

SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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HELD:

Thursday, November 10, 2016

LOCATION:

Council Chambers

Scranton City Hall

340 North Washington Avenue

Scranton, Pennsylvania

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

- JOSEPH WECHSLER, PRESIDENT
- PATRICK ROGAN, VICE-PRESIDENT
- WAYNE EVANS
- WILLIAM GAUGHAN
- TIM PERRY

- LORI REED, CITY CLERK
- KATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK
- AMIL MINORA, SOLICITOR

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

3 MR. WECHSLER: Roll call, please.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

5 MR. PERRY: Here.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

7 MR. ROGAN: Here.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

9 MR. EVANS: Here.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Here.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

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

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

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

21 MS. REED: 3-B. AGENDA FOR THE
22 PROPOSED MEETING OF THE LACKAWANNA COUNTY
23 TAX COLLECTION COMMITTEE OCTOBER 27, 2016.

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

1 MS. REED: 3-C. MINUTES OF THE
2 LACKAWANNA COUNTY TAX COLLECTION COMMITTEE
3 MEETING HELD JULY 28, 2016.

4 MR. WECHSLER: Are there any
5 comments? If not, received and filed.

6 MS. REED: 3-D. TAX ASSESSOR'S
7 RESULTS REPORT FOR HEARING DATE HELD OCTOBER
8 19, 2016.

9 MR. WECHSLER: Are there any
10 comments? If not, received and filed. Do
11 any council members have any announcements
12 at this time?

13 MR. GAUGHAN: Your Honor, I have
14 one. The County of Lackawanna Transit
15 System, COLTS, will offer free rides to
16 veterans and active duty military members on
17 Veteran's Day which is tomorrow, November
18 11, in recognition of their service to our
19 country. Veterans should show the bus
20 driver their VA card or honorable discharge
21 papers and active duty military can show
22 their military ID cards. Thank you.

23 MR. WECHSLER: As we know, this week
24 is -- this month, I'm sorry, is pancreatic
25 cancer awareness month. Next week on the

1 18th and the 19th Pappas Pizza will be
2 having its annual pizza fundraiser for
3 pancreatic cancer and I believe the event
4 will held Tuesday and Wednesday from 11 a.m.
5 to 9 p.m. on Tuesday.

6 MS. REED: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'
7 PARTICIPATION.

8 MR. WECHSLER: Joan Hodowanitz.

9 MS. HODOWANITZ: Joan Hodowanitz,
10 citizen and taxpayer. Happy Veteran's Day
11 to all veterans and their families. Nov. 15
12 through the 20th the Friends of Scranton
13 Public Library will be holding a book sale
14 second floor of the Marketplace at Steamtown
15 Mall and right in front of Crunch Fitness.
16 Please come and support the library.
17 Everybody is a winner in this one.

18 Today is November 10, the City's
19 independent audit is now 164 days late.
20 During motions if you would please update us
21 on the status of the audit and the working
22 session which supposed to be open to the
23 public. Also, during motions if you can
24 give us an update when the proposed 2017
25 operating budget will be made available for

1 public access. You are getting close to the
2 November 15 deadline. Also, during motions
3 if you would update us on the status of
4 getting the police, state police report on
5 their investigation of the double pensions
6 and how that is going and when the public
7 might have access to that if information is
8 ever.

9 I'm going to quote from Mayor
10 Courtright's March 18 press release. "From
11 this point onward, the City's pension fund
12 will be managed by a nationally recognized
13 third party administrator who will ensure
14 that the pension funds are professionally
15 managed so that regular and disability
16 pensions are only paid according to the
17 strict application of our laws and that the
18 pension system operates at the highest
19 standard expected by our retirees and
20 taxpayers."

21 That was March 18. Now let me quote
22 from his state of the city address on
23 November 4 and see if you hear anything
24 similar. "The City's pension funds will now
25 be run by a nationally recognized third

1 party administrator who will ensure that the
2 pension funds are professionally managed,
3 that all regular and disability pensions are
4 only paid according to the strict
5 application of our laws that the pension
6 system operates at the highest standard
7 expected by our retirees and taxpayers."

8 Well, this taxpayer would like to
9 know what's going on. It's promised on
10 March 18 from this point onward, on November
11 4 it says, "Now" and I'd like to know what
12 is going on with the appointment of this
13 administrator. Has an RFP been written?
14 Will there be an RFP that is being
15 considered and when is this going to come to
16 pass? When you are discussing this in
17 caucus, you mentioned that this might be
18 tied to the Sewer Authority sale. I would
19 like an explanation of why that should be.
20 I think it should be done independently even
21 if there were no Sewer Authority we still
22 need to manage the pensions better than we
23 have in the past.

24 With regard to Item 5-B this
25 ordinance involving the contractors, is this

1 a redo of the ordinance that failed to pass
2 several months ago? If so, would you please
3 explain what has changed and why this has
4 been reintroduced.

5 And with regard to Item 5-D, the
6 grant application for \$18,375, I skimmed
7 through the background on this item and I
8 saw several references to improving economic
9 recovery of both Scranton and Lackawanna
10 County. I'm just wondering if the backup is
11 poorly written or does this include both
12 Scranton and areas of Lackawanna County
13 outside of Scranton and if that is so, what
14 kind of the money is the county putting
15 forward. Thank you.

16 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

17 MR. WECHSLER: Lee Morgan.

18 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.
19 Well, I think one of the greatest things
20 that ever happened to our country just took
21 place on election day. With all of the
22 irregularities that were reported across th
23 is nation and the ballot boxes Donald Trump
24 managed to win this election, and it wasn't
25 a Republican win, and I have heard a lot of

1 people talk about the amount of concern that
2 a Republican has become president, but I
3 don't think that's what's happened here and
4 obviously Donald Trump isn't a Democrat
5 either, but, you know, since he put his hat
6 in the ring I told everybody he was going to
7 win this election and I spent a lot time
8 outside of this city and I have to honestly
9 say that I almost saw no Hillary Clinton
10 signs anywhere, and when you look at the map
11 of this nation and you see what's taking
12 place the people themselves have finally
13 realized something, that they have no use
14 for the people they elect. They have no use
15 for the two-party system, and you can't
16 really blame them.

17 The sewer deal is a bad idea for the
18 city. This council should know that. The
19 Sewer Authority knew that. Every resident
20 of this city knows that, and we may avoid a
21 tax increase for a very short period of time
22 but not of the city's fiscal problems have
23 been solved, not by this council and not by
24 previous councils for over two decades. The
25 American people across this nation sent a

1 very strong signal and I really think we are
2 playing with our democracy here because the
3 general public is getting ready to give up
4 on this system.

5 I drive about the country where I
6 have heard numerous women say that it's time
7 to star shooting. It's a really a troubling
8 thing that the people have no faith in their
9 government, and a lack of employment outside
10 of the city and all of the poverty that's
11 there, and it is there, and the poverty is
12 here. You know, when you have got school
13 students in the Scranton School District
14 receiving a free lunch and a free breakfast
15 because the amount of poverty in this city.

16 And we look at our elected
17 government that over 25 years hasn't figured
18 out what our problem is and hasn't even
19 restructured the city and it has a council
20 that sits here week after week and fields
21 questions from its residents and really
22 never answers them most times and has
23 nothing but total contempt that elect them.
24 It's troubling, very troubling.

25 The other thing we found in this

1 election was that the people in the press
2 that we counted on to tell us things
3 truthfully and honestly had picked sides,
4 and in a city with one newspaper I think
5 it's time for the Scranton Times to hire an
6 investigative reporter and start telling us
7 what's really happening in our city
8 government because we really don't have
9 anybody telling us anything of any value.
10 We have five council members who in my
11 opinion have a very hard time coming forward
12 and being truthful and hide behind just a
13 multitude of different things not to come
14 forward and tell us what's happening in our
15 city.

16 And now we see that the county is
17 talking once again about reassessment, but
18 you know what the truth of the matter is?
19 This city needed to restructure a long time
20 ago and it needed to really respect and
21 cherish the people who lived here and,
22 instead, we wasted every dime of federal
23 funds we get our hands on and state funds.
24 We have squandered everything. And how long
25 it's going continue I can't tell you that,

1 but I know that we have a lot of seniors
2 living in the high rises even around this
3 building that at one time were property
4 owners in this city and they sold their
5 homes because they couldn't face the
6 crushing taxation that was taking place.

7 And now we have this city who says
8 that they are going to study the garbage
9 fee, but I mean, you have got to really take
10 a look at how absolutely silly that is. You
11 are offering people the opportunity to come
12 here and build and avoid taxation for a
13 certain period of time, there is a lack of
14 employment opportunity here, there is a lack
15 of almost anything, but the most important
16 thing that's lacked here is transparency and
17 honesty and that comes from you and the
18 mayor. I mean, I have never even heard us
19 tell us where Mr. Bulzoni came from.

20 I really think that this council
21 needs to wake up, and I know you don't care
22 much for what I said, but then you really
23 don't care much about the residents of this
24 city either. Thank you.

25 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you,

1 Mr. Morgan. Aaron Faust.

2 MR. FAUST: Thank you,
3 Mr. President, Council. Right before you
4 tonight to speak on the Amendment 155
5 ordinance entitled provisions for licensing
6 and regulating of contractors, specifically,
7 to start out with under number three,
8 Section B, "Any person wishing to apply for
9 a contractor's licensing including, but not
10 limited to, the following categories of
11 general construction, residential
12 construction, electrical, plumbing,
13 mechanical, masonry demolition, roofing and
14 carpentry."

15 That provision you are letting have
16 four years of practical experience being
17 proven by simple paychecks or W-2's. I'm
18 more in favor of the exam being given to the
19 contractor. I feel that council has an
20 obligation to this City of Scranton to
21 ensure that the contractors that will be
22 working are of that quality. Now, if we let
23 just the paycheck prove which contractor can
24 be licensed, anybody can work for somebody
25 for four years sweeping the floor and give

1 an electrical license. They might not have
2 any experience under that contractor doing
3 electrical work, doing HVAC work, doing
4 mechanical work.

5 So I really urge council to take a
6 long hard look at this ordinance and how you
7 want to amend it to make sure that the
8 contractors are held to the highest standard
9 and make sure they can pass and they're
10 competent and we owe the residents of
11 Scranton and in the name of the safety
12 especially you are dealing with mechanical,
13 you are dealing with electrical and we need
14 to be sure that the contractors that are put
15 forth in this city know what they are doing.
16 Thank you.

17 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. I'm
18 sorry, I can't read the next name. Does
19 anybody who signed after Mr. Faust and.
20 Before Rick Schraeder?

21 MR. MCNULTY: Well, if you can't
22 read it I'll take it.

23 MR. WECHSLER: That's you, Tom.

24 MR. MCNULTY: Good evening, Council.
25 My name is Tom McNulty, I'm a resident of

1 the city, life-long resident of the city and
2 my job currently that I hold is the Director
3 of Education and Safety for the National
4 Contractor's Association, and my two
5 principal duties are to make sure that our
6 people, all 161 contractors are up on the
7 latest codes and safety requirements.
8 Obviously, that's a --- going to take care
9 of -- we cover a big territory. We cover
10 from Allentown, Philadelphia, almost all the
11 way up to Pittsburgh and not quite
12 Pittsburgh, I should say, but in my duties
13 there is an awful lot of responsibility to
14 make sure that our people are brought up to
15 the latest codes in the electrical. The
16 code changes every three years and with that
17 change there is major changes every three
18 years that come out. A lot of our guys that
19 work for us, okay, the contractors are the
20 ones that has the license, the contractor is
21 the one that has the responsibility to make
22 sure that he is up on those codes, not the
23 individual, the contractor has to. If you
24 are going to allow a guy to go out and do
25 electrical work because he has worked for

1 some guy you have no idea whether or not he
2 is capable of navigating the code. You have
3 no idea. None. And that's the concern I
4 have. It's a major concern I have. It's
5 not an easy book to navigate, especially
6 with changes occurring every three years but
7 it's important that they know how to
8 navigate that course, that code.

9 That test that supposedly the test
10 that the City of Scranton gives or used to
11 give hasn't been given in three years.
12 Maybe that's where your problem lies. The
13 test hasn't been given. I have got guys
14 right now saying to me that I have got my
15 sons wanting to take the electrical exam and
16 no one has given it in three years, so the
17 problem is not with test, the problem is you
18 haven't given the test. That's where the
19 problem is. Don't walk away from a test
20 requirement. It's the only sure way you
21 know that the guy is capable of handling the
22 project. It's the only way. It is the
23 absolutely only way. To let it go is just
24 irresponsible, I think. In all honesty, I
25 mean that sincerely, and I know you guys

1 personally. I know you wouldn't do
2 something to jeopardize people. I'm trying
3 to tell you from the heart this is not a
4 road we should ever go down.

5 The City of Bethlehem has a test.
6 The City of Allentown has a test. The City
7 of Reading has a test. The City of
8 Harrisburg has a test. What are we trying
9 to do here? It just doesn't make any sense.
10 I honestly and truly believe that there is a
11 different way of doing this thing, you know.
12 Get after that company that's supposed to
13 issue that test. Get after them and, by the
14 way, if guys are having a problem taking the
15 test or they are saying that they can't pass
16 the test there is companies all over that
17 they can go to, they can do it on-line and
18 they can practice those tests so they
19 understand what it's all about, but don't
20 let somebody just go through the door, the
21 back door. That's a problem and that's a
22 problem that's going to come to the
23 residents of this community, you as city
24 council members, you know, let's not have
25 something like that. It's just not

1 worthwhile, guys. I don't know what your
2 reasoning is for doing it, but I honest and
3 truly believe it's the wrong road. Thank
4 you very much.

5 MR. WECHSLER: Rick Schraeder.

6 MR. SCHRAEDER: Thank you. Rick
7 Schraeder. Good evening, Council. Thank
8 you for the opportunity to address you. My
9 name is Rick Schrader. I'm the business
10 manager of IBEW International Brotherhood of
11 Electrical Workers Local 81 located here on
12 Wyoming Avenue in Scranton. I'm also here
13 to speak on an ordinance 155 and revision of
14 it. I had spoke before when this was
15 brought before council and I just want to
16 let you know I feel as though this is the
17 same animal in different clothes. Our
18 number one primary concern is the safety of
19 the citizens of Scranton, and I'm sure every
20 one of you sitting up there share the same
21 concerns.

22 I cannot see for the sake, I have
23 heard people say we need to have the city
24 become more business friendly, that we need
25 to have the city be able to have people come

1 in here and not have to go through some red
2 tape to do work in the City of Scranton. I
3 say that if that were red tape saves one
4 life then you have done your job. I say
5 that if there is one job that doesn't have a
6 problem because of a fire that's in the
7 house because we don't have people that were
8 properly tested then it was worthwhile not
9 to do this. I feel as though we need to
10 make sure that the people that are going to
11 be doing the work are properly tested. We
12 would support other changes that you had
13 there, we would support some of the other
14 parts of it, I understand some of it is
15 going towards the residential and one, two
16 family dwellings or multi-family homes or
17 townhouses, and I have an understanding of
18 that, but that's exactly where the people
19 live and that's why we are cannot sacrifice
20 the safety in any way, shape or form in
21 order to have the city become more business
22 friendly. I would rather the city be a
23 safer city for our people to live where they
24 are staying. As you know, and you're well
25 aware almost any fire that takes place if

1 it's in the arson I would dare to say that
2 it was almost always blamed on the
3 electrical.

4 There is also other trades that are
5 involved here. There is other construction
6 groups, you know, with the steam lines,
7 refrigerants, movers for ventilation, all of
8 these things play into the safety of the
9 people that are going to be in the
10 dwellings. We see so many things that
11 happened even with ventilation in the town
12 where places had to be evacuated. We see
13 where there is problems if there is a leak
14 of refrigerants that we have to be careful
15 of.

16 I think it's extremely important
17 that we do a little examination of our
18 conscience as to where we are going to go
19 with this. We certainly want Scranton to be
20 the best place it could for our families to
21 live, for people to grow up and for the
22 sounding areas to see the example that's
23 being set by a city. Almost all of the
24 major cities do have testing for their
25 contractors within the city limits. The

1 cities are the ones that are held to a
2 higher standard, as every one of you
3 understand. Sitting there on council you
4 understand you are held to a higher standard
5 than a Borough or municipality would be, you
6 are where the people are in mass. You
7 represent them people that are here in
8 Lackawanna County and I think it's important
9 that we just take a hard look at this and I
10 ask you for the safety of the people and for
11 our friends, our relatives and our children
12 that we make the right move and make sure
13 that there is a test. I don't want to hear
14 that someone isn't a good test taker. It's
15 important that they understand what the code
16 is, that's why the code is revised every
17 three years. We need people that are
18 up-to-date with it. We have a full
19 apprenticeship program, but we would like to
20 see even our people tested to make sure that
21 they understand all of the responsibilities
22 of the contractors. Thank you for your time
23 tonight and he hope everyone has a happy
24 Veteran's Day.

25 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you.

1 MR. GAUGHAN: Mr. Schraeder, if I
2 could ask you one question?

3 MR. SCHRAEDER: Sure.

4 MR. GAUGHAN: The Advisory Board, do
5 you know if that has met, the Electrical
6 Advisory Board?

7 MR. SCHRAEDER: The Electric
8 Advisory Board I know that they have had one
9 or two meetings, I will defer that. Paul
10 Casparo who will be coming up here, he sits
11 on that board and I believe he would be
12 better suited to tell you when they did
13 meet. I know that they did have one or two
14 meetings, but it wasn't called officially
15 like it should have been, it was someone
16 that sat on that board for awhile. I think
17 the board will oversee what is being done.
18 I certainly would hope that we would not do
19 away with them. You know, the city and to
20 hear that an inspector goes out and inspects
21 it afterwards he can't see through the
22 walls. There is lot of older buildings in
23 Scranton that are rewired and you know what,
24 if we don't have, you know -- it's terrible
25 that we don't have a city electrical

1 inspector now, I hope something could be
2 done about that, but just to rely on a third
3 party inspector not working for the city but
4 working basically to go out and to inspect
5 these jobs after the fact and they might
6 stop in from time to time, they can't see
7 through the walls. They don't know what's
8 in back of that. You see a receptacle and
9 you can't see in there once it's covered up.
10 He doesn't know if it was done properly. He
11 can only inspect what he has in front of
12 him.

13 So, again, I implore you to try and
14 think about, you know, having the Advisory
15 Board and an inspector that would be working
16 for the city on staff. Thank you.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: I did ask about the
18 electrical inspector and the plumbing
19 inspector because we don't have either of
20 those, and I was told that they can't find
21 anyone qualified to do the job, which I find
22 very hard to believe so --

23 MR. SCHRAEDER: Well, again, you
24 know, I believe that I had sent over a
25 couple of guys that I believe would be

1 qualified, they need a master's license in
2 order to do it. The city hasn't an issue a
3 test for that license in over three years,
4 as was previously stated so we have a
5 multitude of issues here that maybe we need
6 to try to address. I think that, you know,
7 and if you weren't aware of it hopefully we
8 are making you aware of it tonight,
9 certainly would like to see the testing put
10 back in place, that was one of the
11 requirements for electrical inspector so we
12 are very proud of the way that we do things
13 through our apprenticeship program, through
14 our training. We have ongoing training and
15 certainly want to invite each and every
16 council member to come up to our training
17 facility to see what we are doing and maybe
18 have a grasp on what takes place and our
19 people. Thank you.

20 MR. WECHSLER: Paul Casparo.

21 MR. CASPARO: Thank you,

22 Mr. President, Council. My name is Paul
23 Casparo, I'm the president of Local 81 IBEW.
24 I'm also Chairman of Code and Panel three of
25 the National Electrical Code and that's been

1 a nine-year cycle. Previous to that, I have
2 been on the code panel for five other cycles
3 which is a total of 15 years. I'm a
4 resident of the City of Scranton for 64
5 years and I do pay taxes here.

6 Tonight I'm here to speak on the
7 opposition to the amending the File of
8 Council No. 155. We are in agreement with
9 Section No. 2, the contractor's license,
10 because of the testing that takes place in
11 that section. We are not in agreement with
12 Section 2-B, No. 4, and that states,
13 "Alternate means for a master contractor
14 license. Any licensed journeyman for which
15 said journeyman has held a valid continual
16 license for a period of eight years or more
17 and that has the following information in
18 addition to the existing application
19 requirements," and here is the part, "Shall
20 be exempt from the requirements of taking
21 the master's test and shall be granted a
22 master contractor license."

23 Additional requirements shall be W-2
24 forms, as they have already stated, letters
25 of referral, recommendations and five

1 letters from customers. I mean, come on,
2 really. So to be exempt from taking that
3 test is not acceptable.

4 I'd like to ask Mr. Evans and
5 Mr. Rogan, do you have a license to sell
6 real estate?

7 MR. EVANS: Yes, we do.

8 MR. CASPARO: Did you have to take a
9 test to get that license?

10 MR. EVANS: Yes, I did.

11 MR. CASPARO: So there it is. I
12 mean, can you get killed selling real
13 estate?

14 MR. PERRY: Depends on the price.

15 MR. CASPARO: You can get killed
16 doing electrical work and you can kill
17 people doing electrical work, you know,
18 while doing faulty electrical work, killing
19 some people, children, families, and so
20 forth. Council, I ask you, do you have the
21 liability -- if you sign off on this do you
22 have the liability to take care of some
23 family if their children or family members
24 get killed? Are you going to be able to
25 sleep at night knowing that you let

1 something go through that isn't worthwhile
2 and is not up to the standard? You know, we
3 set the standard here for years in the City
4 of Scranton to do everything right. We've
5 tested for years and there's never been a
6 problem, and this isn't a union/non-union
7 issue we have -- a lot of our non-union
8 counterparts contractors who are good
9 friends of ours who get themselves educated
10 and IAEI, International Association of
11 Electrical Inspectors, they have classes
12 once every two months, you can get yourself
13 there and get ready for a test. There is
14 online training that you can take practice
15 tests, there is numerous sites there that
16 you can get yourself ready to go so, you
17 know, if you are able to live with yourself
18 and being able to pass this without having
19 these people tested and being properly
20 trained and to do this work, you know, I'm
21 not sure so, you know, we will leave that up
22 to you. Hopefully, you will make the right
23 decision and thank you for allowing me to
24 speak and Happy Veteran's Day to all the
25 veterans.

1 MR. WECHSLER: Pat Dolan.

2 MR. DOLAN: Good evening, gentlemen.
3 My name is Pat Dolan, I'm the business
4 manager with the pipefitters and plumbers
5 here in Scranton. There is probably nothing
6 new that I could add to what these gentlemen
7 have already spoken to, but I'd just like to
8 drive home a couple of points. To do
9 anything to lessen the requirements for
10 licensing in my mind is totally absurd.
11 There has to be testing involved. Just
12 because somebody says that you work for a
13 contractor for a number of years and he
14 could show it doesn't mean he has got broad
15 knowledge of this trade. I don't care if
16 it's in a mechanical side, plumbing,
17 electrical, I mean, there are so many
18 different avenues you can go down in each of
19 those trades so that's why I believe the
20 licensing should require testing. It's just
21 to show that broad experience and training
22 and anything to alleviate it I can't see the
23 logic in it. I mean, you are talking about
24 putting people's lives at risk.

25 And, again, the Licensing Board

1 seems to be going by the wayside, I don't
2 think everything should be up to the
3 director. I really believe there needs to
4 be a board but, again, I can't add anything
5 new, these gentlemen have already pretty
6 much covered all of real issues in here so
7 please give it serious consideration and I'd
8 like to thank our veterans. Thank you.
9 Anyone else?

10 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening.

11 Marie Schumacher. As excited as I was to
12 witness an over 73 percent turnout in seeing
13 people actually come out to vote on Tuesday,
14 I was disappointed to pick up the paper and
15 see that the Young family and their
16 neighbors had to go to Court and hire an
17 attorney to get the satisfaction that they
18 need from this city. It seems more should
19 have been done for them, most of it a long
20 time ago.

21 And the next thing I'd like to talk
22 about is something that occurred in last
23 week's caucus in the back room, I believe
24 Mr. Evans it was you who brought up the fact
25 of a property on Crown Avenue that was

1 condemned for tall grass, our
2 wonderful quality of life, I went home and I
3 looked at that legislation and no where in
4 that legislation does it call for
5 condemnation of a property. What it did was
6 allow the city to go out and have the work
7 done to make it presentable and present the
8 owner with the bill. So, you know, how a
9 property got -- how that happened somebody
10 house would be -- their entire home
11 condemned and then have somebody else buy it
12 and then be forced to move out over long
13 grass, it just blows my mind. There has got
14 to be something else.

15 MR. EVANS: It's a slippery slope.
16 I'll address that in motions and talk about
17 that a bit in motions.

18 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay, and then I
19 have to commend Fay for hanging in there on
20 the support for the documents that I think
21 we both and other people requested. It is
22 accurate to state that stating that funds to
23 pay the MMO came from the general fund does
24 not allow you to see what accounts were
25 effected and, therefore, whether or not the

1 Home Rule Charter was avoided and I hope
2 that won't occur again this year and do we
3 have an answer tonight on whether or not the
4 MMO payment will be made in full and on time
5 this year?

6 MR. GAUGHAN: I did ask the business
7 administrator and, in fact, I just had a
8 short conversation with him and he said he
9 believes so but it's going to be really,
10 really tight.

11 MS. SCHUMACHER: Yeah, I did notice
12 in the -- I don't have my agendas here, the
13 report from the Single Tax Office, our taxes
14 are still lagging. They are down about, as
15 I recall, 3.7 percent and that's a couple of
16 percentage points which is lot of money
17 under the budget, so that's also
18 troublesome.

19 And, Mr. Rogan, when are we going to
20 get that list from OECD on the delinquent
21 CDBG loans or defaults?

22 MR. ROGAN: The list was requested,
23 we still haven't received it. I could
24 follow-up with them, but we did make the
25 request.

1 MS. SCHUMACHER: I would have
2 thought you would have already done that,
3 it's been quite awhile and I would like to
4 know what the -- what constitutes the gun
5 knowing we don't want the same thing to
6 happen that's happened with our Pennsylvania
7 State Police and say, "Whoops, the statute
8 of limitations expired because we had it
9 sitting here on our desk."

10 So what is the statute of
11 limitations for OECD defaults?

12 MR. ROGAN: Again, that's also with
13 Attorney Hickey. Well, Attorney Hickey is
14 the solicitor for --

15 MS. SCHUMACHER: But could you --

16 MR. ROGAN: Attorney Minora, if you
17 are comfortable answering it.

18 MS. SCHUMACHER: Does he know?

19 MR. MINORA: The statute of
20 limitations, I didn't hear you, for what?

21 MS. SCHUMACHER: For a delinquent
22 CDBG loan if the city doesn't go after them
23 what is -- what starts the clock running on
24 whether or not the statute of limitation
25 expires for going after those people?

1 MR. MINORA: Well, it probably would
2 be governed by the contract itself, but
3 ordinarily in non-criminal cases there is a
4 four-year statute of limitation for contract
5 actions so that's the general answer I can
6 give you and at the best I can give you.

7 MS. SCHUMACHER: So it's not tied to
8 anything like when the last payment was made
9 or --

10 MR. MINORA: It could be. It
11 depends on, that's what I said, it depends
12 on the agreement.

13 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay, well, then,
14 Mr. Rogan, I'm going to amend that question
15 that I had asked and that is would you ask
16 them also to tell us when the statute of
17 limitations expires for each of those
18 delinquent loans?

19 MR. ROGAN: First I'll ask if there
20 is a blanket -- and, again, we'll see if
21 there is a blanket policy regarding that or
22 if it isn't on --

23 MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, I still would
24 like to know individually because I know
25 there are a lot of big ones in there whether

1 or not they are --

2 MR. ROGAN: Sure.

3 MS. SCHUMACHER: Thank you.

4 MS. FRANUS: Everything I'm saying
5 like every week is just my opinion, of
6 course. First of all, I'd like to say I
7 don't believe there would be any
8 justification in this world for any of you
9 to limit what those contractors are saying.
10 There shouldn't be any justification if you
11 do not make sure that they have a license to
12 take a test. I mean, what is it -- like
13 they said, what is one life worth? One
14 house burns down and one person gets killed,
15 that would be on your heads, it really
16 would. It be your responsibility because
17 you are the one that are making these rules
18 and it is imperative that you make sure that
19 everybody takes a test. No excuse for
20 nothing, for anything around here. Nothing.
21 So, please, like I said, there is no excuse
22 you can give that will be good enough.
23 None. And every one of them are
24 professional and they do know what they are
25 talking about.

1 I'd like to bring up something about
2 it's an election year and you probably won't
3 raise taxes too much because it's an
4 election year. Mr. Rogan, I know you were
5 on the council with Jack Loscombe and Frank
6 Joyce and Janet Evans and they raised taxes
7 22 percent and you sat there and you said,
8 "I will not raise taxes on the people, I
9 will not do that."

10 But since you have been in office
11 now you have raised taxes I'd say about 83
12 percent with Mayor Doherty's 57 percent but
13 coming two months later Bill Courtright took
14 office so you would take the -- you wanted
15 to make sure he had that money available.
16 Taxes and bills wouldn't be as bad for him
17 so for someone who never raised taxes when
18 it was 22 percent went from that to 83
19 percent. People should really think about
20 electing you again. And you were also a
21 person that said you wanted term limits, two
22 terms for councilmen and here you are.

23 MR. ROGAN: This is my second term;
24 correct.

25 MS. FRANUS: This is going to your

1 last term; right? How many years are you in
2 already?

3 MR. ROGAN: Seven years.

4 MS. FRANUS: Okay, so when you get
5 elected again how many more years would that
6 be?

7 MR. ROGAN: Who said I was running
8 again?

9 MS. FRANUS: You are not going to
10 run again?

11 MR. ROGAN: I haven't even thought
12 about it.

13 MS. FRANUS: If you are --

14 MR. ROGAN: The general election for
15 president ended two days ago, I haven't even
16 thought about it.

17 MS. FRANUS: Oh, I'm sure you
18 haven't. I'm sure you haven't. People
19 better remember this. Now, another thing,
20 the garbage fee, I talked about this last
21 week and, Mr. Evans, you said to me that you
22 have no control over the people that are
23 doing the study as to when they get this
24 done. That's not true. I have been talking
25 about this garbage fee for almost a year

1 now, maybe more than a year and I have never
2 been able to get the figures and you
3 yourself and Mr. Perry said that \$300 was
4 too much. It was just -- it wasn't the
5 right amount that people should be paying,
6 it was too much, so then you wanted to have
7 a study, which you are going to, do and you
8 are the ones that wanted the study to get
9 the right figures for this coming year. You
10 were the ones. The grant was approved in
11 June so there is no reason in the world why
12 you couldn't go after whoever is doing this,
13 PEL people, whoever it is, to tell them we
14 need this -- we need this study done for the
15 budget, which is due next week or November
16 15. So how could you sit there and say you
17 had no control and you can just pick up that
18 phone and go and see them any time you want,
19 but the reason I think is because since you
20 get can't raise taxes too much next year
21 because it's an election year, God forbid,
22 you want to keep the garbage fee at \$300 to
23 get that much more money in.

24 MR. EVANS: Well, I don't want to
25 keep the garbage fee at \$300 I'll tell you

1 right now. I never did.

2 MS. FRANUS: Well, let's see what
3 you do. I don't think the 10 percent you
4 pay it all once is good enough. That's only
5 \$30 off.

6 MR. EVANS: Well, that's your
7 opinion. Up until that changed that was the
8 first positive change to reduce the garbage
9 fee ever.

10 MS. FRANUS: What happened to your
11 idea -- it shouldn't have been 300 in the
12 first place.

13 MR. EVANS: Well, the feedback I got
14 on the senior discount, which we are going
15 to talk about now, was the fact that it
16 would be too difficult to administer so
17 that's why we implemented the 10 percent
18 discount for everybody.

19 MS. FRANUS: If they pay it all the
20 once; right?

21 MR. EVANS: If they pay it all at
22 once.

23 MS. FRANUS: Yeah, not many people
24 could pay it all at once, Wayne. Whatever
25 happened to your idea about the senior

1 citizen discount?

2 MR. EVANS: I wanted to do a senior
3 discount, but I was told that it was too
4 cumbersome and too difficult to administer.

5 MS. FRANUS: By who? How is it?
6 How come Abington Township and Clarks Summit
7 could do it?

8 MR. EVANS: How many people live in
9 Abington Township?

10 MS. FRANUS: A lot of people. Many,
11 many, many.

12 MR. EVANS: --- (unintelligible)
13 2,000.

14 MS. FRANUS: Wayne, I don't have the
15 exact amount, but let me tell you they
16 didn't have a problem administering it. If
17 you have a problem administering a senior
18 citizen discount then we have a real big
19 problem with Dave Bulzoni and the
20 administration.

21 MR. EVANS: Well, why we were
22 waiting for that to happen we initiated the
23 10 percent discount which is at least doing
24 something.

25 MS. FRANUS: Oh, not enough.

1 MR. EVANS: That way all the
2 citizens pay, by the way --

3 MS. FRANUS: No, you could still
4 give the senior citizens a discount. Don't
5 forget, it went from \$189 to \$300 and you
6 even said that was too much.

7 MR. EVANS: Well, I didn't vote for
8 it.

9 MS. FRANUS: Because if it's more
10 than -- if the money coming in is more than
11 what's going out that's a tax, not a fee.

12 MR. EVANS: That's why we are doing
13 the study.

14 MS. FRANUS: That's right, and that
15 study could have been done --

16 MR. EVANS: I will find out the
17 status of the study --

18 MS. FRANUS: Pardon me?

19 MR. EVANS: I will find out the
20 status of that study for next week and let
21 you know.

22 MS. FRANUS: Next week. It was June
23 that the money was approved and you sat on
24 this all of this time, I believe on purpose.

25 MR. EVANS: I didn't sit on the

1 study.

2 MS. FRANUS: Did you do anything
3 since June?

4 MR. EVANS: I have no stance, Fay,
5 to sit on a study. I want the study done as
6 much as you do.

7 MS. FRANUS: Well, then how come it
8 hasn't been done since June?

9 MR. EVANS: I don't know, we'll find
10 out.

11 MS. FRANUS: So you can all of a
12 sudden find out. You never, ever asked
13 since June?

14 MR. EVANS: I have asked about it
15 several times, about where is the study and
16 what is the status of it and it's ongoing.
17 That was my -- that was the answer.

18 MS. FRANUS: Oh, well that's really
19 a lot of pressure.

20 MR. EVANS: Why would I not want the
21 garbage fee reduced? I want the garbage fee
22 reduced.

23 MS. FRANUS: Because you need more
24 money next year from the people to pay the
25 bills if they are not going to get -- if

1 you're not going to raise taxes that much.

2 MR. EVANS: That has nothing to do
3 with it.

4 MS. FRANUS: I don't believe you at
5 all, and you there is no doubt in my mind
6 you can give a senior citizen discount.
7 None. You just don't want to. Too
8 cumbersome. That's the biggest joke in the
9 book.

10 MR. EVANS: I would do it right now
11 if I could do it.

12 MS. FRANUS: Pardon me?

13 MR. EVANS: We don't implement that,
14 the administration does. I would do it
15 tomorrow.

16 MS. FRANUS: Oh, I --

17 MR. EVANS: If it was up to me and
18 not the administration I would do it
19 tomorrow.

20 MS. FRANUS: I don't believe you.
21 If you wanted it done you would tell them.

22 MR. EVANS: I told them.

23 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Anyone
24 else?

25 MS. FRANUS: Well, Then Dave Bulzoni

1 shouldn't be working here.

2 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening, Council.
3 Dave Dobrzyn, resident and taxpayer. I have
4 a little question, tomorrow is Veteran's
5 Day, is there trash removal tomorrow?

6 MR. EVANS: Pardon?

7 MR. DOBRZYN: In my neighborhood.

8 MR. EVANS: I think Friday --

9 MR. WECHSLER: They are off Tuesday,
10 they will be working tomorrow.

11 MR. DOBRZYN: What's that?

12 MR. WECHSLER: They will be working
13 tomorrow, but they will be off Monday.

14 MR. DOBRZYN: Oh, okay. Okay.

15 MR. EVANS: They swapped.

16 MR. DOBRZYN: Thank you. I'd also
17 like to remind you that our neighborhood
18 gets slighted on recyclables on hard
19 winters. Once again, 2014 issues coming up
20 please try to figure out something to do
21 with that and it would be nice but if I
22 agree it would be hard to verify to cut
23 somebody back, sell them a certain size
24 barrel and if they are elderly or whatever
25 hopefully something like that can be done so

1 we could have a little less consternation
2 around here.

3 Once again, try and do something for
4 these poor people down there in Greenridge,
5 the Youngs. It's ashame and, you know, all
6 too often I have heard city officials,
7 especially an executive or the county when
8 they lose a lawsuit we got insurance. Well,
9 if I ran around drinking and driving and
10 causing accidents I got insurance, too, but
11 what would happen to it, you know? It goes
12 up and then so hopefully we could resolve
13 that before it ever goes to Court.

14 And on the sale of the Sewer
15 Authority, I kind of regard that as a done
16 deal. It's going to happen. I didn't
17 really favor it, but we have the Wall Street
18 debacle in 2007 and I'm very concerned that
19 if that money is contributed to the pension
20 funds and lost what happens then? Once
21 again, I'd like to bring up the social
22 security system, these public pensions and
23 public safety workers should be rolled into
24 a special social security, they should be
25 given a special retirement age based on

1 their work -- expected work life and it's
2 a -- it's ridiculous we have 500 and some
3 school districts and they all have their own
4 pension funds it get crazy.

5 I'd also like to point out on real
6 estate, if you encourage too many young
7 families to move in you might get some taxes
8 out of it for the city but what's going to
9 happen to the school taxes so that's
10 something to consider. Scranton Luce,
11 please, no \$414,000 apartments like North
12 Scranton. Everybody was glad that it was
13 done but, you know, at \$414,000 you could
14 have probably each one of those apartments
15 could have paid for a ranch house.

16 And we had a presidential election,
17 once again, call Congress, no matter who you
18 are or who you voted for, 1-202-224-3121 and
19 tell them to can the Transpacific pack, and
20 1-202-456-1111 and tell the White House to
21 can the Transpacific pack. We heard enough
22 about it over the election and especially if
23 you are Democrat it's a rotten shame that
24 the people that legislate these things and
25 push them through Congress reinvent

1 themselves time and time again and the
2 person that -- the one Democrat that signs
3 off on it gets blamed for it like he was a
4 dictator. Thank you and have a good night.

5 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Anyone
6 else?

7 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,
8 citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians, I
9 have been voting in the national election
10 since 1962 when I got back from Europe.
11 Never was I ashamed of a ballot than this
12 last one. They had a little -- no taste
13 about, "Do you believe the judge should
14 retire at 75," when it should have read "The
15 current age of retirement is now 70, should
16 we raise it to 75," but they didn't do that.
17 This is what's wrong with America. This is
18 why Trump is in there. People don't tell
19 things plainly. They slant them and they
20 slant them too much.

21 To me, the greatest threat to
22 democracy is political treason. The
23 politicians that sell their vote out, that
24 do things for certain individuals for their
25 own benefit. This is what's destroying the

1 republic. I have never approved of the
2 Supreme Court saying how this money can be
3 spent on different candidates. To me, that
4 weakens democracy. You should never be
5 allowed to spend oodles of money on any
6 candidate. It doesn't -- it doesn't do
7 nothing for democracy. It's just slanted.
8 It's like buying an election, and that's not
9 right. Scranton does the same thing. We
10 took a multi-million dollar garage and said
11 a dollar, we sold it for a dollar. Did we
12 send in here and there to find out how much
13 actually that garage was worth? It was
14 bringing in over \$300,000 a year and had the
15 potential to bring in a heck of a lot more
16 with the county buying the Globe. Was that
17 right? No. I knew it was malfeasance. I
18 called for something, but in this city we'll
19 never get it. Maybe in the state we'll
20 never get it. If the state can put out
21 something like that on a national ballot,
22 there is no hope for democracy in the state.

23 Trump maybe is right. We need more
24 than a shake up, we need a concerted effort
25 to clean out politicians and decisions made

1 by politicians or put in penalties for
2 politicians that can be sued instead of
3 being immune. To me, that would be the best
4 that we can sue a person for his vote, let
5 him going to Court, let him see if the
6 people think he was right or wrong. To me,
7 that would increase democracy throughout the
8 whole nation. But we are not interested in
9 democracy. We waive the flag for the
10 veterans. I served, I'm a veteran, but I
11 wouldn't say I want to waive the flag for
12 it. I did my duty. It's the right of every
13 American in this city to do their duty
14 whether it's on council or a cop, policeman
15 or fireman. That's what you do. You do
16 your duty. Nothing else. That's what I
17 believe in. I believe every man should do
18 his duty. And you should do your duty, too.
19 You should look at things.

20 I don't how much money you would
21 make for building all them townhouses if you
22 were to use people that weren't exactly
23 qualified. I know have you to pay a fair
24 prevailing rate if you get federal, but I
25 don't know if you have to pay benefits. I'm

1 a little gone from that. It's been a long
2 time since I retired from the building
3 trades, but I did my duty when I was there,
4 too. I had to go to school, constantly went
5 to school for years and years and years.
6 The state oversaw us. Every time we turned
7 a new elevator over a city inspector was
8 there and after three months an insurance
9 inspector would come and check the job, too.
10 Constantly check it because it had to do
11 with people and safety.

12 How you can look at something and
13 say Joe Blow from Kokomo can get a master's
14 license because he got some papers that said
15 I worked instead of actually did he run the
16 job, how many people did he have working
17 under him? There is whole bunch of
18 qualifications. Like, I went to school, I'm
19 going to say it, repeat it, I went to school
20 all of the time I worked for the elevator
21 business constantly, because they constantly
22 changed. Laws came from the state, laws
23 came from the federal government, laws came
24 from everybody, and we have who keep up on
25 the laws, and I was a mechanic and I did my

1 duty the best I could in that field. I
2 never was satisfied with the job, but I
3 always ran. Thank you.

4 MR. WECHSLER: Anyone else?

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

6 MOTIONS.

7 MR. PERRY: Yes, I have a couple of
8 things. First, I would to recognize the boy
9 scout troop up there, guys.

10 MR. WECHSLER: That's No. 16.

11 MR. PERRY: No. 16. Thanks for
12 coming. You guys are welcome back any time,
13 thank you. I guess I was going to wait
14 until we got to -- but, let's talk a little
15 bit about 5-B. I'm very flexible with 5-B
16 when it comes to certain issues, but what
17 I'm not flexible with is when it comes to
18 proper testing. That's something that when
19 this legislation came out, I believe it was
20 in March, I was very vocal about it that I
21 think there was some assets to legislation,
22 but where it fell short was when you put
23 somebody with tools in their hand in a home
24 in the City of Scranton I want to make sure
25 they are qualified as could be and I think

1 proper testing is really the only way to
2 prove that so that's a stance that I'm going
3 to be firm with. When it comes to 5-B
4 that's all I'm going to say as far as that.

5 Also, I would like to read a letter
6 here in honor of Veteran's Day. Veteran's
7 Day is very important holiday to me and my
8 family, we have lots -- a lot of people in
9 this area do, we have lots of people, family
10 relatives that served, some that came back,
11 some that didn't and, you know, to me this
12 sums it up. Vantey Barford was born June
13 1919. 24 years later on March 23, 1944,
14 Mr. Barford who was now an enlisted member
15 of the United States Army stationed fighting
16 in Italy set out alone to fight German
17 machine gun positions for gunfire was
18 raining down on his fellow soldiers. His
19 advanced took him through a minefield, but
20 having done so proceeded single handedly to
21 take out three enemy machine gun positions
22 returning with seven prisoners of war by
23 himself, and if that wasn't enough he later
24 destroyed three German tanks that didn't --
25 and that didn't make much news during the

1 scope of the war, but it did earn Van T.
2 Barfoot, who retired as a colonel after also
3 serving in Korea and Vietnam, a
4 well-deserved Congressional medal of honor.

5 What did make the news, however, was
6 his Neighborhood Association's quibble with
7 how the 90-year veteran chose to fly an
8 American flag outside his home in Virginia.
9 It seems that HOA rules said it was okay to
10 fly a flag that was mounted bracket only on
11 a house, but to fly an independent flag pole
12 was not allowed. His application for a flag
13 pole was denied. He erected it anyway and
14 faced possible Court action unless he agreed
15 to take it down. The story made national
16 news and the neighborhood rethought it's
17 position and agreed to indulge this aging
18 hero who lived among them and let him put
19 the flag pole up.

20 He was quoted as saying, "In the
21 time I have left, I plan to continue to fly
22 without interference."

23 As well he should. As well he
24 should. And if any of his neighbors had
25 taken notice or contested this further they

1 might have done well to read his Medal of
2 Honor citation first. It indicates that
3 Mr. Van T. Barfoot wasn't particularly good
4 at backing down at anything. So to
5 Mr. Barfoot and to all the men and women who
6 served or are still serving our country, I
7 say thank you. That's all I have.

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

10 MR. ROGAN: Yes, very well said by
11 Mr. Perry. I'd also like to welcome our
12 guests, very nice to have you here today and
13 we actually have a very packed house. We
14 don't normally have this many people here so
15 it's good to see so many people here.

16 Last Friday myself and Councilman
17 Evans did attend the mayor's State of the
18 City address and it was good to hear from
19 the mayor and also hear from members of the
20 business community who were at that address
21 as well and I know we spoke to afterwards.

22 A couple of items regarding the
23 agenda tonight, as Mr. Perry mentioned
24 regarding the testing that was brought up, I
25 do have a real estate license, I have an

1 insurance license as well, and the fact that
2 the city hasn't had a test in this many
3 years is troubling. If there are people
4 that want to do a job, they should have the
5 opportunity to test to do that job.

6 Regarding the legislation, as I
7 said, I was in support of the legislation
8 last time around, Mr. Hinton has agreed to
9 come in next week to speak with us about
10 changes that were made. At that point, I
11 will listen to what Mr. Hinton has to say
12 and make my decision, but if the legislation
13 hasn't changed substantially, even though I
14 did support it in the past, if it doesn't
15 have the majority of the board there is no
16 reason to move forward if substantial
17 changes haven't been made, but I am
18 interested in hearing from Mr. Hinton and
19 see what he has to say.

20 Regarding an update on the double
21 pension investigation, Attorney Minora did
22 brief us in caucus regarding the subpoenas
23 to obtain information on this investigation
24 and Attorney Minora did let us know that he
25 has a draft of the subpoena written and

1 hopefully next week that will be filed at
2 the courthouse. I did ask as a follow-up
3 for a timeline, and there is really I guess
4 three things that can happen, the state
5 police could turn over their investigation
6 to us at point in time, they could challenge
7 it at two different levels, and it can --
8 this may go into 2017 if it's challenged as
9 far the legal battle going back and forth
10 whether to determine whether council does,
11 in fact, have a subpoena power.

12 So it's something I'll be continuing
13 to press forward on until we get answers and
14 until we find out what happened to those
15 millions of dollars that were wrongfully
16 given out.

17 The election, obviously, was
18 Tuesday. I know the presidential election
19 has gotten all of the attention, but I do
20 want to congratulate our state
21 representatives, Kevin Haggerty, who was
22 just elected to the House as well as my
23 State Representative Marty Flynn, who won
24 another decisive victory in his district as
25 well. So I would like to congratulate both

1 of them and looking forward to continue
2 working with Mr. Flynn, and to work with
3 Mr. Haggerty actually for a second time.

4 And finally, although, my words
5 won't be as eloquent as Mr. Perry's were, I
6 would also like to thank all veterans who
7 give us the rights that we are exercising in
8 these meetings every Thursday so a big thank
9 you to all our veterans. And that is all.
10 Thank you.

11 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Mr.
12 Evans?

13 MR. EVANS: Thank you. Happy
14 Veteran's Day to everyone and to all of our
15 veterans. Thank you very much for all you
16 have done for all of us. A shout out to
17 Troop 16, where was Troop 16 based?

18 AUDIENCE MEMBER: South Scranton.

19 MR. EVANS: South Scranton. That's
20 the one that I was a member of. I know
21 Scout 16 used to go to Manning's Student
22 Center.

23 MR. WECHSLER: That's right. Troop
24 10. F-Troop.

25 MR. EVANS: F-Troop. All right, I

1 remember it well. Thank you, Joe, for
2 reminding me. I was in city hall for a
3 meeting on Monday with PEL and my schedule
4 permitted so I sat in through a second
5 meeting about the LED streetlight project so
6 I'm just going to give you a brief update on
7 that. A couple of takeaways were there are
8 approximately 230 polls that were targeted
9 for painting, pressure wash and painted.
10 Approximately 44 more architectural polls
11 have been identified in the downtown area
12 that need painting and that process will
13 begin as soon as well. There will be over
14 6,000 lights that have been identified and
15 replaced plus some additional lighting along
16 the Heritage Trails, so because of the
17 ordering constraints the worst case scenario
18 that the lighting will begin sometime in
19 January. If the fixtures come in earlier,
20 then the project will start before the end
21 of the year. There has also been some
22 conversations possibly with some of the
23 universities to do some special lighting
24 around their campuses that could be very,
25 very interesting and exciting development

1 that takes place.

2 Other issues I have, I will reserve
3 for agenda items so that's all I have for
4 tonight.

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

7 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, thank you. Just
8 a few items. First of all, if we could send
9 another correspondence to the Business
10 Administrator, Mr. Wechsler informed us
11 tonight that we do not have a third party
12 administrator for the police and fire
13 pensions yet so if we could find out what
14 the holdup on that is I would appreciate it.

15 We received information from the
16 Business Administrator about a program I
17 think can be extremely beneficial to the
18 City of Scranton and our municipal unions.
19 GovInvest is an actuarial technology company
20 which has built an analytical tool to
21 replace much actuarial what-if work by
22 producing clear actuarial analysis to
23 empower government agencies to better budget
24 and negotiate with labor groups.

25 The software is very intuitive and

1 easy to use and does not require a finance
2 person to be able to use and understand the
3 software. It will help the city manage
4 their pension and other post-employment
5 benefit liabilities. The value of this
6 program, from what I can see, is
7 multi-faceted. The information used and
8 produced is based on realtime data and the
9 city will no longer have to wait weeks for
10 an actuary to produce and complicated
11 report. Instead, the analysis is done
12 instantaneously and saves time and money
13 normally spent on the actuary.

14 The software is able to convey an
15 otherwise complicated but important issue to
16 decision makers and stakeholders, and in
17 light of the all of the city's troubles with
18 the pensions I think that this would be a
19 very smart move and from what I can see
20 looking at the proposal I think we would
21 actually end up saving money, so I would
22 hope that the administration moves forward
23 with that project.

24 We sent a letter out on October 14
25 about the concerns with the lack of

1 recycling in housing projects and apartment
2 buildings throughout the city and I would
3 like if we could send that again and ask for
4 a response from our recycling coordinator.

5 A letter was also sent out October 7
6 asking who from the city was collecting
7 information regarding damage to people's
8 homes from the July 2016 flood. I am
9 getting concerns from residents about this
10 information so I would ask that if we can
11 send that again, please.

12 With the budget set to be unveiled
13 next week, it's due on November 15, I would
14 like to ask my colleagues if they would be
15 willing to send a letter on behalf of this
16 council to Mayor Courtright inviting him to
17 a public caucus so that he may present his
18 2017 budget, so if no one has any objections
19 to that I would appreciate if that letter
20 can be sent.

21 Received good news from the
22 residents of Phelps Street praising our DPW
23 for their tree trimming job that was done
24 which has brightened up their lot
25 significantly, and a new streetlight should

1 be arriving shortly according to our DPW
2 director and our city engineer so I would
3 like to thank them for that.

4 As was mentioned, tomorrow is
5 Veteran's Day. Let us remember the service
6 and great sacrifice of our veterans. I
7 would like to thank each one of them for all
8 that they have given to our country,
9 especially my father, Jack Gaughan, United
10 States Marine Corp veteran, and also a happy
11 birthday to the Marine Corp, it's their
12 241st, and my grandfather Bill Gaughan and
13 Edward Trently, United States Army. Thank
14 you.

15 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you,
16 Mr. Gaughan. Just a few comments on the
17 proposed contractor legislation. Next week
18 there will be public caucus which would be
19 held here in chambers. That will be at 6
20 p.m., and at this caucus we will have --
21 besides Mr. Hinton we will have John Marino,
22 who will also be here to assist Mr. Hinton
23 and answer some questions about this
24 proposed legislation.

25 As our colleagues have spoken about,

1 we are going to focus on amending this
2 legislation to include testing. That is our
3 main concern. We do have to work on this
4 legislation to make sure that we protect the
5 safety of our citizens and make sure that
6 quality work is done. We also have to be
7 able to assure that we are issuing permits
8 in the proper fashion that we can get work
9 done in our area. There are a lot of
10 construction projects that are coming to
11 Scranton and there is an issue right now
12 where city council is being blamed for
13 delaying the issuing of permits. That
14 cannot be further from the truth. Our goal
15 is to protect the citizens of Scranton. Our
16 goal is to protect them while encouraging
17 business and accusing council of being a
18 roadblock to business I find very
19 disheartening. We are here to protect the
20 people and that's what we are doing, so we
21 also want to encourage business but we want
22 to protect our citizens as well, so the
23 quicker we can get this cleaned up, that we
24 have confidence in our system again the
25 better it will be for the city.

1 And following up on comments that
2 Mr. Rogan made about the election and state
3 representatives, I believe right now that as
4 a result of the elections we see that there
5 is a hunger from the people for reforms in
6 politics. There is a hunger in this state
7 for pension reform and property tax reform.
8 The legislature right now is solidly
9 controlled by one party. I'm not a member
10 of that party, but the legislature has a
11 responsibility to move these reforms along,
12 especially in the case of the pension
13 reform. Scranton is trying all it can do to
14 get our pension and our financial house in
15 order, but we do need assistance from the
16 state legislature for helping us do that so
17 I would encourage them when they get back to
18 work in January to focus on these problems
19 to bring us some relief.

20 In regards to Mr. Gaughan mentioned
21 the recycling coordinator, I was at a
22 meeting the other night and Mr. Lynott from
23 the Housing Authority was at the same
24 meeting and he did tell me that he has met
25 with the recycling coordinator Lynch. Now,

1 I haven't seen any reports on it, I don't
2 know what the result of that meeting was,
3 but they have met so I'm not sure what the
4 progress is of implementing that plan.

5 And Mr. Evans touched on Troop 16,
6 Troop 16 was my Cub Scout pack. I'm very
7 proud of Troop 16. I go back to Mr. Warner
8 and Ralph Roberston, two great men from
9 South Side who inspired many youths in
10 Scranton. I did transfer to Troop 10 on
11 East Mountain and it was F-Troop. One of my
12 greatest disappointments was that I did not
13 become an Eagle Scout, but I enjoyed
14 scouting and I congratulate you guys for
15 making it through the whole meeting. Only
16 one guy fell asleep, right there. You can
17 touch him, he is still sleeping. He is well
18 rested up there. And that's all I have.

19 MS. REED: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION -
20 AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL
21 NO. 155, 1999 -AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED
22 "PROVIDING FOR THE LICENSING AND REGULATING
23 OF CONTRACTORS DOING BUSINESS IN THE CITY OF
24 SCRANTON INCLUDING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE
25 GRANTING OF PERMITS AND FEES FOR SAME;

1 PROVIDING PENALTIES AND RIGHTS OF APPEAL" BY
2 ADDING AND DELETING DEFINITIONS, UPDATING
3 THE DEPARTMENT NAME AND DIRECTOR'S TITLE,
4 UPDATING APPLICATION FORMS, THE REQUIREMENTS
5 FOR CONTRACTORS LICENSE, LICENSE FEES,
6 ISSUANCE OF PERMITS, CONFORMANCE TO CODE,
7 REVOCATION, SUSPENSION, DENIAL, PROHIBITED
8 ACTS, STOP WORK, CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY
9 AND TEMPORARY CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY,
10 PERMIT FEES, INSPECTIONS, FINES FOR
11 VIOLATIONS AND APPEALS PROCEDURE AND
12 DELETION OF SECTIONS 17 AND 22 IN THEIR
13 ENTIRETY.

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

17 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

18 MR. EVANS: Second.

19 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

20 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question,
21 just a couple of concerns. First of all, I
22 have to be honest, this whole thing is
23 absurd in opinion. The fact that this
24 legislation has made it back on our agenda.
25 As someone had mentioned, we defeated this

1 back in March and from what I can see not
2 much has been changed. We already had this
3 conversation, as many of the gentlemen had
4 spoken tonight, we shared the concerns and
5 that's why it was defeated three to two back
6 in March. Obviously, the mayor and Mr.
7 Hinton didn't get that message. From what I
8 can see, not much has been changed. The
9 same concerns that I had back in March I
10 have now. You know, my wife had a baby two
11 weeks ago and if the doctor walked into the
12 room and had a W-2 and if a letter from one
13 of our friends I would have passed out right
14 there on the floor. I knew she was
15 qualified, I knew she took the test to
16 become a doctor, so for me this is a concern
17 that we are sacrificing the safety of our
18 residents in order for convenience and
19 making things easier.

20 And the other thing that concerns me
21 even more is, as Mr. Wechsler had mentioned
22 and I hear this often, that Mr. Hinton is
23 denying, and has told me he denied well over
24 200 contractor's licenses and he is blaming
25 this council. It's my opinion that

1 Mr. Hinton is wielding his power in a very
2 negative way up in that office and there is
3 many other things up in the Licensing and
4 Inspections Office that I am deeply
5 concerned about and that is one of them.

6 One of the questions that has come
7 up that I would like an answer is why hasn't
8 the test been given? Why aren't the
9 Electrical Advisory Board meetings been
10 held? And I asked that back in March and I
11 never got an answer to it.

12 Again, usually I would vote to
13 introduce this so that we could discuss it,
14 it's already been discussed. And the other
15 thing that I also find absurd is that this
16 legislation will be sent down and Mr. Hinton
17 did not include a summary of the changes
18 that he was being made -- that was being
19 made to the legislation. So, again, I'm
20 voting on this tonight for those reasons.
21 Thank you.

22 MR. EVANS: On the question, I'd
23 like to remind everybody this is the first
24 reading, there will be three readings.
25 We'll meet with Mr. Hinton next week and

1 hear what he says to say. Most importantly,
2 obviously will be the seventh reading. We
3 either say yes or no so I'll be voting yes
4 just to move it along and hear from
5 Mr. Hinton next week.

6 MR. WECHSLER: Yes, on this issue, I
7 think this does give us an opportunity for
8 us to define what we want this ordinance to
9 be. Obviously, there is a need for
10 improvement and how we issue licenses and
11 the input that we received so far from the
12 professionals leads me to believe that there
13 is something that we can do here to nail
14 this down and make it acceptable to the
15 people in the profession, union/non-union so
16 I think that's something that I'm going to
17 look forward to working on as we move along.

18 If we can't reach an agreement on
19 improvement, I'm not sure what the
20 alternative is if Mr. Hinton does not issue
21 the licenses or permits, I'm sorry, so we
22 have a few weeks to work on this and improve
23 it and get to a point where I feel that the
24 safety of citizens is not effected.

25 MR. ROGAN: I would just add that I

1 agree with most of what was mentioned.
2 We'll hear what Mr. Hinton has to say on the
3 changes and it is a -- looking at it, it's a
4 bigger piece of legislation and,
5 unfortunately, it wasn't itemized as to what
6 was in the old legislation but what the
7 changes that actually made were. I'm also
8 very concerned that the length of time, and
9 this has been reported to me before tonight,
10 but the length of time between testing is
11 unacceptable. If somebody wants to work in
12 a field and they have the qualifications to
13 do it they should be allowed to take a test.

14 Most other industries if you meet
15 qualifications, for instance, real estate
16 was mentioned, if you meet the
17 qualifications to test you pay a fee, you
18 sign up and go to a testing center and you
19 take a test. That to me seems pretty
20 simple. That should be how that should be
21 administered, and it really wouldn't cost
22 the city any money if was done on a third
23 party basis like most other professional
24 licenses in the state are issued, so that's
25 something I will be looking forward to

1 discussing with Director Hinton and
2 Mr. Marino at next week's meeting.

3 MR. PERRY: I pretty much said my
4 peace on this and my stance is pretty clear.
5 I'm in the food service industry and the
6 very first thing a health inspector does
7 when he walks into my restaurant is he looks
8 at my certificate and that I passed all my
9 tests and I'm up to all of the codes and all
10 of the new health regulations. The very
11 first thing before he even checks the
12 temperature, before he does anything, he
13 asks, "Mr. Perry, where's your certificate?
14 Is it up-to-date? What was the last date
15 and what was the score," and then he goes on
16 with it because without that you can't get
17 in the game. Without food safety in my
18 business you don't have the right to operate
19 a restaurant, that's first, and I believe
20 that's the same way when it comes to
21 anything with any danger when there is a
22 public safety risk foodborne illness or fire
23 hazard, electrocution or whatever the case
24 may be. That safety piece is the foundation
25 of where you go from there, so I'm going to

1 insist on that.

2 MR. WECHSLER: All those in favor of
3 introduction signify by saying aye.

4 MR. PERRY: Aye.

5 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

6 MR. EVANS: Aye.

7 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed?

8 MR. GAUGHAN: No.

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

11 MS. REED: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION -
12 AN ORDINANCE - CREATING AND ESTABLISHING
13 SPECIAL CITY ESCROW ACCOUNT NO. 02.229621
14 ENTITLED "WM. SCRANTON CHARITABLE TRUST" TO
15 ACCEPT FUNDS TO BE RECEIVED FROM THE WILLIAM
16 AND MARY SCRANTON CHARITABLE REMAINDER TRUST
17 STATEMENT (CRUT) FOR "TREES, SHRUBS AND
18 FLOWERS IN HONOR OF MARY L. SCRANTON".

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

22 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

23 MR. EVANS: Second.

24 MR. WECHSLER: On the question? All
25 those in favor of introduction signify by

1 saying aye.

2 MR. PERRY: Aye.

3 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

4 MR. EVANS: Aye.

5 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

8 MS. REED: 5-D. FOR INTRODUCTION -
9 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
10 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO APPLY
11 FOR AND EXECUTE A GRANT APPLICATION FOR
12 COMMUNITY NEEDS AND CRITICAL NEEDS GRANT
13 THROUGH THE SCRANTON AREA FOUNDATION IN THE
14 AMOUNT OF \$18,375.00. THIS FUNDING WOULD BE
15 USED FOR THE CASH MATCH REQUIREMENT FOR THE
16 NATIONAL RESOURCE NETWORK ENGAGEMENT AND
17 ADVISORY SERVICES TO DEVELOP A FRAMEWORK FOR
18 ECONOMIC RECOVERY, DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION
19 AND LONG-TERM COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE CITY
20 AND ITS STAKEHOLDERS.

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

24 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

25 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

4 MR. PERRY: Aye.

5 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

6 MR. EVANS: Aye.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

10 MS. REED: 5-E. FOR INTRODUCTION -
11 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
12 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE
13 AND ENTER INTO AN ASSIGNMENT AND ASSUMPTION
14 AGREEMENT BY AND AMONG THE CITY OF SCRANTON
15 ("CITY"), THE SEWER AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF
16 SCRANTON ("SSA"), LACKAWANNA
17 COUNTY("COUNTY"), LACKAWANNA RIVER BASIN
18 SEWER AUTHORITY ("LRBSA"), MOOSIC BOROUGH
19 ("BOROUGH") AND THE PENNSYLVANIA-AMERICAN
20 WATER COMPANY ("PAWC") IN ORDER FOR THE SSA
21 TO TRANSFER AND ASSIGN ALL RIGHTS AND
22 RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THE WASTE WATER
23 SERVICE AGREEMENT TO PAWC UPON CLOSING OF
24 THE TRANSACTION AND DISSOLUTION OF THE SSA.

25 MR. WECHSLER: At this time, I'll

1 entertain a motion that Item 5-D be
2 introduced into its proper committee.

3 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

4 MR. EVANS: Second.

5 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

6 Solicitor Minora, could you just touch base
7 on what this ordinance is concerning?

8 MR. MINORA: I'm sorry?

9 MR. WECHSLER: Will you just touch
10 base on --

11 MR. MINORA: 5-E?

12 MR. WECHSLER: Sure. When Montage
13 Mountain was built in '85 they ran a sewer
14 line down from Montage Mountain Road, the
15 easiest way to get it to the Sewer Treatment
16 Plant was through the Scranton to the
17 Scranton line and it was done by agreement
18 because most of the property was in Moosic,
19 so that was -- when the County took over
20 Montage the agreement was adopted by
21 Lackawanna County and allowed for waste
22 water to go into the Scranton Sewer
23 Authority from Montage Mountain. All this
24 is an assumption of that agreement by the
25 Pennsylvania American Water Company. All of

1 the parties in it are agreeing that they
2 wouldn't contest the assumption by
3 Pennsylvania American Water of the Scranton
4 Sewer Authority rights.

5 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. All those
6 in favor of introduction signify by saying
7 aye.

8 MR. PERRY: Aye.

9 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

10 MR. EVANS: Aye.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

14 MS. REED: SIXTH ORDER. 6-A.
15 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.
16 62, 2016 - AN ORDINANCE - SALE OF TAX
17 DELINQUENT PROPERTY MORE COMMONLY KNOWN AS
18 2316 JACKSON STREET, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA,
19 18504, TAX MAP NO. 14412-050-018 TO FRANK
20 BOYLAN, 2314 JACKSON STREET, SCRANTON,
21 PENNSYLVANIA, 18504, FOR THE CONSIDERATION
22 OF \$2,000.00.

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

25 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-A

1 pass reading by title.

2 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

5 MR. PERRY: Aye.

6 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

7 MR. EVANS: Aye.

8 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

11 MS. REED: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR
12 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY
13 DEVELOPMENT- FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF THE
14 COUNCIL NO. 58, 2016 - ESTABLISHING A
15 REGISTRATION PROGRAM FOR RESIDENTIAL RENTAL
16 PROPERTIES; REQUIRING ALL OWNERS OF
17 RESIDENTIAL RENTAL PROPERTIES TO DESIGNATE A
18 PROPERTY MANAGER FOR SERVICE OF PROCESS AND
19 PRESCRIBING DUTIES OF OWNERS, PROPERTY
20 MANAGERS AND OCCUPANTS.

21 MR. ROGAN: I apologize in advance,
22 this is going to take a minute. I make a
23 motion to amend Item 7-A, as follows:

24 In Section III, definitions,
25 property manager. Replace the language

1 under that description with the following:
2 A natural person, partnership, corporation,
3 unincorporated association, limited
4 partnership, trust, or any other entity
5 appointed by a landlord or owner who's duty
6 is to ensure that a structure of the
7 residential units obtained therein remain in
8 compliance with all statutes and ordinances
9 of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in a
10 municipality of Scranton.

11 Rental registration certificate of
12 compliance sticker. Replace the language
13 under that description with the following:
14 A sticker which is issued with a rental
15 registration certificate of compliance which
16 shall be prominently displayed on the main
17 entrance side of building facing the most
18 accessible road, street or alleyway in which
19 shall contain number of rental units in
20 which structure is registered within the
21 municipality and the year of compliance.
22 Issuance of the rental registration
23 certificate of compliance sticker does not
24 in any way signify that the structure
25 lawfully contains the number of units

1 represented to actually exist in the
2 structure and does not change the status of
3 any and all zoning permits or other
4 preexisting legally binding documents issued
5 by the municipality.

6 Safety inspection. Replace the
7 language under that description with the
8 following: The process that any residential
9 rental unit or structure to be in
10 non-compliance with a municipality of
11 Scranton landlord registration, licensing
12 and compliance within the occupancy
13 ordinance of 2016 shall submit to a
14 inspection. The sole purpose of which is to
15 determine that each structure and
16 residential unit contained therein shall
17 include the appropriate means of egress,
18 smoke detection, hot and cold running water,
19 heat and electricity, carbon monoxide
20 detection, kitchen and bathroom facilities,
21 operational heating and ventilation systems,
22 electrical systems, plumbing systems,
23 removal of peeling paint debris and
24 overgrown vegetation that will create a
25 hazard to the residents of surrounding

1 citizens and buildings which such
2 inspections to be performed by the proper
3 employees of the City of Scranton Licensing,
4 Inspections and Permits Departments or by a
5 third party agency contracted to do business
6 with the city.

7 In Section IV, owner and landlord
8 duties. "B", Licensing requirement. One,
9 remove the first sentence and replace it
10 with, "As a prerequisite to attend, occupy
11 any residential unit except as provided in
12 subsection E-3 below, the owner/landlord of
13 every residential unit shall be required to
14 apply for and obtain a residential unit
15 license for the City of Scranton Licensing
16 and Inspections Permits Department.
17 Sections 11, 12 and 13 are to be renumbered
18 as Sections 12, 13, and 14.

19 Finally, insert a new Section 11 to
20 read: Section 11, repeal of the prior
21 ordinances. This ordinance repeals all
22 prior rental registration ordinance
23 including File of Council No. 7, 2014, File
24 of Council No. 13, 2013, File of Council No.
25 17, 2012. File of Council No. 88t 2001, and

1 all other ordinances contrary intended.

2 MR. EVANS: Second.

3 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

4 MR. EVANS: On the question. It
5 seems like there is a lot of changes being
6 made but actually they are just minor
7 grammatical definition changes and we had to
8 repeat all of the sections in order to do
9 that. The most important part of the
10 amendment is the fact that we are repealing
11 all of the previous rental registration
12 ordinances which has to be done tonight so
13 that's all I have.

14 MR. WECHSLER: All those in favor of
15 the motion to amend Item 7-A signify by
16 saying aye.

17 MR. PERRY: Aye.

18 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

19 MR. EVANS: Aye.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

21 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The
22 ayes have it and so moved. What is the
23 recommendation of the Chairperson for the
24 Committee on Community Development?

25 MR. ROGAN: As Chair for the

1 Committee on Community Development, I
2 recommend final passage of Item 7-A, as
3 amended.

4 MR. EVANS: Second.

5 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

6 MR. EVANS: On the question, tonight
7 we are taking a major step forward to a
8 comprehensive, innovative and focused plan
9 towards rental registration. We have done
10 all we can to do give the administration a
11 piece of legislation that allow for a
12 dramatic increase in rental registrations.
13 After 20 years of less than mediocre results
14 in the registration of rental properties,
15 the work again will shift back to the
16 Licensing and Inspection Department for
17 implementation. We should continue to
18 support LIPS in this endeavor if need be
19 whether it be through a use of a third party
20 vendor or we have the vital information on
21 properties and property owners in whatever
22 other way or resource they may need to
23 finally get the job done at the highest
24 levels.

25 MR. ROGAN: I would just add, as I

1 mentioned in previous weeks, a few of the
2 significant changes, the two biggest ones
3 are the fee, there is no longer a \$150 per
4 building fee, the fees are just on a per
5 unit basis, that's one large change.

6 Another one that I have been fighting for
7 many years and finally good to see it
8 implemented is a comprehensive family
9 exemption. So if you are renting to a
10 mother, a child, a grandson within the
11 immediate family you do not pay any fee to
12 register your property in the City of
13 Scranton. And, finally, most importantly,
14 is protections are included for neighborhood
15 groups which have always been in the
16 legislation that it's done in a way that is
17 not contradictory to law in other
18 municipalities and states that have been
19 struck down by a number of the courts.

20 The previous ordinance was subject
21 to a lawsuit and anyone who has followed the
22 city other the last few decades knows when
23 the City of Scranton goes to Court it never
24 ends well. So my hope is that this
25 legislation will end, that litigation can be

1 settled and we can finally move forward to
2 the rental registration program that is fair
3 in everyone, landlords, tenants and
4 neighbors.

5 MR. EVANS: Yeah, one additional
6 comment or two, mandatory inspections are no
7 longer in this. That was a sticking point,
8 of course, for a lot of landlords and a lot
9 of property use advocates; and, secondly,
10 the sticker I think is an innovative
11 approach to allow for identification of
12 units that are in rental register -- already
13 registered as rental units so I think that's
14 going to go a long way for lobbying for
15 identification.

16 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I would like to
17 thank Councilman Rogan and Councilman Evans
18 and Solicitors Minora and Shrive and also
19 Director Hinton for the time that they spent
20 in coming up with this new ordinance. My
21 biggest thing that I see, the biggest plus
22 of this is, as Councilman Rogan said, it
23 should eliminate the current situation that
24 we are supposed to and also protects us from
25 other lawsuits such as has happened in Ohio

1 and even in Wilkes-Barre, but they are
2 rental registrations so I think this puts us
3 in a good place and actually establishes a
4 program that we really wanted was to get
5 people registered.

6 Roll call, please.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

8 MR. PERRY: Yes.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

10 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

12 MR. EVANS: Yes.

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

14 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

16 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby
17 declare Item 7-A legally and lawfully
18 adopted, as amended.

19 MS. REED: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION
20 BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS - FOR
21 ADOPTION - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 59, 2016
22 - TRANSFERRING BOTH PERMANENT EASEMENTS AND
23 RIGHTS-OF-WAY OVER PARCELS OF PROPERTY OWNED
24 BY THE CITY OF SCRANTON AS NOTED BELOW IN
25 CONNECTION WITH THE SCRANTON SEWER

1 AUTHORITY'S SEWER/STORMWATER COLLECTION
2 SYSTEM ACCESS AND MAINTENANCE EASEMENT.

3 MR. WECHSLER: What is the
4 recommendation of the Chairperson for the
5 Committee on Public Works?

6 MR. EVANS: As Chairperson for the
7 Committee on Public Works, I recommend final
8 passage of Item 7-B.

9 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

13 MR. PERRY: Yes.

14 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

15 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

16 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

17 MR. EVANS: Yes.

18 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

19 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

20 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

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

24 MS. REED: 7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION
25 BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE- FOR ADOPTION -

1 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 60, 2016 - GRANTING
2 LOCAL ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION TAX ASSISTANCE
3 TO A PROPERTY LOCATED AT ALBRIGHT AND GLEN
4 AVENUES AND IDENTIFIED AS PIN NOS.
5 13420-060-017 AND 13420-050-028 OWNED BY
6 LACE BUILDING AFFILIATES LP AND SETTING
7 FORTH AMOUNTS OF TAX ABATEMENTS FOR EACH
8 YEAR FOR TEN YEARS.

9 MR. WECHSLER: What is the
10 recommendation of the Chairperson for the
11 Committee on Finance?

12 MR. EVANS: As Chairperson for the
13 Committee on Finance, I recommend final
14 passage of Item 7-C.

15 MR. ROGAN: Second.

16 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?
17 Roll call, please?

18 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

19 MR. PERRY: Yes.

20 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

21 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

23 MR. EVANS: Yes.

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

25 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

2 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby
3 declare Item 7-C legally and lawfully
4 adopted.

5 MS. REED: 7-D. FOR CONSIDERATION
6 BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS-FOR
7 ADOPTION - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 61, 2016
8 (AS AMENDED) - AUTHORIZING THE INSTALLATION
9 OF A R7-302 NO PARKING SYMBOL/ARROW SIGN
10 (LEFT) AND A R7-302 NO PARKING SYMBOL/ARROW
11 SIGN (RIGHT) AND MAINTAINING ALL EXISTING
12 STOP SIGNS ON EAST LOCUST STREET AND SOUTH
13 IRVING AVENUE IN THE AREA AROUND MCNICHOLS
14 PLAZA.

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

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

21 MR. ROGAN: Second.

22 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

23 MR. ROGAN: Just to reiterate, as I
24 mentioned last week, I am disappointed and I
25 know the neighbors are, that a stop sign

1 were not approved for this intersection,
2 something that I hope that he will be
3 reconsidered in the future. I do support
4 the "No Parking" signs, I think that will
5 hopefully make the line of sight at least a
6 little bit better at that intersection, but
7 I do firmly believe that stop signs are
8 needed.

9 MR. WECHSLER: Roll call, please?

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

11 MR. PERRY: Yes.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

13 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

14 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

15 MR. EVANS: Yes.

16 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

18 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

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

22 Before I take a motion to adjourn, I
23 just want to repeat these comments I made
24 during the meeting, but I do want to repeat
25 that tomorrow Friday, November 11, city hall

1 will be closed in honor of Veteran's Day.
2 However, DPW will be working. Refuse and
3 recycling will be collected.

4 Also on Monday, November 14, the DPW
5 will be off. Refuse collection will be a
6 day behind next week. Also, next week will
7 be the leaf pickup. Leaves will be picked
8 up in place of newspaper and cardboard.
9 Please remember to bag your leaves. Do not
10 rake them to the curb. DPW plans on
11 scheduling another week in December for leaf
12 pickup weather permitting.

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

15 MR. ROGAN: Motion to adjourn.

16 MR. WECHSLER: Meeting adjourned.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER