

SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

HELD:

Thursday, December 8, 2016

LOCATION:

Council Chambers

Scranton City Hall

340 North Washington Avenue

Scranton, Pennsylvania

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

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. There is a  
14 motion in Sixth Order to move up 6-A, B, D  
15 and E and to Seventh Order for final  
16 passage. If you wish speak on these pieces  
17 of legislation, please do so during  
18 citizens' participation in Fourth Order.

19 Number 6-C will be at the request of  
20 the Scranton Sewer Authority to terminate  
21 it's existence will not be moved into  
22 position for final vote this evening.

23 MR. ROGAN: I make a motion to Table  
24 5-B at the request of the Law Department for  
25 further explanation and confirmation that an

1 assignee of the city's interest in that  
2 property as necessary in connection with the  
3 Sewer Authority transaction.

4 MR. EVANS: Second.

5 MR. WECHSLER: There's a motion on  
6 floor and a second, on the question? All  
7 those in favor signify by saying aye.

8 MR. PERRY: Aye.

9 MR. EVANS: Aye.

10 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

11 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

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

14 Dispense with the reading of the  
15 minutes.

16 MS. REED: THIRD ORDER. 3-A.  
17 SINGLE TAX OFFICE CITY FUNDS DISTRIBUTED  
18 COMPARISON REPORT 2015-2016 YEAR TO DATE  
19 NOVEMBER 30, 2016.

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

22 MS. REED: 3-B. AGENDA FOR THE BOARD  
23 OF ZONING APPEALS MEETING TO BE HELD  
24 DECEMBER 14, 2016.

25 MR. WECHSLER: Are there any

1                   comments? If not, received and filed.

2                   MS. REED: 3-C. CHECK RECEIVED IN  
3                   THE AMOUNT OF \$1,000.00 FROM COVENANT  
4                   PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, WHICH IS PAYMENT IN  
5                   LIEU OF TAXES.

6                   MR. WECHSLER: Are there any  
7                   comments? If not, received and filed.

8                   Do any council members have  
9                   announcements at this time?

10                  MR. PERRY: Yes, I have one  
11                  announcement. Lackawanna Commissioners have  
12                  declared Code Blue, a frigid weather alert.  
13                  Based on current cold weather information,  
14                  Lackawanna County Commissioners are  
15                  declaring a Code Blue frigid weather alert.  
16                  Utilizing forecasts from the National  
17                  Weather Service, and consulting with  
18                  Lackawanna County Emergency Management  
19                  Agency a Code Blue will be declared for  
20                  Lackawanna County beginning at 11 p.m. on  
21                  Wednesday, December 7, and ending at noon on  
22                  Sunday, December 11.

23                  During a Code Blue alert, homeless  
24                  individuals can access an emergency shelter  
25                  at the following locations: Bethel AME

1 Church shelter, 716 North Washington Avenue,  
2 Scranton. Their hours are 7 p.m. to 8 a.m.  
3 St. Anthony's Haven, 409 Olive Street,  
4 Scranton. Hours 7:30 p.m. to 8 p.m., and  
5 Community Intervention Center, 445 North  
6 Sixth Avenue, in Scranton. Their hours are  
7 8 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

8 Information on personal health and  
9 safety during freezing weather can be found  
10 on the Lackawanna County homepage by  
11 visiting [www.LackawannaCounty.org](http://www.LackawannaCounty.org) and  
12 clicking on the Code Blue alert icon on the  
13 right side of the screen. The alert will  
14 also be posted on the County's social media  
15 outlets for the duration of the advise  
16 period.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: And I have one. Just  
18 to remind people of the event Splashing with  
19 Compassion, the Friends of Shannon McDonough  
20 Polar Plunge, which will be held January 28  
21 at Montage Mountain. It is free to attend.  
22 \$35 donation to plunge. You can register  
23 from 9:00 a.m. to 11 a.m. The plunge takes  
24 place from 11 to 3 p.m. You can preregister  
25 online the Plunge by January 20 and you

1 receive a free hooded sweatshirt. There is  
2 a lot of other things going on, also, that  
3 day up on the mountain. You can visit  
4 [www.friendsofshannonmcdonough.com](http://www.friendsofshannonmcdonough.com) to find  
5 out more, and all proceeds benefit young  
6 individuals battling cancer in Northeastern  
7 Pennsylvania. Thank you.

8 MS. REED: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'  
9 PARTICIPATION.

10 MR. WECHSLER: Fay Franus.

11 MS. FRANUS: Fay Franus, Scranton.  
12 First of all, I'd like to say when you  
13 moving these things to Seventh Order, A, B,  
14 C and D is that? 6-A, B, C and D you said?

15 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

16 MS. FRANUS: I absolutely do not  
17 think it's right that you make the people  
18 speak on this in their time to speak. It  
19 should be a separate couple of minutes at  
20 least to address those because they have  
21 already have, like Marie and Joan, already  
22 have things to say and the dont' have enough  
23 time to say what they have to say as it is.  
24 Now, they have to address things that you  
25 just switch to Seventh Order? That's not

1 right. It's not just that, it's on the  
2 website, so maybe people who have wanted to  
3 come next week to discuss this but now they  
4 can't, so the way you whip things into  
5 Seventh Order and don't allow the people to  
6 talk on them is not right at all.

7 Now, as far as the garbage fee it's  
8 \$300, but in the budget for the landfill  
9 costs if you take all of the people that pay  
10 the garbage fee and divide it that's another  
11 \$66 so basically the people are really  
12 paying \$366 a year, not \$300. What about  
13 the landfill, the recyclable grant. When  
14 you take things to the recyclable place the  
15 city gets money for that, where does that  
16 money go? Where does it go? Anybody know?

17 MR. EVANS: I'm sure it goes into  
18 the general fund.

19 MS. FRANUS: Pardon me?

20 MR. EVANS: I'm sure it goes in the  
21 general fund.

22 MS. FRANUS: Okay, so why isn't that  
23 money going towards lowering the garbage  
24 fee?

25 MR. EVANS: Fay, we have talked



1 about this. We are --

2 MS. FRANUS: We did not talk about  
3 the money for the recyclables going to the  
4 garbage.

5 MR. EVANS: It's all part of the  
6 same equation. We have to find out the true  
7 cost of collection of refuse and disposal.  
8 Let me ask you a question, when they raised  
9 the fee to \$300 did you think that was  
10 irresponsible?

11 MS. FRANUS: When they raised it to  
12 \$189?

13 MR. EVANS: Well, up to \$300. The  
14 last time it was increased.

15 MS. FRANUS: Do I think it was  
16 right?

17 MR. EVANS: Yeah.

18 MS. FRANUS: No, I don't.

19 MR. EVANS: I don't either. I  
20 thought it was irresponsible, and the reason  
21 I thought it was irresponsible was because  
22 the true cost of collection was not part of  
23 that equation so it's equally responsible to  
24 lower the rate until we find out exactly  
25 what the cost is.

1 MS. FRANUS: They're not lowering  
2 the rate, they're keeping it at \$300.

3 MR. EVANS: Right, but we want to  
4 lower rate, if we can find out the true  
5 cost.

6 MS. FRANUS: 2018.

7 MR. EVANS: 2018 what?

8 MS. FRANUS: That's when you might  
9 lower it, not 2017.

10 MR. EVANS: Well, yeah, most likely.

11 MS. FRANUS: Last summer you wanted  
12 to lower it this year.

13 MR. EVANS: Yeah, I certainly did.  
14 We all did.

15 MS. FRANUS: Nothing was done about  
16 it, was it?

17 MR. EVANS: We tried.

18 MS. FRANUS: You know why, because  
19 you are not raising taxes so you have to  
20 make up the money someplace, and you said  
21 that the reason there is no taxes is dah,  
22 dah, dah, dah, the reason there is no taxes  
23 is because Billy Courtright is running for  
24 mayor. That's why there is no taxes. So  
25 you wait and see next year what the taxes

1           are.

2                   MR. EVANS: We'll see.

3                   MS. FRANUS: A lot. And you'll have  
4 a lot of reasons for it, too. Excuses. So  
5 people that want to vote or Billy Courtright  
6 don't think he is a hero for not raising the  
7 taxes. There is a method to his madness.

8                   Another thing, Mr. Wechsler, a  
9 couple of weeks ago I nearly jumped through  
10 my television set when you Marie Schumacher  
11 said that council members lie. You jumped  
12 down her throat and that said that she  
13 doesn't have a right to say that. Yes, she  
14 does. There is many times when the council  
15 members have lied, and if you don't like it  
16 that's too bad. For you to sit there and  
17 say you don't lie --

18                   MR. WECHSLER: Well, I'll disagree  
19 with you, also. No, we don't lie.

20                   MS. FRANUS: Yes, you do. You  
21 things to us knowing that it's not true. We  
22 have to prove otherwise.

23                   MR. WECHSLER: I disagree. I  
24 disagree.

25                   MS. FRANUS: Well, we have proof

1 otherwise. We know that you are not telling  
2 us stuff when you say you don't know, that's  
3 a lie because you don't know certain things.  
4 You just don't want us to know. Same thing  
5 with the garbage thing. We have been at --  
6 it will be two years in March. No answers.  
7 You don't want us to know certain things so  
8 when we ask you say, "We don't know," but  
9 you really do and sometimes you do say  
10 things deliberately to improvise, but you  
11 can't sit there and talk to Marie Schumacher  
12 that way. Just the way you answered her.

13 MR. WECHSLER: Anyone that accuses  
14 me of being a liar I will say I am not a  
15 lay. If you say it, I'll say it to you,  
16 also. I am not a liar. Thank you.

17 MS. FRANUS: Well, I don't agree  
18 with you.

19 MR. WECHSLER: That's fine.

20 MS. FRANUS: And you're not the only  
21 one.

22 MR. WECHSLER: I don't think any of  
23 my colleagues are liars either.

24 MS. FRANUS: Well, sure. Naturally  
25 you don't. Birds of a feather fly together.

1 MR. WECHSLER: These are good birds  
2 that I fly with.

3 MS. FRANUS: Sure, they are, but  
4 they lie, but the thing is if you don't like  
5 it, too bad. You don't talk to people who  
6 live in the city that way.

7 MR. WECHSLER: I don't think anyone  
8 should call anyone a lie.

9 MS. FRANUS: If they lie?

10 MR. WECHSLER: I think it's rude to  
11 call someone a liar. My mother taught me  
12 not to call anybody a liar.

13 MS. FRANUS: How about they lie?  
14 What do you call them, a fibber?

15 MR. WECHSLER: No, I don't call  
16 anybody a liar.

17 MS. FRANUS: If they lie to you,  
18 what do you call them?

19 MR. WECHSLER: I --

20 MS. FRANUS: What do you think of  
21 them?

22 MR. WECHSLER: If someone a liar  
23 they know they are a liar, but I don't think  
24 you should call them that.

25 MS. FRANUS: Period.

1 MR. WECHSLER: I don't think you  
2 should call anyone a liar that's not a liar.

3 MS. FRANUS: That's what you think  
4 though. We think you are a liar.

5 MR. WECHSLER: Well, that's -- I'm  
6 not going to argue back and forth, but I  
7 think it's rude to call someone a liar.

8 MS. FRANUS: Not if they're a liar.

9 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you.

10 MS. FRANUS: If the shoe fits.

11 MR. WECHSLER: Joan Hodowanitz.

12 MS. HODOWANITZ: Joan Hodowanitz,  
13 city resident and taxpayer. Today is  
14 December 8, do you know where your 2015  
15 audit is?

