

SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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HELD:

Monday, January 7, 2019

LOCATION:

Council Chambers

Scranton City Hall

340 North Washington Avenue

Scranton, Pennsylvania

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

PATRICK ROGAN, PRESIDENT
(Not present.)

TIM PERRY, VICE PRESIDENT

WAYNE EVANS

WILLIAM GAUGHAN

KYLE DONAHUE

LORI REED, CITY CLERK

KATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

AMIL MINORA, ESQUIRE - SOLICITOR

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

3 MR. PERRY: Roll call please?

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

5 MR. PERRY: Here.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

7 MR. DONAHUE: Here.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

9 MR. EVANS: Here.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Here.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan. (Not
13 present.)

14 MR. PERRY: Please dispense with the
15 reading of the minutes.

16 MS. REED: THIRD ORDER. 3-A.
17 SINGLE TAX OFFICE CITY FUNDS DISTRIBUTED
18 COMPARISON REPORT 2017-2018 YEAR TO DATE
19 NOVEMBER 30, 2018.

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

22 MS. REED: 3-B. MINUTES OF THE
23 HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION MEETING HELD
24 FEBRUARY 22, 2018.

25 MR. PERRY: Are there any comments?

1 If not, received and filed.

2 MS. REED: 3-C. TAX ASSESSOR'S
3 REPORT FOR HEARING DATE HELD DECEMBER 12,
4 2018.

5 MR. PERRY: Are there any comments?
6 If not, received and filed.

7 MS. REED: 3-D. MINUTES OF THE
8 CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION MEETINGS HELD
9 SEPTEMBER 6 AND NOVEMBER 1, 2018.

10 MR. PERRY: Are there any comments?
11 If not, received and filed.

12 MS. REED: 3-E. MINUTES OF THE
13 SCRANTON MUNICIPAL RECREATION AUTHORITY
14 BOARD MEETING HELD NOVEMBER 5, 2018.

15 MR. PERRY: Are there any comments?
16 If not, received and filed.

17 MS. REED: 3-F. AGENDA FOR THE
18 BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS MEETING HELD
19 DECEMBER 12, 2018.

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

22 MS. REED: 3-G, MINUTES OF THE
23 LACKAWANNA COUNTY LAND BANK MEETING HELD
24 NOVEMBER 9, 2018.

25 MR. PERRY: Are there any comments?

1 If not, received and filed.

2 MS. REED: 3-H. TAX ASSESSOR'S
3 RESULTS REPORT FOR HEARING DATE HELD
4 DECEMBER 12, 2018.

5 MR. PERRY: Are there any comments?
6 If not, received and filed.

7 MS. REED: 3-I. CHECK RECEIVED IN
8 THE AMOUNT OF \$1,000.00 FROM COVENANT
9 PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, WHICH IS PAYMENT IN
10 LIEU OF TAXES FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON.

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

13 MS. REED: 3-J. CONTROLLER'S REPORT
14 FOR MONTH ENDING NOVEMBER 30, 2018.

15 MR. PERRY: Are there any comments?
16 If not, received and filed.

17 MS. REED: 3-K. MINUTES OF THE
18 SCRANTON FIREFIGHTERS PENSION COMMISSION
19 MEETING HELD NOVEMBER 21, 2018.

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

22 MS. REED: 3-L. MINUTES OF THE
23 NON-UNIFORM MUNICIPAL PENSION BOARD MEETING
24 HELD NOVEMBER 21, 2018.

25 MR. PERRY: Are there any comments?

1 If not, received and filed.

2 MS. REED: 3-M. MINUTES OF THE
3 SCRANTON POLICE PENSION COMMISSION MEETING
4 HELD NOVEMBER 21, 2018.

5 MR. PERRY: Are there any comments?

6 If not, received and filed.

7 MS. REED: 3-N. MINUTES OF THE
8 COMPOSITE PENSION BOARD MEETING HELD
9 NOVEMBER 21, 2018.

10 MR. PERRY: Are there any comments?

11 If not, received and filed.

12 MS. REED: 3-O. AGENDA FOR THE
13 NON-UNIFORM MUNICIPAL PENSION BOARD MEETING
14 HELD DECEMBER 19, 2018.

15 MS. REED: 3-P. MINUTES OF THE
16 QUARTERLY MEETINGS OF THE SHADE TREE
17 COMMISSION HELD APRIL 18, 2018 AND SEPTEMBER
18 25, 2018.

