

COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON

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HELD:

Wednesday, July 31st, 2019

LOCATION:

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

Maria McCool, RPR  
Official Court Reporter

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

PATRICK ROGAN, PRESIDENT - absent

TIMOTHY PERRY, VICE PRESIDENT

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. PERRY: Roll call, please.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

6 MR. PERRY: Here.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

8 MR. DONAHUE: Here.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

10 MR. GAUGHAN: Here.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

12 MR. DONAHUE: I would like to make a  
13 motion to take from the table file of the  
14 Council Number 66 of 2019.

15 MR. GAUGHAN: Second.

16 MR. PERRY: On the question? This  
17 piece is being taken from the table and being  
18 placed in Seventh Order for final vote. This  
19 ordinance will create a special city escrow  
20 account for funds received from rental payments  
21 for tenants whose landlords have failed to  
22 comply with registering their rental  
23 properties.

24 Anyone who wishes to speak on this  
25 particular piece of legislation may do so

1 during Fourth Order Citizens Participation.

2 All those in favor signify by saying aye.

3 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

4 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

5 MR. PERRY: Aye. Opposed?

6 (No response.)

7 MR. PERRY: The ayes have it and so  
8 moved.

9 MR. GAUGHAN: I would like to make a  
10 motion to appoint Councilman Donahue as  
11 temporary Chairperson for the Committee on  
12 Finance.

13 MR. DONAHUE: Second.

14 MR. PERRY: On the question?

15 (No response.)

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

18 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

19 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

20 MR. PERRY: Aye. Opposed?

21 (No response.)

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

24 MR. GAUGHAN: I'd like to make a  
25 motion to appoint Councilman Perry as temporary

1 Chairperson for the Committee on Rules.

2 MR. DONAHUE: Second.

3 MR. PERRY: On the question?

4 (No response.)

5 MR. PERRY: All those in favor  
6 signify by saying aye.

7 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

8 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

9 MR. PERRY: Aye. Opposed?

10 (No response.)

11 MR. PERRY: The ayes have it and so  
12 moved. Dispense with the reading of the  
13 minutes.

14 MS. REED: THIRD ORDER. 3-A. TAX  
15 ASSESSOR'S RESULTS REPORT FOR HEARING DATE HELD  
16 JULY 17, 2019.

17 3-B. TAX ASSESSOR'S REPORTS FOR  
18 HEARING DATES TO BE HELD AUGUST 14 AND AUGUST  
19 21, 2019.

20 3-C. AGENDA FOR THE BOARD OF ZONING  
21 APPEALS MEETING TO BE HELD AUGUST 14, 2019.

22 MR. PERRY: Are there any comments?  
23 If not, received and filed. Do any Council  
24 members have announcements at this time?

25 MR. DONAHUE: Yes, I have two quick

1 ones. The deadline for the Community  
2 Development Block Grant Funding for the 2020  
3 year has been extended. Applications will be  
4 accepted until August 23rd. The extension is  
5 due to the low turnout in applicants.

6 Any questions please call  
7 570-348-4216 and that's the city's Office of  
8 Community Development.

9 And also, the fourth annual Bob  
10 McGoff 5k run 1 mile walk will be held on  
11 August 25th, 2019. The race will start at  
12 9 a.m., at Connors Park. Race registration  
13 will be from 7:30 to 8:45. A \$20 registration  
14 fee will be assessed if you sign up early.

15 It's a \$25 race day registration  
16 fee. And it's also the final leg of the  
17 Scranton City Council Cup. Sign up or donate  
18 at Bob McGoff 5K dot org. For additional info  
19 call 570-344-6759. And that's all I have.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: And, yes, I have one  
21 as well. I just want to announce again as I  
22 did last week a benefit is going to be taking  
23 place for my two uncles.

24 Friends and family have planned a  
25 benefit for John and Billy Trently. Both

1           brothers were diagnosed with cancer within two  
2 weeks of each other. John has advanced  
3 prostate cancer. And Billy has multiple  
4 myeloma.

5                       Together along with their families  
6 they are facing this battle. The benefit will  
7 be held September 21st from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.,  
8 at St. Mary's Center in Scranton to help defray  
9 the cost of treatments and travel expenses to  
10 Sloan Kettering Hospital in New York City.

