

SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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HELD:

Thursday, October 3, 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
- JAMIE MARCIANO, 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. TAX
16 ASSESSOR'S RESULTS REPORT FOR HEARING DATE
17 HELD SEPTEMBER 14, 2016.

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

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

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

25 MS. REED: 3-C. SINGLE TAX OFFICE

1 CITY FUNDS DISTRIBUTED COMPARISON REPORT
2 2015-2016 YEAR TO DATE SEPTEMBER 30, 2016.

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

7 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, I have one. On
8 October 8 from 6 to 10 p.m., which is this
9 Saturday, at 316 Williams Street in North
10 Scranton the Mary Mother of God Parish
11 school building with the old Holy Rosary
12 School, the North Scranton Neighborhood
13 Association Watch will be holding their
14 annual Octoberfest. This event is their
15 only fundraiser of the year and I hope that
16 everyone can get out to join them and there
17 is a lot of people that go out to this event
18 every year and there's a lot of activities
19 that they have, and just to give you an idea
20 in the newsletter that they publish just
21 since last year, their last Octoberfest, the
22 North Scranton Neighborhood Association has
23 held the following free events for the
24 community: Kids Halloween party, tree
25 lighting and children's Christmas party,

1 breakfast with the bunny, family fun day,
2 and they donate to various charities and
3 events such as the St. Francis Soup Kitchen,
4 our Father's House and the Kinship Kitchen.
5 So I would urge everyone to try and make it
6 out this Saturday, October 8, from 6 to 10
7 p.m. Thank you.

8 MR. WECHSLER: The Lackawanna
9 Heritage Valley Authority will hold an echo
10 friendly scarecrow making party on Saturday
11 the 8th. It's going to be from 1 to 3 and
12 it will be held at the Nay Aug Avenue
13 natural play area.

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

16 MR. WECHSLER: Joan Hodowanitz.

17 MS. HODOWANITZ: Joan Hodowanitz,
18 Scranton resident and taxpayer. The City's
19 independent audit is now 129 days late and
20 we are in the fourth quarter of this
21 football match, so do we have a date on the
22 working session?

23 MR. WECHSLER: Not yet. I'll be
24 awaiting, and I'll be watching out for any
25 renewal of the Rainey & Rainey contract,

1 which I do not support like many others, I
2 heard today that the PUC did approve the
3 Sewer Authority sale which now leads to some
4 questions. I would assume that the City
5 assumed that the sale was going through and
6 I would like to know how the city plans to
7 spend it's windfall. Looking at the Auditor
8 General's compliance audit on the aggregate
9 pension funds, they're still severely
10 distressed at 24.3 percent funding, which
11 makes them level three severely distressed.
12 In order to get out of that category and
13 move up to moderately distressed, it has to
14 be at least 50 percent funded, and I did the
15 math, which means that the city would have
16 to dump at least \$79 million into the fund,
17 I don't think that's going to happen, but
18 that's what would be required, and we will
19 not get to minimally distressed because it
20 would be \$111 million, which is more than we
21 are going to get, so as we approach the
22 budget season I'm hoping that the following
23 questions will be answered:

24 How much money from the sale of the
25 Sewer Authority will you used to superfund

1 the pension plans if we only make \$96
2 million? What are the transactional costs
3 that we have to pay and what other crises do
4 we have to dedicate some money to in the
5 2017 budget keeping in mind, that the budget
6 has to be passed by this December 15.
7 That's why I said I assume the city has been
8 what if'ing and contemplating what to do
9 with that money for today and they should be
10 having some tentative plans. Maybe you can
11 comment on that.

12 Do we have a status of the rape kit,
13 Mr. Perry?

14 MR. PERRY: No, not at this time.

15 MS. HODOWANITZ: Okay. Do we have a
16 status on the OECD loans to the city?

17 MR. ROGAN: The request was
18 submitted and we haven't received anything.

19 MS. HODOWANITZ: No heard. And do
20 we have any ide when the mayor will present
21 his state of the city address?

22 MR. WECHSLER: I think the news of
23 today was kind of the trigger for that so it
24 should be soon.

25 MS. HODOWANITZ: I saw in today's

1 paper that Scranton will be receive \$3.2
2 million for pension aid which can go towards
3 the MMO, that's good news, and I was
4 pleasantly surprised to see that the draft
5 sewer permit application was in the City
6 Clerk's Office for review by the citizens.
7 I think that initial decision for us to have
8 to make an appointment and go to
9 Wilkes-Barre was a pile of horse manure.
10 Thank you.

11 MR. WECHSLER: Les Spindler.

12 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening,
13 Council. Les Spindler, city homeowner,
14 resident and taxpayer. About two weeks ago
15 I mentioned about the terrible the job that
16 they did on the paving on Main Avenue,
17 PennDOT, and I neglected to say they left a
18 lot of street markings off on a few
19 intersections. The corner of Jackson Street
20 and North Main going towards Taylor, that
21 used to be two lanes, now there is no street
22 markings. It used to be a left turn and a
23 straight arrow. Now there nothing, people
24 just go in the middle and I figure go left
25 and people going straight you can't get

1 through.

2 And, also, on the corner of Oram and
3 North Main going towards North Scranton same
4 thing, used to be two lanes there now there
5 are, again, no markings on the road, people
6 just stay in the red light in the middle.
7 If you want to go straight you go to wait
8 until though people make the turn so maybe
9 we can get that taken care off, send a
10 letter to PennDOT.

11 Two weeks tomorrow was a comment
12 that Councilman Gaughan was told in the
13 paper and I quote, he was talking about the
14 Sewer Authority, "There has been a complete
15 lack of regard for the people of this city."

16 Well, Sewer Authority aren't elected
17 officials, you people are elected officials
18 and I think you people have disregard for
19 people in this city. I have talked about
20 the illegal garbage tax for years and years
21 and years and many times on this council
22 nothing has been done. You people aren't
23 doing anything.

24 I brought up a dangerous dog
25 legislation, nothing has been done. I have

1 talked about for ten years since my dog was
2 attacked by the pit bulls, and while I'm on
3 that subject, I brought it up years ago and
4 it was Attorney Minora said we can't be
5 breed specific. Well, maybe we should get
6 in touch with Montreal, Canada, because in
7 Tuesdays paper "Montreal bans pit bulls
8 after mauling."

9 And I'm going to read two
10 paragraphs. "A new law that took effect
11 Monday in Montreal prevents residents from
12 adopting or buying pit bulls and requires
13 anyone who already owns one of the dogs to
14 register the animal in order to keep it.
15 The regulations approved last week were
16 drawn up after a woman was fatally mauled by
17 a pit bull in June and it go into effect
18 across all 19 boroughs in the Canadian city.
19 The law requires owners to pay higher fees
20 for the dogs than for non-pit bull types,
21 and go through a criminal background check,
22 and keep a muzzle on a dog outside even in
23 fenced in backyards."

24 I think we should get in touch with
25 the people in Montreal to see how we can go

1 about getting something like that because it
2 has to be done. They are viscous dogs.
3 People argue with me it's the way they are
4 brought up. No, they are bred to fight.
5 They have viciousness in their blood.
6 That's why they are called pit bulls. They
7 are bred to fight in the pits in England. I
8 looked into it after my dog was attacked.
9 Thank God she survived. So let's see if you
10 people can do something like that for the
11 people of Scranton.

12 Okay, pave cuts, another pet peeve
13 of mine, I want to read a quote from Mr.
14 Pocius. "We are not letting them speak on
15 the ordinance by any means, Mr. Pocius told
16 Council. We are getting the quality work
17 from utilities and road restoration."

18 Well, obviously Mr. Pocius has
19 ridden on the five, six, seven and eight
20 hundred blocks of North Sumner. Those are
21 four of the worst blocks in this city.
22 There is so many dips in that road where the
23 pave cuts were, and as I have said in the
24 past, the seven and eight hundred blocks
25 were newly paved last year. They are a

1 disaster. I would like him to ride on those
2 streets and then make a comment that they
3 are getting quality work for utilities.
4 That's a joke. I disagreed with him when he
5 was a councilman, because all he was was
6 another puppet for Mayor Doherty, and I
7 disagree with him as an engineer. I think
8 he is totally wrong and so is the pave cut
9 inspector, too. Tell them to go to North
10 Sumner avenue, and tell me they are doing
11 quality work.

12 Okay, Councilman Rogan, you brought
13 this up two weeks ago I think about people
14 exiting Family Dollar on Main Avenue, if you
15 are remember I brought that up months ago.

16 MR. ROGAN: We actually received a
17 reply from PennDOT on that.

18 MR. SPINDLER: Oh, you did?

19 MR. ROGAN: Yeah, I'll read it under
20 motions, but they actually have an occupancy
21 permit, but they don't have a permit for --
22 to go on and off the street there and it's
23 been -- ever since Brunetti's were there we
24 didn't know until it was brought to their
25 attention so there will be some action

1 coming on that shortly.

2 MR. SPINDLER: Thank you. All
3 right, just one more quick comment, I heard
4 the stuff Bob Bolus said about council last
5 week and he has got his freedom of speech to
6 say whatever he wants, but I don't think
7 anybody is obligated to go anywhere. If
8 they are not the candidate of your choice I
9 don't think they have to show up. Now, I
10 like Bob Bolus, I have been volunteering at
11 this Christmas dinner for about 14 years now
12 and he does a great job with that, but I
13 disagree with what he said last week. Thank
14 you for your time.

15 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Ron
16 Ellman.

17 MR. ELLMAN: You probably were
18 hoping I went south and stayed there I know.
19 I imagine, I could assume, that council
20 perused six or seven thousand foreclosures
21 that were in the paper a couple of weeks
22 ago, and I wrote down about a dozen of them
23 that caught my eye that are all LLC's or they
24 are developers or real estate companies.
25 Now, get this one Integrity Insurance. They

1 owe \$92,000 in Thornhurst. Carbondale
2 General, 83,000. Peachhill, LLC, 66,000.
3 This B-A-L-A-J-I, Balaji Investments, they
4 owe Carbondale \$47,000 and Scranton 15,000.
5 D & D Realty, their name is all over that
6 sheet and they owe \$15,000. Here's a guy
7 right in Scranton, Wintermantle, \$140,000 in
8 back taxes. Why is this allowed? In 2005 I
9 paid my insurance through the loan company
10 and I got all this paperwork and it wasn't
11 paid, I went down and paid it again, \$2,300
12 with the interest and I can't get nothing
13 done and here is people \$140,000 and they
14 just slide. It doesn't make sense. All of
15 these are developers. 36,000, 67,000, 28,
16 53, 21, 16. Here is another one, Thoms Hill
17 owns a property Limited Main Street,
18 \$161,000. Why? Even Sprint they owe
19 \$21,000. Why is it something done about it?

20 And every time you turn around you
21 are giving developers grants and loans and
22 forgiveness on loans, and just doesn't make
23 sense. There is some poor guy there, I
24 won't say his name, I don't want to
25 embarrass him, he owed \$364 and his name was

1 on this list. \$364. That's shameful. You
2 got two useless, worthless people there are
3 dictating to 60 or 70,000 people how to run
4 the city that don't live here and don't pay
5 taxes. Why don't you send them to collect
6 some money? Why don't you send them out
7 there to some of these nonprofits for crying
8 out loud? It's just doesn't make sense.

9 Like I always tell you, you just
10 don't talk to the people out there and if
11 this obscene sewer situation doesn't go
12 through what are you talking about a 37
13 percent increase? Who is going to pay it?
14 After another 1,000 or two people lose their
15 houses next year we are going you to do, get
16 Keystone Resources to pay? They got 50
17 houses. Or Lackawanna College? They got a
18 prime property down here forever. These big
19 buildings. University of Scranton is no
20 help. These developers they are not
21 achieving people. They are not bringing
22 people here. People are moving from these
23 old duplexes and apartments into the newer
24 apartments that they offer for the same
25 money because there is bringing in income.

1 Then some old couple is stuck with a duplex
2 they can't pay for. They got the taxes and
3 everything, I have talked to them. I bet
4 Mr. Evans knows what I'm talking about. We
5 are not achieving nothing. We are just
6 moving people out of the property that's
7 paying taxes and a bunch of freeloaders. It
8 is just absolutely heartbreaking, and then
9 let me just finish, I'm almost finished.

10 I see in the paper they want to they
11 want to air condition the schools for \$20
12 million, which will be a lot more when they
13 finish. These kids they can jog all over
14 the city in the worst heat and play football
15 and baseball and soccer and everything, they
16 can't sit in school they need air
17 conditioning, and how many people on this
18 list do you think don't have air
19 conditioning that are losing their homes for
20 a bunch of whiney, sniffing little misfits
21 that are complaining about heat.

22 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you,
23 Mr. Ellman.

24 MR. ELLMAN: Thank you.

25 MR. WECHSLER: Lee Morgan.

1 MR. MORGAN: Well, I'm not going to
2 try to top that. Good evening, Council.
3 You know, I came here today because I don't
4 want to talk about the Sewer Authority,
5 today, I'm pretty confident I know where the
6 city is going and I'm not extremely
7 concerned about it today, but I am concerned
8 about an article that I read in the Scranton
9 Times newspaper regarding Judge Moyle and a
10 program she has over there for alleged
11 perpetrators of abuse. I think really what
12 needs to happen in the Commonwealth of
13 Pennsylvania and on the federal side I
14 think, you know, Mr. Casey, our federal
15 congressmen and our -- I mean, our federal
16 senator and our federal congressmen need to
17 create laws so they have some say in what's
18 taking place in Pennsylvania courtrooms and
19 I'm really troubled that Chapter 61
20 temporarily, allegedly temporarily suspends
21 the due process rights in Pennsylvania, and
22 I think that it's time for the Court itself
23 to be reviewed and a study be done because
24 there is a lot of information where abuse
25 begins, and I don't know the Court really

1 wants to hear that and it's a problem.

2 You know, it is tragic that most
3 murder victims of domestic violence are
4 women, but I did listen to a program on WILK
5 at one time that brought some of this to
6 light where a woman, a PhD, had written on
7 this issue and nobody really wants to accept
8 what she says, but the other thing is this
9 law needs to be reconstructed because in my
10 own opinion I don't think a PFA should ever
11 be modified and I don't think it should ever
12 be terminated for the life of the parties
13 involved, but I think the one thing that we
14 really need to do in Pennsylvania is get
15 special interests out of the courtroom.
16 That's one thing we need. And we need to
17 stop judicial activism by judges, and I'm
18 not interested in what the opinion of a
19 judge is, I'm interested in what the facts
20 present and I'm interested in that, well, in
21 PFA Court there are no facts just testimony,
22 but I think that the facts should support
23 the verdict and if the facts don't support a
24 verdict it shouldn't be entered because I
25 think that there has been a lot of mistakes

1 made, and not only that, I don't think that
2 protection from abuse orders should
3 temporarily grant custody to anyone. I
4 think we've got a lot of issues here tied
5 together and I think that what really needs
6 to take and I think that what really needs
7 to take place here in this community a lot
8 of people are troubled by what's happening
9 in the City of Scranton, but I think we are
10 troubled because we have thousands and
11 thousands and thousands of children across
12 Pennsylvania caught in a war zone, and I
13 think it's wrong for one person to
14 manipulate the judicial system to get
15 something they want, regardless of the
16 gender. And I'm just curious, how many
17 other children that are under 18 or even
18 above 18 have had a lack in parenting
19 because they got stuck in a whirlwind or
20 held by the judicial system based on not
21 fact but opinion, okay? That's the thing
22 that matters here this fact, and all of
23 these temporary orders and judicial
24 activism, you know, it all leads to a bad
25 place and for the life of me I don't know

1 why a protection from abuse order would ever
2 be modified ever for the life of me. I just
3 don't understand it. And I don't understand
4 when a legislature came to a conclusion that
5 was temporarily suspend anybody's rights
6 either. Thank you.

7 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Anyone
8 else? Andy Sbaraglia, City of Scranton,
9 fellow Scrantonian. A bad penny keeps
10 showing up, namely, the South Side Complex.
11 You know, the University wanted to buy the
12 complex, they couldn't buy it because they
13 had lot of government money, state and
14 federal in it, so our new mayor hired the
15 lobbyist to bad mouth the complex and then,
16 of course, he had to set it for auction, and
17 bid at the auction and so forth, but the
18 University wanted, and we had to give it up.
19 That's the part.

20 Now, they come before you looking
21 for grants. They weren't fair to the
22 citizens of Scranton. Originally, the money
23 that they got was supposed to go into a
24 lockbox, you heard Mr. Bolus talk about it
25 many, many times, it never got to the

1 lockbox. Mr. McGoff spent the last of it.

2 Now, somebody wanted a garage, the
3 Globe Store garage. If we are going to
4 reverse against that, too, so our dear
5 elected officials goes around some of this
6 for a dollar to the man.

7 Believe me, this cannot just let go
8 like it is. This borders on malfeasance and
9 that's the whole thing because you got to be
10 honest and we can no longer believe council
11 or the mayor and that's the sad part. Both
12 mayors, Mr. Doherty, Mr. Courtright, was not
13 fair to the people of Scranton. This deal
14 with the parking, the lease made, we are
15 losing more money than we are getting. You
16 know that and I know that. If you can add
17 one and one and get two, you are an expert
18 when it comes to this deal, but still you
19 went along with it. You should be brought
20 up. I believe really this borders on
21 malfeasance and there should be hearings
22 that decide if it is or isn't.

23 When Mayor Walsh was getting ready
24 to sell the Luzerne Street playground,
25 that's on Luzerne Street to Mr. Cadden,

1 there was a judge that came and said if
2 anybody wishes to have standing to block
3 this he would let them go. Them judges are
4 no longer here. That's what really irks me
5 that our people that are elected to protect
6 the citizens, whether in the courts or in
7 the state did not open their mouth and I
8 find that very, very hard to understand how
9 anybody can sit back and watch the garage
10 that costs us millions of dollars to build
11 be sold for a dollar, and the front half is
12 the same as the mall. There is nothing
13 wrong with the front half of that garage.
14 The enemy is the public. There is nothing
15 at all wrong with it but yet we seem to feel
16 it was worthless. Well, you know what? Our
17 government in Scranton is worthless. That's
18 the sad part about it. They are not worth
19 any respect. Thank you.

20 MR. WECHSLER: Anyone else?

21 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening, Council.
22 Dave Dobrzyn, resident and taxpayer. A lot
23 of things have been said about curb cuts in
24 the last two weeks, I hope that that isn't
25 the condition they plan to leave I think it

1 was the three and four hundred block of
2 Crown Avenue in the condition it is
3 currently, and right up from Perry Business
4 site there on Alder Street or Hickory Street
5 is one hell of a pothole and it's been there
6 for two months now so what do we do about
7 it? Well, I figure we should set up a
8 voicemail for citizens to call in and report
9 the addresses of these people. You know,
10 put a key computer to it and have them call
11 a voicemail hotline and then report their
12 whatever else is going on piecemeal every
13 week and on these directions on the turn
14 directions that are maintained, the thought
15 occurred to me it would be a lot easier if
16 it was overhead signs like down on
17 Washington Avenue right on the 400 block
18 where you are going east there was a lane
19 painted there. The right-hand lane was
20 pointed for a turn and it's all worn off now
21 and everybody just going straight through it
22 and cuts the other guy off and in the right
23 lane, but the correct lane.

24 On the sewer, I think I read
25 somewhere where we have 70,000 sewage

1 customers, correct me if I'm wrong, it seems
2 I'm not right anymore, well, I'd like to
3 point out that at \$100 a year that generates
4 \$7 million a year over 25 years or over \$75
5 million, a little bit short on the pension.
6 The sale has not use and is probably a
7 negative situation.

8 Also, I hope that the lack of the
9 maintenance with these floods and backed up
10 sewers in people's houses doesn't delay
11 projects because a projects like that needs
12 to be -- needs to be done as soon as
13 possible, basically full of sewage waters,
14 basically house that is condemnable and that
15 isn't going to help the owner.

16 Back trash bills, it would be nice
17 to hear a report on how much has been
18 collected so far and who has paid up and who
19 isn't. We have to run their names in the
20 paper. I'm tired of hearing that people
21 aren't paying trash bills for years and
22 years and years. We started collecting and
23 hopefully they'll do it vigorously.

24 Last week I went up Mulberry Street
25 in the evening, one out of six students

1 pressed the crosswalk button to push in the
2 little LED slash, so one out of six. Six
3 students crossed and one time it was
4 activated. So it would be nice to have them
5 televise that they should use them.

6 And with all of this issue with
7 terrorism and stuff going around the
8 country, bombs being placed and I wonder why
9 the property taxes, why do we give tax
10 exemptions to religious institutions that
11 preach acts of violence such as Florida and
12 California and recent bombings in New York,
13 it makes no sense. They all seem to know
14 nothing about it, maybe we ought to hold
15 them hostage to their parishioners that we
16 could always have them taken back seems as
17 they approve of so much violence. Thank you
18 and have a good night.

19 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Anyone
20 else?

21 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening.
22 Marie Schumacher, resident of the soon to be
23 North West. You remember that town in New
24 Jersey that was encouraged to sell all of
25 their assets and they were financially

1 healthy for about a year or maybe two and
2 then they got state help. We are following
3 in that path certainly. Well on the way.

4 Now, as to the public utility
5 commission, that's half right. I've been
6 trying to contact the public utility
7 commission. I have called down to
8 Harrisburg and they say we are understaffed.
9 Nobody can talk to you for -- well, how long
10 will it be? I will be at least a week, left
11 my number. Did I ever hear from them? No.
12 So I think they should be renamed, it should
13 just be the utility commission because they
14 are certainly not representing the public
15 and it is abominable what they did today in
16 kicking the can down the street on what is
17 the most critical item for the ratepayers,
18 and that is the rest of PAWC's customers
19 going to pay for our improvements, and if
20 they are that's quite impressive. That
21 means there's -- I think it was Jim's
22 article back in August said there were ten
23 other -- ten other communities that are
24 distressed status that had CSO's. If PAWC
25 were to buy them then guess what we would be

1 doing? The precedent has been set. We'll
2 be sharing in other costs, too. It's just
3 not right. And I would encourage you to not
4 take -- even if you get a check, leave it
5 sit on the desk until the PUC rules on this
6 thing because it is wrong and you have a
7 duty to protect the ratepayers and the
8 citizens of that city, the few who have
9 stuck around.

10 Now, I want to go over the calendar.
11 You know, it's five and a half weeks until
12 we get the budget and then after the budget
13 is received we have one public hearing and
14 four more weeks. Now, I just want you to
15 know I'm not as naive as make you think we
16 all are as to what you have been doing on
17 pushing everything down the stream. You
18 push it down far enough, those four meetings
19 after you receive the budget, four meetings
20 and one public hearing that's five meetings
21 at five minutes each we have 25 minutes to
22 address a number of significant items,
23 including the budget itself.

24 We have done refuse fee, kick it
25 down the stream. The rental registration,

1 kick it down the stream. Do we have the
2 non-uniform contract yet with the union?
3 Yes or no?

4 MR. EVANS: No.

5 MS. SCHUMACHER: No.

6 MR. EVANS: Maybe shortly.

7 MS. SCHUMACHER: Yeah, maybe
8 shortly, so we don't know what's happening
9 with that. They are all of these open
10 issues, the OECD and whether or not the OECD
11 solicitor took the action that's required to
12 legally get the people committed so that the
13 statute of limitations doesn't let people
14 who have owed us hundreds of thousands of
15 dollars walk away free and clear. And there
16 is just so much in 20 minutes we are going
17 to get once that budget comes. That is
18 wrong.

19 Now, I do have a few questions and,
20 of course, the audit is another one. We
21 previously were told it would be here by the
22 end of September, certainly that's not
23 happened. Can you tell me what percentage
24 of projected liquid fuels revenue is being
25 eaten up by the light project?

1 MR. GAUGHAN: I don't know off hand,
2 but I definitely will find out.

3 MS. SCHUMACHER: Thank you. And do
4 we have the long-term debt payment?

5 MR. EVANS: We are working on that.

6 MS. SCHUMACHER: Not yet.

7 MR. EVANS: Not yet. We should have
8 it soon.

9 MS. SCHUMACHER: See, this is it.
10 It all gets pushed down. The refuse, how do
11 you think this would effect the refuse fee?
12 How difficult could this be? The storm
13 water situation, I sat with a woman
14 yesterday while I was waiting for my hearing
15 on appeal on my property taxes and I felt so
16 bad for her, another one who has got a storm
17 water issue. There are so many storm water
18 issues and we have no idea, no idea what
19 it's going to cost. When are we going to
20 know that?

21 MR. GAUGHAN: It could take long.
22 That was one of my concerns and I did ask
23 the business administrator if the RFP was
24 issues for the analysis, but again, it's
25 going to take I believe 90 days until

1 everything is said and done and then this
2 will be another comprehensive analysis.

3 MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, again,
4 there's the bell that tells us how many we
5 are going to be able to cover no matter what
6 kind of crazy things you people come up with
7 the budget or put in or take out we get 20
8 minutes. It's wrong. Thank you.

9 MR. WECHSLER: Anyone else?

10 MR. ST. FLEUR: How you doing? Do I
11 state my name?

12 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

13 MR. ST. FLEUR: My name is Gary St.
14 Fleur, resident of Scranton. I'm just here
15 today because I don't want to take up too
16 much of your time to formally announce a
17 petition that I have set forth for the
18 bankruptcy of Scranton. Obviously, as a
19 whole, I believe that all of the activities
20 and actions that this government has set
21 forth in the past has demonstrated a pattern
22 of lack of fiscal responsibility. Soon you
23 will no money to service your debts or your
24 costs, therefore, by leasing your parking
25 garage or parking meters, selling the sewer

1 authority, it's demonstrative of the staff.
2 Therefore, I have already submitted this
3 petition today and got the signatures to go
4 before city council.

5 Now, you can do the wise thing which
6 is the demenable act of filing bankruptcy,
7 because the fact is that Chapter 9
8 bankruptcy exists for municipalities for who
9 cannot service their debts. The Scranton
10 government has the same amount of government
11 personnel they had when this government and
12 this city had a population of 150,000
13 people. The population is down to 76,000
14 and still has the same amount of government
15 personnel.

16 MR. ROGAN: That statement is
17 untrue, the staffing in many departments in
18 the city has decreased significantly.

19 MR. ST. FLEUR: By how much?

20 MR. ROGAN: Particularly the police
21 and fire department have lost over 100 men
22 in the last few years.

23 MR. ST. FLEUR: One hundred men, but
24 the pension is still underfunded by 85
25 percent; correct? So despite this cost

1 reduction we still have a pension
2 underfunded by 85 percent, both the firemen
3 and the police department are unfunded.
4 Now, if you think that's a viable situation
5 going forward to every happen to finance
6 these pensions? So honestly you should do
7 the right thing and file bankruptcy and this
8 is a way to do so.

9 MR. WECHSLER: But bankruptcy does
10 not relieve the pension funds.

11 MR. ST. FLEUR: That's no my
12 question, sir. I'm not going to say what
13 happens in bankruptcy court proceedings.

14 MR. WECHSLER: Well, that's one
15 reason why bankruptcy is not an option
16 because the pension cost remain.

17 MR. ST. FLEUR: The people are going
18 to -- I think it's people right to decide on
19 the fate of Scranton. They are paying for
20 it, right? It's their tax dollars so it's
21 way fairer if this goes to ballot and let
22 the people vote for it. It's a democratic
23 action. It's a democratic country and I
24 can't see anything that would be mor
25 democratic than for the people of Scranton

1 to finally say through their earnings to
2 determine whether or not they want to
3 participate in this situation. Thank you.
4 And I have a copy for you if you would like
5 to go over it?

6 MR. WECHSLER: We received one.

7 MR. ST. FLEUR: Okay. All right.

8 So you have a great night.

9 MR. ROGAN: Thank you.

10 MR. WECHSLER: Anyone else?

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

12 MOTIONS.

13 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Perry?

14 MR. PERRY: Yeah, a couple of things
15 tonight. I'll start it off with something
16 that happened over the weekend in the 2100
17 block of Cedar. There was a hold up
18 situation that was resolved in a peaceful
19 manner without incident and it was just -- I
20 mean, it was very close to my house and my
21 neighborhood. There was a man held up with
22 hostage with weapons and that was standoff
23 was overnight, into the next morning, and it
24 was finally resolved peacefully. That just
25 -- you know, it's hats off to our police

1 department and taking care of that situation
2 without injury.

3 Secondly, yes, the PUC did approve
4 the sale of the Scranton Sewer Authority so
5 that moves us to our next step if not a
6 bigger step what to do with any proceeds.
7 I, for one, we need to go through this very
8 cautiously and very slowly. This is the one
9 and the only chance we're going to get at
10 this amount of money at any time I see in my
11 lifetime or anybody's lifetime. It is my
12 hope that the five of us are instrumental in
13 the decision making on what's going to
14 happen. It is ultimately going to be up to
15 the administration, but I expect us to be in
16 on the decision and what's going to -- I
17 would like half act is what I'm saying. Too
18 many times, too many times we get things
19 down and it's a yes or it's a no, but I want
20 to be in on the act is I guess what I'm
21 saying. It's just too big of a decision not
22 to be included.

23 Someone brought up the South Side
24 Complex, in 2006 when the city lost that
25 asset and sold it I was against that. I

1 wanted that to stay within the City. I was
2 somebody who used that field as a boy, as a
3 teenager. I did run and was involved in a
4 softball league and I did not want to see
5 that turned over the to the University of
6 Scranton.

7 Ten year's later, that is going to
8 get -- my mind has been changed. They are
9 going to invest \$14 million into that
10 complex and also know as the William T.
11 Schmidt Complex. It's going to be open to
12 the public, as well as use of the
13 University, which I think is hugely
14 important.

15 If anybody wants to know more on
16 this, there is a great link on the Scranton
17 Times' website which portrays the softball
18 fields, soccer fields, baseball fields,
19 playground. It's very impressive and it's
20 going to be a very good thing for our
21 community.

22 Also, I want to give a shout out and
23 a thank you to Representative Flynn and his
24 office and the amount of volunteers that
25 came out over this week and weekend to

1 spruce up downtown. They pulled a lot of
2 weeds and did landscaping and they painted
3 over a lot of graffiti so I want to thank
4 them for that. That gave the city new
5 appeal and it will lead to confidence around
6 and it does look nice.

7 As far as addressing some speakers'
8 comments, Mr. Spindler brought up the
9 turning lane painting situation on North
10 Main. I'm not sure if that project is
11 finished yet, it seems to be, but if we
12 could just send something out to PennDOT to
13 see is it finished or is it something that's
14 going to be both turning lanes, or are they
15 going to put turning lanes in, so I could
16 see how that could turn into a public safety
17 issue because too many of us are used to the
18 old path of the street pattern and if we're
19 following the old street pattern that's not
20 painted and we have people from out of town,
21 people that are not used to it that's going
22 to create issues so I just want to make sure
23 that that gets -- that job gets completed.

24 And as far as with the five, six,
25 seven, eight of North Sumner, I'm not

1 familiar with it, but I will go check it out
2 and take some pictures and report back to
3 Mr. Pocius and Mr. Hazzouri to see what is
4 going on there and I think someone brought
5 up three and four of Crown, I'll also go by
6 and check that out to see what's going on
7 there. And that's all I have tonight.

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

10 MR. ROGAN: Yes, a number of items.
11 Mr. Perry touched on a bunch of them
12 already, just following up regarding the
13 paving cuts on Sumner, I'm on the corner of
14 Schlacher and Bromley so I'm only a block
15 way and I did -- the secretary did inform us
16 that that paving issue is starting very
17 shortly, so it will be done before the
18 winter, which is good news because those
19 roads you can't even pass on them they are
20 so terrible.

21 I'd also like to thank the police
22 department for a job well done over the
23 weekend. A very dangerous situation. It
24 was taken care of professionally and without
25 any incident. I say it all the time and

1 it's because I truly believe it we really do
2 have the best police department in the
3 country in Scranton.

4 Another issue did come up during
5 that standoff though, and that was the issue
6 of residents live streaming the hostage
7 situation -- the standoff situation on
8 social media. Obviously, people have the
9 right to do that, to broadcast what's going
10 on in their neighborhood, but it really does
11 create a lot of safety concerns. For
12 instance, if somebody is say holding
13 somebody hostage or has a gun in and there's
14 a standoff and a neighbor is broadcasting
15 live on Facebook just sitting there with
16 their phone saying exactly what the police
17 are doing outside of their home, so that's
18 something that needs to looked into, what
19 can be done if anything to try and work
20 something out for the safety or our officers
21 in those type of situations.

22 I'm glad to see that there was
23 legislation on the agenda tonight for paving
24 for Oakwood development of Keyser Avenue.
25 This development hasn't been paved since at

1 least -- since this development was formed
2 so I have a number of friends in that
3 development and driving up there is a
4 challenge so we are hoping -- waiting for
5 that project to get off the ground.

6 In regards to a couple of PennDOT
7 issues that were brought up, we had a number
8 of issues that we sent in. One of the
9 biggest ones that I was concerned about was
10 brought up by Mr. Spindler was the faded out
11 parking pad on North Main Avenue. So I'm
12 very glad that we received it. Just for
13 those who aren't familiar with it, when
14 Brunetti's supermarket was there for decades
15 there was a big arrow on the building that
16 says "Exit this Way". So you would enter on
17 Main Avenue and then you would exit into --
18 off an alley and it was a one-way parking
19 lot. When Family Dollar purchased that
20 property and made their store they painted
21 the entire building over so that one-way
22 sign isn't there. If you're not from the
23 area, you pull into that parking lot and you
24 assume you can exit on Main Avenue and there
25 is no signal whatsoever on Main Avenue so if

1 somebody is pulling out thinks they just
2 have the right-of-way to go because there is
3 no traffic device whatsoever.

4 I thought the solution was as simple
5 as putting up some signage, but it's a
6 little more detailed than that so I'll read
7 the response. "This is in regards to the
8 Family Dollar parking lot. The Department
9 cannot locate a highway occupancy permit for
10 the Family Dollar access on North Main
11 Avenue. The State Highway Law of 1945
12 requires that a highway occupancy permit be
13 obtained by a facility or access that's
14 following the legal right-of-way under
15 legislative ordinance of Pennsylvania.
16 Title 67, Chapter 441 of the Code, addresses
17 access to state highways from private drives
18 on both roads. The Department of
19 Transportation is responsible for the
20 issuance of these permits. Use of an
21 unpermitted access to the state highway is a
22 violation of regulations and the owner of
23 this property can be joined as a defendant
24 in any lawsuit for any accident resulting
25 from the unpermitted access from the

1 hazardous condition created by it.

2 The Department's permit specialist
3 for this are will stop at the Family Dollar
4 to issue a citation and discuss the proper
5 procedure for obtaining a highway occupancy
6 permit."

7 So it is a little more in-depth than
8 the issue of just putting up an arrow on the
9 building again, and judging by the response
10 there has never been an occupancy permit and
11 it was just always there. When the neighbor
12 did shopping they knew the right way to go
13 in and the right way to go out, so I'm sure
14 that will be fixed the right way once and
15 for all.

16 And, finally, regarding the big news
17 tonight, obviously it's very good for the
18 City of Scranton that the PUC did give
19 approval by a four to one vote to go ahead
20 with the sale of the Scranton Sewer
21 Authority. Anyone who has watched these
22 meetings or attended these meetings for the
23 seven years I have sat on this board has
24 known that I have always been in support of
25 selling and privatizing the Sewer Authority.

1 There are many reasons for it, I have
2 explained them all many times, but some of
3 the biggest benefits of this plan are first
4 and foremost the costs of many improvements
5 that need to be done to meet federal
6 regulations can be spread out. The state
7 law does permit a private utility, including
8 the sewer authority, to spread that cost
9 among all the ratepayers so instead of just
10 the ratepayers in Scranton and Dunmore
11 paying for these improvements it can be
12 spread out amongst all of Pennsylvania
13 American Water's ratepayers.

14 Secondly, and it came out this week,
15 our pension funds are woefully underfunded.
16 Without doing something in the next couple
17 of years the pension funds will run dry, and
18 although one of the speakers tonight
19 believes that just declaring bankruptcy is
20 the answer, it's not. The City of
21 Harrisburg tried that, it didn't work. A
22 receiver was appointed and taxes went sky
23 high and at the end of the day state law
24 states pension payments are the first
25 priority in a city. Whether you agree or

1 disagree with it, if that pension fund runs
2 dry the pension payments need to be made before
3 any other city operation is paid. It's a
4 legal obligation the city has to those who
5 worked in the city for many years.

6 As Mr. Perry touched on, you know,
7 the more difficult question is how do we
8 best use these funds to help the city on a
9 long-term basis. I have been against sales
10 in the past where, for instance, the
11 Scranton Municipal Golf Course, which was --
12 which actually revenue into the city, which
13 the Sewer Authority does not, and that money
14 was just squandered. I'd personally do a
15 combination of shoring up the pensions,
16 paying down debt is the best solution, the
17 best use of the funds for -- the best use of
18 these funds. By paying down some debt, many
19 of the bond issues that were an issue over
20 the last five or ten years, the dedicated
21 tax millage, so when they are paid off that
22 millage should go away as well, so by paying
23 off that could be a small reduction in taxes
24 for the residents of Scranton and by shoring
25 up the pension fund that bill will be paying

1 yearly will be reduced and that will help
2 shore up the budget as well.

3 So it is very good news for the city
4 and most of the objections that were made to
5 this plan outside of the city by other
6 groups and other actors weren't that it's a
7 bad deal for the City of Scranton and
8 Scranton residents, they were saying it's
9 too good of a deal. They said that value,
10 we are getting twice the book value of the
11 asset, which is a positive thing for the
12 residents of Scranton and Dunmore as well
13 because they are part of the system.

14 And the other negative that was,
15 again, for those who don't live in Scranton
16 was that they didn't want those outside of
17 the Scranton/Dunmore area to subsidize the
18 improvements that would need to be made and
19 there is no question there is a lot of
20 improvement that needs to be made to our
21 sewer system in the City. We have all
22 talked about them. We have all been out to
23 different residences that have issues with
24 storm water in their neighborhoods.

25 Whether the Sewer Authority remains

1 the Scranton Sewer Authority or is sold,
2 those issues need to be corrected. It's not
3 a matter of what -- one really has nothing
4 to do with the other, the issue has to be
5 fixed, whether it's in-house or whether it's
6 done it's part of another authority, so
7 there are a number of issues that need to be
8 straightened out regarding our storm water
9 management in the city, and most
10 importantly, we are going to meet federal
11 regulations for we have a combined sewer
12 system in the city whereas the sewage that
13 comes from our toilet is going into some of
14 the same pipe as the sewage that's -- where
15 rain water is running off the streets and
16 you get too much rain backflows right into
17 the river where it could in some cases as
18 we've had in the past storms backed up into
19 neighborhoods, and that's certainly not
20 acceptable, and my hope is that this deal
21 will move forward separation of the systems
22 to move us finally into the 21st century.

23 I'm sure there will be much more to
24 discuss on this issue as time goes on, but
25 the PUC decision today certainly was a good

1 decision for the City of Scranton and the
2 ratepayers for the Sewer Authority. And
3 that is all.

4 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Mr.
5 Evans?

6 MR. EVAN: Thank you. I attended
7 the Auditor General's news conference on
8 Monday afternoon related to the city's
9 pension. Some takeaways that we've may have
10 heard already planned are a slight
11 improvement to the plans but all are still
12 severely distressed. The AG had a list of
13 15 items that he referred to at the news
14 conference that would help us with the
15 pensions and I when I went on the website I
16 couldn't find so I am going to put a call
17 into the AG's Office to try and find out
18 where that information is so we have a
19 better handle on what he is proposing.

20 And I continue to ask why the state
21 is very slow to move towards the statewide
22 receivership of pensions so when I asked
23 about it he said all of them were depleted
24 he found at a state level, not a global
25 level, so we need to work with our state

1 reps and Senator Blake and try to move
2 towards a statewide solution that we had
3 mentioned and get working on that as soon as
4 we can.

5 As far as the PUC hearing is
6 concerned, I listened to the PUC hearing
7 this morning via live stream from
8 Harrisburg. By a four to one vote, we all
9 know the PUC approved the transaction
10 between PUC and the SSA. There was a
11 general consensus by the commission that
12 this is a very good deal for the Scranton
13 taxpayers and SSA ratepayers. In fact, even
14 the dissenting vote and opinion that was
15 also colored by that individual to be
16 shared.

