

COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON

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HELD:

Monday, September 23rd, 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
- WILLIAM GAUGHAN
- KYLE DONAHUE
- MARY WALSH DEMPSEY

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

1 (Pledge of Allegiance recited and a
2 moment of reflection observed.)
3

4 MR. ROGAN: Roll call, please.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

6 MR. PERRY: Here.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

8 MR. DONAHUE: Here.

9 MS. CARRERA: Attorney Dempsey.

10 ATTY. DEMPSEY: Here.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: Here.

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

14 MR. ROGAN: Here.

15 WHEREAS, the COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
16 SCRANTON is desirous of honoring "SAM CECCACCI"
17 as he celebrates his retirement after 45 years
18 with the Scranton Lackawanna Human Development
19 Agency; and

20 WHEREAS, "SAM" is married to the
21 former Karen Smith, is the son of Phyllis
22 Ceccacci and the late Samuel Ceccacci and the
23 father of two children, Brian Ceccacci and his
24 wife Petra, and Amy Ceccacci Hall and her
25 husband Howard. He is also the proud

1 grandfather of Michael and Mia Hall; and

2 WHEREAS, "SAM" has a bachelor's
3 degree from Bloomsburg University in Business
4 Administration and a master's degree in Public
5 Administration from Marywood University. He is
6 also a graduate of the UCLA/Johnson & Johnson
7 Head Start Management Fellows Program, and has
8 additional credits from the University of
9 Scranton, California State (PA) College, and
10 Virginia Polytechnic Institute; and

11 WHEREAS, "SAM" has spent his entire
12 career in Human Services with the Scranton
13 Lackawanna Human Development Agency, Inc., as a
14 Head Start Coordinator, the Head Start
15 Director, and finally as the Executive Director
16 of the Agency. His career spans over 45 years
17 where he oversaw the growth of the Head Start
18 program from 110 to over 1500
19 children/families; and

20 WHEREAS, "SAM" has done consulting
21 work with Research Access Management, Inc.,
22 Hi-Tech International, Inc., Ellsworth, Laurel
23 Consulting Group, Dayna International, Inc.,
24 and Educational Services, Inc.; and

25 WHEREAS, "SAM" is affiliated with

1 the National Community Action Foundation,
2 Community Action Association of PA, National
3 Association for the Education of Young
4 Children, National Head Start Association, and
5 a board member of Goodwill Industries of NEPA;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, "SAM" spent 27 years as a
8 PIAA Basketball Officials (IAABO), 23 years as
9 an Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference
10 (EACC) Basketball Official, and is a member of
11 the PA Sports Hall of Fame, Northeast Chapter,
12 2005 Inductee.

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that
14 on SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2019, Scranton City
15 Council wishes to congratulate "SAM CECCACCI"
16 on his retirement and for the personality and
17 compassion he has graced every person he has
18 met.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this
20 Proclamation be made a permanent part of the
21 Record of this Council, as lasting tribute to
22 "SAM CECCACCI."

23 Please dispense with the reading of
24 the minutes.

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

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MINUTES OF THE HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURE REVIEW
BOARD MEETING HELD AUGUST 8, 2019.

3-B. CORRESPONDENCE DATED SEPTEMBER 5, 2019
FROM THOMAS J. ANDERSON & ASSOCIATES, INC.
REGARDING THE FINANCIAL REQUIREMENT AND MINIMUM
MUNICIPAL OBLIGATION (MMO) FOR THE CITY OF
SCRANTON'S PENSION PLAN FOR 2020.

3-C. CORRESPONDENCE DATED SEPTEMBER 13, 2019
FROM MAYOR WAYNE E. EVANS REGARDING TEMPORARY
ASSIGNMENTS.

3-D. MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
MEMBERS OF SCRANTON HOUSING AUTHORITY HELD
AUGUST 5, 2019.

3-E. MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF
SCRANTON REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY HELD AUGUST 7,
2019.

3-F. CONTROLLER'S REPORT FOR MONTH ENDING
AUGUST 31, 2019.

3-G. TAX ASSESSOR'S RESULTS REPORT FOR HEARING

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DATE HELD SEPTEMBER 11, 2019.

3-H. MINUTES OF THE SCRANTON FIREFIGHTERS
PENSION COMMISSION MEETING HELD AUGUST 21,
2019.

3-I. MINUTES OF THE NON-UNIFORM MUNICIPAL
PENSION BOARD MEETING HELD AUGUST 21, 2019.

3-J. MINUTES OF THE SCRANTON POLICE PENSION
COMMISSION MEETINGS HELD JULY 17, 2019 AND
AUGUST 21, 2019.

3-K. MINUTES OF THE COMPOSITE PENSION BOARD
MEETING HELD AUGUST 21, 2019.

3-L. AGENDA FOR THE NON-UNIFORM MUNICIPAL
PENSION BOARD MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 18, 2019.

3-M. MINUTES OF THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION
MEETING HELD JUNE 13, 2019.

MR. ROGAN: Are there any comments?
If not, received and filed. Do any Council
members have announcements to make?

MR. DONAHUE: Yes, I have a couple.

1 The City of Scranton is preparing their Five
2 Year Consolidated Plan, Annual Action Plan and
3 its analysis of impediments to fair housing
4 choice.

5 As part of the planning process, the
6 City is conducting a survey to identify
7 residents' needs in the community and ideas on
8 what the City residents would like to see funds
9 used for. Please take a few minutes and
10 complete the survey which can be found at the
11 top of the City's website Scranton PA dot gov.

12 Also The Office musical parody is
13 appearing at the Scranton Cultural Center this
14 Thursday and Friday at 7:30 p.m. There will
15 also be a free premier party before the
16 performance on Thursday at 5:30 at the cultural
17 center. That will include food, drink, and
18 music. Tickets for the show could be purchased
19 at the Cultural Center box office. Thank you.

20 MR. ROGAN: Anyone else? Just one.
21 Yesterday afternoon's Scranton Tomorrow
22 coordinated with Master Gardener for the
23 planting of fall mums throughout our downtown.
24 I would like to thank them for the continued
25 efforts as well as a big thank you for the many

1 volunteers who assisted with this very
2 worthwhile project.

3 They've been doing this for many
4 years now and is no small undertaking as we
5 have numerous planters throughout the entire
6 downtown. So we thank them and the volunteers
7 who made this possible.

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

10 (The following speakers spoke on
11 agenda items and matters of general concern:

12 Joan Hodowanitz

13 Less Spindler

14 Bob Bolus

15 Lee Morgan

16 Dave Dobrzyn

17 Marie Schumacher)

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

19 MOTIONS.

20 MR. ROGAN: Mr. Perry, any motions
21 or comments?

22 MR. PERRY: No, nothing at this
23 time.

24 MR. ROGAN: Mr. Donahue, any motions
25 or comments?

1 MR. DONAHUE: Yes. First off, I
2 would like to welcome our intern Ben to the
3 City Clerk's office. I'd also like to
4 acknowledge Councilman Gaughan as well as his
5 entire family and all the volunteers for the
6 tremendous job they did planning and organizing
7 the fundraiser for John and Bill Trently on
8 Saturday night.

9 St. Mary's Center was jammed packed
10 all night which is a testament to the positive
11 impact John and Billy as well as their entire
12 family has had on this community.

13 Last week I attended the South Side
14 neighborhood meeting where they retained their
15 current officers for a two-year term. And
16 those officers have done a fabulous job
17 representing the concerns of their
18 neighborhood.

19 I will be following up this week on
20 a few complaints they submitted to License and
21 Inspection concerning issues on the 300 block
22 of Willow Street as well as the 500 and 700
23 blocks of Hamm Court.

24 Also, neighbors of the South
25 Scranton Intermediate School have had issues

1 with students congregating after school at the
2 corner of Cedar and Beech Street, which the
3 beat officer for South Scranton who was in
4 attendance at the meeting promised to look
5 into.

6 There were also questions about
7 overgrowth on the right-of-way between Front
8 Street and the Central Scranton Expressway. I
9 had requested Miss Reed to reach out to both
10 PennDOT and DPW to see who is responsible for
11 maintaining that right-of-way and if we can get
12 it cleaned up as soon as possible.

13 On Thursday night myself and
14 Councilwoman Dempsey attended the Housing
15 Appeals Board meeting involving Ken Bond and
16 his company PSN Realty. Although Mr. Bond
17 requested the hearing based on an appeal he
18 filed with the board, he didn't even bother to
19 show up to the hearing. So his appeal was
20 dismissed.

21 Quite frankly, that's how arrogant
22 this guy is. He didn't even have the audacity
23 to show up at a hearing that he requested.
24 It's my understanding that he could still
25 appeal the Board's decision in county court.

1 A couple avenues the City can take
2 moving forward are issuing citations on all
3 properties that are not in compliance with City
4 codes and ordinances, which I believe the City
5 should start doing immediately so we can start
6 holding deadbeats such as Ken Bond accountable.

7 Also, once the Rental Registration
8 Escrow Program is operational -- I found out
9 today hopefully that will be by midOctober.
10 The City can also begin collecting rent from
11 tenants to put into escrow that will be able to
12 go towards delinquent fees and taxes that are
13 owed by the property owner.

14 Due to a receiver being appointed to
15 oversee and collect rent on most of the
16 Mr. Bond's properties in question due to his
17 failure to make mortgage payments, there does
18 become a legal question of whether the mortgage
19 or the delinquent taxes and fees would take
20 priority.

21 I did -- I was in contact with the
22 Law Department and they are currently
23 researching the priority question. And I will
24 continue following up to check on the progress
25 of these initiatives.

1 On another note, Friday, September
2 20th, was the first day of the global climate
3 strike which will run through September 22nd.
4 And it's focused on bringing attention to
5 global climate change. This particular
6 initiative was kick-started in August of 2018
7 by a then 15-year-old Swedish school girl named
8 Greta Thunberg, organized a protest outside the
9 Swedish parliament.

