

SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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HELD:

Thursday, October 13, 2016

LOCATION:

Council Chambers

Scranton City Hall

340 North Washington Avenue

Scranton, Pennsylvania

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

JOSEPH WECHSLER, PRESIDENT

PATRICK ROGAN, VICE-PRESIDENT

WAYNE EVANS

WILLIAM GAUGHAN

TIM PERRY

LORI REED, CITY CLERK

KATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

AMIL MINORA, SOLICITOR

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

3 MR. WECHSLER: Roll call, please.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

5 MR. PERRY: Here.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

7 MR. ROGAN: Here.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

9 MR. EVANS: Here.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Here.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

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

15 MS. REED: THIRD ORDER. 3-A. TAX
16 ASSESSOR'S RESULTS REPORTS FOR HEARING DATES
17 HELD SEPTEMBER 21 AND SEPTEMBER 27, 2016.

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

20 MS. REED: 3-B. BREAKDOWN OF
21 ELIGIBLE SALARIES FOR THE LIQUID FUELS
22 ACCOUNT FOR THE MONTHS OF JULY, AUGUST AND
23 SEPTEMBER 2016.

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

1 Do any council members have
2 announcements at this time?

3 MR. PERRY: Yes, I have a couple,
4 please. First announcement, October 21 come
5 out to a happy hour benefiting "Operation
6 Warm, More Than a Coat." Help the Scranton
7 firefighters provide brand new U.S.A. made
8 coats to Scranton children living in need.
9 It's going be at the Backyard Ale House,
10 that's on 23 Linden Street in Scranton.
11 Again, October 21, it's going to be between
12 7:00 and 9:00. Donations are \$20 which will
13 include domestic draft beers and appetizers.
14 If you can't make it out to the event, but
15 would like to donate, you can go to
16 www.operationwarm.org/Scranton. And, again,
17 that's for coat for kids by the Scranton
18 Fire Department to local kids.

19 And, secondly, this one is very near
20 and dear to my heart, a good friend of mine,
21 the Duchnik family lost a son at a very,
22 very young age at a tragic tow truck
23 accident while he was working a couple of
24 months ago on Interstate 81 by Clarks
25 Summit. She is not only a coworker of mine,

1 but a friend and our whole organization is
2 still devastated by our great loss and this
3 Monday, the 17th, from 5:00 to 9:00, at the
4 Applebee's in the Viewmont Mall we are going
5 to be doing a fundraiser for their family,
6 for the Duchnik family. Myself, and other
7 Applebee's managers will be waiting on
8 tables and we will be donating our tips to
9 the family. So, please, come out, grab some
10 good food at the mall and at Applebee's and
11 be generous with your tips, they are all
12 going to going to absolutely a fantastic
13 cause. This is a very good family, very
14 tight knit and they are definitely in a time
15 of need right now. That's all I have.
16 Thank you.

17 MR. ROGAN: I have two announcements
18 as well. The first one, I apologize, I'm
19 reading it off an e-mail here, will be a
20 massacre mansion, a haunted attraction on
21 Friday, Saturdays and Sundays in the month
22 of October from 6 to 11 p.m. A portion of
23 the proceeds will benefit the West Scranton
24 Little League. It will be held at the West
25 Scranton Little League on Oxford Street and

1 South Eight Avenue and the cost is just \$10
2 per person.

3 Secondly, over the last month we
4 have discussed quite a bit flooding in the
5 communities, and I did mention about having
6 a caucus regarding the flooding on Keyser
7 Valley and West Mountain so that meeting
8 will be held Thursday, October 27, 2016, at
9 5:30 in city council chambers. The purpose
10 of the caucus is to discuss recent
11 weather-related issues with the flooding
12 specifically in Merrifield Avenue and Brigg
13 Street. This starts all of way up at the
14 top of the mountain coming down and there is
15 issues all the way through. It says,
16 "Several residents of the area have informed
17 council of the ongoing flooding issues
18 effecting their properties. This invitation
19 is being extended to the Sewer Authority,
20 the City of Scranton's Department of Public
21 Works, PennDOT, and the Offices of State
22 Representative Marty Flynn and State Senator
23 John Blake."

24 So anyone who is effected by the
25 water runoff on West Mountain or flooding in

1 the Keyser Valley area we certainly welcome
2 you to attend the meeting and we also did
3 inform the Keyser Valley Neighborhood
4 Association president as well.

5 MR. EVANS: I have one. There is a
6 grand open for the artists at Bogart Place
7 at the Renaissance at 500, meet the winners
8 of the Kick Start Arts Challenge, browse the
9 new shops and support their work. October
10 14, 5 p.m. is a ribbon cutting and 5 p.m.
11 tonight again there is a reception. Some of
12 the vendors are AOS Meadows, Grapevine
13 Design, Trinket Studios -- Trinity Studio
14 Gallery, Jennifer Blewitt Photography,
15 Doreen Blewitt and Mary Claire Jordan. It's
16 located in Bogart Place right behind On and
17 On at 518 Lackawanna. You walk right
18 through the Renaissance courtyard down to
19 the steps into Bogart Place. It's a great
20 community project.

21 Also, on Saturday the 15th, there is
22 at that same location between 12 and 9 you
23 can stop by there before you head down to
24 the bonfire at the Scranton Iron Works which
25 is another event Saturday evening starting

1 at 6:00. That's all I have. Thanks.

2 MR. WECHSLER: We do have a Harrison
3 Avenue bridge update, installation of the 75
4 to 100 foot concrete beams which will form
5 the bridge will mean the closing of the
6 Central Scranton Expressway. The Expressway
7 entrance will close this Friday, October 14,
8 at 8 p.m. and remain closed until 6 a.m.
9 Monday, October 17, while the crane lifts
10 the beams into place.

11 According to PennDOT, motorists
12 heading for the downtown on 81 North will
13 have to exit at River Street and drivers on
14 Interstate 81 South will exit on Moosic
15 Street so please be aware of this traffic
16 condition that probably will be a nightmare
17 this weekend.

18 MS. REED: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'
19 PARTICIPATION.

20 MR. WECHSLER: Joan Hodowanitz.

21 MS. HODOWANITZ: Joan Hodowanitz,
22 Scranton resident and taxpayer. I have a
23 number of questions if you would answer them
24 during Fifth Order. First, it's October 13,
25 the City's audit is now 136 days late. Do

1 we have a status on the document? Do we
2 have a date for the working session and does
3 the administration still intend to extend
4 the Rainey & Rainey contract next year?

5 Number two, with regard to the
6 NDC/ABM have they decided to open their
7 periodic meetings to the public? If so,
8 when and where will be the first meeting?

9 Yesterday I attended all of the
10 Pension Board meetings and as you saw in
11 today's newspaper during the Composite Board
12 a gentleman, Mr. Jerome Scott, came forward,
13 he is a retired police officer and he wanted
14 to have his pension upgraded to a disability
15 pension. He had actually retired in 1989.
16 Solicitor Durkin told him that that could
17 not be done because the board doesn't have
18 the legal authority to change a pension.
19 Once the pension is approved when the
20 described retires that's it. They cannot
21 later be made in a disability pension at
22 which time he pointed out to the board that
23 somewhere between 27 and 29 other retired
24 police officers had actually done what he
25 was requesting and Attorney Durkin pointed

1 out that wasn't quite legal. Now, I asked
2 Attorney Durkin if he was going to do
3 anything about the other officers and he
4 said no because they weren't taking money
5 out of the pension fund. Their only benefit
6 was their disability pension was not taxable
7 so my question to you is is anyone in the
8 administration going to follow up on these
9 disability pensions if, as Attorney Durkin
10 suggests, they were not legally granted.
11 Every person who does not pay their fair
12 share of the taxes increases my tax burden
13 and I don't like that.

14 Next, what's the status of the 2017
15 operating budget draft? When will the
16 public get a chance to see it?

17 With regard to item 5-F, the
18 loan/grant to roll call LLC for \$250,000. I
19 read through some of the documentation.
20 There are a number of conditions which must
21 be met. If they are met after 12 months,
22 the loan converts to a grant. My question
23 is who in the administration monitors not
24 only this loan but all of the other loans to
25 make sure that the people who are getting

1 money from the city are meeting the
2 requirements of their agreement. We don't
3 seem to have a very good track record with
4 our previous loans and in that regard do we
5 have a status on all of the overdue loans to
6 the city that have been defaulted?

7 Next, what is the status of that
8 one-year-old rape kit which we found out
9 about several weeks ago and we still have no
10 answer? And when will the mayor give his
11 State of the City address? And I'll listen
12 to your answers in Fifth Order.

13 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Len
14 Serebro.

15 MR. SEREBRO: Lennie Serebro,
16 Scranton resident. You pretty much answered
17 all my questions or most of them, Mr. Rogan,
18 I'm pleased to hear that something really is
19 being done. What I'm afraid of is after
20 this meeting, you know, it goes no where.
21 These things have happened before, they were
22 meetings with the neighborhood and then
23 nothing was ever done. You know, all of the
24 officials were there, but let me remind you
25 to do that, the last block where the

1 flooding is really worse there is four
2 vacant houses there now. The fifth is, you
3 know, they showed it on the news where the
4 whole basement is collapsing and in that
5 couple of blocks there, there is three
6 houses that I counted that are up for sale,
7 at least they have "For Sale" signs on them.

8 Now, when I was last here about
9 three weeks ago we agreed that -- or I got
10 the impression that at least something will
11 be done with that drainage pipe, you know,
12 that I believe is the biggest part of the
13 problem there. See, you know, I don't know
14 if anything is being done, but I'm telling
15 you every time it rains I'm on edge, you
16 know, if it's a heavy rain I know I'm going
17 to be getting water and flooding in both of
18 the garage and the house.

19 MR. ROGAN: We did correspondence
20 from the Sewer Authority regarding some of
21 the flooding. It did just come in so I
22 didn't get a chance to read it over yet, but
23 I will be able to get you copy of it, the
24 part of the discussion when we have the
25 meetings since there are so many parties

1 involved.

2 MR. SEREBRO: Okay. I didn't quite
3 catch when is the date for this meeting?

4 MR. ROGAN: The 27th I believe.

5 MR. PERRY: 27th at 5:30.

6 MR. SEREBRO: And the time?

7 MR. ROGAN: 5:30.

8 MR. GAUGHAN: We will publish a
9 special ad for that, right, Mrs. Reed, for
10 that?

11 MS. REED: Yes.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: There will be an ad in
13 the paper for that, too.

14 MR. SEREBRO: And where is it at?

15 MR. ROGAN: Right here.

16 MR. SEREBRO: Oh, all right. Boy,
17 you really caught me off guard. I had a
18 whole bunch --

19 MR. WECHSLER: We surprised you.

20 MR. SEREBRO: Well, these are
21 reminders what's going on. When we had
22 these really bad storms about two months ago
23 there was the sewer that was mixed in with
24 the water problem run off. I'm telling you
25 we are watching poop and toilet paper going

1 down the roads, you know. That's really a
2 unhealthy, but I understood that DEP got
3 somehow questioned it or got involved in it.
4 Okay, so maybe that's -- nothing will be
5 done now that the Sewer Authority is sold or
6 being sold that nobody is going to want to
7 do anything, that's how I feel until
8 something is decided, you know. That's
9 where I thought that drainage pipe, that one
10 big drainage pipe in the corner of these
11 lots, you know, if that could get opened up,
12 you know, I know it will relieve some of the
13 problem. Like I said, every time it rains,
14 you know, I have to worry about flooding.
15 Okay.

16 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you.

17 MR. SEREBRO: Thank you.

18 MR. WECHSLER: Christina O'Reilly.

19 MS. O'REILLY: Good evening.

20 Christina O'Reilly, Scranton resident. The
21 reason I'm here tonight is to try and save
22 2021 Ridgmont Street from being demolished.
23 Our neighborhood is home to the castle
24 house. It's a beautiful home that sits up
25 on a hill with a turret and stone structure.

1 It's gorgeous. It was purchased probably
2 about ten years ago by a Russian artists who
3 planned on turning it into an art gallery.
4 Throughout the years, it was condemned a few
5 times by the city for different reasons.
6 The neighbors did try to keep up on the
7 property, they traveled between Russia and
8 America. She's since passed way. Her
9 estate was not acting on the condemnation
10 notices and the city has repossessed it. I
11 recently learned that the home is due for
12 demolition. I have talked with the
13 different people in our neighborhood,
14 everyone was very upset about the impending
15 demolition of the home and some of the
16 neighbors have expressed interest in
17 purchasing the home for refurbishment. I
18 feel that it would be logical and
19 financially responsible decision to sell
20 this home to a resident so that they can
21 purchase the property and refurbish it back
22 to its original state.

23 To quote Mr. Evans from a meeting a
24 few weeks ago discussing reinventing this
25 government and talking about the

1 been about year and a half ago one of the
2 neighbors had reached out to me, the grass
3 was overgrown, all of that kind of stuff,
4 and we are trying to locate, you know, who
5 owned the house, where she was and all of
6 that kind of stuff, but I do remember the
7 neighbor telling me about the beauty of the
8 home and I do think that we demolish far too
9 many homes in the city so we will look into
10 this and hopefully we can do something. If
11 the neighbors want to get together, I'm not
12 sure procedurally how that works, but we can
13 definitely find out and I think it would be
14 more beneficial, you know, to help the
15 neighbors out.

16 MR. EVANS: I agree. I'm obviously
17 a preservationist at heart and I'm former
18 president of the Architectural Heritage
19 Association, so do I want to save that
20 house? Absolutely. I talked to Director
21 Hinton and, of course, he explained that.
22 On the other side of it were all of the
23 complaints from the neighbors that wanted
24 something done because the grass was
25 overgrown, etcetera.

1 MS. O'REILLY: Right.

2 MR. EVANS: The big issue is they
3 can't seem to get ahold of anybody that's
4 responsible for the property so as much as
5 when you suggested the right thing to do is
6 sell it, I don't know how we would do that.
7 We have no information --

8 MR. GAUGHAN: What if there is a
9 way, just thinking outside of the box here,
10 what if there was a way that we could try to
11 get this property into the land bank?

12 MR. EVANS: The problem, I think,
13 and Director Hinton was going to check this
14 for me, he was going to check the tax
15 location, have they paid the taxes, so if
16 the taxes have not been paid we could give
17 it the land bank, I don't know.

18 MS. O'REILLY: I did as much as I
19 could trying to find out from the
20 neighborhood because you know how it is the
21 whole neighborhood everybody knows a little
22 bit, they believe that the taxes are paid
23 up, but that the owner has passed away so
24 now it's in her estate whether or not --
25 acting on it.

1 MR. EVANS: What I would ask is
2 probably we contact Director Hinton or
3 whoever is responsible for the demolition
4 and see if we could put a moratorium on that
5 a little longer. I know it's about a long
6 time so some of the neighbors are probably,
7 you know, looking forward to demolition,
8 although, I don't know why because all your
9 are --

10 MS. O'REILLY: (Unintelligible.)

11 MR. EVANS: But other have
12 complained about it, but all they are going
13 to get is an empty lot with overgrown
14 grass --

15 MS. O'REILLY: Right.

16 MR. EVANS: -- and nothing is going
17 to change so if we could save that building
18 and get into the hands of somebody that
19 really cares about it and wants to restore
20 it that would be a win for everybody.

21 MS. O'REILLY: And we do have people
22 on our street, there's one man actually that
23 bought two homes on the street and has
24 refurbished them and he is interested in
25 this home as well.

1 MR. WECHSLER: Mrs. Reed, could you
2 contact Mr. Hinton or DPW and see when the
3 building is scheduled for demolition if it's
4 on this year's list and see how much time we
5 have. Perhaps it's not scheduled.

6 MR. EVANS: As far as I know it's on
7 the OECD list, so if you can check that out
8 and find out and if there's a way we can put
9 that on some level of moratorium so we get
10 to the bottom of this and find out what
11 actually can be done. It's almost ashamed
12 that sadly the taxes are paid because that
13 would have be an avenue we could get the
14 property --

15 MS. O'REILLY: Maybe I'm wrong. I
16 may be mistaken.

17 MR. EVANS: No, I think you are
18 probably right which is interesting because,
19 you know, she passed away, it's an estate,
20 so somebody is paying the taxes, you know,
21 but we can't reach that person to find out
22 what they want to do with the property, but
23 the last recourse should be the demolition
24 of that house.

25 MR. WECHSLER: Even if it was in

1 foreclosure we could track it down with or
2 foreclosure ordinance but this is a strange
3 case where everything is paid and it's just
4 neglected, but we will find out when
5 demolition is scheduled or if it's scheduled
6 and see how much time we have so we make
7 sure that an excavator doesn't pull in there
8 next week and knock it down.

9 MS. O'REILLY: That's what I'm
10 worried about. Every time I walk up and
11 down the street I'm waiting for there to be
12 machinery there to knock it down.

13 MR. WECHSLER: Yeah, we will do that
14 tomorrow to make sure that doesn't happen.

15 MS. O'REILLY: How can I follow-up?

16 MR. PERRY: If would you leave your
17 name and contact information here and we can
18 keep you in the loop.

19 MR. ROGAN: Just for some background
20 on that, I'm actually working on a similar
21 situation in the Hill Section with Ron
22 Koladjeski and originally Pat Hinton. Now
23 Jason Shrive is involved with the law
24 department. The issue, and they're very
25 similar, the issue in the hill that we

1 encountered is there's a property that is on
2 the city demolition list, and somebody wants
3 to purchase. It's actually the county has
4 the property, somebody wants to purchase it,
5 but in order to appeal the demolition you
6 have to be the owner of the property. So
7 there is a legal question there on whether
8 or not they can hold a hearing to revoke the
9 demolition based upon a future sale of the
10 property.

11 MR. EVANS: Well, again, I don't
12 think we are asking to remove it, we are
13 just saying let's just hold back a little
14 bit, postpone it so we all have an
15 opportunity to really address this and see
16 if we can find out once and for all and get
17 a responsible party to come forward and get
18 something done about the property.

19 MR. PERRY: Yeah, especially if
20 there is interest in the property there is
21 absolutely no reason to hurry up and do a
22 demo. That's pretty much just sorting out
23 our cards, and like my fellow councilmen
24 said, finding ownership, contacting
25 ownership and doing a transfer. So if we

1 can do that, you know, we can have a win-win
2 for everybody.

3 MS. O'REILLY: Thank you very much.

4 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you for
5 speaking up. Anyone else?

6 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening.
7 Marie Schumacher. Tonight's property value
8 report as of today, 22 percent of the
9 property transactions since mid-March in the
10 county were in Scranton. Of those, 46.3
11 percent of the Scranton property
12 transactions were below the CLR, and even
13 worse what no property owner really wants to
14 hear, a property a block away from me sold,
15 it was assessed at \$11,500 and it sold for
16 \$20,000. 1.7 percent.

17 MR. EVANS: Was the assessment
18 11,000 times --

19 MS. SCHUMACHER: In your time. It's
20 a fact. If you would like the address I'll
21 give it to you.

22 MR. EVANS: Okay.

23 MS. SCHUMACHER: Last week I shared
24 my dismay that the Utility Commission had
25 kicked the can down the street on the main

1 issue with the Sewer Authority sale. Now,
2 the asset sale agreement of course has
3 enough legal ease in it to make any
4 non-lawyer's head spin with many references
5 and counter references of other sections and
6 you can go crazy, so what I as a ratepayer
7 and as a taxpayer need to know before this
8 all happens, and I think you all need to
9 find out for us since you represent us, is
10 what happens to that 1.9 percent compound
11 over the first ten years if the PUC
12 ultimately turns down that request? I mean,
13 I know, Wayne, you said last week that Act
14 11 already made it moot but I ready Act 11
15 and it says they have the permission to come
16 in and petition, but it doesn't guarantee so
17 what would happen? Now, I know the
18 agreement contains a severability clause,
19 but there is also lots of the other clauses
20 which don't sound too straight forward. Are
21 there any other clauses that could override
22 that or cause, for instance, there is a
23 purchase price adjustment clause, could that
24 adjust the purchase price and we would --
25 either the city would have to remit or do

1 something or there's a Section 7.07 (d), a
2 variance adjustment, could that result
3 either in reduction of the purchase price
4 which would impact us as taxpayers or the
5 application of a distribution improvement
6 charge which would impact us as ratepayers?

7 The agreement does contain a clause
8 that has bothered me, it was in the letter
9 that I sent to Mayor Courtright that he
10 refuses to respond to since May. Here's
11 what it says: "The buyer shall not propose
12 or implement a distribution improvement
13 system charge for the service area," and I'm
14 assuming that would be us, "waste water
15 customers before January 1, 2019. Is it
16 possible that distribution improvements
17 system charge may be applied after the first
18 of January 29, and if so would this charge
19 be exclusive of the 1.9 percent or inclusive
20 of that cap?"

21 I think that is -- that is very
22 pertinent. It looks as though we are going
23 to get another rate, we got all these storm
24 water issues, we still don't know what
25 that's going to cost. We don't know how

1 much the whole cost of this transaction is
2 going to cost. I don't know what the status
3 and I know there is something in there for
4 if they don't get the rights of way that
5 they were seeking called I think it was a
6 whole something, but anyway, I think we
7 really need to get the answers to those
8 questions because I just feel a train wreck
9 coming down the road.

10 And then a few other items, an
11 interesting legal notice in today's paper,
12 the first one was announcing that someone
13 who -- and this alone really boggled my mind
14 that three people in the same family work
15 for the Fire Department. And I can't
16 understand it's for -- they are seeking
17 assistance for -- though OECD for the
18 Homebuyer's Assistant Program and, frankly,
19 I can't understand how anybody that works in
20 our Fire Department could meet the low
21 moderate income so I don't really know --

22 MR. EVANS: I'll explain that.

23 MS. SCHUMACHER: -- what's going on.
24 You can do that in Fifth Order, if you
25 would, because I do have a few more. Then

1 on the retiree issue as well, again, I think
2 if I could finish on that one, I really
3 think you people, if it's true, that a
4 former solicitor, I have no idea who it was
5 that granted those from 2000 -- even the
6 ones from 2002 through 2010, if that was an
7 illegal action I think we should sue -- the
8 city should sue on behalf the taxpayers for
9 a refund. Thank you.

10 THE COURT: Thank you. Anyone else?

11 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,
12 citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians, I
13 listened to the last work project, of
14 course, I listened to it before, but that
15 building we used as warehousing after 2002
16 and it was used for warehousing, but since
17 the people of lower Greenridge supported the
18 original project I had no problem against
19 it. The only trouble that bothers me is
20 looking for grants because that project
21 originally was in three separate stages and
22 they wrote it for three separate grants. We
23 might as well just do it ourselves, borrow
24 again.

25 It's odd that if somebody wants

1 something in the city all they have to do is
2 come to the mayor and he arranges it.

3 Somebody wanted the golf course so that had
4 to be sold. Somebody wanted the old DPW
5 site so that had to be leased. Somebody
6 wanted the South Side Complex, that had to
7 be sold. Exactly what in the city is the
8 residents vow to keep except the debt.

9 As you know, the selling of the
10 garage for a dollar to me is malfeasance. I
11 believe we should hold -- have really an
12 informal some kind of -- well, a hearing on
13 it and give the total cost of this project
14 to the city. I think we are going to lose
15 anywhere from 130 to 150 million dollars
16 over the life of that contract, and I can
17 add and I only took 2014 budget and took the
18 figures from that and it's a lot worse.

19 As you know, if somebody gets a
20 parking ticket and don't pay it they have to
21 go to a justice of the peace. They don't
22 come back to the city and pay it. They have
23 to fight it in court. Is this right for the
24 citizens? You're going to destroy downtown.
25 People ain't going to come here to park, and

1 I don't blame them and there is no guarantee
2 that these people won't declare bankruptcy
3 and leave us with all of the debt. The debt
4 they took out because it's in the form of a
5 lease. We would have to take everything
6 that garages put out, all of the fees for
7 all the fines, the meter parking, and give
8 it to the bondholders. This is what I say
9 is that malfeasance? To me, it is and I'm
10 surprised that no government official has
11 called for a hearing on that deal. What are
12 they going to wait like Harrisburg and then
13 all of a sudden they are going to send in
14 the guy that said, "Well, you shouldn't have
15 done that."

16 Why was it done because the cost is
17 much more than we are getting and that's the
18 sad part. When you start paying more out
19 than you were getting in, well, I shouldn't
20 say getting in, that you had to pay out.
21 You had to pay out about three million or a
22 year, I don't know how many more years it
23 had to go because that wasn't told by the
24 newspaper. The newspaper only put out an
25 outline, a sketchy outline, but when you

1 look into anything in debt it wasn't a good
2 -- they called it not sweet. I called it
3 malfeasance, and I believe that's what it
4 should be.

5 We need a government hearing of some
6 type either from the Auditor General or from
7 even the Attorney General and look into the
8 total cost and why it was done. When
9 somebody is giving \$28 million at a
10 handshake that's what it amounts to. That's
11 not right and who was the other people? Did
12 they offer us money for the lease or did
13 they just say, "Hey, go with these other
14 guys because we like them, we will do better
15 for you?"

16 And the question is what are they
17 doing for you that bothers me because nobody
18 in their mind could accept that monetization
19 like you call it except people that were
20 getting something from it, and I'm sorry to
21 say a lot of people think the same way.
22 Thank you.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

24 MS. REED: FIRTH ORDER. 5-A.

25 MOTIONS.

1 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Perry?

2 MR. PERRY: Yes, I have one thing
3 tonight. I want to just thank Don Rinaldi
4 for coming over to our public hearing today
5 for a meeting. He is with the Lace building
6 affiliates and he kind of gave council a low
7 down on what's going on with the Scranton
8 Lace project and I was very happy with what
9 he had to say. Putting a development of
10 townhouses in that area, it's over ten
11 acres, he is already invested \$2 million
12 into this project which means he has skin in
13 the game. It's not going to be one of those
14 situations where you have a telemarketer
15 come in, unplug when they are done and leave
16 town. This person has money invested. This
17 group has money invested and when everything
18 is said and done it's going to be a \$15
19 million project with homes and these homes
20 bring families. With these families, bring
21 more revenue base to our city and I see a
22 lot of good things happening with this
23 project as it goes forward.

24 Afterward, I asked him as far as --
25 there is going to be a lot of construction,

1 a lot of jobs being done and I asked him how
2 he felt about hiring local workers and he
3 didn't even hesitate and he looked me right
4 in the eye and he said he believes in
5 prevailing wage, he honors it and he is
6 going to be hiring from our strong and
7 well-abled work force locally, which I was
8 very thrilled to see. And this is a great
9 example of public and private coop working
10 together to get something done for the
11 community and, you know, me for one I'm very
12 happy to see this go forward and I think
13 this is going to be a real asset for the
14 city. Thank you.

15 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Rogan?

16 MR. ROGAN: Yes, a couple of items.
17 First, and I love having to say this every
18 week, but I would like to thank our police
19 department again for a job well done. There
20 was a shooting in the Bellevue section of
21 Scranton and within two days the --
22 cooperating with other agencies the
23 individual was apprehended, so I want to
24 thank them for their hard dedicated work on
25 that. We are lucky that we live in a city

1 when there is a shooting it's a huge deal
2 that's it's not like some other cities,
3 south Wilkes-Barre, Hazelton, where it's
4 just another day so I want to thank them
5 tore their hard work and, again, it's
6 something I say almost every week about one
7 of our departments but it's something I like
8 saying and they certainly deserve thanks for
9 a job well done.

10 Second, an issue was brought up
11 regarding property at Richmond Street and I
12 did want to give a little bit of an update
13 about the land banks, there was actually
14 another issue that I'm currently working
15 with Mr. Koldjeski on, a property in the
16 Hill Section, it's a similar situation.
17 This property is -- this property is in the
18 land bank. I understand that the one on
19 Ridgmont Street is not, and it's also on the
20 city's demolition list, so the issue is
21 there is an individual that wants to
22 purchase the property but they don't want to
23 purchase it while it's on the city's
24 demolition list so it's kind of a chicken
25 before the egg type of situation where the

1 city doesn't want to take it off the
2 demolition list until there is somebody who
3 owns it that, you know, is going to do the
4 rehab and vice versa. The purchaser is not
5 going to buy a property that's on a
6 demolition list, that they purchase the
7 property a week later it could be demolished
8 so I have discussed this with Mr. Koldjeski
9 at length and also talked to Mr. Hinton and
10 right now it's with Attorney Shrive to see
11 what legal options there are to do in this
12 type of situation. Like I said, it's a
13 little bit different situation because this
14 one is in the land bank, there is a little
15 more government control that, but these type
16 of situation when there is a property that's
17 dangerous, dilapidated, if there's somebody
18 that wants to rehab it we need to do
19 everything we can to make that happen. The
20 last thing we want to see is buildings torn
21 down, especially historic buildings.

22 Next, Councilman Perry touched on
23 this already, the Lace Work project, and it
24 seems that it's been a long time coming,
25 obviously since 2002 with the building being

1 vacant. The residents in that neighborhood
2 I'm sure feel like it's a lot longer than
3 2002, but even for myself I did ask in the
4 back prior to the start it feels like since
5 the 90's that the building has been vacant,
6 but this project I'm confident will be
7 really be a great project for the city,
8 particularly the lower Greenridge
9 neighborhood. Driving through there that's
10 the first thing you see and it's an eyesore.
11 It a huge undertaking and I want to thank
12 Mr. Rinaldi for taking that on. I know he
13 has a track record of doing a good job with
14 other projects within the city, but one
15 thing I want to stress that Mr. Evans
16 brought up, the proposed LERTA will not
17 reduce the current taxes that are paid on
18 the property. What they are currently
19 paying they will continue to pay. The only
20 tax break they will receive is on the new
21 construction and the townhouse side which,
22 as was mentioned, would be between 36 and
23 196 units, and even on the low end if each
24 one of those individuals, even they are
25 making a smaller salary, that's quite a bit

1 of money that's coming back in the city in
2 the form of wage tax and in the form of
3 other taxes, and not to mention living
4 there, shopping in the shops within the
5 area, I know there is some good restaurants
6 in the area as well, so I really think this
7 project overall will be a boon for the city.

8 There is lot of talk especially in
9 the media about connecting that to the city
10 and idea of linking this project with the
11 medical school, with the universities one
12 way or another whether it's by -- I would
13 love to see a trolley car but hat's probably
14 not going to happen, but some type of
15 pathway would be excellent, and there really
16 is a demand for this type of housing.

17 When the apartments were started in
18 downtown Scranton I know the first
19 developers that stepped into that were
20 probably told by a number of people they
21 were crazy, and then when the projects were
22 done they had waitlists for the rentals, you
23 know, as thick as this packet in front of me
24 so that's been a great success and I'm
25 confident this project will be as well so

1 I'm very glad to support that.

2 And, finally, sticking with the
3 economic development theme, we also have a
4 vote tonight for an economic development
5 loan to grant for Roll Call. And the nice
6 story about this one is the property that
7 Roll Call purchased in Keyser Valley there
8 was a business there and they grew too big
9 to be in that current facility, they moved
10 to Dunmore, so we lost one business. The
11 good news is Roll Call was based in Duryea
12 and they moving to Scranton which is a story
13 I wish we could tell more often that we are
14 taking a business from one of the
15 neighboring communities and bringing it back
16 into Scranton, and in the process they are
17 going to create eight full -- eight new
18 full-time hires and those jobs have to be
19 from low to moderate income individuals.

20 A speaker did mention the
21 compliance, the compliance is actually done
22 by Tom Preambo in OECD. We actually met to
23 go over this loan and couple of others that
24 are going to be coming in the coming weeks.
25 He stated on top of compliance issues they

1 are very strict federal regulations with on
2 the job creation of these type of loans, and
3 although there have been issues with other
4 types of loans, these job creating loans
5 have been very successful in the city. I
6 know that he would do a good job to
7 administer it.

8 And another thing that should be
9 noted, these funds were actually sitting in
10 the city coffers for decades in a dormant
11 account that really couldn't be used.
12 Thanks to cooperation with Governor Wolf's
13 office, the city was given permission to
14 repurpose these funds to use them for these
15 type of programs. I do know there is a
16 similar loan to grant that will be on our
17 agenda a next week, I think there is a third
18 one that will be coming down from that same
19 pot of funds, so all in all it's a very
20 positive meeting tonight on the economic
21 development front, so I will leave it a
22 that. Thank you.

23 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you.

24 Mr. Evans?

25 MR. EVANS: Thank you. To answer

1 Ms. Schumacher's question about the legal
2 ad, to the best of my knowledge, I don't
3 have the full story, but an individual is
4 purchasing property through the First Time
5 Homebuyer's Program. They are not an
6 employee of the City of Scranton, however, a
7 sibling is an employee of the City of
8 Scranton. For some reason, OECD is looking
9 for a ruling from HUD and that was one of
10 the recommendations that they print a legal
11 ad stating that this is the situation that's
12 happening. I don't know why, I don't think
13 it's a conflict at all that somebody is
14 buying a house, a first time homebuyer. In
15 fact, I wish everybody in city hall that
16 bought a house was a first time homebuyer,
17 but as you mentioned, a fire fighter
18 wouldn't even qualify because he makes too
19 much money, but this individual does and
20 they are not an employee, just related to an
21 employee so that's -- hopefully that's the
22 answer to that.

23 There was a recent article in the
24 Times discussing some efforts in Clarks
25 Green to pick up leaves so the Borough

1 provides free bags to all of residents and
2 students from the All Peace School canvas
3 the entire neighborhood and they drop off
4 and leave it to all of the residents so I
5 thought it was a great idea. The Borough
6 Public Works employees pick up the garbage
7 bags -- or the leaf bags Monday through
8 Friday -- or Monday through Thursday until
9 December 1.

10 I bring this up because last year --
11 well, first of all, they seem to have a plan
12 so that's encouraging, so last year I was
13 reminded by a taxpayer that on several
14 occasions the DPW actually suspended
15 newspaper recycling to pick up leaves and we
16 were still picking up leaves until around
17 Christmas, so I'd like to send a note to DPW
18 to see what the plan is for this year, if
19 there is a little more coordinated plan and
20 also there always seems to be a question of
21 what you put the leaves in. Do you put them
22 in a plastic bag or do you open the plastic
23 bag? Do you close the plastic bag? Should
24 it be in a paper bag like you get at
25 supermarkets? Maybe even the recycling

1 coordinator could be involved in this, too,
2 because I think what we should be moving
3 towards, if we haven't already, is having
4 residents put them in large paper bags that
5 can be recycled as well so I'd like to see
6 if we can get ahead of that and develop a
7 plan this year before the trees truly start
8 fall off the trees.

9 A couple of weeks ago I briefly
10 discussed the term entrepreneurial
11 government that was quoted to me tonight
12 from a speaker that I was kind of excited
13 that people were actually listening out
14 there so that's nice, so tonight I want to
15 expand on that discussion a little bit.

16 First of all, a little background.
17 The term entrepreneur is coined by a French
18 economist JP Slade around the year 1800.
19 His definition was someone who shifts
20 economic resources out of an area of lower
21 productivity and into an area of higher
22 productivity and greater yield. An
23 entrepreneur, in other words, as I discussed
24 previously, uses resources in new ways to
25 maximize productivity and effectiveness so

1 when we discuss an entrepreneurial model of
2 government, we are talking about public
3 sector institutions that habitually act this
4 way, that constantly use their resources in
5 new ways to heighten both their efficiency
6 and their effectiveness. This is what we --
7 that is what and where we need to be, to
8 habitually act in an entrepreneurial way.

9 Peter Drucker, who will be familiar
10 to anyone who was ever taken a business
11 management course, assured us that almost
12 anyone could be a entrepreneur if the
13 organization is structured to encourage
14 entrepreneurship. Conversely, almost any
15 entrepreneur could be turned into a
16 bureaucrat if the organization structured to
17 encourage bureaucratic behavior.

18 He also stated that the most
19 entrepreneurial, innovative people behave
20 like the worst bureaucratic or power-hungry
21 politician six months after they have taken
22 over the management of the public sector
23 institution, particularly if it is a
24 government institution. This should sound
25 familiar to any of us who had experience

1 with this and other levels of government.

2 So it really does confirm to me that
3 it is all about the systems and the
4 structure of the organization within those
5 systems that will allow us to change
6 individual behavior and to become an
7 entrepreneurial government and if we can
8 make that shift we can have hope that we can
9 move beyond Act 47 and actually survive and
10 thrive.

11 So, again, in the coming weeks I
12 will be digging a little deeper into how an
13 entrepreneurial government works as well as
14 fully explore the concept of truly
15 reinventing our government. That's all I
16 have tonight. Thanks.

17 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you,
18 Mr. Gaughan.

19 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, thank you. First
20 comment, I spoke to the Youngs today, I'm
21 still waiting for an update on what's going
22 on with their situation on Wyoming Avenue
23 and the large hole that continues to get
24 bigger every day. Right now they feel
25 hopeless. They have not heard from anyone

1 in the city in quite some time and I know
2 that they have been trying to get in touch
3 with the mayor since the end of the summer.
4 He had promised them that this problem would
5 be taken care of, yet, when they go to his
6 office or they call him he refuses to meet
7 with them or answer their questions.

8 So, Mrs. Reed, if you could again
9 send a letter to the administration asking
10 what the hold up is and what the status is
11 of this problem because I am worried about
12 somebody getting hurt in that area.

13 A resident posed a question about
14 the dumping going on off Mineral Avenue and
15 our DPW director did get in touch with our
16 office and explain that the city uses this
17 area to store the milling product when roads
18 are being paved throughout the city. There
19 has been an uptick of trucks in that area
20 due to the amount of paving that's been
21 going on in the city and the DPW actually
22 reuses the product as a result of the
23 milling for future road repairs and it's
24 stored in this area so that is why residents
25 are seeing more truck traffic in the past

1 few months.

2 On the issue of the recycling, I did
3 receive a few e-mails from people who live
4 in housing projects throughout the city that
5 they still are not able to recycle in the
6 housing project so I would like, Mrs. Reed,
7 if we could get an update from our recycling
8 consultant on any efforts that are being
9 made in that regard.

10 And as it relates to Mr. Evans
11 talking about the leaf pickup, I would agree
12 with him 100 percent, and my recommendation,
13 this is going on two years now, is for the
14 city and other municipalities do this, when
15 they mail out their garbage bills they mail
16 out a calendar, a 12-month calendar with
17 what the scheduled pickup is, how you
18 recycle leaves and other things so I think
19 if we are moving into the next year or two I
20 think we should develop that and try to get
21 that going because it is very helpful, and I
22 do get asked all of the time what the
23 policies and procedures are of the DPW so if
24 we could recommend that I would appreciate
25 it.

1 I would like to say that I fully
2 support the Greenridge Neighborhood
3 Association in their lawsuit to obtain a
4 Court determination on whether the Scranton
5 Sewer Authority and the city improperly
6 allowed the Keystone Sanitary Landfill to
7 pipe leachate throughout Greenridge. The
8 issues of leachate and the landfill,
9 although they haven't come up in this forum
10 in few weeks, are so important not only to
11 the people of Greenridge but in my opinion
12 to the city as a whole. The future of our
13 area depends upon both of these battles.

14 And to end, our project to
15 transition city council paperless meetings
16 is going very well, as I spoke about in the
17 caucus. Our staff is scheduled to be
18 trained on this new program within the next
19 few weeks and we are working with the
20 company Granicus on a smooth transition so
21 I'll keep everybody updated on that. And
22 that is all I have this week. Thank you.

23 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. No baby
24 yet, right?

25 MR. GAUGHAN: No baby as far as I

1 know.

2 MR. WECHSLER: I just have a few
3 items here, in our effort that we started a
4 few weeks ago working on getting some
5 updates on pave cuts in the city paving, as
6 Mr. Hazzouri had told us, he did give us an
7 update on the some of projects that are
8 going on in the city. He gave us the street
9 report this week. Cedar Avenue, the 3100
10 and 3200 blocks the gas company work that
11 will be paved next week which is 10-17. On
12 the Eynon Street intersection there is going
13 to be some work done being next week and
14 paving will commence the follow week for
15 that.

16 He also gave us an update on some
17 work. This work will be done and the roads
18 will be -- the work will be done and the
19 roads will be permanently, a permanent
20 paving problem will not be until next
21 spring. There is a project on Milo Street.
22 There is a project on the 300 to 400 block
23 of Crown. There also is Colliery Avenue
24 between Davis Street and Lowery Street and
25 then will is also projects on Burke, Kane,

1 and Lowery Street and the last one would be
2 again, Colliery and Davis, between Davis and
3 Street and Colliery Street. So Mr.
4 Hazzouri has given us this update. These
5 will be available from council for council
6 members and we'll see what we can do to get
7 it out to the public.

8 In addition to that, I have arranged
9 to have meeting with Jim Hoover, who is the
10 superintendent of the projects for the
11 Pennsylvania American Water Company. I am
12 going to meet with Mr. Hoover on Monday to
13 discuss the procedures that they use with
14 their contractors for making sure that the
15 permanent repairs and the utility work is
16 done to the required specifications. We
17 have had some residents calling us and
18 calling the council office suggesting that
19 they are concerned that some of them may not
20 be done properly. I don't have a feeling on
21 that yet so that's why I did want to meet
22 with Mr. Hoover and see what his concerns
23 are and how they are handling the repairs
24 and the inspections afterwards.

25 This week I did meet with the

1 representatives from NDC, especially Michael
2 Gaughan and Dave Trevasani. It was an
3 introductory meeting for me to get familiar
4 with them and familiar within the NDC. We
5 had a great open discussion about their
6 plans for the city and what they expect from
7 us, and some of the matters that we touched
8 on were the parking security and the camera
9 systems and Mr. Perry is following up with
10 that next week. We also discussed what
11 their plans are for building development and
12 properties that they own, especially the
13 Linden Street garage and the building that
14 their office was in, where the Coliseum was,
15 and also with Molly Branigan's so they are
16 very anxious to begin development on that.

17 As we kicked around in many years,
18 we did address with them the possibility of
19 emergency parking at the garages during
20 winter storms for effective snow removal, it
21 is something that they are going to have to
22 work on. I kind of suggested to them the
23 fact that if we can get the streets cleaned
24 faster it would be more beneficial for their
25 meter revenue so it is something that they

1 are going to take a look at, and we also
2 discussed coming up with some type of a plan
3 for special event parking in town that right
4 now since parking meters are going to --
5 parking fees are going to aggressively
6 pursued in order to make this deal work we
7 are going to take a look and make sure that
8 any open events that are downtown won't be
9 negatively affected by parking meters.

10 I also did bring up the meetings
11 being open to the public. Right now there
12 is not a meeting scheduled, there is no
13 meeting scheduled right now with this,
14 basically it sounds like there is going to
15 be a least one annual meeting that's held in
16 the city. The other meetings will probably
17 not. Those, like I said, it will probably
18 be one annual meeting of that and then there
19 will be update reports given to us and the
20 board members.

21 Continuing the good news of this
22 evening on the economic development, and
23 it's been a long time since we have talked
24 about that, and the fact it was several
25 different projects going on I think it leads

1 to the fact that we are making progress in
2 the city and we are getting a better
3 reputation. People are coming back and
4 taking another look at Scranton. Today Mrs.
5 Reed represented city council at a meeting
6 that was held in Senator Blake's Office
7 concerning the development of the Viewmont
8 Mall. As everyone knows, a lot of the new
9 development be in Scranton. The demarkation
10 I guess is halfway through Penny's to the
11 right as you go into the mall. Those stores
12 are in the city and so there will be major
13 construction there as well.

14 And as Mr. Perry referenced, there
15 is going to be an opportunity for the trades
16 over the next couple of years in this area
17 because of these developments the Lace
18 works, this project and a lot of different
19 things that are going on so it will be
20 beneficial for our construction trade
21 workers and also the permit fees that are
22 going to come into the city, and just to
23 finish up and touch on the Lace Works
24 project, I think it's very similar to the
25 North Scranton project. That's a project

1 that was started, it really took a long time
2 for it to get it's feet on the ground, but
3 when you go up to the Goodwill site and
4 Scranton Junior High School the wait was
5 worth it. In fact, that an anchor now for
6 the North Scranton neighborhood and I think
7 this facility now will also be an anchor for
8 lower Greenridge and the Bulls Head
9 neighborhood. Those neighbors have been
10 very patient down there and they have been
11 very cooperative at assisting this program.
12 I think that the theme tonight is that the
13 work is paying off and tonight Mr. Rinaldi
14 was not here asking for a grant he was
15 asking for a LERTA. The LERTA program is a
16 good program for us because we don't have
17 cash. We don't have any cash to invest in
18 the project, but we can forgive taxes or not
19 collect taxes, which is our investment in
20 these type of projects and since the fact
21 they are going to continue to pay what they
22 pay it really has no impact on taxpayers.
23 And that's all I have. Thank you.

24 MS. REED: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION -
25 AN ORDINANCE - VACATING ANY AND ALL RIGHT,

1 TITLE AND INTEREST OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON
2 IN THE RIGHT-OF-WAY OF A PORTION OF NORTH
3 EIGHTH AVENUE IN THE CITY OF SCRANTON, AS
4 MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED ON THE MAP AND
5 PROPERTY DESCRIPTION ATTACHED HERETO.

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

9 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

10 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

14 MR. PERRY: Aye.

15 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

16 MR. EVANS: Aye.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

20 MS. REED: 5-C. OR INTRODUCTION -
21 AN ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
22 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO ACCEPT
23 AND DISBURSE GRANT FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF
24 \$94,268.00 AWARDED THROUGH THE U. S.
25 DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE BODY-WORN CAMERA PILOT

1 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM TO PURCHASE AND
2 DEPLOY BODY-WORN CAMERAS FOR THE SCRANTON
3 POLICE DEPARTMENT.

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

7 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

8 MR. EVANS: Second.

9 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

10 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.

11 I just want to commend Chief Graziano and
12 the police department for seeking out and
13 being awarded this grant. The body camera
14 program has proven across the country to be
15 an effective way to enhance accountability
16 and transparency while strengthening the
17 public trust in their law enforcement
18 agency. I think this program is good now
19 for the public trust, but making sure that
20 we are protecting our police officers, so I
21 fully support this program. Thank you.

22 MR. ROGAN: I would just add I agree
23 wholeheartedly with those comments, and
24 also, many of the incidents that we have
25 seen across this country over the last year

1 if people hadn't seen what actually happened
2 there wouldn't have been riots in the
3 streets, there wouldn't have been all of
4 these instances, and as I mentioned earlier,
5 we have one of the best police officers
6 departments in the country that's why that
7 doesn't happen in Scranton, but if an
8 officer is falsely accused of doing
9 something, which has happened in many of
10 these instances, these cameras can show the
11 truth so this is something I fully support.

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

14 MR. PERRY: Aye.

15 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

16 MR. EVANS: Aye.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

20 MS. REED: 5-D. FOR INTRODUCTION -
21 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
22 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE
23 AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH SANDONE TIRE
24 TO PROVIDE NEW TIRES FOR CITY OWNED VEHICLES
25 FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2017 THROUGH

1 DECEMBER 31, 2017.

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

5 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

6 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

10 MR. PERRY: Aye.

11 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

12 MR. EVANS: Aye.

13 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

16 MS. REED: 5-E. FOR INTRODUCTION - A
17 RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
18 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND
19 ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH SANDONE TIRE TO
20 PROVIDE RETREAD TIRES FOR CITY OWNED
21 VEHICLES FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2017
22 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2017.

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

1 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

2 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

6 MR. PERRY: Aye.

7 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

8 MR. EVANS: Aye.

9 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

12 MS. REED: 5-F. FOR INTRODUCTION -
13 A RESOLUTION- AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
14 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS FOR THE
15 CITY OF SCRANTON TO ENTER INTO A LOAN TO
16 GRANT AGREEMENT AND MAKE A LOAN/GRANT FROM
17 THE CITY OF SCRANTON BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY
18 LOAN/GRANT PROGRAM FOR PROJECT NO.150.37 IN
19 AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$250,000.00 TO ROLL
20 CALL LLC, TO ASSIST AN ELIGIBLE PROJECT.

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

24 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

25 MR. EVANS: Second.

1 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?
2 Just one comment on the question, Councilman
3 Rogan referred to that this money had been
4 held up and that the Governor worked with us
5 to release it and I think it's a testament
6 to, once again, the efforts that the council
7 and the administration have had with working
8 with Governor Wolf that is he willing to
9 work with us in these instances. Once
10 again, I think it's a benefit of what we
11 have been doing to try and get our financial
12 house in order that Governor Wolf is being
13 more responsive to us. All those in favor
14 of introduction signify by saying aye.

15 MR. PERRY: Aye.

16 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

17 MR. EVANS: Aye.

18 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

21 MS. REED: 5-G. FOR INTRODUCTION -
22 A RESOLUTION - RATIFYING AND APPROVING THE
23 EXECUTION AND SUBMISSION OF THE GRANT
24 APPLICATION BY THE CITY OF SCRANTON ON
25 BEHALF OF THE NORTH SCRANTON NEIGHBORHOOD

1 ASSOCIATION TO THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT
2 OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT(DCED)
3 FOR A LOCAL SHARE ACCOUNT GRANT (GAMING
4 FUNDS) MONROE COUNTY IN THE AMOUNT OF
5 \$52,340.00 FOR RENOVATIONS TO MCLAIN PARK
6 AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
7 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO ACCEPT THE
8 GRANT, IF SUCCESSFUL, AND DISBURSE THE GRANT
9 FUNDS FOR THE RENOVATION OF MCLAIN PARK
10 LOCATED ON ROCKWELL AVENUE IN NORTH
11 SCRANTON.

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

15 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

16 MR. EVANS: Second.

17 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

18 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.
19 I just want to say that I'm in full support
20 of this grant application. I use this park
21 almost daily, I live right across the street
22 and there has been no money put in this park
23 in over 20 years. The playground equipment
24 is in pretty bad condition, it needs to be
25 replaced. Bangor Heights, which is a

1 housing project, is located a block away.
2 To say that there are hundreds of children
3 that use this a week is an understatement
4 and then you have all of the families that
5 use the softball field who bring their
6 children who use the park so this grant
7 application I'm hopeful that we will receive
8 the money from the state and that we will
9 start to breathe new life into this area of
10 the city and into this park. Thank you.

11 MR. WECHSLER: Yes, echoing
12 Mr. Gaughan's comments, we have been trying
13 to assist the North Scranton Neighborhood
14 Association in working with them to help
15 develop this program and they are working
16 very hard on it, also, and there is a
17 tremendous commitment from them and from the
18 residents in North Scranton to improve this
19 park which is really the center of that old
20 neighborhood and kids do use it so I think
21 this will be a worthy investment with every
22 type of money we can get in there.

23 MR. EVANS: I agree. When we see
24 neighbors that taking ownership like they
25 have similar to what has happened with South

1 Scranton and Connors Park and in Greenridge
2 at Crowley Park that's where it starts. You
3 know, as Councilman Wechsler just said, you
4 know, the neighbors have rallied around
5 this, they are fully supportive of this and
6 they will take ownership of this once it's
7 operational again.

8 MR. WECHSLER: All those in favor of
9 introduction signify by saying aye.

10 MR. PERRY: Aye.

11 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

12 MR. EVANS: Aye.

13 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

16 MS. REED: SIXTH ORDER. 6-A. NO
17 BUSINESS AT THIS TIME.

18 SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR
19 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE -
20 FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 55,
21 2016- CREATING AND ESTABLISHING SPECIAL
22 CITY ESCROW ACCOUNT NO. 02.229620 ENTITLED
23 "HARB" TO ACCEPT AND DISBURSE FUNDS RECEIVED
24 FROM THE HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURE REVIEW
25 BOARD APPLICATIONS FOR THE CERTIFICATE OF

1 APPROPRIATENESS.

2 MR. WECHSLER: What is the
3 recommendation of the Chairperson for the
4 Committee on Finance?

5 MR. EVANS: As Chairperson for the
6 Committee on Finance, I recommend final
7 passage of Item 7-A.

8 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

12 MR. PERRY: Yes.

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

14 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

16 MR. EVANS: Yes.

17 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

18 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

19 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

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

23 MS. REED: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION BY
24 THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS - FOR ADOPTION
25 - RESOLUTION NO. 74, 2016 - AUTHORIZING THE

1 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS
2 TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH D.
3 G. NICHOLAS COMPANY TO PROVIDE THE CITY BULK
4 OIL DELIVERED FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2017
5 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2017.

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

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

12 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

16 MR. PERRY: Yes.

17 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

18 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

19 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

20 MR. EVANS: Yes.

21 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

22 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

23 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

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

1 adopted.

2 MS. REED: 7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION BY
3 THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS - FOR ADOPTION
4 - RESOLUTION NO. 75, 2016 - RATIFYING AND
5 APPROVING THE EXECUTION AND SUBMISSION OF
6 THE GRANT APPLICATION BY THE CITY OF
7 SCRANTON TO THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF
8 COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ("DCED")
9 FOR A LOCAL SHARE ACCOUNT GRANT (GAMING
10 FUNDS) MONROE COUNTY IN THE AMOUNT OF
11 \$236,600.00 FOR A PAVING PROJECT TO BE
12 COMPLETED IN THE OAKWOOD DEVELOPMENT IN
13 SCRANTON'S WEST SIDE.

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

17 MR. GAUGHAN: As Chairperson for the
18 Committee on Public Works, I recommend final
19 passage of Item 7-C.

20 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

23 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

24 MR. PERRY: Yes.

25 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

1 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

2 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

3 MR. EVANS: Yes.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

5 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

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

10 MS. REED: 7-D. FOR CONSIDERATION BY
11 THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY-FOR ADOPTION
12 - RESOLUTION NO. 76, 2016 - RATIFYING AND
13 APPROVING THE EXECUTION AND SUBMISSION OF
14 THE GRANT APPLICATION BY THE CITY OF
15 SCRANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT TO THE
16 PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND
17 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ("DCED") FOR A LOCAL
18 SHARE ACCOUNT GRANT (GAMING FUNDS) MONROE
19 COUNTY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$44,125.00 FOR THE
20 PURCHASE OF A VEHICLE FOR THE SCRANTON
21 POLICE DEPARTMENT FIRE MARSHALL.

22 MR. WECHSLER: What is the
23 recommendation of the Chairperson for the
24 Committee on Public Safety?

25 MR. PERRY: As Chairperson for the

1 Committee on Public Safety, I recommend
2 final passage of Item 7-D.

3 MR. ROGAN: Second.

4 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

5 Roll call, please?

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

7 MR. PERRY: Yes.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

9 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

11 MR. EVANS: Yes.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

13 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

14 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

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

18 MS. REED: 7-E. FOR CONSIDERATION BY
19 THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - FOR
20 ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 77, 2016 -
21 RATIFYING AND APPROVING OF THE EXECUTION AND
22 SUBMISSION OF THE GRANT APPLICATION BY THE
23 CITY OF SCRANTON, ON BEHALF OF UNITED
24 NEIGHBORHOOD CENTERS OF NORTHEASTERN
25 PENNSYLVANIA (UNC), TO THE PENNSYLVANIA

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

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

20 MR. ROGAN: As Chair for the
21 Committee on Community Development, I
22 recommend final passage of Item 7-E.

23 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

2 MR. PERRY: Yes.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

4 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

6 MR. EVANS: Yes.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

8 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

10 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby

11 declare Item 7-E legally and lawfully

12 adopted.

13 If there is no further business,

14 I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

15 MR. ROGAN: Motion to adjourn.

16 MR. WECHSLER: Meeting adjourned.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I hereby certify that the proceedings and evidence are contained fully and accurately in the notes of testimony taken by me at the hearing of the above-captioned matter and that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the same to the best of my ability.

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER