National Night Out. The
5 Greenridge Neighborhood Association will
6 have two tables at that event at National
7 Night Out which runs from 6 to 9 p.m. at
8 Scranton High School. It's a wonderful
9 event. My husband and I, the kids when they
10 were little we have gone to every single, I
11 think the first one was at Tripp's Park, I'm
12 hoping Mr. Perry will go over everything
13 they have to offer. There is something for
14 -- something for all ages. There is
15 fingerprinting, the fire department is there
16 with the trucks as with well. I don't know
17 if everybody realizes that, but they have a
18 lot to offer. I have so much respect for
19 Chief Graziano and Pat DeSarno and what they
20 do and for those of who don't Pat DeSarno --
21 and the public, Pat DeSarno's wife is a cop
22 so they truly are a committed family. They
23 put their lives on the lines so I do
24 appreciate that, but people that stop by our
25 table I welcome them to, our purpose is for

1 the health, safety and welfare of the
2 residents just show what we have but in
3 addition we have so many small businesses in
4 Greenridge and they also have an opportunity
5 to have pamphlets, cards, and meet them and
6 we'll have a nice thing to raffle and all of
7 the proceeds will go to Scranton Police
8 Department for that.

9 Additionally, finally, the Voluntary
10 Action Center will kick off their annual
11 holiday Christmas Bureau Drive with an event
12 on Thursday, August 18, from 5:30 to 7:30
13 p.m at Terra Preta restaurant on Wyoming
14 Avenue. Terra Preta is the old Ritz theatre
15 building. There is free parking across the
16 street, they have a little ticket token you
17 can get when you get in. The cost is \$20
18 and it raises money for the holiday bureau.
19 I'm only telling you this, and I have two
20 letters I will give you, my husband Mark and
21 I are the co-chairs of this year's Christmas
22 Holiday Bureau campaign, not like we don't
23 have enough going on, but we didn't
24 undertake this lightly. It's a project near
25 and dear to us, you know, we have a lot

1 going and I even personally before I had
2 many meetings before I took this under my
3 belt and told Mark he has to help, too, but
4 I'm even asking that I attend on my lunch
5 hour some of the meetings to vet some of
6 these people to make sure that truly people
7 are getting what they need that it's not
8 just -- can I have one more minute? Thank
9 you -- just not anybody gets it. Last year
10 over 1,000 were helped. The goal is to
11 raise \$75,000, I want like \$175,000 to help
12 more people, but that's just how I am.

13 You know, the reason we are doing
14 this is because my husband, my daughter
15 their health issues are very, very
16 significant, but we also have to teach them
17 to do better, and we can only do that by our
18 example of helping others and so I would
19 encourage anybody to please come to the
20 event and throughout the year there is a
21 website, it does have a website specifically
22 for that purpose and if it's okay I'll leave
23 the two letters.

24 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you very much.

25 MS. SEITZINGER: Thank you, I

1 appreciate it.

2 MR. WECHSLER: I'd just like to
3 mention one thing, the letter that I read at
4 the meeting for the full city council so I
5 was able to attend the meeting, but that was
6 all of the council members, they all share
7 the same enthusiasm on what we want to
8 accomplish.

9 MS. SEITZINGER: I know. Thank you
10 very much.

11 MR. WECHSLER: Lee Morgan.

12 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.
13 Lee Morgan. The first thing I have here is
14 7-B. I really can't understand how the city
15 would ever be able to enforce that, but you
16 do have a solicitor, but I really think what
17 should happen is the city itself should
18 separate this stuff. I think it should
19 build a facility that can separate
20 everything instead of going to the landfill
21 because the residents in this city are
22 paying a \$300 fee to have their garbage
23 collected by the city. I just think that if
24 the city is charging a fee to collect
25 garbage that the city should be separating

1 it and I don't know if anybody will
2 challenge the city in Court to, I don't
3 know, I guess to throw this whole thing
4 right you out because this is just beyond
5 being silly because how do you not
6 selectively enforce this ordinance? Do you
7 intend to saturate all city blocks or do you
8 intend to just stop by and say well, we are
9 going to ticket you? And what about the guy
10 next door that didn't get a ticket?

11 And then the other question is how
12 did you know whose garbage that is? How do
13 you know that somebody didn't just throw
14 some of their garbage in front of this
15 person's house? So it's only my opinion
16 that I find this thing to be beyond
17 ridiculous, and I just seem to believe that
18 our city government does an awful lot of
19 ridiculous things and instead of doing the
20 things that would benefit the residents we
21 seem to be going off on little tangents to
22 the middle of no where, and then when we get
23 there just like the pension debacle, if
24 that's what you want to call it, you know,
25 none of that had to happen. The people were

1 all tricked into retiring and now we are
2 coming forward and saying, well, that wasn't
3 legal.

4 And then the other silly thing is
5 from what I understand we have a former
6 mayor who never should have been eligible
7 for a double pension but he received one,
8 too, and lo and behold he didn't even know
9 he was getting one and, you know, when you
10 take a look at the things that government
11 does to people it's beyond ridiculous.

12 And a previous speaker here talked
13 about digitizing the City's records, well,
14 that was brought up about 20 years ago and
15 he never happened, but I firmly believe the
16 city should destroy all of it's records
17 because we have a presidential candidate
18 that deleted all of her records and it's
19 okay, and I just think that what's good for
20 the goose is good for the gander.

21 And as far as the council going on
22 going on I guess you'd call it vacation for
23 a month, I just think when the track record
24 this council has and, Mr. Evans, I thought
25 that -- when I wrote a letter to the

1 Scranton Times I thought that you might be a
2 little different. It's been just very
3 eye-opening that -- not to me, but it should
4 be eye-opening to the residents of this city
5 that there is no difference in this city
6 between Republicans and Democrats, to be
7 quite honest with you. If they studied the
8 city history of the Republican party in
9 Scranton and they understand what happened
10 to that, I think people would find it
11 humorous. I think there is lot of humorous
12 things that happened because we spent too
13 much time talking about government
14 empowering us, but that's not really what's
15 happening. The direct opposite is happening
16 because people have been enslaved by their
17 government trying to earn enough money to
18 keep their head above water and maintain
19 their house and their family as the
20 government taxes every single thing that we
21 touch. You know, the Beatles made a song I
22 believe in the 60's that sooner or later the
23 government was going to tax the air that we
24 breathe and boy, you know, we are getting
25 pretty close to that and it may only be a

1 matter of time, and if you want to see
2 incompetence from beginning to end look at
3 what happened to Freddie Gray, a man who was
4 arrested and somehow he beat himself almost
5 to death and then ultimately he died from
6 his injuries and nobody is accountable for
7 it. It's amazing.