10 Her efforts have grown into a global
11 movement of students. She played a major role
12 in the climate strike held in New York City
13 this past Friday and spoke to the United
14 Nations Climate Summit this morning. She's
15 stated this morning, "You have stole my dreams
16 and my childhood with your empty words," to
17 world leaders.

18 In her comments she also admonished
19 adults for not doing enough to protect our
20 environment. Over the weekend she also
21 characterized partisan efforts that envision an
22 idealized future as unhelpful dreams by stating
23 no matter how political a background this
24 crisis may be, we must not allow this to be a
25 partisan political question.

1 The climate and ecological crisis is
2 beyond party politics. Our main enemy right
3 now is not our political opponents. Our main
4 enemy now is physics. And we cannot make deals
5 with physics.

6 Yesterday's Sunday Times featured
7 Op-ed on the climate strike that was offered by
8 the Reverend Rebecca Barnes, Rabbi Daniel
9 Swartz and Bernie McGurl. The Op-ed provided
10 facts relative to global warming, the
11 consequences of which we are already seeing.

12 They also outline the devastating
13 effect of the same that we will see in the very
14 near future in leaders in this nation across
15 the world continue to ignore global warming or
16 even worse continue to deny global warming's
17 very existence.

18 I also made it a point to attend the
19 climate strike rally that was held yesterday at
20 the Lackawanna River Heritage Trail pavilion on
21 Olive Street. I was very impressed by the
22 number of attendees, especially the amount of
23 students and young adults present.

24 Those present were told of the
25 impact that they could have as well as simple

1 actions they could take to effect change. They
2 were provided with small steps which they could
3 take as individuals which when followed by
4 others will have a positive effect.

5 Using paper or non disposable
6 grocery bags, replacing plastic straws with
7 paper ones, using a water bottle verses a
8 single use water plastic bottle and using non
9 styrofoam take-out containers for leftovers
10 were some of the simple yet very effective
11 changes that we can all make.

12 I also believe we need to develop
13 strategies on the City level to play our part
14 in minimizing our part in the footprint. These
15 can include initiatives such as decreasing the
16 amount of garbage we send to the landfill,
17 establishing an aggressive composting program,
18 completely re-evaluating and reconfiguring
19 our local recycling program and that's just to
20 name a few.

21 We cannot wait to act any longer.
22 We must start to act on this issue now before
23 it becomes too late. That's all I have today.
24 Thank you.

25 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. Attorney

1 Dempsey, any motions or comments?

2 ATTY. DEMPSEY: Yes, thank you. I
3 have a few comments and then I'll end with a
4 motion. First of all, Joan, I'd like to
5 clarify the comment I made last week. I think
6 it might have been misunderstood.

7 While I did acknowledge that the
8 auditor would have to input data, I certainly
9 didn't mean to intimate at all that that is all
10 the auditor would do, especially in this post
11 political corruption era that we find ourselves
12 in. I think all of us want an auditor to go
13 above and beyond in any extreme to make sure
14 that all of these numbers make sense.

15 So the point was that new additional
16 data was going to have to start from scratch as
17 opposed to auditors who in the past have had
18 information already in their computer. But I
19 wanted to make clear about that because that's
20 very important to me.

21 The second thing is Councilman
22 Donahue is correct. We did attend the Housing
23 Appeals Board. I went there because PRN Realty
24 or PSN Realty, Mr. Bond is also the number one
25 on our garbage delinquency list. And I wanted

1 to see what, if any, defense he had to the
2 rental registration and as Councilman Donahue
3 indicated, he did not show up.

4 A motion was granted to dismiss and
5 a motion was also granted or an order is going
6 to be granted that he does have to comply with
7 our rental legislation law. And we did spend
8 some time afterwards speaking with our
9 solicitor. That brings me to the garbage
10 delinquencies.

11 Someone had asked last week and it
12 was actually on my list of things to do anyhow
13 what is the current up-to-date list. I think
14 most of us are working off of a list that was
15 published in the newspaper about six months
16 ago.

17 And I was able to find out that, in
18 fact, the Treasurer is the one who does keep
19 the list. And I did make a written request for
20 that through our clerk. We had expected to
21 have it late last week or at the latest today.
22 Unfortunately, I do not have it today. The
23 gentleman who is in charge is out today, which
24 we can't punish anyone for that.

25 So I'm hopeful by the next meeting I

1 come to I will have that in my possession. I
2 do want to see that for a variety of reasons.
3 There are a lot of figures that are being
4 thrown around with regard to the garbage
5 delinquencies.

6 And as I do my best, number one, to
7 try to get to the bottom of them and, number
8 two, to try to get more aggressive action to be
9 taken, I also want to find out what specific
10 number I'm dealing with. I also hold a fear as
11 an attorney that each day we wait we are losing
12 out on a statute of limitations that may be
13 applicable in this matter.

14 So hopefully by next Monday I'll
15 have that list and be able to see what it is.
16 I'll also be meeting with Mayor Evans next
17 Monday with regard to the same issue. In that
18 regard I may have some motions next Monday with
19 regard to further aggressive action with regard
20 to the garbage delinquencies.

21 Someone had asked last week about a
22 hiring policy or procedure. That is, in fact,
23 what I do for a living. I'm an employment
24 lawyer. I thought about it at night. I always
25 do my best thinking at night I say. And I'm

1 not sure in a municipal government that one is
2 definitely mandated due to the fact that we
3 have Civil Service and due to the fact that a
4 lot of our employers are governed by collective
5 bargaining agreements.

6 That having been said, I did
7 research it. I did pick out two that I thought
8 were very helpful. And I am going to forward
9 them onto the Law Department slash Human
10 Resources Department. And in the event they
11 think they're helpful going forward, they're
12 welcome do adopt one.

13 Lori, I'm sorry, I meant to do this
14 in caucus and I forgot. We had received a
15 complaint previously on a property located at
16 1803 North Washington Avenue. My daughter
17 received the complaint at my home. It was from
18 an elderly neighbor. She did not get the
19 gentleman's name.

20 He has since stopped by and renewed
21 that complaint and gave me a more accurate
22 address. It's 1805 North Washington Avenue.
23 It's two doors away from me to be quite frank,
24 it looks to be a condemned property. I don't
25 know what's going on with it. I don't know the

1 status of it.

2 I do know that when we had the storm
3 sweep through here about a month or four or
4 five weeks ago, the (inaudible) was actually on
5 the sidewalk to the point where the St.
6 Claire's kids were picking it up as they were
7 walking by. So I know Mr. Oleski is very busy.
8 If he could put that on his list I would
9 appreciate it.

10 And finally, I would like to
11 conclude with a motion. We in the past we had
12 done two letters. One was in August and then
13 one was about ten days ago to the Controller
14 asking for an audit of the gas card use for the
15 City fleet vehicles.

16 We had not received anything back
17 until today. To be candid, all of us found it
18 on our chair today. It appears to be about two
19 months' worth which we had asked to go back
20 three years. And I don't think any of us had a
21 really fair chance to take a look at that. I
22 plan on doing that sometime tomorrow.

23 That having been said, I do believe
24 we are on all in acquiesce that what we are
25 looking at as of today does not accurately

1 address our concerns. And we have prepared a
2 letter that I'm going to make a motion at this
3 time that we send a followup letter to the City
4 Controller dated today's date as a followup to
5 our August 26th initial communication to her as
6 well as our September 13th letter to her asking
7 for additional status, which this letter should
8 detail what additional information Council is
9 asking for with regard to the gas card audit
10 regarding fleet vehicles going back for three
11 years.

12 MR. ROGAN: Is there a second?

13 MR. GAUGHAN: Second.

14 MR. ROGAN: On the question?

15 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.

16 I agree with Attorney Dempsey's letter. And
17 also I was a little concerned maybe there is a
18 miscommunication between Council and either the
19 Controller's Office and the Administration. We
20 received an e-mail from Mr. Bulzoni -- we were
21 copied on that he sent to employees of
22 Controller's Office and member of the DPW where
23 he states, "First I'll state that the review
24 procedure is not an audit. It is strictly
25 review and should be conducted as such."

1 Then he says, "We are not seeking to
2 evaluate each card with a level of detail
3 commensurate with an audit. The review is to
4 detect irregular activity and search that
5 activity." And there is more to it here. But
6 I think that's the most important point.

7 I think Council was very clear that
8 we would like an audit performed. If for no
9 other reason than in light of the revelations
10 over the last few months, I think it's very
11 important that we make sure that there is no
12 abuse and no fraud that had occurred over the
13 last number of years.

14 I think going back three years will
15 suffice at this point. But I do think it's
16 important that we're all on the same page that
17 we're not looking for a review. We're looking
18 for an audit. If we were looking for a review
19 we would have asked for one. Thank you.

20 MR. ROGAN: Anyone else?

21 ATTY. DEMPSEY: If I may very
22 briefly, the other thing that became important
23 when we looked back is there was change in the
24 provider of the gas cards from the Valero to
25 Sunoco. In fact, we're putting in that letter

1 that we would like copies of any and all
2 written contractual documentation that exists
3 so we can take a look at that.

4 And I think the letter just clearly
5 sets up a process that Council would like the
6 Controller to follow which hopefully will
7 streamline the process and make things easier
8 as well. Thank you.

9 MR. ROGAN: All those in favor?

10 MR. PERRY: Aye.

11 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

13 ATTY. DEMPSEY: Aye.

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

16 ATTY. DEMPSEY: That's all I have.
17 Thank you.

18 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. Mr. Gaughan,
19 any motions or comments?

20 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, thank you. First
21 I'd like to welcome Ben McFadden who is our
22 intern, our first intern. So I appreciate you
23 putting your name in Ben and coming to work
24 with the Council. Look forward to getting to
25 know you better over the next few weeks and

1 working with you. So congratulations on
2 getting the job.

3 Mrs. Reed, a couple requests for
4 you. I'm sure you're happy to hear that. I
5 spoke to quite a few neighbors, the area of
6 Church Avenue. This is one actually that we
7 had already sent to the Licensing and
8 Inspections Department and actually one that we
9 have heard about for the last few years.