17 It has been said, but basically most
18 of the grounds as Councilman Rogan mentioned
19 that the larger ratepayer, basically WC,
20 would be running under suspect at some point
21 this transaction and others like it, but I
22 would say that Act 11 that was passed
23 previously recently by the state legislature
24 allows for making that argument a moot
25 point. In fact, the SSA estimates at this

1 point will only encounter for five or six of
2 the total ratepayers involved in the KWC.
3 But it now appears that the deal hopefully
4 will continue to move forward so now all of
5 our attention should be turned on the
6 following:

7 Number one, storm water. We should
8 have at the very least on day one after the
9 closing of this transaction a framework in
10 place for the management of a storm water
11 system.

12 Two. The proceeds from the sale
13 must, and I repeat must, be used prudently.
14 Every dollar must be accounted for and spent
15 in a positive way that not only addresses
16 Scranton's long-term debt, some long ignored
17 capital improvements in it's ongoing
18 structural deficit. It should also be used
19 in a way that would promote economic growth
20 in that we'll restructure a way to do
21 business in the long term.

22 As far as infusion into the
23 pensions, this should be off the table until
24 all current pension reforms garnered for the
25 community contracts, any awards that are in

1 place are shown to be working, as well as
2 additional reforms that need to be discussed
3 further and moved to its consensus on the
4 proceeds.

5 And three, as I've discussed last
6 week and will continue to discuss in the
7 upcoming weeks, we must make significant
8 changes in the way government does business
9 and we must move towards an entrepreneurial
10 government for the long-term viability of
11 the City's of Scranton and it cannot be
12 stressed enough that the status quo on how
13 we operate will continue to hold us back and
14 ultimately bring us back to insolvency, so
15 with this decision we have a once in a
16 lifetime opportunity to get this right so we
17 have to be conscious of that once in a
18 lifetime we have to get this right. That's
19 all I have for tonight.

20 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Mr.
21 Gaughan?

22 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, thank you, Just a
23 few comments. First, Mrs. Reed, if we could
24 get an update by next week of what's going
25 on with the Young property over on Wyoming

1 Avenue. We haven't heard about that in
2 awhile so I'd like an update on that if
3 that's possible.

4 The second thing, we did receive a
5 letter, as Mr. Rogan mentioned, from PennDOT
6 addressing a number of issues across the
7 city, one of which was safety concerns that
8 I have upon Birney Avenue so there are a
9 number of different things, and I don't have
10 the letter right in front of me, that the
11 city can do up there such as installing
12 crosswalks and other safety measures so I
13 will plan on having a follow-up conversation
14 with our DPW director and the administration
15 on that.

16 As it relates to the University of
17 Scranton's announcement of the South Side
18 Athletic Campus, I did receive a few calls
19 about a plaque that used to be down at the
20 South Side Complex honoring former mayor
21 Bill Schmidt, so I did reach out to a
22 representative from the University and she
23 did tell me that the University has also
24 been contacted by the Schmidt family and has
25 talked with them about this matter,

1 including the possibility of a new plaque to
2 commemorate that history honoring former
3 mayor Bill Schmidt and all the work that he
4 put in down at the South Side Complex, so
5 they are aware of the issue and they will be
6 contacting the family as the project move
7 forwards.

8 The Second thing, I have submitted
9 two Right-to-Know requests regarding
10 information that I have requested from the
11 administration. I have waited long enough
12 so now I will start and I have started
13 submitting Right-to-Know requests so
14 hopefully now legally they will have to
15 provide this information.

16 One of the speakers brought up the
17 Sewer Authority's permit application,
18 Council did receive a copy of it and it is
19 available on the Clerk's desk. I would also
20 ask to find out from the administration if
21 it would be possible to put this on the
22 City's website or ask that it be put on the
23 Sewer Authority's website so that people can
24 view it electronically.

25 As it relates to the Scranton Sewer

1 Authority sale, I have many concerns, which
2 I have stated over the past few months.
3 Right of water companies, like American
4 Water, are generally motivated by their own
5 profits and not by the public good and they
6 make decisions about their services
7 accordingly. Unlike publically operated
8 systems, these companies aren't usually
9 accountable to residents leaving people with
10 little recourse to fix their situation, so
11 that's one of my major concerns any time you
12 privatize any public asset.

13 Now, how does council fit into this?
14 I believe and I've asked our solicitor, Mr.
15 Minora, what role we would play in this deal
16 and I believe that the only vote we will
17 have on this is to dissolve the Scranton
18 Sewer Authority, so we do not have a say in
19 whether or not the asset gets sold.

20 A couple of things that I'm
21 concerned about, and it was already
22 mentioned, the City's storm water
23 management. This should have been part of
24 the equation from the very beginning. You
25 know, there was a report issued back in 2013

1 that detailed all of the issues that we have
2 with our storm water system in the City of
3 Scranton and obviously none of the things
4 that were detailed in that report have been
5 followed through on, one of which was that
6 this was a freight train that was coming at
7 us and we could have done a number of
8 different things to curb some of those
9 issues and we have done that and so now we
10 are left selling off one of our major assets
11 without any sort of idea of what we are
12 going to do on day one to deal with the
13 storm water. So we don't have a plan as of
14 yet to deal with the impending transfer of
15 responsibilities from the Sewer Authority to
16 the City.

17 We also don't know costs. How much
18 is a new authority going to cost? How much
19 is the equipment going to cost? The
20 manpower? The upgrades? As I mentioned
21 earlier, the analysis will take a few
22 months. This should have been done as part
23 of the equation of the sale.

24 Another concern is that we will not
25 have a public partner in the Scranton Sewer

1 Authority any longer. I'm also curious on
2 how the proceeds will be used and if this
3 will truly make a difference in the pensions
4 or ten years from now we will be right back
5 where we started. The system is broke, as
6 has been said up here many times. No matter
7 how much money we throw at it, it's broken
8 and it needs to be reformed and fixed. We
9 have been down this road before selling off
10 assets and it did not work out well at all.

11 The thought of \$96 million seems to
12 make people very short-sided. You know,
13 don't forget we are losing a public asset
14 that was in great financial condition, and
15 I'm afraid that the ratepayers eventually
16 will get taken for another ride down the
17 toilet once again. My fear is that after
18 ten years or so this is going to eventually
19 be a backdoor tax on the ratepayers of the
20 City of Scranton, so no matter what way we
21 look at it the ratepayers are going to get
22 the short end of the stick when they look at
23 city and what we have to do in regards to
24 the storm water management and we are
25 throwing good money after bad, we'll be

1 robbing Peter to pay Paul, so I do have
2 concerns about this and I agree with Mrs.
3 Schumacher when she said the PUC did kick
4 the can down the road, so there still is
5 questions about this deal that are
6 unanswered. And that's all I have this
7 week. Thank you.

8 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr.
9 Gaughan. I guess I'll start with the Sewer
10 Authority since that's where we are spending
11 a lot of time. All along as Council as be
12 hearing and the fact that we are the public
13 forum for comments about everything and we
14 have been constantly asked a lot of
15 questions about the sale of the Sewer
16 Authority, and as Mr. Gaughan has explained,
17 City Council has had nothing to do with the
18 sale of the Sewer Authority. Our goal and
19 part of this deal is going to be just the
20 dissolution of the Authority itself.

21 Once that happens and the money
22 comes to the city, that's when the game
23 changes. As Mr. Perry stated and all my
24 colleagues, that's where City Council has
25 five votes and we will decide how that money

1 is spent. The administration is working on
2 it, we are working on it, and I do believe
3 that it will be a consensus between all the
4 parties involved and where the money should
5 best be spent. This is where City Council
6 has the largest responsibility to protect
7 our city and make the most out of this sale.

8 As was spoke about in caucus, this
9 is going to require some creative financial
10 thinking. It's not a huge windfall or
11 piggybank or lottery win that should just be
12 spent as we see needed, but there will be a
13 lot of issues so we do have to get
14 priorities.

15 We do need to put money into the
16 pension to relieve some of the stress that's
17 on that, but I do not believe that we need
18 to put the lion's share of the proceeds from
19 the sale of the Sewer Authority into the
20 pension.

21 In terms of when that comes in, I
22 believe an annual plan to spend the money to
23 meet our obligations that comes from the
24 proceeds is a better plan than just starting
25 to count money at first.

1 In terms of the storm water
2 management, the City is an old city and it
3 is going to require a lot of improvement,
4 that's why as we look at this staging as we
5 move along, there is going to have to be
6 some kind of creation of a storm water
7 management and the storm water management
8 authority will have to work within the
9 structure of our city, that means our DPW
10 workers are going to have to have some
11 involvement in that creation of that
12 authority. Once the authority is formed, it
13 will be just like the Sewer Authority once
14 we are able to go out and get state grants
15 and funding for some of our different
16 projects, so as was stated, we are going to
17 have to be ready for that, getting that
18 together as soon as we can in 2017. So
19 overall, I don't think that we can debate
20 the sale of the Sewer Authority, the
21 infrastructure costs and responsibility are
22 too much to bear for the Sewer Authority and
23 the reality is is that improvements have to
24 be made to the storm water management system
25 and the sewer system, but the other reality

1 is Scranton has to make it through the next
2 few years or none of this is going to be
3 done.

4 As we heard tonight, people are
5 suggesting bankruptcy and bankruptcy is not
6 an option. Bankruptcy as part of our
7 recovery plan there is bankruptcy in that
8 plan if necessary. As we go through this
9 plan review every year and determine if they
10 should maybe gone through a proceeding of
11 getting out of distressed status, I think
12 this year when that comes along we will be
13 deemed that we are not ready for
14 receivership, definitely not ready for
15 bankruptcy. As we move into 2017, I think
16 actually we may be able to see that we may
17 have to be distressed a little longer, and
18 even though it's just a name and it's been
19 around so long and nobody really cares about
20 it, it may very important for the city when
21 that gets removed, so it is a good day for
22 the city, but it puts a huge onus on myself
23 and my colleagues to do the right thing with
24 this money when it comes in.

25 I did touch a little bit on

1 bankruptcy and the petition that was
2 received tonight and we did accept it, it is
3 -- when Mr. Minora comes back next week he
4 can review it and see what we should do with
5 that.

6 In talking about the University of
7 Scranton and the complex, as Mr. Perry said,
8 played a lot of ball or I should say sat on
9 the benches a lot, and really the fact that
10 the Heritage Trail goes through there now
11 and the University will have this athletic
12 facility as part of that is going to make
13 Scranton more of a walking/biking city. To
14 accomplish that, to be honest with you since
15 right now the trail is there, really all
16 throughout the city the walking trails are
17 used so I think in the end it is going to be
18 a huge improvement to the city and I'm happy
19 that that's going through.

20 Mr. Gaughan and I have been
21 communicating with the residents of Phelps
22 Street. They had some issue with some trees
23 and a streetlight. Mr. Pocius was out there
24 and made an evaluation and he does believe
25 that they may be eligible for a streetlight

1 and also a recommendation to -- sent his
2 recommendation to the DPW and Mr. Gallagher
3 to do some tree trimming down there, also,
4 so we made a little bit of progress on that
5 this week.

6 And finally, pave cuts, this week I
7 spent a lot of time speaking with John
8 Hazzouri, the pave cut inspector, and there
9 is some major paving going down up by the
10 Cathedral Cemetery. Replacement work,
11 permit restoration work is going to be done
12 on Barton Street so I did talk to Mr.
13 Hazzouri on I think Monday. He has been up
14 there a few times verifying that work. I
15 also am going to reach out to the water
16 company just to make sure that they feel
17 comfortable with their contractor and the
18 work they are doing up there and maybe get
19 some of their inspection results to give me
20 the comfort that the water company is doing
21 it correct. And that is all I have for
22 tonight. Thank you.

23 MR. ROGAN: I just have one thing to
24 mention, you jogged my memory when you
25 mentioned about bankruptcy. I agree

1 completely with what you said, for anyone
2 that thinks that that's the solution look at
3 what happened in Harrisburg. It's easy to
4 say, well, we are having financial problems,
5 just declare bankruptcy and it will all go
6 way, but that's not how it works. What
7 actually happens in that situation is that
8 City Council, who were elected by the
9 taxpayers, the mayor, who was elected by the
10 taxpayers, they aren't in charge anymore and
11 a receiver is appointed, and that receiver
12 is going to handle the issue to the taxpayer
13 and residents in the city, and despite taxes
14 going up I can assure you all of us in
15 government are doing everything we can to
16 keep those increases to a minimum. A
17 receiver that comes in is just going to sign
18 the check and say, "This is what we need,
19 pay up." And that's why this sewer deal is
20 so important that without it it may be, we
21 may have headed down that path, everyone saw
22 the pension reports, you know, as Mr.
23 Wechsler said two years they may have ran
24 dry and if the pensions ran dry that is a
25 different conversation, but we are not

1 looking for that to happen, we are doing
2 everything we can up here to make sure that
3 never happens and bankruptcy, at least for
4 myself, is by far the last option and only
5 when the well truly runs dry, there is not a
6 cent left in the city coffers and pension
7 funds have run dry that is when that would
8 even be considered. We are doing everything
9 we can to try and get the city back on track
10 and we've made a tremendous amount of
11 progress over the last few years, despite
12 what you may read in the newspapers, from
13 the financial community the city has been
14 getting their creditworthiness back. The
15 city coffers have been, you know, we're not
16 paying city employees minimum wage anymore,
17 which did happen, so there has been a lot of
18 improvement, there is a ton of work to go,
19 but for anyone to just decide that
20 bankruptcy is an easy solution hasn't looked
21 at the facts of what municipal bankruptcy
22 actually contains.

23 MR. EVANS: If I may, since we are
24 on the topic, if we had a receiver and went
25 into bankruptcy or went into receivership,

1 introduced into its proper committee.

2 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

3 MR. EVANS: Second.

4 MR. WECHSLER: On the question? All
5 those in favor of introduction signify by
6 saying aye.

7 MR. PERRY: Aye.

8 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

9 MR. EVANS: Aye.

10 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

13 MS. REED: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION - A
14 RESOLUTION - RATIFYING AND APPROVING THE
15 EXECUTION AND SUBMISSION OF THE GRANT
16 APPLICATION BY THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO THE
17 PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND
18 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ("DCED") FOR A LOCAL
19 SHARE ACCOUNT GRANT (GAMING FUNDS) MONROE
20 COUNTY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$236,600.00 FOR A
21 PAVING PROJECT TO BE COMPLETED IN THE
22 OAKWOOD DEVELOPMENT IN SCRANTON'S WEST SIDE.

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

1 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

2 MR. EVANS: Second.

3 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

4 MR. PERRY: Yes, just on the
5 question, I wasn't familiar with Oakwood
6 development and I saw it on the agenda, I
7 took a drive up this afternoon and yeah,
8 that's in need of attention for sure so I'm
9 going to be in favor of the application
10 process.

11 MR. WECHSLER: Yes, that's all I'd
12 like to say. This is a good project and a
13 good intent for these funds. This
14 neighborhood has been neglected, as Mr.
15 Rogan said, forever, and I wholeheartedly
16 support this and I want to make sure that
17 the grant is completed.

18 MR. EVANS: Yeah, part of the
19 problem is it's an ongoing problem because
20 they are obviously not a low to mod
21 neighborhood there, it's a high income,
22 middle income neighborhood so it's always
23 the last one to get paved very similar to
24 the McCarry's in this town, so when we have
25 an opportunity to do a grant like this it's

1 truly worthwhile.

2 MR. ROGAN: The most frustrating
3 thing for those residents is they pay some
4 of the highest taxes in the city and their
5 roads aren't getting paved like other areas
6 are paved.

7 MR. EVANS: Yeah.

8 MR. ROGAN: So it's a bit
9 frustrating.

10 MR. WECHSLER: All those in favor of
11 introduction signify by saying aye.

12 MR. PERRY: Aye.

13 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

14 MR. EVANS: Aye.

15 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

18 MS. REED: 5-D. FOR INTRODUCTION - A
19 RESOLUTION - RATIFYING AND APPROVING THE
20 EXECUTION AND SUBMISSION OF THE GRANT
21 APPLICATION BY THE CITY OF SCRANTON POLICE
22 DEPARTMENT TO THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF
23 COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ("DCED")
24 FOR A LOCAL SHARE ACCOUNT GRANT (GAMING
25 FUNDS) MONROE COUNTY IN THE AMOUNT OF

1 \$44,125.00 FOR THE PURCHASE OF A VEHICLE FOR
2 THE SCRANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT FIRE
3 MARSHALL.

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

7 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

8 MR. EVANS: Second.

9 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

10 MR. PERRY: Yes, just on the
11 question. This is a much needed vehicle for
12 the police department and, again, it's a
13 great use of the gaming funds.

14 MR. WECHSLER: All those in favor of
15 introduction signify by saying aye.

16 MR. PERRY: Aye.

17 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

18 MR. EVANS: Aye.

19 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

22 MS. REED: 5-E. FOR INTRODUCTION - A
23 RESOLUTION - RATIFYING AND APPROVING OF THE
24 EXECUTION AND SUBMISSION OF THE GRANT
25 APPLICATION BY THE CITY OF SCRANTON, ON

1 BEHALF OF UNITED NEIGHBORHOOD CENTERS OF
2 NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA (UNC), TO THE
3 PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND
4 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR A LOCAL SHARE
5 ACCOUNT GRANT, PURSUANT TO THE PA RACE HORSE
6 DEVELOPMENT AND GAMING ACT, FOR A REAL
7 ESTATE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT LOCATED AT 530
8 CEDAR AVENUE, SCRANTON, PA, 18505 AND
9 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE
10 CITY OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO
11 EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A LOCAL SHARE ACCOUNT
12 GRANT CONTRACT IF APPROVED WITH THE
13 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA TO ACCEPT AND
14 UTILIZE THE GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF
15 \$310,000.00 IF AWARDED BY THE COMMONWEALTH
16 OF PENNSYLVANIA FOR THE PROJECT TO BE KNOWN
17 AS "SOUTH SCRANTON WOMEN'S BUSINESS
18 INCUBATOR PROJECT".

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

22 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

23 MR. EVANS: Second.

24 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

25 MR. EVANS: On the question, I will

1 say this is a very, very innovative program
2 and I really expect that you will see what
3 it's doing here. It's People's City Bank
4 building on Cedar Avenue, which they got on
5 a bank and usually the first order for a
6 business incubator for to low to moderate
7 income women in business to get their
8 businesses started so that is a really
9 innovative program and I'll see how it works
10 out.

11 MR. WECHSLER: All those in favor of
12 introduction signify by saying aye.

13 MR. PERRY: Aye.

14 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

15 MR. EVANS: Aye.

16 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

19 MS. REED: SIXTH ORDER. 6-A.
20 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.
21 55, 2016 - AN ORDINANCE - CREATING AND
22 ESTABLISHING SPECIAL CITY ESCROW ACCOUNT NO.
23 02.229620 ENTITLED "HARB" TO ACCEPT AND
24 DISBURSE FUNDS RECEIVED FROM THE HISTORICAL
25 ARCHITECTURE REVIEW BOARD APPLICATIONS FOR

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THE CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS.

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

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

MR. EVANS: Second.

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

MR. PERRY: Aye.

MR. ROGAN: Aye.

MR. EVANS: Aye.

MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

MS. REED: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 54, 2016 - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 32, 2016, AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED "APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION OF CERTAIN PROPERTIES BY EMINENT DOMAIN, DEED IN LIEU OF CONDEMNATION, AGREEMENT, OR OTHERWISE OF ANY AND ALL RIGHTS, LICENSES, PERSONAL PROPERTY, EASEMENTS, INTERESTS, OR TITLES IN REAL ESTATE AND/OR STRUCTURES REQUIRED IN

1 ORDER TO OBTAIN FEE SIMPLE TITLE TO SAID
2 PROPERTIES TO COMPLETE THE LACKAWANNA RIVER
3 LOCAL FLOOD PROTECTION PROJECT" TO INCLUDE
4 PARCEL NO. 13501- 060-03401, LOCATED AT 78
5 EAST PARKER STREET, WHICH WAS INADVERTENTLY
6 OMITTED ON EXHIBIT "A" IN THE ORIGINAL
7 ORDINANCE TO THE NEW EXHIBIT "A" ATTACHED
8 HERETO.

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

12 MR. ROGAN: Second.

13 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?
14 Roll call, please?

15 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Perry.

16 MR. PERRY: Yes.

17 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

18 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

19 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Evans.

20 MR. EVANS: Yes.

21 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan.

22 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

23 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

24 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby
25 declare Item 7-A legally and lawfully

1 adopted.

2 MS. REED: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION
3 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES FOR ADOPTION -
4 RESOLUTION NO. 70, 2016 - APPOINTMENT OF ADA
5 RIOS-RIVERA, PHD, 519 COLFAX AVENUE,
6 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18510 AS A MEMBER OF
7 THE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION, EFFECTIVE
8 SEPTEMBER 21, 2016. DR. RIOS-RIVERA WILL BE
9 REPLACING REV. DR. HOWARD T. WOODRUFF WHO
10 RESIGNED FROM THE BOARD ON MAY 31, 2016.
11 DR. RIOS-RIVERA WILL FILL THE UNEXPIRED TERM
12 OF REV. DR. HOWARD T. WOODRUFF THAT IS
13 SCHEDULED TO EXPIRE ON SEPTEMBER 24, 2018.

14 MR. WECHSLER: As Chairperson for
15 the Committee on Rules, I recommend final
16 passage of Item 7-B.

17 MR. ROGAN: Second.

18 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

19 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. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

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

7 MS. REED: 7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION
8 BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT -
9 FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 71, 2016
10 ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE
11 HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURE REVIEW BOARD
12 ("HARB") AND APPROVING THE CERTIFICATE OF
13 APPROPRIATENESS FOR FAST SIGNS,
14 SCRANTON-POCONO HIGHWAY, SCRANTON,
15 PENNSYLVANIA, FOR INSTALLATION OF A BLADE
16 STYLE BANNER MEASURING 96" H BY 30" W
17 AFFIXED BY TWO (2) POLE STYLE BRACKETS ON
18 THE FRONT OF THE BUILDING AT 503 LACKAWANNA
19 AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA.

20 MR. WECHSLER: What is the
21 recommendation of the Chairperson for the
22 Committee on Community Development?

23 MR. ROGAN: As Chair for the
24 Committee on Finance, I recommend final
25 passage of Item 7-C.

1 MR. EVANS: Second.

2 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

3 Roll call, please?

4 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Perry.

5 MR. PERRY: Yes.

6 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

7 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

8 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Evans.

9 MR. EVANS: Yes.

10 MS. MARCIANO: 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 PUBLIC WORKS - FOR
18 ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 72, 2016 -
19 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE
20 CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A
21 CONTRACT WITH KEYSTONE QUARRY, INC. TO
22 PROVIDE THE CITY 2000 TON (MORE OR LESS)
23 ANTI-SKID SAND FOR THE PERIOD OCTOBER 25,
24 2016 THROUGH APRIL 30, 2017.

25 MR. WECHSLER: What is the

1 recommendation of the Chairperson for the
2 Committee on Public Works?

3 MR. GAUGHAN: As Chairperson for the
4 Committee on Public Works, I recommend final
5 passage of Item 7-D.

6 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

9 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Perry.

10 MR. PERRY: Yes.

11 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

12 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

13 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Evans.

14 MR. EVANS: Yes.

15 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan.

16 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

17 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

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

21 MS. REED: 7-E. FOR CONSIDERATION BY
22 THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - FOR
23 ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 73, 2016 -
24 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE
25 CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A

1 DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION INSPECTION SERVICES
2 CONTRACT WITH REILLY ASSOCIATES TO PROVIDE
3 DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION INSPECTION SERVICES
4 FOR THE CONSTRUCTION WORK FOR THE PROJECT
5 ENTITLED: "RECONSTRUCTION OF CITY STREETS TO
6 INCLUDE HANDICAPPED CURB CUTS."

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

10 MR. ROGAN: As Chairperson for the
11 Committee on Community Development, I
12 recommend final passage of Item 7-E.

13 MR. EVANS: Second.

14 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?
15 Roll call, please?

16 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Perry.

17 MR. PERRY: Yes.

18 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

19 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

20 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Evans.

21 MR. EVANS: Yes.

22 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

25 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby

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declare Item 7-E legally and lawfully
adopted.

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

MR. ROGAN: Motion to adjourn.

MR. WECHSLER: Meeting adjourned.

C E R T I F I C A T E

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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