

COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON

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HELD:

Tuesday, September 8th, 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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- WILLIAM GAUGHAN, PRESIDENT
- KYLE DONAHUE, VICE PRESIDENT
- MARK MCANDREW
- JESSICA ROTHCHILD
- THOMAS SCHUSTER
  
- LORI REED, CITY CLERK
- KATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK
- KEVIN HAYES, COUNCIL SOLICITOR

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(Pledge of Allegiance.)

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

As we have been now for the better part of the last year, we'll take a special moment of silence tonight for people in our community and throughout the world who are suffering or who have passed away from the coronavirus. May those who are sick receive the proper treatment and recover. And may their caregivers, families and neighbors be shielded from the onslaught of this virus.

Let us give solace to those who grieve the loss of their loved ones. Let us thank the doctors, nurses, researchers and all medical professionals and first responders who seek to heal and help those affected and who put themselves at risk in the process.

We continue to hope that their work may conquer this disease and restore communities to wholeness and health.

1                   Whether we are home or abroad,  
2                   surrounded by many people suffering from this  
3                   illness or only a few, let us stick together,  
4                   endure together, mourn together, persist and  
5                   prepare together.

6                   And in place of our anxiety, let us  
7                   continue to hope and find peace. Thank you.  
8                   Okay, Miss Carrera, roll call, please.

9                   MS. CARRERA: Mr. Schuster. Mr.  
10                  Schuster? Mr. McAndrew.

11                  MR. MCANDREW: Present.

12                  MS. CARRERA: Dr. Rothchild.

13                  DR. ROTHCHILD: I'm here. I'm just  
14                  having some technical issues. But I'll be back  
15                  on camera in a moment.

16                  MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

17                  MR. DONAHUE: Here.

18                  MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

19                  MR. GAUGHAN: Here. Thank you. And  
20                  let the record reflect we do know that  
21                  Councilman Schuster is here. He must just be  
22                  having technical difficulties. Mrs. Reed,  
23                  please dispense with the reading of the  
24                  minutes.

25                  MS. REED: Thank you. THIRD ORDER.

1                   3-A. EMERGENCY DECLARATION ISSUED  
2 BY MAYOR PAIGE G. COGNETTI RECEIVED AUGUST 28,  
3 2020 REGARDING THE AUGUST 23RD CYBER-ATTACK.

4                   3-B. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM  
5 THE OFFICE OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY  
6 DEVELOPMENT DATED AUGUST 31, 2020 REGARDING  
7 COVID-19 REIMBURSEMENTS THROUGH LACKAWANNA  
8 COUNTY CARES ACT FUNDING.

9                   3-C. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM  
10 THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY DATED  
11 JULY 29, 2020 REGARDING REVALIDATED LETTERS OF  
12 MAP CHANGE FOR THE CITY.

13                   3-D. RESUME RECEIVED FROM SCRANTON  
14 MUNICIPAL RECREATION AUTHORITY APPOINTEE.

15                   3-E. LETTER OF RESIGNATION FROM  
16 ETHICS BOARD MEMBER MARY JO SHERIDAN.

17                   3-F. SINGLE TAX OFFICE CITY FUNDS  
18 DISTRIBUTED COMPARISON REPORT 2019-2020 YEAR TO  
19 DATE AUGUST 31, 2020.

20                   3-G. MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
21 OF THE SCRANTON REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY HELD  
22 AUGUST 5, 2020.

23                   MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Mrs. Reed.  
24 Are there any comments on any of the Third  
25 Order items? I have one comment just on 3-F,

1 the Single Tax Office report.

2 As I mentioned in the caucus  
3 tonight, it is very concerning to see that in  
4 all categories, real estate, delinquent real  
5 estate, LST and EMS and Business Privilege and  
6 Mercantile Tax that the City is down from where  
7 we were this time last year through the end of  
8 August to the tune of \$632,617.85.

9 I do think it's very important as  
10 Councilman Schuster and I discussed in the  
11 caucus that the administration come to a public  
12 caucus as they did in June and give us an  
13 update on the overall financial health of the  
14 City in terms of the effect that the pandemic  
15 has had.

16 So I am looking forward to that as  
17 soon as possible. I know that we did send out  
18 a request for that meeting. And we'll keep  
19 everybody updated on that.

20 Any other comments on Third Order  
21 items? If not, received and filed. Do any  
22 Council members have any announcements at this  
23 time?

24 MR. MCANDREW: I have one. This is  
25 a reminder. So this Saturday, September 12th

1 from one to six, St. Stephen's Booster Club  
2 will be having their drive through chicken  
3 dinner. Unfortunately, this is the only way  
4 they can raise money this year because of, you  
5 know, restrictions with COVID.

