

SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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HELD:

Thursday, September 8, 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 moment of reflection
2 observed.)

3 MR. WECHSLER: Roll call, please.

4 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Perry.

5 MR. PERRY: Here.

6 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

7 MR. ROGAN: Here.

8 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Evans.

9 MR. EVANS: Here.

10 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Here.

12 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler.

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

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

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

21 MS. REED: 3-B. TAX ASSESSOR'S
22 REPORT FOR HEARING DATE TO BE HELD SEPTEMBER
23 27, 2016.

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

1 MS. REED: Do any council members
2 have announcements at this time?

3 MR. EVANS: I have one. There will
4 be a fundraiser for Pat Sweeney recently
5 diagnosed with lung cancer. All proceeds to
6 help out said medical bills and expenses on
7 Saturday, September 10, 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. at
8 the Ice Box Sports Complex, 800 Providence
9 Road. Food, beverage, raffle and
10 entertainment by Ron Morgan, Jack Foley and
11 Ron Walsh and others. A \$20 donations.
12 Their theme is Sweeney Strong. Pat is a
13 good friend of mine, he is my wife's cousin
14 and we wish him all of the best and his
15 family, he has a great family and his wife
16 Katie and his girls, so please try to attend
17 the fundraiser and show your support for Pat
18 and his family. Thank you.

19 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, I have two.
20 There will be a special day in remembrance
21 of Kathleen Cavanaugh, a victim of domestic
22 violence. The event is called Kathleen's
23 Crusade. It will be Sunday, September 18,
24 from 3 to 7 p.m. at the Radisson Hotel, 700
25 Lackawanna Avenue, \$20 per person and all

1 proceeds benefit the Women's Resource
2 Center.

3 Also, the Friends of Connors Park is
4 sponsoring a chicken bar-b-que on Sunday,
5 September 18, to be held in the park at 5:15
6 Orchard Street from 12 noon until 2:30 p.m.
7 Tickets are only \$10. All monies raised
8 will be used in the purchase and
9 installation of handicapped accessible play
10 equipment in the park. Tickets will be on
11 sale at the park this Saturday, September 1-
12 from 10 a.m. until 12 noon. Thank you.

13 MR. PERRY: Yes, I have one. The
14 Telespond Senior Service Center will have a
15 third annual Forget-Me-Not Walk October 2 at
16 10 a.m. at Nay Aug Park. The Telespond
17 Senior Center is near and dear to my heart.
18 It's an organization that will take care of
19 the elderly people. They will pick them up
20 at their homes and take them out for the
21 day. They will take them to the center.
22 They have activities for them or they can be
23 dropped off. It really is a function in
24 society where someone who doesn't need to go
25 away and live at a senior center or senior

1 home permanently while someone else, maybe
2 their caregiver, has to go to work for the
3 day they kind of fill that gap and I know my
4 grandmother was there and it's a great
5 organization with great people. This
6 Forget-Me-Not walk that they are having
7 October 2 is actually going to be raising
8 money for a new handicapped accessible van.
9 That way they will be able to take care of
10 more seniors more often and do the picking
11 up and dropping off just to make even that
12 more convenient. It's a really great event
13 that. I go every year. There's face
14 painting for kids and basket raffles and if
15 you have any questions or you want more
16 information the phone number is
17 570-961-1956. Thank you.

18 MR. ROGAN: I have one as well. Now
19 that school is back in session it's time to
20 resume another school uniform drive. Before
21 you get rid of your children's old school
22 uniforms please consider donating them to
23 students in need within the Scranton school
24 district by dropping them off at State
25 Representative Marty Flynn's office located

1 409 North Main Avenue. You can drop them
2 off at, like I said, at Marty's office or if
3 you would like contact me and I'd be happy
4 to pick them up for you.

5 MR. WECHSLER: I have one last one.
6 The Summit of Scranton Neighborhoods will be
7 holding a Scranton Community Unity Rally on
8 Saturday. This event is organized to
9 support diversity in law enforcement and
10 first responders. Once again, it will be on
11 a Saturday from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. and it
12 will be hosted at the Market Place 300
13 Lackawanna Avenue and I would encourage
14 everyone to attend.

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

17 MR. WECHSLER: Joan Hodowanitz.

18 MS. HODOWANITZ: Joan Hodowanitz,
19 city resident and taxpayer. The City's 2015
20 audit is now 101 days late. I don't know if
21 you have any information on it's status.
22 I'm hoping that we only have one adverse
23 opinion this year, which will be the
24 Scranton Parking Authorities lack of the
25 audited financial statements, but do we have

1 any information on how that's progressing?

2 MR. WECHSLER: From talking to
3 Administrator Bulzoni, he feels that we will
4 have something prior to the budget.

5 MS. HODOWANITZ: Oh, good. And,
6 also, the status of the Auditor General's
7 municipal pension plan audit, which is --

8 MR. WECHSLER: I have some
9 information about that later and I'll share
10 it with you.

11 MS. HODOWANITZ: Yeah, I sent an
12 e-mail to the Auditor General's Office and
13 haven't gotten a reply. That will be very
14 revealing. I hope they are not waiting to
15 see what happens with the sale of the Sewer
16 Authority before they release that report.

17 Just to remind everybody that next
18 Wednesday about the Pennsylvania Board
19 meetings and that the Composite Pension
20 Board which meets here at 10 a.m. will vote
21 on a replacement from Mellon Bank as their
22 investment advisor, that should be
23 interesting.

24 Speaking of the Sewer Authority
25 sale, I haven't seen anything in the paper

1 or on the news about public briefings with
2 regard to easements. There is no status on
3 that?

4 MR. WECHSLER: I have been in
5 contact with Mr. Barrett and there is not
6 one scheduled yet.

7 MS. HODOWANITZ: Nothing scheduled,
8 but he is still planning to do something?

9 MR. WECHSLER: To the best of my
10 knowledge, yes.

11 MS. HODOWANITZ: Have you a feel for
12 how this affects the September milestones
13 for the Sewer Authority sale because of
14 certain things they have to do if they are
15 going to complete this by the end of
16 October.

17 MR. WECHSLER: If it was according
18 to plan they all should be completed by the
19 end of October, but today is September 8 and
20 so far --

21 MS. HODOWANITZ: They don't have
22 signed easements --

23 MR. WECHSLER: They are mailing the
24 letters out.

25 MS. HODOWANITZ: So they should

1 be sending those --

2 MR. WECHSLER: They're actually
3 still mailing those. Some letters got
4 mailed this week.

5 MS. HODOWANITZ: Well, do we know
6 when the PUC is going to meet to make a
7 decision? Is it sometime in September or is
8 it October?

9 MR. WECHSLER: We have nothing
10 official yet, no.

11 MS. HODOWANITZ: If memory serves,
12 three of the five members of that board have
13 been appointed by Governor Wolf and I think
14 they will probably be in favor of the sale
15 so we shall see what happens.

16 Speaking of sales, the foreclosures
17 on Sampter's and Oppenheim's that was in the
18 paper this morning, does Mr. Boscov owe any
19 money on loans to the city with regard to
20 those two properties?

