

COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON

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HELD:

Monday, June 10th, 2019

LOCATION:

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

Maria McCool, RPR
Official Court Reporter

1 C O U N C I L M E M B E R S :

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- PATRICK ROGAN, PRESIDENT
- TIMOTHY PERRY, VICE PRESIDENT - absent
- 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 a
2 moment of reflection observed.)

3

4 MR. ROGAN: Roll call, please.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry. Mr.

6 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.

13 MR. ROGAN: Here. Please dispense
14 with the reading of the minutes.

15 MS. REED: THIRD ORDER. 3-A.

16 SINGLE TAX OFFICE CITY FUNDS DISTRIBUTED

17 COMPARISON REPORT 2018-2019 YEAR TO DATE MAY

18 31, 2019.

19 MR. ROGAN: Are there any comments?

20 If not, received and filed.

21 MS. REED: 3-B. TAX ASSESSOR'S

22 RESULTS REPORTS FOR HEARING DATES HELD MAY 22

23 AND MAY 29, 2019.

24 MR. ROGAN: Are there any comments?

25 If not, received and filed.

1 MS. REED: 3-C. CORRESPONDENCE
2 RECEIVED FROM MAYOR'S OFFICE DATED MAY 6, 2019
3 REGARDING DELINQUENT REFUSE BILLING.

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

6 MS. REED: 3-D. CORRESPONDENCE
7 RECEIVED FROM NORTHEAST REVENUE SERVICE, LLC
8 DATED MAY 22, 2019 REGARDING DELINQUENT TRASH
9 ACCOUNT FEE COLLECTION.

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

12 MS. REED: 3-E. CORRESPONDENCE
13 RECEIVED FROM ELLIOTT GREENLEAF DATED MAY 15,
14 2019 REGARDING NORTHEAST REVENUE SERVICE, LLC.

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

17 Do any Council members have
18 announcements at this time? I have a couple.
19 Council again this year will hold daytime
20 meetings for the month of July. Council will
21 meet weekly at 12:30 p.m., and hold caucus at
22 12 noon in the Clerk's Office or in Council
23 Chambers, if necessary.

24 New for this year we will move the
25 weekly meetings to Wednesdays due to work

1 schedules that conflict with the meeting on
2 Monday during the day. Beginning Wednesday,
3 July 3rd at 12:30 p.m., we will hold our first
4 afternoon meeting for the month of July and
5 continue with that schedule for the four
6 remaining Wednesdays that follow.

7 So again, that's for the month of
8 July the meetings will be during the day and
9 they will also be on Wednesday, not on Monday.
10 Secondly, two executive sessions were held
11 prior to the meeting today.

12 One was regarding a matter of
13 potential litigation, and one was regarding a
14 personnel issue. Prior to Citizens
15 Participation, I would just like to remind
16 everyone, please have some decorum.

17 We're not going to tolerate what's
18 happened in the past at these meetings.
19 Council has discussed this as a group. If
20 there is somebody who is out of line and they
21 continue to go on, Council will take a short
22 recess and then come right back in.

23 MS. REED: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS
24 PARTICIPATION.

25 (The following speakers offered

1 public comment as follows:

2 Joan Hodowanitz spoke on city
3 business and matters on general concern.

4 Fay Franus spoke on matters of
5 general concern.

6 Bob Bolus spoke on matters of
7 general concern.

8
9 (Council took brief recess.)

10
11 MR. ROGAN: Call this meeting back
12 to order. And just so for the rest of the
13 speakers for the rest of the night, we do have
14 a five-minute time limit. In the past we have
15 been a little more lenient. But it is going to
16 be strictly enforced the rest of the night.

17
18 The following speakers offered
19 public comment as follows:

20 John Foley spoke on matters of
21 general concern.

22 Ron Ellman spoke on matters of
23 general concern.

24 Les Spindler spoke on matters of
25 general concern.

1 Glynis Johns spoke on matters of
2 general concern.

3 Jerry Healy spoke on matters of
4 general concern.

5 Alex Lotorto spoke on matters of
6 general concern.

7 Chris Gaydos spoke on matters of
8 general concern.

9 Dave Dobrzyn spoke on matters of
10 general concern.

11 Marie Schumacher spoke on city
12 business and matters of general concern.

13 MS. REED: FIFTH ORDER. 5-A.
14 Motions.

15 MR. ROGAN: Mr. Donahue, any motions
16 or comments?

17 MR. DONAHUE: Yes. Thank you. I
18 just want to start off by saying that June is
19 Pride Month. And it's a month that honors
20 those who resisted LGBTQ oppression and
21 encourages all people to live their authentic
22 selves.

23 I wasn't here last week because I
24 was out of town for my wedding. But I was
25 utterly disgusted by what I saw take place in

1 these chambers. Although there may still be
2 ignorant bigots in our city, it's important to
3 stress that as a whole, the City of Scranton is
4 a place that has continued to make huge strides
5 in becoming more inclusive for all.

6 But we still have more work to do on
7 that front. I am extremely proud that the
8 Pride flag is currently flying outside of this
9 building because it symbolizes that the city is
10 open to all people regardless of their sexual
11 orientation.

12 And just a quick followup on two
13 requests that I made over a month ago, I still
14 have not received invoices for the
15 refurbishment of the showmobile. And I also
16 haven't received a copy of the denial letter
17 from the city's insurance carrier regarding
18 the federal lawsuit settlement involving the
19 Director of Licensing and Inspection.

20 So, Miss Reed, would you be able to
21 send a followup regarding those two requests,
22 please? And while I'm on the subject of
23 License and Inspections, it seems we can't go
24 more than a few weeks at a time without
25 controversy surrounding that department and its

1 leadership as we've seen with the latest one
2 regarding Mr. Sweeney.

3 First, I'd like to know what sort of
4 process would allow for a city employee to
5 become aware of their termination through a
6 reporter instead of from their superior?

7 Second, what century is this
8 department operating in where only cash
9 payments are accepted? You can't use a debit
10 or credit card. And you're given a handwritten
11 receipt out of a receipt book you could buy at
12 Staples.

13 This is exactly why contractors
14 don't want to do business in the city. And
15 although there's RFQ for an evaluation of the
16 entire License and Inspection Department that
17 should be going on in the next few weeks, we
18 must begin to address this payment issue
19 immediately.

20 I'd also like to make a motion to
21 request a briefing in an executive session, if
22 necessary, from the City Solicitor and HR
23 Director at our caucus next week to give us an
24 explanation of the circumstances surrounding
25 Mr. Sweeney's termination, including how much

1 money is missing and what evidence the
2 Administration has to support their claims
3 against Mr. Sweeney. The nonsense surrounding
4 this department must stop.

5 MR. ROGAN: Motion's been made. Is
6 there a second?

7 MR. GAUGHAN: Second.

8 MR. ROGAN: On the question?

9 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.
10 I agree with what Councilman Donahue said. I
11 have a ton of questions. I mean, the way this
12 whole thing worked, Council received a letter
13 from the Mayor telling us that he was
14 appointing Don King as the acting zoning
15 officer and then also in the letter it said
16 that Mr. Sweeney had been terminated.

17 There was no explanation as to why
18 he was terminated. And then the next day just
19 as all of you had read, we had read the news
20 article in which Mr. Sweeney was surprised that
21 he was terminated, which as Councilman Donahue
22 had mentioned, I was surprised by.

23 I don't know what organization or
24 what governmental entity would terminate -- if
25 that is true, would terminate an employee and

1 not let them know. So that's number one.

2 Number two, as Mr. Donahue had
3 pointed out, I think it's very important to
4 know if an investigation into this matter is
5 still occurring, is the investigation complete,
6 and if, in fact, Mr. Sweeney did misappropriate
7 funds and he's the one that brought that up in
8 the article, why wasn't there a warrant for his
9 arrest? Why wasn't the police involved in that
10 matter?

11 So it seems to me that there needs
12 to be -- there are a lot of questions that need
13 to be answered. And it is concerning that
14 according to Mr. Sweeney's account, the amount
15 was around 17,000 and then it went down. It
16 just -- if you read the article, you were as
17 confused as everyone on Council was.

18 So I agree with Councilman Donahue's
19 motion. I think we need to figure out exactly
20 what's going on here. And, you know, according
21 to Mr. Sweeney there are -- according to his
22 testimony in the newspaper, there is an awful
23 lot of questions that need to be answered.
24 Thank you.

25 MR. ROGAN: Anyone else on the

1 question?

2 (No response.)

3 MR. ROGAN: All those in favor
4 signify by saying aye.

5 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

7 MR. EVANS: Aye.

8 MR. ROGAN: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
9 have it and so ordered.

10 MR. DONAHUE: That's all I have at
11 this time.

12 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. Mr. Evans,
13 any motions or comments?

14 MR. EVANS: A couple comments.
15 First of all, Mrs. Reed, if you can send the
16 list from Miss Franus to LIPS and see if they
17 can review those properties on the list and see
18 if they might be included into the Rental
19 Escrow Program that we're going to be talking
20 about later tonight through legislation in 5-A.
21 That would be great.

22 Also for some reason, there is some
23 perception that City Council did not address
24 certain remarks made last week. In fact, last
25 week when it was our opportunity to speak I

1 said the following on the issue of a speaker
2 discussing a current City Council candidate, my
3 brief comments are as follows:

4 I happen to think that change is
5 good. And different viewpoints should be
6 encouraged and fostered and listened to,
7 especially in the government sector.

8 Now, as I've repeatedly said over
9 the years when situations like this arise, we
10 are better than that. And in this situation I
11 really hope we are. So that's all I have on
12 that topic.

13 I would like to bring back and
14 circle around again to walkability. We have
15 received four excellent responses to our RFQ on
16 the conductivity study which as a major
17 component of a walkability study that I have
18 been pressing for for quite some time.

19 I would expect that after a
20 reasonable due diligence period we'll have a
21 selection of a consultant relatively soon. But
22 we that said, I'd like to offer a few more
23 comments on walkability.

24 Chis Leinberger, a professor at
25 George Washington University has coined a new

1 term for for walkable urban places. He calls
2 them walkups.

3 He defines walkups as a regionally
4 significant walkable urban place in which job
5 concentrations and civic concentrations and the
6 wealth of the region is created.

7 We should want that for our downtown
8 to be a walkup as defined by Leinberger. And
9 then we should want to foster additional
10 walkups throughout the city. So I'm hopeful
11 that we will look back at this conductivity as
12 a watershed moment where we can put into place
13 the ideas and concepts that will return us to
14 that urban place that he describes that urban
15 place we once were where we were the wealth of
16 an entire region.

17 It all started here in Scranton.
18 RMA is a Pompano Beach, Florida Planning and
19 Consulting firm whose core business is urban
20 revitalization. Through them, researchers have
21 found that more attention is being paid to
22 traffic counts both auto and foot traffic. And
23 they want to measure walkability.

24 What they found is when a use comes
25 into an urban place that creates a walkable

1 environment often used -- other uses tend to
2 follow. Then there are starts to be spinoffs
3 and more spinoffs and changes among other
4 things, the value of real estate goes up. The
5 connection of those things, which is the
6 walkability, that is what connects the two of
7 them is what drives economics.

8 And as soon as an area gets defined
9 in the walkable world and it's known that
10 places are going to be connected through
11 walkability, it changes the value of each
12 property between them.

13 Other researches have shown that the
14 average rents in real estate, commercial and
15 residential and walkup, those in -- the
16 walkable places I've been talking about are
17 over 100 percent higher per square foot than
18 they are in the suburban real estate market.

19 So it's safe to assume that other
20 studies will conclude that sales prices will
21 follow that same pattern. Another aspect to
22 the urban place infrastructure, in urban area
23 the infrastructure is mostly in place. But to
24 build new development in the suburban model, it
25 cost 10 to 20 times more per square foot to

1 build that same infrastructure.

2 So concentrated developments like
3 downtown and neighborhood commercial areas are
4 more efficient in terms of infrastructure and
5 travel cost, housing and almost every other
6 measure that you could think of.

7 So we have a lot at stake with this
8 conductivity study. First, we need to choose
9 the right consultant. We need to receive the
10 right product in return with clearly defined
11 and usable outcomes. And then we find the
12 resources and the courage and the vision to
13 implement those recommended changes.

14 And then we can create a more
15 walkable Scranton. If we do that, then I think
16 personally we are on the very cusp of something
17 great for our city. We all well-positioned for
18 amazing things to happen, not just in the
19 downtown but throughout all of our
20 neighborhoods.

21 So I hope you all stay tuned because
22 I think it's going to happen soon. We hope to
23 have that study out and somebody working on it
24 sometime this summer. On that note, remember
25 every day is your chance to make this city a

1 little better. That's all I have.

2 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. Mr. Gaughan,
3 any motions or comments?

4 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, I just wanted to
5 announce that according to the city street
6 sweeping schedule between June 10th and June
7 14th, the city street sweepers will be in the
8 Hill Section, Wheeler Avenue to Matthew Avenue
9 including the Oakmont section.

10 The street sweeper came in my
11 neighborhood not too long ago. And there was a
12 noticeable difference. I actually noticed the
13 machine going down my street when I was on my
14 way to work in the morning. And they are doing
15 a great job.

16 However, I will reiterate once again
17 that I do think in the future if there was an
18 actual street sweeping program where alternate
19 side of the street parking was enforced, I
20 think that would make the program much more
21 effective. So hopefully we will see that at
22 some point in the future.

23 913-915 Eynon Street, I toured this
24 property not too long ago. I asked several
25 questions. Mr. Hinton had responded that this

1 property was in -- tied up in the courts and
2 that the city was going to go back to court.
3 We had sent correspondence May 31st.

4 I sent an additional followup e-mail
5 to the City Solicitor on how that whole process
6 works, where it is in the courts and what order
7 the city needs to go back and try to take care
8 of this property. I have not received a
9 response yet.

10 Councilman Evans, myself, and
11 Councilman Donahue are going to meet again with
12 the neighbors tomorrow. I know Councilman
13 Rogan and Councilman Perry are going to meet
14 with them also. So we're not going to, you
15 know, let this issue die.

16 Anyone who goes out and visits this
17 property will see that it has to be one of the
18 worst that I've seen since I've been on
19 Council. And since I mentioned that last week
20 there have been other people who have reached
21 out with other problem properties.

22 And I'm certainly not saying that or
23 trying to favor one over the other. We have a
24 major problem in the city obviously no surprise
25 to anyone with blight. And as I mentioned in

1 the caucus tonight, I personally do not believe
2 that we at this time have any strategy, zero
3 strategy to deal with condemned homes, homes
4 that are severely blighted.

5 As I mentioned two weeks ago the
6 county actually held a blight task force. And
7 no one from the city besides Councilman Evans
8 had showed up. So I really think at some point
9 this Administration has got to get on the ball
10 with a coherent strategy to deal with blight in
11 the city.

12 Otherwise, you know, people are
13 going to continue to come to this Council. And
14 we're going to be in this process where we ask
15 questions and we never get any answers. And
16 it's extremely frustrating. We sent a request
17 to the DPW about 431 Duncan Street on the side
18 of this gentleman's home on Kirst Court in
19 Minooka that actually has turned into a swamp
20 from the water runoff.

21 I do realize that the DPW is backed
22 up dealing with many stormwater issues. But,
23 Mrs. Read, if you could send this once again
24 and just let them know that it's gotten to the
25 point where it's really difficult for this

1 family to enjoy their home. It's seeping now
2 onto their property.

3 Also 813 Hampton Street, received a
4 correspondence from a neighbor in the area that
5 this home is possibly on the demolition list.
6 They're not sure. The roof is caved in. The
7 sides have mushroomed out to touch the house
8 next door. And they believe the house is only
9 being held up at this point by joists.

10 So, Mrs. Reed, if we could please
11 send something to Licensing and Inspection on
12 that.

13 Also just on the comments last week
14 and this week, usually I wouldn't, you know,
15 give this the time of day because I just don't
16 think that we should entertain anyone who
17 speaks in the manner that that gentleman spoke
18 in.

19 But I don't think this should be any
20 place in these chambers or really anywhere for
21 that matter for hateful bigoted comments. Who
22 is anyone to judge anybody else? We are here
23 sitting up here on this Council to do the
24 business -- to conduct the business of the
25 city, not to listen to somebody's bizarre

1 political views or their bizarre rants on
2 politics or national politics or things that
3 have nothing to do with the City of Scranton.

4 My children last week were brought
5 into the conversation, which again I thought
6 was gross and reprehensible along with the
7 comments about Dr. Rothchild. And I just want
8 to say that, you know, my wife and I are trying
9 to raise our children to be kindhearted, decent
10 people who do not judge other people.

11 And I would hope that the gentleman
12 that spoke -- I wish somebody would have taught
13 him that. I really do. And I think this is a
14 great -- what happened tonight and last week is
15 a great lesson for everyone that one person
16 could come up and spew that, the hatred and the
17 violence and the anger that he does on a
18 regular basis, that does not represent the vast
19 majority of the people who live in the city.
20 Thank you.

21 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. A couple
22 quick comments. I know this was mentioned
23 quite a bit at our meeting and a speaker
24 brought it up as well regarding the rental
25 registration property escrow.

1 We do have legislation on our agenda
2 tonight regarding setting up these escrow
3 accounts for landlords that do not file the
4 proper paperwork to register their properties
5 where those rents can be taken by the city in
6 that case.

7 And rental registration isn't a real
8 hot issue. But I know the garbage fees are.
9 It's been brought up quite a bit that most of
10 the properties that are delinquent on their
11 garbage bills are also not registered with the
12 city.

13 And in particular, many of them are
14 out-of-town landlords. There's a lot of great
15 landlords here in Scranton. And there's some
16 good out-of-town landlords as well. But it
17 seems that most of the abuses that we're seeing
18 from folks not paying their bills are from out
19 of town. And they are people who own multiple
20 properties.

21 I know we were just given a list
22 tonight of probably 20 properties all owned by
23 the same person. This person was a local
24 person that hasn't paid any of their garbage
25 bills. So that's something I think will start

1 to turn the tide in our favor to get people to
2 register their properties and pay all of their
3 fees.

4 I know we talked about the garbage
5 fee a little bit last week on some other
6 actions that could be taken there. So I'm
7 optimistic on that front that we can start
8 getting these collection rates up because at
9 the end of the day, if we get our collection
10 rate up it's increasing our revenue.

11 But the people that have been paying
12 all along are still going to pay. It's getting
13 everyone on a level playing field. And there's
14 a lot more to come on that issue as well.

15 A couple requests I know Councilman
16 Donahue brought this up and I know others on
17 East Mountain. I've been inundated with calls
18 from people particularly on East Mountain, some
19 on West Mountain as well with road issues. I
20 know we had a ton of rain lately. This most
21 recent one -- and I will send this to DPW. I
22 don't want to read the address off.

23 It's similar to a sinkhole. I know
24 there's one in West Scranton as well. It's not
25 just a pothole. And it's causing people to

1 swerve all the way around and almost into a
2 ditch. So these issues, especially with the
3 weather we've been having really seem to keep
4 creeping up particularly on East Mountain more
5 so than other parts of the city.

6 I know there was another resident
7 that we sent in multiple requests for. And it
8 was finally fixed. So we appreciate the DPW
9 for that. And we know they are backed up. So
10 I'll pass that one along as well.

11 I'm glad the decorum was slightly
12 better this week than in previous weeks.
13 Obviously we have a set rules. In the past
14 they've been much more lenient particularly
15 regarding allowing citizens to speak six,
16 seven, eight minutes.

17 I would personally like to let
18 people finish their thoughts, you know, as one
19 of the speakers brought up. But if we go down
20 the path that we went down the last couple
21 weeks it's going to be a strict five minute
22 rule.

23 And again, the same thing with
24 what's being allowed to -- we did have a
25 discussion as a group with our solicitor on

1 what is going to be allowed, not going to be
2 allowed.

3 I think we all agree that the
4 statements that were made last week and some
5 this week are not representative of Scranton
6 and certainly not representative of what this
7 body stands for. Hopefully this is all we'll
8 have to say on this matter and that is all.

9 MS. REED: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION -
10 AN ORDINANCE - CREATING AND ESTABLISHING
11 SPECIAL CITY ESCROW ACCOUNT NO. 02.229640
12 ENTITLED "RENTAL REGISTRATION TENANT ESCROW" TO
13 ACCEPT AND DISBURSE FUNDS RECEIVED FROM RENTAL
14 PAYMENTS FROM TENANTS WHOSE LANDLORDS HAVE
15 FAILED TO COMPLY WITH REGISTERING THEIR RENTAL
16 PROPERTIES IN THE CITY OF SCRANTON PURSUANT TO
17 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.58, 2016 (AS AMENDED).

18 MR. ROGAN: At this time I'll
19 entertain a motion that Item 5-B be introduced
20 into its proper committee.

21 MR. EVANS: So moved.

22 MR. DONAHUE: Second.

23 MR. ROGAN: On the question?

24 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.

25 In the caucus I had asked for us to get in

1 touch with the city Law Department or the
2 Licensing and Inspection Department just to
3 find out now that we're establishing this
4 escrow account, the legislation is in place to
5 enforce this.

6 Now I think we need to hear from the
7 Law Department and the Licensing and
8 Inspections Department on what this process
9 will look like, how exactly it will be
10 enforced, and when they will start enforcing
11 it.

12 So if they can provide a timeline to
13 the Council on what that looks like I would
14 appreciate it.

15 MR. ROGAN: Anyone else?

16 MR. EVANS: Yeah, on the question
17 I'm very happy to see this legislation on our
18 agenda this evening. This is part of our
19 Rental Registration Ordinance that's currently
20 in effect drafted mostly by this City Council.

21 The escrow account is a very
22 significant tool in fighting back against
23 absentee landlords that have not paid their
24 garbage fee that have not paid their taxes or
25 have not even registered their properties.

1 So clearly if you learned anything
2 it is that if you get the attention -- to get
3 the attention of many landlords that operate in
4 our city, you have to find a way into their
5 pocketbooks. And that's what this does.

6 By transferring tenant rent payments
7 to the city, depositing them into the escrow
8 account until such a time that certain
9 landlords accept the responsibility by paying
10 their fees and taxes, that's when we will
11 finally start making some progress on this
12 issue as far as the refuse fee, taxes, and the
13 rental registration process.

14 So we are finally moving into a very
15 positive direction with this and I certainly
16 will be voting in the affirmative.

17 MR. ROGAN: And just to follow up,
18 as I mentioned before and as Councilman Evans
19 just mentioned, it's not just the rental
20 registration. But I would -- as much attention
21 has been put on the fact that garbage fees
22 haven't been paid, it wouldn't be going out on
23 a limb to say that our collection rate on
24 rental registrations is even significantly
25 lower than our garbage fee collection in the

1 city.

2 So this is something that we really
3 need to, you know, to get moving. And I really
4 think once word gets around that the city is
5 doing this, people that aren't in compliance
6 will begin to come in compliance. Anyone else?

7 (No response.)

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

10 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

12 MR. EVANS: Aye.

13 MR. ROGAN: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
14 have it and so moved.

15 MS. REED: SIXTH ORDER. 6-A.

16 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 65,
17 2019 - AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE
18 COUNCIL NO. 9, 2010 AN ORDINANCE REPEALING FILE
19 OF THE COUNCIL NO. 95, 2009 (AS AMENDED) AN
20 ORDINANCE, ENTITLED "SIGNIFYING THE INTENTION
21 AND DESIRE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
22 SCRANTON TO ORGANIZE AN AUTHORITY TO BE KNOWN
23 AS THE SCRANTON PUBLIC LIBRARY AUTHORITY
24 UNDER PROVISIONS OF THE ACT OF THE GENERAL
25 ASSEMBLY, KNOWN AS THE MUNICIPALITY AUTHORITIES

1 ACT, 53 PA.C.S.A. 56; SETTING FORTH AND
2 AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF ARTICLES OF
3 INCORPORATION; APPOINTING AND FIXING THE TERMS
4 OF THE FIRST MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF SUCH
5 AUTHORITY; AND UPON ORGANIZATION CONVEYING
6 TITLE TO THE AUTHORITY FOR THE PROPERTIES ON
7 WHICH THE ALBRIGHT MEMORIAL LIBRARY, THE GREEN
8 RIDGE LIBRARY AND THE SILKMAN HOUSE
9 ARE LOCATED; AUTHORIZING ALL OTHER NECESSARY
10 ACTION; AND 2 REPEALING ALL INCONSISTENT
11 ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES,
12 RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS OF RESOLUTIONS" TO REVIVE
13 THE SCRANTON PUBLIC LIBRARY AUTHORITY.

14 MR. ROGAN: You've heard reading by
15 title of Item 6-A. What is your pleasure?

16 MR. EVANS: I move that Item 6-A
17 pass reading by title.

18 MR. DONAHUE: Second.

19 MR. ROGAN: On the question?

20 (No response.)

21 MR. ROGAN: All those in favor
22 signify by saying aye.

23 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

25 MR. EVANS: Aye.

1 MR. ROGAN: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
2 have it and so moved.

3 MS. REED: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR
4 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY
5 DEVELOPMENT - FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO.
6 121, 2019 - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
7 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS FOR THE CITY OF
8 SCRANTON TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT
9 WITH URBAN DESIGN VENTURES, LLC, 212 EAST
10 SEVENTH AVENUE, HOMESTEAD, PENNSYLVANIA
11 15120 TO PERFORM A FIVE YEAR CONSOLIDATED PLAN
12 FOR YEARS 2020-2024, ANNUAL ACTION PLAN FOR
13 2020 AND AN ANALYSIS OF IMPEDIMENTS TO FAIR
14 HOUSING CHOICE FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON,
15 PENNSYLVANIA.

16 MR. ROGAN: What is the
17 recommendation of the Chair for the Committee
18 on Community Development?

19 MR. DONAHUE: As Chairperson for the
20 Committee on Community Development, I recommend
21 final passage of Item 7-A.

22 MR. EVANS: Second.

23 MR. ROGAN: On the question?

24 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.
25 Last week I had asked a question about the two

1 firms that had bid on this project. Urban
2 Development was the -- actually the bidder --
3 was the highest bidder. And then there was
4 another company that bid that was actually much
5 lower.

6 So I had asked a question and I
7 would like to thank Mary-Pat Ward who is the
8 Executive Director of OECD for responding with
9 a detailed explanation which I really
10 appreciate. So I am satisfied with that. And
11 I will be voting in the affirmative. Thank
12 you.

13 MR. ROGAN: Anyone else?

14 (No response.)

15 MR. ROGAN: Roll call, please.

16 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

17 MR. DONAHUE: Yes.

18 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

19 MR. EVANS: Yes.

20 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

21 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

23 MR. ROGAN: Yes. I hereby declare
24 Item 7-A legally and lawfully adopted.

25 MS. REED: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION

1 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION -
2 RESOLUTION NO. 122, 2019 - AUTHORIZING
3 RE-APPOINTMENT OF MICHAEL BURKE, 74 SNOOK
4 STREET, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA 18505,
5 AS A MEMBER OF THE HOUSING APPEALS REVIEW BOARD
6 FOR AN ADDITIONAL FIVE (5) YEAR TERM EFFECTIVE
7 MAY 16, 2019. MR. BURKE'S PRIOR TERM EXPIRED
8 NOVEMBER 24, 2018 AND WAS HELD OVER
9 UNTIL MAY 16, 2019. HIS NEW TERM WILL EXPIRE
10 ON NOVEMBER 24, 2023.

11 MR. ROGAN: As chairman for the
12 Committee on Rules, I recommend final passage
13 of Item 7-B.

14 MR. EVANS: Second.

15 MR. ROGAN: On the question?

16 (No response.)

17 MR. ROGAN: Roll call, please.

18 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

19 MR. DONAHUE: Yes.

20 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

21 MR. EVANS: Yes.

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

25 MR. ROGAN: Yes. I hereby declare

1 Item 7-B legally and lawfully adopted.

2 MS. REED: 7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION
3 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION -
4 RESOLUTION NO. 123, 2019 - AUTHORIZING
5 RE-APPOINTMENT OF GERALD SMURL, 300 PROSPECT
6 AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA 18505, AS A
7 MEMBER OF THE HOUSING APPEALS REVIEW BOARD FOR
8 AN ADDITIONAL FIVE (5) YEAR TERM EFFECTIVE MAY
9 16, 2019. MR. SMURL'S PRIOR TERM EXPIRED ON
10 NOVEMBER 24, 2018 AND WAS HELD OVER TO MAY 16,
11 2019. HIS NEW TERM WILL EXPIRE ON NOVEMBER 24,
12 2023.

13 MR. ROGAN: As Chairperson for the
14 Committee on Rules, I recommend final passage
15 of Item 7-C.

16 MR. EVANS: Second.

17 MR. ROGAN: On the question?

18 (No response.)

19 MR. ROGAN: Roll call, please.

20 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

21 MR. DONAHUE: Yes.

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

23 MR. EVANS: Yes.

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

25 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

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

4 MS. REED: 7-D. FOR CONSIDERATION
5 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION -
6 RESOLUTION NO. 124, 2019 - AUTHORIZING
7 APPOINTMENT OF ROBERT KEIPER, 406 ROANOKE LANE,
8 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18504, TO THE
9 CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION. MR. KEIPER'S
10 EFFECTIVE DATE WILL BE MAY 16, 2019. MR.
11 KEIPER WILL BE REPLACING JEFF MACKIE WHO
12 RESIGNED EFFECTIVE MAY 14, 2019. MR. KEIPER'S
13 TERM WILL EXPIRE WITH THE TERM OF MAYOR WILLIAM
14 L. COURTRIGHT.

15 MR. ROGAN: As chairperson for the
16 Committee on Rules, I recommend final passage
17 of Item 7-D.

18 MR. EVANS: Second.

19 MR. ROGAN: On the question?

20 (No response.)

21 MR. ROGAN: Roll call, please.

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

23 MR. DONAHUE: Yes.

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

25 MR. EVANS: Yes.

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

2 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

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

6 MS. REED: 7-E. FOR CONSIDERATION
7 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION -
8 RESOLUTION NO. 125, 2019 - AUTHORIZING
9 APPOINTMENT OF ROBERT SHUMAKER, 617 COLFAX
10 AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18510, AS
11 A MEMBER OF THE SCRANTON MUNICIPAL RECREATION
12 AUTHORITY EFFECTIVE MAY 16, 2019. MR. SHUMAKER
13 WILL BE REPLACING EMANUEL JOHNSON WHO RESIGNED
14 MAY 8, 2019. MR. SHUMAKER WILL FULFILL
15 THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF MR. JOHNSON WHOSE TERM IS
16 SCHEDULED TO EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 31, 2022.

17 MR. ROGAN: As Chairperson for the
18 Committee on Rules, I recommend final passage
19 of Item 7-E.

20 MR. EVANS: Second.

21 MR. ROGAN: On the question?

22 (No response.)

23 MR. ROGAN: Roll call, please.

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

25 MR. DONAHUE: Yes.

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

2 MR. EVANS: Yes.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

4 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

6 MR. ROGAN: Yes. I hereby declare

7 Item 7-E legally and lawfully adopted. If

8 there's no further business, I'll entertain a

9 motion to adjourn.

10 MR. EVANS: Motion to adjourn.

11 MR. ROGAN: Meeting adjourned.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

1
2
3 I hereby certify that the proceedings and
4 evidence are contained fully and accurately in the
5 notes taken by me of the above-cause and that this copy
6 is a correct transcript of the same to the best of my
7 ability.

8
9
10 _____
11 Maria McCool, RPR
12 Official Court Reporter
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