8 This is the government we have and
9 these are the candidates that we see every
10 day like the ones running for president.
11 Mr. Trump isn't perfect, but he put the
12 whole Republican party to sleep by himself
13 with all of their money because the American
14 people wanted a change. And Bernie Sanders,
15 I feel sorry for that man because his own
16 party killed him from the inside, and I
17 don't care how this information got leaked,
18 it's just very disheartening to understand
19 that all of the trade treaties and all of
20 the bad things that happened to us were done
21 to us by our own government and it still
22 continues here after 25 years of distressed
23 status, we still have incompetent government
24 punishing the residents. Thank you.

25 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Fay

1 Franus.

2 MS. FRANUS: Fay Franus, Scranton.
3 I just wanted to bring up a couple of
4 points. Last week, Mr. Rogan, you said in
5 motions, you said neither yourself nor any
6 members of city council have any intention
7 of fining the people for not recycling, but
8 yet ten minutes later you voted because the
9 ordinance tonight states, you are not going
10 to read it that way, but it says, "Any
11 person found to be in violation of any
12 sections of this ordinance shall be subject
13 to a fine not to exceed \$300. Each day that
14 violation continues after notice of the
15 violation has been served shall be deemed a
16 separate offense."

17 So I'm asking, is there going to be
18 a fee of 300. Its said, "Not to exceed."

19 What is the fee going to be? You
20 are voting on this tonight, you said last
21 week you would have the answer tonight.

22 MR. WECHSLER: We did investigate it
23 and that's the ceiling.

24 MS. FRANUS: Pardon me?

25 MR. WECHSLER: That is the ceiling.

1 That is the highest it can be.

2 MS. FRANUS: Well, what determines
3 the amount, lesser with --

4 MR. WECHSLER: As the ordinance is
5 enforced the new fee structure will be
6 established.

7 MS. FRANUS: Mr. Wechsler, it's hard
8 to hear out here.

9 MR. WECHSLER: When the ordinance is
10 put into effect the new fee structure will
11 be established.

12 MS. FRANUS: But you don't know that
13 is now and you are passing it.

14 MR. WECHSLER: All we know is that
15 the maximum will be \$300.

16 MS. FRANUS: You are passing an
17 ordinance now that you don't know what it's
18 going to be.

19 MR. WECHSLER: I know the maximum is
20 \$300.

21 MS. FRANUS: Right. And I also
22 mentioned, now, when you take this into
23 consideration, and I mentioned this last
24 week, would you consider making that
25 ordinance for the quality of life to state

1 that you should give the people either two
2 weeks or three weeks time to correct the
3 situation versus giving them a fine
4 immediately like they getting now? Because
5 like I said last time, a lot of senior
6 citizens they don't have anyone to take care
7 of their property and they have to go around
8 looking for someone. I mean, some of them
9 are in the hospital, some of them are on
10 vacation. Would you consider amending that
11 ordinance changing that to make it a
12 two-week time limit, fix it or correct or
13 whatever it may, high grass or whatever it
14 is or is it because you just want to get the
15 money right up front and you don't care that
16 they had time?

17 MR. WECHSLER: No, we don't want to
18 get the money, we are talking about the
19 quality of life ordinance. People want to
20 have action when you send somebody out there
21 so if I'm a neighbor and I'm complaining
22 about someone's property and it doesn't --
23 it hasn't been fixed in months and then it
24 doesn't get fixed in two more weeks that's
25 not fair to the person.

1 MS. FRANUS: We are not talking
2 about months, I said, would you make an
3 ordinance saying it will be two weeks at
4 least?

5 MR. WECHSLER: No. I just said no
6 because when somebody calls and complains
7 they may have been calling for 12 weeks
8 before somebody finally issued the
9 infraction so I don't think it's fair to
10 make that person wait two more weeks.

11 MS. FRANUS: You are assuming that's
12 the case.

13 MR. WECHSLER: That is the case in a
14 lot of instances.

15 MS. FRANUS: But I'm talking about
16 these people that's hired by the city, the
17 police or whoever, that are driving by and
18 seeing the infractions and then fining them
19 immediately. This is not when somebody
20 called up and reported it. This is the
21 police driving by and citing the person
22 immediately when nobody called at all.
23 That's what I'm talking about.

24 MR. WECHSLER: And I'm not sure that
25 that's happening.

1 MS. FRANUS: It is happening. It
2 happened to my neighbor.

3 MR. WECHSLER: Because Mr. Gaughan
4 has been trying to get the information on
5 how many tickets have been issued and I'm
6 not sure that that's happening.

7 MS. FRANUS: It has happened. It
8 happens a lot.

9 MR. EVANS: I'll give you my
10 personal opinion, I want to review the whole
11 thing again. I think the fees are too high.
12 I think we should do more warnings than
13 fines.

14 MS. FRANUS: Yes.

15 MR. EVANS: You knock a door,
16 somebody has high grass I think you should
17 give them 48 hours minimum to get the
18 problem resolved so I think we really have
19 to look at that because they are too quick
20 to cite --

21 MS. FRANUS: Excuse me, they are
22 driving around now, more people are getting
23 fined by people driving around than
24 neighbors calling up. I know my neighbor
25 and the neighbor next to them called, they

1 got called for high grass and their truck
2 was parked backwards. They thought I called
3 on them. I never did.

4 MR. EVANS: Councilmen Gaughan did
5 ask for it, Council Wechsler asked for the
6 information, we are trying to get a handle
7 on how many were issued, what's the
8 collection rate, we want to --

9 MS. FRANUS: That's for the
10 recycling, I'm talking --

11 No, no, I'm talking about quality of
12 life tickets.

13 MS. FRANUS: But Mr. Wechsler
14 doesn't seem to want to give them time.

15 MR. WECHSLER: No, it's not that, I
16 have a person who contacted me in May for a
17 property next to them that the grass was not
18 cut. It did not get cut until last week so
19 why would you think that that person should
20 get 48 more hours when they have don't done
21 anything since May?

22 MS. FRANUS: Because all of a sudden
23 you enforcing this ordinance that you
24 haven't enforced in years. You should check
25 how much people are getting fined with the

1 police driving around versus the neighbors
2 calling.

3 MR. WECHSLER: You should check the
4 amount of calls that we get from people that
5 complain about nuisance properties, and
6 that's the people I'm concerned about. I'm
7 not concerned about the people that don't
8 cut the grass, I'm concerned about the
9 people that do cut their grass and have to
10 put up with this nonsense next to them.

11 MS. FRANUS: Well, let me ask you
12 this, how about the banks that take over
13 vacant properties, do they get fined?

14 MR. WECHSLER: We just started a
15 program to enforce that. We did.

16 MS. FRANUS: Well, in my
17 neighborhood two people got a fine right
18 next to me but right around the corner
19 they--

20 MR. WECHSLER: Did they cut the
21 grass?

22 MS. FRANUS: Pardon me?

23 MR. WECHSLER: Was their grass cut?

24 MS. FRANUS: After \$100 fine.

25 MR. WECHSLER: Well, why wasn't it

1 cut before?

2 MS. FRANUS: Ask them, I have no
3 idea.

4 MR. WECHSLER: That's the problem.
5 Everyone needs to take care of their
6 property, and I don't know why we are
7 arguing this because we go out -- when we go
8 out to the neighborhoods --

9 MS. FRANUS: Suppose that person
10 wasn't around or was in the hospital. It's
11 Kevin Joyce's house I'm talking about. The
12 poor man, he is a sweetheart, he died. That
13 house the grass is -- not his fault
14 naturally, that house is most taken care
15 house of in the whole neighborhood.

16 MR. WECHSLER: And I know Mr. Joyce,
17 someone should be cutting the grass there.

18 MS. FRANUS: They are all dead. The
19 bank owns it now.

20 MR. EVANS: Well, that's why we
21 passed the ordinance now the bank is
22 responsible. Now we have contact
23 information for the bank so that issue will
24 get resolved.

25 MS. FRANUS: Apparently --

1 MR. WECHSLER: Well, that home is on
2 a foreclosed property list.

3 MS. FRANUS: All I know is they were
4 quick to fine for high grass this property
5 they let go and these neighbors that you say
6 are calling up, one more thing, why can't
7 you have -- and this is very important, when
8 people get fined why can't you do as I ask
9 last week? If the police come by and the
10 policeman is walking up the street why can't
11 you have them write on the fine, "I drove by
12 and I saw this problem," or say, "a neighbor
13 called" because I got blamed for something I
14 never did and because the policeman didn't
15 write it was me, so that's why -- remember I
16 said to you last week you are causing
17 problems with the neighbors? This is what
18 it's been doing. You don't care about that
19 though. You don't care if the neighbors end
20 up fighting with one another as long as you
21 get your money with.

22 MR. WECHSLER: I want to take care
23 of the people that cut their grass not the
24 people who don't.

25 MS. FRANUS: You want to take care

1 of the people that aren't getting blamed for
2 things that they shouldn't be only because
3 the people are doing it are too lazy to say
4 that they did it and why they did it.

5 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Anyone
6 else wants to address council?

7 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,
8 citizen of Scranton, fellow Scrantonian.
9 The biggest offender of that is the city.
10 The city has lots all over the city you are
11 not cutting the grass so what the heck are
12 you picking on people because the city don't
13 have the money to pay -- or they are getting
14 their free ride? Well, you heard what I
15 said, I'm not going to get into it. There
16 is no question about it.

17 I'm going to tell you a story of two
18 dollar I'll call them contracts because I
19 know deals offend you, I don't know why, but
20 anyway I'll tell you about dollar contracts.
21 One was given by the owner of the Ice Box to
22 the old DPW site. He had two requirements,
23 one was to tear down the old DPW carbines,
24 the other was somewhere around to pay if he
25 wanted to own land to come up I think it was

1 like \$600,000 or in that neighborhood, but
2 we all know he was given a lease on this
3 property for \$1 a year for 198 years. Of
4 course, council approved that. Why they
5 approved it I don't know because they never
6 would get the money. If the man wanted
7 198-year lease agreement. Why do I get
8 angry with council? Things like that.

9 Now, let's take our parking garages.
10 That garage is going to bring in probably
11 millions to the owner for a dollar. We all
12 know the only reason that was done is
13 because the county bought the Globe store.
14 That you stand by, but I tell you what I
15 wish would somebody would contact the
16 federal government and the state government,
17 do an audit on this contract and get the
18 true value of this contract and this is a
19 the benefit to the city or the benefit to
20 any individuals. One person don't do much,
21 but five or six calling up will do
22 something. That contract should not stand.
23 That man should not get a nonprofit
24 designation for that deal, but I'm not going
25 to get into it. When you say I'll say

1 contract, I won't say deals because I know
2 it offends you very much I don't know why,
3 most contracts are deals.

4 Okay, let's look you talked about
5 the owner of Buona Pizza doing something for
6 the police, do you know that we tried to
7 take his properties away from him under that
8 project when they did Lackawanna Avenue? We
9 tried to take his property. He had to go to
10 Court to keep it and the city went to Coney
11 Island at the other end. They did not get
12 new sidewalks even though the sidewalks are
13 customarily for the people. This is how
14 this city works. Why we have no faith in
15 the city government is because of deals like
16 this. That man, all he wanted to do is keep
17 his business and he had go to court to do
18 it.

19 Where do we stand on your issues?
20 Forget it. No one has faith in city
21 council, I told you that before, I'll tell
22 you that again. For years I have been
23 coming before council trying to get them to
24 look at what the people needs, not what the
25 party needs or the family needs, but what

1 the people needs. You were put up there to
2 represent the people of Scranton, all of the
3 people of Scranton. You got to listen to
4 businessmen, true. They belong. They are
5 paying taxes in Scranton so they belong to
6 all of the people in Scranton, but there is
7 a lot of people that are not in business.
8 In fact, they don't even work in Scranton,
9 they just live in Scranton because they grew
10 up in Scranton or were born here. I have
11 lived here all my life, 78 years coming up,
12 okay? I love this city. That's the reason
13 I stay. I had a good paying job. I made
14 good pay. The taxes were high, they asked
15 me why did I pay them, I could move out,
16 save a fortune. I said I stay here to pay
17 them taxes because I want my grandmother and
18 other people's grandmothers, mothers to keep
19 their homes. That's why I paid the high
20 wage tax, but you destroyed that. People
21 are coming up to me and saying they can't
22 afford their homes. What are you doing?
23 What are they doing? Well, there is no
24 sense getting into it. I'm not running for
25 office.

1 MS. SCHUMACHER: Marie Schumacher.
2 Has the non-clerical -- or the non-uniform
3 workers have a contract yet?

4 MR. EVANS: Not that I'm aware of
5 no.

6 MS. SCHUMACHER: Regarding 7-B, I
7 think it is poorly written. I think you
8 should take the month to take a look over
9 it. For instance, not once is mentioned in
10 the triangle with the number in it. I know
11 we don't take all of that or if they do take
12 it we haven't been informed so it's really
13 DP's fault for not telling us what they
14 take. The federal government institutes a
15 programs and oh, well. And a lot of the
16 areas overlap and it's ambiguous, and it
17 doesn't deserve to be passed tonight.

18 And then regarding the former mall,
19 I have been by there four times, three times
20 of which I went into the office to ask for
21 their building permits. Twice, didn't know
22 anything about it. The third time, oh, they
23 are posted down there, I went down and took
24 pictures, it wasn't there. I was down this
25 afternoon for a program at the library and I

1 still can't find a single permit posted so I
2 would like you to find out how many permits
3 have been pulled.

4 And then what will happen to the
5 Order Three items? Do we have to wait for a
6 whole month to find out what reports and
7 things have been received by the Clerk's
8 Office? Can they be posted on-line so that
9 if we want to come in and look at them we
10 may? Think about that.

11 And then, also, while you are
12 considering electronics, you might also want
13 to consider, I'm pretty sure everything that
14 comes into this agenda is received
15 electronically, I think it should also be in
16 next year's budget that everything, all of
17 the back up is in the --

18 MR. GAUGHAN: We are making an
19 effort to get that done.

20 MS. SCHUMACHER: Thank you. Now,
21 for those who don't believe we have a storm
22 water issue I think maybe we think that
23 wooden horses with the City of Scranton on
24 them solves the problem. It doesn't. We
25 have got two up at still 307, a little bit

1 of 307 and Snook Street. The little bit
2 that was macadam that was put in washed out.
3 Look at Mulberry Street. If anybody is at
4 Mulberry and Harrison it's worse this time
5 because it was more, but it's like every
6 storm. It's blocked. Do we have the
7 equipment to do our storm water that we are
8 going to have to do? You know, when I was
9 kid they had those big things that lift off
10 the covers and go in there and pull out the
11 slum and put it in the back of the truck and
12 take it off someplace. Do we even have some
13 of those things? I would like to know if we
14 have an inventory of equipment that will be
15 required to maintain our storm water system
16 and to repair it and the manpower that's
17 going to take and --

18 MR. GAUGHAN: Can I -- would you
19 like me to answer that now?

20 MS. SCHUMACHER: Yeah, sure, if you
21 know the answer, yes.

22 MR. GAUGHAN: I don't know the exact
23 answer to that but the we are looking at
24 getting funding from the state from DCED to
25 do a storm water analysis.

1 MS. SCHUMACHER: They said --

2 MR. GAUGHAN: Well, that's -- I'm
3 trying --

4 MS. SCHUMACHER: Now, wait. How far
5 do you think \$35,000 is going to go? We had
6 that other one, you got that feasibility,
7 it's got all of that -- a lot of that
8 information already in it. Now we are going
9 to do one for \$35,000? How far do you think
10 that's going to go? It's going to put in a
11 number of a fee that we will be charged and
12 that's the only purpose of that and, by the
13 way, since that was approved is the
14 statement of work for that available and
15 when that will be completed?

16 MR. WECHSLER: The hearing was just
17 the other day.

18 MS. SCHUMACHER: And then on that
19 issue of equipment, I still think this whole
20 deal is a theft of our assets and as the
21 ratepayers we have paid for all of those
22 assets, all of that cash that was there, was
23 money that we put in so now, you know, it's
24 slight of hand, okay, instead of raising my
25 taxes to put the correct amount of money in

1 the pension fund you went, oh, let's keep
2 the property taxes down because that's what
3 people get upset about, and let's just take
4 that money. Has anybody talked to the mayor
5 about the distribution of the assets from
6 the sale of the Sewer Authority yet?

7 MR. GAUGHAN: I have asked and what
8 I have been told is there they are not sure
9 how they are going to use the proceeds. I'm
10 assuming that some of it is going to towards
11 the pension.

12 MR. EVANS: They are supposed to be
13 several analysis done before that happens.
14 I know I seen in the paper discussions about
15 65 million going into the pension funds, I'm
16 not a fan of that idea whatsoever, so we are
17 going to see what happens.

18 MS. SCHUMACHER: We'll see when the
19 vote comes, but those things are very
20 important because I don't want to pay twice
21 for the same things and then we bought the
22 equipment to do this, dump the storm water
23 through the Sewer Authority and now you are
24 going to give us another fee. It is not
25 right. We are paying double and I think

1 that's illegal. Thank you.

2 MR. EVANS: Thank you.

3 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening, Council.
4 Dave Dobrzyn. Resident and taxes paid,
5 etcetera. Once again call your congressmen
6 and call the Office of the President and
7 make mention that trade packs are out, you
8 don't need your sons, daughters, grandsons,
9 or yourself being unemployed or encounter
10 people without the price of yesterday's
11 paper.

12 Once again, I don't know if we did
13 it or not, but please get a letter to the
14 Chamber of Commerce and Steamtown and, by
15 the way, it's a great experience I was on a
16 rail trip Saturday to Tobyhanna and had lots
17 and lots of fun so there is lots of
18 interesting things down there, back shop
19 tours, short rides and so forth. They do
20 have a steam engine for a short ride and
21 it's absolutely beautiful.

22 On this recycle and in general, I
23 think it's time that council starts to amend
24 some of their harsher clauses in these
25 ordinances. I don't know, some people just

1 seem to start from the top and work their
2 way down instead of doing something
3 gradually. I mean, some fees are excessive
4 and fines. I certainly hope that there
5 isn't going to be a separate recycling fee
6 ever.

7 And on trash removal in general, I
8 have always spoken for barrels and I have an
9 idea where maybe, you know, if somebody is
10 elderly and they could prove low occupancy,
11 not I'm a grandmother and oh, my daughter
12 just got divorced and she is living there
13 with three kids and the son-in-law is back
14 and forth and the grandkids are here and,
15 you know, we got a discount but now we have
16 the whole curb piled up with trash removed.
17 That wouldn't be right here either, but if
18 you put it all on taxes then the people with
19 the higher assessments will be paying
20 exponentially more.

21 And, once again, on the amendments,
22 I mean, you have five guys up there and the
23 four people or if we ever have another lady
24 council person more or less amends something
25 then the mayor is stuck with it. So, you

1 know, it's a matter of I found that a little
2 disappointing because personally I think
3 that the administration's legal advice is a
4 little too heavy handed. I think he just
5 goes overboard \$300 for this or a couple
6 hundred for that and, you know, it's not
7 right and when Fay Fransus was talking I
8 could see that because I really wouldn't
9 want somebody blaming me for -- and we all
10 live in different parts of the city and well
11 more or less like you could get some real
12 characters for things. I always -- I've had
13 been requested to go with the neighborhood
14 watch and, you know, do I really want to go
15 against the Cripps and the Bloods without
16 the right to carry a gun and without police
17 authorization? No, I don't think so. I'll
18 let the police handle that. Not going to
19 march around with a gun or probably get
20 arrested if I do anyway to protect myself.

21 But trash is as important as police
22 and fire. We took advantage of our Street
23 Cats and I'm on 16 cats that are neutered
24 from my neighborhood and caught and they
25 were all paid for out of my pocket so the

1 point being that now there is lot of dead
2 mice laying around. I have to pick them up
3 and put them into the trash so it's a point
4 to make that's a health and safety problem
5 if you get mice and rats and skunks and
6 things like that every night I smell
7 Mr. Skunk comes by and some people won't
8 handle their garbage right. Well, enjoy
9 your break and do consider the amendments.
10 Make you should table something and just
11 amend it. It's not that I'm against it, I
12 have been preaching recycling forever. Have
13 a good night.

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

16 MS. REED: FIFTH ORDER. 5-A.
17 MOTIONS.

18 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Perry?

19 MR. PERRY: Yes, I have a couple of
20 things tonight. Firstly, the Kane Street
21 paving is finished. There will be workers
22 back up in that area shortly. There is some
23 shoulder work that still needs to be done on
24 Kane so there won't be drop off towards the
25 edge of the road, they will be back up

1 there.

2 Secondly, Mrs. Reed, if we could
3 send a letter out, it was brought to my
4 attention there was a public safety issue
5 with an out streetlight at the corner of
6 Howe Court and Birney Avenue, if we can get
7 correspondence out to have that light
8 changed that will be greatly appreciated to
9 that area.

10 And thirdly, Ms. Hodowanitz, I have
11 an answer to your question about the Housing
12 Authority's PILOT, Mr. Pelicacci was very
13 fast in responding to the question that we
14 had, he the executive director of the
15 Scranton Housing Authority. His answer to
16 our question that we asked is that there is
17 the United States Department of Housing and
18 Urban Development or HUD formula that they
19 follow for payment in lieu of taxes and that
20 formula is as follows: The formula is 10
21 percent of the balance that is left once we
22 subtract our utility expenses from all
23 tenant's rents. If utilities exceed tenant
24 rent, then there is no payment. Since our
25 utilities did not exceed 10 percent, the

1 Scranton Housing Authority is able to make a
2 payment for our 2015 fiscal year, so that's
3 where they came up with that sum. I don't
4 have that sum in front of me, but I know it
5 was in the neighborhood of 50,000 I believe
6 the PILOT was so that's the answer and where
7 they get that.

8 And, lastly, Mrs. Seitzinger already
9 brought that up, but the National Night Out
10 for the Scranton Police Department is going
11 to be August 2, it's always the second
12 Tuesday in August, it's going to be from 6
13 to 9 at Tripp Park. This is a --the best
14 way to describe it I guess you would say
15 like a block party atmosphere. It's very
16 inviting. I think there is a cookout, there
17 is fingerprinting for everybody, but
18 basically what it is it's just an outreach
19 program for communities. It wants to
20 maintain and then grow the drug prevention
21 programs that we already have for the city
22 and it's also -- there to energize community
23 participation in local crime watch issues
24 and it's just a great chance to get out
25 there and bring your children.

1 I think something that is severely
2 missing in the world today is the children's
3 relationship with the police, we need to
4 really establish that. When I was growing
5 up there were two people besides my parents
6 that I was told to look up to and listen at
7 all costs and that was my teacher and the
8 police officers. If I was in trouble those
9 were the first two people that I ran to.
10 Somewhere along the line we have gotten rid
11 -- gotten away from that society and, you
12 know, sometimes for good reason because 100
13 percent of the people aren't good 100
14 percent of the time and, unfortunately, it's
15 that one bad apple out of a thousand or out
16 of 10,000 that shine a poor light on the
17 rest of us, and that just doesn't go for law
18 enforcement that goes for any industry
19 whether it's political in the business
20 sector, anywhere, but let's not lose sight
21 that the vast majority of police officers,
22 firefighters out there are only there to
23 protect you and that is their only sole
24 purpose out there.

25 So let's get out there on August 2,

1 6 to 9 and let's get to know our police
2 department and bring your children. Let
3 them know that that's their safety net,
4 that's the first and last line of defense in
5 the city and they should really, really come
6 out and learn that. That's all I have
7 today.

8 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you.
9 Mr. Rogan.

10 MR. ROGAN: Yes, very briefly. Last
11 week the city was hit with one of the --
12 probably one of the worst flash rain storms,
13 thunder storms in a very long time, at least
14 in my lifetime. I was actually driving up
15 Greenridge Street during that storm, it took
16 me over an hour to get from Dunmore to West
17 Side because so many roads were flooded out,
18 but I do have to say although many residents
19 have had flooding issues and many of the
20 roads are damaged and are still being
21 repaired, our fire department and police
22 department and DPW all did an excellent job
23 in response.

24 I do know that the police department
25 was trying to coordinate with traffic.

1 Many, many streets were closed because they
2 were absolutely flooded. Any low lying
3 areas that were hit with this storm it was
4 completed impassable. The fire department I
5 know was very active pumping out basements
6 of residents, and our DPW has been and still
7 is working on repairing many of the roads in
8 any other portions of the city that have
9 been damaged, so I just wanted to give a
10 shout out to those three departments and
11 thank them for their good work in the past
12 week, and that is all. Thank you.

13 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Evans?

14 MR. EVANS: Thank you. Briefly I
15 want to talk about -- since it was brought
16 up, the quality of life tickets. As many of
17 you know, that was one of my first things I
18 brought to city council and the city and I
19 thought it was a great idea then, I still
20 think it's a great idea, but I think it's
21 time to get information that's been
22 requested and find out how effective it has
23 been and maybe do some tweaks. I felt from
24 the very beginning some of the fines were
25 too high. I agree with what Councilman

1 Wechsler said when we have these recurring
2 problems over and over again. They don't
3 get a warning, they get a ticket, but when
4 you are knocking on the door and a senior
5 citizen answers the door and the grass is
6 too high you give them some time to take
7 care of it. That's just common sense.

8 So I'm not sure what the policy is
9 or what the procedure is, but I think it's
10 time for us to sit down and really go over
11 that. I'd like to see some of the fines
12 reduced to a more manageable amount because
13 our goal is not to fine people, our goal is
14 to correct the problem, so that's ultimately
15 what we want to do so hopefully when we can
16 get back from our recess we can talk about
17 that and maybe have Mr. Hinton come down and
18 go over that and by then have the reports
19 that we asked for and have some good
20 dialogue on how we move forward with the
21 quality of the life because there is a
22 definite value in that program.

23 On the letter to the mayor
24 concerning the leachate line, I'm under no
25 illusions that the mayor is going to honor

1 or act on our request. I'm sure he feels
2 that it his pretty please letter to the KSL
3 will suffice and that will be the end of the
4 issue, but we have to bring this full circle
5 for us and we have to do what we have to do,
6 ask once and for all the administration to
7 act, and that's why there is hope that will
8 happen and that's all I have tonight.

9 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Mr.
10 Gaughan?

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, thank you. I
12 attended a Bull's Head neighborhood meeting
13 this week and I have several concerns from
14 citizens that will take a second and go over
15 them and ask Mrs. Reed if she can send these
16 to the appropriate city departments.

17 First of all, the residents of the
18 Bulls' Head Neighborhood association would
19 like an update on efforts to maintain the
20 flood control levy system, they are
21 concerned about that.

22 Also, at 904 Albright Avenue a "No
23 Parking" sign has been ripped down,
24 neighbors would like that put back up.
25 Swoyer's Court and Middle Street there are

1 potholes that are very deep. Philo and
2 Short Avenue there is a tree blocking the
3 street sign. The city needs to clear the
4 brush around the signs. People are getting
5 confused when they are driving in that
6 section. There is a catch basin on Mylert
7 and Glenn Street that's severely blocked as
8 you turn into Fidelity Bank off of
9 Greenridge Street there is also a catch
10 basin that sunk in and it's become a public
11 safety hazard.

12 Residents would also like to be
13 updated on when the stop light will be fixed
14 at the corner of North Main Avenue and Oak
15 Street. That's become a very dangerous
16 intersection.

17 Also, there is a problem at 2501
18 Boulevard Avenue. The backyard is falling
19 apart and actually becomes a cliff. There
20 is ten-feet of land that's worn away. In
21 the past the city had promised to fix it,
22 but it has gotten progressively worse.

23 And as I attend these neighborhood
24 meetings one of the major issues that I
25 found is communication between city hall and

1 the residents, and I have talked about this
2 before, but people do not feel that they are
3 being listened to or taken seriously when
4 they call city hall and they make a
5 complaint about an issue in their
6 neighborhood. Either they receive a call
7 back months later or they don't receive a
8 call back, so they don't know where they
9 stand and then they get frustrated and they
10 end up giving up so there needs to be an
11 effort on the part of the administration to
12 figure out how to fix that and hold people
13 in city hall accountable and make them work
14 for the citizens.

15 I also received a serious complaint
16 today about the condition of two vacant lots
17 in the Olive Street area, it's become a big
18 public safety hazard so we'll send that to
19 the Licensing and Inspections Department.

20 On the issue of quality of life and
21 other things like that, I believe that the
22 administration needs to come up with a
23 vacancy and blight action plan, create a
24 task force. Obviously, some of the things
25 that the city is doing or not doing are not

1 working. Like I said, I have been going
2 around to each neighborhood group and people
3 are frustrated, they are becoming disgusted
4 and they are become hopeless because some of
5 these initiatives that were enacted are just
6 not working so I do think we need to go back
7 to the drawing table and we need to
8 reevaluate the Licensing and Inspections
9 Department and some of those programs, and I
10 do think that the mayor and his
11 administration needs to start being
12 proactive instead of reactive because I see
13 since I have been on council for three years
14 we wait for something to happen and then we
15 react instead of being proactive so I think
16 we need to do a better job with that. And
17 that's I have this week. Thank you.