21 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

22 MS. HODOWANITZ: Are we on the hook?

23 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

24 MS. HODOWANITZ: How much money and
25 is there any possibility of him paying up?

1 MR. ROGAN: I will be addressing
2 that in Fifth Order tonight.

3 MS. HODOWANITZ: Okey, dokey.
4 Another interesting article in the paper had
5 to do with these late rape kits, this
6 backlog that the State Auditor General did
7 an audit on. One of the late overdue year
8 old rape kits is in the City of Scranton,
9 has anyone checked with the mayor or Chief
10 Graziano on the status of that rape kit
11 whether it's still outstanding? That's not
12 acceptable. Somebody should ask the
13 question. Maybe it's not an issue anymore,
14 maybe it's been resolved, maybe it's been
15 finished. If it's not been I think the
16 citizens and potential victim is owed an
17 explanation and should be public, you should
18 get that answer. Maybe nothing to this,
19 maybe it's been resolved. If it hasn't
20 been, it should be the first thing on the
21 mayor's agenda. Justice delayed is just
22 denied. This is unacceptable.

23 MR. EVANS: I agree.

24 MS. HODOWANITZ: And yesterday I
25 attended the County Commissioner's meeting

1 and they introduced an ordinance and the
2 paper again covered it, the county Board of
3 Commissioners held a first reading of an
4 ordinance that would allow the Tax Claim
5 Bureau to give senior citizens facing hard
6 ships such as unemployment and serious
7 illnesses, short term and longer term
8 extensions of payment of their bills. This
9 is with regard to property taxes. Was this
10 coordinated with the city for the City's
11 side of the property taxes and state taxes?
12 Have they already done this? Have they
13 talked to you? Did you talk to them?

14 MR. WECHSLER: No, we just learned--

15 MR. ROGAN: We learned about it the
16 newspaper today and Councilman Evans and
17 myself had a brief discussion about it
18 earlier, but it was news to us as well.

19 MS. HODOWANITZ: The commissioners
20 mentioned that they had discussions with the
21 Scranton School Board, and I think if the
22 County's going to do this at least it merits
23 discussion whether it's appropriate on the
24 City's side. Thank you.

25 MR. EVANS: Thank you.

1 MR. WECHSLER: Les Spindler.

2 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening,
3 Council. Les Spindler, city resident and
4 homeowner and taxpayer. I wasn't here last
5 week, I want to send my thoughts and prayers
6 to the family of Ozzie Quinn. Ozzie did me
7 a big favor 14 years ago, I had a big
8 problem with my house and through Habitat
9 through Humanity Ozzie took care of it and
10 the only thing Ozzie asked me to is go to
11 council at that time and ask them to keep
12 funding Habitat so everybody that has a
13 problem with me Ozzie/AOE is the reason I
14 come to these meetings. Rest in peace,
15 Ozzie. A great man.

16 Last time I was here I mentioned two
17 people who I thought deserved a proclamation
18 more than Mia Nonnenberg and I forgot
19 someone, Joe McCarthy, from Scranton High
20 School has played professional baseball with
21 the Tampa Bay Rays. I think he deserves a
22 proclamation much more than Mia Nonnenberg
23 along with Matt McGloin and John Rivers.
24 Anybody that knows anything about sports, if
25 you pay attention to sports as much I do

1 they said trying to hit a baseball is the
2 most difficult thing to do in sports and Joe
3 McCarthy is doing that professionally. I
4 think absolutely he deserves a proclamation.
5 Probably being an NFL quarterback is the
6 second most difficult thing in sports and
7 Matt McGloin is doing that and, again, no
8 proclamation. There is only a small
9 percentage of athletes coming out of college
10 that make it to professional sports and we
11 have two people from this city. I think
12 it's a lot to be proud of and this council
13 shows nothing towards those two people.

14 Mia Nonneberg's accomplishments pale
15 in comparison to what Matt McGloin, Joe
16 McCarthy and have accomplished. That's all
17 I have to say on that point, on that
18 subject.

19 Something else I have been talking
20 about for an a long time our city streets.
21 Something has got to be done with these
22 utilities. I don't know if we have an
23 ordinance or not now but if we don't we need
24 one. These utilities are wrecking our
25 streets and they are not fixing them

1 correctly. I mentioned in West Side, North
2 Sumner Avenue, it's a disaster and all
3 they're doing is making pave cuts and
4 they're filling them in and two of the
5 blocks that they are filling in were newly
6 paved last year. They should be made to
7 pave those two blocks, but they are not
8 doing it.

9 And last week I went over to the 300
10 block of North Lincoln, if there is a worst
11 street in this city I want to see it. When
12 you first hit the 300 block you have to
13 almost stop there is such a dip in the road
14 for where they filled in. It's all settling
15 down and all along the 300 block it is a
16 disaster. Something has got to be done with
17 these utilities. They are getting away with
18 murder, like I said, they are killing our
19 streets. Something has got to be done and I
20 hope council looks into it because they
21 can't keep getting away with this. They are
22 digging up newly paved streets and not
23 repairing them correctly and it's the
24 citizens paying for it. That's all I have
25 to say tonight. Thank you for your time.

1 MR. WECHSLER: Gene Besko.

2 MR. BESKO: Before I get started
3 could I approach council and give you some
4 drawings to show you and give you a better
5 idea of when we are talking about?

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Sure.

7 MR. BESKO: These are drawings for
8 everybody and here's the picture of it.
9 Basically I'm here speaking on behalf of the
10 lower Keyser Valley residents plagued with
11 the flooding problems. The area has had
12 problems in the past but it has increased in
13 frequency in the last few years. A large
14 part of the problem is the storm drains on
15 Brigg Street. All of the storm drains have
16 water bellowing out of them during any heavy
17 rainstorm. I have provided you some
18 pictures to give you a little bit better
19 idea. This water runs down Merrifield
20 Avenue and the alley between Cameron avenue
21 and Merrifield flooding yards and basements.
22 The water flowing out of the storm drains
23 started in 2006. There is a 24-inch storm
24 drain that rain from a dry dam on the
25 westerly side of Keyser Avenue directly to

1 Keyser Creek to help alleviate all of the
2 runoff problems that we had throughout the
3 years.

4 As a resident of the area for 61
5 years, I actually remember when they put
6 that pipe in. In 2006, the culm hill was
7 bulldozed, as you can see in one of the
8 pictures, and there is a bulldozer on that
9 line there and there was a manhole, I can
10 remember as a kid that was somewhere in
11 that culm hill that actually went down to
12 that 24-inch storm line that went out to
13 Keyser Creek. After bulldozing, the manhole
14 disappeared and the water doesn't go all the
15 way through the pipe anymore so somewhere
16 it's blocked and then what happened was the
17 water would gush up out of the culvert at
18 the junction of Field Avenue and Cameron and
19 flow down onto Brigg Street flooding all of
20 the manholes and runoff system.

21 So after a few years of this problem
22 either the city or the Sewer Authority dug
23 up the box culvert and eliminated the line
24 going directly to Keyser Creek. They then
25 connected the 24-inch storm pipe coming off

1 of the mountain directly into the Brigg
2 Street line. There is also at that time
3 frame there was a new line installed that
4 went up the four and 500 blocks of Cameron
5 Avenue and that was tied into the Brigg
6 Street line, and just as of lately during
7 the rebuild of the Keyser Avenue PennDOT
8 connected Keyser Avenue directly to the
9 Brigg Street line so this line cannot take
10 all of this additional water and it's a --
11 all the red lines provided on that map I
12 show you are the new editions that go into
13 this Brigg Street feed.

14 Additionally, some of the storm
15 water at the lower end of Merrifield Avenue
16 is somehow mixing with sewage and it's
17 actually been buckling up during the last
18 couple of rain storms and that is a very big
19 problem that needs to be addressed because
20 it's a health hazard, okay? We would like
21 your help in setting up a meeting with say
22 the city engineer, the Sewer authority and
23 DEP since sewage is involved with it so we
24 could have them come up with a solution to
25 those problems. I mean, it's a very

1 workable solution one way or the other just
2 to get that water into the Keyser creek, but
3 nobody wants to address it.

4 MR. ROGAN: That's already in the
5 works. I'm not sure if you saw the meeting
6 last week, but I was -- two weeks ago it was
7 further up the mountain where the problem
8 actually begins with the water coming down
9 from Newton and there is huge problems with
10 the water rushing down in this area, goes to
11 Keyser and then it further goes to down to
12 your home so there are many stakeholders
13 that need to be involved and the first thing
14 last week we actually sent a letter to
15 Senator Blake's office requesting assistance
16 further up in the mountain for maybe a
17 retention pond or something up there to stop
18 it.

19 MR. BESKO: There is a retention
20 pond the westerly side and that's another
21 sore spot that nobody wants to address that
22 retention pond.

23 MR. ROGAN: And so that's a big part
24 of it, PennDOT also has to be involved
25 because from whatever everyone tells me

1 somehow we have to get that water off of
2 Brigg Street into Keyser Creek before it's
3 allowed to go through all of these yards.

4 MR. WECHSLER: I know there was some
5 response during the last one, who came out
6 to do some clean up I think in the last one?
7 Who came, the Sewer Authority or DPW, there
8 was --

9 MR. BESKO: Well, you know, see
10 that's the trouble, I really don't remember
11 it was a few years ago, about four or five
12 years ago, when they actually came up and
13 terminated that line that went to Keyser
14 Creek and sent it to Brigg Street. They
15 actually dug the road up and ran a new pipe
16 right up into the Brigg Street line and I'm
17 not it was the Sewer Authority or the city.

18 MR. WECHSLER: But in the last storm
19 did somebody come out to clean up -- there
20 was some sewage spilled in the street I
21 understand.

22 MR. BESKO: Yes.

23 MR. WECHSLER: Did anybody come out
24 and look at that?

25 MR. BESKO: The Sewer Authority had

1 been down working on it.

2 MR. WECHSLER: I guess they spread
3 lye on it.

4 MR. BESKO: I don't know what
5 they've come up with, but --

6 MR. WECHSLER: Initially we are
7 concerned that they weren't coming out to
8 clean up the mess and not to fix the problem
9 per se but to clean up the mess of that day
10 so I just wanted to make sure somebody did
11 come up out.

12 MR. BESKO: But if possible I would
13 like to sit in on a meeting if we could get
14 everyone together.

15 MR. ROGAN: What I have in mind was
16 when that PennDOT project was an issue,
17 there were many issues with that, we met
18 with PennDOT, they came in and they worked
19 with us and we settled a lot of issues.
20 There are so many stakeholders involved in
21 this we need to have a public meeting with
22 PennDOT, the Sewer Authority, the city
23 officials, city engineers, state officials,
24 you know, this is a huge problem and one
25 agency isn't going to solve it, we all need

1 to work together and, unfortunately, like I
2 said before, every time we address one area
3 it makes another area worse, so we have to
4 look it as a whole area from the top of the
5 mountain all the way down to the valley to
6 the baseball fields because it's been a
7 disaster. I live in West Side myself, I
8 know how bad it is.

9 MR. BESKO: All right. Thank you.

10 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Besko, would you
11 give your contact information to Jamie so we
12 can keep you in the loop.

13 MR. BESKO: Yes.

14 MR. WECHSLER: Just write your phone
15 number down and whatever you would like to
16 give her we'll follow-up and get started and
17 be in contact with you to let you know our
18 progress.

19 MR. BESKO: Thank you very much for
20 your help.

21 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

22 MR. WECHSLER: Mike Serebro.

23 MR. SEREBRO: Okay, I'm Mike
24 Serebro, Scranton resident. I live about a
25 half a block from Gene. I'm here to address

1 the flooding problem, too. Years ago, I
2 mean, this has been an ongoing thing for 20
3 to 30 years I understand. Now, I'm only
4 there four years but this year since they
5 finished the Keyser Avenue project there, I
6 mean, it's crazy. The way the water runoff
7 comes down and I'm one of the worst -- have
8 one of the worst places like at the bottom
9 of the valley. Now, houses have fallen over
10 in the past years, we had Channel 28 there a
11 week or so ago to try to help us out to get
12 some answers on what could be done. They
13 showed video of one of the resident's
14 foundation the wall is literally crumbled
15 and the guy has all of these support beams
16 holding up the side of the house and now my
17 house in this last year see it's not only
18 when there is bad storms it's like even a
19 moderate rain that continues for awhile that
20 now my front yard fills up like a lake and I
21 got water coming into my basement, it got so
22 bad the way my basement is set up the two
23 walls are put together and in the middle and
24 this last storm the water was actually
25 gushing through the wall like four feet off

1 the ground because of where the water lays
2 in front of my house.

3 Over the last few years, I mean, I
4 can live with little bit of water, but my
5 fuse box is four feet away from where it's
6 gushing out. Geez, if things start
7 sparking, you know, and whatever happens I
8 don't know what else to do except run but
9 that's how bad the situation is. It's not
10 just me, it's a lot of other neighbors.

11 Now, I have two parcels of land
12 there that the back lot where my house is
13 not I have a pretty good sized garage set up
14 there and I could live with the water coming
15 in the garage but now that it's coming in
16 the house like really bad, and I can
17 understand the same thing, you get water in
18 a lot of houses but not like a foot of water
19 and it's gushing from the walls.

20 Another thing I want to address, you
21 know, I have been on the phone with
22 everybody and anybody DPW, SSA, the state
23 representative, I have called the mayor's
24 office a number of times, nobody ever gets
25 back to me, and I don't get angry about it I

1 just wait, I hear them telling me that, you
2 know, we are looking into it, we'll get back
3 to you and you give them a good amount of
4 time nobody ever calls back. I call back
5 again I have to leave a message or, you
6 know, they say, well, we told the mayor your
7 problem or the state representative. I
8 spoke with PennDOT, too. Like I said, I
9 have been on the phone so much time PennDOT
10 just called me back finally just last week
11 and simply said, "There is nothing we can do
12 about, it's not our problem."

