

COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON

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HELD:

Monday, September 30th, 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
- 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. Mr.  
6 Donahue.

7 MR. DONAHUE: Here.

8 MS. CARRERA: Attorney Dempsey.

9 ATTY. DEMPSEY: Present.

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: 3-A. AGENDA FOR THE CITY  
16 PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER  
17 25, 2019.

18  
19 3-B. AGENDA FOR THE BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS  
20 MEETING TO BE HELD OCTOBER 9, 2019.

21  
22 3-C. CORRESPONDENCE SENT TO CITY CONTROLLER  
23 DATED SEPTEMBER 23, 2019 IN REFERENCE TO AN  
24 AUDIT OF THE CITY'S VEHICLE FLEET GAS CARD  
25 USAGE.

1           3-D.    RESPONSE RECEIVED FROM CITY CONTROLLER  
2           DATED SEPTEMBER 25, 2019 IN REFERENCE TO THE  
3           CITY'S VEHICLE FLEET GAS MILEAGE AUDIT.

4  
5           3-E.    CORRESPONDENCE SENT TO MAYOR WAYNE E.  
6           EVANS DATED SEPTEMBER 27, 2019 IN REFERENCE TO  
7           SALARY ADJUSTMENTS FOR TEMPORARY ASSIGNMENTS.

8                   MR. ROGAN:   Are there any comments  
9                   on Third Order items?  If not, received and  
10                   filed.  Do any Council members have  
11                   announcements?  I have a couple.

12                   MR. DONAHUE:  I have one quick one.  
13                   The City of Scranton is preparing their Five  
14                   Year Consolidated Plan, Annual Action Plan and  
15                   its analysis of impediments to fair housing  
16                   choice.

17                   As part of the planning process, the  
18                   City is conducting a survey to identify  
19                   residents' needs in the community and ideas on  
20                   what the City -- what City residents would like  
21                   to see funds used for.  Please take a few  
22                   minutes and complete the survey which can be  
23                   found at the top of the City's website Scranton  
24                   PA dot gov.

25                   MR. ROGAN:  I have two.  Last week

1 the Licensing and Inspections and Permits  
2 Department began taking credit card payments.  
3 This Friday, October 4th will be the last day  
4 cash payments are accepted. Beginning Monday,  
5 October 7th, only credit cards, checks, and  
6 money orders will be accepted as form of  
7 payment. No cash will be accepted beyond this  
8 date.

9 Next Monday, October 7th at 5:45  
10 p.m., a public hearing will be held for Item  
11 5-B on tonight's agenda. The legislation is to  
12 approve a substantial amendment to the 2015 and  
13 16 Action Plans in order for HOME funding to be  
14 spent on a project and avoid any future penalty  
15 imposed by HUD. The legislation will then be  
16 tabled for a 30-day comment period as required.

17 ATTY. DEMPSEY: And I have two brief  
18 announcements as well. Good evening everyone  
19 and thank you for attending. The first one is  
20 in regards to a purse bingo that will be held  
21 this Sunday to benefit Kathleen's Crusade.

22 It's in memory of Kathleen  
23 Cavanaugh, a young woman who lost her life due  
24 to domestic violence. It's going to be down in  
25 Old Forge at the Eagle McClure Firehouse.

1            Tickets are \$20 ahead of time or \$25 at the  
2            door. This is somewhat close to my heart.  
3            Kathleen and I were shirttail relatives slash  
4            cousins. We shared the same aunt and uncle and  
5            cousin. I on the mother side, her on the  
6            father side.

7                        So the other thing I like about this  
8            is any and all benefits from this stay local  
9            and will benefit our local Women's Resource  
10           Center. And to date this wonderful charity has  
11           raised over \$100,000 to support the Women's  
12           Resource Center. So that's number one. Number  
13           two is the Green Ridge Fall Festival is going  
14           to be this Saturday, October 5th.

15                        It's from ten to four at the Green  
16           Ridge corners in Scranton. It's actually a  
17           beautiful family event. The streets are  
18           blocked down. You could bring your family,  
19           bring your strollers, bring your kids. There's  
20           plenty of food. We have beautiful retailers  
21           there.

22                        There's going to be lots of  
23           activities and things for the children to do.  
24           Last year we had hayrides as well. So I would  
25           invite anybody and everybody who is looking for

1 something to do this Saturday to please join us  
2 there and it's going to be from ten to four.  
3 Thank you.

4 MS. REED: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS  
5 PARTICIPATION.

6 (The following speakers offered  
7 public comment on agenda items and matters of  
8 general concern:

9 Fay Franus  
10 Joan Hodowanitz  
11 Marie Schumacher  
12 Bob Bolus  
13 Gene Reed  
14 Ron Ellman  
15 Gerard Hetman  
16 Dave Dobrzyn  
17 MaryJo Sheridan)

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

19 MOTIONS.

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

22 MR. DONAHUE: Yes, thank you. I'm  
23 going to start off with the whole fiasco  
24 regarding Chief DeSarno and his personal use of  
25 the City-issued gas card.

1 I can't tell you the number of  
2 people I talked to over the weekend are just  
3 completely outraged with this whole situation  
4 and rightfully so. City resources should never  
5 be used for personal use. And I really don't  
6 give a damn if there is a written policy or  
7 not. It's just basic common sense.

8 The most egregious fact of the whole  
9 matter is that when the Chief was initially  
10 confronted about taking a City vehicle on  
11 vacation he lied and he told the Mayor he paid  
12 for his own gas.

13 Given the current circumstances I do  
14 understand that the Mayor is in a difficult  
15 situation trying to keep City government as  
16 functional as possible for a short period of  
17 time. But if it were up to me, I would have  
18 fired him on the spot. The lie is worse than  
19 the crime a lot of times.

20 At the very least, some form of  
21 unpaid suspension is absolutely warranted in  
22 this situation. The whole situation highlights  
23 the lack of internal controls and oversight  
24 that is required to hold City employees  
25 accountable for how taxpayer money is spent.



1                   This Council requested an audit to  
2                   not only determine if this problem is more  
3                   widespread but also to get recommendations on  
4                   what internal controls need to be put in place  
5                   to prevent any sort of waste, fraud or abuse  
6                   moving forward.

7                   I also believe we need to reevaluate  
8                   the need for certain employees to have gas  
9                   cards at all. In the private sector, employees  
10                  typically pay for fuel out of pocket and submit  
11                  expense reimbursements with receipts which  
12                  would allow for more transparent oversight of  
13                  where and when employees are spending taxpayer  
14                  dollars.

15                  Regardless of the steps taken to  
16                  reprimand Chief DeSarno, one thing is crystal  
17                  clear. The current system has failed City  
18                  residents. This is completely unacceptable and  
19                  has gone on for far too long. The residents of  
20                  this City deserve better from their government.

21                  I've said it before and I'll say it  
22                  again. Employees within City government must  
23                  always treat their positions as a public  
24                  service not as a self-service.

25                  Moving onto another note it was

1 brought to my attention this afternoon that  
2 some streets on the paving list that appeared  
3 in the paper this morning may be undergoing  
4 work by utility companies in the near future.  
5 So I asked Mrs. Reed if she would send  
6 correspondence to the BA and DPW to make sure  
7 that the paving list was shared with the  
8 utility companies to make sure they don't have  
9 any work planned for the streets on the list.

10 Last week I also received a  
11 complaint regarding the old Garcia's Market at  
12 826 Pittston Avenue. The building has been  
13 condemned and on a demolition list for quite  
14 some time. And the neighbors reached out to  
15 see if there was any sort of timeline when the  
16 building was going to be taken down.

17 They have concerns about birds  
18 nesting in the building through open windows on  
19 the second floor. And the stench coming from  
20 the building is getting worse by the day. I  
21 know Mrs. Reed requested an update on that for  
22 me last week.

23 I also received another complaint  
24 last week regarding street lights on Lackawanna  
25 Avenue and that a vast majority of them were

1 out and that a majority of the street was pitch  
2 black. So, Miss Reed, would you be able to  
3 send correspondence to the Administration to  
4 have them look into that as well.

5 Councilwoman Dempsey and myself  
6 attended the Hill Neighborhood meeting last  
7 weekend. Chief Graziano was also at the  
8 meeting. He provided the group with updates on  
9 police initiatives in the neighborhood and also  
10 told neighbors he would look into their  
11 complaints regarding the lack of proper sight  
12 lines at intersections because people parking  
13 too close to corners especially on Vine and  
14 Olive Street.

15 Neighbors also had concerns  
16 regarding a condemned property at 601-603  
17 Wheeler Avenue that still has people living in  
18 it. So, Miss Reed, would you be able to pass  
19 that information along to License and  
20 Inspection. And also at the corner of Olive  
21 Street and Wheeler on the even side of the  
22 street there's a storm drain that is blocked so  
23 bad that weeds have begun growing out of the  
24 drain and water is pooling at the corner every  
25 time it rains if you could pass that complaint

1 along to DPW.

2 And also there is a dangerous -- I  
3 was told there is a dangerous pothole in the  
4 middle of the 1000 block of Myrtle Street if we  
5 could include that too. And that's all I have  
6 for tonight. Thank you.

7 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. Attorney  
8 Dempsey, any motions or comments?

9 ATTY. DEMPSEY: Yes, thank you. I  
10 have some commentary tonight, not any motions.  
11 I'm going to start with some comments on the  
12 gas card audit, just a few of them. I believe  
13 this is a very important audit. The five of us  
14 took it upon ourselves to look into this and  
15 little did we know the timing would be so  
16 perfect.

17 There's no doubt that as we dig  
18 deeper we're going to find some problems. And  
19 what I was most concerned about was this  
20 getting lost in the shuffle. We started this  
21 process via letter I think it was August 26th  
22 or 27th. And there was a little bit of back  
23 and forth.

24 But it was a good month before the  
25 Controller got back to us and said that her

1 office was unable to do it due to I guess a  
2 lack of personnel, which is acceptable. At  
3 this point in time I do want people to know  
4 that the matter is going to be put out for a  
5 request for proposals.

6 We expect that that is going to be  
7 in the paper this Wednesday. I believe it's  
8 November 1st they're going to be opened. At  
9 that point in time a member of Council will be  
10 present. We want to make sure that everybody  
11 knows precisely what we're looking for here.

12 I'm not going to go too much further  
13 into that except to say that what had been  
14 provided to us thus far indicates that at least  
15 \$30,000 is being spent every two months on gas.  
16 If we take that back over the last three or  
17 five years that is an extensive sum of money.

18 So sometimes I think people hear gas  
19 card and they're thinking smaller amounts of  
20 money. This could end up being a larger amount  
21 of money if we find any element of abuse.  
22 We're not on witch-hunt here. But what we all  
23 agreed is we are looking for further element of  
24 transparency in this government.

25 And we want to make sure that

1 everything is being done above the board and as  
2 someone made reference earlier, no more  
3 handshake agreements. So that is actually very  
4 important to me. I know some people have  
5 looked at that and maybe minimalized it. I do  
6 not think that is something that should be  
7 minimalized at all.

8 The second thing I would like to  
9 point out is in terms of policies because that  
10 has been brought up numerous times this evening  
11 whether there was of a lack of a policy. While  
12 that may have been true at the time only in  
13 terms of a vehicle policy, we still did have an  
14 older ethics policy in effect.

15 Bu what I would like -- my point is  
16 now on August 9th, Mayor Evans and his  
17 administration did put into effect a new  
18 vehicle policy. So it is also important for me  
19 to show that, yes, while there was a problem we  
20 have fixed it. And moving forward we have an  
21 answer to that.

22 The second thing I wanted to address  
23 is I'm dealing with Solicitor Eskra on a  
24 handbook as we speak. I've sent her over  
25 certain examples and she is trying to put one

1           together at this time. And the third thing is  
2           someone spoke about a hiring policy.

3                       I mentioned that I had done some  
4           research and found what I thought were two of  
5           the best ones around. I went ahead and I sent  
6           them over to Solicitor Eskra as well. So they  
7           are now in her hands for further handling and  
8           according to how the Mayor would want to  
9           proceed.

10                      I did have a meeting today with the  
11           Mayor, Solicitor Eskra and Mr. Bulzoni. And  
12           while I'll get to the garbage issue at the end  
13           which is, of course, you know, my main reason  
14           for meeting with them, I also did bring up the  
15           issue of a grant writer because again, I think  
16           that's very, very important.

17                      And while we do have one I  
18           understand who is very highly thought of and  
19           very well qualified and has done an excellent  
20           job obtaining grants for the City, my  
21           understanding is and Mr. Donahue could maybe  
22           speak to this if there is anything further to  
23           add, in a shared services meeting with the  
24           Scranton School District there's been  
25           additional talk of possibly getting an

1 additional one that we can share with the  
2 school district.

3 I will repeat my belief that these  
4 are employees that pay for themselves. There  
5 is enough grant efforts out there that if they  
6 write three or four or five a year, sometimes  
7 they can double, triple, or quadruple their  
8 salary. So I want to look further into that  
9 and I don't want that to fall by the wayside.

10 If anybody has been -- and I think  
11 most of the people in the audience here do pay  
12 attention to our agenda, you'll see that in  
13 Third Order there are additional letters that  
14 we have added in. There was one from the Mayor  
15 to us regarding salaries. And there was also  
16 our response back to him. The reason for that  
17 again is increase transparency in municipal  
18 government.

19 We all feel very strongly in light  
20 of what happened with the previous  
21 administration and the political corruption.  
22 But that could no longer occur. And we will no  
23 longer allow it to occur. We want you to know  
24 what's going on when we speak to the Mayor. We  
25 want you to know what he's saying back to us.



1           And I think those two letters are excellent  
2           examples. The one letter in particular for  
3           further administrations down the line if they  
4           are to question what Council's intent was at  
5           any given minute, that two or three page letter  
6           easily determined what our intent was. So I  
7           think it's important for that purpose as well.

8                       Mr. Donahue did say that we spent  
9           some time up at the Hill Neighborhood  
10          Association. It was actually a lovely meeting.  
11          There was about 25 people very, very involved,  
12          lots of good questions. We were there for  
13          about an hour and 45 minutes.

14                      He is right as well that Chief  
15          Graziano attended that with us. I have to take  
16          this opportunity to commend him. With rare  
17          exception he is at most of the neighborhood  
18          meetings I go to. And as you know most of them  
19          are at night from six to eight or seven to  
20          nine.

21                      And I really just think he's a  
22          silent unsung hero. He doesn't look for a lot  
23          of credit. But he does so much behind the  
24          scenes to make sure that the police department  
25          runs the right way. And I want to give him my

1 commendations for that.

2 I will repeat what I said  
3 previously, no matter what neighborhoods I go  
4 to we all share the same problems, crime,  
5 blight, parking issues, the esthetic of the  
6 neighborhood, etc. And Mr. Donahue again took  
7 down some addresses and whatnot and we will  
8 follow through with the LIPS Department to see  
9 if, in fact, those issues can be taken care of.

10 I know in particular there was one  
11 building where they saw someone crawling out of  
12 the second window later at night. So we want  
13 to make sure that we take care of that. I also  
14 want to thank Mr. Fallon, the Director of Parks  
15 and Recreation.

16 Last week or the week before I had  
17 made a request. We had done a cleanup at  
18 Pretzel Park out in Green Ridge for additional  
19 lighting and for the outlets to be fixed. And  
20 he was really on that. And when I checked one  
21 one night and there happened to be a small  
22 problem with it, again, he immediately fixed  
23 that and made sure it was taken care of. So  
24 again, on behalf of myself and everybody else  
25 who requested that I do want to say thank you.

1                   Just today I received a fax from  
2                   Principal Cara Ware at the St. Paul's School  
3                   out in Green Ridge. I spoke about this two  
4                   weeks ago and I got sidetracked a little bit  
5                   due to illness. But her letter basically says  
6                   that she is the newly installed administrator  
7                   at St. Claire's/St. Paul's School which has two  
8                   campuses. One is at 2215 North Washington and  
9                   the other one is 1527 Penn.

10                   She notes that she has many students  
11                   that walk to and from both campuses each day.  
12                   "Last week our school crossing guard reported a  
13                   very close call with regard to a student making  
14                   his way across Green Ridge Street. The area  
15                   where the students cross at Penn Avenue and  
16                   Green Ridge Street has been hazardous as  
17                   traffic moves very quickly along that stretch  
18                   of road."

19                   Then she goes onto say, "I myself  
20                   have walked with the students to the corner and  
21                   it is quite apparent that we need repair work  
22                   on the crosswalks there. I'm also requesting  
23                   signage that indicates school student crossing  
24                   and would appreciate City Council's prompt  
25                   assistance in this matter as our young

1 students' safety is a number one priority."

2 If any of you will recall about two  
3 weeks ago I spoke of that as well that I had  
4 some concerns regarding crosswalks out that  
5 area. We do have St. Claire/St. Paul's School  
6 as well as Robert Morris School.

7 So, Lori, I think what I'll do if  
8 it's acceptable is, I'll come to your office  
9 some day this week and we'll spend about 15  
10 minutes or a half hour together because  
11 attached to that letter I also have nine other  
12 areas where the students walk back and forth to  
13 school.

14 And I went around and looked and the  
15 crosswalks do need to be brightened or they do  
16 need to be put in place so that we can avoid  
17 any dangerous issues. I do think Green Ridge  
18 Street is a state road. So we might have to  
19 work with PennDOT on that as well.

20 And to conclude, it would not be a  
21 Council meeting if I did not talk about trash  
22 delinquencies. So when I met with Mayor Evans  
23 today as I said before Solicitor Eskra and Mr.  
24 Bulzoni were also there with us. We spent  
25 about an hour discussing this topic.

1                   What came out of that meeting at  
2                   least for today I did discuss with them some of  
3                   the ideas I have. I did discuss with them some  
4                   of the ideas that were thrown around between  
5                   myself and other members or residents who came  
6                   to see me. What I will tell you as of right  
7                   now our next go to job is within the next ten  
8                   business days which is either this week -- no,  
9                   excuse me. It would either be next week or the  
10                  following week.