10 1724 Church Avenue, there was a fire
11 there a few years ago. And quite frankly, the
12 neighbors that live in and around this property
13 could no longer stand it. This property is in
14 deplorable condition. So we have sent this
15 again to the Licensing and Inspection
16 Department and ask if it is on the demolition
17 list and if so when it will be demolished.

18 From hearing from the neighbors and
19 from driving by this property myself, it looks
20 like the property is in disrepair and cannot be
21 salvaged at this point due to the fire. Also
22 there are quite a few issues on Drinker Place
23 behind Richmond Street.

24 I'd like to ask Mr. Santoli, the
25 City forester to take a look at some dangerous

1 trees and also ask the Licensing and
2 Inspections Department if they could do a
3 walkthrough on Drinker Place, Mrs. Reed. There
4 are some quality of life issues that are taking
5 place there.

6 We received the paving list, the
7 2019 paving list. I won't go through every
8 street. There is quite a few of them.
9 Although I will say that I'm very pleased to
10 see that East Mountain Road -- and I'm sure
11 Mrs. Schumacher will be pleased to see this as
12 well -- from the firehouse to Interstate 81
13 ramp is on the paving list.

14 Also, Moltke Avenue from Birch
15 Street to Brook Street is on there as well in
16 terms of East Mountain. And then there are
17 some streets in the hill and in North Scranton.

18 One of the questions that I had
19 posed in the caucus for Mrs. Reed to find out
20 from the Business Administrator was the total
21 bid is roughly one and a half million dollars.
22 From what I remember, we only had a little bit
23 less than a million dollars allocated for the
24 paving project.

25 So, Mrs. Reed, if you could find out

1 from Mr. Bulzoni whether we're taking streets
2 off this list to get the bid lower or if we're
3 trying to find other monies available to go in
4 line with that bid. So I would appreciate
5 that.

6 Also, Mrs. Reed was kind enough to
7 attend what I think is a very important
8 meeting. I had brought up two weeks ago or
9 three weeks ago about the idea, the possibility
10 of equipping all City vehicles with GPS
11 capabilities in light of some of the issues
12 that we've been having.

13 So Mrs. Reed did attend a meeting
14 with several City officials and representatives
15 from Verizon's Government Account Division. So
16 without going into great detail on all the
17 meeting notes because there's quite a few of
18 them, there is a GPS program that Verizon has
19 purchased called Network Fleet, which provides
20 special government pricing for this type of
21 thing.

22 The City of Albany uses it and
23 Philadelphia as well. The GPS system uses
24 Verizon Wireless towers to communicate with the
25 satellite and provides realtime tracking for

1 dispatched services and efficiencies. It
2 includes fleet maintenance capabilities and has
3 diagnostic trouble codes.

4 Safety measures include capability
5 of tracking the speed of all City vehicles
6 which will result in greater fuel efficiencies.
7 Data from other cities provide fuel savings
8 that will be realized. The portal that retains
9 all of this data will stay intact for 90 days
10 for designated users to view. And then another
11 system layer for up to 15 months of tracking
12 capabilities.

13 The company will archive all data
14 indefinitely and they are available to provide
15 that data as requested. One of the things that
16 I was interested in on here is that parameters
17 can be set for each City vehicle. This is
18 called geofencing for which an alert would be
19 provided when a vehicle travels outside of the
20 designated area.

21 There is a lot of other things in
22 here that I think would be beneficial to the
23 City. But all in all, I think we should be
24 looking to be more efficient in each
25 department. I think this provides a level of

1 efficiency that I don't think we've ever seen
2 here in the City as it relates to our vehicle
3 fleet and also for a level of transparency that
4 I don't think we've seen so far in our City's
5 history.

6 The only question I had Mrs. Reed is
7 going to follow up with the Administration on
8 this is whether or not this has to be bid.
9 Towards the end of the notes here it says that
10 they are working to draft legislation working
11 on contract details. But I would like to know
12 if this type of thing has to be bid out. So I
13 would appreciate that.

14 Last thing I have is, I'd like to
15 make a motion to have City Council send a
16 letter to the Administration requesting that
17 they complete a cover sheet. It will be
18 created by City Council to go along with any
19 legislation that is sent down to be voted on.

20 MR. DONAHUE: Second.

21 MR. ROGAN: On the question?

22 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question. I
23 just want to take a minute to explain this.
24 This is something I've been talking about now
25 for the last few months. I had researched what

1 other cities do in terms of simply having a
2 cover sheet that would go along with the
3 legislation.

4 Many times Council receives a piece
5 of legislation and we're not exactly sure what
6 department it originated from. We're not
7 exactly sure what the benefits are from the
8 Administration's point of view. We're not
9 exactly sure what the financial impact might
10 be, the cost -- like, a cost and benefit
11 analysis, funding sources, so on and so forth.

12 Now, many times that is included.
13 But often times we have to go out and then
14 request that information. So what I'm
15 attempting to do here is to create -- and I
16 actually used most of this from another city,
17 create a cover sheet that would go along with
18 each piece of legislation.

19 And the Administration would then be
20 responsible for making sure that this was
21 filled out before the legislation was sent down
22 to Council. This would help not only Council
23 but the public in prioritizing the important
24 information that is in the legislation.

25 And the last question here I think

1 is important to me, Why should Council
2 unanimously support this legislation? So many
3 times we have go and ask the Mayor or ask a
4 department head why did you send this us?
5 Where did this originate from? Give us some
6 background on this. And why should we all vote
7 for this?

8 So I just think that this cover
9 sheet would eliminate that layer that we have
10 been having to go through over the last few
11 years. So I would appreciate and I think I'll
12 have the support from my colleagues here. And
13 then hopefully the Administration would support
14 this as well. Thank you.

15 MR. ROGAN: Anyone else on the
16 question? All those in favor signify by
17 saying aye.

18 MR. PERRY: Aye.

19 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

21 ATTY. DEMPSEY: Aye.

22 MR. ROGAN: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
23 have it and so moved.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: I'm sorry, two more
25 things. Somebody brought up the LERTA, the

1 citywide LERTA. I would be interested,
2 Mrs. Reed, if we can find out some data on
3 that who has pulled applications for that and
4 have we given out any LERTAs. I would be
5 interested to see information on that.

6 Mrs. Schumacher had asked -- and I
7 know I had asked this question before. But
8 what money remains from the sale of the
9 Scranton Sewer Authority? How much is still
10 outstanding in escrow accounts? That's all I
11 have for this week. Thank you.

12 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. Just one
13 issue I want to touch on briefly. It was
14 brought up -- it's been in the papers quite a
15 bit recently regarding the upcoming election
16 and the legal challenges. And I think I speak
17 for all four of us that were here at the time.

18 Our intent all along with the
19 process that was put in place was to have an
20 open special election. There is no question
21 that a two-year election for Mayor in the City
22 of Scranton is a special election. It's
23 typically a four-year term.

24 It's the only time this type of
25 election has ever been done. I'm very

1 disappointed in legal challenges that have been
2 taking place. I understand that's part of
3 process even in regular elections when people's
4 petitions are challenged and things of that
5 nature.

6 But I just want to state publicly
7 that Council's intention all along was to have
8 an open special election so the voters could
9 ultimately have the say who is going to serve
10 the remainder of this term -- the bulk of the
11 remainder of this term.

12 If the courts determine otherwise, I
13 think at that point in time Council needs to
14 look at all other options to see if there is
15 anything that could be done on our end. But I
16 do think it's critical that the people have a
17 say. There was not an opportunity for a
18 primary in this type of situation.

19 So it certainly is a special set of
20 circumstances compared to what normally would
21 take place on a regular municipal election. So
22 I just want to state my feelings on that. And
23 again, it's very rare when Council -- any
24 Council, this Council or any of the Councils
25 that come before make large decisions such as

1 we have on a unanimous basis.

2 We all put a lot of time and effort
3 and listened to the public on what they wanted
4 regarding the filling of the remainder of this
5 term. So I think it's critical that the people
6 have a say and that the courts do the right
7 thing and allow the voters to have the final
8 say on who our next Mayor is. And that's all.

9 MR. GAUGHAN: Mr. Rogan, I'm sorry
10 if I may just -- jogged my memory here.
11 Solicitor Minora, just based on what Mr. Rogan
12 said in the event that -- and I don't know if
13 you can talk about this now -- but in the event
14 that the courts come back and say that, in
15 fact, Council did not have the ability to call
16 for an election, what Mr. Rogan mentioned other
17 options, do you know at this time what other
18 options that Council would have?

19 Would we have any say in what
20 happens moving forward should the court come
21 back and say that, in fact, it was not correct?

22 ATTY. MINORA: Well, I haven't
23 researched it obviously what Council's role
24 would be after a situation like that. But I
25 presume an order of court that struck the

1 special election would also include
2 instructions to the Election Board on what they
3 were to do.

4 Could it come back to us? I suppose
5 it's possible. I think unlikely. But I
6 haven't really done the research to be sure.

7 MS. REED: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION -
8 A RESOLUTION - APPOINTMENT OF ROBERT J.
9 MORRIS, 648 WALES STREET, SCRANTON,
10 PENNSYLVANIA, 18508 AS A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF
11 ZONING APPEALS FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON.
12 MR. MORRIS WILL REPLACE ROBERT J. PALMITESSA
13 WHOSE TERM EXPIRED ON JULY 15, 2019. MR.
14 MORRIS' TERM WILL COMMENCE IMMEDIATELY AND
15 EXPIRE ON JULY 14, 2024.

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

19 MR. PERRY: So moved.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: Second.

21 MR. ROGAN: On the question? All
22 those in favor signify by saying aye.

23 MR. PERRY: Aye.

24 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

25 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

1 ATTY. DEMPSEY: Aye.

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

4 MS. REED: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION -
5 A RESOLUTION - RATIFYING AND APPROVING OF
6 THE EXECUTION AND SUBMISSION OF THE GRANT
7 APPLICATION BY THE CITY OF SCRANTON, ON BEHALF
8 OF THE HUMAN SERVICES ALLIANCE, TO THE
9 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA ACTING THROUGH THE
10 COMMONWEALTH FINANCING AUTHORITY FOR A LOCAL
11 SHARE ACCOUNT GRANT, PURSUANT TO THE PA RACE
12 HORSE DEVELOPMENT AND GAMING ACT IN THE AMOUNT
13 OF \$350,000.00 FOR THE PROJECT TO BE KNOWN AS
14 "HUMAN SERVICES ALLIANCE - A BUILDING AND
15 GROUNDS IMPROVEMENT PROJECT" LOCATED AT 1509
16 MAPLE STREET, 823 JEFFERSON AVENUE, 841
17 JEFFERSON AVENUE, AND THE CORNER OF MYRTLE AND
18 MADISON AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, AND
19 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE
20 CITY OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON, PA,
21 TO ACCEPT THE GRANT, IF SUCCESSFUL, AND EXECUTE
22 AND ENTER INTO A LOCAL SHARE ACCOUNT GRANT
23 CONTRACT AND COMMITMENT LETTER WITH THE
24 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA TO ACCEPT AND
25 UTILIZE THE GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$350,000.00

1 AWARDED BY THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA FOR
2 SUCH PROJECT.

3 MR. ROGAN: At this time I'll
4 entertain a motion that Item 5-C be introduced
5 into its proper committee.

6 MR. PERRY: So moved.

7 MR. DONAHUE: Second.

8 MR. ROGAN: On the question?

9 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.
10 I just want to say that I support this project.
11 I think what the Human Services Alliance does
12 for the community is unbelievable in many
13 respects just looking through this application
14 there -- the total project cost is almost a
15 million and a half dollars.

16 They're asking for \$350,000 from an
17 LSA Grant. I just think that this type of
18 project is going to inject or boost our local
19 economy, put people to work and renovate that
20 whole area. So I support this 100 percent.

21 MR. ROGAN: Anyone else?

22 ATTY. DEMPSEY: I would just like to
23 abstain from the vote, please.

24 MR. ROGAN: All those in favor
25 signify by saying aye.

1 MR. PERRY: Aye.

2 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

3 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

4 ATTY. DEMPSEY: Abstain.

5 MR. ROGAN: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
6 have it and moved.

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

8 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 71,
9 2019 - AN ORDINANCE - REPEALING SECTION 1 OF
10 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 12, 2018 OF THE CITY OF
11 SCRANTON AND ALL OTHER ORDINANCES AND PARTS
12 OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT THEREWITH AND
13 ADOPTING THE 2015 EDITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL
14 PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE, REGULATING AND
15 GOVERNING THE CONDITIONS AND MAINTENANCE OF ALL
16 PROPERTY, BUILDINGS, AND STRUCTURES, BY
17 PROVIDING THE STANDARDS FOR SUPPLIED UTILITIES
18 AND FACILITIES AND OTHER PHYSICAL THINGS
19 AND CONDITIONS ESSENTIAL TO ENSURE THAT
20 STRUCTURES ARE SAFE, SANITARY AND FIT FOR
21 OCCUPATION AND USE; THE CONDEMNATION OF
22 BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES UNFIT FOR HUMAN
23 OCCUPANCY AND USE, AND THE DEMOLITION OF SUCH
24 EXISTING STRUCTURES IN THE CITY OF SCRANTON;
25 PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE OF PERMITS AND

1 COLLECTION OF FEES THEREFOR AND AMENDING
2 SECTION 4 OF FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 64 OF 2014
3 TO REDUCE THE FEE TO FILE AN APPEAL WITH THE
4 HOUSING BOARD OF APPEALS BASED UPON THE TYPE OF
5 MATTER AT ISSUE AND TO PROMOTE RESOLUTIONS OF
6 APPEALS BEFORE PROCEEDING TO HEARING.

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

9 MR. PERRY: I move that Item 6-A
10 pass reading by title.

11 MR. DONAHUE: Second.

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

14 MR. PERRY: Aye.

15 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

16 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

17 ATTY. DEMPSEY: Aye.

18 MR. ROGAN: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
19 have it and so moved.

20 MS. REED: 6-B. READING BY TITLE -
21 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 72, 2019 - AN
22 ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.
23 64, 2014, AN ORDINANCE (AS AMENDED) ENTITLED
24 "AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE QUALITY OF LIFE AND
25 VIOLATIONS TICKET PROCESS IN THE CITY OF

1 SCRANTON" TO BE AMENDED IN SECTION 3 BY
2 DELETING NUMBERS 1 THROUGH 7, 20, 21, 25, 26,
3 28 AND 29 TO REMOVE VIOLATIONS AND IN SECTION 9
4 TO REDUCE FINES FOR CERTAIN VIOLATIONS AND IN
5 SECTION 10 TO REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF CITATION
6 FINES FOR 4 VIOLATIONS.