19 MS. REED: 3-Q. CHECK RECEIVED IN
20 THE AMOUNT OF \$200,000.00 FROM THE
21 UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON, WHICH IS PAYMENT IN
22 LIEU OF TAXES FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON.

23 MR. PERRY: Are there any comments?

24 If not, received and filed.

25 MS. REED: 3-R. MINUTES OF THE

1 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING OF THE SCRANTON
2 SEWER AUTHORITY HELD OCTOBER 25, 2018.

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

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, I have one.
7 January 26 the Friends of Shannon Mcdonough
8 will be having the Polar Plunge. It's free
9 to attend, \$35 donation to plunge. You can
10 register from 10 to 11 a.m. The plunge will
11 take place from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. If you
12 sign up to plunge by January 19, you will
13 receive a free hooded sweatshirt. This will
14 be held at Montage Mountain. For more
15 information you can go to
16 www.friendsofshannonmcdonough.com.

17 All the proceeds from this event
18 benefit young individuals battling cancer in
19 northeastern Pennsylvania. Thank you.

20 MR. PERRY: I have an announcement.
21 City residents can begin placing their
22 Christmas trees out at the curb. DPW will
23 be picking up the tree at the curb when they
24 see them and our tree crew will be going
25 into neighborhoods to chip the trees on

1 site. They should be picking them up until
2 the end of January. There is also another
3 option if residents prefer, real trees may
4 be dropped off at the County Recycling
5 Center at 3400 Boulevard Avenue weekdays
6 from 7 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. There is no charge
7 to the recycle trees, but they must be
8 striped of all ornaments, lights and tinsel
9 prior to drop off. The trees will be
10 grounded and turned into compost.

11 And regarding tonights' agenda, a
12 public hearing will be scheduled for next
13 Monday, January 14, at 5:30 p.m. for Item
14 5-B, which is amending the Code of Ethics.

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

17 (The following speakers offered
18 public comment as follows: Lee Morgan spoke
19 on matters of general concern. Bob Bolus
20 spoke on city business and matters of
21 general concern. Ron Ellman spoke on
22 matters of general concern. Joan Hodowanitz
23 spoke on agenda items and city business.
24 Marie Schumacher spoke on city business.)

25 MR. PERRY: Mr. Donahue, any

1 comments?

2 MR. DONAHUE: Just one quick
3 comment, I'd like to wish everyone a happy
4 and healthy new year. We have a lot that we
5 are going to have to get done this year and
6 I'm hopeful that this council along with the
7 administration will be able to work together
8 for the betterment of the citizens that we
9 represent. That's all I have for tonight.
10 Thank you.

11 MR. PERRY: Thank you. Mr. Evans,
12 any motions or comments?

13 MR. EVANS: Yes, I do. First of
14 all, I'd like to take a moment to
15 acknowledge the passing of Dr. Peter Cupple.
16 I had the pleasure of serving with Dr.
17 Cupple on the Board of the Architectural
18 heritage Association and the Historic
19 Architectural Review Board of the HARB.
20 Peter was a tireless advocate for the arts
21 and a champion to the cause of historic
22 preservation his entire life. He was a
23 gentleman, a true renaissance man, and a
24 great friend and he will be missed by every
25 person that every crossed his path, so rest

1 in peace, Peter.

2 Since this is our first meeting of
3 2019, I find it only fitting that our first
4 legislative act for the new year will be to
5 introduce an amended ethics guidelines for
6 the City of Scranton. In doing so, we are
7 ushering in a new era of transparency and
8 trust. The public deserves no less than
9 than their government and I'm extremely
10 proud to be part of a city council that has
11 taken the lead on this issue. I would also
12 like to thank Councilman Gaughan for
13 championing the effort.

14 While the new code is extremely
15 comprehensive, I'm particularly excited that
16 it will include campaign finance reform. I
17 cannot stress how important and
18 groundbreaking this is for Northeastern
19 Pennsylvania's largest city. This not only
20 will help level the playing field in many
21 ways, but it will attempt to minimize the
22 impact of infusions of large amounts of
23 money that may have influenced elections in
24 the past and will in the future. Hopefully
25 it will not.

1 Also, in the last four plus years
2 that I have been a member of city council I
3 can point to many positive achievements that
4 have happened for the city because of the
5 dedication of the gentlemen sitting to my
6 right as well Bob McGoff and Joe Wechsler,
7 but 2019 has the opportunity to be the most
8 significant year ever in terms of creating
9 lasting, positive change, change that in
10 some ways may have short-term effects, but
11 more likely will have long-term effects that
12 will be seen for years and years to come,
13 but none of it will happen without a renewed
14 commitment from those that are charged with
15 making that positive change happen.

16 Tonight I'm reinforcing my
17 commitment to make those changes a reality
18 this year. Changes like seeing the
19 implementation of See, Click, Fix and the
20 Smart Cities kiosk program. Changes like a
21 downtown mobility study that will focus on
22 our city's walkability as well the
23 implementation of many of the great ideas
24 that I'm sure will come out of that study, a
25 new zoning code, blight reduction

1 recommendations including a revamping of the
2 quality of life ticket program, the removal
3 and reduction of dozens or more fees and
4 fines as well as a revised condemnation and
5 demolition policy.

6 Additionally, we will need to make
7 changes to policies that will create a more
8 business friendly climate in every
9 department in this city. The elimination of
10 the unfair and Draconian mercantile and
11 business privilege tax and it's replacement
12 with a broader, fairer payroll tax, an
13 expanded historic district for the downtown,
14 the continuation of additional funding for
15 the SHAP program, which is a successful
16 program that we developed for first-time
17 homebuyers. The development of a companion
18 program which will be called a beautiful
19 block grant program can be now shortly which
20 we funded in part by nonprofits, foundation
21 and others. The implementation of a
22 permanent and comprehensive storm water
23 management strategy. The continuation, of
24 course, of the idea sessions, the
25 implementation of an internship program in

1 our city council office, and what I view as
2 a very important the expanded use of city
3 council work sessions to move along these
4 and other initiatives that my council
5 colleagues would like to champion. We need
6 to root out and implement innovation at
7 every opportunity.

8 As I have stated before, innovation
9 is only creative ideas that are completed.
10 2019 would be about getting ideas completed.
11 We have an opportunity this year to change
12 our city forever and we can only do it
13 together so my promise is that I will work
14 as hard as I can to make those changes and
15 others that we may not even know about it
16 yet all occur in 2019. I plan on doing all
17 of that with continuing civility, working
18 with others and with the clear vision.

19 And, finally, I promise what I have
20 done for the four plus years to make those
21 decisions without the need to view results
22 through a political prism but in the context
23 of what is right for the City of Scranton.

24 So I ask my colleagues, all of whom
25 who have shown great support for many of the

1 initiatives that were mentioned earlier, and
2 members of the administration and the public
3 to join in this renewed commitment for 2019
4 and let's make this year when real positive
5 change happens and the great ideas are
6 finally completed. And that's all I have
7 for tonight.

8 MR PERRY: Thank you. Mr. Gaughan,
9 any motions or comments?

10 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, thank you.
11 First, I'd like to ask if we can send
12 correspondence to the administration for an
13 update on the Serrenti Center project. The
14 city acquired this Serrenti Center up in the
15 Hill Section and I would like a breakdown of
16 how much money the city has spent to date
17 and what grants we have been approved for.

18 When the city acquired the Serrenti
19 building I was against that for a number of
20 the different reasons, number one being that
21 I thought it would cost a significant amount
22 of money, number one, to maintain the
23 building and to improve it. One of the
24 reasons that the administration used, from
25 what I can remember, in saying that the city

1 needed to acquire the building was they
2 needed more storage and if they did not
3 acquire the Serrenti Center building they
4 would need to build a pole barn structure on
5 the site of the Scranton Police Department
6 headquarters.

7 So in the 2019 budget, it says that
8 the city will be spending money to construct
9 a pole barn in the parking area for storage.
10 Again, I was under the assumption that this
11 would not -- this expenditure would not have
12 to take place if the city acquired the
13 Serrenti Center so if we can get an
14 explanation on that I would appreciate it.

15 I'd also like to send correspondence
16 to Mayor Courtright and the superintendent
17 of the Scranton School District on what
18 steps both administrations have taken or
19 will take with regard to the recommendations
20 and suggestions from the shared services
21 committee. In December, Councilman Donahue
22 and I have had presented along with members
23 of the Scranton school board a list of
24 recommendations, kind of a guideline on
25 things that we found where the city and the

1 school district could work together to share
2 services to become more efficient and to
3 possibly save money, so I do think we need
4 an update on that so we do not let that
5 conversation die out, so if we could send
6 that I'd appreciate it.

7 Also, I did meet with Representative
8 Julie Shoemaker-Cohen from the University of
9 Scranton about the internship program
10 between the University and our office. It
11 was a really great conversation that we had,
12 I would like to get this underway by the end
13 of the month, in the beginning of the
14 February at the latest. I have spoken to
15 Mrs. Reed about it. There is a template
16 that we are going to use that the mayor's
17 office currently uses for interns that they
18 try to get from the University so we are
19 going to use that as a guideline and we will
20 continue to have conversations about that,
21 but I think moving forward that's a really
22 positive accept for the city and for city
23 council's office.

24 The other part of that, and
25 Councilman Evans and I and Councilman

1 Donahue, Perry and Rogan often talk about
2 the city's lack of presence on social media,
3 whether it be Facebook or Twitter,
4 Instagram, whatever. It seems to me that
5 there are a lot of people that use social
6 media anymore, so I do think it would be
7 beneficial for the city to have a presence
8 on social media, whether it's pushing out
9 notifications or updates to projects going
10 on in the city, leaf collection when they
11 are picking up garbage and recycling,
12 different things like that, and I think we
13 can tie that into our potential internship
14 program with the University of Scranton so
15 that's the conversations that are ongoing.

16 In December I spoke about bringing
17 the American Lung Association to discuss
18 requiring more signage where tobacco is sold
19 within the city and looking at possibly
20 banning establishments from selling tobacco
21 within 1,000 feet of schools within the
22 city. I also would like to discuss the
23 vaping epidemic and what we might be able to
24 do legislative to curb that so I will ask my
25 colleagues if we can schedule that meeting

1 with the American Lung Association over the
2 next few weeks.

3 Mrs. Schumacher brought up tonight
4 two points, number one, the homeless
5 population and what the city's policy is or
6 the police department's policy, and the
7 opioid crises. I think at this point we
8 should probably invite, if my colleagues
9 would agree, Chief Graziano in to discuss
10 both of these topics, especially the opioid
11 crises, we have had, as has been pointed out
12 in the newspaper, multiple tragic overdoses
13 over the last month. What we can do
14 legislative I'm not sure, but I do think
15 that we should get an update from the chief
16 and see what direction our department and
17 our city is moving in combatting that.

18 Also, Mrs. Reed, if you could just
19 send a reminder to the administration to see
20 if they could put the 2019 budget on the
21 website and an update on the capital budget
22 as was mentioned as well. And that's all I
23 have. Thank you.

24 MR. PERRY: Thank you, Mr. Gaughan.
25 Just a couple of things from tonight's

1 meeting. Mrs. Reed, if we could send
2 something to Mr. Bulzoni and Mayor
3 Courtright about the Arcadis study in light
4 of everything that has happened in Luzerne
5 County in the last couple of days it just
6 puts a new emphasis on what we are going to
7 be dealing with and I think we all are
8 definitely in the know and should be in the
9 know and deserve to be in the know of what's
10 happening and where we stand in this
11 process. It's been awhile since we had any
12 kind of update on the status of it so if we
13 can get a status on when we should receive
14 something and if even if it's not a final
15 living document is there anything they could
16 share with us that we could explain or leak
17 out to the public because, you know, this
18 isn't going away and that bolder is only
19 getting closer.

20 And echoing what Mr. Gaughan said
21 about Mrs. Schumacher's comment, I think
22 that's an excellent idea to get Chief
23 Graziano in here on both issues, the
24 homeless issue that we have is no where near
25 the epidemic that is some areas, but that

1 doesn't mean we don't have one and that
2 doesn't mean that what we have we can't do
3 better, so it's a good starting point to
4 know where we are at and what we actually do
5 about it currently.

6 And the opioid epidemic, you know, I
7 was one of the first people on the record
8 saying this years ago about how that
9 devastates not only families but communities
10 and our entire area and, you know, any life
11 we can save is worth all of the efforts that
12 we can put into it because it's an awful
13 situation.

14 And while we are waiting for Chief
15 Graziano to free up a chunk of time to come
16 and meet with us if it's not too much to ask
17 of him could he send us the policy that he
18 currently has and enforced with the Scranton
19 Police Department for caring for, managing
20 our homeless population in the city as well
21 as the policy for administering Narcan, kind
22 of centered around the training, how we log
23 it once it's used and do we have any
24 follow-up in place for the recipients.
25 Thank you.

1 Other than that, I just want to say
2 happy new year to everybody and hope
3 everybody had a happy and healthy holiday
4 season and thank you.

5 MS. REED: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION -
6 AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING "THE CODE OF ETHICS
7 OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE CODE OF THE CITY OF
8 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA."

9 MR. PERRY: At this time, I'll
10 entertain a motion that Item 5-B be
11 introduced into its proper committee.

12 MR. EVANS: So moved.

13 MR. DONAHUE: Second.

14 MR. PERRY: On the question?

15 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question,
16 I am extremely pleased tonight to be able to
17 vote on this legislation to completely
18 revamp the City of Scranton's Code of Ethics
19 for several reasons.

20 First, I think it's extremely
21 important for the residents of our city to
22 have confidence in the integrity of their
23 government. Every single Scrantonian has a
24 right to expect that all city officials are
25 independent and are fair towards every

1 single resident and they do not favor a
2 small group of individuals or themselves. A
3 strong Code of Ethics creates a standard of
4 professionalism in the city. This type of
5 the professionalism and transparency should
6 build trust within the community.

7 With several investigations by the
8 Attorney General and Auditor General taking
9 place within our community over the last few
10 months and last few years, it's really
11 caused a black eye for our area and I think
12 it's an important that the City of Scranton
13 set a standard that we are not allow and we
14 will not tolerate any type of corruption. I
15 think that this Code of Ethics should
16 constantly, even after we adopt it hopefully
17 within the next two weeks, be taken off the
18 shelf, dust it off, and revisit it
19 constantly to make sure that it remains
20 up-to-date.

21 One of the issues, and I brought
22 this up a year or two ago with the current
23 board of ethics is that it basically has as
24 been nonexistent and dormant. Every single
25 board members term had expired yet none were

1 reappointed and no new members were
2 appointed even after I had alerted the mayor
3 and the administration. This legislation,
4 it's my belief, gives the ethics board teeth
5 and the tools to do their job. Clear
6 guidelines on how the board should conduct
7 their business.

8 There's a few things I want to
9 highlight. Now, this Code of Ethics is 29
10 pages so I'm not going to go through every
11 single thing, it is available on the city's
12 website and on council's page if you wanted
13 to view it, but just a few things I want to
14 touch on.

15 Number one, the composition of the
16 board. This will be changed if this
17 legislation passes. In the past, the mayor
18 would have all five appointments to the
19 Board of Ethics. Under this legislation,
20 council will have two appointments, the
21 mayor will have two and the city controller
22 will have one. I thought that was fair and
23 I have to get credit to Councilman Evans
24 with that idea. I originally wanted council
25 to have all five appointments just for the

1 check and balance effect of the legislative
2 branch on the executive, but I do think that
3 that was a fair compromise.

4 Also, within the legislation there
5 are strict rulings become city employees and
6 city officials receiving gifts and
7 solicitations or acceptance of gifts. No
8 city official or employee or a member of his
9 or her immediate family shall solicit any
10 gift, gratuity, money, favors, invitations,
11 food, drink, loans, promises or other
12 benefits from any person, firm, corporation,
13 or association which to his knowledge is
14 interested directly or indirectly in any
15 manner whatsoever in business dealings with
16 the city provided that city official or
17 employee has any influence directly or
18 indirectly in any manner whatsoever in the
19 city's participation in those business
20 dealings.

21 There are several exceptions, I
22 won't go through every single one of them.
23 There is a case if you do accept a gift and
24 it's not minimal, anything other \$50, you do
25 have to report that to the Board of Ethics

1 and then they will meet and determine if you
2 have to give the gift back. So, again,
3 there are several -- there is it a very
4 lengthy process that is delineated within
5 this Code of Ethics.

6 Also, this was in the last Code of
7 Ethics but I think it's important to point
8 out, we do have a nepotism policy. Hiring a
9 relative is a special type of conflict that
10 should be avoided. No public official or
11 employee shall appoint, hire, advance or
12 advocate the appointing, hiring or advancing
13 a member of his or her family, his or her
14 immediate family or household member to a
15 city position. I think that's important
16 that that remains in the updated Code of
17 Ethics.

18 Also, whistle blowing,
19 Mrs. Hodowanitz brought that up tonight.
20 Employees are expected to expose any
21 violation of this Code of Ethics by any
22 employee or business entity and they should
23 not expect to be reprimanded in any way or
24 threatened in any way, so that is also
25 delineated in our Code of Ethics.

1 There is quite a few other things in
2 here about fraudulent or other activity, use
3 of city property and personnel, political
4 activities, there is lengthy information ab
5 out contracts, the awarding of the
6 contracts, and then there are specific
7 recommendations to the mayor on what happens
8 if you violate the Code of Ethics. One
9 thing we talked about in the caucus that I
10 think is really important, this board will
11 be required to meet every January and elect
12 a chairperson and a vice chairperson. In
13 the past, I don't think it was required that
14 the board meet and, therefore, they became
15 kind of ineffective in and dormant. This
16 board will have to meet and they will be
17 able to give city employees or city
18 officials advisory opinions, and what that
19 means is for any reason you think something
20 is going to be unethical or may look
21 unethical then you should ask for an
22 advisory opinion and get an official opinion
23 from the board so that you can avoid that
24 whole process.

25 There is a section about how can

1 make a complaint and the investigation
2 procedure that will take place then after
3 that. I also want to point out, and I think
4 this is very important, that there is a
5 section on here about the confidentiality of
6 the complaint and the wrongful use of the
7 Board of Ethics. I don't think anyone on
8 this council was eager to, you know, redo
9 the Code of Ethics so that there would be
10 fraudulent complaints. In other words, this
11 board -- you can't use this board to harass
12 a city employee just because you don't like
13 them or for any political reason.

14 Again, if you look at this document,
15 it is very, very specific. The complaint
16 process is extremely specific, so in case
17 anybody was wondering about that.

18 And, finally, and what I think is
19 probably most important is the campaign
20 contributions and reporting requirements.
21 Under this Code of Ethics there will be a
22 limitation on how much an individual can
23 contribute to any political campaign for
24 city office. We are limiting it to \$2,700
25 in a calendar year. So if you are donating

1 to a mayoral candidate, city council, city
2 controller, tax collector, you will only be
3 able to give a maximum of \$2,700, and that
4 is the federal limit. Same thing goes for
5 political action committees and that will be
6 \$5,000, again, staying in line with the
7 federal limit.

8 I think that this is extremely
9 important because we are attempting to take
10 the influence out of the hands of a small
11 group of individuals and putting them back
12 in the hands of the people. It's time to
13 lessen the influence of money in our local
14 politics by putting results on how much
15 individuals can give. Right now there are
16 no limits, and we have seen in some cases in
17 the past few years individuals that have
18 contributed tens of thousands of dollars to
19 one candidate.

20 So, again, I think that this Code of
21 Ethics is long overdue. I think that the
22 one component of this that is going to be
23 extremely important is that the Board of
24 Ethics educate, and there is language in
25 here that the Board of Ethics has to educate

1 every single city employee, because as was
2 mentioned in the caucus there is 29 pages to
3 this Code of Ethics so you can't just expect
4 every city employee to understand the
5 intricacies because it does get -- it is
6 very lengthy in here with some of the
7 procedures, so the Board of Ethics is
8 tasked, according to this legislation, with
9 educating all city employees and all public
10 officials, so whether that takes place by a
11 seminar or a meeting once the board is up
12 and running that would be up to the Board of
13 Ethics. I like to schedule a meeting with
14 Mayor Courtright and his administration to
15 discuss this legislation. They were given
16 the legislation beforehand, but I really
17 think that this is something that the mayor
18 and I and the mayor and our council can
19 partner on and can work together on and we
20 can send a clear message to everyone in our
21 community that we are setting the bar very
22 high where it should be. And that's all I
23 have. Thank you.

24 MR. PERRY: Anyone else? I want to
25 thank Mr. Gaughan for the hard work that he

1 has put in these so many months tweaking and
2 getting this. Also, our solicitor,
3 Mr. Minora, I know you worked hard on this
4 as well. It's long overdue. I believe,
5 Mr. Evans, I believe you said that last
6 year, last December or last meeting, which
7 it is, and I also hope that this becomes a
8 template for other local governing bodies to
9 use in the future.

10 MR. GAUGHAN: By the way, I do want
11 to mention, I didn't recreate the wheel
12 here, this legislation I used the City of
13 Reading as a model. There was an intense
14 amount of corruption that went on in that
15 city a few years ago with different
16 elections, so they had updated their Code of
17 Ethics to guard against that so I don't want
18 to make it seem like I sat down and wrote
19 this all out by hand on napkins, I did use
20 the City of Reading as a guide. I talked to
21 their solicitor. Mr. Minora also was in
22 contact with the solicitor, so thank you.

23 MR. PERRY: As my tenth grade
24 English teacher said, Bill, when you get a
25 compliment just smile and say thank you.

1 MR. GAUGHAN: That's right.

2 MR. PERRY: Smile and say thank you.

3 All those in favor of introduction signify
4 by saying aye.

5 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

6 MR. EVANS: Aye.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

10 MS. REED: SIXTH ORDER. 6-A. NO
11 BUSINESS AT THIS TIME.

12 SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. NO BUSINESS AT
13 THIS TIME.

14 MR. PERRY: If there is no further
15 business, I'll entertain a motion to
16 adjourn.

17 MR. EVANS: Motion to adjourn.

18 MR. PERRY: Adjourned.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR
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