18 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you,
19 Mr. Gaughan. Just a few items, I was
20 contacted about a person who was having a
21 problem that required an investigation by
22 the city zoning officer. Mr. Sweeney
23 responded and the complaint was handled so
24 I'd like to thank him for that.

25 Just to echo what Mr. Rogan said

1 about the city response to the storm the
2 other day, I'd especially like to thank
3 Mr. Gallagher for taking a look at the 600
4 block of Farber Court where that road has
5 gone back down. We had our 150th
6 anniversary back down to that road again on
7 Farber Court.

8 Just to follow-up on what Mr.
9 Gaughan was speaking about, the county has
10 approved the land bank as well as approved
11 the tax incentive for new construction, work
12 hand-in-hand with some of the things
13 Mr. Gaughan mentioned and I think working
14 and using land bank for those properties
15 will help to improve that situation
16 hopefully. I wish I had more, but I don't.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Can I just add one
18 thing, you just made me think of the land
19 bank. I am glad to see that the land bank
20 is finally coming to fruition, but I do hope
21 that the city and the county and the school
22 district will work towards a strategic plan
23 to target all neighborhoods and all
24 different sections of the city. I just hope
25 that doesn't become another thing where, you

1 know, it kind of gets caught in limbo
2 because we have so many problems in every
3 part of the city, and as I walk though some
4 of the different sections, like I said last
5 week, it's just disgraceful some of the
6 things that are going on in the city, so I
7 do think that there needs to be a concerted
8 effort and I think the land bank will help
9 us get where we need to go. Thank you.

10 MR. WECHSLER: I mean, I think it's
11 incumbent on us to keep the focus on it so
12 it doesn't get kicked around and I'd like to
13 give them the benefit of doubt before they
14 get started and I think part of our role as
15 council people is to maintain focus and make
16 sure that the land bank works properly.

17 MR. EVANS: Can I ask a question,
18 did we get confirmation that the county did
19 pass the legislation?

20 MR. WECHSLER: I think they took
21 care of all of the issues yesterday.

22 MR. EVANS: Great. Thank you.

23 MS. REED: 5-B. NO BUSINESS AT THIS
24 TIME.

25 SIXTH ORDER. 6-A. NO BUSINESS AT

1 THIS TIME.

2 SEVEN ORDER. 7-A. FOR
3 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC
4 SAFETY - FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF THE COUNCIL
5 NO. 44, 2016 - DESIGNATING THE 900 AND 1000
6 BLOCKS OF ACKER AVENUE AS ONE-WAY IN THE
7 SOUTHBOUND DIRECTION; THE 1100/1200 AND
8 1200 BLOCK TO TAYLOR LINE REMAIN A TWO-WAY
9 ROADWAY; A R6-1L HORIZONTAL LEFT ONE-WAY
10 SIGN BE INSTALLED AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF
11 WEST LOCUST STREET AND ACKER AVENUE AND THAT
12 THE EXISTING STOP SIGN AT THE NORTHWESTERLY
13 CORNER OF ACKER AVENUE AND LANDIS STREET
14 BE PLUMBED TO A VERTICAL POSITION.

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

18 MR. PERRY: As Chairperson for the
19 Committee on Public Safety, I recommend
20 final passage of Item 7-A.

21 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

25 MR. PERRY: Yes.

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

2 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

4 MR. EVANS: Yes.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

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

11 MS. REED: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION BY
12 THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS - FOR ADOPTION
13 - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 45, 2016 -
14 AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 122 OF 1990
15 AN ORDINANCE AS AMENDED ENTITLED
16 "ESTABLISHING A RECYCLING PROGRAM IN ORDER
17 TO COMPLY WITH ACT 101, 1988, PROVIDING FOR
18 REGULATIONS GOVERNING SEPARATION, STORAGE,
19 AND COLLECTION OF RECYCLABLE MATERIALS, FOR
20 RESIDENCES, COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL AND
21 MUNICIPAL ESTABLISHMENTS, AND COMMUNITY
22 ACTIVITIES, AND MULTIFAMILY HOUSING
23 PROPERTIES; PROVIDING FOR EXEMPTIONS,
24 ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS OF
25 THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ORDINANCE" TO INCLUDE

1 ADDITIONAL DEFINITIONS AND UPDATING
2 INFORMATION ON REGULATIONS GOVERNING
3 COLLECTION, SOURCE SEPARATION AND RECYCLING
4 OF RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL, MUNICIPAL,
5 INSTITUTIONAL, MULTI FAMILY DWELLING AND AT
6 COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES.

7 MR. WECHSLER: What is the
8 recommendation of the Chairperson for the
9 Committee on Public Works?

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

13 MR. ROGAN: Second.

14 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

15 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.
16 You know, the original intent of this
17 legislation, in my opinion after having
18 several conversations with the business
19 administrator and other members of the
20 administration, was simply to increase
21 commercial recycling and the reporting that
22 goes along with it in order that the city
23 can apply for and successfully receive
24 grants. This, as far as I'm concerned, was
25 also a recommendation from the DEP that we

1 needed to update this ordinance, otherwise,
2 we would not be able to apply for the Act
3 904 Performance Grant that we do every year.

4 I would agree with some of the
5 speakers that enforcement is going to be an
6 issue and I don't think that that was the
7 intent of this legislation so that we pass
8 this and then all of a sudden city workers
9 are going through people's garbage. That's
10 ludicrous. I don't think that that is going
11 to happen.

12 From our caucus last week with
13 Mr. Lynch and Mr. Bulzoni and the our
14 recycling consultant, I think they are
15 headed in the right direction and I do think
16 that there has been progress already in
17 increased reporting from the different
18 commercial establishments, so I will be
19 voting "yes" for this. I think it's
20 something that we need to do, otherwise, we
21 will be in danger of losing funding. Thank
22 you.

23 MR. PERRY: Yeah, on the question as
24 well, this is I believe step one at actually
25 taking a really good look at our refuse

1 program that we have. It we can separate
2 the recyclables out of the trash and
3 understand how much trash we have then we
4 can come up with a really, really accurate
5 amount of how much do we actually have to
6 charge for our garbage and I think that's
7 been kicked around an awful lot. I'm not a
8 fan of the \$300 a year. I'm a little
9 happier if you pay earlier it's \$270, but I
10 still think that that's too much of a burden
11 on somebody putting out one bag a week.