11                  So I take that back, 15 business  
12                  days. Myself, the Mayor, Mr. Bulzoni and  
13                  Solicitor Eskra are going to get a meeting with  
14                  representatives from Northeast Revenue  
15                  Services. We're going to sit down with them.  
16                  If anybody recalls two to three weeks ago Mr.  
17                  Donahue made a motion that we all approved  
18                  unanimously to terminate that contract.

19                  And I believe the term was as soon  
20                  as possible. That has not yet been done. We  
21                  all agree that there are moving parts and  
22                  logistics and a contract in place. I was glad  
23                  that I was invited to that meeting. I am happy  
24                  to attend that meeting. I will have a voice at  
25                  that meeting.

1                   So I will report back from that  
2                   meeting to see what occurs with us and  
3                   Northeast Revenue Services. And that's all I  
4                   have for this evening. Thank you.

5                   MR. ROGAN: Thank you. Mr. Gaughan,  
6                   any motions or comments?

7                   MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, thank you. Just  
8                   on the line painting, I did have an  
9                   opportunity, Attorney Dempsey, to speak to  
10                  Mr. Gallagher. And apparently the painting  
11                  machine was down for a period of time. So I  
12                  don't know -- we should check, Mrs. Reed, on  
13                  when that's going to be up and running again.  
14                  But I know that they were trying their best to  
15                  get out there to those corners. So thank you.

16                  We did receive or I received a  
17                  permit parking request for the 1800 block of  
18                  Wayne Avenue over in North Scranton. So  
19                  Mrs. Reed had sent the directions to those  
20                  residents. I'd like, Mrs. Reed, if we can send  
21                  correspondence or e-mail to the police chief  
22                  about buildings 26 and 27 at Hilltop.

23                  Received another call as you're  
24                  probably familiar with from a gentleman who  
25                  lives on the other side of those buildings.

1           The people on that block cannot sleep because  
2           of the noise and disruptions. And it goes on  
3           until three, four in the morning.

4                       Apparently the Housing Authority or  
5           the secure force up at Hilltop, they wrap  
6           things up about one in the morning. But these  
7           things go on well after that. So if we can  
8           just notify Chief Graziano again that the  
9           issues continue to occur I would appreciate  
10          that.

11                      Also, Mrs. Reed, another reoccurring  
12          issue, I ran into a woman this afternoon who  
13          lives on Leggett Street in North Scranton about  
14          rocks and debris. It's almost like a mudslide  
15          if you could imagine that. When it rains and  
16          it storms, the rocks and debris flow out onto  
17          the street and settle right in front of her  
18          home and other homes on that block.

19                      She did inform me that the DPW  
20          Director was out. And they did temporarily  
21          take care of the issue. But she just wanted to  
22          let him know that the problem is recurring.  
23          Last week Mrs. Schumacher had requested the  
24          amount of money that is in the escrow accounts  
25          from the Scranton Sewer Authority. So we do

1           have a copy of that which I gave you before the  
2           meeting. So that takes care of that issue.

3                     The final thing I want to mention  
4           tonight is about the recent controversy with  
5           the Fire Chief. So let me just start by saying  
6           that, you know, maybe I look at things black  
7           and white. But it's just a simple idea of the  
8           difference between right and wrong.

9                     You know, I want to preface my  
10          comments tonight by saying that I have  
11          generally so far since Mayor Evans has been  
12          appointed agreed with almost all of the  
13          decisions made by him and his administration.

14                    And I think that he's doing a fine  
15          job so far. But I cannot and I expressed my  
16          feelings to him this weekend. I cannot wrap my  
17          head around this decision. I am extremely  
18          disappointed. And I do not agree with Mayor  
19          Evans' handling of the revelation that the Fire  
20          Chief used a City vehicle and gas card on a  
21          trip to the Jersey Shore this past summer.

22                    Look, I understand that people make  
23          mistakes. We all make mistakes. And as  
24          Attorney Dempsey said, this certainly is not a  
25          witch-hunt. I mean, let's remember the facts



1 here, ladies and gentlemen. We did not go out  
2 looking for this issue. This was brought to  
3 our attention. If it wasn't for a person or  
4 someone giving a tip to the newspaper, I doubt  
5 that anyone would have stumbled upon this.

6 As I said, people make mistakes.  
7 But the Chief's actions in my opinion are so  
8 egregious that I do not believe they can be  
9 ignored. The decision by the Mayor to allow  
10 Chief DeSarno to perform a self audit of his  
11 gas charges is one of the most absurd things  
12 that I've ever seen in my time so far on  
13 Council.

14 Chief DeSarno says in a letter to  
15 the Mayor, "Thank you for having the wisdom to  
16 discern that while I did use my car during the  
17 actual travel time in question, that filling my  
18 tank the next time the need arose as mileage  
19 records can bear out, using my own funds as  
20 I've also done in the past was akin to paying  
21 for my own gas and that there was not an  
22 attempt to deceive. Thank you for that,"  
23 Mr. DeSarno says.

24 I have an issue with his statement  
25 because there was an article in the Scranton

1 Times I believe in August where the City  
2 Business Administrator said that the City does  
3 not keep or has not kept mileage records. So I  
4 don't know if Chief DeSarno is referring to his  
5 own records or the City's records. But if he's  
6 referring to the City's records, we were told  
7 that they don't keep them.

8 The Mayor and his administration are  
9 also claiming that the reason there were no  
10 disciplinary measures taken against Chief  
11 DeSarno for using a City vehicle and City gas  
12 card for his own personal use is because they  
13 were afraid of a lawsuit since there was no  
14 policy prohibiting this usage.

15 This argument is extremely weak.  
16 And I would strongly disagree on two points.  
17 First of all, it states very clearly and very  
18 plainly in the City's Code of Ethics under the  
19 section, "Use of City Property and Personnel:  
20 City employees or officials may not use any  
21 personnel equipment, supplies, facilities,  
22 vehicles or any other property owned and  
23 belonging to the City for their private  
24 purposes use, enjoyment or benefit. I don't  
25 know how much clearer you could be.

1                   My other question is, when did  
2                   City-owned vehicles become personal vehicles  
3                   for anyone? I don't remember ever hearing  
4                   about this being a past practice. There's also  
5                   major liability issues. The Chief got into a  
6                   fender bender in New Jersey. I don't know if  
7                   there was anyone else in that vehicle. But  
8                   suppose there was and the accident was worse,  
9                   who holds liability there? It's insured by the  
10                  City.

11                  My second reason why I think that  
12                  the Mayor and his administration's argument  
13                  that they're afraid of a lawsuit is weak is  
14                  that we shouldn't forget that Chief DeSarno is  
15                  a political appointee and a member of the  
16                  cabinet. He's an at-will employee. He's not  
17                  covered by any union.

18                  And quite frankly, the Mayor and  
19                  Administration should not be worried or be  
20                  afraid about a lawsuit. They should be worried  
21                  about the disappearance of trust that the  
22                  taxpayers have in their public servants. What  
23                  kind of message does this send the fact that  
24                  the Chief was allowed to do this, allowed to  
25                  use his car -- or his City vehicle for his own

1           personal use and the only thing that happens is  
2           go do a self audit and let us know how much you  
3           owe and then you pay us, reimburse us.

4                        What kind of message does it send to  
5           City employees who do the right thing that the  
6           only ramification is that he has to do a self  
7           audit? To me it looks like business as usual.  
8           What's the most concerning to me, ladies and  
9           gentlemen, is that the Chief is in a position  
10          of authority as we all are.

11                      He's in a position of authority in  
12          which the public places their trust. The fact  
13          that he lied and told the Mayor he didn't use  
14          his gas card for personal use and then admitted  
15          that he did weeks later after the Scranton  
16          Times obtained that information should be  
17          enough or should have been enough.

18                      The fact that he even thought that  
19          using a City vehicle and gas card for his own  
20          personal use racking up nearly 40,000 miles in  
21          two and a half years, the fact that he thought  
22          it was okay should in my opinion disqualify him  
23          from holding a position of authority in any  
24          administration.

25                      And quite frankly, I still cannot

1 understand how you can rack up nearly 40,000  
2 miles on a vehicle. The City itself is only 26  
3 square miles. So I don't know besides going to  
4 the beach where else he was going with the  
5 vehicle. But I think that's another thing that  
6 needs to be looked into.

7 I also don't buy the Chief's  
8 argument that he gave to the Mayor and his  
9 Administration that he had operated under the  
10 inferred agreement with the previous  
11 administration that he had the freedom -- and  
12 these are his words to use both the vehicle and  
13 gas card as he saw fit as his own in essence.

14 I asked this question or posed this  
15 question to the news media. Where is this  
16 agreement? Is it in writing? Did any other  
17 City employees have this agreement as well?  
18 As I mentioned to the newspaper, I am really  
19 sick and tired and I have been over the last  
20 five years of this handshake agreements or  
21 verbal agreements.

22 We're not dealing with monopoly  
23 money. We're not dealing with money that grows  
24 off of trees. We're dealing with taxpayer  
25 money. And I have to be frank with all of you.

1 I have talked to many people over the last few  
2 days. People are generally disgusted. Why?  
3 Because take an average Joe -- Joe Smith who  
4 lives in a neighborhood in Scranton.

5 If he had done something like this  
6 or thought that this was okay, he would have  
7 been gone the second that his employer found  
8 out about it. I had a person e-mail me with 35  
9 years of experience in human resources who  
10 basically said the same thing.

11 So, you know, I'm expressing  
12 frustration here on behalf of the people. And  
13 I think the majority of residents who have  
14 reached out to me who are just disgusted that  
15 it seems like there is no repercussions for  
16 this sort of action.

17 Another point I want to make here is  
18 that I think it was lost in what one of the  
19 speakers said tonight was that the Fire Chief  
20 makes nearly \$90,000 a year. There's no reason  
21 at all for any kind of perk or any kind of  
22 inferred agreement. \$90,000 a year, ladies and  
23 gentlemen, is more than most people make in  
24 three years in this City.

25 And you need a vehicle for your own

1           personal use on top of that? That is  
2           absolutely ridiculous. Every single day that  
3           we allow this type of behavior to go on  
4           unchecked, undisciplined, the confidence in our  
5           government erodes.

6                        I want to thank Mayor Evans and his  
7           administration for taking steps to correct this  
8           issue. GPS, which I had floated the idea to  
9           them a few weeks ago and they are taking that  
10          seriously. And I believe they are going to  
11          implement that, the new vehicle policy which I  
12          think is great.

13                      But I strongly urge the Mayor to  
14          reverse course here and hold Mr. DeSarno  
15          accountable for his actions. This whole saga  
16          is an embarrassment for every elected official,  
17          for every public employee, for the Mayor, for  
18          everyone involved in the City, especially  
19          coming on the heels of the former Mayor being  
20          charged with federal corruption and possibly  
21          going to jail.

22                      The other thing I want to mention is  
23          that and other residents had mentioned this and  
24          Council people tonight, the lack of oversight  
25          on this issue is absolutely unacceptable. The

1 fact that no one was auditing this and nobody  
2 was looking at these records?

3 You know, you have to remember we're  
4 the legislators up here. There's a  
5 Controller's Office that is the financial  
6 watchdog. There are other avenues here where  
7 people should be looking at this type of stuff.  
8 Where this went haywire where it went wrong  
9 where everybody stopped looking at documents is  
10 outrageous.

11 And I'm glad that from now on  
12 they'll be looking a little bit closer. But  
13 again, this is the type of thing that leads  
14 down this road to people being allowed to abuse  
15 this type of thing and to go and check.

16 The last thing I want to mention  
17 which I'm very concerned about, Councilwoman  
18 Dempsey and I have been looking to find a  
19 contract between the City -- a contract or a  
20 credit card agreement between the City and  
21 Sunoco which is the City's gas provider.