11                      Tickets are \$20 and are available at  
12 the door. There will be basket raffles, basket  
13 of cheer, 50/50, entertainment, food, wine and  
14 beer. If you would like to donate a basket or  
15 volunteer, please call Ann at 570-290-5518 or  
16 Peggy at 570-468-5068.

17                      Please come out to support two  
18 wonderful men and their battle -- and help them  
19 with their battle with cancer. Thank you.

20                      MR. PERRY: We have received all of  
21 our letters of interest and resumes for the  
22 vacant Council seat. We'll be holding a  
23 special meeting for the purpose of conducting  
24 interviews in the very near future. All those  
25 who submitted a resume will be contacted once

1           this date has been set.

2                   And also, Council's next regularly  
3           scheduled weekly meeting following our August  
4           recess will be held on Monday, September 9th at  
5           6 p.m., back to normal time.

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

8

9                   (The following speakers offered  
10          public comment as follows:

11                   John Hodowanitz spoke on city  
12          business on matters of general concern.

13                   Bob Bolus spoke on matters of  
14          general concern.

15                   Gerard Hetman spoke on matters of  
16          general concern.

17                   Ron Ellman spoke on matters of  
18          general concern.

19                   Les Spindler spoke on matters of  
20          general concern.

21                   Dave Dobrzyn spoke on matters of  
22          general concern.

23                   Jeff Labroski{sic} spoke on matters  
24          of general concern.

25                   Marie Schumacher spoke on city



1 business and matters of general concern.

2 Lynn Labroski{sic} spoke on matters  
3 of general concern.

4 Paul O'Hora spoke on matters of  
5 general concern.)

6

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

8 MOTIONS.

9 MR. PERRY: Mr. Donahue, any motions  
10 or comments?

11 MR. DONAHUE: Yes, just to touch on  
12 what Mr. O'Hora brought up. As the first part  
13 of my process when he came in the last time  
14 when I asked for a building maintenance plan,  
15 I've still yet to receive a building  
16 maintenance plan which makes me think that  
17 there isn't a building maintenance plan.

18 So if we don't have a maintenance  
19 plan to take care of this building, what are we  
20 going to do just keep on jumping buildings? It  
21 just doesn't make sense to me.

22 Also just a couple issues on what  
23 Joan touched on with residents, you know, being  
24 frustrated with not getting a call back from  
25 the city with regards to flooding.

1                   Again, I have those same  
2                   frustrations on that issue as well because I  
3                   know all of us have put in different issues  
4                   with regards -- requests on different issues  
5                   with regards to flooding and we haven't  
6                   received an answer. And I'm hopeful that that  
7                   will change with a new administration.

8                   And then also getting together with  
9                   the school district on the payroll prep. We've  
10                  already begun to start that process. But it's  
11                  going to have to be more earnest in the next  
12                  few weeks.

13                  At the beginning of the week I put  
14                  in a couple requests to PA American Water with  
15                  regard to storm drains being blocked, manhole  
16                  covers, some issues with some manhole covers.  
17                  I also put in a request with PPL about a  
18                  telephone pole that was severed on the 1800  
19                  block of Pittston Avenue.

20                  I did that back in March or April, I  
21                  believe. And it is still continuously getting  
22                  worse and to the point now where there is  
23                  caution tape just wrapped around it, like  
24                  that's going to hold it together. But I also  
25                  put one in on that.

1                   And a couple new requests I have is  
2                   the Minooka playground, one of the neighbors  
3                   had some overgrow from the park onto their  
4                   property. So, Miss Reed, would you be able to  
5                   reach out to Parks and Rec and have them go  
6                   assess that situation?

7                   And I also have a -- got a complaint  
8                   about road conditions on the 400 block of Beech  
9                   Street if we can have DPW go and check on those  
10                  two, please. And that's all I have for today.  
11                  Thank you.

12                  MR. PERRY: Thank you. Mr. Gaughan,  
13                  any motions or comments?

14                  MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, first I want to  
15                  give my condolences to Judge Walsh's family,  
16                  former Mayor of the City of Scranton. Judge  
17                  Walsh based on everything I've read and people  
18                  in my family who knew Judge Walsh, he had a  
19                  real vision for the city. He was the epitome  
20                  of honesty and integrity and what it means to  
21                  be a public servant. So my thoughts and  
22                  prayers go out to Judge Walsh's family at this  
23                  time.

24                  I would like -- I've asked in the  
25                  past for an update on the paving project in the

1 city. It seems to me that we are later along  
2 in the process than has been the case in the  
3 last few years. The bids will be open August  
4 14th. So we'd like a timeline when they're  
5 going to complete this project and a paving  
6 list, what streets are going to be paved.

7 Also I requested in the last few  
8 weeks updates on 342 Harrison Avenue, 107-109  
9 North Sumner Ave., 950 James Ave., Division  
10 Street between Keyser and Dale, dangerous road  
11 conditions and 824 Pittston Avenue.

12 So, Mrs. Reed, if you could please  
13 send that again. There are people who have  
14 called me on these properties who cannot get an  
15 answer from City Hall. And that's all I have  
16 this week. Thank you.

17 MR. PERRY: Thank you, Mr. Gaughan.  
18 I just have two quick things, something I just  
19 want to talk about a little bit in regards to  
20 1218 Olive Place. Mrs. Reed, that letter that  
21 we intend to send to LIPS Department, can we  
22 also copy Al Lucas, the fire department? He  
23 possibly also has information.

24 If there is severe fire damage to  
25 that property, you know, maybe we can elevate

1           that and get that taken care of sooner rather  
2           than later instead of waiting and letting it  
3           just lag. If it's really a public safety issue  
4           and they deem it is, as soon as their  
5           investigation is over then maybe we can get  
6           immediate action on that property. It sounds  
7           like they are in severe need of some help over  
8           there on Olive.

9                         And secondly, I forgot to make this  
10           announcement during announcements so I'll take  
11           the time right now to do it. This is one of my  
12           favorite events in the city all year. The  
13           Scranton Police Department's annual National  
14           Night Out will be held again this year on  
15           Tuesday, August 6th from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., at  
16           Scranton High School.

17                        National Night Out is an annual  
18           community building event which promotes police  
19           and community partnerships to make our  
20           neighbors safer and more caring place to live.

21                        This event enhances the relationship  
22           between neighbors and law enforcement while  
23           bringing back a sense of community. It  
24           provides a great opportunity to bring police  
25           and neighbors together under positive

1           circumstances.

2                     You know, so many times when you are  
3           dealing with police or fire, sometimes it's at  
4           the worst possible situation in your life and  
5           you are not at the best place. And, you know,  
6           it's always good to have this type of event to  
7           know that, you know, they are always on our  
8           side.

9                     There will be a lot of activities  
10          for the kids, face painting, free finger  
11          painting will be available, inflatable obstacle  
12          course, free food such as burgers, hotdogs,  
13          cupcakes, Rita's Italian Ice. Also there will  
14          be K-9 demonstrations which the kids absolutely  
15          go crazy over.

16                    The fire department's going to have  
17          their smokehouse as well as Lackawanna County  
18          Mounted Unit. EJ the DJ will be the  
19          entertainment as well as Froggy 101. So every  
20          year it's a fantastic night. And this year  
21          it's going to be Tuesday, August 6th from  
22          6 p.m. to 9 p.m., at Scranton High School.  
23          That's all I have today. Thank you.

24                    MS. REED: 5-B. No business at this  
25          time.

1                   SIXTH ORDER. 6-A no business at  
2                   this time.

3                   SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR  
4                   CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC  
5                   SAFETY – FOR ADOPTION – RESOLUTION NO. 134,  
6                   2019 – AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER  
7                   APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER  
8                   INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BY AND  
9                   BETWEEN THE CITY OF SCRANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT  
10                  AND THE BOROUGH OF DUNMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT  
11                  TO IMPLEMENT A NEW USE-OF-FORCE TRAINING  
12                  PROGRAM.

13                  MR. PERRY: As Chairperson for the  
14                  Committee on Public Safety I recommend final  
15                  passage of Item 7-A.

16                  MR. DONAHUE: Second.

17                  MR. PERRY: On the question?

18                  MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.  
19                  I had asked the administration where this match  
20                  funding is going to come out of. Chief  
21                  Graziano did respond that they are taking the  
22                  48,160 match out of the 2020 police capital  
23                  budget as they have plenty of time to spend the  
24                  awarded grant funds.

25                  If they are able to maintain the

1 same 2019 police capital budget level in 2020,  
2 they'll have sufficient funds without any  
3 increases to cover this cost as well as the  
4 2020 police civilian parking enforcement  
5 vehicle fleet program as they do not have to  
6 purchase bullet resistant vests next year like  
7 they had the past two years. Thank you.

8 MR. PERRY: Thank you. Roll call,  
9 please.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

11 MR. DONAHUE: Yes.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

13 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

14 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

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

17 MS. REED: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION BY  
18 THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION -  
19 RESOLUTION NO. 135, 2019 - AUTHORIZING THE  
20 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO  
21 EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT  
22 WITH TROY & BANKS, INC. FOR THE CITY OF  
23 SCRANTON UTILITY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS AUDIT  
24 SERVICES FROM APRIL 30, 2019 THROUGH  
25 MARCH 30, 2021.



1 MR. PERRY: As temporary Chairperson  
2 for the Committee on Rules, I recommend final  
3 passage of Item 7-B.

4 MR. DONAHUE: Second.

5 MR. PERRY: On the question.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.  
7 I just want to say this is an interesting  
8 concept that the administration has engaged in  
9 here with the audit bringing a company in to  
10 audit our electric, gas, telecommunications  
11 services.

12 Just looking through the backup in  
13 several of the case studies that Mr. Bulzoni  
14 and this company brought forward, just one  
15 example is the city of Buffalo who brought this  
16 company in and they ended up achieving a  
17 savings of greater than a million dollars.

18 Some of the other cities that are  
19 referenced had more modest savings, Glen Falls  
20 in New York, \$261,000 and Virginia Beach,  
21 Virginia, 16,000. So it varies depending on  
22 what they find.

23 But I think this is a good  
24 opportunity to have another set of eyes look at  
25 these bills and see if we can find any savings.

1 So I'm hopeful that that happens. Thank you.

2 MR. PERRY: Roll call, please.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

4 MR. DONAHUE: Yes.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

8 MR. PERRY: Yes. I hereby declare  
9 Item 7-B legally and lawfully adopted.

10 MS. REED: 7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION BY  
11 THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION -  
12 RESOLUTION NO. 136, 2019 - AUTHORIZING THE  
13 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO  
14 EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH HERBERT,  
15 ROWLAND & GRUBIC, INC. (HRG) FOR THE CITY OF  
16 SCRANTON STORM WATER PROJECT ENGINEERING  
17 SERVICES.

18 MR. PERRY: As temporary Chairperson  
19 for the Committee on Rules I recommend final  
20 passage of Item 7-C.

21 MR. DONAHUE: Second.

22 MR. PERRY: On the question?

23 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.

24 Mrs. Schumacher asked what the timeframe of  
25 this was. I said three to four months. I

1           might be incorrect on that. I was trying to  
2           look through the backup because I know I saw  
3           it. It is in there but I can't find it right  
4           now. There is 80 or 85 pages of backup. But  
5           when I do, I'll send you an e-mail. I think  
6           it's in the three to four month range but I  
7           could be wrong on that.

8                         Secondly, you know, we've talked now  
9           for the past few years about stormwater  
10          management and this potential stormwater  
11          authority. The city does not have a choice in  
12          this whole process. We have to -- first of all  
13          make sure the MS4 permit is submitted on time.

14                        And second of all, we're going to  
15          have to address stormwater because it's a  
16          mandate from the federal government. If we do  
17          not do this if we do not look at whether we're  
18          going to form an authority or whether we're  
19          going to bring in an inhouse of DPW, if we just  
20          let it go and, you know, people talk about the  
21          rain tax and how unfair it is.

22                        And I'm not doubting that or  
23          debating that. All I'm saying is, the city has  
24          to make sure that we're doing this the right  
25          way. If we don't do it and if we don't take it

1 seriously, we're going to end up paying fines  
2 from the EPA and the federal government.

3 So we have to do this and we have to  
4 do it the right way. I think after looking  
5 through the proposal here, this company was  
6 heavily involved in the Wyoming Valley Sanitary  
7 Authority. I was impressed with the backup and  
8 with the proposal.

9 And this also went through a  
10 vigorous review process from a review committee  
11 that consisted of Dave Bulzoni, John Pocius and  
12 Don King. So I'll be voting yes. Thank you.

13 MR. PERRY: Roll call, please.

14 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

15 MR. DONAHUE: Yes.

16 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

18 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

19 MR. PERRY: Yes. I hereby declare  
20 Item 7-C legally and lawfully adopted.

21 MS. REED: 7-D. FOR CONSIDERATION  
22 BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS - FOR  
23 ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 137, 2019 -  
24 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE  
25 CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A

1 TAX-EXEMPT MUNICIPAL LEASE PURCHASE AGREEMENT  
2 BETWEEN THE CITY OF SCRANTON AND MANUFACTURERS  
3 AND TRADERS TRUST COMPANY ("M & T  
4 BANK") FOR THE LEASE OF 2 NEW FREIGHTLINER/HEIL  
5 HIGH COMPACTION REAR LOADER DURAPACK 5000  
6 TRUCKS FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON DEPARTMENT OF  
7 PUBLIC WORKS FOR A TERM OF FIVE (5) YEARS.

8 MR. PERRY: What is the  
9 recommendation of the Chairperson for the  
10 Committee on Public Works?

11 MR. GAUGHAN: As Chairperson for the  
12 Committee on Public Works, I recommend final  
13 passage of Item 7-D.

14 MR. DONAHUE: Second.

15 MR. PERRY: On the question?

16 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.  
17 Just to reiterate, well, what I brought up last  
18 week, again in this case we really don't -- do  
19 not have a choice. We're down four trucks at  
20 this point according to the DPW Director Mr.  
21 Bulzoni.

22 Just again to reiterate last week,  
23 in order to fund the lease payment we're going  
24 to use the \$100,000 that is in the -- that was  
25 dedicated for the ESCO lease, the Energy

1 Savings lease that at this point will not  
2 require funding until 2020. So thank you.

3 MR. PERRY: Roll call, please.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

5 MR. DONAHUE: Yes.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

9 MR. PERRY: Yes. I hereby declare  
10 Item 7-D legally and lawfully adopted.

11 MS. REED: 7-E. PREVIOUSLY TABLED  
12 FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
13 FOR ADOPTION FILED OF THE COUNCIL NUMBER 66  
14 2019 CREATING AND ESTABLISHING SPECIAL CITY  
15 ESCROW ACCOUNT NUMBER AS NOTED AND TITLED  
16 RENTAL REGISTRATION TENANT ESCROW TO ACCEPT AND  
17 DISPERSE FUNDS RECEIVED FROM RENTAL PAYMENTS  
18 FROM TENANTS WHOSE LANDLORDS HAVE FAILED TO  
19 COMPLY WITH REGISTERING THEIR RENTAL PROPERTIES  
20 IN THE CITY OF SCRANTON PURSUANT TO FILE OF THE  
21 COUNCIL NUMBER 58 2016 AS AMENDED.

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

25 MR. DONAHUE: As temporary

1 Chairperson for the Committee on Finance, I  
2 recommend final passage of Item 7-E.

3 MR. GAUGHAN: Second.

4 MR. PERRY: On the question?

5 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.

6 This legislation is simply setting up the  
7 account so we can receive funds eventually when  
8 this program is put in place from the rental  
9 registration escrow.

10 Councilman Donahue and I met with  
11 Mayor Evans yesterday. And he requested that  
12 we bring this back up for the -- because they  
13 want to get this program started. He assured  
14 us that when they are going to launch this  
15 program, he along with the City Solicitor and  
16 whoever else will make a presentation to us and  
17 keep us in the loop on exactly what this  
18 program will look like and go through the  
19 details which is what we had requested  
20 previously.

21 They did provide us a draft document  
22 of what the letter to the landlord will look  
23 like, the letter to the tenant and the general  
24 letter that they will eventually send out. So  
25 I just want to make that point that, you know,

1 Mayor Evans again assured us that they will  
2 walk us through the process. This is not  
3 something that is going to be unveiled  
4 tomorrow, this program. But it will be -- it  
5 will come -- they will come back before Council  
6 before they start this. So thank you.

7 MR. PERRY: Roll call, please.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

9 MR. DONAHUE: Yes.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

13 MR. PERRY: Yes. I hereby declare  
14 Item 7-E legally and lawfully adopted. If  
15 there is no further business, I'll entertain a  
16 motion to adjourn.

17 MR. DONAHUE: Motion to adjourn.

18 MR. PERRY: Meeting adjourned.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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