12 So this is, in my opinion, step one,
13 separate the recyclables from the rest of
14 the refuge, and as Mr. Gaughan stated, the
15 major impact on this is going to be an
16 increase our 904 grant money from the state
17 by actually getting our commercial
18 businesses to recycle. Every other local
19 community has this already in place and it
20 dictates to them that they not only have to
21 recycle but they have to report back to us
22 on how much are they recycling and that in
23 turn goes to the state which then is where
24 the state gets the information to give the
25 money back to the city in the form of a

1 grant, which can be used to turn back into
2 our recycling program, again, so you can see
3 how that circle goes. So I will be voting
4 "yes" for this as well.

5 MR. ROGAN: Just a couple of items
6 I'd like to mention. There is no question
7 the city doesn't do as good a job of
8 recycling as we should be doing. Just some
9 anecdotal evidence, I live in West Side, we
10 put out our garbage and recycling on Sunday
11 night. Many Sunday nights my wife and I go
12 for a walk throughout the neighborhood, and
13 luckily most of the neighbors on my block
14 and I'd say a couple of blocks around are
15 very proactive with recycling, which is very
16 good to see, but a couple of more blocks
17 down the street in many of the blocks that
18 have, you know, three and four-unit
19 properties there is not a lot of recycling
20 that's going on. And as was mentioned by my
21 colleagues and as I have mentioned I think
22 since I have sat in this chair, every single
23 item that should be recycled that isn't the
24 taxpayers are paying more money to put that
25 in the dump. Not only is it bad for the

1 environment, it's bad financially.

2 Much has been made by many people
3 who speak at the meeting of the fee -- of
4 the fine, I should say, for not complying
5 with the ordinance, and the old ordinance
6 also had a fine but it was never enforced.
7 It's not the intent of anyone on this board
8 to fine people. The intention is to bring
9 in increased grant money in the city and to
10 increase recycling from the biggest business
11 all of the way down to the single person who
12 lives alone and we need to do a number of
13 the items including education and getting
14 more recycling bins out there and there is a
15 lot that needs to be done on our end, but
16 the last thing that should be happening is
17 fines being issued.

18 It is in the ordinance and it's
19 always been in the ordinance and in the past
20 nobody has been fined and in the future
21 nobody is going to be fined, but we do have
22 to do a better job to increase recycling in
23 the city.

24 MR. WECHSLER: Anyone else? Roll
25 call, please.

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

2 MR. PERRY: Yes.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

4 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

6 MR. EVANS: Yes.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

8 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

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

13 MS. REED: 7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION
14 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES – FOR ADOPTION –
15 RESOLUTION NO. 56, 2016 – APPOINTING ROBERT
16 GATTENS, 528 ORCHARD STREET, SCRANTON,
17 PENNSYLVANIA, 18505, AS A MEMBER OF THE
18 BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS FOR THE CITY OF
19 SCRANTON. MR. GATTENS WILL REPLACE STEVE
20 BARTNICKI, WHOSE TERM EXPIRED ON JULY 1,
21 2016. MR. GATTENS' TERM WILL COMMENCE ON
22 JULY 2, 2016 AND EXPIRE ON JULY 1, 2021.

23 MR. WECHSLER: As Chairperson for
24 the Committee on Rules, I recommend final
25 passage of Item 7-C.

1 MR. ROGAN: Second.

2 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

3 Roll call, please?

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

5 MR. PERRY: Yes.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

7 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

9 MR. EVANS: Yes.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

13 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby
14 declare Item 7-C legally and lawfully
15 adopted.

16 MS. REED: 7-D. FOR CONSIDERATION
17 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES – FOR
18 ADOPTION – RESOLUTION NO. 57, 2016 –
19 RE-APPOINTING CARRI NEWCOMB, 230 N. CAMERON
20 AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18504, AS A
21 MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS FOR
22 THE CITY OF SCRANTON. MRS. NEWCOMB'S TERM
23 EXPIRED ON JUNE 30, 2016 AND HER NEW
24 TERM WILL EXPIRE ON JUNE 30, 2021.

25 MR. WECHSLER: As Chairperson for

1 the Committee on Rules, I recommend final
2 passage of Item 7-D.

3 MR. ROGAN: Second.

4 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?
5 Roll call, please?

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

7 MR. PERRY: Yes.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

9 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

11 MR. EVANS: Yes.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

13 MR. GAUGHAN: No.

14 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

15 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby
16 declare Item 7-D legally and lawfully
17 adopted.

18 MS. REED: 7-E. FOR CONSIDERATION
19 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES – FOR ADOPTION –
20 RESOLUTION NO. 58, 2016 – RE-APPOINTMENT OF
21 LEE BORTHWICK, 616 DEPOT STREET, SCRANTON,
22 PENNSYLVANIA, 18509, AS A MEMBER OF THE
23 HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURE REVIEW BOARD FOR AN
24 ADDITIONAL FIVE (5) YEAR TERM. MR.
25 BORTHWICK'S PRIOR TERM EXPIRED OCTOBER

1 11, 2015 AND WAS HELD OVER TO JULY 18, 2016.
2 MR. BORTHWICK'S NEW TERM WILL BE EFFECTIVE
3 JULY 18, 2016 AND EXPIRE ON OCTOBER 11,
4 2021.

5 MR. WECHSLER: As Chairperson for
6 the Committee on Rules, I recommend final
7 passage of Item 7-E.

8 MR. ROGAN: Second.

9 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?
10 Roll call, please?

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

12 MR. PERRY: Yes.

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

14 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

16 MR. EVANS: Yes.

17 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

18 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

19 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

20 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby
21 declare Item 7-E legally and lawfully
22 adopted.

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

25 MR. ROGAN: Motion to adjourn.

MR. WECHSLER: Meeting adjourned.

(Meeting adjourned.)

- 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

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

C E R T I F I C A T E

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