22 We did receive documentation today  
23 from the Administration, a letter from 2016  
24 from former City Solicitor Jason Shrive in  
25 which they were basically saying Valero who



1           used to be the City's gas provider was going  
2           out of business.

3                       So they wanted to use Sunoco as a  
4           sole source. Director Gallagher at the time  
5           said they were willing to provide the same  
6           services that Valero did in the past. And they  
7           would also work with credit cards. We to this  
8           point cannot find any documentation of an  
9           agreement between the City and Sunoco.

10                      To me, that is extremely concerning.  
11           So we did ask Mrs. Reed to send another piece  
12           of correspondence asking them -- I don't know,  
13           to look again or to get something in writing.  
14           Because if you look further in this  
15           documentation in 2014, it was bid out. The gas  
16           services were bid out.

17                      In 2016 as I mentioned it went sole  
18           source and there was no bidding done. But  
19           there is documentation in here from Valero  
20           where they give the discounts on the gallons of  
21           gas and other documentation. Again, we have  
22           not received anything from Sunoco yet and  
23           that's concerning.

24                      So again, I would urge the Mayor to  
25           reverse course on this. Hold Mr. DeSarno

1           accountable for his actions. And as I  
2           mentioned earlier, this quite frankly is an  
3           embarrassment. It should never be allowed to  
4           happen again. The fact that some people are  
5           coming up and defending the Chief for using a  
6           vehicle because there was no policy is  
7           absolutely outrageous and ridiculous.

8                     You should have a policy. But  
9           people who are in positions of public trust  
10          should know better. They should know better.  
11          And this, as I said, is an outrage. And I  
12          don't agree with the way it was handled. Thank  
13          you.

14                    MR. ROGAN: Thank you. Picking up  
15          right on that, I did speak with Mayor Evans  
16          about this situation late last week. We had a  
17          lengthy discussion how he came to this  
18          decision. It is the Mayor's decision. It's  
19          not Council's decision.

20                    One thing he did mention and I think  
21          it's been alluded to by some of my colleagues  
22          is the various attorneys that were involved in  
23          this process felt that this was the proper  
24          course of action. If my colleagues would  
25          agree, I would like to see the labor

1           solicitor's opinion on why this came to this  
2           type of resolution.

3                     I believe the new solicitor is Kevin  
4           Hayes, Attorney Hayes. If we can get what his  
5           take on it was, I think that would be helpful  
6           to provide some additional insight to Council  
7           on the issue.

8                     Again, it is the Mayor's call.  
9           People always want to see somebody get fired or  
10          put somebody's head on the chopping block. To  
11          fire somebody over a lapse in judgment, that's  
12          a judgment call to be made by the Mayor. What  
13          type of agreements were made prior is anybody's  
14          guess.

15                    Unfortunately nothing was put in  
16          writing. So again, it is the Mayor's decision.  
17          I support his decision. But the bigger picture  
18          is this cannot continue to happen. There have  
19          to be controls that are put in place, the gas  
20          card audit limiting who has gas cards, limiting  
21          who has City vehicles are all things that I  
22          think need to be addressed.

23                    There are obviously some City  
24          employees that do need to have a City vehicle  
25          24/7. I believe a Fire Chief and a Police

1 Chief are probably number one and number two on  
2 that list as well as maybe a DPW Director and  
3 some other individuals.

4 But I do think we need to limit it.  
5 There has to be a limit on where to draw the  
6 line. I know that Mayor Evans is leading by  
7 example. He's not taking the Mayor's vehicle.  
8 My three week stint as acting Mayor I did not  
9 take the Mayor's vehicle.

10 We'll see who, you know, the next  
11 Mayor if they decide to take that vehicle or  
12 not and lead by example. But it is part of,  
13 you know, part of the compensation for the  
14 Mayor. So it's up to the future Mayors to  
15 decide.

16 Something that is troubling to me  
17 regarding this gas audit is correspondence was  
18 sent to the Controller's Office. We did get  
19 some information back asking for an audit. But  
20 we did receive a letter back stating that the  
21 Controller's Office, a three year review will  
22 take a considerable amount of time.

23 If you would like a three year audit  
24 done immediately I believe it would be  
25 appropriate to hire an outside auditor. Based

1           on our decision with Mr. Bulzoni he believes  
2           the same as well.

3                     I would just say that I strongly  
4           disagree with this. I think the reason why we  
5           have a Controller's Office is to handle these  
6           types of issues. Again, a certified audit  
7           somebody mentioned has to be done by a CPA.  
8           Obviously, Council is looking for information  
9           to put controls in place so this doesn't happen  
10          again so there are clear black and white rules  
11          on what can be done, what can't be done.

12                    In looking back over the last few  
13          years to see what has taken place that who  
14          knows, maybe we'll be talking about another  
15          employee next week when we get more  
16          information. But the reason we have a  
17          Controller's Office is to handle these types of  
18          requests, not simply copying and pasting  
19          numbers on a monthly or quarterly report.

20                    So it is very disappointing that  
21          this is something that couldn't be handled  
22          internally. I'm not sure of what the total  
23          cost is going to be of hiring an outside firm  
24          to do it. I do think it does need to be done.  
25          But I do think that this is something that

1           should have been handled internally.

2                           And finally, I know the Ethics  
3 Commission was brought up by a couple speakers.  
4 I believe there is an appointment on deck  
5 pretty soon for that. But if there's not, I'm  
6 sure my colleagues would agree that we would  
7 like to see it get moving as quickly as  
8 possible. I know a couple of you have grabbed  
9 us already. And we're here to help any way  
10 that we can. Thank you.

11                           MS. REED: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
12 AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL  
13 NO. 44, 2014 AND FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 118,  
14 2015, ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE  
15 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE  
16 CITY OF SCRANTON TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY ACTIONS  
17 TO IMPLEMENT THE CONSOLIDATED SUBMISSION FOR  
18 COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS TO  
19 BE FUNDED UNDER THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK  
20 GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM, HOME INVESTMENT  
21 PARTNERSHIP (HOME) PROGRAM AND EMERGENCY  
22 SOLUTIONS GRANTS (ESG) PROGRAM FOR THE PERIOD  
23 BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2015 AND FOR THE  
24 PERIOD BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2016" BY AMENDING  
25 THE 2015 ACTION PLAN AND THE 2016 ACTION PLAN

1 BY UTILIZING SIXTY-THREE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED  
2 THIRTY ONE DOLLARS AND SIXTY NINE CENTS  
3 (\$63,831.69) FROM THE 2015 ACTION PLAN AND  
4 SIXTY-THREE THOUSAND SEVENTY ONE DOLLARS AND  
5 TWENTY-ONE CENTS (\$63,071.21) FROM THE  
6 2016 ACTION PLAN IN ORDER TO PROVIDE A TOTAL OF  
7 ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SIX THOUSAND NINE  
8 HUNDRED AND TWO DOLLARS AND NINETY CENTS  
9 (\$126,902.90) UNDER THE HOME INVESTMENT  
10 PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM (HOME) TO BUILD A TWO (2)  
11 UNIT RENTAL HOUSE FOR LOW INCOME FAMILIES IN  
12 THE CITY OF SCRANTON OR TO ACQUIRE AND REHAB  
13 TWO (2) VACANT HOUSES IN THE CITY OF SCRANTON  
14 FOR LOW INCOME FAMILIES BY AND THROUGH THE  
15 SCRANTON LACKAWANNA RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT  
16 CORPORATION, A SUBSIDIARY OF THE SCRANTON  
17 LACKAWANNA HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AGENCY.

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. DONAHUE: So moved.

22 MR. GAUGHAN: Second.

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

25 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

1 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

2 ATTY. DEMPSEY: Aye.

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

5 MS. REED: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
6 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING RE-APPOINTMENT OF  
7 TARA MAN SHANKAR, 840 WHEELER AVENUE, SCRANTON,  
8 PENNSYLVANIA 18510, AS A MEMBER OF THE HUMAN  
9 RELATIONS COMMISSION FOR AN ADDITIONAL FOUR (4)  
10 YEAR TERM EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 12, 2019. MR.  
11 SHANKAR'S TERM EXPIRED ON OCTOBER 14, 2018, AND  
12 WAS HELD OVER UNTIL SEPTEMBER 12, 2019. HIS  
13 NEW TERM WILL EXPIRE ON OCTOBER 14, 2022.

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

17 MR. DONAHUE: So moved.

18 MR. GAUGHAN: Second.

19 MR. ROGAN: On the question? All  
20 those in favor of introduction signify by  
21 saying aye.

22 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

24 ATTY. DEMPSEY: Aye.

25 MR. ROGAN: Aye. Opposed? The ayes



1 have it and so moved.

2 MS. REED: 5-D. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
3 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING RE-APPOINTMENT OF  
4 PAUL J. STRUNK, 3 CROSS DRIVE, SCRANTON,  
5 PENNSYLVANIA 18505, AS A MEMBER OF THE HUMAN  
6 RELATIONS COMMISSION FOR AN ADDITIONAL  
7 FOUR (4) YEAR TERM EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 12,  
8 2019. MR. STRUNK'S TERM EXPIRED ON SEPTEMBER  
9 16, 2018, AND WAS HELD OVER UNTIL SEPTEMBER 12,  
10 2019. HIS NEW TERM WILL EXPIRE ON SEPTEMBER  
11 16,  
12 2022.

13 MR. ROGAN: At this time I'll  
14 entertain a motion that Item 5-D be introduced  
15 into its proper committee.

16 MR. DONAHUE: So moved.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Second.

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

20 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

21 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

22 ATTY. DEMPSEY: Aye.

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

25 MS. REED: 5-E. FOR INTRODUCTION -

1 A RESOLUTION – AUTHORIZING RE-APPOINTMENT OF  
2 OM TIMSINA, 809 CEDAR AVENUE, SCRANTON,  
3 PENNSYLVANIA 18505, AS A MEMBER OF THE HUMAN  
4 RELATIONS COMMISSION FOR AN ADDITIONAL  
5 FOUR (4) YEAR TERM EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 12,  
6 2019. MR. TIMSINA’S TERM EXPIRED ON SEPTEMBER  
7 16, 2018, AND WAS HELD OVER UNTIL SEPTEMBER 12,  
8 2019. HIS NEW TERM WILL EXPIRE ON SEPTEMBER  
9 16,  
10 2022.

11 MR. ROGAN: At this time I'll  
12 entertain a motion that Item 5-E be introduced  
13 into its proper committee.

14 MR. DONAHUE: So moved.

15 MR. GAUGHAN: Second.

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

18 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

19 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

20 ATTY. DEMPSEY: Aye.

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

23 MS. REED: SIXTH ORDER. 6-A. No  
24 business at this time.

25 SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR

1           CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR  
2           ADOPTION - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 71, 2019 -  
3           REPEALING SECTION 1 OF FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.  
4           12, 2018 OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON AND ALL  
5           OTHER ORDINANCES AND PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN  
6           CONFLICT THEREWITH AND ADOPTING THE 2015  
7           EDITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY  
8           MAINTENANCE CODE, REGULATING AND GOVERNING THE  
9           CONDITIONS AND MAINTENANCE OF ALL PROPERTY,  
10          BUILDINGS, AND STRUCTURES, BY PROVIDING THE  
11          STANDARDS FOR SUPPLIED UTILITIES AND FACILITIES  
12          AND OTHER PHYSICAL THINGS AND CONDITIONS  
13          ESSENTIAL TO ENSURE THAT STRUCTURES ARE SAFE,  
14          SANITARY AND FIT FOR OCCUPATION AND  
15          USE; THE CONDEMNATION OF BUILDINGS AND  
16          STRUCTURES UNFIT FOR HUMAN OCCUPANCY AND USE,  
17          AND THE DEMOLITION OF SUCH EXISTING  
18          STRUCTURES IN THE CITY OF SCRANTON; PROVIDING  
19          FOR THE ISSUANCE OF PERMITS AND COLLECTION OF  
20          FEES THEREFOR AND AMENDING SECTION 4 OF FILE OF  
21          THE COUNCIL NO. 64 OF 2014 TO REDUCE THE FEE TO  
22          FILE AN APPEAL WITH THE HOUSING BOARD OF  
23          APPEALS BASED UPON THE TYPE OF MATTER AT ISSUE  
24          AND TO PROMOTE RESOLUTIONS OF APPEALS  
25          BEFORE PROCEEDING TO HEARING.

1 MR. ROGAN: As Chairperson for the  
2 Committee on Rules I recommend final passage of  
3 Item 7-A.

4 MR. DONAHUE: Second.

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

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

8 MR. DONAHUE: Yes.

9 MS. CARRERA: Attorney Dempsey.

10 ATTY. DEMPSEY: Yes.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

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

16 MS. REED: 7 B. FOR CONSIDERATION  
17 BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT -  
18 FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 72,  
19 2019 - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 64,  
20 2014, AN ORDINANCE (AS AMENDED) ENTITLED "AN  
21 ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE QUALITY OF LIFE AND  
22 VIOLATIONS TICKET PROCESS IN THE CITY OF  
23 SCRANTON" TO BE AMENDED IN SECTION 3 BY  
24 DELETING NUMBERS 1 THROUGH 7, 20, 21, 25, 26,  
25 28 AND 29 TO REMOVE VIOLATIONS AND IN SECTION 9

1 TO REDUCE FINES FOR CERTAIN VIOLATIONS AND IN  
2 SECTION 10 TO REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF CITATION  
3 FINES FOR VIOLATIONS.

4 MR. ROGAN: What is the  
5 recommendation of the Chair for the Committee  
6 on Community Development?

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

10 ATTY. DEMPSEY: Second.

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

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

14 MR. DONAHUE: Yes.

15 MS. CARRERA: Attorney Dempsey.

16 ATTY. DEMPSEY: Yes.

17 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

18 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

19 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

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

22 MS. REED: 7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION  
23 BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS - FOR  
24 ADOPTION - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 73, 2019 -  
25 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE

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

10 MR. ROGAN: What is the  
11 recommendation of the Chair for the Committee  
12 on Public Works?

13 MR. GAUGHAN: As Chairperson for the  
14 Committee on Public Works I recommend final  
15 passage of Item 7-C.

16 ATTY. DEMPSEY: Second.

17 MR. ROGAN: On the question. Roll  
18 call, please.

19 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

20 MR. DONAHUE: Yes.

21 MS. CARRERA: Attorney Dempsey.

22 ATTY. DEMPSEY: Yes.

23 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

25 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

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

3 MS. REED: 7-D. FOR CONSIDERATION  
4 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION -  
5 RESOLUTION NO. 162, 2019 - APPOINTMENT OF  
6 ROBERT J. MORRIS, 648 WALES STREET, SCRANTON,  
7 PENNSYLVANIA, 18508 AS A MEMBER OF THE  
8 BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS FOR THE CITY OF  
9 SCRANTON. MR. MORRIS WILL REPLACE ROBERT J.  
10 PALMITESSA WHOSE TERM EXPIRED ON JULY 15, 2019.  
11 MR. MORRIS' TERM WILL COMMENCE IMMEDIATELY AND  
12 EXPIRE ON JULY 14, 2024.

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

16 ATTY. DEMPSEY: Second.

17 MR. ROGAN: On the question? Roll  
18 call, please.

19 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

20 MR. DONAHUE: Yes.

21 MS. CARRERA: Attorney Dempsey.

22 ATTY. DEMPSEY: Yes.

23 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

25 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

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

3 MS. REED: 7-E. FOR CONSIDERATION  
4 BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT -  
5 FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 163, 2019 -  
6 RATIFYING AND APPROVING OF THE EXECUTION AND  
7 SUBMISSION OF THE GRANT APPLICATION BY THE CITY  
8 OF SCRANTON, ON BEHALF OF THE HUMAN SERVICES  
9 ALLIANCE, TO THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
10 ACTING THROUGH THE COMMONWEALTH FINANCING  
11 AUTHORITY FOR A LOCAL SHARE ACCOUNT GRANT,  
12 PURSUANT TO THE PA RACE HORSE DEVELOPMENT AND  
13 GAMING ACT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$350,000.00 FOR THE  
14 PROJECT TO BE KNOWN AS "HUMAN SERVICES  
15 ALLIANCE - A BUILDING AND GROUNDS IMPROVEMENT  
16 PROJECT" LOCATED AT 1509 MAPLE STREET, 823  
17 JEFFERSON AVENUE, 841 JEFFERSON AVENUE, AND THE  
18 CORNER OF MYRTLE AND MADISON AVENUE, SCRANTON,  
19 PENNSYLVANIA, AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND  
20 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF  
21 SCRANTON, PA, TO ACCEPT THE GRANT, IF  
22 SUCCESSFUL, AND EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A LOCAL  
23 SHARE ACCOUNT GRANT CONTRACT AND COMMITMENT  
24 LETTER WITH THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA TO  
25 ACCEPT AND UTILIZE THE GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF



1           \$350,000.00 AWARDED BY THE COMMONWEALTH OF  
2           PENNSYLVANIA FOR SUCH PROJECT.

3                   MR. ROGAN: What is the  
4           recommendation of the Chair for the Committee  
5           on Community Development?

6                   MR. DONAHUE: As Chairperson for the  
7           Committee on Community Development I recommend  
8           final passage of Item 7-E.

9                   MR. GAUGHAN: Second.

10                   MR. ROGAN: On the question? Roll  
11           call, please.

12                   MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

13                   MR. DONAHUE: Yes.

14                   MS. CARRERA: Attorney Dempsey.

15                   ATTY. DEMPSEY: Abstain.

16                   MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

17                   MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

18                   MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

19                   MR. ROGAN: Yes. I hereby declare  
20           Item 7-E legally and lawfully adopted. If  
21           there is no further business I'll entertain a  
22           motion to adjourn.

23                   MR. DONAHUE: Motion to adjourn.

24                   MR. ROGAN: Meeting adjourned.

25

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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10 \_\_\_\_\_  
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12 Official Court Reporter  
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