16 MR. WECHSLER: Yes, we have it.

17 MS. HODOWANITZ: You have it? Is it  
18 final?

19 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

20 MS. HODOWANITZ: When will it be  
21 released to the general public?

22 MR. WECHSLER: I believe, we are  
23 talking to Mr. Bulzoni, he just got it on  
24 Monday, I believe, so we are going to have  
25 an exit conference probably after the first

1 of the year.

2 MS. HODOWANITZ: Okay. It was  
3 finalized on Monday.

4 MR. WECHSLER: I believe so.

5 MS. HODOWANITZ: Why can't it be  
6 released to the public.

7 MR. WECHSLER: We haven't had the  
8 exit discussion yet.

9 MS. HODOWANITZ: Well, I'm a little  
10 confused because if you are not going to  
11 change the document, is there a chance it  
12 might chang?

13 MR. WECHSLER: No.

14 MS. HODOWANITZ: Well, then it  
15 should be released to the public, among  
16 other things it gives us a background with  
17 which to assess or evaluate the 20717  
18 operating budget, but hopefully Monday, it  
19 will be my Christmas present.

20 Speaking of the 2017 operating  
21 budget, Marie last week pointed out that  
22 there is a significant discrepancy in the  
23 calculation of expenditures, looking at the  
24 total summary sheet for expenditures by  
25 department it was \$108 million, the same as

1 revenues. When looking at expenditures by  
2 individual accounts, it was over \$120. Has  
3 anyone gone back to the BA's Office and  
4 asked for clarification? That is a  
5 significant discrepancy. Marie brought this  
6 up last week. I know you are going to be  
7 passing the budget tonight, but it sends  
8 shivers up and down my spine when, you know,  
9 we don't pay attention to -- we are not  
10 talking about a 1 percent variance, we are  
11 talking something very significant here.  
12 Now, I think it might be something as simple  
13 as counting the TAN twice, plus maybe or one  
14 or two other accounts, but the point is, you  
15 know, I mean, you have got -- this is the  
16 third year his office has been preparing and  
17 operational budget. His people should be  
18 much more experienced. In addition to that,  
19 a lot of the number crunching that they have  
20 to do is done in parallel with preparing the  
21 data for the audit. You have Rainey &  
22 Rainey to help in that regard, so I don't  
23 know what's going on, but I can't believe  
24 you can pass the budget tonight that  
25 tomorrow morning you aren't kicking down



1           some doors saying what happened to this \$12  
2           million of expenditures. That's a big  
3           discrepancy.

4                     Are we any closer to paying off the  
5           MMO budget target for the end of the year?

6                     MR. WECHSLER: I spoke to Mr.  
7           Bulzoni this week, yes.

8                     MS. HODOWANITZ: Good. Just for  
9           your information, I received this magazine  
10          from the University of the Scranton, I had  
11          mentioned about trying to get their finance  
12          and accounting majors down here as interns,  
13          you should be aware that US News and World  
14          Report ranked the top 25 schools in the  
15          country in accounting, the University of  
16          Scranton is number 20 in the world -- in the  
17          country. So, I mean, they have an excellent  
18          accounting program. We really should look  
19          into getting their interns down here.

20                    I went to the special meeting of the  
21          Parking Authority on Monday and I was very  
22          pleased to find out that they are going to  
23          enact a snow emergency off-street parking  
24          program in which they will charge people  
25          only \$5 to park in their garages. There was

1           only one catch, the program doesn't begin  
2           until January 1 so let us all say a prayer  
3           that we don't get any major snowfalls before  
4           January 1.

5                         And, finally, I saw the story in  
6           yesterday's newspaper about the county  
7           commissioners meeting and their plan to  
8           increase the fee for appealing an  
9           assessment, I hope that the administration  
10          and if not the administration you as a  
11          council will speak out on behalf the  
12          residents of this city. I think that's  
13          highway robbery. I don't think that any  
14          citizen should be intimidated to file more  
15          if appeal of an assessment that should be  
16          the taxpayer'S right.

17                        MR. PERRY: Ms. Hodowanitz, I'm  
18          outraged and I will be addressing that in  
19          Fifth Order.

20                        MS. HODOWANITZ: Thank you. I hope  
21          you have a united front on that with the  
22          administration. I just think that's  
23          intolerable. Thank you.

24                        MR. WECHSLER: Matt Anderson. I  
25          think Matt was at the other hearing. Ron

1 Ellman.

2 MR. ELLMAN: Ron Ellman. Hello,  
3 Council. You probably think I came to  
4 irritate you all after I gave you a pardon  
5 for a couple of weeks. I have really  
6 come -- I want to ask why we need so many  
7 apartments downtown. There is so many empty  
8 ones, these people get grants and loans and  
9 forgiveness and everything else, where are  
10 they going to park. Now Rinaldi wants all  
11 those apartments over there? I'm not  
12 against having apartments, but what do we  
13 need them for?

14 I tell you what was told to me one  
15 reason -- let me tell you a quick story  
16 first that leads up to it. I told Marie  
17 this last week this lady came up to me in  
18 the Price Rite a couple of weeks ago, about  
19 two months ago, she said she had -- I'll  
20 make this real kick, she said had a little  
21 duplex in West Side, one bedroom, they went  
22 and borrowed \$10,000 to remodel the house.  
23 They put in two new bathrooms and two  
24 kitchens and carpets and so forth, she  
25 rented it to some seniors that lived there

1 for a few years and the man died, the woman  
2 moved off, she said it was vacant for almost  
3 two years, she couldn't rent it because it  
4 was a single bedroom. Finally, Catholic  
5 Services come over, they told her they had a  
6 nice family, a little three year old or  
7 something, a husband and a wife, none of  
8 them could speak English. She said the day  
9 they moved it she knew they made a mistake.  
10 The place was -- she said there had to be 15  
11 people living there. There was cars and the  
12 people, the neighbors fought with her and  
13 phoned the police, and this went on for  
14 almost a year and she got a lawyer. She  
15 finally got them out of there. The day they  
16 were moving she had asked Catholic Services  
17 to do something and that he said there is  
18 nothing they could do. She said the day  
19 they were moving they were so menacing she  
20 got scared and left the house. When she  
21 came home she looked and went in to see what  
22 was wrong. She said they had destroyed the  
23 house. They tore everything in the kitchen  
24 and the bathroom up with like a sledgehammer  
25 and tore the doors, the walls, pulled the --

1 just tore the house up. She said she was  
2 crying.

3 She went next door to get some  
4 coffee or tea, and she didn't have any water  
5 so she went down to the basement, it was  
6 flooded. They had cut all the pipes. She  
7 said there was no way you could fix a house.  
8 It was just beyond fixing so it was  
9 foreclosed on.

10 All right, where am I going with all  
11 of this? How many people know that Catholic  
12 Services received \$90 million a year to  
13 resettle people. \$90 million. That's why  
14 cities like little Massachusetts and cities  
15 all around the country are infested with  
16 people that can't contribute nothing to them  
17 that just take. Every time one of these  
18 families gets an apartment an American is  
19 not getting it. Every time they get an  
20 Access card or medical card or welfare, it's  
21 an American that's not getting it and to me,  
22 somewhere along the line that American has  
23 most likely paid some taxes and done  
24 something to help the country. I'm not  
25 being anti-anything, I'm just being

1 pro-American. If there is anybody you all  
2 know that I am an advocate for the poor but  
3 not to bring in all of these families that  
4 were never assimilated with us and never  
5 contribute a thing to the city. They don't  
6 have shots, your children, I don't have any  
7 children in school, your kids, you young  
8 people, you are in school with children that  
9 have never had any kind of shots and  
10 vaccinations and the school can't force  
11 them. The country is just going to pot  
12 right now. Things need to be changed.

13 Anyway, I was told that's one way to  
14 fill up all of these apartments downtown. I  
15 certainly hope it's not. Thank you. I  
16 almost beat you.

17 MR. WECHSLER: Bob Bolus.

18 MR. BOLUS: Good evening, Council.  
19 Bob Bolus, Scranton. On 7-H, you know,  
20 considering the past history of this city  
21 and the incompetence literally in  
22 squandering or wasting money, I use the golf  
23 course as a prime example, that was sold,  
24 the interest was to be used for parks and  
25 recreation. You had \$3 million went down

1 the drain and we never took care of our  
2 parks and we got any money. You are going  
3 to receive a substantial amount of money and  
4 where do they want to put it? Miscellaneous  
5 revenues, sale of assets account. That's  
6 like giving marijuana to an addict because  
7 the money you will never see, you will never  
8 be able to account for it. It's going to go  
9 in the blank hole in the City of Scranton.

10 My recommendation would be that we  
11 set it up in sort of a receivership where  
12 there is a check and balance between this  
13 council, the administration, and the  
14 Controller's Office. We don't have anymore  
15 time to waste playing stupid games because  
16 there are no more assets left, but what we  
17 have done here we have done some pretty  
18 stupid things and we continue to do it.

19 You know, I hate to come in and  
20 criticize but having been born and raised in  
21 this city and seeing what goes on here. It  
22 just never ends. You see the Globe sold.  
23 Basalyga gets the parking garage. When the  
24 people go to work at the Globe they are  
25 going to pay Basalyga to park in his parking

1 garage at the Globe. What a hell of a deal.  
2 We turned around, we give Basalyga \$5  
3 million for parking. For who? Why are we  
4 paying \$5 million to him for people to park  
5 in his garage for whose benefit? I don't  
6 get a benefit. People here don't get a  
7 benefit. People watching out there aren't  
8 getting a benefit. It was a deal I can't  
9 even put my arms around and say there was  
10 even any type of comprehensive intelligence  
11 in it. You should have bought the mall  
12 yourselves and maybe made Scranton  
13 profitable. Yet, you turn around and do  
14 that and you give money to pay -- fix the  
15 parking garage. Where are the benefits?  
16 There are none. I think what you need to do  
17 and council could do is request a  
18 reassessment of the mall. It's assessed at  
19 \$3 million and it's never changed. Now  
20 reassess it. You just dumped 5 million  
21 bucks into it, so ask for a reassessment,  
22 which is a fair to the people in this  
23 community that we get something back instead  
24 of keep taking from the people and strip  
25 them of what they have and very little is



1 left for all us.

2 You know, you have to just pay  
3 attention, and I don't see it here, but you  
4 can't do deals like you are doing. They  
5 just stink. I don't have any other term for  
6 it. The deal with him, the mall, the  
7 parking garages, I said from day one I would  
8 rather stand by the Sewer Authority or the  
9 landfill rather than standby that deal from  
10 the stench from it. That's why everybody  
11 looked at this city and they turned their  
12 nose at it and said, "What the hell are they  
13 doing there?"

14 And it's history as usual so I don't  
15 see where it went. Now, we got a new  
16 president coming here, but before I get into  
17 that I was at a commissioners meeting in  
18 Florida on a development we are doing. I  
19 was very impressed by the commissioners  
20 there. You know, before they had their  
21 meeting they requested a pastor from any  
22 denomination to come home and do the prayer  
23 before the meeting starts. I think that  
24 would be something great for our community  
25 to do. Instead of council initiating the

1 prayer, have a pastor come here from  
2 whatever denomination it is and give their  
3 representation. I want council to look at  
4 that because it was very, very impressive to  
5 see somebody come in here and talk about our  
6 religion for a change instead of all of the  
7 other nonsense going on and no matter what  
8 denomination it's from.

