

COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON

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HELD:

Tuesday, June 9th, 2020

LOCATION:

VIA ZOOM

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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3 WILLIAM GAUGHAN, PRESIDENT

4 KYLE DONAHUE, VICE PRESIDENT

5 MARK MCANDREW

6 JESSICA ROTHCHILD

7 THOMAS SCHUSTER

8

9 LORI REED, CITY CLERK

10 KATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

11 KEVIN HAYES, COUNCIL SOLICITOR

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1 (Pledge of Allegiance.)

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3 MR. GAUGHAN: Please remain standing  
4 for a moment of silent reflection for our  
5 service men and women throughout the world and  
6 also for those who have passed away in our  
7 community.

8 Let us also once again take a  
9 special moment of silence tonight for people in  
10 our community and throughout the world who are  
11 suffering or who have passed away from the  
12 coronavirus. Let us think about them and their  
13 families at this time that they may find peace.

14 Let us think now about the doctors,  
15 the nurses, the researchers and all medical  
16 professionals and first responders who seek to  
17 heal and help those affected and who put  
18 themselves at risk in the process, may they  
19 find protection and peace.

20 Whether we are home or abroad,  
21 surrounded by many people suffering from this  
22 illness or only a few, let us stick together,  
23 endure together, mourn together, persist and  
24 prepare together. And in place of our anxiety,  
25 let us continue to hope and find peace. Thank

1           you. Miss Carrera, roll call, please.

2                   MS. CARRERA: Mr. Schuster.

3                   MR. SCHUSTER: Present.

4                   MS. CARRERA: Mr. McAndrew.

5                   MR. MCANDREW: Present.

6                   MS. CARRERA: Dr. Rothchild. Mr.

7           Donahue. Mr. Donahue?

8                   MR. DONAHUE: Here.

9                   MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

10                  MR. GAUGHAN: Here. Please let the  
11           record reflect that Dr. Rothchild is having  
12           some issues calling in at this point. But she  
13           did just send me a message and she'll be on her  
14           way shortly. Mrs. Reed, please dispense with  
15           the reading of the minutes.

16                  MS. REED: Thank you. THIRD ORDER.

17                  3-A. RECOMMENDATION RECEIVED FROM  
18           THE CITY ENGINEER DATED MAY 22, 2020 REGARDING  
19           A NEW STREET LIGHT TO BE INSTALLED AT 600  
20           SEYMOUR AVENUE.

21                  3-B. RECOMMENDATION RECEIVED FROM  
22           THE CITY ENGINEER DATED MAY 22, 2020 REGARDING  
23           A NEW STREET LIGHT TO BE INSTALLED AT NORTHERLY  
24           END OF EARTH COURT.

25                  3-C. PROCLAMATION RECEIVED FROM

1 MAYOR PAIGE G. COGNETTI DECLARING JUNE 1, 2020  
2 A DAY OF MOURNING AND LAMENT FOR ALL THOSE OUR  
3 CITY AND OUR NATION HAVE LOST TO COVID-19.

4 3-D. MINUTES OF THE SCRANTON POLICE  
5 PENSION COMMISSION MEETING HELD APRIL 15, 2020.

6 3-E. SINGLE TAX OFFICE CITY FUNDS  
7 DISTRIBUTED COMPARISON REPORT 2019-2020 YEAR TO  
8 DATE MAY 31, 2020 CORRECTED COPY.

9 3-F. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM  
10 MAYOR PAIGE G. COGNETTI AND CHIEF OF POLICE  
11 CARL R. GRAZIANO DATED JUNE 4, 2020 REGARDING  
12 OUTLINE OF CURRENT SCRANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT  
13 POLICIES.

14 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Mrs. Reed.  
15 Are there any comments on any of the Third  
16 Order items?

17 MR. SCHUSTER: I'd like to make a  
18 comment on the -- regarding the outline of the  
19 current police policies. I stated in caucus  
20 that, you know, a few years back that I think  
21 the police department looked at these policies  
22 and they have a pretty good procedure in place.

23 And some of the comments that we got  
24 from citizens in the last week or so that they  
25 want issues addressed that had already been

1 addressed by the police department over the  
2 last decade, I would say.

3 And I've seen some of these things  
4 in regards to mental health in action so they  
5 are some things that are working on in our area  
6 and surrounding areas.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Mr.  
8 Schuster. Any other comments on Third Order  
9 items?

10 MR. MCANDREW: I'll just piggyback  
11 on Mr. Schuster. I'm just glad we're in  
12 compliance. I mean, we are. We've been for a  
13 while. And that's just great to hear. Thank  
14 you.

15 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Mr.  
16 McAndrew. Anyone else? Okay. If not,  
17 received and filed. Do any Council members  
18 have any announcements at this time?

19 MR. MCANDREW: I have a reminder.  
20 This I made an announcement a couple weeks ago.  
21 The Wright Center Blood Drives are coming up.  
22 They're being done for the American Red Cross.  
23 They're Friday, June 12th from 11 to 4; Friday,  
24 July 31st from 12 to 5, both at the new  
25 facility -- the new Wright Center facility

1           which is on 501 South Abington -- South  
2           Washington Avenue. I'm sorry.

3                     Appointments are being done with 15  
4           minute intervals. And you could register  
5           online or by calling the Red Cross of Northeast  
6           PA. That's all I have. Thanks.

7                     MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. Thank you. And  
8           real quick I just want -- for the record, I  
9           just want to state that Dr. Rothchild has  
10          joined us. Dr. Rothchild, are you there?

11                    DR. ROTHCHILD: Yes, I'm here.  
12          Sorry about that guys. I'm having some  
13          technical issues tonight. But I am here.

14                    MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. Thank you. No  
15          problem. Okay. Anyone else have any  
16          announcements? Okay. I just have one and I  
17          made this quite a few times now since we've  
18          been in the Zoom meetings.

19                    But if anyone would like to comment  
20          on agenda items or City business, please send  
21          those comments in writing to our City Clerk,  
22          Lori Reed by e-mailing [LReed@scrantonpa.gov](mailto:LReed@scrantonpa.gov).

23                    Council will accept public comment  
24          until the day of our meeting which is Tuesday  
25          at 4:30 p.m. Public comment is reviewed by the

1 Council prior to our meeting and is placed then  
2 on the official record and in the minutes of  
3 our meetings.

4 Council's agenda is being posted for  
5 public review the Friday before our Tuesday  
6 meeting. Our agenda and minutes can be  
7 accessed by going to [www.scrantonpa.gov](http://www.scrantonpa.gov) and  
8 clicking on the City Council page. And that's  
9 all I have. Mrs. Reed?

10 MS. REED: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS  
11 PARTICIPATION.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Mrs. Reed.  
13 I'd ask now if someone would please make a  
14 motion to accept public comment from the  
15 following individuals: Patricia Nestor, Fay  
16 Franus, Eileen Dorsey, and Marie Schumacher.

17 MR. SCHUSTER: I'll make a motion to  
18 accept public comment.

19 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. There's  
20 been a motion made. There's been a second or  
21 has there been a second?

22 MR. MCANDREW: Second.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: There's been a second.  
24 On the question. Sorry, Mark, go ahead.

25 MR. MCANDREW: I'm sorry, on the



1 question, the one from Mrs. Nestor I will  
2 address in Fifth Order.

3 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. Great. Thank  
4 you. The only other thing I wanted to mention  
5 on public comment is two things. So Miss  
6 Franus had sent some comments in. Mrs. Reed,  
7 can you just double-check with the  
8 administration tomorrow whether or not they can  
9 get back to us with answers to Mrs. Franus's  
10 questions about the garbage -- the garbage  
11 fees?

12 MS. REED: Yes.

13 MR. GAUGHAN: And the -- one of the  
14 other citizens that had addressed Council was  
15 Eileen Dorsey. She had asked several  
16 questions. I could answer some of them I think  
17 right off the bat. They're calling for City  
18 budget data to be made readily available and  
19 accessible to the public on a quarterly basis.

20 The City budget is posted on the  
21 City's website [www.scrantonpa.gov](http://www.scrantonpa.gov). One of the  
22 things that Council has been calling for in the  
23 past was for data to be posted in terms of the  
24 budget on a quarterly basis. So I would agree  
25 with that statement and a call for that.

1                   Unfortunately, we're not at that  
2 point yet. There was a push I think about two  
3 or three years ago for the City to use a  
4 platform called open Gov -- open dot gov,  
5 something to that effect. For whatever reason  
6 that kind of fell through the cracks.

7                   I have talked to the Mayor in the  
8 last few months and I know one of the goals of  
9 her administration and I think one of the goals  
10 of this Council would be to get that data up  
11 for public review. So it's not up there now.  
12 But I'm hopeful that, you know, within the next  
13 few months to the next year that that would be  
14 an initiative that would be able to take place.

15                   Her second question talks about the  
16 institution of community lead public safety  
17 teams as well as citizens review boards for the  
18 Scranton Police Department, when will this  
19 happen? That will be a decision that will be  
20 made by Mayor Cagnetti and Chief Graziano.

21                   And on our agenda tonight I believe  
22 Chief Graziano did address the citizens review  
23 boards in his comments. And I've sent quite a  
24 few emails out to people with similar questions  
25 and he has addressed that.

1                   She also calls for police officers  
2                   to be removed from schools and wants to know  
3                   when that will happen. I'm not in favor of  
4                   that at all. I think that would be a huge  
5                   mistake. So I don't think anyone would want to  
6                   entertain that at this point. And how will the  
7                   City of Scranton expand police oversight  
8                   measures and keep those measures in place?  
9                   Again, I refer to Chief Graziano's letter  
10                  that's on the agenda.

11                  And lastly, Marie Schumacher had  
12                  submitted several questions. She stated that  
13                  she wanted information in Third Order this week  
14                  in terms of the small business loan program. I  
15                  did state last week that we were going to put  
16                  that in Third Order. But after talking with  
17                  Mrs. Reed and looking at it, that's not  
18                  something we would generally put in Third Order  
19                  because it's already on the City's website. We  
20                  sent it to Mrs. Schumacher. And that's really  
21                  more for the small businesses.

22                  If anybody's interested in taking a  
23                  look at that, it's already posted on the City's  
24                  website. There's several other questions that,  
25                  of course, we'll forward to the administration.

1                   One of the questions why was the  
2                   2020 real estate tax levy only on land and not  
3                   improvements? I thought I answered this last  
4                   week or the week before. I'll just reiterate  
5                   that the reasoning provided by the previous  
6                   business administrator and PEL was that putting  
7                   it on land and not improvements would be less  
8                   punitive on the taxpayer.

9                   And, Mrs. Reed, if you could also  
10                  follow up with the administration just in terms  
11                  of previous questions that Miss Schumacher has  
12                  asked that have not been answered yet.

13                 MS. REED: I will. Thank you.

14                 MR. GAUGHAN: Anyone else on the  
15                 question? All those in favor of -- all those  
16                 in favor signify by saying aye.

17                 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

18                 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

19                 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

20                 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

21                 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye. Opposed? The  
22                 eyes have it and so moved.

23  
24                                 (Public Comment, letters submitted  
25                                 by the following:

1 (Patricia Nestor)

2  
3 Other places I've lived allowed  
4 citizen ride alongs with the police. I called  
5 a couple years ago and Scranton does not allow  
6 this. As a way of being transparent and  
7 allowing community involvement and  
8 understanding, Scranton police should allow  
9 civilians to do ride alongs.

10  
11 (Fay Franus)

12  
13 Council, June 9 2020

14  
15 I am going to start off with two  
16 quotes that surely fit the circumstances in  
17 this city:

18 Here is a quote I heard the  
19 president of the NAACP say today:

20 "Public sentiment is everything.  
21 With it you can accomplish almost everything.  
22 Without it practically nothing."

23 Here is another quote you can learn  
24 from: "Do you know what happens when you should  
25 have dealt with things from the past but did

1           not? It is that you keep reliving the past."

2                       This City continues to tax the  
3           people to get money to pay for ALL OF THEIR  
4           MISTAKES IN THE PAST AND EVEN NOW You simply  
5           have not learned anything. You take the easy  
6           way out.

7                       One really has to wonder why anyone  
8           would write in comments and questions when that  
9           person knows it is a complete waste of their  
10          valuable time. But I shall continue because I  
11          must. Last week's meeting really was yet  
12          another sad state of affairs in this city. A  
13          couple thoughts about it.

14                      I found it fascinating that  
15          councilwoman Rothchild said she felt the law  
16          about people who work in Scranton must live in  
17          Scranton was antiquated but then went on to say  
18          she thought it was right for people who worked  
19          in Scranton should live in Scranton.

20                      Also Ms Rothechild stated that she  
21          also felt it was wrong to have Eileen Ciprianni  
22          have to move into the City after six months or  
23          have to leave if she did not move here--  
24          because she would have been trained only to  
25          have to leave in six months which would not be

1 fair and how experienced she was. My gosh has  
2 her memory escaped her.

3 Mary Pat Ward started in January as  
4 head of OECD and was trained and in six months  
5 she was demoted to be able to give this very  
6 job to Eileen Ciprianni. No concern about how  
7 wrong that would be to have to do that to Mary  
8 Pat Ward. BUT surely wrong to have to do the  
9 same thing for Eileen Ciprianni. Double  
10 standard????

11 Also Council woman Rothchild at the  
12 time Mary Pat Ward was hired said how qualified  
13 she was as well. But I guess taking Mary Pat  
14 Ward out of that position wouldn't be as bad as  
15 having to take out Eileen Ciprianni. Why I  
16 have no idea but Councilwoman Rothchild must  
17 think we are stupid or have no memory of all  
18 that happened here with Mary Pat Ward.

19 She got discarded with not a blink  
20 of an eye to take care of probably one of Mayor  
21 Cagnetti's friend--or someone who has  
22 connections she may find useful in the future.  
23 Of course the real reason will never be told  
24 but I'm sure we will find out in time when  
25 Mayor Cagnetti moves on to a bigger and better

1 job.

2 I agree with Kyle Donahue completely  
3 on this topic. If you work in the city you  
4 must move into the city after 6 months-- we  
5 have laws. What you need to learn is how to  
6 follow them, not cherry pick parts to make  
7 everything look correct and as though you are  
8 doing what is legal.

9 As Bill Gaughan stated it's at the  
10 Mayor's discretion --yes and it also states the  
11 person must move into the City after 6 months--  
12 but Mr. Gaughan didn't want to read that out  
13 loud. But when Dave Bulzoni got a waiver Mr.  
14 Gaughan felt strongly that if you work in  
15 Scranton YOU MUST LIVE IN SCRANTON. PERIOD!

16 As to Mr. Schuster's comment Ms  
17 Ciprianni is a cabinet member and may only be  
18 here for 2 years-- that is her choice-- you  
19 take the job knowing this in advance it is no  
20 secret. You all want to twist facts to make it  
21 appear right to put Eileen Ciprianni in this  
22 position.

23 It is still illegal for her to be  
24 working here before you gave her the waiver.  
25 Judge Mazoni stated this when it was about Dave



1           Bulzoni-BUT you still went ahead and did it yet  
2           again anyway.

3                       Then we have Councilman McAndrew who  
4           received a letter from a citizen which he read  
5           to the public. Which tells me I suppose the  
6           only way I can have my questions, and  
7           comments read by all of you council members is  
8           to write you all emails then perhaps you WILL  
9           read them aloud as councilman McAndrew did,  
10          considering I have not yet received one reply  
11          from any one of you to this day.

12                      But because of the way you have this  
13          whole send in your comments thing people have  
14          no way of knowing you never replied to me--and  
15          many of my questions were questions that that  
16          did not have to be sent to the administration  
17          for replies--they were direct questions to you.

18                      How about when Bill Gaughan said  
19          last week after replying to ONE of Marie  
20          Schumacher's question--I'm paraphrasing here it  
21          went something like this--"That answers Marie  
22          Schumacher's questions". Oh no it did not--  
23          but people have no way of knowing how many  
24          questions Marie asked last week because you  
25          refused to read them. Your replies should be

1           made public-- same as our questions and  
2           comments.

3                           Go back to March 31st and start  
4           reading my questions. I STILL want answers --  
5           SILENCE is far from GOLDEN. It should be  
6           criminal!

7           Fay Franus

8

9                           (Eileen Dorsey)

10

11           To Whom It May Concern:

12

13                           The following correspondence is a  
14           list of questions and requests being posed to  
15           the City Council by the citizens of the City of  
16           Scranton, in light of recent events which have  
17           galvanized us all and set the stage for local  
18           and national reform.

19

20                           We are calling for the city budget  
21           data to be made readily available/accessible to  
22           the public on a quarterly basis.

22

23                           □ We are calling for the institution  
24           of community-led Public Safety Teams as well as  
25           Citizens' Review Boards for the Scranton Police  
          Department. When will this happen?

1                   □ We are calling for police officers  
2                   to be removed from schools.

3                   □ How will the City of Scranton  
4                   expand police oversight measures and keep those  
5                   measures in place?

6                   This is a pivotal moment, and  
7                   the people are looking to you. Thanks to the  
8                   Council, in advance, for their consideration  
9                   and immediate action.

10

11                   Sincerely,

12                   Eileen B. Dorsey

13

14                   (Marie Schumacher)

15

16                   Last week, Mr. Gaughan states  
17                   several of my questions about the Agena items  
18                   would be answered by the program guidance that  
19                   the mayo provided; we'll put that in Third  
20                   Order next week and it will be I'm sure on the  
21                   webite and the public will be able to view  
22                   that. That should take care of most of the  
23                   questions here.

24

25                   Yesterday morning I received an  
                    e-mail from Mrs. Reed what I believe Mr. Gaughn

1 described as Guidance the Mayor provided. Oh,  
2 and when I reviewed the Agenda for tonight's  
3 Meeting I could not find the Mayor's response  
4 in Third Order.

5 I use response because out of seven  
6 items in my Fourth Order submission for the 26  
7 May 2020 Meeting:

8 0 Two were designated as "City  
9 Council Questions" so I hope one of the five  
10 Council Members will provide the answers this  
11 evening.

12 0 One was acceptably answered.  
13 Twelve LERTA applications have been received  
14 since th 10-Year City-Wide Program was approved  
15 in February 2019.

16 0 One was an out-an-out ignoring an  
17 answer to the question and an excuse for not  
18 being able to provide the data required to  
19 fulfill recommendation. Allow me to explain:

20 - my ignored question was what  
21 percent of the Trash bills have been payed to  
22 date? To me this was/is a no-brainer as if the  
23 Bill was not paid in full there would  
24 undoubtedly be a follow up; if the Bill was  
25 paid in full the payment would be \$270 as the

1 discount period extends to 15 July. In any  
2 case, the system must have a tally of the  
3 payments and I'm sure they know the number of  
4 Bills that were mailed so the percent should  
5 have been easy. Heck if they provided the raw  
6 numbers I would have calculated the percent  
7 myself.

8 - the recommendation was that  
9 Council provide the percent on a weekly basis.  
10 The excuse I received is, "The City does not  
11 currently have the technology or system to  
12 provide that information on a weekly basis."  
13 This forces me to wonder just how archaic is  
14 our accounting system?

15 The number of Bill mailed stays the  
16 same and I can't believe the number of payments  
17 aren't recorded on a daily basis. So a new  
18 request is for a copy of the Process for  
19 accounting for the Trash revenue account.  
20 o Another question (When will those of us  
21 "saving" our cominged (blue container) for  
22 recycling rather than the KeystoneTrash  
23 Mountain be relieved of our collection? What  
24 is the holdup and who is responsible for  
25 resolving the issue?) Received a

1 not-in-my-court but I'm working on it anyway  
2 answer.

3 For those inferested in the answer:

4 - The Recycling Center is not currently  
5 collecting commingles (sic) (which seems  
6 redundant to me as I wouldn't be "saving" my  
7 blue container deposits if I didn't already  
8 know this) and this is beyond the City's  
9 control (which begs the question, have you met  
10 with the County Commissioners).

11 However, the City is looking into  
12 alternative recycling centers and programs  
13 o Answer to the question "When will the City  
14 join all of the others (sic) municipalities in  
15 the County and base the property taxes on a  
16 single assessed property value": The City will  
17 look into this request (to which I say thank  
18 you).

19 However, we note that the lack of  
20 county assessment hinders our ability to have  
21 accurate assessment at the City level (to which  
22 I say, Are you lobbying the County  
23 Commissioners? How many times have you met  
24 with them on this issue?)

25 0 To the question "Why was the 2020

1 real estate tax levy only on land and not  
2 improvements." The answer was correct but my  
3 question should have specified the Council  
4 increase which I believed Mr. Gaughan has  
5 answered as it was because Mr. Bulzoni asked.

6 0 The final question dealt with the  
7 City's pulling the two-Fire Engine Stations  
8 from use as polling places after the final list  
9 was published as I thought it was only fair the  
10 City should then also notify registered voters  
11 of those polling places of the last minute  
12 changes.

13 I will hold the balance of my  
14 questions and comments, save one each, until  
15 next week.

16 - The Question: Was the March 2019  
17 request for a Redevelopment Assistance Capital  
18 Program (RACP) grant for the renovation of the  
19 Municipal Building rejected by the State?

20 - The Comment: When will the  
21 answers to the many other questions from me and  
22 other requesters be forthcoming.

23  
24 (End of Public Comment.)

25 MR. GAUGHAN: Mrs. Reed?

1 MS. REED: FIFTH ORDER. 5-A.  
2 MOTIONS.

3 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Mrs. Reed.  
4 Councilman Schuster, do you have any motions or  
5 comments at this time?

6 MR. SCHUSTER: The only comment I'd  
7 like to make is it's nice to see businesses  
8 start opening and us moving into some more  
9 lenient phases.

10 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. Thank you.  
11 Councilman McAndrew, do you have any motions or  
12 comments?

13 MR. MCANDREW: Yes, I have a few.  
14 So last week two questions were posed to me by  
15 concerned citizens. And then I relayed them to  
16 Mrs. Reed to reach out to Chief Graziano. And  
17 then also the one that came today I want to  
18 address.

19 So the one -- thank you, first of  
20 all, Chief Graziano, for your swift responses  
21 to these concerned citizens. So the first  
22 question last week was how many text while  
23 driving citations have been issued.

24 So he responded and said 37 since  
25 2016. And it has been implemented but



1           difficult to enforce. An example being, you  
2           know, a driver has to admit to it, first of  
3           all, and/or an officer has to actually witness  
4           a person sending or receiving a text.

5                        But in light of that, also what  
6           could be a little confusing is when this is  
7           being observed, the driver might be using his  
8           GPS, which is not considered texting. He might  
9           be scrolling through a number or dialling a  
10          number. So I hope that answers the question of  
11          that concerned citizen.

12                      The second one was how do we get a  
13          speed bump study done? And the response from  
14          the Chief was speed bumps are actually illegal.  
15          They're not allowed in the City streets. They  
16          could cause damage to City vehicles. You know,  
17          an example, you know, of the DPW trucks our  
18          blades during plowing.

19                      And these are also safety issues  
20          with trucks and drivers. So any that have been  
21          illegally constructed bumps that have been  
22          found around the City have been removed. So  
23          thanks for that answer.

24                      And then today we received a public  
25          comment question from Mrs. Nestor. And her

1 question was other places she has lived allowed  
2 citizen ride-alongs with the police. She  
3 called a couple years ago and was told Scranton  
4 does not allow this.

5 As a way of being transparent and  
6 allowing involvement and understanding,  
7 Scranton Police should allow citizens to do a  
8 ride-along. So the Chief had, you know, his  
9 response was, we do have a very active  
10 ride-along program and has been in place for  
11 many years.

12 This individual, maybe Mrs. Nestor,  
13 might have called the police department asking  
14 about this maybe during the Covid -- COVID-19  
15 restrictions. And if that's the case, we  
16 obviously have the program currently suspended  
17 because of restrictions.

18 However, it will be opened up once  
19 again as the COVID-19 restrictions are  
20 released. So at that point, you know, she  
21 could inquire again. And that's all I have.  
22 Thank you.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Councilman  
24 McAndrew. Dr. Rothchild, do you have any  
25 motions or comments?

1 DR. ROTHCHILD: No, I don't have  
2 any. No, I don't have any motions or comments  
3 at this time. Thank you.

4 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Dr.  
5 Rothchild. Councilman Donahue, do you have any  
6 motions or comments at this time?

7 MR. DONAHUE: Quick comment.  
8 Yesterday I met with Tom Preambo the new  
9 Director of DPW. And I just want to thank him  
10 for taking the time out of his schedule. We  
11 just went over a couple of initiatives that  
12 will be upcoming and, you know, what we see are  
13 some of the deficiencies, you know, within DPW  
14 and how we can better operate.

15 And I was also made aware today that  
16 I know we were told that the ad for the RFP for  
17 the engineering service for street paving went  
18 out last week. But they needed to make a  
19 couple corrections to it regarding ADA ramps.  
20 So that will -- I believe that's going to go  
21 out either later -- it either went out later  
22 this afternoon to the Times for the ad or it  
23 will go out tomorrow morning. So it should be  
24 in the paper the next couple days there.

25 Miss Reed, would we be able to send

1           correspondence to the administration regarding  
2           the reopening of City Hall and what processes  
3           we're going to use moving forward with that?

4                     MS. REED: Certainly.

5                     MR. DONAHUE: On top of that too,  
6           just some questions on the furloughs because as  
7           we reopen City Hall, hopefully, you know, some  
8           of the people that -- some of the City  
9           employees that have been furloughed will be  
10          called back.

11                    So what will be the process -- and I  
12          could send all of this to you in an e-mail too.  
13          But what will be the process on how they will  
14          be called back, when will they be called back,  
15          how many won't be called back. And if there's  
16          even the slightest possibility that any worker  
17          won't be called back, you know, the  
18          administration has to just be up front and  
19          honest with those employees instead of keeping  
20          them in the dark on their employment status.

21                    And I think Council also needs to be  
22          provided with detailed explanations of who will  
23          take on the duties of these positions if those  
24          employees -- if certain employees aren't called  
25          back. And also just who is performing the work

1 now?

2 A couple examples, who's processing  
3 garbage bills? Who's performing health  
4 inspections of restaurants? Who's performing  
5 housing inspections? Who's responding to  
6 quality of life complaints? Who's overseeing  
7 the bidding and purchasing process, just as a  
8 couple of examples.

9 So we'll pass that along to the  
10 administration and see what kind of answers we  
11 get. And that's all I have for tonight.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. Thank you,  
13 Councilman Donahue. I just have one comment.  
14 I'd like for a letter to be sent to the Mayor  
15 and the City Law Department and City Solicitor  
16 Jessica Eskra. I would like an update in  
17 regards to Northeast Revenue Services and the  
18 conditions that were stated in Attorney Eskra's  
19 letter to Sean Shamany from NRS on October  
20 16th, 2019.

21 Specifically I would like a copy of  
22 all correspondence between the City of Scranton  
23 and NRS from January 1st, 2014 to present. As  
24 part of this correspondence back in 2019, the  
25 City asked that the NRS ensure the prompt

1 exchange of all databases in a format  
2 acceptable to the City for all tax and refuse  
3 collection to the City and/or its designee. I  
4 would like to know if that has happened yet.

5 NRS's IT Department and the City's  
6 IT Department would agree to work together in  
7 good faith to achieve a timely transition of  
8 data. I'd like to know if that has occurred  
9 yet. NRS will upload the 2019 payments to its  
10 server to be combined with the data that will  
11 be transferred to the City and/or its designee.  
12 I'd like to know if that has happened yet.

13 NRS will proceed with the filing of  
14 delinquent refuse liens for Calendar Year 2018,  
15 has the same already been prepared and ready  
16 for filing. It says, however, NRS will not  
17 proceed with the filing of 2018 delinquent tax  
18 liens. I'd like to get an update on that and  
19 know if that has happened yet.

20 Also, it states that NRS will  
21 provide the City with a total dollar amount of  
22 cost advanced on liens that have been filed on  
23 behalf of the City. At that time the City  
24 wanted to see this amount within ten business  
25 days of October 16th, 2019. So I'd like to

1 know if that had occurred.

2 And the City would require  
3 assurances in writing from NRS that the  
4 termination of this contract would not result  
5 in litigation. And I'd like to know if that  
6 has happened yet. So, Mrs. Reed, and Solicitor  
7 Hayes, if you could put that together and get  
8 that out to the Law Department and the Mayor  
9 and I would appreciate it. And that's all I  
10 have. Mrs. Reed?

11 MS. REED: Thank you. 5-B. No  
12 business at this time.

13 SIXTH ORDER. 6-A. No business at  
14 this time.

15 SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR  
16 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR  
17 ADOPTION - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 9, 2020 -  
18 AMENDING SECTION 13 (AS AMENDED BY ORDINANCE  
19 NO. 29, 1994 AND ORDINANCE NO. 195, 2003)  
20 OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE CODE ENTITLED  
21 "APPROPRIATION" IN ORDER TO REQUIRE COUNCIL'S  
22 APPROVAL PRIOR TO THE TRANSFER OF AN  
23 UNEXPENDED BALANCE OF AN APPROPRIATION ITEM TO  
24 FUND A NEW JOB CLASSIFICATION OR INCREASE THE  
25 BUDGETED SALARY OF A JOB CLASSIFICATION.

1 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Mrs. Reed.  
2 As Chairperson for the Committee on Rules, I  
3 recommend final passage of Item 7-A.

4 MR. SCHUSTER: Second.

5 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. On the  
6 question? Miss Carrera, roll call, please.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Schuster.

8 MR. SCHUSTER: Yes.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McAndrew.

10 MR. MCANDREW: Yes.

11 MS. CARRERA: Dr. Rothchild.

12 DR. ROTHCHILD: Yes.

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

14 MR. GAUGHAN: Kyle, I don't think --  
15 we couldn't hear your vote on that.

16 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes. And just hang on  
18 one second we'll see if --

19 MR. DONAHUE: Yes.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes. Okay. That  
21 was -- thank you, Miss Carrera. And that was  
22 five yeses. I hereby declare Item 7-A legally  
23 and lawfully adopted. Mrs. Reed?

24 MS. REED: I'm sorry. I was muted.  
25 I apologize.



1 MR. GAUGHAN: Oh, that's okay.

2 MS. REED: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION  
3 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION -  
4 RESOLUTION NO. 36, 2020 - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR  
5 AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO WAIVE  
6 THE RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS FOR EILEEN CIPRIANI  
7 IN HER CAPACITY AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF  
8 THE OFFICE OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY  
9 DEVELOPMENT FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON SUBJECT TO  
10 CERTAIN CONDITIONS.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. As  
12 Chairperson for the Committee on Rules, I  
13 recommend final passage of Item 7-B. Is there  
14 a second?

15 DR. ROTHCHILD: Second.

16 MR. GAUGHAN: There's been a second.  
17 On the question?

18 MR. DONAHUE: On the question, not  
19 to beat a dead horse, but I'm going to be  
20 voting no against this resolution for two  
21 reasons, one, I think all employees should  
22 follow the same rules and be treated equally  
23 and fairly. And I also don't believe that this  
24 is fair for the taxpayers of Scranton.

25 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. Anyone else on

1 the question?

2 MR. MCANDREW: Yes, also, I mean, my  
3 position hasn't changed in a week. And I was  
4 going to recap what I said last week. So  
5 this -- my no vote is nothing personal or  
6 political. But it's one of principle. Like I  
7 said last week I live here.

8 I have to look at 100 plus  
9 firefighters, a hundred plus police officers,  
10 almost a hundred DPW workers, 40 plus  
11 furloughed employees that lost their benefits,  
12 uncertain if they are even going to get their  
13 job back or when they're coming back that live  
14 here and have stake in the game.

15 So I'm all about being fair and  
16 equitable. There's a rule. I follow the  
17 rules. This is my vote and I'll own this vote.  
18 And I'm okay with this vote. So thank you.

19 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. Anyone  
20 else on the question? Roll call, please, Miss  
21 Carrera.

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Schuster.

23 MR. SCHUSTER: Yes.

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McAndrew.

25 MR. MCANDREW: No.

1 MS. CARRERA: Dr. Rothchild.

2 DR. ROTHCHILD: Yes.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

4 MR. DONAHUE: No.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes. I hereby declare  
7 Item 7-B legally and lawfully adopted. If  
8 there is no further business, I'll entertain a  
9 motion to adjourn.

10 MR. DONAHUE: Motion to adjourn.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you everyone.

12 Stay safe. Stay healthy. We'll see everybody  
13 next Tuesday. Bye-bye.

14 MR. SCHUSTER: Good night.

15 DR. ROTHCHILD: Good night everyone.

16 ATTY. HAYES: Good night.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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3 I hereby certify that the proceedings and  
4 evidence are contained fully and accurately in the  
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