6 So the donation is \$10. I have  
7 tickets right here. I got my tickets already.  
8 You could actually go without tickets. I'll  
9 probably send my daughters at half time during  
10 the Notre Dame/Duke game to pick up our  
11 dinners. Please help these guys out. They  
12 really need the money. That's all I have.

13 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. Anyone  
14 else? Okay. Mrs. Reed?

15 MS. REED: Excuse me. FOURTH ORDER.  
16 CITIZENS PARTICIPATION.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Mrs. Reed.  
18 We have received public comment from Marie  
19 Schumacher and Fay Franus. So I'd ask that one  
20 of the Council members, please make a motion to  
21 accept public comment from Miss Schumacher and  
22 Miss Franus at this time.

23 MR. DONAHUE: I'll make a motion to  
24 accept public comment.

25 MR. SCHUSTER: I'll second.

1 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? On  
2 the question, I'm going to ask our City Clerk  
3 to read the comments received from Miss  
4 Schumacher and Miss Franus into the public  
5 record at this time.

6 MS. REED: Thank you. The first  
7 comment received was from Marie Schumacher and  
8 it reads as follows:

9 If you read today's Times-Tribune,  
10 you may have noticed the article "U.S. Debt to  
11 soon exceed entire economy." So I believe you  
12 realize the Federal Government would be unwise  
13 to go further into debt to fill Scranton's tin  
14 cup.

15 May I suggest it is time to do one  
16 or both of the following: Number one, ask the  
17 Commonwealth's Governor Wolf to stop playing  
18 dictator and allow all businesses to open.  
19 And, number two, sharpen your pencils and get  
20 to work on a bare bones budget.

21 The second comment is from Fay  
22 Franus and it reads as follows:

23 Council, number one, I appreciate  
24 that you are allowing questions from the public  
25 to be read aloud for the public hearing on the



1 capital budget September 16.

2 My question to all of you is, why  
3 are you still not allowing our questions to be  
4 read aloud during the Council meetings? Every  
5 week you say Fourth Order Citizens  
6 Participation and you never read our questions  
7 and comments. That is also supposed to be  
8 public but not when you don't allow the public  
9 to hear.

10 Number two, how many City inspectors  
11 are furloughed?

12 Number three, how many City  
13 inspectors are working every day?

14 Number four, who is in charge of  
15 making sure owners of rental properties have  
16 been registered? How many people are working  
17 on getting properties registered?

18 Comment on question number four, we  
19 have been hearing about properties not being  
20 registered to landlords for years, yet the  
21 Mayor is saying we are working on it. Really?  
22 Now I'm going to enclose Mayor Cagnetti's  
23 comments from a recent article in the Scranton  
24 Times by Chris Kelly about this absentee  
25 landlord Ken Bond who has none of his numerous

1 properties registered.

2 Scranton Mayor Paige Gebhardt  
3 Cagnetti sent an inspector to the property  
4 Friday morning. He was greeted with huge  
5 chunks of the building's stucco siding that  
6 fell off in a recent rain storm and still lay  
7 in a pile where they landed.

8 The Mayor said the inspector did not  
9 assess that the building should be condemned,  
10 but the City is connecting tenants with free  
11 legal help and monitoring the situation  
12 closely. Given that all of Bond's apartments  
13 are unregistered and illegal, why can't the  
14 City just shut him down?

15 Such a move would likely involve  
16 numerous legal hurdles and would definitely  
17 come with unintended consequences the Mayor  
18 said.

19 "If we did that, where would they --  
20 tenants go, she said." "We have a lot of work  
21 to do to get our house in order and clean up  
22 the way we track things and respond to things  
23 on the legal end. We've really beefed up our  
24 legal team and we're working to fix a broken  
25 system. We are making progress."

1 Additional comment, so I say to you,  
2 Council, I am certain that you will back up  
3 anything the Mayor wants. So far you have not  
4 challenged her except Kyle Donahue once in a  
5 while.

6 It seems Mayor Cagnetti is using the  
7 excuse about it may cost the City money in  
8 legal fees if we go after Ken Bond not  
9 registering his properties and who knows what  
10 else she is worried about.

11 Allow me to remind you, you work for  
12 the people as does the Mayor. We pay you.  
13 Apparently, all of you must have forgot about  
14 the lawsuit pending that we the people have  
15 against the City for charging us way to much  
16 money for our garbage fee because we are paying  
17 for the thousands who do not pay like Ken Bond.  
18 You should care more and worry more about all  
19 of us who are paying our taxes and care less  
20 about Ken Bond and all others who are not  
21 paying their taxes and fees.

22 Where will those tenants go the  
23 Mayor asks? That is their problem not ours,  
24 not yours. They should research landlords  
25 before renting. That is their responsibility.

1           You need to worry about the taxpayers that are  
2           keeping the City afloat as much as humanly  
3           possible by paying our taxes every year and our  
4           garbage fee every year.

5                       For years I have been after the City  
6           to go after people in neighborhoods who pay  
7           their garbage fee. Still nothing done.  
8           Thousands of dollars lost to the City because  
9           you do not enforce your laws. We work hard to  
10          make sure our bills are paid.

11                      May I remind you there is a law in  
12          the City that states that anyone who does not  
13          pay their garbage fee, the Department of Public  
14          Works does not have to pick up their garbage.  
15          Another law you do not choose to enforce. You  
16          cannot say because people will put their  
17          garbage in bags and that is unsafe because  
18          Council passed a law last November stating all  
19          garbage cans must have lids on them, another  
20          law you choose not to enforce.

21                      Every member of Council should  
22          concentrate on having City departments  
23          condemning buildings that are not obeying City  
24          codes and go over landlords that do not have  
25          their properties registered. Stop protecting

1 the people who break City laws and help the  
2 people who obey your City laws.

3 Do you believe you could possibly do  
4 this for once? Do you wonder why people have  
5 lost faith in their City government? Mayor  
6 Cagnetti's remarks in Chris Kelly article says  
7 it all. Help the unlawful and the heck with  
8 the good citizens of Scranton who follow the  
9 law and work hard to pay their bills. That  
10 concludes the citizens comments.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. Thank you, Mrs.  
12 Reed. Just on the question, I want to thank  
13 everyone who submitted public comment. Miss  
14 Franus had submitted several questions last  
15 week. I do have an answer to one of them.  
16 We're still waiting on some of the other  
17 answers here to her questions.

18 But one question was, when is the  
19 last time ECTV received money from Comcast, the  
20 franchise money, if ever? We did receive -- I  
21 asked the City Controller today and he  
22 responded that the last payment disbursed to  
23 ECTV from the City for the Comcast Cable  
24 Franchise Agreement was \$56,657 in 2019. And  
25 hopefully by next week we'll have answers to

1 all of the other questions.

2 Anyone else on the question? All  
3 those in favor of the motion to accept public  
4 comment signify by saying aye.

5 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

6 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

7 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

8 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

9 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye. Opposed? The  
10 ayes have it and so moved. Mrs. Reed?

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

12 MOTIONS.

13 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Mrs. Reed.  
14 Councilman Schuster, do you have any motions or  
15 comments at this time?

16 MR. SCHUSTER: I do. We asked for  
17 a -- well, we had an update for July 23rd on  
18 the following audit work that has been  
19 completed so far. Payroll (inaudible) controls  
20 and pension census testing are completed and  
21 the census data for OPEB plans have been  
22 received.

23 HR Department has the items we  
24 selected for testing ready but have not  
25 determined a date to return the completed

1 testing. And then all of the other outstanding  
2 items that were noted in the last update are  
3 still outstanding.

4 MR. GAUGHAN: Anything else?

5 MR. SCHUSTER: No, that's all.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. Thank you.

7 Councilman McAndrew, do you have any motions or  
8 comments at this time?

9 MR. MCANDREW: I actual do. I have  
10 two. As Chairman of the Public Safety  
11 Committee, I would like to just say that my  
12 thoughts and prayers go out to the Scranton  
13 Fire Department for the firefighter that tested  
14 positive and the other firefighters that were  
15 identified through contact tracing. I pray all  
16 is well with them and their families.

17 Secondly, I would also like to make  
18 mention of Chris Kelly's article the other day  
19 on Kenneth Bond. Bond states that he's not  
20 going anywhere. So guess what, I'm ready to  
21 send this guy packing. So I know that past  
22 administrations along with the Solicitor in  
23 2019 stated they were going to explore options.

24 I also know last year Council, you  
25 know, the current Council, you know, made some

1 suggestions in wanting to do corrective  
2 actions. I think the exploration process  
3 should be over by now. This guy owes 74 grand  
4 in back taxes, 152,000 delinquent garbage fees.

5 He illegally rents apartments of  
6 properties not registered with the City, nor  
7 has had official inspection. He claims both  
8 are satisfied. The City claims no. I realize  
9 that the current Mayor and administration are  
10 working to fix this broken system.

11 I also get the fact that displaced  
12 tenants might need a little help. But Mr. Bond  
13 has expressed or, you know, excuses, loopholes  
14 in the 11th hour checks to pay back taxes to  
15 live another day or actually another year, I  
16 should say.

17 So I believe the citizens of this  
18 City that pay their taxes and garbage fees  
19 along with my colleagues deserve some answers  
20 like the next step or action plan and maybe  
21 some more explanation.

22 So what I would like to ask is,  
23 President Gaughan and/or Mrs. Reed, would you  
24 invite the administration and maybe the new  
25 blight task force to come to a caucus and



1 explain, you know, give us an update what is  
2 changed, what has not changed, what do we do  
3 moving forward so, you know, because the  
4 citizens that do, like I said earlier, that pay  
5 their taxes, pay their garbage fee, they  
6 deserve some answers along with myself.

7 It's not clear. And I have to read  
8 it in an article and I don't want to read it  
9 again a year from now, the same article. And  
10 that's what continues to happen. So if that  
11 correspondence could be sent, I'd be very  
12 happy. That's all I have. Thank you.

13 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Councilman  
14 McAndrew. Dr. Rothchild, do you have any  
15 motions or comments at this time?

16 DR. ROTHCHILD: Yeah, I just wanted  
17 to say that in caucus I had mentioned there's a  
18 piece of legislation that we tabled before we  
19 went on our August recess. And I wanted to  
20 send additional correspondence to the  
21 administration. We had some questions it was  
22 regarding the proposed plan for an exploration  
23 committee for a municipal Department of Health.

24 And I think we had some concerns  
25 about if that was something that the City would

1           be able to do and I think the history behind it  
2           too if we -- when we have it -- Department of  
3           Health previously. And that was all.

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

8                   MR. DONAHUE: Just to add to what  
9           Mr. McAndrew said a little bit. Back in I  
10          think it was the end of June, early July when  
11          we were told that they weren't -- the  
12          administration wasn't going to go ahead with  
13          the review of the LIPS Department, we were told  
14          that the new Business Administrator was going  
15          to look into the processes.

16                   So to add onto Mark's too, if the  
17          administration does come in, I would also like  
18          an update on where we are in terms of  
19          modernizing the LIPS Department and also what  
20          strategies we're going to implement in terms of  
21          quality of life because driving around some of  
22          the neighborhoods in this City, you know,  
23          there's major quality of life issues and  
24          they're only getting worse. That's all I have.

25                   MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. Thank you very

1 much, Councilman Donahue. I just have a few  
2 things tonight, ladies and gentlemen. The  
3 first I just would like to request from the  
4 OECD Director, if possible, an update on the  
5 status of projects that were funded through the  
6 2020 Action Plan with CDBG money and then what  
7 will the -- what date will OECD start accepting  
8 applications for the 2021 CDBG funding?

9 So, Mrs. Reed, if you could just  
10 send a note to the OECD Director requesting  
11 that information, I would appreciate it. As I  
12 mentioned in the caucus, we did receive  
13 responses on the Serrenti Center from the  
14 Business Administrator so I just want to say  
15 that I appreciate that.

16 Solicitor Hayes was talking about  
17 the LGN trucking issue that or LNG trucking  
18 issue that has come up in Clarks Summit. And I  
19 don't know, we're still trying to figure out if  
20 that route goes directly through Scranton. But  
21 if it doesn't, it goes right, you know, along  
22 side of us on Interstate 81.

23 And I do think that it's important  
24 for Council to stand with Clarks Summit and any  
25 of the other boroughs that are going to be

1 affected from this in Lackawanna County. You  
2 know, the plan is to ship a very, very large  
3 amount of liquified natural gas by truck  
4 through Lackawanna County.

5 And of the plans that I saw, that  
6 would mean that there would be an additional  
7 800 heavy trucks a day coming through our  
8 community here. We're already dealing with the  
9 affects of having a landfill in our community.  
10 The last thing that we need is 800 more trucks  
11 coming through Lackawanna County and all of the  
12 issues that that would bring.

13 So I do support a resolution  
14 standing with Clarks Summit and any of the  
15 other boroughs that are going to stand against  
16 that. And I think that would be good for the  
17 City and good for Lackawanna County. So I  
18 appreciate Solicitor Hayes looking into that.

19 Also, I talked in the caucus about  
20 scheduling -- and I think we did send out a  
21 request to schedule a meeting with the  
22 administration to update Council on the  
23 financial projections. The last time we had  
24 the previous Business Administrator in was June  
25 10th, 2020 and basically gave us a very

1           sobering look at -- at that point where, you  
2           know, we might stand looking forward to the end  
3           of the year.

4                        I think the projections were between  
5           a 6 to 10 million dollar deficit. So I think  
6           we're due for another update to see where now  
7           we stand due to the new numbers that have come  
8           in and the new financial figures that have come  
9           into the City. So I'm looking forward to that.

10                      The other thing that's been talked  
11           about now for quite some time is an RFP that  
12           was supposed to go out for the last several  
13           months from what I understand for engineering  
14           services regarding stormwater runoff issues in  
15           Keyser Valley.

16                      So, Mrs. Reed, if you could connect  
17           with the Law Department or the Mayor's office  
18           to find out where exactly that is and when that  
19           is going to go out. On top of that, I would  
20           like to request a meeting with Herbert, Rowland  
21           and Grubic. Herbert, Rowland and Grubic,  
22           they're a company that the City hired in July  
23           of 2019.

24                      And they were supposed to work with  
25           the City and are working with the City on a

1 pollution reduction plan and helping us comply  
2 with pollution reduction requirements by the  
3 EPA. They were also going to help the City  
4 determine the best management practices that we  
5 should implement to maintain our MS-4 permit  
6 and also we're going to work with the City to  
7 explore the feasibility and benefits of  
8 managing stormwater on a regional basis.

9 Last week when we had the Mayor in,  
10 this topic came up and I was a little bit  
11 concerned that it didn't seem like maybe we  
12 were where we should be in regards to  
13 stormwater management. I do know that, you  
14 know, we're facing a pandemic and all the other  
15 things that came with it.

16 But I am very concerned about  
17 stormwater management throughout the City. As  
18 all of us on Council know and since I've been  
19 on Council, one of the really major complaints  
20 that we get is about water runoff, whether it  
21 be in Keyser Valley, East Mountain, Minooka,  
22 North Scranton, you name it.

23 There are really, really  
24 unbelievable infrastructure issues that are  
25 going to cost an awful lot of money. So I do

1 think now after asking quite a few times for  
2 different updates, I think we should just reach  
3 out directly to this company that the City  
4 hired and ask them to come in and give us an  
5 update on where they stand and what those  
6 options look like, what the feasibility and  
7 benefits of managing stormwater would be on a  
8 regional basis and where we were in that  
9 process and what the timeline looks like.

10 So, Mrs. Reed, if you could find the  
11 contact information for that company and reach  
12 out to them so that we can get them into a  
13 Council meeting. And that's all I have this  
14 week. Thank you.

15 MS. REED: Thank you. 5-B. FOR  
16 INTRODUCTION – A RESOLUTION – AUTHORIZING THE  
17 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO  
18 ENTER INTO A COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH  
19 LACKAWANNA COUNTY FOR REIMBURSEMENT FOR  
20 COVID-19 RELATED EXPENSES UNDER THE CORONAVIRUS  
21 AID, RELIEF, AND ECONOMIC SECURITY ACT (CARES  
22 ACT), PUBLIC LAW 116-136, AND MORE  
23 PARTICULARLY, GRANT MONIES MADE AVAILABLE  
24 THROUGH THE COVID-19 COUNTY RELIEF BLOCK GRANT  
25 PROGRAM.

1 MR. GAUGHAN: At this time I'll  
2 entertain a motion that Item 5-B be introduced  
3 into its proper committee.

4 MR. MCANDREW: So moved.

5 MR. DONAHUE: So moved.

6 DR. ROTHCHILD: Second.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? All  
8 those in favor of introduction signify by  
9 saying aye.

10 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

11 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

12 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

13 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

14 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye. Opposed? The  
15 eyes have it and so moved.

16 MS. REED: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
17 A RESOLUTION - APPROVING, IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
18 SECTION 147(f) OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF  
19 1986, AS AMENDED, A PLAN OF FINANCING OF THE  
20 SCRANTON-LACKAWANNA HEALTH AND WELFARE  
21 AUTHORITY AND DECLARING THAT IT IS DESIRABLE  
22 FOR THE HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE OF THE  
23 PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON FOR THE  
24 SCRANTON-LACKAWANNA HEALTH AND WELFARE  
25 AUTHORITY TO UNDERTAKE A PROJECT FOR SCRANTON



1 PREPARATORY SCHOOL.

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

5 MR. DONAHUE: So moved.

6 MR. SCHUSTER: Second.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? All  
8 those in favor of introduction signify by  
9 saying aye.

10 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

11 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

12 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

13 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

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

16 MS. REED: 5-D. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
17 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND  
18 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND  
19 ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH BARRY ISETT &  
20 ASSOCIATES, INC. TO PROVIDE ENGINEERING  
21 SERVICES FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON 2020 ROADWAY  
22 IMPROVEMENT PROJECT.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: At this time I'll  
24 entertain a motion that Item 5-D be introduced  
25 into its proper committee.

1 MR. DONAHUE: So moved.

2 MR. MCANDREW: Second.

3 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? On  
4 the question, I would just like to request,  
5 Mrs. Reed, if we can before final passage of  
6 this legislation, a copy of the bid sheets  
7 where the other I think nine bidders came in  
8 at.

9 And then, if possible, is there a  
10 street list yet that has been created, a paving  
11 street list? I would appreciate a copy of that  
12 if it's available.

13 Anyone else on the question? All  
14 those in favor of introduction signify by  
15 saying aye.

16 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

17 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

18 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

19 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye. Opposed? The  
21 ayes have it and so moved.

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

23 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.

24 20,2020 - AN ORDINANCE - APPROVING AND

25 ACCEPTING THE CITY OF SCRANTON CAPITAL BUDGET

1 FOR THE YEAR 2021 PURSUANT TO SECTION 904 OF  
2 THE CITY'S HOME RULE CHARTER.

3 MR. GAUGHAN: You've heard reading  
4 by title of Item 6-A. What is your pleasure?

5 MR. DONAHUE: I move that Item 6-A  
6 pass reading by title.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: Is there a second?

8 MR. SCHUSTER: Second.

9 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question?

10 MR. SCHUSTER: On the question, I'd  
11 like to make a motion to table this item.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: We're going to  
13 introduce -- or we're going to pass this in  
14 Sixth Order, Councilman Schuster, and then  
15 we're going to make the motion.

16 MR. SCHUSTER: I got you.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. Anyone else on  
18 the question? I did have a request that we  
19 submitted last week on the capital budget. And  
20 that was basically just to kind of define what  
21 in the capital budget is -- is there money  
22 already allocated for it? So I know that the  
23 Business Administrator is working on putting  
24 something together.

25 So we'll eventually supplement that

1 with this legislation. I know there are other  
2 people that are interested in that as well.  
3 All those in favor signify by saying aye.

4 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

5 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

6 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

7 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

8 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye. Opposed? The  
9 ayes have it and so moved. And now you're up,  
10 Tom.

11 MR. SCHUSTER: I'd like to make a  
12 motion to table Item 6-A.

13 MR. MCANDREW: Second.

14 MR. GAUGHAN: There's a motion on  
15 the floor and second to table Item 6-A. This  
16 piece of legislation is being tabled to allow  
17 for a public hearing to be held on the capital  
18 budget next Tuesday, September 15th, 2020 at  
19 5:45 p.m. On the question?

20 On the question, if anyone would  
21 like to comment specifically on the capital  
22 budget agenda Item 6-A tonight, please submit  
23 your comments in writing to our City Clerk Lori  
24 Reed. You can e-mail them to  
25 Lreed@scrantonpa.gov or you can mail them to

1 340 North Washington Avenue, Second Floor, City  
2 Clerk's office. All those in favor signify by  
3 saying aye.

4 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

5 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

6 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

7 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

8 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye. Opposed? The  
9 ayes have it and so moved.

10 MS. REED: 6-B. READING BY TITLE -  
11 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 21, 2020 - AN  
12 ORDINANCE - AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY  
13 OF SCRANTON TO ENTER INTO AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL  
14 AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY OF LACKAWANNA AND THE  
15 COUNTY OF LACKAWANNA TAX CLAIM BUREAU, WHEREBY  
16 THE RESPONSIBILITY AND RIGHT TO COLLECT  
17 DELINQUENT REAL ESTATE TAXES FROM THE CITY OF  
18 SCRANTON SHALL BE TRANSFERRED FROM THE CITY OF  
19 SCRANTON TO THE LACKAWANNA COUNTY TAX CLAIM  
20 BUREAU.

21 MR. GAUGHAN: You've heard reading  
22 by title of Item 6-B. What is your pleasure?

23 MR. DONAHUE: I move that Item 6-B  
24 pass reading by title.

25 DR. ROTHCHILD: Second.

1 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? On  
2 the question, as I mentioned last week, this is  
3 a long time coming. It makes total sense. It  
4 should have been done a long time ago. I'm  
5 glad that we finally had this on our agenda.

6 I do think that there are some  
7 things that need to be ironed out between the  
8 City and the county in terms of what we talked  
9 about tonight in the caucus with the county  
10 potentially collecting not only the delinquent  
11 real estate taxes but the delinquent refuse  
12 fees as well.

13 So there does -- according to  
14 Attorney O'Brien, have to be a mechanism in  
15 which the refuse fee is placed within the real  
16 estate tax bill, which I know was under  
17 discussion last year in 2019 but for whatever  
18 reason did not occur.

19 So I think that it's incumbent upon  
20 the administration to make sure that everything  
21 is in place that the refuse fee if it needs to  
22 be included in the real estate tax bill that  
23 that's done and all the people that need to be  
24 in a room together or over the phone or over  
25 zoom or whatever, are all on the same page so

1           there are no hiccups as we've seen in the past.

2                       So I'm hopeful that will happen and  
3           we'll have final passage next week. Anyone  
4           else on the question? All those in favor  
5           signify by saying aye.

6                       MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

7                       MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

8                       MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

9                       DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

10                      MR. GAUGHAN: Aye. Opposed? The  
11           eyes have it and so moved.

12                      MS. REED: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR  
13           CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR  
14           ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 52, 2020 -  
15           APPOINTMENT OF MARY BETH MIKOLAYCZAK, 413  
16           ARTHUR AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18510 AS  
17           A MEMBER OF THE SCRANTON MUNICIPAL RECREATION  
18           AUTHORITY. MS. MIKOLAYCZAK WILL BE REPLACING  
19           KATHLEEN GALLAGHER WHO RESIGNED JUNE 18,  
20           2020. MS. MIKOLAYCZAK WILL BE APPOINTED TO A  
21           FIVE (5) YEAR TERM EFFECTIVE JULY 9, 2020 AND  
22           WILL EXPIRE ON JUNE 18, 2025.

23                      DR. ROTHCHILD: Bill, you're muted.

24                      MR. GAUGHAN: That's why nobody's  
25           responding apparently. As Chairperson for the

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

3                       MR. DONAHUE:    Second.

4                       MR. GAUGHAN:    There you go.    On the  
5           question.    Roll call, please.

6                       MS. CARRERA:    Mr. Schuster.

7                       MR SCHUSTER:    Yes.

8                       MS. CARRERA:    Mr. McAndrew.

9                       MR. MCANDREW:   Yes.

10                      MS. CARRERA:    Dr. Rothchild.

11                      DR. ROTHCHILD:  Yes.

12                      MS. CARRERA:    Mr. Donahue.

13                      MR. DONAHUE:    Yes.

14                      MS. CARRERA:    Mr. Gaughan.

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

17                      MS. REED:    7-B.    FOR CONSIDERATION  
18           BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION -  
19           RESOLUTION NO. 53, 2020 - APPOINTMENT OF  
20           MICHAEL HANLEY, 800 WOODLAWN STREET, SCRANTON,  
21           PENNSYLVANIA, 18509 AS A MEMBER OF  
22           THE BOARD OF THE SCRANTON REDEVELOPMENT  
23           AUTHORITY FOR A FIVE (5) YEAR TERM EFFECTIVE  
24           JULY 10, 2020.   MR. HANLEY WILL BE  
25           REPLACING GENE TESEROVITCH WHOSE TERM EXPIRED



1 FEBRUARY 4, 2020. MR. HANLEY'S TERM WILL  
2 EXPIRE ON FEBRUARY 4, 2025.

3 MR. GAUGHAN: As Chairperson for the  
4 Committee on Rules, I recommend final passage  
5 of Item 7-B.

6 DR. ROTHCHILD: Second.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question?

8 MR. SCHUSTER: On the question, I'd  
9 just like to thank Mr. Teserovitch for his  
10 service on the -- on this board. And it was  
11 nice to have a Neighborhood Association  
12 President on the board. And I'm sure  
13 Mr. Hanley will do a nice job.

14 MR. GAUGHAN: Anyone else on the  
15 question? Roll call, please.

16 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Schuster.

17 MR. SCHUSTER: Yes.

18 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McAndrew.

19 MR. MCANDREW: Yes.

20 MS. CARRERA: Dr. Rothchild.

21 DR. ROTHCHILD: Yes.

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

23 MR. DONAHUE: Yes.

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

25 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes. I hereby declare

1 Item 7-B legally and lawfully adopted.

2 MS. REED: 7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION  
3 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION -  
4 RESOLUTION NO. 54, 2020 - APPOINTMENT OF  
5 WILLIAM KING, 1310 RIDGEWOOD AVENUE, SCRANTON,  
6 PENNSYLVANIA, 18505 AS A MEMBER OF  
7 THE SCRANTON CITY PLANNING COMMISSION FOR A  
8 FOUR (4) YEAR TERM EFFECTIVE JULY 13, 2020.  
9 WILLIAM KING WILL BE REPLACING THOMAS  
10 J. GALELLA, JR. WHOSE TERM EXPIRED. WILLIAM  
11 KING'S TERM WILL EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 31, 2024.

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

15 MR. DONAHUE: Second.

16 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? Roll  
17 call, please.

18 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Schuster.

19 MR. SCHUSTER: Yes.

20 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McAndrew.

21 MR. MCANDREW: Yes.

22 MS. CARRERA: Dr. Rothchild.

23 DR. ROTHCHILD: Yes.

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

25 MR. DONAHUE: Yes.

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

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

4 MS. REED: 7-D. FOR CONSIDERATION  
5 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION -  
6 RESOLUTION NO. 55, 2020 - RE-APPOINTMENT OF  
7 JOSEPH A. MURPHY, 610 DEPOT STREET, SCRANTON,  
8 PENNSYLVANIA, 18509 AS A MEMBER OF  
9 THE SCRANTON CITY PLANNING COMMISSION EFFECTIVE  
10 JULY 14, 2020. MR. MURPHY'S PRIOR TERM EXPIRED  
11 ON DECEMBER 31, 2015 AND WAS HELD OVER FOR A  
12 FULL FOUR (4) YEAR TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 31,  
13 2019. HIS NEW TERM WILL EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 31,  
14 2023.

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

18 MR. SCHUSTER: Second.

19 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? Roll  
20 call, please.

21 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Schuster.

22 MR. SCHUSTER: Yes.

23 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McAndrew.

24 MR. MCANDREW: Yes.

25 MS. CARRERA: Dr. Rothchild.

1 DR. ROTHCHILD: Yes.

2 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

3 MR. DONAHUE: Yes.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

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

7 MS. REED: 7-E. FOR CONSIDERATION  
8 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION -  
9 RESOLUTION NO. 56, 2020 - APPOINTMENT OF NORMA  
10 JEFFRIES, 619 COLFAX AVENUE, SCRANTON,  
11 PENNSYLVANIA, 18510 AS A MEMBER OF THE  
12 SCRANTON MUNICIPAL RECREATION AUTHORITY  
13 EFFECTIVE JULY 21, 2020. MS. JEFFRIES WILL BE  
14 REPLACING PAUL DEANTONA WHO RESIGNED JULY 2,  
15 2020. MS. JEFFRIES WILL FILL THE UNEXPIRED  
16 TERM OF PAUL DEANTONA WHICH IS SCHEDULED TO  
17 EXPIRE JUNE 17, 2024.

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

21 MR. SCHUSTER: Second.

22 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? Roll  
23 call, please.

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Schuster.

25 MR. SCHUSTER: Yes.

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McAndrew.

2 MR. MCANDREW: Yes.

3 MS. CARRERA: Dr. Rothchild.

4 DR. ROTHCHILD: Yes.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

6 MR. DONAHUE: Yes.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

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

10 MS. REED: 7-F. FOR CONSIDERATION  
11 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION -  
12 RESOLUTION NO. 57, 2020 - APPOINTMENT OF JANE  
13 RISSE, 1707 EAST GIBSON STREET, SCRANTON,  
14 PENNSYLVANIA, 18510 AS A MEMBER OF THE  
15 CITY PLANNING COMMISSION EFFECTIVE JULY 29,  
16 2020 FOR A FOUR (4) YEAR TERM. MS. RISSE WILL  
17 BE REPLACING JAMES THOMAS WHOSE TERM  
18 EXPIRED. JANE RISSE'S TERM WILL EXPIRE ON  
19 DECEMBER 31, 2024.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: As Chairperson for the  
21 Committee on Rules, I recommend final passage  
22 of Item 7-F.

23 DR. ROTHCHILD: Second.

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

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Schuster.

2 MR. SCHUSTER: Yes.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McAndrew.

4 MR. MCANDREW: Yes.

5 MS. CARRERA: Dr. Rothchild.

6 DR. ROTHCHILD: Yes.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

8 MR. DONAHUE: Yes.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

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

12 MS. REED: 7-G. FOR CONSIDERATION  
13 BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS - FOR  
14 ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 58, 2020 -  
15 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE  
16 CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A  
17 CONTRACT WITH URBAN ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS,  
18 INC. TO PERFORM MAINTENANCE OF STREET LIGHTS  
19 FOR A TWENTY-FOUR (24) MONTH PERIOD.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: What is the  
21 recommendation of the Chairperson for the  
22 Committee on Public Works?

23 MR. DONAHUE: As Chairperson for the  
24 Committee on Public Works, I recommend final  
25 passage of Item 7-G.

1 MR. GAUGHAN: Is there a second?

2 MR. MCANDREW: Second.

3 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? Roll  
4 call, please.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Schuster.

6 MR. SCHUSTER: Yes.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McAndrew.

8 MR. MCANDREW: Yes.

9 MS. CARRERA: Dr. Rothchild.

10 DR. ROTHCHILD: Yes.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

12 MR. DONAHUE: Yes.

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

14 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes. I hereby declare  
15 Item 7-G legally and lawful adopted.

16 MS. REED: 7-H. FOR CONSIDERATION  
17 BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS - FOR  
18 ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 59, 2020 -  
19 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE  
20 CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A  
21 CONTRACT WITH A&M ELECTRICAL CONSTRUCTION INC.  
22 TO PROVIDE MAINTENANCE OF TRAFFIC SIGNALIZATION  
23 FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON FOR A TWO YEAR PERIOD.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: What is recommendation  
25 of the Chairperson for the Committee on Public

1 Works?

2 MR. DONAHUE: As the Chairperson for  
3 the Committee on Public Works, I recommend  
4 final passage of Item 7-H.

5 MR. MCANDREW: Second.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? Roll  
7 call, please.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Schuster.

9 MR. SCHUSTER: Yes.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McAndrew.

11 MR. MCANDREW: Yes.

12 MS. CARRERA: Dr. Rothchild.

13 DR. ROTHCHILD: Yes.

14 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

15 MR. DONAHUE: Yes.

16 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan. Yes. I  
17 hereby declare Item 7-H legally and lawfully  
18 adopted. If there's no further business, I  
19 will entertain a motion to adjourn.

20 MR. DONAHUE: Motion to adjourn.

21 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you everyone.

22 This meeting is adjourned. Stay safe. See  
23 everybody next week.

24

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.

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