7 MR. ROGAN: You've heard reading by
8 title of Item 6-B. What is your pleasure?

9 MR. PERRY: I move that Item 6-B
10 pass reading by title.

11 MR. DONAHUE: Second.

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

14 MR. PERRY: Aye.

15 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

16 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

17 ATTY. DEMPSEY: Aye.

18 MR. ROGAN: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
19 have it and so moved.

20 MS. REED: 6-C. READING BY TITLE -
21 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 73, 2019 - AN
22 ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
23 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE A DEED OF
24 EASEMENT AND RIGHT OF WAY BETWEEN THE CITY OF
25 SCRANTON ("GRANTOR") AND LACE BUILDING

1 AFFILIATES, LP ("GRANTEE") GRANTING TO LACE
2 AFFILIATES, LP THE EASEMENT, RIGHT OF WAY AND
3 RIGHTS AS ARE SET FORTH BELOW WITH RESPECT TO
4 THE PROPERTY, WHICH DEED OF EASEMENT AND RIGHT
5 OF WAY SHALL BE IN THE FORM AS ATTACHED HERETO
6 AS EXHIBIT "A".

7 MR. ROGAN: You've heard reading by
8 title of Item 6-C. What is your pleasure?

9 MR. PERRY: I move that Item 6-C
10 pass reading by title.

11 MR. DONAHUE: Second.

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

14 MR. PERRY: Aye.

15 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

16 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

17 ATTY. DEMPSEY: Aye.

18 MR. ROGAN: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
19 have it and so moved.

20 MS. REED: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR
21 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC
22 SAFETY - FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.
23 70, 2019 - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
24 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO APPLY FOR AND
25 EXECUTE A GRANT APPLICATION BY THE CITY OF

1 SCRANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT AND, IF SUCCESSFUL,
2 A GRANT AGREEMENT, AND ACCEPT THE FUNDS RELATED
3 THERETO THROUGH THE BJA FY 19 EDWARD BYRNE
4 JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT ("JAG") PROGRAM-LOCAL
5 SOLICITATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$19,914.00.

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

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

12 MR. DONAHUE: Second.

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

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

16 MR. PERRY: Yes.

17 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

18 MR. DONAHUE: Yes.

19 MS. CARRERA: Attorney Dempsey.

20 ATTY. DEMPSEY: Yes.

21 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

22 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

23 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

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

1 MS. REED: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION
2 BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT -
3 FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 160, 2019 -
4 AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 104, 2019 ENTITLED
5 "AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE
6 CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A
7 BEAUTIFUL BLOCKS PROGRAM PROPOSAL BY AND
8 BETWEEN THE CITY OF SCRANTON AND NEIGHBORWORKS
9 NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA TO ENCOURAGE GROUPS
10 OF NEIGHBORS TO IMPROVE THEIR HOMES BY
11 PROVIDING MATCHING GRANTS FOR EXTERIOR
12 IMPROVEMENTS" TO INCREASE THE GRANT AMOUNT OF
13 THE BEAUTIFUL BLOCKS PROPOSAL BY AND BETWEEN
14 THE CITY OF SCRANTON AND NEIGHBORWORKS
15 NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA AND AUTHORIZE
16 DISBURSEMENT OF SUCH FUNDS.

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

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

23 MR. PERRY: Second.

24 MR. ROGAN: On the question? Roll
25 call, please.

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

2 MR. PERRY: Yes.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

4 MR. DONAHUE: Yes.

5 MS. CARRERA: Attorney Dempsey.

6 ATTY. DEMPSEY: Yes.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

8 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

10 MR. ROGAN: Yes. I hereby declare
11 Item 7-B legally and lawfully adopted.

12 MS. REED: 7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION
13 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION -
14 RESOLUTION NO. 161, 2019 - AMENDING RESOLUTION
15 NO. 127, 2019 ENTITLED "AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR
16 AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE
17 AND ENTER INTO A SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT BY
18 AND BETWEEN UGI UTILITIES, INC., ("UGI") THE
19 CITY OF SCRANTON ("CITY") AND PENNSYLVANIA
20 PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION ("PUC") TO
21 SETTLE LITIGATION FILED AGAINST THE CITY AND
22 PUC BY UGI" IN ORDER TO REMOVE THE PENNSYLVANIA
23 UTILITY COMMISSION (PUC) FROM THE SETTLEMENT
24 AGREEMENT.

25 MR. ROGAN: As Chairperson for the

1 Committee on Rules I recommend final passage of
2 Item 7-C.

3 MR. PERRY: Second.

4 MR. ROGAN: On the question? Roll
5 call, please.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

7 MR. PERRY: Yes.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

9 MR. DONAHUE: Yes.

10 MS. CARRERA: Attorney Dempsey.

11 ATTY. DEMPSEY: Yes.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

13 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

14 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

15 MR. ROGAN: Yes. I hereby declare
16 Item 7-C legally and lawfully adopted. If
17 there is no further business, I'll entertain a
18 motion to adjourn.

19 MR. PERRY: Motion to adjourn.

20 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.

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