9 We are going to get a new president,  
10 and I can't be happier to see what happens.  
11 I couldn't be prouder to say we were a major  
12 part in what he did. I represented  
13 Pennsylvania, more importantly, I  
14 represented Scranton locally, nationally,  
15 and internationally and worldwide. I have a  
16 reporter with me right now from Japan that's  
17 been with me for two days. I had him from  
18 Paris, from Dubai, from all over the world.  
19 England, London, Sweden, Norway have all  
20 been here in Scranton with me riding in one  
21 of the trucks that we did for Trump because  
22 they were impressed that somebody had the  
23 foresight to take on the opposition the way  
24 we did it, but what it did it represented  
25 Scranton. We put a light on the city

1 worldwide and we have to take a good hard  
2 look now because the world is looking at us  
3 not just locally, and I was very happy to  
4 have been able to done that and represent  
5 our city and the people in it. You know, I  
6 think what you need to do is look at this  
7 parking garage deal. It's a nonprofit.  
8 Look at putting a fee on them. We got to  
9 get some money back here. The other part  
10 is, I brought it up in the past, when it  
11 snows are we going to make their parking  
12 spaces available our personnel plowing the  
13 roads so they can park their cars there or  
14 are they going to compensate us for opening  
15 those meters up so they can park cars there  
16 and collect their revenue, and I think we  
17 need to look at this. We have to look at  
18 making money for the city, just not  
19 squandering it and taking it out of the  
20 taxpayers pockets.

21 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr. Bolus.

22 MR. BOLUS: And I have one more  
23 thing, I am going to have my dinner, Joe,  
24 Christmas Day as I have for the last 20 some  
25 years. I may not be able to get to the next

1 meeting, but as we know everybody in the  
2 community that doesn't want to spend  
3 Christmas alone are welcome to the dinner,  
4 it's at St. Pat's Church, it will start at  
5 12 and go to 6:00. It is free and it's open  
6 to anybody who doesn't want to be home alone  
7 on Christmas. They can contact my office if  
8 they want to make a reservation for a meal  
9 or somebody to deliver or pick up. And if I  
10 don't get to see you Merry Christmas.

11 MR. WECHSLER: Thank, Bob. Would  
12 you leave that information with Kathy and  
13 we'll announce that again.

14 MR. BOLUS: Yeah, I can give her a  
15 phone number.

16 MR. WECHSLER: We should be here two  
17 more times and we'll announce it. Thanks  
18 again, Bob. Anyone else?

19 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening.  
20 Marie Schumacher. My voice is a little  
21 impaired tonight. I come in through the  
22 back door on 7-H. I agree that that cannot  
23 stand as it is because what you are doing is  
24 -- it reminds me of Pontius Pilot washing  
25 his hands. You are giving total authority

1 to the administration. That cannot stand  
2 unless it is stated along with it that every  
3 transfer out of that account needs to come  
4 before city council for a vote. Otherwise,  
5 you people are off the hook. You made a lot  
6 of comments about the dispersion of that  
7 money and now you want to give it all away  
8 and that's wrong.

9 As a matter of fact, as I said, I  
10 think this is a fairytale budget and  
11 everybody lives happily ever after  
12 hopefully. The general fund budget revenues  
13 on real estate states, "The city anticipates  
14 a repayment of the high coupon series bonds  
15 of 2012 and 2013. A refunding --" and then  
16 it goes onto say others may be included.  
17 However, if you take just those four, you  
18 start out with the balance, and I have to  
19 start with 2014 since we don't have a 2015  
20 audit, which we should have had, were  
21 promised before the 30th of September I  
22 might add. The outstanding balance at that  
23 time was twenty-one million, nine thousand,  
24 twenty-five dollars. If you take just at  
25 face value because, again, we don't have the



1           them towed so, again, it's back on us and I  
2           would like to know what a definition of a  
3           snow emergency is.

4                   MR. GAUGHAN: I can get that for you  
5           next week, I have it some place. It  
6           addresses that in the ordinance and I did,  
7           like I had mentioned, I met with the mayor  
8           about two years ago.

9                   MR. WECHSLER: Actually, I discussed  
10          it with the ABM to set up this program so  
11          I'll mention it later on.

12                   MS. SCHUMACHER: The other thing I  
13          did learn that the money that goes back to  
14          that wonderful nonprofit, the gentleman who  
15          negotiated this, whatever his name was,  
16          March, Marsh, one of those things, \$161,000  
17          a year. Not a bad job if you can get it.

18                   Also, last week I thought -- I said  
19          that I thought the real estate tax revenue  
20          was fictitious because we are not going to  
21          meet this years and yet we are setting the  
22          same and I asked if somebody would get the  
23          residential property assessments for this  
24          time of the year and last year, did anybody  
25          do that? No?

1 MR. EVANS: No.

2 MS. SCHUMACHER: I would be willing  
3 to bet that assessment, actual assessments  
4 have gone down so even if you get the same  
5 collection rate, 89 percent I think --

6 MR. EVANS: No doubt.

7 MS. SCHUMACHER: --Mr. Bulzoni said  
8 he was shooting for, but what about One Call  
9 System's agreement that was authorized last  
10 May to identify all of facilities, we did  
11 that, okay. I assume since nobody bothered  
12 with those other ones they wouldn't have  
13 bothered getting an answer to that other one  
14 anyway so have a Merry Christmas.

15 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Anyone  
16 else?

17 MR. MORGAN: Hello, Council. This  
18 evening, think I'd like to ask the people  
19 here and at home to seriously consider  
20 calling or writing their federal and state  
21 representatives because I think it's  
22 imperative for the residents of this city  
23 and hopefully the outlying communities to  
24 cut the cash flow in this city through  
25 grants, okay, because in my opinion vast



1 amounts of money has been wasted over  
2 decades and I just think with all of the  
3 incompetence that we have experienced in our  
4 government that it's just so painful to  
5 watch other Pennsylvanians or federal  
6 taxpayers allowing their tax revenue to be  
7 wasted in this city over a projected period  
8 of time, and this evening I'd like to make a  
9 comment about the sale of the Scranton Sewer  
10 Authority, which really I find to be --  
11 well, I'd say humorous because and tragic at  
12 the same time. You know, Fay came up and  
13 said that the councilmen lied to the  
14 residents of this city, that may be a little  
15 strong, I think that the councils we have  
16 elected over a very long period of time  
17 didn't have the ability, intellectually  
18 didn't have the capacity to be councilmen  
19 and to understand the things that were  
20 taking place around them at most times, and  
21 I think that the Scranton Sewer Authority  
22 really illustrates that because the Scranton  
23 Sewer Authority was a combined system and  
24 the city turned around and sold it and now  
25 we are talking about a runoff tax or

1 authority, it's absolutely ridiculous, and  
2 even the PUC and all of the forms of  
3 government up over the top of this one still  
4 didn't figure it out and it's just  
5 troubling. It just goes to the root of the  
6 problem we have in America, and Donald Trump  
7 is talking about draining a swamp. Wow,  
8 look it, he really got his hands full  
9 because the revenue to maintain the storm  
10 system, the City of Scranton just gave the  
11 Pennsylvania American Water Company because  
12 it was already built into the rates. It's  
13 not complex. Every resident in this city  
14 should understand that and for our council  
15 not to know that, and for the city  
16 solicitors not to know that, and the people  
17 in elective government on every single level  
18 not to know that doesn't make the people  
19 liars, it makes them incompetent and it's  
20 very troubling.

21 And when you take a look at our city  
22 going back for almost a -- well, over a  
23 quarter of a century basically this city  
24 hasn't straightened itself out for one  
25 reason. It's not just political corruption,

1 but it's people who aren't capable of doing  
2 their job because they just don't have the  
3 ability. Anybody who can't understand  
4 what's happened to this city, you know, for  
5 the decades that I have come here, and  
6 people used to laugh about people going to  
7 council, they weren't the people who were  
8 wasting their time, the people at home were  
9 the people that were wasting their time  
10 because, you know, a comment was made about  
11 turning the downtown into residential  
12 development, well, there is a reason for  
13 that. It's not a commercial club, you can't  
14 do business in this city, and to be blunt,  
15 they aren't doing much business across this  
16 country either and finally the American  
17 people have woke up and they have elected a  
18 man that's a businessman and made him  
19 president. You can see things starting to  
20 change. Just from the couple weeks since he  
21 has been elected companies deciding they are  
22 not relocating, they are going to stand  
23 fast, people that are talking about  
24 investing in America. Nothing really has  
25 been done by Donald Trump other than him

1           being elected, but the American people have  
2           finally woken up, but you know what I'd  
3           really like to see happen is I'd like to see  
4           our government be able to function and come  
5           in and investigate this council and all oft  
6           deals they have done for the last 25 years,  
7           and I don't think incompetence is a reason  
8           not to put people in jail because I think  
9           that people belong there because the  
10          terrible harm that our elected government  
11          has done to us. I feel really sorry for  
12          you.

13                       MR. WECHSLER: Anyone else?

14                       MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,  
15          citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians,  
16          I'm surprised that people don't realize we  
17          always pass the budget before we get an  
18          audit, that way people don't know what's in  
19          it. I'm glad you are doing that. It makes  
20          a lot of sense. I have before me some of  
21          the costs related to this parking  
22          monetization like they call it. You know,  
23          that Burkham, Ingersoll and Mundy received  
24          \$1,463,512.46 for handling some of the costs  
25          of this deal, and there is a lot more in it.

1           The only person that really made out on  
2           these are the lawyers. Here's one here,  
3           Jason and Shriber, Esquire, they received  
4           \$1,460,512.46. I think they were part of  
5           the other people though, Ingersoll Rand. I  
6           believe that was just another, you know how  
7           they break everything down and that was  
8           done, but some of the bills come in over a  
9           million, a million dollars there.

10                   Let's see, the Sewer Authority that  
11           guy got his money but he had three different  
12           things, and we go down to sort of the last  
13           page here, U & B Bank, for some reason they  
14           were a holding company that was going to  
15           handle some of the bonds, I think the 2004  
16           or 2006 bond or something like that and they  
17           are in there for \$5,269,822.00. Here is  
18           another one for the U & B, nine million,  
19           eight thousand -- eight-hundred thousand,  
20           six-hundred and sixty-five, four-hundred and  
21           sixty-three dollars. That's \$9,885,000.

22                   Landmark Bank, this is the odd one  
23           for me, \$3,468,556. Is that the money we  
24           paid them for not -- the Parking Authority  
25           not being able to pay them? Is that the

1 money we have for that bank at that time?

2 MR. EVANS: I don't think so.

3 MR. SBARAGLIA: When we are giving  
4 them money when we didn't have to, but  
5 obviously you had to because you wanted to  
6 go through with this deal. Now, this  
7 Basaglya here, \$4,162,716 for leasing  
8 parking space. While in the meantime we are  
9 making plans to tear down some of the spots  
10 in the garage because there is too much  
11 space. You realize that the liability you  
12 put the city into besides what you call the  
13 stranded loan for 30 million? If we can get  
14 through this deal we would have been in way  
15 better shape than with this deal. I don't  
16 know how you could have done this deal, as  
17 you say are you all honest people, but  
18 anybody looking at this would have doubts.  
19 No one sells a garages for multi-million  
20 dollars for a dollar because somebody got  
21 (unintelligible.) I assume Mr. Pocius being  
22 the city engineer said that garage was only  
23 worth a dollar. Would you say that? Did he  
24 say that?

25 MR. WECHSLER: No, Mr. Pocius did

1 not say that.

2 MR. SBARAGLIA: But who did?

3 MR. WECHSLER: Burke-Hartman.

4 MR. SBARAGLIA: And he is an  
5 engineer?

6 MR. WECHSLER: They used a parking  
7 professional to do a study of the garage.

8 MR. SBARAGLIA: Why was it declared  
9 only worth a one dollar, being the first  
10 half of that garage was the same as the one  
11 you were renting in the mall? You know, you  
12 can't really tell the people that they are  
13 that stupid. Everyone realized the reason  
14 this was done and not for the good of the  
15 city but the good of certain individuals in  
16 the city like anything else.