13 That's the kind of reply only from
14 one place that was from PennDOT, but
15 everybody else I call nobody returns the
16 call or they just pass the buck stating we
17 are looking into it, you know, we are
18 working on it. They also all say we are
19 aware of your problem, you know, we know the
20 problem back there. I have had supervisors
21 from SSA right at the corner of my lawn is a
22 big drainage pipe, I'm not familiar with the
23 numbers, but you can visually see that
24 drainage pipe that's right against the back
25 of West Side little league there is over

1 half filled with packed sediment. I have
2 had the supervisors there, I know it's not
3 going to cure the problem but why can't you
4 flush that out and let the water run down to
5 Keyser Creek, you know, but it's the same
6 thing, you know, well, we can see what we
7 can do and they just take off and I never
8 hear from them again.

9 MR. GAUGHAN: I think if we didn't
10 already set up a meeting I think we should
11 coordinate that and maybe have it at the
12 community center, would that be the best?

13 MR. ROGAN: I think here.

14 MR. GAUGHAN: Or here.

15 MR. ROGAN: If we have it here we
16 have a big table and there's going to be a
17 lot of parties involved.

18 MR. GAUGHAN: Right.

19 MR. WECHSLER: We did have a good
20 response from the question on the Keyser
21 Avenue project itself.

22 MR. ROGAN: And I think, I know this
23 doesn't solve the problem, but as you
24 mentioned in the short term if we could send
25 a correspondence along with a copy of this

1 map, which is very helpful, to the Sewer
2 Authority asking them if they can send out a
3 crew at least to drain out or examine the
4 lines to make sure water can go through in
5 the mean time before a more permanent
6 solution is found.

7 MR. WECHSLER: Andy Sbaraglia.

8 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,
9 citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians,
10 Harrisburg had their incendiary, Scranton
11 has the parking agreement, both of them are
12 going to destroy their locale. You see
13 already they already had a receiver in the
14 Harrisburg and Scranton is going to up end
15 in receivership, too. There is no way out
16 of that. You complain that we are paying \$3
17 million to the bondholders, but we are
18 paying off the bonds. Maybe we only have 15
19 more years ago, maybe 20 years ago, but we
20 were paying off the bonds. Now, with the
21 loss revenue from the meters, the fines, the
22 parking lot assessment that they used to put
23 on the parking, and paying off the new loans
24 we are probably paying close to 4 million
25 and we got 40 years before we get our

1 garages back. How could anybody do that had
2 a common sense? It just wasn't feasible the
3 way you did it. Mr. Rogan, you were on it
4 when the Parking Authority asked for
5 permission to take over the revenue from the
6 parking meters in the city and they were
7 denied, but you turned around, set up a
8 company there, gave them the money to paid
9 off the lease and the former lease. They
10 haven't invested a penny of their money into
11 this parking agreement, it all came from the
12 city and the city is on the hook for it for
13 40 or 45 years. If they decide since they
14 have no money invested to go bankrupt we are
15 stuck. We are stuck with the parking
16 garages, we are stuck paying off the new
17 loan that maybe the other loan was better
18 off than that. How did that happen I don't
19 know.

20 How our government official like our
21 state representative or even our Senator
22 Blake didn't ask for some kind of a review
23 of that, how PEL went along with it is
24 beyond me. Anybody that could add two and
25 two and get four knew that this was not a

1 good agreement. It's a one-sided agreement
2 and that's the sad part about it. It was
3 one sided for a few individuals not for the
4 residents of Scranton.

5 Thank God my life is getting short.
6 I'm not going to be here for them 40 or 45
7 years, your children may, my son is already
8 out of here, so I won't have to worry about
9 the family invested in the city. It's just
10 too bad that we elected people who cared
11 little or nothing about the city as a whole
12 with some type of agreement like that. I
13 don't know how you can even -- that one
14 garage you sold for a dollar. It was
15 bringing in 300 and some thousand.

16 Not only that, I was told at one
17 time that a 2-A city is under the same laws
18 as a 1-A city and I was told that in a 1-A
19 city every time you have a surplus of
20 property it has to be sold, it shouldn't be
21 done and didn't. Was that done? No. You
22 tell me there was no deals made? This got
23 to be the greatest deal that was ever made
24 and not in the best interest of the people
25 of Scranton, but individuals and that's the

1 sad part. One should love their city, love
2 the people in the city and do their
3 darnedest to make people able to live in
4 this city for their lives. I'm just sorry
5 it can't be done in Scranton. Thank you.

6 MR. WECHSLER: Lee Morgan.

7 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.
8 Well, you know, I agree wholeheartedly with
9 what Andy just said but, you know, and I
10 hope that people should pay attention to
11 what Mr. Sbaraglia just said tonight because
12 here's a man who knows what he is talking
13 about and the sad thing is that we have
14 people here talking about problems with the
15 sewers and the City of Scranton, but I think
16 that people fail to realize what the real
17 problem is. You know, people in this
18 country talk about organized crime, well,
19 you know, my opinion is that, look it, the
20 mafia is not organized crime, they are
21 unorganized crime, the government is
22 organized crime.

23 What's happened to the people with
24 their problem with the sewer backing up,
25 look it, in 10 or 20 years they will bury

1 you and they will probably be gone and it
2 may not be solved. The people in this
3 country have followed people that never had
4 the ability to lead because the party itself
5 picks the candidate and rolls out a team
6 that goes with that candidate that will
7 follow orders as they are given and then
8 what they do is they put the taxpayers on
9 the hook for it all, and don't forget that
10 judges are politicians, too, because they
11 are elected, also, so what you have created
12 is a monolithic organization that has no
13 respect for the electors because they are
14 meaningless because you are going to pick
15 the candidates they choose and when you pick
16 these candidates you create a mechanism
17 under the law where the people that you
18 elect can make decisions for you as they tax
19 you, sell your property, commit -- things
20 that in any other country would be
21 considered a crime.

22 And, you know, our founding fathers
23 understood that this was going to take place
24 and now if you watch what's taking place
25 across our country, well, we have organized

1 crime trying to pick our presidential
2 candidates and on one side they did, and
3 when you look at what the press -- some of
4 the press is reporting it's mind boggling
5 that somebody could be the head of a
6 nonprofit organization and 88 percent of it
7 is eaten up in overhead. It's just mind
8 boggling and for anybody to consider to cast
9 a vote in that direction in my opinion you
10 are out of your mind and for the remnants of
11 what's left of the Republican party fighting
12 their candidate that's been chosen by the
13 people, they are desperate because they have
14 lost one half of the political system if
15 Donald Trump becomes elected, and I'm not
16 saying he is the best candidate, but I want
17 people in this city to think about one
18 thing, Mr. Boscov was a rising star in this
19 community at one time. It's been alleged
20 that he had political ties to the Rendell
21 administration.

22 Now, if that's true it's troubling
23 but when you take a look at what's taking
24 place with the Scranton Sewer Authority and
25 the parking garages they were all appointed

1 by the mayor, unless I'm wrong, okay? So
2 they were political appointees and they
3 didn't care the harm they did to the
4 residents of this city and neither did the
5 city's elected government and this has gone
6 on for almost a 100 years now and we live in
7 a city where the neighborhoods are in
8 complete decline and we are talking about
9 pumping more money in a downtown to keep
10 buildings standing that have no useful
11 purpose as we bleed the residents dry, and
12 when you look at what the PUC has decided in
13 light of that decision when somebody comes
14 up and sayings to you that they think that
15 the PUC is going to pass this because of
16 political appointments made by the governor
17 of Pennsylvania that's another troubling
18 thing because the updates that the Scranton
19 Sewer Authority is obligated to do and
20 ignored for so long it's ridiculous, okay?
21 Are probably going to cost in the range of
22 \$500 million conservatively.

23 And the sewer system drive around
24 this city when there a real storm and take a
25 good luck at almost everywhere where the

1 water is too deep to drive your car where
2 the storm collection system are so politics
3 101.

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

6 MS. SCHUMACHER: Marie Schumacher.
7 Regarding the unanimity of the council last
8 week desiring the parking board to meet
9 publically may I make the observation that
10 you are five businessmen, certainly you know
11 the time to do that was before the contract
12 was executed. You had the opportunity, but
13 rushed right ahead and approved it. In any
14 case though I'm convinced that the reason
15 that they include the council president as
16 one of the three minority board members is
17 for that person to be the conduit to the
18 public so I would like to highly recommend
19 that the council president, Mr. Wechsler,
20 submit all agendas and meeting minutes for
21 inclusion in the Third Order the same as the
22 authorities do.

23 And then last week I was also
24 astounded that there was no response when
25 you were asked what was Plan B. I guess

1 maybe you glanced over the article that was
2 in the Times-Tribune or Mr. Bulzoni saying
3 it's a -- you know, take your pick which 30
4 percent property tax increase it is.

5 MR. WECHSLER: That's not Plan B for
6 us. That's not our Plan B.

7 MS. SCHUMACHER: We'll see. Okay,
8 now, regarding the storm water issue and the
9 impact on the taxpayers, we are all aware of
10 the Young's Meadowbrook storm water issue
11 which now has extended to their neighbors,
12 the basement flooding, the need to replace
13 the storm water drain pipe along Route 307
14 and replace storm drains issues on East
15 Mountain and probably the West Mountain as
16 well as all of the properties for which the
17 Scranton Sewer Authority is seeking
18 variances.

19 And Everett Street resident at the
20 last Sewer Authority meeting stated that his
21 family has been in his house long enough
22 that he got one of the letters and he knows
23 that the storm water line goes under his
24 house and it is beginning to fail. Now, can
25 you imagine did you even know what would be

1 the City's liability if the Sewer Authority
2 sale is completed? For that matter, what is
3 the total estimate for the storm water
4 issues? We have known about this since last
5 December, has anybody gotten an issue --

6 MR. GAUGHAN: What are you asking
7 for what exactly?

8 MR. SCHUMACHER: What the storm
9 water liabilities are. We all know that all
10 of the Chesapeake Bay stuff it was on the
11 Sewer Authorities first and now we got them
12 under control so next is going to be storm
13 water. We are going to get some serious
14 oversight and we have got problems every
15 place you look and it's certainly got to be
16 of value to our engineers should be able to
17 know where they are that 2013 feasibility
18 study had almost all the creeks and
19 everything in it and some estimates, but we
20 need to know that and we need to know that
21 before the Sewer Authority sale goes
22 through. We may be buying something we
23 really don't want.

24 Now, also, during the I'll go back
25 to last April, you passed File of Council 21

1 defining and authorizing tax exemption from
2 real property tax in order to improve
3 deteriorating real property in certain areas
4 of the city. Would you please report on how
5 many permits have been pulled under that?

6 MR. EVANS: To date, none.

7 MS. SCHUMACHER: Pardon?

8 MR. EVANS: None.

9 MS. SCHUMACHER: None. Okay. Could
10 we get a monthly report, maybe the first of
11 the month?

12 MR. EVANS: It should be fairly easy
13 to do. We are working out -- I had a
14 meeting with Mr. Bulzoni, but I'll talk
15 about this in motions.

16 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. And then
17 next, each month, again, I have observed
18 that the tax collector tells us what we are
19 collecting and I'd put it on the agenda
20 because it's part of Third Order this week,
21 but we are behind by several percentage
22 points of the tax increase. Yeah, we got
23 more money this year, but not enough to
24 cover the tax increase and the way I
25 calculated it at the end of last month I

1 didn't have the figures, we are going to be
2 three-quarters of a million dollars short
3 there, and the rest of the stuff I'll bring
4 back next week, good Lord willing. Thank
5 you.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

7 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening. Dave
8 Dobrzyn, resident and taxpayer. Don't
9 forget on the Transpacific pact call
10 1-202-224-3121 and ask for your congressman
11 and senator and tell them to pack it in
12 transpacific pacts. President's office,
13 White House, 1-202-456-1111, and even if you
14 are a public employee, well, some of the
15 things coming down the pike when people
16 aren't paying wage taxes and income taxes,
17 well, you get piled on with the property
18 taxes, and not as of yet, but if could start
19 to depress wages for teachers and public
20 workers.

21 Last week I spoke about ordinances
22 and we had a turn around of an ordinance in
23 Wilkes-Barre where people that were effected
24 won a \$100,000 lawsuit, each person as in
25 award, it was the Supreme Court, and what I

1 would suggest by reading some of our
2 ordinances is that we get a semi-partnership
3 with somebody like the ACLU and let them
4 review some of these ordinances and their
5 warnings and see what they think, if they
6 think that it's constitutionally ill-advised
7 then maybe we could drop it because that
8 could become a serious problem in the
9 future.

10 I have mentioned before on one
11 strike but also where housing becomes a
12 single dwelling even though it's
13 extraordinarily large for one or two to live
14 in it or the person. There was a person up
15 here tonight who was banned a few years ago
16 and, you know, maybe he has a reason to be
17 ornery and difficult at times. The house is
18 enormous and he built apartments and he
19 can't rent them so he is stuck paying taxes
20 on this house and land and probably just has
21 most of the room mothballed.

22 On the sewer decision, one of the
23 things that struck me, a few years ago I
24 attended a meeting opposed to outlier
25 communities being allowed to sell their

1 sewer plant to water companies and bill me
2 for their sewer bill. I don't want to pay
3 bills for Jefferson Township. I didn't want
4 to pay bills for Scott Township. I didn't
5 want to pay their bills, that's their chosen
6 life-style and my chosen life-style was to
7 move to a city after 25 years in the country
8 and snow storms and rock jams and who knows
9 I didn't miss it. I found I didn't miss it
10 so I never saw the country, I just saw the
11 sun go down at the end of the day, and I got
12 no concern whatsoever out of those
13 administrative law judges at this hearing
14 and I got no concern from our state
15 representatives from our district, but now
16 all of a sudden because someone would have
17 to pay a little bit towards our sewer
18 situation so it just goes to show you how
19 fair the State of the Pennsylvania in
20 reality. What's good for one is good for
21 the next and it's really ashamed that we are
22 even going to do this in the first place,
23 but let alone then be forbidden on our
24 behalf and have to pay everybody else's bill
25 for their McMansions out somewhere. I'm

1 tired of it.

2 Police, seven break-ins in one day,
3 I didn't mention this last week, you know,
4 we have that issue with rape kits, it's not
5 that big in Scranton but there is one and,
6 you know, the thought occurred to me that we
7 had better start using our police resources
8 for the things that are important. You
9 know, if a policeman wanted to do his
10 paperwork and sit in my driveway he is
11 welcome to do it because if somebody sees
12 him sitting there even if I'm not home they
13 will probably get going. I don't want my
14 house broken into it and so forth, so we
15 really need to focus on what is important
16 with police work and not enforcing crazy
17 laws. And one final --

18 MR. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Dobrzyn.
19 Your extra time is to finish your thought.
20 Thank you.

21 MR. DOBRZYN: All right, well, I'll
22 mention it next week.

23 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you very much.

24 MR. DOBRZYN: Like bad news, I never
25 go away. Have a good night.

1 MR. WECHSLER: Anyone else?

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

3 MOTIONS.

4 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Perry?

5 MR. PERRY: Nothing at this time.

6 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Rogan?

7 MR. ROGAN: Yes, a number of items.

8 First, following up on last week when we
9 spoke about sending a letter to the mayor
10 requesting a plaque or some sort of monument
11 for naming green space in the Hill section
12 for Ozzie Quinn, the mayor has been very
13 helpful with that. I know I have spoken to
14 him and Councilman Wechsler has as well and
15 I've been in touch with the Hill
16 Neighborhood Association they are working on
17 picking out a location that would be most
18 suitable to name that green space after
19 Mr. Quinn so that's moving along quickly to
20 honor a great person.

21 Regarding the flooding in Keyser
22 Valley that i commented on quite a bit
23 earlier, I think for the course of the next
24 few days we need to come up with a list of
25 who we want to invite to this meeting, and

1 it's just the list that I have in my mind is
2 pretty extensive. I know there's a lot of
3 stakeholders involved here and that really
4 makes this situation different than many
5 other areas in the city is the state and
6 PennDOT involvement which you don't have in
7 other areas where after this project was
8 completed is when they pushed this flooding
9 into a lot of other areas, so I'm looking
10 forward to put a list together and hopefully
11 try to find some sort of resolution for this
12 neighborhood.

13 Over the course of the last week I
14 just want to give a shout out to the
15 Scranton Fire Department. There have been a
16 lot of fires in the city over the last week
17 and we are lucky to such great fire
18 department, they have done an amazing job at
19 all of these fires throughout the city, some
20 bigger than others, they deserve a shout out
21 for a job well done on that as well as over
22 the course of the weekend the "Fill the
23 Boot" fundraiser for MDA. I know I was hit
24 up a few times driving through and I was
25 glad to give a couple of dollars each time

1 going though for that fundraiser.

2 Next, it was back in the newspaper
3 regarding Al Boscov and the Steamtown Mall
4 Associates. I brought this up and we
5 discussed it a little bit in our caucus, but
6 I have a couple of questions regarding --
7 specifically really the Oppenheim and
8 Sampter's building but as well as other
9 loans that are owed to the city by Steamtown
10 Mall Associates so I'd like to send a letter
11 to OECD requesting the following
12 information:

13 How much does Steamtown Mall
14 Associates/Boscov's owe to the city in
15 total? A breakdown of all loans related to
16 Steamtown Mall Associates broken down by the
17 mall, Oppenheim building and Sampter's
18 building. A breakdown of loss program
19 revenue through the years to OECD because of
20 these defaults, and finally a breakdown of
21 Section 108 funds that the city would be on
22 the hook for in years moving forward.

23 And the Section 108 is my biggest
24 concern out of all of these and if you
25 remember it was probably a year or two ago

1 Mr. Boscov came in and we had a rather
2 lengthy caucus. At the time, he was looking
3 to obtain yet again more grant funding for
4 him to purchase the mall and rehab the mall.
5 Luckily, Mr. Basalyga purchased the mall and
6 not Mr. Boscov. He is doing a great job
7 there, but at the time there was -- the 108
8 loans were brought up and just to remind
9 everyone that the Section 108 loans if
10 that's not paid by the recipient, which is
11 in this case Steamtown Mall Associates, the
12 city is on the hook to pay that money and
13 that's money that we can't use for community
14 paving, which we were going to vote on again
15 tonight, economic development activities,
16 help for the little leagues, parks, all of
17 those types of items that go through our
18 Office the Economic and Community
19 Development and at the time Mr. Boscov did
20 say that he would make the city whole, the
21 taxpayers whole.

22 Now, he phrased it in an odd way
23 that he wasn't going to pay the loans, but
24 he would make donations to the city in the
25 amount of the loans, so I'd also like to see

1 if those donations have been made, and if so
2 at what frequency. I do know one was paid I
3 believe about a year or two years ago right
4 when Mr. Boscov was looking for that grant
5 funding, but I'd like see what has
6 transpired since then.

7 So just with the Oppenheim and
8 Sampter's building going up for sheriff's
9 sale that jogged my memory of a number of
10 these issues are outstanding and continue to
11 be large issues that will have a long
12 lasting impact unless they are resolved, and
13 Mr. Boscov is the principal on the Steamtown
14 Mall Associates, I'm not trying to single
15 him out, he has a great store, it's probably
16 one of the most popular stores within the
17 city. I know everyone loves to shop there,
18 I love to shop there as well, you get a lot
19 of great deals, but this has absolutely
20 nothing to do with the store and the quality
21 of the goods in the store this has to do
22 with making the taxpayers whole for the
23 money it's owed. And that is all I have for
24 tonight. Thank you.

25 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Mr.

1 Evans?

2 MR. EVANS: Thank you. On the tax
3 abatement program, I think the county signed
4 off on that sometime in July, so that's
5 really when it takes effect, but passing
6 legislation is the easy part, the
7 implementation is where we see the real
8 success of the program and how it worked
9 previously it was a very convoluted process,
10 whenever somebody came into city hall they
11 got a form, they filled it out, they walked
12 it over to the school district and walked it
13 over the county so I had a conversation with
14 Mr. Bulzoni today and we are going to try to
15 streamline that process the best we can by
16 creating one point of contact, possibly Mr.
17 Beck in the Treasurer's Office and another
18 contact in the Single Tax Office that
19 represents all three taxing bodies and have
20 one form, it's very clearly defined and what
21 they have to fill out and make it as simple
22 as possible for people to be part of this
23 program so that will happen over the next
24 few weeks.

25 Earlier in our caucus we discussed

1 several things, one of them was we agreed to
2 send a letter or e-mail to the pave cut
3 inspector or Director Gallagher to find out
4 how many and what are the locations of the
5 city streets that have been ravished, I
6 should say, by some of the utilities and
7 which are eligible now for curb-to-curb
8 paving and by the utility entirely and then
9 through our existing ordinance find out what
10 streets they are, get the locations and then
11 find out when the utilities are going to
12 pave from curb-to-curb, so that's the
13 process. Hopefully, we will have an answer
14 by next week.

15 Also, we are going to contact
16 PennDOT to determine if the old Harrison
17 Avenue bridge is part of the current
18 contract for scope of work and if they are
19 responsible for the cleanliness, etcetera,
20 of the bridge during construction. There
21 has been litter everywhere along the old
22 bridge as well as weeds and high grass that
23 people have to walk through every single
24 day. It's never been cut since the bridge
25 project has been started and it has been

1 cleaned up. Also, I had some neighborhood
2 groups and volunteers that cleaned up along
3 there so hopefully we can find out if the
4 contractor is responsible or the PennDOT is
5 responsible or even the city is responsible
6 for that.

7 That's pretty much all I have
8 outside of the Boscov deal. It's really
9 ashame that Mr. Boscov had so much promise
10 when he first came to Scranton and now has a
11 legacy of unpaid 108 loans and foreclosed
12 buildings. It really is a travesty, but the
13 hope is that whoever buys the Oppenheim's
14 building and the Sampter's building will
15 follow Mr. Basalyga's path and continue with
16 the positive progressive growth period in
17 that section of downtown so that may be the
18 silver lining. That's all I have tonight.

19 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Gaughan?

20 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, thank you, just a
21 few items. First, just an update on the
22 Young property on Wyoming Avenue, we did
23 receive correspondence from Assistant City
24 Solicitor Joe Price and he did tell us that
25 Mr. Young's attorney and the city attorneys

1 are trying to work something out and in
2 speaking to Mr. Young today there is
3 apparently a meeting concerning his property
4 September 19, the Youngs are not invited to
5 that meeting, and I continue to be perplexed
6 by how this emergency has dragged out now as
7 I mentioned last week for the past six
8 months, so hopefully within the next week or
9 two this thing can be hashed out and they
10 can start to get to work and fix that major
11 problem on their property.

12 I did request information from the
13 Licensing and Inspections and Permits
14 Department on August 30, and again, this
15 week. I continue to request information and
16 ask questions of the mayor that go
17 unanswered since I have been on council.
18 Unfortunately, I guess at this point I'll
19 have to start doing Right-to-Know requests,
20 which is pretty sad considering that I'm an
21 elected official just trying to do my job so
22 I guess that's the route I'm going to have
23 to take.

24 I received numerous complaints about
25 utility work on Colliery Avenue and Cedar

1 Avenue in Minooka and I would like to know
2 if these two roads are going be paved by the
3 utility companies and if so, when, hopefully
4 before the winter season. They are in
5 pretty deplorable condition.

6 I'd also like to know if there will
7 be a state of the city address this year by
8 Mayor Courtright. I believe last year it
9 was held in May so I would like to know if
10 that is going to be held and I do believe
11 that we should try to schedule a caucus with
12 Mayor Courtright so that he can update us on
13 the state of the city as we move towards
14 next year's budget. As everybody has heard
15 over the last few weeks, there are many
16 issues that I feel need to be discussed, the
17 Sewer Authority deal, our storm water
18 issues, so I do believe that it would be
19 helpful for this council and the public to
20 have Mayor Courtright come in and give us an
21 update on the state of the city and some of
22 the initiatives that he hopefully has going
23 on.

24 We have the resident from Keyser
25 Avenue in here tonight, similar issue over

1 in the 400 block of Phelps Street, which I
2 mentioned last week. Serious flooding
3 during the last severe storms, and also as
4 one of the residents mentioned, not just
5 because of these severe storms but this has
6 been going on for a long time now. So I was
7 able to schedule a meeting with Sewer
8 Authority officials and some of the
9 residents of 400 block of Phelps Street so
10 that we can get more information on some of
11 the efforts taking place to take care of
12 those problems.

13 I did want to make everyone aware
14 that if you have a streetlight out you can
15 either call Walsh Electrical, which is the
16 new company taking care of that
17 570-319-5944, or you can submit the outage
18 at www.lightsoutScranton.com and please have
19 the pole number available and please note
20 that there will no return e-mail certain
21 sent if you submit this on-line, and they
22 state on their website that all problems
23 with be resolved within seven to ten
24 business days.

25 Also, it was discussed in the caucus

1 I have been trying to get this touch with
2 PennDOT, many residents in Minooka on Birney
3 Avenue have contacted me about safety issues
4 back there with speeding, that being
5 basically a two-lane highway. They would
6 like crosswalks put in and any other safety
7 measures that can be put in over there to
8 help the people out and make the lot safer
9 because some of the children -- there is a
10 lot of children in that neighborhood if they
11 are trying to cross the street to go to the
12 baseball field it's like a game of frogger.
13 It's very difficult, so hopefully we hear
14 from them by next week. And that's all I
15 have. Thank you.

16 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr.
17 Gaughan. Just a few items, there was
18 questions raised tonight if the municipal
19 pension audit is complete, there was an exit
20 interview yesterday. The pension report
21 will be presented to us I think next week
22 sometime?

23 MS. REED: Yes.

24 MR. WECHSLER: And it will be
25 available in the council office. There were

1 two findings, nothing to me that seemed
2 major, one finding was there was a letter
3 certification of two non-uniform employees
4 on the 2005AD385 form resulting in an
5 underpayment of state aid. The city should
6 approximately receive \$7,800 back from the
7 Commonwealth after the audit is complete,
8 and the other finding is that the failure to
9 timely pay the 2014 MM0, the audit stated
10 this is just a formality because the
11 interest was paid there was no action
12 required to correct this finding. So when
13 we get that report, like I said, it will be
14 available to the citizens and to council as
15 well.

16 Mr. Rogan brought up the situation
17 with Mr. Boscov and it takes us back to the
18 meeting that we had with Mr. Boscov last
19 summer when he was in here for his grant
20 application, we did ask Mr. Boscov if he was
21 going to make his donation and he did agree
22 so, I think he is even on the record saying
23 that. He was going to make that donation
24 and I always believe that Mr. Boscov was a
25 man of his word and I think he should stick

1 to it and make that donation to us.

2 Also, at that meeting that we had
3 Mr. Boscov said that he was not interested
4 in having the mall be anything than retail
5 space and, fortunately, as Mr. Rogan stated,
6 we had someone who was willing to purchase
7 the mall and look to convert it to some
8 mixed uses of retail, residential and office
9 space that we can see at the mall that is
10 starting to place, so hopefully the
11 successful bidders at the sheriff's sale
12 look at the Oppenheim building and the
13 Sampter's building with the same type of
14 plan for mixed use of residential office and
15 retail so just as the sheriff's sale at the
16 mall seemed to be bad news for the city, I
17 think these two sheriff's sales represent an
18 opportunity for an investment in the city so
19 I look forward to seeing who is the
20 successful bidders.

21 And one last reminder, this Sunday
22 is September 11. It marks the 15th
23 anniversary of the most deadly terrorist
24 attacks on American soil. Patriot's Day, as
25 it is know, is the official day of

1 remembrance for these tragic events and have
2 been observed every since. Each year on
3 this day American flags are flown at half
4 staff to honor and commemorate those lives
5 lost. Most Americans are asked to observe a
6 moment of silence on 8:46 a.m. There are
7 some events being planned for the city and
8 if you can't attend one of those events
9 place take some time out in the morning to
10 remember those tragic events of September
11 11.

12 MS. REED: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION -
13 A RESOLUTION - ACCEPTING A ONE THOUSAND
14 (\$1,000.00) DOLLAR DONATION FROM TOYOTA OF
15 SCRANTON PRESENTED TO THE CITY OF SCRANTON
16 POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR THE K-9 UNIT.

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

20 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

21 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

25 MR. PERRY: Aye.

1 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

2 MR. EVANS: Aye.

3 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

6 MS. REED: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION - A
7 RESOLUTION - ACCEPTING A ONE HUNDRED
8 (\$100.00) DOLLAR DONATION FROM AMERICAN
9 UKRAINIAN VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF LACKAWANNA
10 COUNTY PRESENTED TO THE CITY OF SCRANTON
11 POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT
12 ANNUAL NATIONAL NIGHT OUT.

13 MR. WECHSLER: At this time, I'll
14 entertain a motion that Item 5-C 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: SIXTH ORDER. 6-A.

3 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.

4 46, 2016- AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF

5 THE COUNCIL NO. 126, 2015, AN ORDINANCE

6 ENTITLED "GENERAL CITY OPERATING BUDGET

7 2016" BY TRANSFERRING \$60,000.00 FROM

8 ACCOUNT NO. 01.401.13090.4299

9 (NON-DEPARTMENTAL EXPENDITURES -

10 CONTINGENCY) TO ACCOUNT NO.

11 01.040.00040.4201 (DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS

12 ADMINISTRATION BUREAU OF ADMINISTRATION

13 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES) TO PROVIDE SUFFICIENT

14 FUNDING FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES ACCOUNT

15 THROUGH THE 2016 BUDGET PERIOD.

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

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

20 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

23 MR. PERRY: Aye.

24 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

25 MR. EVANS: Aye.

1 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

4 MS. REED: 6-B. READING BY TITLE -
5 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 47, 2016 - AN
6 ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.
7 126, 2015, AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED "GENERAL
8 CITY OPERATING BUDGET 2016" BY TRANSFERRING
9 \$300,000.00 FROM ACCOUNT NO.
10 01.401.13090.4299 (NON-DEPARTMENTAL
11 EXPENDITURES - CONTINGENCY) TO ACCOUNT NO.
12 01.080.00083.4460 (DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC
13 WORKS-BUREAU OF HIGHWAYS STREET LIGHTING) TO
14 PROVIDE SUFFICIENT FUNDING FOR THE STREET
15 LIGHTING ACCOUNT THROUGH THE 2016 BUDGET
16 PERIOD.

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

19 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-B
20 pass reading by title.

21 MR. EVANS: Second.

22 MR. WECHSLER: On the question? All
23 those in favor signify by 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: 6-C. READING BY TITLE -
6 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 48, 2016 - AN
7 ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 47,
8 2013 ENTITLED, "AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE
9 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE
10 CITY OF SCRANTON TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY
11 ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE CONSOLIDATED
12 SUBMISSION FOR COMMUNITY PLANNING AND
13 DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS TO BE FUNDED UNDER THE
14 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)
15 PROGRAM BY TRANSFERRING \$200,000.00 FROM
16 UNALLOCATED CDBG FUNDING/LINE OF CREDIT AND
17 PROJECT NO. 2014-01 WEST LACKAWANNA AVENUE
18 BRIDGE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$200,000.00 TO
19 PROJECT 16-04 RECONSTRUCTION OF ROADS AND
20 HANDICAP CURB CUTS.

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

23 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-C
24 pass reading by title.

25 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

3 MR. PERRY: Aye.

4 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

5 MR. EVANS: Aye.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

9 MS. REED: 6-D. READING BY TITLE -
10 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 49, 2016 - AN
11 ORDINANCE - REPEALING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO
12 16, 2004, AN ORDINANCE (AS AMENDED) ENTITLED
13 "CHANGING THE DIRECTION OF CERTAIN DOWNTOWN
14 STREETS, PROVIDING FOR ANGLED PARKING AND
15 ELIMINATION OF PARALLEL PARKING, AND
16 ELIMINATION OF CERTAIN TURNING LANES IN
17 DOWNTOWN SCRANTON".

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

20 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-D
21 pass reading by title.

22 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

25 MR. PERRY: Aye.

1 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

2 MR. EVANS: Aye.

3 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

6 MS. REED: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR
7 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC
8 WORKS - FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 59,
9 2016 - AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF THE
10 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS OF THE CITY OF
11 SCRANTON TO SIGN AND SUBMIT THE PENNSYLVANIA
12 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION ("PENNDOT")
13 APPLICATION FOR TRAFFIC SIGNAL APPROVAL FOR
14 TRAFFIC SIGNAL PERMIT NO. 40332 FOR THE
15 MODIFICATION OF THE EXISTING TRAFFIC SIGNAL
16 AT NORTH MAIN AVENUE AND PARKER STREET.

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

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

23 MS. REED: 7-A.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: 7-A.

25 MR. ROGAN: Still second.

1 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

2 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question,
3 this is a change of the scope in the
4 original project that we passed back in
5 September of 2014. It was originally
6 supposed to improvements at South Washington
7 Avenue and Elm Street to replace a signal
8 there and now we are replacing the one at
9 Main Avenue and Parker Street. The reason
10 for that is originally we had \$75,000 in
11 grant funds and it was determined that a
12 meeting with the city engineer that funding
13 would be insufficient so they moved the
14 project over to Main Avenue and Parker
15 Street. Thank you.

16 MR. WECHSLER: Still a good project
17 though.

18 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

19 MR. WECHSLER: Roll call, please?

20 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Perry.

21 MR. PERRY: Yes.

22 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

23 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

24 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Evans.

25 MR. EVANS: Yes.

1 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan.

2 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

3 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler.

4 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby
5 declare Item 7-A legally and lawfully
6 adopted.

7 MS. REED: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION
8 BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS - FOR
9 ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 60, 2016 -
10 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE
11 CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A
12 CONTRACT WITH A&M ELECTRICAL CONSTRUCTION,
13 INC. TO PROVIDE MAINTENANCE OF TRAFFIC
14 SIGNALIZATION FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON FOR
15 THE PERIOD OF ONE (1) YEAR FROM SEPTEMBER 1,
16 2016 THROUGH AUGUST 31, 2017.

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

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

23 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

1 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Perry.

2 MR. PERRY: Yes.

3 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

4 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

5 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Evans.

6 MR. EVANS: Yes.

7 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan.

8 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

9 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler.

10 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby

11 declare Item 7-B legally and lawfully

12 adopted. If there is no further business,

13 I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

14 MR. ROGAN: Motion to adjourn.

15 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