

1 SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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HELD:

Thursday, November 3rd, 2016

LOCATION:

Council Chambers  
Scranton City Hall  
340 North Washington Avenue  
Scranton, Pennsylvania

MARIA McCOOL, RPR  
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

1 (Pledge of Allegiance.)

2  
3 MR. WECHSLER: Please remain  
4 standing for a moment of silent reflection for  
5 our service men and women throughout the world  
6 and also for those who have passed away in our  
7 community.

8 This week we especially mourn the  
9 loss of neighborhood activist Dick Lasky. I  
10 know Dick was one of the first person I met  
11 when I became active in the neighborhood  
12 associations. He was truly a committed servant  
13 to the people of the City of Scranton. We need  
14 more Dick Lasky's in the world and he will be  
15 sorely missed.

16  
17 (Moment of silence.)

18  
19 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Roll  
20 call, please.

21 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

22 MR. PERRY: Here.

23 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

24 MR. ROGAN: Here.

25 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

1 MR. EVANS: Here.

2 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

3 MR. GAUGHAN: Here.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

5 MR. WECHSLER: Here. This evening  
6 we're going to have a proclamation that  
7 Councilman Rogan will take care of.

8 MR. ROGAN: Thank you, everyone.  
9 Before I begin, I just want to start off by  
10 saying I have known Bayard for a long time. We  
11 have went to high school together. We sat  
12 through many lunches together. He's a great  
13 guy him and his wife. They're great people.  
14 They're what Scranton's all about. So we do  
15 have a proclamation I'd like to read and  
16 present to them.

17 WHEREAS, the Council Of The City of  
18 Scranton is desirous in honoring Bayard and  
19 Jennifer Williams who are committed serving the  
20 March of Dimes; and

21 WHEREAS, Bayard and Jennifer are the  
22 parents of Nathan Williams who was born  
23 premature at 24 weeks and 3 days. And through  
24 the help of March of Dimes, the four days  
25 Bayard and Jennifer had with their angel will

1 never be forgotten; and

2 WHEREAS, Bayard and Jennifer are the  
3 proud parents of their miracle son Russell  
4 Anthony; and

5 WHEREAS, Bayard and Jennifer along  
6 with TeamNate807 are dedicated to serving the  
7 March of Dimes with their mission of funding  
8 research to find out what causes premature  
9 birth and ways to prevent it, supporting  
10 families with premature babies and the newborn  
11 intensive care unit and helping women have full  
12 term pregnancies and healthy babies; and

13 WHEREAS, TeamNate807 has received  
14 the Spirit Award and the Silver Award in 2016  
15 and has been selected as an ambassador team for  
16 2017; and

17 WHEREAS, the TeamNate807 has already  
18 raised approximately \$10,000 and hopes to  
19 exceed the goal of \$25,000 by April; and

20 WHEREAS, Bayard Williams serves as  
21 Chairman of the Executive Leadership Team; and

22 WHEREAS, Jennifer Williams has been  
23 so gracious, strong, gallant with sharing her  
24 family story as a mother who lost her first son  
25 and for raising awareness and money so other

1 parents and families don't go through the loss  
2 she and her family did.

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that  
4 on Thursday, November 3rd, 2016, Scranton City  
5 Council wishes to congratulate Bayard and  
6 Jennifer Williams for their support of a  
7 wonderful cause and extend their best wishes  
8 for a successful fundraising effort.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this  
10 proclamation will be made a permanent part of  
11 the record of this Council as a lasting tribute  
12 to Bayard and Jennifer Williams. And I'll now  
13 present their proclamation.

14 MR. ROGAN: I would like to make a  
15 motion to take from the table file of Council  
16 Number 50, 2016.

17 MR. EVANS: Second.

18 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

19 (No response.)

20 MR. WECHSLER: This piece is being  
21 taken from the table and placed in seventh  
22 order for a final vote. It is the OECD 2017  
23 Action Plan. Anyone who wishes to speak on  
24 this particular piece of legislation may do so  
25 during fourth order citizen's participation.

1 All those in favor signify by saying aye.

2 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

3 MR. WECHSLER: Opposed?

4 (No response.)

5 MR. WECHSLER: The ayes have it and  
6 so moved. Dispense of the reading of the  
7 minutes.

8 MS. REED: THIRD ORDER. 3A. TAX  
9 ASSESSOR'S RESULTS REPORTS FOR HEARING DATES  
10 HELD OCTOBER 12 AND OCTOBER 13, 2016.

11 MR. WECHSLER: Are there any  
12 comments? If not, received and filed.

13 MS. REED: 3B. SINGLE TAX OFFICE  
14 INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED  
15 DECEMBER 31, 2014.

16 MR. WECHSLER: Are there any  
17 comments? If not, received and filed.

18 MS. REED: 3C. MINUTES OF THE  
19 SCRANTON-LACKAWANNA HEALTH & WELFARE AUTHORITY  
20 MEETING HELD JULY 21, 2016.

21 MR. WECHSLER: Are there any  
22 comments? If not, received and filed. Do  
23 council members have any announcements?

24 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, I have one. The  
25 Steamtown National Historic site plans to honor

1           our military veterans and their families with  
2           an entrance fee free day for everyone on  
3           Veterans Day which is Friday, November 11th.

4                   The entrance fee free weekend at  
5           Steamtown includes complimentary admission to  
6           the park grounds, museum complex exhibits, and  
7           scheduled walking tours but will not include  
8           train rides and amenity fees charges by the  
9           park.

10                   Additionally, all active duty  
11           military members and their dependents will be  
12           able to obtain an annual park pass at \$80  
13           value at no charge during their visit to the  
14           Steamtown National Historic Site. Thank you.

15                   MR. WECHSLER: Mary Mother of God's  
16           Parish annual roast beef dinner is being  
17           scheduled for Sunday, November 6th from noon to  
18           four at Stirna's Restaurant.

19                   Also the Lackawanna County River  
20           Conservation Association is holding its second  
21           Rocking The River benefit, which will be  
22           November 4th from 6 p.m. to 11 at the Hilton  
23           Inn in Scranton.

24                   Next week City Hall will be closed  
25           on Tuesday, November 8th for Election Day as

1 well as Friday, November 11th in observance of  
2 Veterans Day. DPW will not be working on  
3 Election Day. Refuse and blue recycling will  
4 be a day late next week.

5 This weekend, daylight savings time  
6 ends. Please remember to set your clocks back  
7 one hour and also remember to check your smoke  
8 detectors that they are in proper working  
9 order.

10 MS. REED: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZEN'S  
11 PARTICIPATION.

12 MR. WECHSLER: Joan Hodowanitz.

13 MS. HODOWANITZ: Joan Hodowanitz,  
14 Scranton resident and taxpayer. Today is  
15 November 3rd. The City's independent audit is  
16 now 157 days late. Do we have any status on  
17 the audit?

18 MR. WECHSLER: Same as before.

19 MS. HODOWANITZ: Okay. Do we have  
20 any information on a proposed work session to  
21 which the public will be invited?

22 MR. WECHSLER: No. Once again, we  
23 have been told that the audit will be available  
24 for budget time.

25 MS. HODOWANITZ: I'm sorry?



1 MR. WECHSLER: It will be available  
2 for budget time.

3 MS. HODOWANITZ: Okay. Define  
4 budget time.

5 MR. WECHSLER: Well, November 15th  
6 is when we start the -- it has to be down to --

7 MS. HODOWANITZ: Okay. In regards  
8 to the 2017 operating budget, do you expect you  
9 will have it next Thursday, November 10th or  
10 November 17th or somewhere in between November  
11 15th?

12 MR. WECHSLER: I'm planning on it  
13 being on time.

14 MS. HODOWANITZ: Okay. I also hope  
15 that the City will manage to get it on its  
16 website. At the same time it is impractical to  
17 stand either at the clerk's desk or sit in the  
18 library to go through a paper copy. It's much  
19 better to have it online and then it could be  
20 downloaded and printed as necessary. It's also  
21 cheaper, not 25 cents a page. It's usually a  
22 100-page document.

23 With regard to the issue of the  
24 double pensions, next Wednesday is the next  
25 round of Pension Board meetings. And if you

1           during Fifth Order brief the public on what  
2           actions the Council will be taking with regard  
3           to investigating the issue of double pensions  
4           now that the State Police have terminated their  
5           investigation.

6                       And also with regard to the issue of  
7           pensions, Mr. Gaughan I think two weeks ago was  
8           asking about the status of the third party  
9           administrator that the Mayor intended to  
10          appoint to oversee the pensions. He put out a  
11          press release on March 18th, several months ago  
12          which he said quote, From this point onward,  
13          the City's pension funds will be managed by a  
14          nationally recognized third party  
15          administrator.

16                      This was followed on April 16th by  
17          an article in the Times-Tribune in which  
18          Mr. Bulzoni stated that police and firefighter  
19          unions agree to have a third party  
20          administrator manage their funds but that that  
21          person's role had not been determined.

22                      That was to be done after the City  
23          secured financing for the back court award of  
24          backpay. Well, that also has transpired  
25          several months ago. So the question is, what

1 is the status of a third party administrator?  
2 I have seen nothing about an RFP. Have they  
3 even defined this person's duties? If not, why  
4 not? And if there is going to be no third  
5 party administrator in the near future, I would  
6 like some kind of statement from the  
7 administration to that effect and their  
8 reasoning.

9 And finally, I understand that  
10 tomorrow at 9 a.m. in the Chamber of Commerce,  
11 the Mayor will deliver his State Of The City  
12 Address and that this address will be open to  
13 the public. So I'd encourage all members of  
14 the public who are available to attend and see  
15 what the Mayor has to tell us about the future  
16 of Scranton. Thank you.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: And, Miss Hodowanitz,  
18 just to respond to your question, this will be  
19 maybe the fifth or sixth month now that I've  
20 asked about the third party administrator. So  
21 I don't know. Maybe if one of these other  
22 gentlemen up here ask, they'll get an answer.

23 But I can't -- my questions don't  
24 get answered. So I doubt that you'll hear  
25 anything any time soon unless you do a Right to

1 Know.

2 MS. HODOWANITZ: I may have to do  
3 that. Maybe the Mayor will take questions  
4 tomorrow morning and that would be one I would  
5 ask.

6 MR. WECHSLER: Fay Franus.

7 MS. FRANUS: Fay Franus, Scranton.  
8 Mr. Evans, did you get that information I asked  
9 about two weeks ago?

10 MR. EVANS: No, Fay. I looked at it  
11 again and I'm comfortable with the answers that  
12 I gave you. They are directly from the  
13 Business Administrator. So they are the  
14 answers you received.

15 MS. FRANUS: The answers you gave me  
16 didn't give me the account numbers. It doesn't  
17 show what accounts --

18 MR. EVANS: Then I would suggest  
19 that you contact the Business Administrator. I  
20 got -- you asked me a question. I gave you the  
21 answers. You're not happy with the answers,  
22 therefore, go to the Business Administrator.

23 MR. FRANUS: You're the Finance  
24 Chair, Mr. Evans.

25 MR. EVANS: I gave you the answers

1 to the questions.

2 MR. FRANUS: No, you didn't.

3 MR. EVANS: Yes, I did.

4 MR. FRANUS: No, you did not.

5 MR. EVANS: Do you want me to read  
6 the answers? I'll read them for you tonight  
7 again.

8 MR. FRANUS: No, don't do that  
9 again, Wayne. You did it once before.  
10 Don't --

11 MR. EVANS: Again, Fay --

12 MR. FRANUS: Don't do that.

13 MR. EVANS: If you're not happy  
14 with --

15 MR. FRANUS: I asked you for the  
16 account numbers.

17 MR. EVANS: If you're not happy with  
18 the answers, I suggest you go to the source.

19 MR. FRANUS: It's only half an  
20 answer. You didn't give me the account  
21 numbers. So if you did give me the account  
22 numbers, I would know then if money was  
23 transferred from one department to the other.  
24 You won't give me that information because then  
25 I'll find out that it was and that was illegal.

1 So that's why I don't get the answers.

2 Did you ever find out also -- you're  
3 the liaison I guess between whoever is doing  
4 the study commission. Do you know what this  
5 money for the garbage fee -- do you know if  
6 this is going to be available in the budget how  
7 much the people are going to have to pay next  
8 year? Isn't that supposed to be in the budget?

9 MR. EVANS: Well, the study is --  
10 think we just did the RFP for the study I think  
11 just last week.

12 MR. FRANUS: So the study is  
13 complete?

14 MR. EVANS: No, it didn't even start  
15 yet. It just started.

16 MR. FRANUS: It just started?

17 MR. EVANS: Yeah.

18 MR. FRANUS: Don't they have to have  
19 that for the budget?

20 MR. EVANS: They don't have to do  
21 anything, Fay. The study was just started. We  
22 hoped that it would get done in time for the  
23 budget --

24 MR. FRANUS: -- last summer.

25 MR. EVANS: Well, I don't control

1 the RFP process. I don't certainly control --

2 MR. FRANUS: Well, let's put it this  
3 way --

4 MR. EVANS: -- the study itself.

5 MR. FRANUS: -- how are we supposed  
6 to know what we're going to pay next year if  
7 it's not in the budget?

8 MR. EVANS: It will be in the --  
9 well, the study won't be in the budget. But --

10 MR. FRANUS: But the amount of money  
11 they come to the conclusion that we should pay.

12 MR. EVANS: I agree. But it's not  
13 going to be ready. So what are we supposed to  
14 do? It's not going to be ready.

15 MR. FRANUS: So it's not going to be  
16 ready for the budget.

17 MR. EVANS: Clearly, it's not going  
18 to be ready, Fay. The RFP just went out.

19 MR. FRANUS: What just went out?

20 MR. EVANS: The RFP for the study.

21 MR. FRANUS: The study started in  
22 the summer. It was supposed to. This is a lot  
23 of hogwash. This is a lot of -- don't let the  
24 public know anything. This is disgusting. So  
25 I guess maybe we'll get a bill and say this is

1           what it is. With no -- I just hope you give  
2           the senior citizens a discount.

3                         And as far as the Green Ridge  
4           people, this Mayor, I just want everybody to  
5           know he's running for election next year. And  
6           if anybody votes for Bill Courtright, they're  
7           out of their minds. He is not here for the  
8           people in Scranton.

9                         These people in Green Ridge had to  
10          get their own lawyer because the Scranton  
11          lawyers told them to get lost what they're  
12          saying is wrong. Well, I hope that they do. I  
13          hope they find out the truth and they have to  
14          get the City to pay every penny they have to  
15          pay to fight this because the City should be  
16          backing them, not sticking up for Louie  
17          DeNaples and all the lawyers in the City.

18                        It's a disgrace that the Mayor of  
19          the City doesn't answer Mr. Gaughan for any  
20          questions whatsoever. And another thing, we're  
21          here for five minutes to speak. And you know  
22          what we do? Every week we come here, Marie  
23          Schumaker and myself, we come and ask the same  
24          questions every week because, why? Because we  
25          don't get the answers.



1                   Every week you have to ask the same  
2 questions. Then you turn around and say do a  
3 Right to Know. This is a disgrace. No wonder  
4 these meetings are so short. You don't have  
5 any answers for anything.

6                   And then you go and give these  
7 people \$130,000 last week for their business  
8 and to add onto -- to fix it up and then put an  
9 apartment upstairs. Nice, who the hell did  
10 they know to get this money? How about all of  
11 these other businesses that don't get one  
12 penny?

13                   That boy, connect -- nice to have  
14 connections in this city. It stinks. And they  
15 have to get so many employees that don't have  
16 to pay anything back? I don't know. Well, so,  
17 Mr. Evans, you're saying I should contact Dave  
18 Bulzoni.

19                   MR. EVANS: Yes, I do.

20                   MR. FRANUS: The man who's been here  
21 for three years come January illegally. Just  
22 so the people in the City know that he's  
23 serving as Business Administrator -- I have a  
24 legal paper to say it.

25                   MR. EVANS: He is the Business

1 Administrator.

2 MR. FRANUS: Don't question me.  
3 He's the Business Administrator here illegally.  
4 The judge said it's illegal. And the only  
5 reason he's still here is because District  
6 Attorney Scanlon was supposed to say whether he  
7 was going to prosecute or not. And he didn't  
8 have the guts or the time, five minutes to  
9 write a note to the judge saying he wasn't  
10 going to prosecute.

11 Attorney General Kathleen Kane said  
12 she wouldn't. So, therefore, now the judge  
13 said you can't go forward until the District  
14 Attorney says what he wants to do, which is a  
15 joke. So Dave Bulzoni is here illegally. And  
16 the way you gave him was illegal. And if you  
17 don't believe me, just tell me. I'll come with  
18 the legal papers and read them. Judge Mazzoni.  
19 So again, thank you for no answers as usual.

20 MR. EVANS: You're welcome.

21 MR. FRANUS: And when you're up for  
22 election, I hope everybody remembers the no  
23 answers Council.

24 MR. WECHSLER: Lenny Srebro.

25 MR. SREBRO: Lenny Srebro, Scranton

1 resident. This I couldn't help but, yeah, same  
2 questions, same answers. So here I am again  
3 asking what's been done for the flooding  
4 problems since I was last here. Anything you  
5 could tell me?

6 MR. ROGAN: Well, we had the big  
7 meeting just last week. We're waiting on the  
8 Sewer Authority as they offered at the meeting  
9 to test those lines for blockages.

10 MR. SREBRO: Test the lines, okay.  
11 You know, I'm expecting just from past  
12 experiences by the time they're going to test  
13 the lines, I could tell you right now that it's  
14 blocked.

15 MR. ROGAN: And we believe you.

16 MR. SREBRO: Come and see it for  
17 yourself.

18 MR. ROGAN: We believe you. But  
19 we -- the Sewer Authority has a process to test  
20 these lines. And then at that point, we're  
21 going to have to put it out to bid.

22 MR. SREBRO: Well, let me tell you,  
23 jeez, the way I understood it last meeting,  
24 it's not the Sewer Authority's problem.

25 MR. ROGAN: It's not.

1 MR. SREBRO: So why didn't the Sewer  
2 Authority tell me that years ago already when I  
3 first moved there? Why didn't -- so what I  
4 understand from the last meeting, it's the City  
5 and DPW's problem to flush drain water, rain  
6 water.

7 So why won't they come out? I don't  
8 understand why they won't flush that pipe when  
9 I have been asking and other neighbors for  
10 years. It seems to me it's such an easy thing  
11 to do to at least somewhat please the  
12 neighbors.

13 MR. ROGAN: The DPW doesn't have the  
14 proper equipment.

15 MR. SREBRO: That's right. The DPW  
16 was there today. They looked at it. I saw  
17 them there. I went over. I asked them what's  
18 up, you know, is anything being done. He told  
19 me, well, it's blocked. And they don't have  
20 the equipment.

21 And the Sewer Authority won't let  
22 them use the equipment to flush the line. So  
23 how does the DPW flush lines them?

24 MR. ROGAN: Unfortunately they  
25 don't. What we discussed at the meeting was

1           putting that out to bid so a private firm can  
2           come in and do that work.

3                   MR. SREBRO: I've been an auto  
4           mechanic all my life and I don't understand how  
5           you could have a job and not have tools to do  
6           your job. That's beyond me. Now, I don't  
7           understand why the last meeting too the caucus,  
8           why there wasn't a representative from DPW here  
9           when this was supposed to be all set up.

10                   And I thought that there would be a  
11           city engineer here. There -- only one was the  
12           supervisor from the Sewer Authority and the two  
13           PennDOT guys that I know. PennDOT says it's  
14           not their problem. I don't even understand why  
15           PennDOT was here because they made that  
16           perfectly clear many times I've been on the  
17           phone with them.

18                   The state representative was on the  
19           phone with them. It's not their problem. So  
20           is that -- wow, same questions, same answers.  
21           See, this is my beginning of coming to Council  
22           meetings. You know, I never had a problem  
23           before. But in the five minutes they give you,  
24           you know, to say everything that's out there  
25           that I'm concerned with and all those neighbors

1 we had and that was just a small part of them,  
2 to get in what I want to say, you know, is very  
3 difficult.

4 So tonight, it's all about that  
5 flushing. Why can't they flush it? Well, do  
6 what you have to do to get the equipment, okay,  
7 to hire an outside contractor. But it just  
8 seems so simple, flush that drain. You'll  
9 probably make half of those neighbors not come  
10 here anymore because that is going to alleviate  
11 the problem somewhat.

12 We know it's not going to cure it.  
13 But, jeez, you know, it wouldn't be so bad if  
14 the water has somewhere to go. That's beyond  
15 me, like, just flush it. You know, I could  
16 take you to either side of that drain where it  
17 empties into Keyser creek there.

18 And so the equipment to me is like a  
19 snake when your drains are clogged to run it up  
20 one side, run it down the other side, whatever  
21 you got to do. I don't know. I don't seem to  
22 be getting answers. The last time one of the  
23 guys suggested a lawsuit against the City, a  
24 class action lawsuit.

25 Do we really want to go there? But

1 people are starting to talk it when their  
2 cellars flood every time it rains or every  
3 moderate to heavy rain.

4 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you,  
5 Mr. Srebro.

6 MR. SREBRO: Thank you.

7 MR. WECHSLER: I know you're not  
8 satisfied with the response that you're getting  
9 from us. But we are working on it. And I know  
10 we're not working on it fast enough for you but  
11 we are working on it.

12 MR. SREBRO: Well, I have been  
13 hearing that for four years myself and 20 years  
14 to the other neighbors.

15 MR. WECHSLER: But just so you're  
16 aware, I'm not sure who else is working on it.  
17 We are working on it. I'm not sure who else  
18 is, but we are.

19 MR. ROGAN: Just to add to what Mr.  
20 Wechsler said, you know, I know you've been  
21 dealing with it for decades. But we just had  
22 the meeting we set up for the neighbors in your  
23 neighborhood last week. So we've only been  
24 involved in this process probably a month or so  
25 since you first came to Council with this

1 issue.

2 MR. SREBRO: First came to Council  
3 probably about six weeks ago. But I have been  
4 on the phone with the City, you know, for years  
5 now.

6 MR. ROGAN: No, I understand that.  
7 I understand your frustration. But we've only  
8 been involved for six weeks. Since when you  
9 first came to Council, since then, we did  
10 organize a meeting as I promised we would. And  
11 we're going to keep pursuing it because it's a  
12 major problem that we want to see fixed.

13 MR. EVANS: Since it looks like the  
14 DPW was actually out there this week, can  
15 Mrs. Reed, can you send something -- a note to  
16 Mr. Gallagher to find out exactly what he knows  
17 and what he found out while his crew was out  
18 there? Maybe there are plans to hire somebody  
19 and get somebody out there and finish this  
20 project.

21 MR. GAUGHAN: And just to add, I  
22 wasn't here last week. But when you brought up  
23 the idea of lawsuits, you know, I understand  
24 what you're going through because I'm trying to  
25 help the gentleman out on Wyoming Avenue.



1 I don't know if you heard, he has a  
2 big hole in his backyard. And he just called  
3 me today and he has to sue the City. They told  
4 him for -- he came here six months ago. The  
5 money is appropriated for the project. Then he  
6 called the Mayor. Then he called the Law  
7 Department. Nobody would call him back.

8 So I understand what you're talking  
9 about. I wish I could snap my fingers. But  
10 I'm going through the same thing. You call the  
11 Law Department. You call the Mayor, nobody  
12 answers. You call the DPW. You call somebody  
13 else. I don't know, I think it's the Sewer  
14 Authority's problem.

15 Sewer Authority tells you it's the  
16 DPW's problem. So when you talk about  
17 lawsuits, it might -- that might have to be an  
18 option to be honest with you because the  
19 gentleman that lives on Wyoming Avenue had to  
20 sue the City as of today. So I mean this whole  
21 thing is ridiculous.

22 And the Mayor actually lives in your  
23 neighborhood. Why this thing can't get taken  
24 care of is absurd.

25 MR. SREBRO: See, now, I've just

1           been going through this like a representative  
2           of the neighborhood. But other neighbors have  
3           been through what I'm going through. They've  
4           had a caucus like this a couple years ago.  
5           Afterwards, nothing was done.

6                         This is a problem that's going on  
7           severely for 20 years. People are just giving  
8           up. I'm not.

9                         MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Lee  
10          Morgan.

11                        MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.  
12          Well, you know, a while back people were  
13          watching this on YouTube and laughing at the  
14          Council. And they said they were laughing at  
15          Ray Lyman. But maybe they were just laughing  
16          at the Council. And, you know, that was a  
17          reason to tune in.

18                        Because it's like I said before on  
19          this issue you were just discussing today, the  
20          problem will solve itself when these people die  
21          because this City has hasn't done anything for  
22          its residents for so long that it's just  
23          mind-boggling.

24                        And I think you could see that now  
25          in what's taking place nationally how very

1           upset the American people are with all the  
2           political hacks that are in office from the  
3           bottom of this country to the top, whether it's  
4           district attorneys, whether it's judges,  
5           whether it's state representatives, federal  
6           representatives.

7                         We've just elected people that have  
8           no respect for the American people in general.  
9           And for Mr. Rogan to come up and say you just  
10          got involved in something in the last month or  
11          two after all the years you've been on this  
12          Council, you know --

13                        MR. ROGAN: Six weeks ago was the  
14          first time it was brought up to us. And as  
15          soon as it was, we started working on it.

16                        MR. MORGAN: Well, these people have  
17          been suffering for 20 years. But this isn't an  
18          isolated issue. There's people suffering  
19          across this whole city. We've got people now  
20          that have two empty downtown properties and  
21          they are waiting for a handout. I asked this  
22          Council a couple weeks ago what Mayor Dougherty  
23          had to do with the Parking Authority deal with  
24          the new owner of the mall and what part he  
25          played in that role in that.

1                   Look it, this Council has  
2                   sidestepped its obligation to investigate for  
3                   decades. Like this double pension thing, that  
4                   should have happened a long time ago, not now.  
5                   Don't worry about what the state police did,  
6                   wonder about what the Council did when these  
7                   pensions were voted and when all of this took  
8                   place.

9                   And for a City to be distressed for  
10                  25 years and sell off every single asset in  
11                  this City and then just to sit there and, you  
12                  know, twitch your finger or doodle on a piece  
13                  of paper, you make an ass out of yourselves  
14                  because it's beyond the point of incompetence.

15                 It's really official oppression.  
16                 That's my opinion. And I think that if anybody  
17                 had any common sense, they'd just start suing  
18                 every single one of you. Sue the City. Sue  
19                 every Councilman. Sue every representative.  
20                 Start throwing them all out of office.

21                 You know, I was thinking about it  
22                 today about the state hospital when Governor  
23                 Casey was Governor and he closed the State  
24                 Hospital in Scranton. And then you look at the  
25                 detox unit they had there. And you look at the

1 doctor that was going to give land for Veterans  
2 Center so they didn't have to tear the Scranton  
3 State General Hospital down. And you look at  
4 the cost of the healthcare across this nation.  
5 And you look at George Yuhas on the -- up by  
6 the U of Scranton, okay, who was fighting the  
7 process of closing the state hospitals.

8 And, you know, you just take a look  
9 at all the incompetent things that our elected  
10 government has done. And you're not even sorry  
11 for it. You're just ignorant. You just -- you  
12 think you're powerful. You have no respect for  
13 the people you represent. The five minute bell  
14 goes off and you're done with us. Go.

15 And then you send the sheriff out.  
16 You sell somebody's house. You got seniors  
17 living in this country on measly Social  
18 Security because Social Security was looted for  
19 the last 50 years. And there is no money left  
20 in this country from the bottom to the top.

21 We're borrowing over a trillion  
22 dollars a year to stay afloat. And the  
23 American people have been reduced to third  
24 world country with massive amounts of Americans  
25 with no jobs. And we sit here and we look at

1           what we see here. And it's ridiculous.

2                         We're doing a study to find out how  
3           much it costs to take garbage to the landfill?  
4           Come on, are you serious? I mean, it's the  
5           most ridiculous thing I've ever heard. You're  
6           fighting blight with a land bank that you  
7           created by incompetence of city government, not  
8           this decade. For 80 years and you've just  
9           pushed people and pushed people into poverty.

10                        And there is no place left to go.  
11           You've got people living off of Gordon Avenue  
12           by the river, hundreds of them because of how  
13           well you run the City. And I just really think  
14           you need to hang your head in shame. And I  
15           hope and my -- I really hope that this country  
16           elects Donald Trump to be President, why?  
17           Because his not a politician.

18                        He may not be perfect. He has  
19           flaws. They all have flaws. But I think the  
20           mole that's bringing all of this information in  
21           on Hillary Clinton and their foundation are  
22           inside the state department and the FBI because  
23           they're tired of the way our government is.

24                        MR. WECHSLER: Anyone else?

25                        MR. SBARAGLIA: Andrew Sbaraglia,

1           Scranton, I guess today isn't going to be your  
2           night. There's too much happening in the City.  
3           I heard there's a petition going around to try  
4           to put on the ballot if we should declare  
5           bankruptcy. I don't know if the City is  
6           bankrupt, just the leadership.

7                     We reduce -- we get rid of the  
8           leadership, we wouldn't have to be worrying  
9           about bankruptcy. But we have four year --  
10          another year to go. I don't know if we can  
11          take another year. It's just too bad. Too bad  
12          you don't look at the total picture.

13                    We have a lot of problems in the  
14          City. Most of them wasn't caused by you. The  
15          federal government caused a lot of it when they  
16          decided to out source jobs and destroyed our  
17          garment industry, our tube industry, our plant  
18          industry, all kinds of industry was destroyed  
19          by the federal government.

20                    I don't know if you were around. I  
21          fought it. I fought NAFTA. But I was old  
22          enough to realize you can't take a job and take  
23          it away from an American who is paying high  
24          taxes. That's the problem and give it to  
25          somebody from a different country who don't pay

1           our taxes.

2                         What does that do for the individual  
3           within the country? It raises our taxes. Why  
4           the government didn't see it, I don't know. I  
5           hope it's just for they were incompetent,  
6           rather how to put it, not very honest. And  
7           that's what we face today. Our government is  
8           our problem.

9                         The government is destroying  
10           democracy. And there is no question about that  
11           from the federal, state, and local. Democracy  
12           is being destroyed. Individuals are being  
13           given all kinds of benefits and the rest of us,  
14           nothing. How you can sit there and think about  
15           that parking leasing and the money we lost is  
16           tremendous.

17                        I estimated over the life of the  
18           contract to be 150 million at least, if not  
19           more. And I don't know why we should make one  
20           individual rich because of the fact we don't  
21           like competition. That was a ludicrous answer  
22           to a problem. Why you would pay four and a  
23           half million for spaces in the garage and then  
24           sell almost the same spaces in another garage  
25           for a dollar.



1                   And most of that garage were built  
2                   at the same time. Does it make sense? No.  
3                   Nothing that this City has been done within the  
4                   last couple years has made sense. You made  
5                   people rich or being -- going to be rich. And  
6                   when you start making individuals rich, you got  
7                   to look at why. I asked for an investigation.

8                   The best way we can straighten out  
9                   this whole problem is to have an investigation  
10                  of the actions of the City government, Council,  
11                  Mayor, and poor Roseann, which I don't even  
12                  know if she knows what's going on there. But  
13                  these are things that we should do.

14                  And if we don't do it, we're going  
15                  down the road of real deep problems. And  
16                  there's no way out of them. Pretty soon it  
17                  won't be safe to go anywhere in the City  
18                  without a problem because of our government.

19                  People are -- lose faith in the  
20                  government. You don't even have to guess. You  
21                  see what's happening on the national stage.  
22                  They have lost faith. They think the  
23                  government all they are is for themselves. And  
24                  that's the sad part about it because a lot of  
25                  them are.

1 I have the saddest thing I ever  
2 heard was a man running for treasury -- the  
3 last three treasurers were indicted for  
4 corruption or the Supreme Court being indicted  
5 for corruption of the state. And you tell me  
6 things are great? No.

7 As I always said, your government is  
8 your enemy. Your weapon is your vote. If you  
9 don't use your vote wisely you're in for deep,  
10 deep trouble. Thank you.

11 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you.

12 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening. Dave  
13 Dobrzyn, resident, taxpayer, property owner.  
14 Last week if I'm not mistaken, it was mentioned  
15 that the 14th -- starting the 14th is leaf  
16 collection week. Well, guess what? That's  
17 paper week. So now it will carry over and  
18 maybe half the town is affected by this because  
19 Thursday, two weeks later is Thanksgiving day.

20 And the day after that is my  
21 recycling which will be moved up to Saturday.  
22 So I could see that no recommendation is taken  
23 seriously here. I'm so tired of papers sitting  
24 in my house over the holidays -- recyclable  
25 paper. I don't know what to do about it.

1                   But that's the way it is. So don't  
2                   expect a good grade on that. Earlier this week  
3                   I guess, what, November 1st we had another  
4                   think tank with advice of Scranton. Some of  
5                   their advice wasn't even legal. Mr. Bulzoni  
6                   jumped in on that.

7                   And, you know, I wonder if this  
8                   think tank was paid for all of this wonderful  
9                   advice and these observations probably very  
10                  generously. Some crony, clueless, college prop  
11                  came up with this idea and got paid \$100,000 or  
12                  whatever. My advice to the government if that  
13                  was the case, send us the money. Skip them.

14                  You know, I get the impression if I  
15                  was a cucumber farmer and my crop failed,  
16                  they'd probably say, why didn't you cut to the  
17                  chase and grow pickles. Send us the money  
18                  instead, you know. You require us to have 35  
19                  percent of our property on tax exempt.

20                  It's just mind-boggling. And the  
21                  leachate line is in the next or a few days,  
22                  what was that, October 29th, a few days  
23                  earlier. And my advice to you guys -- excuse  
24                  me, is I would definitely differ from the  
25                  City's opinion on it.

1 I have witnessed myself but I would  
2 suggest that you get that out there. And that  
3 man that keeps coming about the flooding in the  
4 neighborhood, I mean, we need an emergency  
5 project. These are people's houses and their  
6 homes. And when you have a situation like  
7 that, it could do enough damage that you wind  
8 up with a condemned sign on your house. And  
9 guess what? You still have to pay the mortgage  
10 or your credit rating is ruined.

11 Once again I'd like to get out there  
12 on pensions. I'm sure a lot of anti-Social  
13 Security idealize which have been around since  
14 1936 are totally against it. And if you people  
15 think that their pensions are more secure by  
16 being handled by a smaller entity, a lot of the  
17 money wasn't returned to the pensions after the  
18 2007 started, shake up on Wall Street and  
19 continued into 2009.

20 And we came with the bailout. And  
21 the government assumed a lot of the debts and  
22 problems with it. But it was largely caused by  
23 people being handed mortgages that really  
24 should not have handed mortgages. And then it  
25 tumbled from there. So when people start

1           losing their jobs and there's a total domino  
2           affect from it, then they're unable to pay for  
3           their -- pay their way and on loans and so  
4           forth.

5                         So it's time that most pensions be  
6           rolled over into a Social Security system  
7           that's stable. And by the way, raising the age  
8           only takes it off of the industrial workers.  
9           They don't live as long as somebody that sits  
10          on their ditty box in a nice clean office all  
11          day. Thank you and have a good night.

12                        MS. SCHUMAKER: Good evening. Marie  
13          Schumaker. Following up on what Dave just  
14          said, whatever happened to your revisory  
15          recovery plan and that item to validate the 401  
16          C3s or nonprofit organizations are not  
17          automatically exempt from property taxes?  
18          Whatever happened to that? What, I didn't hear  
19          you.

20                        MR. EVANS: I'll mention that in  
21          motions if you'd like.

22                        MS. SCHUMAKER: Yes, I would. Thank  
23          you. And then maybe while I got you, last week  
24          we talked about the difference in tax  
25          assessments. And I know there is something --

1 I don't really know what you said but you had  
2 accepted the minutes so I guess it's official  
3 that there is a part of the East Mountain that  
4 is the Essex Development.

5 MR. EVANS: No, I said Pennwood --

6 MS. SCHUMAKER: Pardon?

7 MR. EVANS: The Pennwood  
8 Development.

9 MS. SCHUMAKER: Really? Your  
10 minutes say Essex so --

11 MR. EVANS: Oh, I'm not sure. All  
12 right.

13 MS. SCHUMAKER: But you essentially  
14 you said that the higher taxes were because  
15 they were new as opposed to the rest of the  
16 mountain. Then please explain to me -- and you  
17 were an assessor, right? You were the county  
18 assessor at one time?

19 MR. EVANS: Yes, I was.

20 MS. SCHUMAKER: Can you tell me when  
21 was the last assessment?

22 MR. EVANS: Between 1968 and 1970.

23 MS. SCHUMAKER: Two years?

24 MR. EVANS: Well, it took that long  
25 to do it, yeah, in that time frame, yeah.

1 MS. SCHUMAKER: Okay. Thank you.  
2 There is a rather new area of the East Mountain  
3 which is at the top of Cherry Street, all new  
4 housing. First building I think was in '93.  
5 They've got lots that are 100 by 150. And  
6 their lot is assessed at \$2,000.

7 And you're telling me that because  
8 it's in a neighborhood where the other ones --  
9 I mean, nothing makes sense. I would just love  
10 to see how land -- a simple statement on how  
11 land is assessed in Lackawanna County. And  
12 that would make me one happy camper because I  
13 cannot figure it out.

14 But we definitely need a  
15 reassessment. And then again the next -- did  
16 anybody from this Council or a representative  
17 ever go to one of the budget meetings?

18 MR. EVANS: No, I wasn't able to  
19 make it.

20 MS. SCHUMAKER: What a shame.

21 MR. EVANS: Yeah.

22 MS. SCHUMAKER: It -- you know,  
23 it's really a shame. I could understand why  
24 they don't think we're really serious about  
25 the need for it.

1 MR. WECHSLER: I didn't attend the  
2 meeting either. But I have Spoken with  
3 Mr. Notariani and Mr. O'Malley about  
4 reassessment. 2.

5 MR. EVANS: Yeah, and I've spoken to  
6 all three of them.

7 MS. SCHUMAKER: I thought you were  
8 sending a letter to the commissioners, to all  
9 three commissioners that you needed or you were  
10 going to go to court. That was my  
11 understanding. I think I could go back in the  
12 minutes and pull that out.

13 MR. EVANS: Yeah, I'm not sure if we  
14 actually formalized sending a letter to them  
15 but we all talked to them individually.

16 MR. ROGAN: I believe we sent them  
17 more than one letter over the last year or two.

18 MR. SCHUMAKER: Maybe you could ask  
19 Mrs. Reed. Maybe she would remember if you  
20 sent a letter.

21 MR. ROGAN: I know as soon as the  
22 commissioners changed, when the new  
23 commissioners came in office, we sent a letter  
24 at that point again.

25 MR. WECHSLER: I think we're having



1           some affect because Mr. Wallace started talking  
2           about it last week.

3                   MS. SCHUMAKER: Well, I understand  
4           that.

5                   MR. WECHSLER: So I think we're  
6           having --

7                   MS. SCHUMAKER: I think I'm helping  
8           a lot because I'm going to their meetings  
9           and --

10                   MR. WECHSLER: I agree with you  
11           also. But the fact we didn't attend the budget  
12           meeting doesn't mean we're not --

13                   MS. SCHUMAKER: It would be nice if  
14           you would formalize it or show enough interest  
15           that somebody could --

16                   MR. WECHSLER: It's not a matter of  
17           interest, Mrs. Schumaker. It's a matter of our  
18           ability to attend meetings in the daytime.

19                   MS. SCHUMAKER: I'm sure Mrs. Reed  
20           would have gone for you. But what do I know.  
21           But you just talked about motions again. And  
22           it seems to me you have the right to come up  
23           with your own legislation. You don't have to  
24           wait for upstairs or downstairs or wherever it  
25           comes from.

1                   So I don't see why you cannot pass a  
2 motion to have a -- have that drain that  
3 Mr. Srebro is talking about a contract let --  
4 to have that work done. You have every right.  
5 And you know where the uncommitted money is in  
6 the budget, allocate some of it.

7                   MR. WECHSLER: How would you justify  
8 the cost of that? We don't even know what's  
9 blocked. We don't know what equipment is used.  
10 I'm not disagreeing that we should do  
11 something. We don't have any idea how much  
12 it's going to cost.

13                   MR. EVANS: We did authorize the  
14 funding for Mr. Young's hole and that's still  
15 in limbo because of now a potential lawsuit.  
16 So we don't have shovels. We don't have picks.  
17 We don't have backhoes. You know, and we don't  
18 have the authority to tell somebody to go and  
19 do it. We can ask them to do it.

20                   MS. SCHUMAKER: Well, you could tell  
21 the Business Administrator to put out an RFQ to  
22 see what it would cost.

23                   MR. EVANS: We did.

24                   MS. SCHUMAKER: For this effort?

25                   MR. EVANS: Not for this one but for

1 Mr. Young's property. The money has been  
2 appropriated.

3 MS. SCHUMAKER: Twenty years I think  
4 is long enough. I think you could do that.  
5 You could --

6 MR. WECHSLER: I agree with you. I  
7 agree that's something that we should look at  
8 because we did have success. We got  
9 Mr. Young's project as far as we can get it.  
10 We got them to approve an emergency  
11 declaration. We found the money for it. And  
12 then between the City and Mr. Young, they can't  
13 come to agreement on how we can get the  
14 contractor on his property.

15 Mr. Young has concerns that are  
16 legitimate. And that's up to him and the City  
17 to work out now, not City Council. We got it  
18 as far as we can get it. I see you don't agree  
19 but it's the truth.

20 MS. SCHUMAKER: I don't agree  
21 because you keep talking about what a wonderful  
22 relationship with the Mayor and the Business  
23 Administrator and all of this. But the proof  
24 of the pudding is in whether they do what you  
25 request. If they're ignoring you, you don't

1           have a good relationship.

2                   MR. WECHSLER: But they -- they did  
3 agree to fix Mr. Young's property. That's not  
4 in dispute. The problem is getting an  
5 agreement between Mr. Young and the City on  
6 getting the contractor on his property. And  
7 Mr. Young's concerns are legitimate.

8                   MS. SCHUMAKER: Yes, they are.

9                   MR. WECHSLER: So they need to have  
10 something worked out.

11                   MS. SCHUMAKER: So does Mr.  
12 Srebro --

13                   MR. WECHSLER: But in terms of what  
14 the City Council can do, we did what we can do.  
15 And I know the job isn't finished. But like  
16 Mr. Evans said, we don't control --

17                   MS. SCHUMAKER: It's not even  
18 started in Mr. Young's case. I'll be back next  
19 week.

20                   MR. WECHSLER: Anyone else?

21                   (No response.)

22                   MS. REED: FIFTH ORDER. 5A.

23                   MOTIONS.

24                   MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Perry.

25                   MR. PERRY: No, nothing at this

1 time.

2 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Rogan.

3 MR. ROGAN: Yes. A couple items and  
4 I apologize. I have to pull an e-mail up here.  
5 I forgot to print it off. Last week I  
6 mentioned the double pension issue at length.  
7 And Council was in agreement to send a letter  
8 to the State Police requesting that their  
9 investigation is turned over to the City of  
10 Scranton.

11 In reply to that letter this week,  
12 Corporal Mike Reffer{sic} called in response to  
13 the correspondence that was sent. Council's  
14 request for the copy the PSP investigation.

15 Corporal Reffer indicated that the  
16 State Police doesn't traditionally release any  
17 of their investigative materials unless it's a  
18 criminal case and then would release to law  
19 enforcement agencies, such as, the District  
20 Attorney's Office.

21 However, request for release of  
22 information may be subpoenaed if the requesting  
23 party has subpoena power. And if information  
24 is tied to a criminal case. A subpoena to turn  
25 over the report can be served to the

1 Pennsylvania State Police Commissioner.

2 In our caucus prior to the meeting,  
3 Council and Attorney Minora discussed this  
4 issue at length of whether to pursue this route  
5 to get this information from the State Police.  
6 I have been of the opinion since the story  
7 first broke, that Council should exercise our  
8 subpoena power.

9 First, in this case, to get the  
10 information from the State Police and review  
11 the information. Make it public. The public  
12 has a right to know this information and they  
13 deserve answers on how this happened and we  
14 need to make sure it doesn't happen again.

15 That being said, I would like to  
16 make a motion to authorize Attorney Minora to  
17 do whatever by any means necessary to petition  
18 the courts to serve the subpoenas to request  
19 this information from the State Police.

20 MR. EVANS: I'll second for a vote.

21 MR. WECHSLER: There's a motion made  
22 on the floor and seconded. On the question.

23 MR. ROGAN: Yes, this is in response  
24 to the State Police in order to get the  
25 information, the proper procedure for Council

1 is to pursue a subpoena. I don't know if you  
2 want to comment at all, Attorney Minora, on how  
3 that process works.

4 ATTY. MINORA: Sure. In order to  
5 obtain a subpoena if you don't have a present  
6 court case with a term and docket number, we'd  
7 have to go into motion court with a petition  
8 requesting a subpoena and the reasons why we  
9 would want that issued.

10 And it would be filed to a  
11 miscellaneous docket and the court would issue  
12 a subpoena for us to serve. And that would be  
13 then sent to in this particular instance the  
14 Commissioner of the State Police. At that  
15 time, he would have several options.

16 He might move to quash the subpoena  
17 or he might simply send us the documents we  
18 requested based on our petition. And that  
19 would be generally how it goes. There could  
20 certainly be further litigation afterwards on a  
21 motion to quash. But generally, that's how it  
22 would go.

23 MR. ROGAN: Thank you.

24 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. On the question  
25 as Councilman Rogan mentioned, we did talk

1           about this in caucus and the idea that we have  
2           for serving the subpoena would be that we would  
3           like to get this information so we can use it  
4           as we move forward in working on pension  
5           reform.

6                        We don't know what's in the PSP  
7           report. But I do think we have to make an  
8           effort to get that information so we can take a  
9           look at possible changes that we need to make  
10          to this. Also we're going to do this because  
11          there is some question on the extent of  
12          Council's subpoena power.

13                      And I think this would provide some  
14          good case law for us as we move forward  
15          possibly using subpoenas to help us administer  
16          this government. So I will be voting for the  
17          motion.

18                      MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question,  
19          I don't have a problem requesting the  
20          information. But the reason given I don't  
21          necessarily agree with that we need to look at  
22          the information to find out what we need -- how  
23          we need to reform the pensions.

24                      There was a report issued by the  
25          Auditor General when he did his investigation



1           into this whole deal that clearly states what  
2           happened, what went wrong, and what reforms  
3           need to be put in place. So I don't think  
4           although I agree with the motion, I have no  
5           problem with it, I don't think we're going to  
6           find anything that's going to lead us to, you  
7           know, making different reforms.

8                       Those reforms have already been  
9           issued in the report months ago from the  
10          Auditor General.

11                      MR. WECHSLER: And that may be the  
12          case. But if we don't have the information to  
13          determine that, we'll never know and  
14          Mr. DePasquale did not have access to this  
15          information when he issued his report. So I  
16          think for us just to take that one more step to  
17          button up what we can, I don't think there's  
18          any harm.

19                      MR. EVANS: And on the question, my  
20          intent really is just to find information that  
21          we could use to improve the pensions. It's as  
22          simple as that. Anything beyond that is just  
23          window dressing. And I don't really have an  
24          appetite to go beyond this step.

25                      Hopefully we'll get the information

1 we need and we can make real affirmative  
2 positive reform because of that and then we  
3 move on.

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

6 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

7 MR. WECHSLER: Opposed?

8 (No response.)

9 MR. WECHSLER: The ayes have it and  
10 so moved.

11 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. And I  
12 appreciate my colleagues unanimous support in  
13 this endeavor. And I guess we will soon see.  
14 Attorney Minora, you have your work cut out for  
15 you. Bring us back some information so we can  
16 dig through it and release it to the public.

17 One other item I would like to  
18 address today is the upcoming budget. It has  
19 been brought up by a couple speakers. As you  
20 know, budget time is about two weeks away when  
21 Council will receive -- we'll receive the  
22 budget.

23 And a lot of people in the community  
24 have been asking me what's in the budget, what  
25 does it look like. And unfortunately, I don't

1 know those answers. Only at this time the  
2 Business Administrator, the Mayor, and maybe  
3 the Finance Chair do.

4 But the big question that everyone  
5 keeps asking is the pocketbook question. Is  
6 our taxes going up, how much, what would you  
7 support. Well, I can't answer the questions on  
8 what will be in the proposal, I would state  
9 that I would not support any budget that has --  
10 contains a property tax increase.

11 The City of Scranton has increased  
12 fees and taxes for many years. Some  
13 unfortunately were necessary. Other times it  
14 was done in a wasteful manner. But I think  
15 over the course of the last few years, the City  
16 has gotten itself to the point where the budget  
17 is beginning to stabilize. And tax increases  
18 have to be taken off the table.

19 And that leads into my final comment  
20 and I wasn't planning on addressing it but I  
21 will very briefly because it was brought up.  
22 There is talk of a petition going around  
23 through the City regarding bankruptcy filing.  
24 City Council is not entertaining filing  
25 bankruptcy.

1                   It's certainly not something on any  
2                   of our plates right now. And the progress that  
3                   has been made in the City since 2012 when it  
4                   was something I did seriously look at until  
5                   now has been quite substantial.

6                   Because of that progress is why I  
7                   wouldn't be able to support any property tax  
8                   increases. But if you look at our budgets,  
9                   they really have been shored up over the last  
10                  few years by a combination of many items. So I  
11                  think unfortunately it has been getting some  
12                  attraction in the media.

13                  But that is completely off the  
14                  table. I know Councilman Wechsler is going to  
15                  address it as well under his comments. But I  
16                  just wanted to set the record straight  
17                  regarding that. And that is all. Thank you.

18                  MR. WECHSLER: Thank you.

19                  Mr. Evans.

20                  MR. EVANS: Thank you. On the  
21                  validation of the nonprofits, as you all know I  
22                  am a proponent of that. I insisted on the  
23                  language that was added to the recovery plan.  
24                  I'll send a letter again to the administration  
25                  asking them when they are going start that

1 process because I think it's something that is  
2 very valuable. And we'll reach some dividends.

3 On the land assessment values, it  
4 was established back at the last reassessment  
5 they are totally out of whack. I've seen land  
6 assessments on one side of the street being  
7 double what they are across the street. It's  
8 absolutely -- and that points to why we need a  
9 reassessment, especially in Scranton because  
10 land values are taxed at a higher millage rate.

11 So people who have a higher land  
12 value are really impacted. And you see that in  
13 areas of East Mountain and West Mountain, Green  
14 Ridge, and the upper hill. So again, it goes  
15 back to our need to do a reassessment. And all  
16 of us I think are in agreement with that.

17 All of us have formally or  
18 informally asked the commissioners to support  
19 that. I made the statement before that if it  
20 doesn't happen, I would support the  
21 administration taking the county to court to  
22 force a reassessment. I've never shied away  
23 from that. So and it's still my position.

24 At some point in time it has to  
25 happen. Hopefully it's going to happen sooner

1           than later. On a positive note, I would like  
2           to personally congratulate since he's here  
3           tonight, Councilman Gaughan and his new son  
4           Murphy James Gaughan.

5                       MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

6                       MR. EVANS: Congratulations again,  
7           you and your wife Kelly.

8                       MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

9                       MR. EVANS: So that's good news.  
10          And it helps -- there's a little bit of a  
11          love-fest tonight so I thought I'd get that  
12          little personal note in there. So I'm going to  
13          say this, keep it a little light tonight. I  
14          want to talk about leaves. We talked about  
15          that a little while ago.

16                      But I noticed there was a small  
17          notice in the paper relative to leaf pickup.  
18          It stated that the DPW is picking up leaves  
19          from November 15th through November 19th.  
20          They'll be picking up those leaves instead of  
21          newspapers. Again, they did that last year.

22                      And the leaves should be bagged and  
23          I'm assuming in paper bags. I have a couple  
24          comments relative to the scenario. First of  
25          all, I truly appreciate the thousands of

1 citizens and taxpayers that take time to rake  
2 their leaves and bag them for recycling. They  
3 are accomplishing several things.

4 They are improving the appearance of  
5 their properties. They are removing potential  
6 safety hazards and they're helping the City to  
7 save tipping fees. So thank you very much for  
8 what you do in that regard.

9 But here's where it sort of goes off  
10 the rails for me. Apparently the City will  
11 only be collecting for one week. And during  
12 that week they don't collect newspapers, etc.,  
13 for recycling. So if you haven't raked your  
14 leaves by that time or the leaves are not fully  
15 off the trees of your property by that time,  
16 then most of your leaf pickup will end up in  
17 the landfill.

18 And some of the newspapers and  
19 cardboard, etc., will also end up in the  
20 landfill because most likely because you would  
21 have had to wait two cycles to pick up those  
22 recyclable items. So now we're working on that  
23 but our recycling percentage remains anemic  
24 especially for newspapers. We should be doing  
25 everything we can to increase those percentages

1           which in turn again reduce our overall tipping  
2           fees.

3                       This wasn't the comprehensive leaf  
4           pickup plan that I was hoping for when I asked  
5           about it. And it certainly is not indicative  
6           of what I've talked about before. It's not  
7           indicative of entrepreneurial government that  
8           we must become soon.

9                       So hopefully we can get some changes  
10          if not this year, next year. I know recycling  
11          this year was a big topic for all of us. Zero  
12          waste is something we talked about we really  
13          have to get back to. But the leaf pickup plan  
14          is flawed. It sacrifices recycling, which is  
15          wrong. And hopefully we can get -- it's really  
16          not that complicated, folks.

17                      You know, we have to figure out a  
18          better way of doing it. They are doing it all  
19          over the country in a much more efficient  
20          manner than we are. So that's all I have for  
21          tonight.

22                      MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Mr.  
23          Gaughan.

24                      MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. Just a  
25          couple items. First, if we can send a letter



1 to the Business Administrator, I'd like to know  
2 if we are going to be able to make our MM0  
3 payment on time this year and will we have  
4 enough money to cover it. And what is the plan  
5 if we cannot make that payment.

6 I also saw an e-mail that the  
7 Community Development Board will have a  
8 telephone meeting. They're the offchute of NDC  
9 who is running in the garages now. The meeting  
10 will be held Monday, November 14th from 12 to  
11 1:30 p.m., to approve their 2017 budget. It  
12 says materials and a full agenda will be sent  
13 to board members prior to the meeting.

14 So I would like to ask Mrs. Reed if  
15 she could find out if that meeting will be  
16 available to the public and will the materials  
17 be available to the public also. I have  
18 requested as was mentioned earlier now since  
19 July, an update on the third party  
20 administrator for the police and fire pensions.

21 Mrs. Reed, if you could please send  
22 another request, I would like information  
23 related to the status of reform provisions that  
24 were initiated in the police and fire  
25 contracts. I'd also like if we can request

1           that DPW install a street sign where Newton  
2           Road turns into West Mountain Road.

3                       I've received several complaints  
4           from residents in the area who have safety  
5           concerns. Many people including first  
6           responders get lost in that area because of the  
7           lack of signage.

8                       I would also like to thank the  
9           Scranton Sewer Authority for taking care of an  
10          issue for a resident that had contacted me on  
11          the West Mountain. So I would like to thank  
12          them very much. And I would like to thank  
13          everyone for their kind words for my family and  
14          I.

15                      Last Thursday my wife, my son Jack  
16          and I were blessed to welcome our son Murphy  
17          James Gaughan as the newest addition to our  
18          family. So he clocked in at 9 pounds, 4  
19          ounces. And everybody is doing well and is  
20          healthy.

21                      As I mentioned, I wasn't here last  
22          week. But I would like to revisit an issue  
23          that to be honest with you still kind of am in  
24          shock from. Two weeks ago I asked that  
25          legislation granting \$250,000 in the form of a

1           loan to grant to a business called the Roll  
2           Call be tabled.

3                       I cited numerous questions and  
4           legitimate concerns including a possible  
5           conflict of interest because cofounder of Roll  
6           Call is a City policeman. The policeman  
7           Mr. Harris also sued the City in 2013 and was  
8           paid a settlement.

9                       I requested a copy of the lawsuit  
10          and more details from the Law Department but  
11          have not received any response. Three of my  
12          colleagues ignored my concerns and my request  
13          to table the legislation and voted to push it  
14          through.

15                      Mr. Rogan had stated that HUD had  
16          reviewed everything and vetted the deal  
17          thoroughly. Everything was on the up and up,  
18          which is my request to table was denied. After  
19          I posed numerous questions to OECD, I found out  
20          that was not actually the case.

21                      And I'd like to read a portion of  
22          HUD's response to OECD regarding this possible  
23          conflict. The letter says: We were asked to  
24          review a potential conflict of interest  
25          involving City of Scranton employee Joseph

1 Harris. Mr. Harris is employed as a corporal  
2 for the City of Scranton Police Department and  
3 has been detailed for the past year to the  
4 police department's training unit.

5 The training unit conducts various  
6 procurement activities for the police  
7 department including use of City funds to  
8 procure police equipment. A potential conflict  
9 arises because Joseph Harris's father, Thomas  
10 Harris runs a family business called Roll Call,  
11 LLC.

12 The company sells equipment of the  
13 same type that the police department procures,  
14 police, fire, EMS and sports equipment.  
15 Recently Roll Call applied for a grant for its  
16 business under the City of Scranton's Business  
17 and Industry Loan and Grant program, a program  
18 which supports small business.

19 Under the CDBG conflict regulations,  
20 a conflict of interest exists if a public  
21 employee who is either in a position of  
22 decision making authority or in a position with  
23 opportunity to access inside information in  
24 regard to CDBG activities stands to obtain a  
25 benefit from a CDBG assisted activity.

1                   In this case because of his  
2                   position, Joseph Harris could have the  
3                   opportunity to be exposed to information on the  
4                   City's procurement and selection process.  
5                   Harris could be familiar with the processes the  
6                   City uses to award grants and choose suppliers.

7                   This inside information could  
8                   benefit his father's business Roll Call, LLC,  
9                   and knowing how to maximize the chance of being  
10                  awarded a grant from the City. This knowledge  
11                  would, therefore, bring an indirect benefit to  
12                  Joseph Harris. And thus it would constitute a  
13                  conflict of interest.

14                  Once a threshold determination is  
15                  made that a conflict exists, we must decide  
16                  whether the person subject to the conflict has  
17                  shown good cause to waive the conflict. After  
18                  careful review, we have decided that the City  
19                  of Scranton OECD has not established good cause  
20                  to award the grant to Roll Call.

21                  It is true that Roll Call plans to  
22                  use the funds to relocate its business from  
23                  Duryea to Scranton which would bring eight to  
24                  ten jobs to the City. However, this potential  
25                  economic benefit to the City of Scranton cannot

1           override HUD's strong interest in maintaining  
2           public confidence and the fairness and  
3           integrity of programs that are funded by HUD  
4           funds.

5                       We also review the affidavits of  
6           Joseph Harris and his father Thomas Harris  
7           that we received recently. Joseph Harris swore  
8           in his affidavit that he has no ownership  
9           interest in Roll Call, LLC., has never had any  
10          ownership interest and will not accept any  
11          ownership interest for a minimum period of one  
12          year following his termination of employment  
13          with City of Scranton.

14                      Thomas Harris affirmed that his son  
15          has no ownership in Roll Call, LLC., and will  
16          continue to have no ownership interest for a  
17          period of one year from the end of his  
18          employment with the City. However, the  
19          father's affidavit does not say that Joseph  
20          Harris has never had interest in Roll Call.

21                      Additionally, we have received  
22          conflicting information at different times  
23          regarding whether or not Joseph Harris has an  
24          interest in Roll Call. But perhaps most  
25          significantly even if Joseph Harris does not

1           retain an ownership interest in Roll Call, his  
2           job position with the City can potentially  
3           expose him to inside information that would  
4           benefit Roll Call's application for the loan  
5           and grant program.

6                         This may undermine public confidence  
7           and the impartiality of City programs that are  
8           funded by HUD's CDBG. For these reasons we  
9           are unfortunately unable to waive the conflict  
10          of interest presented due to the absence of  
11          good cause.

12                        Now, that in itself on its face is  
13          extremely troubling to say the least.  
14          Mr. Rogan also stated that once a different pot  
15          of money was being used to avoid the conflict,  
16          the state had vetted the deal and gave the  
17          okay. I'd like to see the documentation on  
18          that.

19                        It was not in the backup, nor was it  
20          in the documents provided by OECD. So I'd like  
21          to know where that information came from. And  
22          I'd like to see it. I do plan on requesting  
23          more information from the state on the use of  
24          these funds. And the reason that I bring this  
25          up is because I believe that set an awful

1 precedent by the actions taken two weeks ago.

2 First, legitimate concerns were  
3 brought up about the legislation and they were  
4 blatantly ignored by my colleagues.

5 Second, the mere appearance of a  
6 conflict of interest should have been enough  
7 for Mayor Courtright and this Council to put  
8 the nix to this deal. It erodes the public  
9 trust in these programs and quite frankly in  
10 this Council.

11 I find it amazing that Mayor  
12 Courtright would work so hard to find ways to  
13 avoid a conflict and help a City employee's  
14 family out but won't take the time to answer a  
15 call from Al Young who has a gaping hole in his  
16 backyard and who I found out today has no  
17 choice but to sue the City.

18 I find it amazing that Mayor  
19 Courtright would go to great lengths to  
20 sidestep this conflict of interest but will not  
21 lift a finger or utter a word and actually  
22 sides with Louis DeNaples and the landfill when  
23 it comes to fighting for the neighbors in Green  
24 Ridge who want their day in court to settle the  
25 leachate dispute.



1 I'd be lying if I said I was  
2 surprised but this is business as usual under  
3 the Courtright administration and I am quite  
4 frankly appalled. Thank you.

5 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr.  
6 Gaughan.

7 MR. ROGAN: Just to clarify one  
8 thing that Mr. Gaughan mentioned and it was  
9 clarified in the newspaper as well. I believe  
10 it was two weeks ago. I did reference the  
11 state funds being the use of the funds. And I  
12 did misspeak when I said HUD. So that was  
13 incorrect.

14 But prior to making that statement,  
15 I did speak at length on how these funds became  
16 available through DCED and that was reported  
17 accurately by Jim Lockwood I believe two weeks  
18 ago.

19 MR. GAUGHAN: And just to add to  
20 that, I just would like to know where the  
21 information came from that the state vetted  
22 this deal that was also in the paper. But I  
23 cannot find those documents anywhere. And the  
24 other thing that was in the paper that I  
25 disagree with is that there is no conflict here

1           because we use a different pot of money.

2                       What is the difference? Shouldn't  
3           federal guideline supersede anything? I mean,  
4           what kind of precedent are we setting here?  
5           And, I mean, going forward it just shakes my  
6           confidence in this whole legislative process  
7           when I bring up legitimate concerns. I have no  
8           problem with his family. I don't even know  
9           them, nor do I know anything about the  
10          business.

11                      But when you have a legitimate  
12          concern and it just gets brushed aside like  
13          nothing is wrong, at the very least I wasn't  
14          even willing to vote no on it. I wanted to  
15          table it so that we could get this document  
16          here that should have been included in the  
17          backup originally that has all of this  
18          pertinent information to the legislation.

19                      So that scares me even more because  
20          when we get legislation down here, what else  
21          aren't they including that we have to request.  
22          I mean, it's just ridiculous. So that all I  
23          have to say. Thank you.

24                      MR. WECHSLER: Well, in regards to  
25          this manner, myself, I commented on the

1            recommendations for Mr. Preambo and Mrs. Aebli  
2            Mr. Preambo actually held up this arrangement  
3            for a quite a while determining that it was  
4            proper.

5                        So I had a lot of confidence in  
6            them. And also, if you had these concerns, you  
7            didn't table it until we were coming into the  
8            meeting.

9                        MR. GAUGHAN: I asked for it to be  
10            tabled in the caucus. I just found out about  
11            it. How would I know? How would I know? And  
12            I asked for information from the Law  
13            Department. Completely ignored. Can't get  
14            anything out of them. I asked to see the  
15            lawsuit that this gentleman sued the City of  
16            Scranton.

17                        And it has to do with this business.  
18            And all of a sudden in the next breath we're  
19            turning around and giving him a \$250,000 loan  
20            to grant and everything's okay? I brought up  
21            legitimate concerns and there was not a word  
22            said. I just don't understand it.

23                        MR. WECHSLER: The fact that you  
24            didn't believe it was a good deal doesn't mean  
25            that all of us have to agree with you.

1 MR. GAUGHAN: I did not say I didn't  
2 believe it was a good deal. I asked for more  
3 information. I asked for pertinent information  
4 that was not included in the backup.

5 MR. WECHSLER: And you waited until  
6 we walked into the meeting to ask to table it.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: How else would I know?  
8 I found out the day of the meeting. I don't  
9 have ESP.

10 MR. WECHSLER: Well, I know that we  
11 contact each other during the course of the day  
12 all the time.

13 MR. GAUGHAN: Well, it was a  
14 legitimate concern. If that's the case, then  
15 set some kind of guideline where you have to  
16 notify everybody a day or two before. But it's  
17 concerning.

18 MR. WECHSLER: Well, I know --

19 MR. GAUGHAN: And if you find out  
20 about it the day of, how are you supposed to  
21 notify your colleague and I did in the caucus.

22 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Gaughan, I think  
23 it's my turn to speak.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: Well, go ahead.

25 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you very much.

1 MR. GAUGHAN: You're welcome.

2 MR. WECHSLER: But in regards to  
3 this matter, there is a process for  
4 communicating with each other. It worked this  
5 week when we got information in terms before  
6 the meeting so we can deal with it before. So  
7 I disagree that you didn't have time to --

8 MR. GAUGHAN: Joe, that is --

9 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Gaughan --

10 MR. GAUGHAN: That is a lie.

11 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Gaughan --

12 MR. GAUGHAN: I found out about that  
13 the night of the meeting.

14 MR. WECHSLER: This is --

15 MR. GAUGHAN: Don't make it seem  
16 like I didn't come in here with the  
17 information.

18 MR. WECHSLER: This is my turn to  
19 speak, not yours.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: Well, you're wrong.

21 MR. WECHSLER: You are out of order.  
22 It is my motion time, not yours. In regards to  
23 the story that's been out in the public about  
24 the request for ordinance for filing  
25 bankruptcy, I'm only going to talk about this

1           one time because it is not a possibility.

2                     It's not a probability in terms of  
3 bankruptcy. Speaking to Mr. Minora this week,  
4 this effort was tried in Harrisburg twice and  
5 was rejected by the courts twice that it's  
6 illegal. In terms of our City, it is a strong  
7 form -- a Mayor's form of government. It's up  
8 to the Executive Branch to decide that.

9                     Also it's premature or really not  
10 premature anymore to talk about bankruptcy  
11 because we are following a recovery plan. And  
12 the recovery plan has steps in it that we are  
13 being evaluated every year in terms of our  
14 progress towards solvency.

15                    And part of that report is if we are  
16 going in the wrong direction the Pennsylvania  
17 Economy League can recommend that we go into  
18 receivership. And they have to make that  
19 determination every year. Last year they  
20 decided that we were going in the right  
21 direction.

22                    This year they decided -- we'll see  
23 that they think we're going in the right  
24 direction. I find it irresponsible that some  
25 of the -- some financial reporting agencies

1           took the information from the petitioner and  
2           cited some of the information in that there  
3           that's untrue.

4                        So we are going to make some efforts  
5           to correct that information that's out in the  
6           public because Scranton's representation  
7           precedes it. It's taken us a long time to get  
8           to the point where we're being accepted in the  
9           financial community again.

10                      And this type of stuff that is not  
11           going to go anywhere is a detriment to our road  
12           to success. So we are going to try to set the  
13           record straight out there in public. Yesterday  
14           I did attend a presentation by the University  
15           of Scranton showing their plans for the South  
16           Side Sports Complex.

17                      It represents an investment of about  
18           14 million dollars into that area. And just as  
19           a quick reference, the area where the tennis  
20           courts are right now, that's going to be the  
21           public portion of the park with the softball  
22           field, basketball courts and a playground area.

23                      And on the old side where the  
24           baseball field is, that's going to be where the  
25           University plans to put their athletic fields.

1           They're going to be able to meet NCAA standards  
2           which will allow to us have some playoffs here  
3           and just bring more people to our City. So I  
4           congratulate the City on that project. That's  
5           all I have at this time.

6                       MS. REED: 5B. FOR INTRODUCTION AN  
7           ORDINANCE SALE OF TAX DELINQUENT PROPERTY MORE  
8           COMMONLY KNOWN AS 2316 JACKSON STREET,  
9           SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18504, TAX MAP NO.  
10          14412-050-018 IS NOTED TO FRANK BOYLAN, 2314  
11          JACKSON STREET, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18504,  
12          FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF \$2,000.00.

13                      MR. WECHSLER: At this time I will  
14          entertain a motion that item 5B be introduced  
15          to its proper committee.

16                      MR. ROGAN: So moved.

17                      MR. EVANS: Second.

18                      MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

19                      (No response.)

20                      MR. WECHSLER: All those in favor of  
21          introduction, signify by saying aye.

22                      ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

23                      MR. WECHSLER: Opposed?

24                      (No response.)

25                      MR. WECHSLER: The ayes have it and



1 so moved.

2 MS. REED: SIXTH ORDER. 6A,  
3 READING BY TITLE FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 58,  
4 2016, AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A REGISTRATION  
5 PROGRAM FOR RESIDENTIAL RENTAL PROPERTIES;  
6 REQUIRING ALL OWNERS OF RESIDENTIAL RENTAL  
7 PROPERTIES TO DESIGNATE A PROPERTY MANAGER FOR  
8 SERVICE OF PROCESS AND PRESCRIBING DUTIES OF  
9 OWNERS, PROPERTY MANAGERS AND OCCUPANTS.

10 MR. WECHSLER: You've heard reading  
11 by title of item 6A. What is your pleasure?

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

14 MR. EVANS: Second.

15 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

16 (No response.)

17 MR. WECHSLER: All those in favor  
18 signify by saying aye.

19 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

20 MR. WECHSLER: Opposed?

21 (No response.)

22 MR. WECHSLER: The ayes have it and  
23 so moved.

24 MS. REED: 6B, READING BY TITLE  
25 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 59, 2016, AN ORDINANCE

1 TRANSFERRING BOTH PERMANENT EASEMENTS AND  
2 RIGHTS-OF-WAY OVER PARCELS OF PROPERTY OWNED BY  
3 THE CITY OF SCRANTON AS NOTED BELOW IN  
4 CONNECTION WITH THE SCRANTON SEWER AUTHORITY'S  
5 SEWER/STORMWATER COLLECTION SYSTEM ACCESS AND  
6 MAINTENANCE EASEMENT.

7 (No response.)

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

10 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

11 MR. WECHSLER: Opposed?

12 (No response.)

13 MR. WECHSLER: The ayes have it and  
14 so moved.

15 MS. REED: 6C, READING BY TITLE  
16 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 60, 2016, AN ORDINANCE  
17 GRANTING LOCAL ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION TAX  
18 ASSISTANCE TO A PROPERTY LOCATED AT ALBRIGHT  
19 AND GLEN AVENUES AND IDENTIFIED AS PIN NOS.  
20 13420-060-017 AND 13420-050-028 OWNED BY LACE  
21 BUILDING AFFILIATES LP AND SETTING FORTH  
22 AMOUNTS OF TAX ABATEMENTS FOR EACH YEAR FOR TEN  
23 YEARS.

24 MR. WECHSLER: You've heard reading  
25 by title of item 6C. What is your pleasure?

1 MR. ROGAN: I move that item 6C pass  
2 reading by title.

3 MR. EVANS: Second.

4 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

5 (No response.)

6 MR. WECHSLER: All those in favor  
7 signify by saying aye.

8 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

9 MR. WECHSLER: Opposed?

10 (No response.)

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

13 MS. REED: 6D, READING BY TITLE  
14 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 61, 2016, AN ORDINANCE  
15 AUTHORIZING THE INSTALLATION OF TWO (2)  
16 ADDITIONAL STOP SIGNS AND MAINTAINING ALL  
17 EXISTING STOP SIGNS ON EAST LOCUST STREET AND  
18 SOUTH IRVING AVENUE IN THE AREA AROUND  
19 MCNICHOLS PLAZA.

20 MR. WECHSLER: You've heard reading  
21 by title of item 6D. What is your pleasure?

22 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, I'd like to make  
23 a motion to amend Item 6D per the following:  
24 In the summary title, delete two additional  
25 stop signs and insert an R7302 no parking

1 symbol arrow sign left. And R7302 no parking  
2 symbol arrow sign right.

3 In the now, therefore, clause,  
4 delete two additional stop signs and insert an  
5 R7302 no parking symbol arrow sign left and an  
6 R7302 no parking symbol arrow sign right.

7 MR. EVANS: Second.

8 MR. WECHSLER: Is there a question  
9 on the amendment?

10 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, just a question  
11 on the amendment. Mrs. Reed informed us in the  
12 caucus that our City Engineer came into the  
13 office and realized that there had been a  
14 mistake with this legislation. There was never  
15 a recommendation to put stop signs in this  
16 area.

17 There is a lengthy report here done  
18 onsite if anyone in the neighborhood would like  
19 to request it and it details everything when  
20 the City Engineer and police department were on  
21 scene. But this is going to help with the  
22 traffic issues out there, especially during  
23 school time. But again this area did not  
24 qualify per the traffic uniform code for stop  
25 signs.

1 MR. ROGAN: On the question, I  
2 understand I'll be at odds with the City  
3 Engineer on this. That petition started  
4 because residents from that area contacted me  
5 and we put it in and went through the proper  
6 channels and it was as Mr. Gaughan mentioned,  
7 he is correct. It was initially denied. And  
8 to my surprise a week later, we saw legislation  
9 to put the stop signs up as were requested by  
10 the neighbors and the parents at McNichols  
11 Plaza.

12 So I know that the neighbors over  
13 there are going to be very disappointed and  
14 everything that was said was correct. But, you  
15 know, unfortunately I'll be at odds with the  
16 City Engineer on this one.

17 MR. WECHSLER: All those in favor of  
18 the motion to amend item 6D, signify by saying  
19 aye.

20 MR. PERRY: Aye.

21 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

22 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

23 MR. EVANS: Aye.

24 MR. WECHSLER: Opposed?

25 MR. ROGAN: No.

1 MR. WECHSLER: The ayes have it and  
2 so moved.

3 MR. EVANS: Chair, I move that Item  
4 6D as amended pass reading by title.

5 MR. ROGAN: Second.

6 MR. WECHSLER: On the question.

7 MR. ROGAN: I would just like to say  
8 although I wanted to see the stop signs put up,  
9 the no parking signs are better than nothing.  
10 So I will vote in the affirmative for the no  
11 parking signs to be put up on those corners.

12 But I would hope that next year we  
13 can do another study. It's a very dangerous  
14 intersection at one of the busiest schools in  
15 South Scranton and hopefully nobody gets hurt.

16 MR. WECHSLER: All those in favor  
17 signify by saying aye.

18 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

19 MR. WECHSLER: Opposed?

20 (No response.)

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

23 MS. REED: SEVENTH ORDER, 7A  
24 PREVIOUSLY TABLED FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE  
25 COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FOR ADOPTION

1 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 50, 2016, AUTHORIZING  
2 THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF  
3 THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY  
4 ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE CONSOLIDATED  
5 SUBMISSION FOR COMMUNITY PLANNING AND  
6 DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS TO BE FUNDED UNDER THE  
7 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM, HOME  
8 INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM, AND EMERGENCY  
9 SOLUTIONS GRANTS PROGRAM FOR THE PERIOD  
10 BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2017.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: I would like to make a  
12 motion to amend item 7A by transferring CDBG  
13 funds for the following projects:

14 I would like to reduce the project  
15 demolition of hazardous structures from  
16 \$200,000 to \$150,000.

17 I would like to reduce  
18 weatherization deferral resolution project from  
19 \$64,000 to \$54,000. I would like into increase  
20 the McLane Park Improvement Project from  
21 \$90,000 to \$150,000.

22 MR. EVANS: Second.

23 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

24 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.

25 I am proposing these amendments for several

1 reasons, which I spoke about in the public  
2 hearing a few weeks ago. I'm very familiar  
3 with this park. It is right next to a housing  
4 project.

5 There are literally hundreds and  
6 hundreds of children that use this park every  
7 year. There are hundreds of softball players  
8 that use this park every week in the spring,  
9 summer, and fall. This park has not had any  
10 money but in it in almost 30 years.

11 It is -- has faulty playground  
12 equipment. The sidewalks are not ADA  
13 assessable. The basketball court is in  
14 shambles. And the fence around the softball  
15 field is really dangerous. So I felt we could  
16 make a major impact in this area of the City,  
17 rejuvenate this neighborhood by increasing the  
18 amount to be funded for this park to \$150,000  
19 and I would hope that my colleagues would  
20 agree. Thank you.

21 MR. EVANS: On the question. This  
22 is also a case where the neighbors came out in  
23 force and made their case before City Council.  
24 And it turned out in their favor.

25 MR. ROGAN: I would just add and I



1           thank Mr. Gaughan for presenting this to us.  
2           It's like three or four days in advance. I did  
3           check with Linda Aebli from OECD and the Mayor  
4           as well. And they're both in support of this  
5           amendment.

6                     The change will reduce the amount of  
7           homes that can be demolished by about five  
8           houses. But that could hopefully be made up  
9           for by leftover funds which was discussed in  
10          the caucus. And I agree with everything that  
11          Mr. Gaughan said.

12                    And you live right across the street  
13          from the park. So if anyone on here knows the  
14          condition, it's you.

15                    MR. PERRY: Yeah, this is a  
16          fantastic allocation of funds. It's going to  
17          make an immediate impact. We talked about  
18          Rockwell Park for almost a couple months now.  
19          And as Councilman Evans said, the neighborhood  
20          did come out in full force.

21                    Councilman Gaughan did push hard for  
22          this. And, you know, this is going to be a  
23          much welcomed site to the community. And I  
24          can't wait to see the finished project.

25                    MR. WECHSLER: Yes, I also visited

1 the park with the neighborhood leaders up there  
2 also and determined the true need for this  
3 project. This park has not had any money put  
4 in it for several years. And this is an  
5 instant jolt for this community. I also as  
6 Mr. Rogan echoed, there's five less properties  
7 that will be coming down, but I think this is a  
8 good thing instead of tearing something down,  
9 we're building something up.

10 This will have an immediate impact  
11 in that neighborhood and I'm happy that we're  
12 able to do it. All those in favor of the  
13 motion to amend item 7A, signify by saying aye.

14 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

15 MR. WECHSLER: Opposed?

16 (No response.)

17 MR. WECHSLER: The ayes have it and  
18 so moved. What is the recommendation of the  
19 Chairperson for the Committee on Community  
20 Development?

21 MR. ROGAN: As Chair for the  
22 Committee on Community Development, I recommend  
23 final passage of item 7A as amended.

24 MR. EVANS: Second.

25 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

1 MR. ROGAN: Yes, on the question, I  
2 believe when this was first introduced, I think  
3 it was probably almost two months ago now, I  
4 did list the entirety of this proposal with  
5 very large amounts of money being allocated for  
6 paving within communities, police patrols for  
7 low to moderate income neighborhoods, and  
8 various other community projects that really  
9 will make a big difference.

10 We did contact Senator Casey and  
11 Senator Toomey -- or I did I should say, as  
12 well as our representatives asking them to  
13 continue to support increase funding for the  
14 Community Development Block Grant Program.

15 It is a vital program to the City of  
16 Scranton. And I urge everyone out there to get  
17 on our federal representatives to keep this  
18 funding in place and to increase it. One other  
19 caveat I'd like to throw in, I have not  
20 forgotten and we have not gotten a response  
21 from Mr. Boscov as to the hundreds of thousands  
22 of dollars that were taken out of this  
23 allocation because of his lack of payment to  
24 the City of Scranton.

25 So this is something that we will

1           continue to pursue until we get an answer on  
2           whether Mr. Boscov intends to make that  
3           payment.

4                       MR. EVANS: On the question, I will  
5           be voting in the affirmative for the plan  
6           tonight. But I would like to remind everyone  
7           for next year that OECD means the Office of  
8           Economic and Community Development. And this  
9           overall plan in my opinion continues to be  
10          heavy on the community development side and  
11          light on the economic development side.

12                      While there are many good causes and  
13          projects and plans it just seems that for many  
14          of the groups, grant money has just become  
15          another line item in their budgets.

16                      So I favor a more balanced approach  
17          of economic development and community  
18          development when you -- when the City of  
19          Scranton has limited resources that drive of  
20          the economy, you must turn to your OECD  
21          Department to drive that economic development  
22          as well as create and drive a vision for that  
23          development. So I'm looking forward to next  
24          year to seeing a larger emphasis on economic  
25          development through the 2017 plan here.

1 MR. WECHSLER: Roll call, please.

2 MS. REED: Mr. Perry.

3 MR. PERRY: Yes.

4 MS. REED: Mr. Rogan.

5 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

6 MS. REED: Mr. Evans.

7 MR. EVANS: Yes.

8 MS. REED: Mr. Gaughan.

9 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

10 MS. REED: Mr. Wechsler.

11 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby  
12 declare item 7A as amended legally and lawfully  
13 adopted. If there's no further business, I'll  
14 entertain a motion to adjourn.

15 MR. ROGAN: Motion to adjourn.

16 MR. WECHSLER: Meeting is adjourned.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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2  
3 I hereby certify that the proceedings and  
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