17 I mean, of all of the money ever  
18 spent, thousands and million of dollars plus  
19 the fact is we are going to lose still  
20 millions of dollars not being able to  
21 collect on the parking meters, revenue from  
22 the parking meters, fines, and the standard  
23 lease charged to people for the garage for  
24 parking spaces. Well, I'll get off this.  
25 There is no sense really getting into a lot

1 of this because you know it, I don't have to  
2 tell you.

3 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening, Council.  
4 Dave Dobrzyn, resident, taxpayer. Once  
5 again, we are at that time of the year and  
6 on the budget I'd like to remind everybody  
7 out there in TV land that through the tax  
8 exempts at 35 percent we are in one hell of  
9 a quandary year in and year out. They don't  
10 pay PILOTS. The PILOTS are a fraction of  
11 what they would basically owe, and I intend  
12 with the vacation coming up to try to get  
13 down to the school board because, once  
14 again, I want to see if I can influence the  
15 city government and the school board to take  
16 the state to court, to take them to task,  
17 that it's an excessive burden, that our  
18 state constitutions excessively burdens  
19 urban centers, and especially ours, there is  
20 no way around it. 20 percent deficit is  
21 looming at the Scranton School Board right  
22 now and that's just a serious as what we are  
23 doing here.

24 Last week, and somebody spoke  
25 tonight about refugees or indigent people



1 and welfare situations and Section 8 and so  
2 forth, well, a lot of this is federal policy  
3 once again and we seem to get saddled with  
4 it so I'm not against people coming in, I  
5 don't care what race they are, but therein  
6 again we can't constantly assist people out  
7 of our pockets and our tax basis not  
8 working.

9 And I see the sale of the Sewer  
10 Authority, 7-H, I have a question, does  
11 anybody know the last time we were fined \$2  
12 million because American Anglican failed to  
13 comply with their requirement and I  
14 wondered, once again, if we are on the hook?  
15 Does anybody know that or are we off the  
16 hook and it's an American -- PA American  
17 Water or one of their subsidiaries because  
18 American Anglican is just another subsidiary  
19 of PA American Water. And it's ashame that  
20 we are going to be paying rates will be  
21 consistently increased and then we get fined  
22 for. They are the ones supposed to be  
23 turning the profit and it's not right, so I  
24 certainly hope that if they don't comply  
25 with their required sewage output that we

1 are not the ones that get hit with the bill,  
2 and a lot of the reason that this is being  
3 done is to allegedly shore up of the pension  
4 and beware because a lot of the optimism was  
5 spoken tonight about the state in  
6 Washington, of affairs in Washington, but I  
7 hear things like repealing Don Frank and it  
8 was a weak, tepid solution to the repeal of  
9 Glass Spiegel and I would hate to see  
10 millions upon millions of dollars taken by  
11 Wall Street again and tinkled away because  
12 we can't afford it any further, and granted  
13 your sewer bill is going to probably going  
14 to increase significantly over the next ten  
15 years, so it's just watch out for the Wall  
16 Street sharks because they -- if they can  
17 start selling stocks that are corrected, I  
18 wouldn't even bother with the Dow right now.  
19 It's going up every day. Well, what happens  
20 if it gets a 20 percent correction? That  
21 means that I'm worth \$800,000 instead of a  
22 million, so we really better find out and  
23 make sure that that money is invested  
24 soundly or just pay off the bills and pay  
25 taxes towards our pension. Thank you and

1           have good night. That might be the better  
2           idea.

3                       MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Anyone  
4           else?

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

7                       MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Perry?

8                       MR. PERRY: Yes, I do. As I stated  
9           before, the article that came out today  
10          about the ordinance that's on the floor  
11          before the County Commissioners, you know, I  
12          was absolutely outraged. I had time to read  
13          the article, I didn't have too much to time  
14          to prepare because I did work today, but I  
15          did make some notes and I would like to just  
16          give my take on the situation.

17                      During the last Lackawanna County  
18          Commissioner's meeting, they introduced an  
19          ordinance that would publicize the names of  
20          the people seeking a fair shake in regards  
21          to their property assessment, and if that  
22          wasn't enough, they also intend to almost  
23          triple the appeals fee from \$35 to \$100.  
24          All right? So what does this all mean?  
25          What is the end game of this legislation?

1 In my opinion, it's to shame and price out  
2 Lackawanna residents who feel that their  
3 property value has been incorrectly  
4 calculated. In other words, they are going  
5 to try to deter residents from filing an  
6 appeal. That's just my opinion, but what  
7 did some of the county officials have to say  
8 about this legislation? I'm going to refer  
9 from the article from today's paper.

10 Commissioner Cummings asked for the  
11 ordinance to provide more accountability for  
12 the people who repeatedly appeal their  
13 assessment. Her reasoning is that it places  
14 more tax burden on the residents, she was  
15 quoted saying. She also was quoted saying,  
16 fair is fair. I don't think that's -- I  
17 don't think that's fair at all actually.  
18 Fair would be a countywide reassessment that  
19 would level the playing field once and for  
20 all.

21 Commissioner O'Malley was quoted in  
22 the same article saying, "We have so many  
23 more appeals today than we ever did."

24 So, again, if Commissioner O'Malley  
25 is in favor of this ordinance, is his end

1 game to lessen the appeals? Again, ignoring  
2 the root cause of why these people are  
3 actually filing for tax relief.

4 John Foley, the deputy director of  
5 appraisals, what's his take on the  
6 ordinance? He was quoted as saying, "I'm  
7 hoping that with this new fee schedule it  
8 will make people think twice about coming  
9 in."

10 And what does that tell you? County  
11 Commissioner Chief of Staff Andy Wallace's  
12 statement, "We are not discouraging people  
13 from filing appeals, it's a way for the  
14 county to attempt to recover some of the  
15 costs, not a way at all to dissuade someone  
16 from coming in to file an appeal."

17 Okay. Goes against everything else  
18 that was said so far. Mr. O'Malley recently  
19 said his perspective on reassessment will  
20 depend on what Mr. Wallace's ongoing  
21 research into this subject finds. Now,  
22 Mr. O'Malley and I agree on many issues, but  
23 we definitely fall on separate sides of the  
24 fence on this one.

25 Let me help a little bit with

1 Mr. Wallace's ongoing research. Number one,  
2 we have so many people seeking appeals that  
3 you are currently now trying to put  
4 legislation in the books that instead of  
5 addressing the problem, or the root cause of  
6 it, you would rather just turn up the heat  
7 the applicants and hope that the problem  
8 goes away.

9 Number two, Commissioner Notarianni  
10 ran a campaign on backing countywide  
11 reassessment in a resounding win on election  
12 day. The county officials, they would be  
13 wise to listen to the people and if you have  
14 any doubts just see the results of the last  
15 presidential elections.

16 And, number three, 1968. That was  
17 the last time we had a county reassessment,  
18 48 years. Do you know how many things  
19 changed in the last 48 years. Some things  
20 changed so much they are not even going to  
21 be remembered anymore, but something that  
22 hasn't changed was the assessed value of the  
23 homes. It's time. It's time right now to  
24 get this resolution that they are -- the  
25 ordinance that they are trying to pass, it's

1 just not fair and we need a reassessment now  
2 more than ever. I'll even quote  
3 Commissioner Cummings because I believe she  
4 is right, and the only thing she is right  
5 about is that fair is fair, and it's a  
6 countywide reassessment that's fair, not  
7 that ordinance.

8 And, finally, we had a tragic  
9 accident on the highway this week that we  
10 lost two young women to and it breaks my  
11 heart. To say that I knew them wouldn't be  
12 truthful, but my wife had a common friend  
13 with these two girls and it's just  
14 devastating, and as we all know by now the  
15 root of the problem was they were on the  
16 phones while they are driving. It just  
17 can't be said, some of the older generation  
18 we kind of realize that, but the new kids  
19 coming up with that technology in their hand  
20 that's all they know. Running a restaurant,  
21 I see little kids now they are entertained  
22 at the restaurant with the smart phones so  
23 they don't cry or whine while they are  
24 waiting for their food, so it's just  
25 something that's in their hand almost since

1           they are able to walk and they just don't  
2           know enough to put it down. One more life  
3           is just too many to lose to texting and to  
4           Facebook, to Internet, to phones while we  
5           are driving. Driving is for driving alone  
6           and I can't say that enough so be careful  
7           out there and let's teach out youth and our  
8           adults not to just be distracted while  
9           driving. It's not worth it. Thank you.

10                   MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr. Perry.  
11                   Mr. Rogan?

12                   MR. ROGAN: Yes, a couple of brief  
13           comments. Following up on what Mr. Perry  
14           mentioned and I know talked to Councilman  
15           Evans about it, he is going to address it as  
16           well, regarding the article in the paper on  
17           the assessment appeals, just to add onto  
18           what was already said, which I completely  
19           agree with, one of the most frustrating  
20           things for me about the current appeal  
21           process in Lackawanna County, particularly  
22           for the residents of Scranton, the only  
23           people that are appealing their taxes are  
24           those that either know how to appeal it or  
25           could afford to pay for an attorney to



1 appeal their taxes, so the average person  
2 who is out there does not have that -- does  
3 not have access to appeal their taxes. They  
4 either don't know what the process is, don't  
5 know about the proper filings or can't  
6 afford to pay for an attorney to do it for  
7 them. The taxes in Lackawanna County, the  
8 assessments are not fair.

9 Just this week I was I was at two  
10 real estate sales and I was showing a house  
11 on East Mountain that the taxes were \$9,600  
12 a year. That was \$800 a month in taxes.  
13 That's more than my mortgage payment,  
14 probably more than the mortgage payment of  
15 most of the people watching have made, and  
16 for that person, whoever winds up buying  
17 that property, for them to appeal it would  
18 be now a longer, more cumbersome process  
19 where the neighbor -- the neighboring  
20 properties may be paying much less.

21 The solution is that there has to be  
22 a countywide reassessment. I know this  
23 board unanimously believes that and the  
24 people who are really hurt are the senior  
25 citizens and the working families in the

1 city that can't afford for an attorney to go  
2 down and do the appeal, can't afford the fee  
3 to file the appeal. So the tax assessments  
4 do need to be looked at in the city and the  
5 county -- conflicting Commissioner  
6 Notarianni is on the right side of this  
7 issue, I know he had have been advocating  
8 for it since before he was elected and I'm  
9 hopeful that he can convince one of his  
10 colleagues to go along with this  
11 reassessment to bring some much needed  
12 relief to the residents of Scranton, many of  
13 them their assessments on their property are  
14 high and they don't even know it or they  
15 don't even know the processes to appeal.

16 Secondly, a couple of the comments  
17 just on the budget, just a little anecdote,  
18 I was at the grocery store this weekend and  
19 I ran into a woman, a senior citizen in West  
20 Side who was very happy to hear that taxes  
21 wouldn't be going up for the city this year  
22 and also for the county. The school  
23 district, unfortunately, might be another  
24 story, I know there has been much in the  
25 paper regarding the school district, but I'm

1 hopeful that the school district will come  
2 up with some sort of a solution that will be  
3 taxpayer friendly and if there was no tax  
4 increase by all three taxing bodies for the  
5 residents of Scranton that would truly be a  
6 great Christmas gift to the taxpayers and  
7 it's long overdue.

8 As I mentioned, this budget is a  
9 huge step in the right direction, not  
10 increasing taxes, and moving forward we need  
11 to see the millage rates, the taxes go down  
12 on the residents of Scranton to get more  
13 people moving in here, to help the seniors  
14 and to get our county growing again in the  
15 city.

16 Finally, on the Sewer Authority  
17 deal, I believe we all received notification  
18 in the mail from Pennsylvania American  
19 Water, it was a postcard regarding if you on  
20 automatic payments with Pennsylvania  
21 American Water, you want to continue that  
22 for the sewer bill, there is another form  
23 that needs to be filled out so I just want  
24 to remind residents of this, and one thing  
25 with the sewer bill that I think will make

1 things a lot easier is that currently your  
2 sewer bill, as you know, you pay every other  
3 month. From my upstanding, it will now be  
4 paid on a monthly basis, so I think for most  
5 people, I know for myself it's much easier  
6 to pay 30 or 40 dollars a month than to pay  
7 70 or 80 every other. Just for budgeting  
8 purposes, I think that makes it -- will make  
9 it a little bit easier, but those notices  
10 did go out. And that's all I have for now.  
11 Thank you.

12 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr. Rogan.  
13 Mr. Evans?

14 MR. EVANS: Thank you. A comment  
15 briefly first on the budget, I'm in general  
16 agreement with the budget. Is it perfect?  
17 Of course not. Rarely in government do  
18 things operate perfectly, but I feel it's  
19 solid and I feel as though it's realistic.

20 While I understand that certain  
21 assumptions were made about the completion  
22 of the sewer transaction. These assumptions  
23 were relative to paying off high interest  
24 debt, and this is something that we all  
25 support universally so I don't think that's

1 a problem whatsoever, but while I'm  
2 disappointed, and maybe it's not right to be  
3 disappointed that we had reduced -- did  
4 reduce taxes, and I know Councilman Rogan  
5 and I talk about all the time, or even had  
6 an opportunity to reduce the trash fee  
7 somewhat, I think we fully expect the study  
8 that will be done will finally prove out the  
9 actual cost sometime in 2017 in plenty of  
10 time for the 2018 budget discussions so at  
11 that point we can talk about a reduction, we  
12 can talk about a per bag fee, and talk about  
13 a hiring plan, we can even talk about  
14 privatization, but we have to have that  
15 conversation and we have to find a way to  
16 get the costs in line with the fee.

17 Of course, there are some that want  
18 a reduction in the refuse fees today, as you  
19 heard tonight, that is simply not realistic  
20 without knowing the true cost of collection.  
21 As much as it was irresponsible to, as I  
22 mentioned before, to raise the fee to \$300  
23 without knowing the true cost, it is equally  
24 irresponsible to lower the cost without  
25 knowing -- lower the fee without knowing the

1 true cost.

2 And another matter in the budget I  
3 was reviewing, and I think there is an  
4 opportunity because of the potential for a  
5 better real estate climate in 2017, for a  
6 possible modest reduction in the real estate  
7 transfer tax. I think the combination of a  
8 zero percent tax increase and improving the  
9 real estate market and reduction in the real  
10 estate transfer can lend itself to achieving  
11 or surpassing the same revenue benchmark  
12 currently established within the budget. I  
13 know I say that it many times, but more  
14 paying less is actually an achievable goal.

15 So in the coming weeks, I will  
16 gather additional information on the real  
17 estate market to make my case for a  
18 reduction in the real estate transfer tax  
19 and look at it again when we have taxing  
20 legislation in January.

21 As far as the County's announcement  
22 yesterday about the new ordinance, I am  
23 going to repeat everything that my  
24 colleagues said because, quite frankly, you  
25 can't say it enough. I, too, read with

1 great interest the article in today's  
2 Scranton Times. "Lackawanna County Targets  
3 Assessment Changes." Outside of my long  
4 held position on favoring reassessment, I  
5 don't generally make it a policy to openly  
6 criticize other elected officials because I  
7 feel we all have challenges. We should be  
8 working together in many cases to benefit  
9 the same taxpayers. However, I have to  
10 offer my opinion on an ordinance that the  
11 commissioners introduced last night. The  
12 ordinance that would require, as we heard  
13 before, all appeals, including names,  
14 addresses and hearings dates, be posted  
15 online and increase the fees for challenging  
16 property value assessments which determine  
17 real estate tax payments.

18 The proposal calls for an increase  
19 in the application fee for assessment appeal  
20 for residential properties 35 to 100  
21 dollars. Yes, tripling the current fee.  
22 Yet, one county commissioner stated that we  
23 are not discouraging/-G people from filing  
24 appeals. One of the commissioners stated,  
25 hey, fair is fair, and a second commissioner

1           stated, "We have so many more appeals today  
2           than we did last year."

3                       But by raising the fee and  
4           threatening people that file an appeal that  
5           you will put their names and addresses as  
6           well as their hearing dates online on the  
7           county website you are, in fact, trying to  
8           suppress the right of every single property  
9           owner to file an appeal of their assessment.  
10          Is this public information? Yes, it is.  
11          And if done for the right reasons, like  
12          increasing transparency, I would probably  
13          support it, but I don't believe that's the  
14          case. To infer that property owners filing  
15          assessment appeals are doing something  
16          wrong, that they are somehow trying to cheat  
17          the system and should be exposed for that,  
18          is absurd.

19                       Also, the argument that putting the  
20          names online of those filing appeals will  
21          lead to more taxing bodies to send  
22          representatives with hearings carries less  
23          weight in my opinion since all taxing bodies  
24          are notified of all of the assessment  
25          appeals and always have the right and



1 ability to send a representation to protect  
2 their taxing bodies' interest.

3 So let's talk about what isn't fair.  
4 Maybe a county government that refuses to do  
5 a reassessment in 48 years and counting.  
6 What also isn't fair is an ordinance that  
7 punishes property owners because of a system  
8 that they refuse to change. So finally  
9 let's talk about what is fair. A  
10 reassessment for all properties in  
11 Lackawanna County, because at the end of the  
12 day the only true purpose of a countywide  
13 reassessment is tax fairness for all  
14 property owners. That's all I have on that.  
15 Thank you very much.

16 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Gaughan.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, thank you, just  
18 two brief items. First, I had a chance to  
19 make it down to the Globe Store this past  
20 weekend with my family, and I have to  
21 commend and thank our county commissioners  
22 and any city officials and all of those  
23 involved with putting that event together.  
24 It was an absolutely amazing success. I saw  
25 so many families out together shopping and

1           enjoying our downtown, and really it was a  
2           show case for our small businesses and that  
3           was great to see and I hope they continue to  
4           do that in the future.

5                     The second thing, I continue to get  
6           calls about the issues with leaf pickup, and  
7           more importantly the miscommunication this  
8           year, and I have been looking and had been  
9           looking at what other cities do in regards  
10          to the leaf collection, so two examples  
11          stuck out to me because they cities are  
12          similarly populated as Scranton. One of  
13          them was Somerville, Massachusetts, and they  
14          send out a calendar each year that details  
15          pickup for trash, recyclables, leaves, and  
16          they do a neighborhood cleanup at the same  
17          time every year.

18                    Also, the City of Reading, they have  
19          a really good collection process that I  
20          think we should take a look at. They  
21          collect leaves curbside pick up from October  
22          17 through December 2, and the ending date  
23          is subject to change if the leaves should  
24          fall later than expected. Also, the way  
25          they construct their website and get the

1 information out to the public is very well  
2 done so I do think that we should take a  
3 look at that and then break it down by  
4 neighborhood.

5 So it's pretty clear to me after  
6 looking at just two cities and what they do  
7 that we can do a better job in informing the  
8 public what goes on and how we operate,  
9 whether it's through a yearly calendar, text  
10 messaging system, robocall system, other  
11 cities do this so why can't the City of  
12 Scranton? I believe it can be done with  
13 some leadership, cooperation and vision so I  
14 do plan on sitting down again with Mayor  
15 Courtright and our DPW director to present  
16 these ideas and hopefully by next year we  
17 have a schedule that we stick to every year  
18 so that people can become accustom to it and  
19 these issues don't continue to pop up and.  
20 And I'll save the rest for agenda items.  
21 Thank you.

22 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you,  
23 Mr. Gaughan. I believe that since all of us  
24 are in agreement on the disapproval of the  
25 new county ordinance, I would accept a

1 motion from someone for us to write a letter  
2 stating our disapproval.

3 MR. PERRY: Yeah, I'll make that  
4 motion.

5 MR. EVANS: I'll second it.

6 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

7 MR. GAUGHAN: I actually haven't had  
8 a chance to -- I'm in general agreement with  
9 everybody, but just for the record I haven't  
10 had a chance to read the ordinance or I  
11 missed the article in the paper so I've got  
12 to get caught up on exactly what went on,  
13 but based on what everybody is saying, I'm  
14 in general agreement with those comments.

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

17 MR. PERRY: Aye.

18 MR. EVANS: Aye.

19 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

20 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

21 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The  
22 ayes have it and so moved. So, Mrs. Reed,  
23 we'll get together and prepare a letter that  
24 all of the councilmen can read and send out.

25 MS. REED: Yes, sir.

1 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Echoing  
2 some of the other comments that we had  
3 tonight, Mr. Evans and I were down at the  
4 Globe Store, the tree lighting on Friday  
5 night, and you should hear Mr. Evans sing  
6 Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer, very  
7 interesting to hear that, but from what I  
8 understand on Friday evening there was over  
9 10,000 went through the doors at the Globe  
10 Store. Just tremendous effort by the local  
11 community getting that off the ground. From  
12 the comments that I understand from the  
13 vendors there, many vendors sold a lot of  
14 their products and also laid the groundwork  
15 for future events and I think it was just a  
16 tremendous, tremendous success.

17 Last evening I attended a meeting  
18 held by the University of Scranton to  
19 discuss their plans for the South Side  
20 Complex. They had a meeting I guess earlier  
21 in the year, but some of the closest  
22 neighbors were unable to attend so they had  
23 another session last evening to try to  
24 alleviate some of the concerns that those  
25 neighbors had in regard to lighting, noise

1 and parking. I thought the University did a  
2 fine job on the presentation. The neighbors  
3 still have some concerns, but hopefully at  
4 the zoning board the zoning board will be  
5 able to conditionally or somehow work those  
6 concerns out because this is a tremendous  
7 project for the city. There is over -- an  
8 investment from the University about \$14.5  
9 million and the improvements to that site,  
10 the opportunity to bring NCAA tournaments to  
11 Scranton, it will just be another plus  
12 for the city. Also, the fact that it is at  
13 the end or on the Heritage Trail is another  
14 opportunity to make Scranton more of a  
15 walking city, so I'd like to congratulate  
16 the University for their outreach to the  
17 neighbors, and I'd also like to thank the  
18 neighbors for coming out and offering their  
19 concerns, and like I said, from speaking to  
20 the University I think they should be able  
21 to come up with something to work that out.

22 This past week I have had several  
23 calls there has been some drilling trucks on  
24 East Mountain and researching that the  
25 Pennsylvania American Water Company is

1 planning on putting in a new water line out  
2 of Lake Scranton into South Side. I spoke  
3 to them today and they are trying to find  
4 the softest spot on the East Mountain. East  
5 Mountain is one big rock so I'm not sure  
6 where they are going to find a soft spot,  
7 but if anyone has concerns about the  
8 drilling trucks that's what they are doing  
9 in East Mountain is looking the best way to  
10 put a new water line into South Side.

11 Echoing, once again, some of the  
12 comments Mr. Evans made in terms of looking  
13 at reducing the taxes perhaps, this is why  
14 it's so important for us to get out of our  
15 distressed status. We are getting closer  
16 every day to getting out of distressed  
17 status and hopefully as we move forward with  
18 the budget as presented and also as we see  
19 some -- hopefully some of the revenue from  
20 the Sewer Authority deal, we are already  
21 seeing some benefits from the savings in  
22 overtime. We are seeing benefits from  
23 reduction in workmen's comp. We are seeing  
24 benefits from increased contributions to the  
25 pension funds to the city. The city, the

1 administration, council, the unions, we all  
2 are working towards getting us out of  
3 distressed and hopefully by the end of this  
4 year we will see that and it's a testament  
5 not only to the effort that all of the  
6 participants have made to get us out of  
7 distressed status. And that is all I have  
8 this evening.

9 MS. REED: 5-B. NO BUSINESS AT THIS  
10 TIME.

11 SIXTH ORDER. 6-A. READING BY TITLE  
12 - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 66, 2016 - AN  
13 ORDINANCE - APPROVING THE TRANSFER OF A  
14 RESTAURANT LIQUOR LICENSE CURRENTLY OWNED BY  
15 BROOKSIDE EATERY AND PUB, LLC LICENSE NO.  
16 R-17472 TO DUNNE MANNING STORES, LLC FOR USE  
17 AT 300 MEADOW AVENUE, SCRANTON, LACKAWANNA  
18 COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA AS REQUIRED BY THE  
19 PENNSYLVANIA LIQUOR CONTROL BOARD.

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

22 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-A  
23 pass reading by title.

24 MR. EVANS: Second.

25 MR. WECHSLER: On the question? All



1                   those in favor signify by 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                   eyes have it and so moved.

8                   MS. REED: 6-B. READING BY TITLE-  
9                   FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 67, 2016 - AN  
10                  ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER  
11                  APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE A DEED  
12                  OF EASEMENT AND RIGHT OF WAY GRANTING TO SSA  
13                  AND/OR PAWC THE EASEMENT, RIGHT OF WAY AND  
14                  RIGHTS AS ARE SET FORTH BELOW WITH RESPECT  
15                  TO THE PROPERTY, WHICH DEED OF EASEMENT AND  
16                  RIGHT OF WAY SHALL BE IN THE FORM AS  
17                  ATTACHED HERETO AS EXHIBIT "B".

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

20                  MR. ROGAN: I make a motion to amend  
21                  Item 6-B per the following: In Exhibit B in  
22                  the section entitled "Quickness" in the  
23                  third line, and after the words "forever  
24                  and" insert, "Exclusive blanket."

25                  In the same section in the tenth

1 line after the words, "As more fully,"  
2 insert "prescribed and and." In the same  
3 section in the 16th line after the words  
4 "plot plan", insert "The sewer facilities.  
5 Notwithstanding the foregoing, the levy and  
6 all other equipment and/or improvements  
7 associated with the levy facilities located  
8 in or around the property are neither owner  
9 operated by or are the responsibility of the  
10 grantee and shall be expressly deemed to be  
11 not part of the sewer facilities."

12 MR. EVANS: Second.

13 MR. WECHSLER: Is there a question  
14 on the amendment? This amendment is being  
15 made at the request of the Law Department to  
16 include this additional language in the  
17 exhibit.

18 All those in favor of the motion to  
19 amend Item 6-B signify by saying aye.

20 MR. PERRY: Aye.

21 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

22 MR. EVANS: Aye.

23 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed?

24 MR. GAUGHAN: No.

25 MR. WECHSLER: The ayes have it and

1 so moved.

2 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-B, as  
3 amended, pass reading by title.

4 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

7 MR. PERRY: Aye.

8 MR. EVANS: Aye.

9 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

10 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed?

11 MR. GAUGHAN: No.

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

14 MS. REED: 6-C. READING BY TITLE -  
15 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 68, 2016 - AN  
16 ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF SCRANTON  
17 TO APPROVE THE REQUEST OF THE SCRANTON SEWER  
18 AUTHORITY ("SSA") TO TERMINATE ITS EXISTENCE  
19 UPON THE PAYMENT AND DISCHARGE OF ALL  
20 OUTSTANDING BONDS BY SSA AND THE ASSUMPTION  
21 OF ALL OUTSTANDING CLAIMS AGAINST SSA BY THE  
22 CITY; AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO  
23 ASSUME ALL OUTSTANDING CLAIMS AGAINST SSA;  
24 AND AUTHORIZING APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS  
25 TO TAKE ANY AND ALL FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED

1 TO TERMINATE THE EXISTENCE OF THE SSA, AND  
2 APPROVING THE TERMINATION CERTIFICATE  
3 SUBMITTED TO THE CITY BY SSA.

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

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

8 MR. EVANS: Second.

9 MR. WECHSLER: On the question? On  
10 the question, this particular ordinance  
11 right now will move to Seventh Order and  
12 depending on when the sale of the Sewer  
13 Authority is completed, we will have a final  
14 vote on this. The current expectation date  
15 is December 13. That would allow us to have  
16 a final approval by Thursday next week. If  
17 the sale isn't completed by then, then we  
18 will have to adjust our schedule for the  
19 final vote on this item.

20 All those in favor signify by saying  
21 aye.

22 MR. PERRY: Aye.

23 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

24 MR. EVANS: Aye.

25 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed?

1 MR. GAUGHAN: No.

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

4 MS. REED: 6-D. READING BY TITLE -  
5 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 69, 2016 - AN  
6 ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.  
7 21, 2011, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING FILE OF THE  
8 COUNCIL NO. 243, 2003 ENTITLED "ADOPTING A  
9 COMPREHENSIVE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION  
10 ORDINANCE FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON REGARDING  
11 EMPLOYMENT, HOUSING, REAL ESTATE AND PUBLIC  
12 ACCOMMODATIONS INCLUDING PROCEDURES FOR  
13 REDRESS OF VIOLATIONS" IN ORDER TO BE  
14 CERTIFIED AS SUBSTANTIALLY EQUIVALENT TO THE  
15 FAIR HOUSING ACT, AS AMENDED IN 1988, 42  
16 U.S.C. §3601. ET SEQ., AND TO BE COMPLIANT  
17 WITH RECOMMENDED BEST PRACTICES FROM THE  
18 PENNSYLVANIA HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION  
19 ("PHRC").

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

22 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-D  
23 pass reading by title.

24 MR. EVANS: Second.

25 MR. WECHSLER: On the question? All

1 those in favor signify by 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: 6-E. READING BY TITLE -  
9 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 71, 2016 - AN  
10 ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF TAX  
11 AND REVENUE ANTICIPATION NOTES, SERIES OF  
12 2017 IN THE AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT NOT  
13 TO EXCEED \$12,750,000.00; PROVIDING FOR THE  
14 DATE, INTEREST RATE, MATURITY DATE,  
15 REDEMPTION PROVISIONS, PAYMENT AND PLACE OF  
16 PAYMENT IN RESPECT OF THE NOTES; ACCEPTING  
17 THE PROPOSAL ATTACHED HERETO AS EXHIBIT "B"  
18 FROM THE FINANCIAL INSTITUTION NAMED THEREIN  
19 FOR THE PURCHASE OF THE NOTES; NAMING A  
20 SINKING FUND DEPOSITARY/PAYING AGENT;  
21 AUTHORIZING THE PROPER OFFICERS OF THE CITY  
22 TO EXECUTE AND DELIVER THE NOTES AND CERTAIN  
23 OTHER DOCUMENTS AND CERTIFICATES IN  
24 CONNECTION THEREWITH; AUTHORIZING AND  
25 DIRECTING THE PREPARATION, CERTIFICATION AND

1                   FILING OF THE NECESSARY DOCUMENTS WITH THE  
2                   DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC  
3                   DEVELOPMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF  
4                   PENNSYLVANIA; SETTING FORTH A FORM OF THE  
5                   NOTES.

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

8                   MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-E  
9                   pass reading by title.

10                  MR. EVANS: Second.

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

13                  MR. PERRY: Aye.

14                  MR. ROGAN: Aye.

15                  MR. EVANS: Aye.

16                  MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

19                  MR. EVANS: I make a motion to  
20                  suspend the rules and move Item 6-A, 6-B,  
21                  6-D and 6-E to Seventh Order for final  
22                  passage.

23                  MR. WECHSLER: At this time I'll  
24                  entertain a motion that Council suspend the  
25                  Rules and place Items 6-A, 6-B, 6-D and 6-E

1                   into Seventh Order for final passage.

2                   MR. ROGAN: So moved.

3                   MR. PERRY: Second.

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

6                   MR. PERRY: Aye.

7                   MR. EVANS: Aye.

8                   MR. ROGAN: Aye.

9                   MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed?

10                  MR. GAUGHAN: No.

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

13                  MS. REED: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR  
14 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE -  
15 FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 65,  
16 2016 - APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE EXPENSES  
17 OF THE CITY GOVERNMENT FOR THE PERIOD  
18 COMMENCING ON THE FIRST DAY OF JANUARY, 2017  
19 TO AND INCLUDING DECEMBER 31, 2017 BY THE  
20 ADOPTION OF THE GENERAL CITY OPERATING  
21 BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2017.

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

25                  MR. EVANS: As Chairperson for the



1           Committee on Finance, I recommend final  
2           passage of Item 7-A.

3           MR. ROGAN: Second.

4           MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

5           MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.

6           I will be voting "no" tonight on final  
7           passage of this year's budget. While I am  
8           pleased, like everybody else, that we don't  
9           have a tax increase, I truly don't believe  
10          this budget tells the full story. We have  
11          in the City of Scranton systemic problems  
12          that we continue to try to fix with one-time  
13          sales or infusions of cash. Historically,  
14          our city government has always done this  
15          without addressing these real long-term  
16          systemic problems. We simply do not operate  
17          a government that our aging tax base can  
18          afford.

19          I am concerned, as I have explained  
20          over the last few months, that the mayor is  
21          leaving the city vulnerable with no safety  
22          net or contingency of the 2017 budget if  
23          there is a glitch with the sale of the Sewer  
24          Authority. What if the proceeds come in  
25          lower than expected or at different timeline

1 than the city expects? We are essentially  
2 counting on and spending funds that we don't  
3 have in hand yet, which to me is concerning.

4 What if there are continuing issues  
5 as it relates to the lawsuit over the Sewer  
6 Authority easement agreements with the  
7 property owners? What funds have we  
8 earmarked in the event that there are fines  
9 imposed by EPA for violations of the  
10 Chesapeake Bay Act as the city still have  
11 the combined sewer system and the sale of  
12 the Sewer Authority in many respects appears  
13 to be imminent.

14 A major concern of mine is that we  
15 do not know the cost of storm water  
16 management. We do not know what that would  
17 be. The study may not be done until well  
18 after the sale of the Authority, and my  
19 question is and has been where was the  
20 foresight to have this information in hand  
21 before you sell off the Authority? What  
22 impact will this storm water management  
23 authority have on our budget? What is our  
24 plan on day one to manage storm water once  
25 the sale is complete? And keep in mind, the

1 issues that we have been dealing with over  
2 the last few months with flooding all over  
3 the city, blocked storm drains, and as I  
4 mentioned last week, we had issues managing  
5 the leaf collection program.

6 We have built in zero contingencies  
7 for issues related to the Sewer Authority  
8 deal and the storm water issues. Denying  
9 these hard realities is a possible recipe  
10 for disaster. It's no better than trying to  
11 recoup gambling by doubling down on the next  
12 bet.

13 I'm also concerned, as I have  
14 explained about the raises and additional  
15 positions included in this budget in the  
16 past budgets. When the mayor should be  
17 holding the line on expenses, he has  
18 increased them. We need to look no further  
19 than non-departmental and departmental  
20 expenditures which are going to increase  
21 over 30 percent above planned projections.  
22 Personnel expenditures continue to rise.  
23 Health insurance costs are very concerning  
24 and are going up over \$2 million.

25 The mayor has also talked about and

1           touted game-changing pension reform. He  
2           announced this last March, and recently in  
3           the state of the city address, said that the  
4           city's pension funds would be run by a  
5           nationally recognized third party  
6           administrator who will ensure that the  
7           pension funds are professionally managed and  
8           all regular and disability pensions are only  
9           paid according to the strict application of  
10          our laws.

11                 The bottom line is we have not yet  
12          hired a third party administrator, and my  
13          question has been and still is why is this  
14          taking so long? These reforms should be in  
15          place before we put a dime of the  
16          ratepayers' money into an inherently flawed  
17          and broken pension system.

18                 We also continue to project revenue  
19          from the Licensing and Inspections  
20          Department in which we have historically  
21          found ourselves with a shortfall and, yet,  
22          we want to hire more people and give out  
23          raises when in my estimation the department  
24          has been grossly mismanaged over the past  
25          few years. For example, take a look at some

1 of the lawsuits that have been filed and we  
2 had to pay out -- and the taxpayers had to  
3 pay a hundred thousand dollars for a Court  
4 award to deal with the Linden Street halfway  
5 house, and you also have employee issues in  
6 that office, among other things.

7 So in all reality, I do not see that  
8 the progressive innovative and responsible  
9 planning needed in this budget and,  
10 therefore, I cannot vote for it. Thank you.

11 MR. EVANS: On the question, I will  
12 be voting "yes" for the budget, but I do  
13 agree with Councilman Gaughan in the respect  
14 that, and I said it over and over again, do  
15 we need systemic changes in city hall?  
16 Absolutely. I will beat that drum forever  
17 because I know the culture of this building  
18 and what has to change, but voting "no" on  
19 the budget doesn't change any of that. And  
20 the linkage of the storm water and the sewer  
21 deal to the budget is a bit of a stretch for  
22 me because the sewer deal actually allows  
23 the storm water management plan to actually  
24 move forward. We need the funds -- we would  
25 be irresponsible if we didn't take some of

1           that money from the sewer transaction and  
2           create a fund specifically for storm water  
3           management, and that's how we do it. If we  
4           don't do that, then it's got not going to  
5           happen. The status quo is the Sewer  
6           Authority taking care of storm water, doing  
7           us a favor by doing that for all intensive  
8           purposes, but at some time there is no such  
9           thing as a free ride. We are going to have  
10          to have a plan, we're going to have to have  
11          a mechanism in place, and a strategy in  
12          place.

13                         Now, I wanted the framework for  
14          storm water on day one, as Councilman  
15          Gaughan did, absolutely, and that's a  
16          failure of the administration for not having  
17          that, but it doesn't affect my decision on  
18          this budget so I'll be voting "yes".

19                         MR. WECHSLER: My colleague brought  
20          up a lot of what if's, and I agree with  
21          those what if's, but I do know the one  
22          reality, the reality is that if we had to  
23          cover all of the possible contingencies that  
24          were mentioned, we would have to raise taxes  
25          to a point where it truly would be the end

1 of the city. As we sat here last year and  
2 we approved the tax increase we all were  
3 committed to not raising taxes again. We  
4 can't afford to raise taxes in this city.  
5 The contingencies, as described, are real,  
6 are a real threat to us and it's up to us to  
7 be responsible to address those. We have no  
8 indication right now that the Sewer  
9 Authority deal is going to fail. There is  
10 no indication of that right now to me.  
11 There is no concrete evidence that the  
12 dollar values are going to be significantly  
13 lower than as they have been presented.

14 Right now this what we have been  
15 presented and we do have to get through  
16 2017. There is no alternative to this  
17 budget right now. If we all vote "no" I  
18 don't know what we do, and I do understand  
19 the concerns. We have all talked about  
20 storm water management and how important  
21 it's going to be going forward, but I think  
22 right now we have to work with what we have  
23 been presented, and when I use the term  
24 "work" this budget should be used every day  
25 in city government, not just made today and

1 put in the drawer. I do believe Mr. Bulzoni  
2 has presented this year as a working  
3 document, especially with the fact that the  
4 majority of the money will be coming in from  
5 the sale of the Sewer Authority, but I do  
6 want to say that I agree with the  
7 contingency problem that Mr. Gaughan has  
8 brought up, but as stewards of the city it's  
9 up to us to be responsible to address those.  
10 I will be voting "yes" for the budget this  
11 evening.

12 MR. ROGAN: Just a couple of brief  
13 comments, I have pretty much spoken about  
14 the budget every week since it's been given  
15 to us. For me, too, the most important  
16 items are, number one, is it realistic and  
17 is it feasible, and I have full confidence  
18 in Mr. Bulzoni and I know the Pennsylvania  
19 Economy League signed off as well that this  
20 budget is a good working budget for the City  
21 of Scranton for next year.

22 Secondly, the point that many of  
23 those who are watching care about much more  
24 is the tax -- the lack of the tax increase  
25 in this budget. I believe it was about six



1 weeks ago, eight weeks ago, when talking  
2 about the budget I stated I wouldn't vote  
3 for any budget this year that contained a  
4 tax increase. The days of tax increases in  
5 the City of Scranton are over, and they have  
6 to be over if we are going to do the things  
7 we need to do to attract new homeowners in  
8 the city, attract new businesses into the  
9 city and to continue with many of the  
10 programs, and many of them are small, others  
11 are larger, but some of the programs that  
12 this council has spearheaded to try get them  
13 the business community more involved with  
14 the city and to get people moving into the  
15 city.

16 Again, this year you are starting to  
17 see the result of many of those small items  
18 that we have put a lot of time and effort  
19 into coming into fruition. There is  
20 certainly much more work that needs to be  
21 done as far as the budgetary items go and as  
22 the city in general, but I do believe that  
23 this budget is a very large step in the  
24 right direction.

25 MR. PERRY: Yes, on the question,

1 the operating budget, and this year  
2 especially, it was just there is so many  
3 moving pieces and I think we all see the  
4 same issue issues with, as Councilman  
5 Gaughan said, there is lot of what if's.  
6 There is lot of, like I said, moving pieces,  
7 and with the sewer sale coming at the same  
8 time as the end of the year which the budget  
9 is due, the bottom line is we needed an  
10 operating budget, we absolutely needed one.

11 As Councilman Wechsler said, there  
12 is no indication that the sewer deal is not  
13 going to go through and it's not going to go  
14 through as stated, so with that said we  
15 obviously know that the biggest issue right  
16 now is our storm water management as we are  
17 going into 2017. That needs to be  
18 addressed. I believe it will be addressed.  
19 Would I like to see something down on paper  
20 as of right now? Absolutely, but we are  
21 going through exactly how we have to go  
22 through this. We have the deal set, ready  
23 to go hopefully on the 13th. We have our  
24 budget right now, which as Councilman Rogan  
25 said, I believe it's feasible and which has

1 no taxes which is hugely positive. I can't  
2 tell you how positive that is after year  
3 after year of increases, so with that said,  
4 I'll also be voting "yes" on the budget.

5 MR. WECHSLER: Roll call, please?

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

7 MR. PERRY: Yes.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

9 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

11 MR. EVANS: Yes.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

13 MR. GAUGHAN: No.

14 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

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

18 MS. REED: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION BY  
19 THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE - FOR ADOPTION -  
20 RESOLUTION NO. 90, 2016 - ACCEPTING A ONE  
21 HUNDRED (\$100.00) DOLLAR DONATION FROM MR.  
22 AND MRS. RICHARD YOUNG PRESENTED TO THE CITY  
23 OF SCRANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR THE K-9  
24 UNIT.

25 MR. WECHSLER: What is the

1 recommendation of the Chairperson for the  
2 Committee on Finance?

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

6 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

10 MR. PERRY: Yes.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

12 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

14 MR. EVANS: Yes.

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

16 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

17 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

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

21 MS. REED: 7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION  
22 BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT -  
23 FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 91, 2016 -  
24 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE  
25 CITY OFFICIALS FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO

1 ENTER INTO A LOAN TO GRANT AGREEMENT AND  
2 MAKE A LOAN/GRANT FROM THE COMMUNITY  
3 DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT COMMERCIAL  
4 INDUSTRIAL REVOLVING LOAN PROGRAM, PROJECT  
5 NO. 150.38 IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED  
6 \$35,000.00 TO DIVERSIFIED DISASTER RECOVERY  
7 SERVICES, INC. TO ASSIST AN ELIGIBLE  
8 PROJECT.

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

12 MR. ROGAN: As Chair for the  
13 Committee on Community Development, I  
14 recommend final passage of Item 7-C.

15 MR. EVANS: Second.

16 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

17 MR. ROGAN: Yes, I'd just like to  
18 thank the mayor, Linda Aebli and Tom Preambo  
19 for their good work over the last, I'd say  
20 last three or four months that we have seen  
21 a number of these community loans to grant  
22 come down, and as was mentioned in the past,  
23 this was a block of money that was locked up  
24 and sitting in an account that wouldn't be  
25 spent for over a decade, and now we are

1 using it to attract some businesses into the  
2 city, which we desperately need.

3 MR. WECHSLER: Roll call, please?

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

5 MR. PERRY: Yes.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

7 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

9 MR. EVANS: Yes.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

13 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby  
14 declare Item 7-C legally and lawfully  
15 adopted.

16 MS. REED: 7-D. FOR CONSIDERATION  
17 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES- FOR ADOPTION -  
18 RESOLUTION NO. 92, 2016 - APPOINTMENT OF  
19 BURT SCHWARTZ, 430 COLFAX AVENUE, SCRANTON,  
20 PENNSYLVANIA, 18510 AS A MEMBER OF THE BOARD  
21 OF THE SCRANTON REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
22 EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 16, 2016. MR. SCHWARTZ  
23 WILL BE REPLACING JONATHON KRIEGER WHO  
24 RESIGNED EFFECTIVE AUGUST 5, 2016. MR.  
25 SCHWARTZ WILL FILL THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF MR.

1 KRIEGER WHOSE TERM IS SCHEDULED TO EXPIRE ON  
2 FEBRUARY 5, 2020.

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

6 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

10 MR. PERRY: Yes.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

12 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

14 MR. EVANS: Yes.

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

16 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

17 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

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

21 MS. REED: 7-E. FOR CONSIDERATION  
22 BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY - FOR  
23 ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 93, 2016 -  
24 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE  
25 CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A

1 MASTER EQUIPMENT LEASE AGREEMENT LEASE NO.  
2 5981 BETWEEN THE CITY OF SCRANTON AND BANK  
3 CAPITAL SERVICES, LLC D/B/A F.N.B COMMERCIAL  
4 LEASING FOR THE LEASE OF A 2017 KME PUMPER  
5 TRUCK FOR THE SCRANTON FIRE DEPARTMENT.

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

9 MR. PERRY: As Chairperson for the  
10 Committee on Public Safety, I recommend  
11 final passage of Item 7-E.

12 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

16 MR. PERRY: Yes.

17 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

18 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

19 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

20 MR. EVANS: Yes.

21 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

22 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

23 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

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



1           adopted.

2                       MS. REED: 7-F. FOR CONSIDERATION BY  
3           THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION -  
4           RESOLUTION NO. 94, 2016 - AUTHORIZING THE  
5           MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS  
6           TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH  
7           HIGHLAND ASSOCIATES LTD. FOR PROFESSIONAL  
8           ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR  
9           CITY OF SCRANTON FIRE DEPARTMENT FACILITIES  
10          RENOVATIONS.

11                      MR. WECHSLER: As Chairperson for  
12          the Committee on Rules, I recommend final  
13          passage of Item 7-F.

14                      MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

17                      MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

18                      MR. PERRY: Yes.

19                      MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

20                      MR. ROGAN: Yes.

21                      MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

22                      MR. EVANS: Yes.

23                      MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

24                      MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

25                      MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

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

4 MS. REED: 7-G. FOR CONSIDERATION BY  
5 THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE - FOR ADOPTION -  
6 RESOLUTION NO. 95, 2016 - ACCEPTING A  
7 DONATION OF FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000.00)  
8 DOLLARS FROM GEISINGER HEALTH SYSTEM  
9 PRESENTED TO THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO COVER  
10 THE COST OF FIREWORKS AT NAY AUG PARK.

11 MR. WECHSLER: What is the  
12 recommendation of the Chairperson for the  
13 Committee on Finance.

14 MR. EVANS: As Chairperson for the  
15 Committee on Finance, I recommend final  
16 passage of Item 7-G.

17 MR. ROGAN: Second.

18 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?  
19 Roll call, please?

20 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

21 MR. PERRY: Yes.

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

23 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

25 MR. EVANS: Yes.

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

2 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

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

7 MS. REED: 7-H. FOR CONSIDERATION BY  
8 THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE - FOR ADOPTION -  
9 RESOLUTION NO. 96, 2016 - AUTHORIZING THE  
10 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS  
11 TO ACCEPT REVENUE FROM THE SCRANTON SEWER  
12 AUTHORITY TRANSACTION TO BE DEPOSITED INTO  
13 MISCELLANEOUS REVENUES, SALE OF ASSETS  
14 ACCOUNT.

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

18 MR. EVANS: As Chairperson for the  
19 Committee on Finance, I recommend final  
20 passage of Item 7-H.

21 MR. ROGAN: Second.

22 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?  
23 Solicitor Minora, a comment was made this  
24 evening, I interpret this as just receiving  
25 the money, it has nothing to do with

1 expenditure.

2 MR. MINORA: Right.

3 MR. WECHSLER: I don't believe  
4 that it has to do with the --

5 MR. MINORA: It simply goes into an  
6 account.

7 MR. WECHSLER: And it's just the  
8 account that has to be created for the money  
9 to come into -- from the sale once it  
10 transpires.

11 MR. MINORA: Exactly.

12 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Roll  
13 call, please?

14 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

15 MR. PERRY: Yes.

16 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

17 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

18 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

19 MR. EVANS: Yes.

20 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

21 MR. GAUGHAN: No.

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

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

1 MS. REED: 7-I. FOR CONSIDERATION BY  
2 THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS- FOR ADOPTION  
3 - RESOLUTION NO. 97, 2016 - AUTHORIZING THE  
4 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS  
5 TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO AN ASSIGNMENT OF  
6 EASEMENT BY AND BETWEEN THE CITY OF SCRANTON  
7 ("ASSIGNOR") AND THE SEWER AUTHORITY OF THE  
8 CITY OF SCRANTON ("ASSIGNEE") WHICH  
9 EASEMENTS CONSTITUTE PART OF ASSIGNEE'S  
10 SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM.

11 MR. WECHSLER: What is the  
12 recommendation of the Chairperson for the  
13 Committee on Public Works?

14 MR. GAUGHAN: As Chairperson for the  
15 Committee on Public Works, I recommend that  
16 we take a final vote on Item 7-I.

17 MR. ROGAN: Second.

18 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?  
19 Roll call, please?

20 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

21 MR. PERRY: Yes.

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

23 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

25 MR. EVANS: Yes.

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

2 MR. GAUGHAN: No.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

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

7 MS. REED: 7-J. FOR CONSIDERATION BY  
8 THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS - FOR ADOPTION  
9 - RESOLUTION NO. 98, 2016 (AS AMENDED)  
10 AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT  
11 OF PUBLIC WORKS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON  
12 ("APPLICANT") TO SIGN THE APPLICANT'S  
13 AUTHORIZATION FOR AGENT ("AECOM") TO APPLY  
14 FOR A HIGHWAY OCCUPANCY PERMIT ON BEHALF OF  
15 THE CITY.

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

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

22 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

25 MR. GAUGHAN: 7-J. Sorry.

1 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

2 Roll call, please?

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

4 MR. PERRY: Yes.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

6 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

8 MR. EVANS: Yes.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

10 MR. GAUGHAN: No.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

12 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby  
13 declare Item 7-J legally and lawfully  
14 adopted.

15 MS. REED: 7-K. FOR CONSIDERATION BY  
16 THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS - FOR ADOPTION  
17 - RESOLUTION NO. 99, 2016 - AUTHORIZING THE  
18 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS  
19 TO EXECUTE THE CO-APPLICANT AGREEMENT BY AND  
20 BETWEEN PPL ELECTRIC UTILITIES ("LANDOWNER")  
21 AND CITY OF SCRANTON ("LOCAL GOVERNMENT")  
22 FOR A HIGHWAY OCCUPANCY PERMIT FOR ENCLOSED  
23 SURFACE STORM WATER FACILITIES.

24 MR. WECHSLER: What is the  
25 recommendation of the Chairperson for the

1 Committee on Public Works?

2 MR. PERRY: As Chairperson for the  
3 Committee on Public Works, I recommend final  
4 passage of Item 7-K.

5 MR. ROGAN: Second.

6 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

7 Roll call, please?

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

9 MR. PERRY: Yes.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

11 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

13 MR. EVANS: Yes.

14 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

15 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

16 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

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

20 MS. REED: 7-L - PREVIOUSLY 6-A -  
21 FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES  
22 FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 66,  
23 2016 - APPROVING THE TRANSFER OF A  
24 RESTAURANT LIQUOR LICENSE CURRENTLY OWNED BY  
25 BROOKSIDE EATERY AND PUB, LLC LICENSE NO.



1 R-17472 TO DUNNE MANNING STORES, LLC FOR USE  
2 AT 300 MEADOW AVENUE, SCRANTON, LACKAWANNA  
3 COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA AS REQUIRED BY THE  
4 PENNSYLVANIA LIQUOR CONTROL BOARD.

5 MR. WECHSLER: As Chairperson for  
6 the Committee on Rules, I recommend final  
7 passage of Item 7-L.

8 MR. ROGAN: Second.

9 MR. WECHSLER: On the question? On  
10 the question, this evening we did have a  
11 hearing, a presentation was made, this  
12 application, this is a transfer of the  
13 license actually it was explained to us as  
14 the first step in the process for this to  
15 happen. This is a proposal to take  
16 advantage of the new marketing that  
17 convenient stores that Governor Wolf passed  
18 and signed this year. This actually would  
19 set up a beer six-pack store at the current  
20 convenient market that's on Meadow Avenue.  
21 Just so everyone is aware, like I said, this  
22 is just the initial step, there will be a  
23 zoning hearing for this item so this is a  
24 little ways off before it's finally  
25 completed. I do think it's a good project.

1 I think it's an opportunity for the business  
2 to take advantage of the new requirements  
3 that have been passed in the state. Roll  
4 call, please?

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

6 MR. PERRY: Yes.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

8 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

10 MR. EVANS: Yes.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

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

17 MS. REED: 7-M - PREVIOUSLY 6-B -  
18 FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC  
19 WORKS - FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF THE COUNCIL  
20 NO. 67, 2016 - AS AMENDED - AUTHORIZING THE  
21 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS  
22 TO EXECUTE A DEED OF EASEMENT AND RIGHT OF  
23 WAY GRANTING TO SSA AND/OR PAWC THE  
24 EASEMENT, RIGHT OF WAY AND RIGHTS AS ARE SET  
25 FORTH BELOW WITH RESPECT TO THE PROPERTY,

1 WHICH DEED OF EASEMENT AND RIGHT OF WAY  
2 SHALL BE IN THE FORM AS ATTACHED HERETO AS  
3 EXHIBIT "B".

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

7 MR. GAUGHAN: As Chairperson for the  
8 Committee on Public Works, I recommend we  
9 take a final vote on Item 7-M, as amended.

10 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

14 MR. PERRY: Yes.

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

16 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

17 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

18 MR. EVANS: Yes.

19 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: No.

21 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

22 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby  
23 declare Item 7-M, as amended, legally and  
24 lawfully adopted.

25 MS. REED: 7-N - PREVIOUSLY 6-D -

1 FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON  
2 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF  
3 THE COUNCIL NO. 69, 2016 - AMENDING FILE OF  
4 THE COUNCIL NO. 21, 2011, AN ORDINANCE  
5 AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 243, 2003  
6 ENTITLED "ADOPTING A COMPREHENSIVE HUMAN  
7 RELATIONS COMMISSION ORDINANCE FOR THE CITY  
8 OF SCRANTON REGARDING EMPLOYMENT, HOUSING,  
9 REAL ESTATE AND PUBLIC ACCOMMODATIONS  
10 INCLUDING PROCEDURES FOR REDRESS OF  
11 VIOLATIONS" IN ORDER TO BE CERTIFIED AS  
12 SUBSTANTIALLY EQUIVALENT TO THE FAIR HOUSING  
13 ACT, AS AMENDED IN 1988, 42 U.S.C. §3601.  
14 ET SEQ., AND TO BE COMPLIANT WITH  
15 RECOMMENDED BEST PRACTICES FROM THE  
16 PENNSYLVANIA HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION  
17 ("PHRC").

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

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

24 MR. EVANS: Second.

25 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

1 Roll call, please?

2 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

3 MR. PERRY: Yes.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

5 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

7 MR. EVANS: Yes.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

9 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

11 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby  
12 declare Item 7-N legally and lawfully  
13 adopted.

14 MS. REED: 7-0 - PREVIOUSLY 6-E -  
15 FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON  
16 FINANCE - FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF THE COUNCIL  
17 NO. 71, 2016 - AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF  
18 TAX AND REVENUE ANTICIPATION NOTES, SERIES  
19 OF 2017 IN THE AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT  
20 NOT TO EXCEED \$12,750,000.00; PROVIDING FOR  
21 THE DATE, INTEREST RATE, MATURITY DATE,  
22 REDEMPTION PROVISIONS, PAYMENT AND PLACE OF  
23 PAYMENT IN RESPECT OF THE NOTES; ACCEPTING  
24 THE PROPOSAL ATTACHED HERETO AS EXHIBIT "B"  
25 FROM THE FINANCIAL INSTITUTION NAMED THEREIN

1 FOR THE PURCHASE OF THE NOTES; NAMING A  
2 SINKING FUND DEPOSITARY/PAYING AGENT;  
3 AUTHORIZING THE PROPER OFFICERS OF THE CITY  
4 TO EXECUTE AND DELIVER THE NOTES AND CERTAIN  
5 OTHER DOCUMENTS AND CERTIFICATES IN  
6 CONNECTION THEREWITH; AUTHORIZING AND  
7 DIRECTING THE PREPARATION, CERTIFICATION AND  
8 FILING OF THE NECESSARY DOCUMENTS WITH THE  
9 DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC  
10 DEVELOPMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF  
11 PENNSYLVANIA; SETTING FORTH A FORM OF THE  
12 NOTES.

13 MR. WECHSLER: What is the  
14 recommendation of the Chairperson for the  
15 Committee on Finance?

16 MR. EVANS: As Chairperson for the  
17 Committee on Finance, I recommend final  
18 passage of Item 7-0.

19 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

23 MR. PERRY: Yes.

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

25 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

MR. EVANS: Yes.

MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby  
declare Item 7-0 legally and lawfully  
adopted.

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

MR. ROGAN: Motion to adjourn.

MR. WECHSLER: Meeting adjourned.

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

C E R T I F I C A T E

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

---

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR  
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER