

SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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HELD:

Thursday, December 11, 2014

LOCATION:

Council Chambers

Scranton City Hall

340 North Washington Avenue

Scranton, Pennsylvania

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

ROBERT MCGOFF, PRESIDENT

PATRICK ROGAN, VICE-PRESIDENT

WAYNE EVANS

JOSEPH WECHSLER

WILLIAM GAUGHAN

LORI REED, CITY CLERK

KATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

AMIL MINORA, SOLICITOR

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

3 MR. MCGOFF: Roll call, please.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

5 MR. WECHSLER: Here.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

7 MR. ROGAN: Here.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

9 MR. EVANS: Here.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Here.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

13 MR. MCGOFF: Here. Just changing  
14 protocol a little bit for tonight, we have  
15 asked Superintendent of the Fire Department  
16 Pat DeSarno if he would come to council and  
17 to speak about some safety issues especially  
18 during this holiday scenes on. We probably  
19 should have done this earlier in the year,  
20 but, thank you, Chief DeSarno, for being  
21 here this evening.

22 MR. DESARNO: Good evening,  
23 everyone. How is everybody tonight? My  
24 office was contacted to see if somebody  
25 would come down and give some holiday safety

1 tips, so I see since Chief Graziano was  
2 getting a lot of face time this week so I  
3 volunteered myself, I have some catching up  
4 to do. First before the holiday stuff, just  
5 in general people should maintain their  
6 furnaces, obviously. If you think you need  
7 service, please have it done. You need to  
8 have our flues, your chimney flues attended  
9 to and keep all water levels, you know,  
10 where they should be, that's first and  
11 foremost, but onto some of the holiday  
12 stuff.

13 Kitchen safety, everybody is cooking  
14 stuff during the holidays so keep your pot  
15 handles turned inward and away from the  
16 traffic area so you want to avoid accidentally  
17 spilling or knocking pots off the stove.  
18 Don't clutter up your stovetop with  
19 combustibles, dishrags, napkins, potholders,  
20 food wrappers, boxes, and the like and try  
21 to avoid wearing loose fitting clothing  
22 around open flame you know, housecoats,  
23 robes, loose fitting sweaters and things as  
24 such.

25 The electrical safety, when you are

1 hanging your lights avoid plugging too many  
2 strands together, try to have as many as you  
3 could coming back to either a rated power  
4 cord or a safety power strip. Do not run  
5 extension cords under carpets, mats and  
6 table legs, chair legs, and try not close  
7 windows down too tightly on any cords you  
8 have going to outside lights, all of those  
9 mentioned can cause a fire. Be careful when  
10 you are using portable space heaters, don't  
11 place them in walkways or heavily trafficked  
12 areas or anywhere they can easily tip over  
13 and avoid keeping them too close to  
14 combustible items.

15 Everybody likes candles, popular all  
16 the time anymore, don't put them by  
17 combustibles and curtain, under cabinets or  
18 on furniture or nearby furniture or put them  
19 in decorative arrangements and stuff. Keep  
20 them on a safe sturdy surface, pie plates,  
21 tins, cookie sheets, your stovetop and never  
22 leave candles unattended.

23 And for the big one for the  
24 holidays, for this holiday especially, if  
25 you a cut tree keep it watered and check it

1 the water in the stand daily, and no matter  
2 where you keep them try to keep them  
3 watered, they are going to dry out  
4 eventually so don't keep them up too much  
5 longer six weeks or so, and ideally they say  
6 Thanksgiving up, New Year's Day down. For a  
7 procrastinator like myself, it's just --  
8 Christmas up and I most likely to have it  
9 down by Valentine's Day.

10 And finally, just to close the  
11 paraphrase on something I once said at this  
12 podium, nobody wants to see the Fire  
13 Department working at their house ever. So  
14 for myself and every member of the Fire  
15 Department we wish everyone a happy and safe  
16 holiday season and Merry Christmas to  
17 everyone. Thank you for having me.

18 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

19 MR. ROGAN: I make a motion to take  
20 File of Council No. 62, 2014, from the table  
21 and place it into Sixth Order for Reading by  
22 Title.

23 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

24 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? Just  
25 for information sake, File of Council No.

1           62, 2014, is the zoning change for Audubon  
2           School, or what was Audubon School, and it  
3           will be brought back in Sixth Order for  
4           reading tonight, and next week if it does  
5           pass this evening through Sixth Order, next  
6           week there will be a public hearing on that  
7           zoning change at 5:30 in council chambers.

8                     All those in favor signify by saying  
9           aye.

10                    MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

11                    MR. ROGAN: Aye.

12                    MR. EVANS: Aye.

13                    MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

14                    MS. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The  
15           eyes have it and so moved.

16                    Dispense with the reading of the  
17           minutes.

18                    MS. REED: THIRD ORDER. 3-A. AUDIT  
19           STATUS REPORT FROM ROBERT ROSSI & COMPANY  
20           RECEIVED DECEMBER 8, 2014.

21                    MR. MCGOFF: Are there any comments?  
22           If not, received and filed.

23                    MS. REED: 3-B. MINUTES OF THE  
24           COMPOSITE PENSION BOARD MEETING HELD  
25           NOVEMBER 12, 2014.

1 MR. MCGOFF: Are there any comments?  
2 If not, received and filed.

3 MS. REED: 3-C. MINUTES OF THE  
4 REGULAR MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF SCRANTON  
5 HOUSING AUTHORITY HELD NOVEMBER 3, 2014.

6 MR. MCGOFF: Are there any comments?  
7 If not, received and filed.

8 Are there any comments or  
9 announcement from members of council?

10 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes. The Scranton and  
11 Lackawanna County Taxpayers' Association  
12 will meet on Tuesday, December 16, at 6:30,  
13 in council chambers.

14 This Sunday, December 14, from 5:30  
15 to 7:30 p.m. the West Scranton Hyde Park  
16 Neighborhood Watch will be hosting a tree  
17 lighting ceremony. The ceremony will take  
18 place at the corner of North Bromley and  
19 Jackson Street. There will be many gifts  
20 and activities following the tree lighting  
21 and all are welcome.

22 And finally, on Wednesday, December  
23 17, from 3 to 8:30 p.m. Welsh tea and cookie  
24 night will be hosted as the United Baptist  
25 Church located at 213 South Main Avenue, the



1 program will feature guest speakers on the  
2 Welsh influence in West Scranton, please  
3 RSVP to the event by calling 570-347-6203,  
4 extension 306. Thank you.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else?

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

8 MR. MCGOFF: Joan Hodowanitz.

9 MS. HODOWANITZ: Good evening. Joan  
10 Hodowanitz, Scranton. Good news and bad  
11 news. Good news for those residents who  
12 haven't yet got all of the Christmas  
13 shopping done, we received a -- friends of  
14 the Scranton Public Library are still have  
15 their book sale going on at the Library  
16 Express on the second floor of the Steamtown  
17 Mall. All kinds of books, fiction,  
18 non-fiction, children's books, cookbooks,  
19 CD's, DVD's, VHS tapes, you name it, even  
20 chocolate candy. As an example of the kind  
21 of bargains you get, this is Jan Roberts  
22 "The History of the World 1901 to 2000,"  
23 hard cover, mint condition, it retails for  
24 \$39.95. It was on sale for \$2. So you are  
25 going to get some pretty good bargains if

1           you go there. The sale continues Friday at  
2           Saturday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sunday 1 to 5  
3           p.m. at the Steamtown Mall in the second  
4           floor of the Library Express so please  
5           everybody go because if you haven't figured  
6           it you out you are going to need those saved  
7           dollars to pay your taxes next year.

8                       Now, Item 3-A, Rossi's audit status,  
9           just another change of the date stamp, the  
10          same 23 items are listed, I know you  
11          mentioned in the caucus that we are  
12          progressing pretty much to the draft stage.  
13          I would give by firstborn child to see that  
14          posted on the city's website, as I would  
15          like to see the approved 2015 budget posted  
16          on the website, as I would like to see the  
17          compliance audit for the pension fund, and  
18          all of the monthly control or reports, and  
19          everything else that you generally get as  
20          backup reading.

21                      I have no idea and I see no logic  
22          why they are not posted on the city's  
23          website for public review. You know,  
24          actually, maybe you don't have a financial  
25          problem, at 25 cents a page at the rate I

1           have been paying for Xerox copies I'm  
2           probably making a major contribution to the  
3           city.

4                         But that having been said, reading  
5           the two articles about the pensions this  
6           morning the one for a request to not take  
7           the increase next year for the retirees, and  
8           the second one about the MMO, the minimal  
9           municipal obligation, as I recall in  
10          attending both the pension board meetings  
11          and these meetings, I mentioned the fact  
12          that we paid \$185,300 last year in interest  
13          at 8 percent because we missed that  
14          milestone. We do this again, we are going  
15          to incur another debt. It's going to an  
16          interest, but it's a debt. We can't keep  
17          doing this.

18                        And what I really don't understand,  
19          and I find quite shocking, is the fact that  
20          the mayor or at least his business  
21          administrator did not personally attend that  
22          meeting with they were going to blind side  
23          them with a letter requesting them not to  
24          take raises for the retirees in 2015. It  
25          makes no sense and then to read it in the

1 paper that the mayor could make no comment  
2 because he only found out about it a half an  
3 hour earlier, who is leading the city? This  
4 is not giving me a warm glow, okay?

5 You asked questions, you get in  
6 answers. If Mayor Courtright wants any  
7 credibility as the mayor next year he better  
8 start an administration of transparency and  
9 start by putting all relevant financial  
10 documents on the city's website. If you  
11 can't do that, save the city some money and  
12 get rid of the website. That's all I have  
13 to say.

14 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

15 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. Doug  
16 Miller.

17 MR. MILLER: Good evening. Doug  
18 Miller, Scranton. Just to begin, basically  
19 just to summarize everything that took place  
20 last week with the budget, again, just to  
21 express my disappointment and the council  
22 and the administration for their lack of  
23 effort in the process and the way I define  
24 the lack of effort is there was no effort  
25 whatsoever in doing anything to cut the

1 budget. We talk about a need -- citizens  
2 talk about the need for 30 percent budget  
3 cuts, that didn't happen. We saw a 19  
4 percent tax increase, we saw a tripling of  
5 the LST. We saw raises, a creation of jobs,  
6 funding our city government on grant money  
7 which is something that I find quite  
8 embarrassing to be quite bluntly honest with  
9 you, nothing to hold our heads up high on.

10 You know, we listen to members of  
11 this council try to justify another tax  
12 increase after you slaughtered them with a  
13 tax increase last year, not this particular  
14 body, but the majority that voted on last  
15 year's budget, you know, basically what we  
16 did here is just put the nail in the coffin  
17 on the city. There is not positive outlook  
18 that we have going into the new year. I  
19 have a lot of the respect for and  
20 appreciation for Mr. Gaughan casting the  
21 lone dissenting vote on the budget, and I  
22 appreciate his statements he made last week  
23 because he basically summed it up quite well  
24 in regards to the actions of one of his  
25 colleagues, and I just find it kind of

1           amusing how, you know, for years, you know,  
2           we listened to this anti-ax increase idea,  
3           and that we needed to make cuts and we  
4           needed to cut the budget, you know, tough  
5           decisions had to be made and we had to think  
6           outside the box and we listened to a lot of  
7           theatrics, I remember a lot of that in 2012,  
8           and I know who put the work into that  
9           process, and I'm not going to get into that  
10          because that's in the past and there is no  
11          need to address that again, but, you know,  
12          it's really unfortunate that, you know, we  
13          have individuals received on this council  
14          who have yet to really roll their sleeves up  
15          and do their job and put the effort into  
16          this. You know, fortunately the voters  
17          don't have necessarily a great track record  
18          themselves. They are just as responsible  
19          for the city's situation as anybody seated  
20          in office in the city because they are the  
21          ones that put you here. And so they  
22          certainly don't have any need to walk around  
23          town with their heads held high because they  
24          haven't done a great job themselves and  
25          that's unfortunate.

1                   We ask people to, you know, use some  
2                   common sense and to educate themselves on  
3                   what's going on here and they haven't done  
4                   that, and ultimately that's going to be the  
5                   demise of this city, unfortunately, unless  
6                   we do something quickly which at this point,  
7                   you know, the track record of the majority  
8                   of this council at this point hasn't given  
9                   us that indication. I think we are just  
10                  continuing to go backwards when we thought  
11                  previously we, you know, were moving  
12                  forward, but now we are just taking some  
13                  steps back and that's sad coming here and  
14                  seeing this takes place. It's really  
15                  comical at this point and beyond frustrating  
16                  and I am kind at a loss for words when I  
17                  come up here.

18                  But, you know, those who are in it  
19                  and who are truly in it for the right  
20                  reasons I hope you continue to do the right  
21                  thing and make decisions based on fact and  
22                  what's right for the people. You weren't  
23                  elected to work for the administration, you  
24                  weren't elected to, you know, work for  
25                  special interests, which I think has a lot

1 of influence on what goes on in this  
2 community and that's pretty disturbing and  
3 if we are not willing to get our acts  
4 together and change that we are just wasting  
5 our time.

6 You know, some points have been made  
7 up brought about the landfill recently,  
8 council finally came out a little more  
9 publically and their feelings on the  
10 landfill and I appreciate some of the  
11 comments and for the most part most of you  
12 are in opposition to the expansion because  
13 you understand the negative impact that has  
14 had not only on Scranton but the entire  
15 region, you know, the harmful health  
16 effects, but what I did find a little  
17 disturbing were the comments made by  
18 Mr. Courtright and Mr. Rogan on your  
19 unwillingness to give an opinion on the  
20 expansion due to the fact that you haven't  
21 had a chance to read the DEP report and I  
22 just find that be totally absurd. This  
23 isn't about reading a DEP report, this is  
24 about using a little common sense and  
25 realizing one thing, that landfill causes



1           harm and jeopardizes the health, safety and  
2           welfare of the people you represent and  
3           that's what you should be thinking about,  
4           not a DEP report, where if we know how  
5           government politics works. I think we can  
6           understand that DEP that DEP has a lot of  
7           political influence behind the scenes.

8                         So, you know, we should start using  
9           a little common sense and, you know, let's  
10          not be that caboose that just follows the  
11          train around because, you know, like we have  
12          heard the comment about following the  
13          magical flute that leads off a cliff, that's  
14          all this is, so let's show some leadership,  
15          have a backbone, quit playing politics. You  
16          know as Mr. Morgan, not no steal his  
17          thunder, makes a good point about the pretty  
18          little suits comments, suits don't think,  
19          people do and, unfortunately, we haven't had  
20          a lot of thinking going on, and if we don't  
21          start thinking soon we should just say  
22          goodnight to this city.

23                         Do the right thing, protect the  
24          people, our health, safety and welfare and  
25          you should be standing up and objecting to

1 anything that goes on at that landfill and  
2 do it now because the future is on the line,  
3 and if we just sit back there is going to be  
4 a major problem. Thank you.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr. Miller.  
6 Bob Bolus.

7 MR. BOLUS: Good evening, Council,  
8 Bob Bolus, Scranton. You know, for the  
9 first time in a long time it's going to my  
10 nice to come in and congratulate those  
11 councilmen that stood and be counted last  
12 week regarding the landfill. I'm just  
13 saddened that it wasn't the majority. This  
14 is about all of us, it's not about you two  
15 guys that didn't stand up and know what's  
16 going on with this landfill.

17 You know, Councilman Tim Burke in  
18 Dunmore out of all of them was the only one  
19 that stood up no matter the repercussions  
20 were going to be. He stood up to the  
21 bullies. Remember, DeNaples is only paying  
22 a penny a ton more than Dunmore. Think of  
23 that, just a penny. I showed you that last  
24 week, that's what's going on, and it's an  
25 insult to all of us that we are not paying 8

1 cents more.

2 What you have to do is take the step  
3 beyond. If you recall, I supplied council  
4 with the lab reports regarding what's going  
5 into the landfill from the Marcellus. Do  
6 you recall all of that? Every one of you  
7 got a copy of that. Has anybody taken the  
8 time, because Bob Bolus submitted it, geez,  
9 should we believe it or not? Has anybody  
10 taken the time to call the lab and ask them  
11 to educate you what's on that lab report?  
12 I'm not here to educate you, but they can,  
13 they are the specialists. They did the lab  
14 report and it's deemed hot. Departmental  
15 terms, hot means you got some serious issues  
16 there with carcinogen and chemicals.  
17 Contact the lab, it's on the reports, and  
18 educate yourselves. This is a serious  
19 issue. This isn't a gang anymore, it's not  
20 about blaming politics, don't rely on DEP.  
21 DEP, the higher ups are the big fish playing  
22 with the big fish, the little guy on the  
23 bottom gets squashed, he is not going to be  
24 able to open his mouth or go anywhere  
25 because he gets step down. He wants to do

1 his job, let's be realistic. We all know  
2 how politics play. You read the story in  
3 the Times the other day that Chris Kelly  
4 wrote, you read the story about the quite  
5 quiet gone, we all know what's going on  
6 here, there are many issues. This landfill  
7 is a ticking time bomb. That's what you are  
8 dealing with.

9 Keep in mind years ago, Joe, you  
10 guys that are older, you all know what went  
11 into the old unpermitted landfill anything  
12 and everything that you could throw away  
13 went into that landfill, but not one person,  
14 DEP or otherwise, has said we are going to  
15 get a neutral environmental company, not a  
16 relative or a friend or somebody politically  
17 controlled, and do drilling on that landfill  
18 all the way through the bottom of it, do  
19 core drillings that tell us what's in there  
20 before you allow him to move \$2 million ton  
21 of unpermitted waste to another part of that  
22 landfill, and still a million plus ton in  
23 the hole and God knows what's underneath it.

24 You have to stay unified. This is a  
25 community issue. You live in the Up Valley,

1           you drive down Route 6, you smell the  
2           stench, you breathe the dust. It's about  
3           all of us. You are down valley, you are  
4           getting the stench, you are getting the  
5           dust, the airborne carcinogens. That's the  
6           killer, not what's going in your water  
7           supply, it's airborne. You are ingesting  
8           it, you are breathing it in.

9                     And people have been around, had  
10           cancers and other issues, you all know the  
11           seriousness of what I'm saying here. It's  
12           not about who, what or where and how much  
13           money you want to make, money is matter of  
14           what you make here, but don't believe the  
15           people in this community. I want to hear  
16           from the legislators. Don't sit there and  
17           take an idle, oh, let DEP make this, no,  
18           that's not why you were put in there. If  
19           you were (unintelligible) and elected then  
20           you should work for DEP. You are here to  
21           work of the people. You need to put strong  
22           rules and contingencies in here to stop  
23           what's going on.

24                     You turn around and, you know, you  
25           can't dismiss what's going on, and we call

1           it a sanitary landfill. As I just talked  
2           about the waste that went in there on  
3           unremitted, you call that sanitary? You  
4           call what we throw in the garbage that goes  
5           into that landfill sanitary? Would you  
6           drink the water coming out of their leachate  
7           line? Would you take a bath in it? It's  
8           not sanitary. It's a poison. Lyme, they  
9           can put out the chemicals going in their  
10          right now that's mixed. What did they do,  
11          they buried bodies in the past, remember,  
12          they threw lyme on them to eat the bodies.  
13          You are allowing a poison to go on the top  
14          there, be tracked out of there with trucks  
15          on a wet muddy day like today, going up and  
16          down the highway. You go to your home after  
17          you drive down 81 and you pick up some of  
18          that debris that falls off these trucks and  
19          you wipe your mouth after you touch your  
20          door handle, think about what you just  
21          ingested. When you are breathing the air  
22          it's just blowing, think what you are  
23          ingesting, and will you sell our souls for a  
24          penny a ton? I applaud you gentlemen that  
25          stood up, you represent Scranton, but you

1 represent a whole community, the whole  
2 valley. You are the leaders, now is the  
3 time to leave. Don't be bullied because you  
4 saw what a bully did to us, 80 cents a ton,  
5 yet he has never paid for his two parking  
6 garages in the city. That's how we got to  
7 do business and deal with it, you're dealing  
8 with the health and welfare not only of us  
9 but of future generations. That expansion  
10 cannot take place, if it closes in five  
11 years, so be it, but let's not be bullied  
12 and pushed around because somebody that has  
13 the money and the political power to own the  
14 politicians and make them do what they are  
15 doing. This is about us and our voice is a  
16 hell of a lot louder than theirs. Thank  
17 you.

18 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr. Bolus.  
19 Lee Morgan.

20 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council,  
21 Lee Morgan. My comments here are that I'm  
22 surprised at what's happened with the budget  
23 at all, because like I said here previously  
24 I really didn't expect this council to take  
25 the budget apart and really do anything at

1 all because we have just followed just  
2 whatever somebody else has told us because  
3 politics come downhill. Everybody in  
4 politics does what they are told by somebody  
5 else, and that's the way it seems to work,  
6 and I just think it's time for the residents  
7 to realize a couple of things here, in order  
8 to make any changes happen in this the tax  
9 money has to be escrowed. You have to  
10 starve the city out. You have to stop  
11 allowing them to raise any tax revenue at  
12 all.

13 You know, I didn't give up on the  
14 idea for the United Neighborhood groups,  
15 that's still moving forward and I just  
16 wanted to make sure that I understood  
17 exactly what was taking place, at this point  
18 that's just a formality, that's just a legal  
19 formality to make that function, but you  
20 know we are talking about the same silly  
21 things. You know, we are going to, you  
22 know, borrow against the Sewer Authority or  
23 the parking garages or we are going to sell  
24 them out, and then the city will absolutely  
25 have no assets left, none, zero. The voters



1 really have done a very poor job of picking  
2 their leaders, but you know when you vote on  
3 sound bites like even they do in the  
4 presidential election I guess things don't  
5 change, just put a different suit on  
6 somebody or a different skirt or a blouse  
7 and send them out. Find one nice sentence,  
8 you know, just present it to the voters, get  
9 a couple of billboards out and that's why  
10 our country is in the shape it's in.

11 You know, the other day I was  
12 working and I started laughing because three  
13 years after I retire the social security  
14 fund will be exhausted and the people we  
15 have elected in Washington haven't done  
16 anything there for decades and this council,  
17 well, it hasn't done anything for decades  
18 either because we keep talking about how  
19 this person made that recommendation, that  
20 person made this recommendation, but my  
21 point is why elect people who can't think  
22 because if you can't think for yourself and  
23 you can't come up with a plan then what are  
24 we doing here?

25 Detroit took a year and a half to

1           come out of bankruptcy, a year half. We  
2           have been here a couple of decades. I  
3           talked about putting all the information on  
4           the city's website, I talked about a lot of  
5           issues here, when you talk to people and  
6           they are more impressed with what kind of  
7           suit they have on instead of making smart  
8           choices that are legitimate for the voters,  
9           this budget was ridiculous. Most people I  
10          talked to tell me they can't even afford it.  
11          We are funding projects for nonprofits,  
12          Mr. Wechsler knows that. Look at North  
13          Scranton project, that's an absolute joke.  
14          We have so many rental units in the city  
15          here that are for rent and unrented, but yet  
16          still we are coming up with money for  
17          everybody that's got another suit and tie  
18          on, but for the little old lady or little  
19          old guy in his house that's on social  
20          security that can't pay his taxes we have no  
21          solution for them. We have no solution for  
22          the average person, and we are so  
23          disrespectful to the assets we possess. You  
24          know, the question is how much did the state  
25          put into that new parking garage in grants?

1           And we are going to just say, well, here  
2           come take it, we need money.

3                     You know, there the responsibility  
4           of council even in regards to the pension  
5           funds they had oversight in the charter.  
6           Never happened. They knew that that fund  
7           wasn't funded right and now we are going to  
8           turn around to the fire and police and say,  
9           well, look it, take it on the chin because  
10          we didn't do our job and neither did the  
11          mayor, but they were elected and you were  
12          elected to represent people, and when it  
13          comes to a point -- well, you were appointed  
14          Mr. Evans, but when it comes to the point  
15          when you elect people and they don't do  
16          their job what's the point?

17                    And then you wonder why voters don't  
18          vote? They know that the most of the people  
19          that run for public office are liars. The  
20          proof's in the pudding. It's real simple  
21          here. I mean, after 20 some years if you  
22          can't figure a course of action to turn this  
23          city around I don't know what you would call  
24          what you presented to the voters over two  
25          decades, and I don't know what the house of

1           representatives calls it, but it surely is  
2           not legitimate government and it's not a  
3           government serving the people. It's once  
4           again people serving the government, and  
5           when you allow the country's retirement  
6           program to go belly up, that's not  
7           representing people, you are just  
8           representing special interest and that's  
9           what's happened in this city.

10                   And, you know, you've got to take a  
11           look, how can Detroit put its house in order  
12           in a year and half in the city's two decades  
13           in plus and we are going to wait five to  
14           eight more years to figure out what we are  
15           going to do? And, you know, you read the  
16           newspaper, one part of the pension plan has  
17           two and a half years, the other one has  
18           five. Where are we going? Where is all  
19           that money going to come from? You know,  
20           like I asked before, what was the investment  
21           into the parking garages? How much money  
22           was there and the Sewer Authority? Do you  
23           actually think you are doing your job and  
24           can you actually come up with a reason why  
25           that budget wasn't taken apart line item by

1 line item instead of saying they are waiting  
2 for the mayor to set it up and you are  
3 going to deal with Mr. Amoroso's plan? And  
4 does Mr. Amoroso really know what he is  
5 talking about? Maybe council should just  
6 consider resigning and starting over and  
7 maybe the mayor should consider the same  
8 thing because you are not representing the  
9 people, but I will say this, the suits look  
10 nice. Thank you.

11 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you for the  
12 compliment. FG Cusate.

13 MR. CUSATE: Good evening, Council,  
14 how are you?

15 MR. GAUGHAN: Good evening.

16 MR. CUSATE: I just want to come off  
17 the floor to say hello and introduce myself.  
18 I'm from the Scranton area, originally from  
19 -- I'm a native from Hazelton and I want to  
20 express some concerns, major problem areas  
21 preferably with the landlords and landowners  
22 outside of the Scranton area, out-of-state  
23 and with in the state and within the  
24 Scranton area that own properties in  
25 Scranton that operate drug and drug infested

1 apartment complexes, hotels. One person in  
2 particular, which is Burt Sherman, I think  
3 we all know who that fellow is.

4 MR. MCGOFF: Excuse me, sir?

5 MR. CUSATE: Yes?

6 MR. MCGOFF: Would you just state  
7 your name for the stenographer?

8 MR. CUSATE: Frank George Cusate,  
9 Jr., C-U-S-A-T-E.

10 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

11 MR. CUSATE: You are quite welcome,  
12 sir. The gentleman that I am referring to  
13 is Robert Sherman, I think we all know who  
14 that fellow is.

15 MR. MCGOFF: Please, I ask that you  
16 not speak of people that are not here to  
17 defend themselves?

18 MR. CUSATE: Okay, I'm sorry.

19 MS. REED: Excuse me, Mr. McGoff?  
20 If you could ask the gentleman speaker to  
21 please step back a little bit away from the  
22 microphone.

23 MR. CUSATE: Okay.

24 MS. REED: Thank you.

25 MR. CUSATE: Is that better?

1 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

2 MR. CUSATE: The concern I have  
3 about that individual operating the houses  
4 is he is letting the individuals rent, okay,  
5 and he is allowing the drug activity to take  
6 place where there is schools nearby and I'm  
7 very concerned about the safety and welfare  
8 and the well-being of the children and, you  
9 know, I'm very concerned that one of the  
10 children is going to get their hands on the  
11 content of the drugs, preferably  
12 amphetamines, Class I and II narcotics,  
13 amphetamines, spice, marijuana, and I just  
14 want to increase the awareness of there are  
15 programs and with law enforcement agencies  
16 and with Carl Graziano, chief of police. I  
17 want to increase the awareness programs with  
18 the community of Scranton and the crime  
19 watch programs even more.

20 I want to hire myself and with local  
21 law enforcement agencies, private detectives  
22 on my behalf out of my personal pocket to  
23 set up operation video drop to set up  
24 surveillance on the two properties on  
25 Capouse and Luzerne Streets to survey the

1 area and --

2 MR. MCGOFF: Sir, may I --

3 MR. CUSATE: Yes.

4 MR. MCGOFF: You've made accusations  
5 about individuals that may be criminal in  
6 nature, these should be brought to the  
7 police not to city council.

8 MR. CUSATE: They already have -- I  
9 already have made that aware to the police  
10 and they are investigating this at this  
11 time.

12 MR. MCGOFF: You really are -- some  
13 of these statements that you making could be  
14 slanderous and I'm not sure that we're --  
15 that they should be made at this podium.

16 MR. CUSATE: I'm very sorry about  
17 that, but I'm just concerned about the  
18 safety and welfare of the children and I  
19 just want to implement safety programs for  
20 them that they don't get hurt.

21 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

22 MR. CUSATE: You are welcome.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

24 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else who wishes  
25 to address council?



1 MR. UNGVARSKY: Good evening, City  
2 Council.

3 MR. GAUGHAN: Good evening.

4 MR. UNGVARSKY: I'm Tom Ungvarsky.  
5 Last week city council passed the budget for  
6 2015. In it, there were several revenue  
7 enhancers, one of them was a 19 percent tax  
8 increase. Second one was the tripling of  
9 the LST tax from \$52 to \$156, and the third  
10 one was a doubling of the garbage fee. This  
11 week in sixth order there are three more  
12 revenue enhancers, one is the cost of the  
13 permit to have your own home fixed. The  
14 second one is the \$15 increase going from  
15 \$20 to \$35 to get a license for a dog, and  
16 the third one is the quality of life.  
17 Quality of life has about 29 different  
18 things in it, most of them are already on  
19 the books, but the reason for bringing it up  
20 is so that you can fine people for  
21 violations, and I understand that some of  
22 the fines can be from two to five hundred  
23 dollars. There is no need for it if you  
24 would just enforce the ones that are already  
25 on the books.

1                   Several times the mayor has said  
2                   that we have to bear the pain, but why does  
3                   the pain have be bared by just the taxpayers  
4                   in the city? I'm sure that there is other  
5                   ways that it can be done. About ten years  
6                   ago a group was formed they were called the  
7                   Doomers by the Scranton Times newspaper and  
8                   they warned the city that you cannot keep  
9                   going down the same path, apparently we are  
10                  still going down the same path. Thank you  
11                  for your attention.

12                  MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

13                  MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else?

14                  MR. ELLMAN: Hello, Council. I'm  
15                  not mad at you guys, somebody asked me why I  
16                  was so hostile to you, I'm not mad at any of  
17                  you. You're probably mad at me. I'm not  
18                  mad at the mayor, I just wish that he would  
19                  show the people something. You know, I'm  
20                  just greatly disappointed in him.

21                  Now, I'm going to pick on you, Pat.  
22                  I read that little statement in the paper  
23                  that you wanted to take the burden off the  
24                  people by selling the authority. Let me ask  
25                  you real quick, do you remember this year

1 we're the biggest producers or the second of  
2 gas in the country, this year what did the  
3 gas company do to us? They raised the rates  
4 6 percent. I think it was 6 percent, it  
5 went up anyway. Biggest producer, they went  
6 up. What do you think is going to happen if  
7 you sell that Sewer Authority? Their rates  
8 will shoot up so fast you wouldn't believe  
9 it, and I don't mean to be argumentative  
10 about the landfill, as you know, I worked  
11 for the DeNaples for years. I was up there  
12 this morning for a free cup of coffee before  
13 any of you were up, I was there before six.  
14 You don't think I get up like that?

15 MR. WECHSLER: I was up before that.

16 MR. ELLMAN: You were up. I was up  
17 earlier, I walked by dog at 5:30.

18 MR. WECHSLER: Still up earlier than  
19 that.

20 MR. ELLMAN: But just speaking as a  
21 taxpayer, what do you think would happen if  
22 we'd have to got to Taylor to dump our  
23 garbage in five years or six years or ten  
24 years? The rate is going to shoot up  
25 because they will be the only one in town.

1 I think that we ought to keep out of  
2 something and keep our noses out of  
3 something and worry about Scranton right now  
4 and not Dunmore or you will be paying for  
5 garbage to go down there to Higgins.

6 And has any of you ever talked to  
7 someone that has got a house for rent for  
8 six months or a year or two years? I have  
9 the other day, and I bet Mr. Evans has  
10 plenty of times, here we are and it's such  
11 bad shape and you want to raise taxes. Next  
12 year there will have to be another raise and  
13 then the garbage will go up and it doesn't  
14 stop on people, but there is lot of people I  
15 think that have just reached the point they  
16 are just no more. I have talked to a dozen  
17 or more in the past year and they just can't  
18 go no more. It's over with for a lot of  
19 people. I live off the equity of my house.  
20 I borrow like -- I spent probably over  
21 \$1,000 a month and I told you once I get  
22 about \$1,000 social security, it takes two  
23 of those to pay my taxes and garbage fee.  
24 Just think of somebody out there that just  
25 doesn't have it no more, you know? Water

1 heaters and toilets and pipes breaking and  
2 whatever, fixing cars. Between the school  
3 board, what's that, 6 percent they are going  
4 to go up, and you are 19 you are going to  
5 lose some houses, you know, people they just  
6 don't have it. I'm telling you, you just --  
7 you people just don't associate, if that's  
8 the right word, with the people that are  
9 hurting like any time I go to Price Rite for  
10 my peanuts for the squirrels I talk with  
11 three or four people that are in that  
12 neighborhood. The houses are run down, you  
13 know, my neighborhood the houses are run  
14 down and all of those people that are as far  
15 as I know they have incomes.

16 I don't know who read the paper this  
17 morning, there is an article there on the 25  
18 years ago and it's says there is a society  
19 then that wanted to stop and put the tax  
20 payments, you know, in escrow. I don't know  
21 how far they got or what happened to them,  
22 but if they were talking to a council then  
23 like we are now and I remember 25 years ago  
24 here. I don't remember too well everything.  
25 I could remember sitting out there one time

1 and a councilman said, "If I had read it, I  
2 wouldn't have passed it."

3 I never heard something so  
4 ridiculous from somebody that is supposed to  
5 be taking care of our city. And again, I  
6 might say some harsh things and get you mad  
7 at me, but I love you guys and I wish you  
8 all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year  
9 and I hope we have a better year coming than  
10 this one has been, and get our mayor down  
11 here once in a while. People just want to  
12 see him and hear him give us a pep talk or  
13 something. Thank you.

14 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr. Ellman.

15 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening, Council,  
16 Dave Dobrzyn, resident of Scranton, taxes  
17 and fees paid so far.

18 First I'd like to start off out with  
19 a fraud alert and maybe you can pass this  
20 over to Amil and make a copy of it please  
21 after the meeting because according to this  
22 I won \$2 million in the South African  
23 lottery, Canadian lottery --

24 MR. MCGOFF: -- two million years.

25 MR. DOBRZYN: Two weeks ago I always

1           have my taxes done -- I'll give that to you,  
2           meticulously by Hewitt-Jackson or  
3           Jackson-Hewitt, whichever, and Doreen up  
4           there on Keyser Avenue, and I insure them  
5           and I get a phone call before I came to the  
6           meeting here that I owed the IRS money and  
7           with the insurance and everything else I'm  
8           sure if they got some kind of notice from  
9           the IRS they just appear and you will give  
10          them the information and it would be cleared  
11          up possibly without me even knowing about  
12          it, so be careful, people out there in  
13          TVland, you may not be as fortunate as what  
14          you think.

15                       Well, I venture to say that most of  
16          the Amoroso plan that was in our favor like  
17          the commuter tax and all of these other  
18          sources of the money have fallen through and  
19          I have a hard time seeing how privatizing  
20          trash, I don't want trash on my lawn that  
21          was formerly owned by someone else, and as  
22          far as the Sewer Authority is concerned we  
23          have 25 years of people that are currently  
24          in charge will wind up possibly even serving  
25          a prison sentence for cooking the books, and

1 if it goes in the hands of a corporation  
2 probably not.

3 Now, I don't think that the unions  
4 are going to give one inch. I don't think  
5 that's ever going to happen and PILOTS are a  
6 joke. All you can do is ask for those  
7 concessions and those donations and if they  
8 say no, it's no, and that's it. You might  
9 be able to go to Court, but we all know how  
10 our record is at winning those issues hasn't  
11 been good, so we are going to have to start  
12 developing other plans. Please, reconsider  
13 any, any -- it's like Ron said the sewer  
14 fees will shoot up through the ceiling, mine  
15 are at \$450 a year or so because I keep it  
16 reasonable, but then you might have -- you  
17 might have to pay \$1,000 and that's money  
18 that could be going towards taxes anyway so  
19 I'll wind up with high taxes, and as far as  
20 investing the money into Wall Street, as we  
21 speak Congress is considering a bill that  
22 guts Todd Frank, which was a poor  
23 replacement for Glass Spiegel passed by the  
24 Gingrich congress, and I understand at the  
25 time Bill Clinton disapproved and vetoed it



1 and it was overridden by a couple of  
2 Democrats that jumped ship.

3 And last week I was down by Scranton  
4 High about 3:00 or 3:30, somewhere around  
5 there, and a young girl jumped out in front  
6 of my car and I missed her by about two to  
7 four feet, lucky I'm a pokey driver. I told  
8 you in the past I'm a laid back driver, and  
9 I also noticed that up at the University  
10 despite the fact that we installed those  
11 crosswalks, yellow indicators that flash,  
12 the kids aren't using them, they are just  
13 jumping right out and across the street and  
14 running right in front of cars. So please  
15 consider a letter to all of the schools  
16 that, you know, drivers can't always stop  
17 and it was very lucky that I could stop for  
18 that little girl.

19 And the dog license fees, please,  
20 reconsider that. There are already high.  
21 And I'd like say one thing on empathy, I was  
22 with two retirees and two teachers,  
23 unionized teachers on Thanksgiving Day, and  
24 some of the stuff I heard starts to shake my  
25 empathy. So, please, if you are in public

1 service start having some empathy for  
2 somebody that has to go back to work after  
3 the 2008 debacle with the stock market for  
4 half the money. It's just -- you know, at  
5 some point it's just going to all explode in  
6 your face whether you like it or not. By  
7 the way, Marie DeGeorge said hello to  
8 Mr. Gaughan and Mr. McGoff.

9 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr. Dobrzyn.

10 MR. DOBRZYN: I bumped into her, and  
11 thank you. She might be working in the area  
12 some day.

13 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening, Marie  
14 Schumacher.

15 MR. GAUGHAN: Good evening. You  
16 know, the 2015 budget is looking a lot more  
17 and more like the city's recovery plans,  
18 none of them are adhered to as approved and  
19 there is not a whole lot of credibility  
20 within. Just last week you passed a budget  
21 for 2015 and with less than a week out comes  
22 the RFQ for monetizing the parking assets of  
23 the city. Now, certainly it's not going to  
24 take -- that process is not going to be  
25 taking a year yet there is no parking tax

1           for the spaces at these parking garages as  
2           they will be I would assume private, and  
3           there is a little bit of a -- I didn't have  
4           time to read through all of the RFQ, but  
5           there is some question in my mind if we  
6           lease them and we get a pittance for them  
7           because they need to be changed and we have  
8           to accept that, and still have the humongous  
9           debt of like another \$30 million; or  
10          conversely, in order for somebody to take  
11          them we do lease them and say as the owner  
12          we will make the needed repairs. We don't  
13          have the money to do that. So that's a  
14          little bit nonsensical to me. And also,  
15          where is the money in the budget for -- how  
16          much we think we can get for those garages  
17          and the expenses that accrued to that.

18                   I don't think we can keep on doing  
19          what we are doing. We just keep doing more  
20          of the same. We look at selling assets,  
21          raising taxes, raising fees, meanwhile the  
22          debt keeps increasing and I think this  
23          morning's paper was the icing on the cake  
24          for me. I do not see how we can get from  
25          here to out of recovery in eight years, five

1 years, three years. If either or any of the  
2 five of you see how that's going to happen  
3 based on the budget you passed last week I  
4 would certainly like to hear you share that,  
5 but I don't think that -- unless you can do  
6 that I think it's time we cut our losses and  
7 maybe give the mayor one more chance to have  
8 a come to Jesus meeting with all of the  
9 effected parties, with the debtors, with the  
10 stakeholders and with the taxpayers and the  
11 citizens because the way I see it all we are  
12 going to do is bleed a lot of people dry,  
13 they are going to lose their homes and they  
14 are going to lead miserable rest of their  
15 lives because they have been displaced and I  
16 don't think that's fair. If we are going to  
17 end up in the same spot that we are that we  
18 are in now why bleed everybody? Why not  
19 have the mayor call, as I said, all of these  
20 people together, sit them down in one room  
21 with an out-of-town mediator who is  
22 qualified and say, "You've got six weeks to  
23 come up with a balanced budget. Don't care  
24 how you do it, it will have to be passed by  
25 council, I have to approve of it, but you've

1 got six weeks and if at the end of the six  
2 weeks we don't have a credible balanced  
3 budget we are going to the state to seek  
4 bankruptcy and receivership."

5 I just think extending the pain is  
6 not an option anymore. It's just -- I don't  
7 see how we are going to get there from here.  
8 I don't think any of you can tell us tell me  
9 how we are going to get there from here and  
10 so I think the time is now and it's time to  
11 stop playing games, stop bleeding people dry  
12 and hurting and I hope you will consider  
13 that. Thank you.

14 MS. REED: FIFTH ORDER. 5-A.  
15 MOTIONS.

16 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Wechsler?

17 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr.  
18 McGoff, just a few things this evening. I  
19 have been a professional manager for over 30  
20 years and one of the things that I have  
21 learned along the way is that it's important  
22 to do self-evaluation on how your  
23 performance is, so when I was sworn in on  
24 council I picked a few things to judge how  
25 I'm doing and to judge how the

1 administration is doing.

2 Two of those things that I had  
3 chosen were the ability for the city to make  
4 the MM0 payment this year, and the other  
5 would be our ability to attract additional  
6 banks and better interest rates for our TAN.  
7 Today we found out that the results of thigh  
8 first goal were not met, and we're not sure  
9 right now how poorly we missed our target to  
10 being able to pay the MM0. I consider that  
11 at a lack of performance or failure on  
12 myself and also on the administration. This  
13 year we have increased our taxes, and  
14 hopefully when we look back at this again  
15 next year we will be able to pay our MM0 in  
16 full.

17 Right now we are hearing some  
18 positive things on the TAN. We have some  
19 banks interested, but, once again, we  
20 haven't had that finalized yet, so our  
21 evaluation on that is not complete yet.

22 Next week I'll talk about some of  
23 the positive things that we have  
24 accomplished, but right now I am not  
25 satisfied with my performance or with the

1 administration's performance on this  
2 particular item.

3 We heard tonight someone mentioned  
4 about Detroit and I was interested in  
5 reading today that Detroit got out of  
6 bankruptcy so fast, but Detroit had a couple  
7 of things that we don't have, the first  
8 thing was the State of Michigan offered them  
9 considerable assistance in getting out of  
10 their problem. The second thing that they  
11 got and that we have not achieved yet is  
12 they got concessions from their current  
13 employees and their retired employees in  
14 terms of their pensions. And the third  
15 thing I found quite interesting and perhaps  
16 is something that we can look at here, in  
17 Detroit there was a series of many  
18 nonprofits made sizeable contributions to  
19 the pension fund, and I'm thinking maybe  
20 when we talk about the nonprofits and the  
21 PILOT program one of the complaints is that  
22 they get nothing tangible from contributing  
23 to the city and they are always worried  
24 about the black hole, perhaps if the  
25 nonprofits were able to make contributions,

1 I know there is not millions like there were  
2 in Detroit making contributions from the  
3 nonprofits to the pension fund would be more  
4 acceptable to them, so that's -- and I  
5 congratulate Detroit for getting out of  
6 their bind, they were \$7 billion in the  
7 hole.

8 The one thing that, the final thing  
9 I have is more of a cautionary tale,  
10 recently on East Mountain there have been  
11 some packages delivered by the US postal  
12 service that have been stolen that are being  
13 left at homes where people aren't home and  
14 they are working, so I would caution people  
15 to be careful having packages delivered to  
16 their homes if they are not going to be  
17 there and I perhaps they want to ask, you  
18 know, the mailman or mail person to drop  
19 them off at a neighbor's house so they don't  
20 disappear before Christmas. That's all I  
21 have tonight, Mr. McGoff.

22 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Rogan?

23 MR. ROGAN: Yes, two very brief  
24 items I'd like to bring up. The first one  
25 that Councilman Wechsler touched on a little



1 bit is the TAN. We did discuss in our  
2 caucus tonight a little about the TAN and  
3 legislation is expected for next week on  
4 that anticipation note. I am hopeful that  
5 this time next week after reviewing the TAN  
6 that the interest rate will be considerably  
7 lower than last year, and even more  
8 importantly than the interest rate is  
9 reduction in the fees. It seems over the  
10 last two years the TAN while the interest  
11 rate was also high there was -- the fees  
12 were really where all of the costs to the  
13 taxpayer were bared, and that tax  
14 anticipation note so I'm very helpful that  
15 the fees will come down, the interest rate  
16 will come down as the city slowly but surely  
17 improves our creditworthiness within the  
18 banking community.

19 And finally just one other point,  
20 regarding the quality of life ordinance, I  
21 know Councilman Evans will be making some  
22 amendments tonight, there are a few items  
23 that I will be looking into to add to this  
24 ordinance when we move forward next year,  
25 some that were brought forward to me from

1 the business community downtown, I do want  
2 to work on them to see if some of these are  
3 legal first, and those three items initially  
4 are to include panhandling, vagrancy and  
5 loitering as part of the quality of life  
6 ordinance. I will work with our solicitor  
7 to see how they can be implemented and if he  
8 can be implemented, and if there are any  
9 other ideas that anyone else believes should  
10 be added to the quality of life ordinance  
11 bring that to our attention because I do  
12 think some a good tool for our police  
13 department and for our inspectors to use to  
14 improve the quality of life in our  
15 neighborhoods and our downtown and that is  
16 all. Thank you.

17 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Evans?

18 MR. EVANS: Yeah, I'm going -- I'm  
19 going to veer a little bit from my normal  
20 policy statements and just talk about the  
21 little observations I had. First of all, I  
22 would like to discuss the recent meetings as  
23 related to the budget and the participation  
24 by the public in this process. I'd like to  
25 thank those who came before us each week to

1 discuss the budget to offer suggestions, to  
2 put forth ideas, to give your opinion and to  
3 simply be engaged in the process. While we  
4 may not always agree, this is what the  
5 process is and should be so thank you again  
6 for your involvement.

7 With that said, I was somewhat  
8 disappointed that more citizens did not come  
9 before us to be directly involved in that  
10 budget dialogue. I am and always have been  
11 someone that is willing to listen, to search  
12 out new ideas, and try to affect positive  
13 change when I can. So please stay engaged,  
14 stay positive, come to the council meetings  
15 if you can, e-mail me or my colleagues any  
16 ideas that you might have to improve our  
17 city, especially related to the budget, and  
18 let's see what we with accomplish when we  
19 work together.

20 On a totally different topic, last  
21 evening I was out for a short drive and I  
22 said -- I have to say, you know, when it  
23 snows around Christmas time our city really  
24 is beautiful. The light show at Nay Aug is  
25 spectacular and I'd like to personally thank

1 the Parks and Rec Department and  
2 administration for their commitment to the  
3 light show and all the hard work that goes  
4 into that as well as the county for the  
5 decorations around the courthouse square in  
6 downtown Scranton, and to the hundreds and  
7 maybe thousands of homeowners and businesses  
8 who decorate the outside of their properties  
9 for the holidays you really make our city  
10 look well, look good.

11 I want to offer a special shut out  
12 to Tom and Marilyn Falke, whose Moosic  
13 Street properties are a must stop for  
14 generations of Scrantonians to see at the  
15 holiday and to Jerry and Carol Smurl, good  
16 friends of mine, who have turned the corner  
17 of Prospect and Orchard Street into a winter  
18 wonderland, and who this year have added a  
19 pink gazebo as a tribute to the Susan Komen  
20 Foundation. So thanks again to everyone  
21 that makes Christmas season a little bit  
22 brighter and a little happier for each of us  
23 each and every year.

24 Finally, my time spent on the City  
25 Planning Commission was mirrored by Danny

1           Noone's time spent on Scranton City Council.  
2           While Danny may have disagreed on several  
3           issues over those years, Danny was always a  
4           fair, honest and he was a true gentleman, so  
5           he will be deeply missed and I offer my  
6           deepest condolences to his family. Thank  
7           you.

8                     MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Gaughan.

9                     MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, thank you. I  
10           would also like to extend my condolences to  
11           the family of Dan Noone from North Scranton,  
12           the former Scranton city councilman. As was  
13           mentioned earlier tonight, he will be  
14           remembered for his dedication and great  
15           service to the City of Scranton and my  
16           prayers are with him and his family and his  
17           friends.

18                    I received a letter this week from a  
19           woman who lives in the 400 block of Fig  
20           Street. That was originally a dirt road  
21           until the 1980's and was finally paved.  
22           According to the resident's letter, the road  
23           is in dirty construction and traffic and is  
24           in serious disrepair. It is riddle with  
25           potholes and has serious problems with water

1 runoff. The residents are requesting that  
2 this road be paved, if possible. I spoke to  
3 the resident yesterday about the condition  
4 and history of the road and I will be  
5 speaking with our DPW director about this  
6 issue to see if it can be resolved and  
7 included in the paving project next year and  
8 I will keep those residents updated on any  
9 progress.

10 I have also been in contact with a  
11 few concerned residents in the 1500 block of  
12 Froud Avenue. They are also having trouble  
13 with water runoff and storms that then turns  
14 the whole street into a sheet of ice, and I  
15 will be following up with our DPW director  
16 to see if we can help them out.

17 And a woman on the 800 block of the  
18 Palm Street in South Side is at issue with  
19 her recyclables being picked up so I will  
20 try to see if we can get that taken care of.  
21 And that is it all I have this week. Thank  
22 you.

23 MS. REED: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
24 AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF COUNCIL NO.  
25 155, 1999, AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE

1 LICENSING AND REGULATING OF CONTRACTORS  
2 DOING BUSINESS IN THE CITY OF SCRANTON  
3 INCLUDING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE GRANTING OF  
4 PERMITS AND FEES FOR SAME PROVIDING  
5 PENALTIES AND RIGHTS OF APPEAL TO UPDATE AND  
6 INCREASE THE ANNUAL LICENSE AND TEST FEES BY  
7 AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS AND/OR PARTS OF  
8 SECTIONS OF THE ORDINANCE AS LISTED BELOW.

9 MR. MCGOFF: At this time I'll  
10 entertain a motion that Item 5-B be  
11 introduced into its proper committee.

12 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

13 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

14 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? All  
15 those in favor of introduction signify by  
16 saying aye.

17 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

18 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

19 MR. EVANS: Aye.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

21 MS. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The  
22 ayes have it and so moved.

23 MS. REED: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
24 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND  
25 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE

1 AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CITY  
2 OF SCRANTON AND VALERO FLEET SERVICES TO  
3 SUPPLY (REGULAR) UNLEADED GASOLINE AND  
4 DIESEL FUEL FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2015  
5 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2015 FOR CITY VEHICLES.

6 MR. MCGOFF: At this time I'll  
7 entertain a motion that Item 5-C be  
8 introduced into its proper committee.

9 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

10 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

11 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? All  
12 those in favor of introduction signify by  
13 saying aye.

14 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

15 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

16 MR. EVANS: Aye.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

18 MS. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The  
19 ayes.

20 MS. REED: 5-D. FOR INTRODUCTION - A  
21 RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER  
22 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND  
23 ENTER INTO A CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CITY OF  
24 SCRANTON AND SANTARELLI AND SONS OIL CO.  
25 INC. TO DELIVER LOW SULPHER DIESEL FUEL FOR



1 THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2015 THROUGH DECEMBER  
2 31, 2015 TO THE CITY OF SCRANTON, DEPARTMENT  
3 OF PUBLIC WORKS AT 101 WEST POPLAR STREET.

4 MR. MCGOFF: At this time I'll  
5 entertain a motion that Item 5-D be  
6 introduced into its proper committee.

7 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

8 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

9 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? All  
10 those in favor of introduction signify by  
11 saying aye.

12 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

13 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

14 MR. EVANS: Aye.

15 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

16 MS. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The  
17 ayes have it and so moved.

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

19 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.  
20 64, 2014 - AN ORDINANCE AN ORDINANCE  
21 ADOPTING THE QUALITY OF LIFE AND VIOLATIONS  
22 TICKET PROCESS IN THE CITY OF SCRANTON.

23 MR. MCGOFF: You've heard reading by  
24 title of Item 6-A, what is your pleasure?

25 MR. EVANS: I make a motion to amend

1 Item 6-A per the following changes: In  
2 Section II, definitions. Public officer.  
3 Following "Authorized inspector" insert the  
4 language as follows: "From the Department  
5 of Licensing, Inspections and Permits."

6 Also I'd like to make some changes  
7 in Section 9, fines and penalties, the  
8 following violations I would like to reduce  
9 from \$150, \$150 to \$100 and the reason for  
10 that is trying to be a little more  
11 consistent in fines levied for the quality  
12 of life issues specifically, and after  
13 getting some feedback with some of the  
14 penalties that they have in the ordinance, I  
15 just felt a lower fine would be more  
16 appropriate in some of these cases, so  
17 QOL-008, the fine would be \$100. QOL-011,  
18 the fine will be \$100. QOL-104 the fine  
19 will be \$100. And QOL-018, the fine will be  
20 \$100. I'm sorry, that's QOL-017, I'm sorry.  
21 And QOL-122, the fine will now be \$100, and  
22 QOL-023 the fine will be \$100.

23 I did speak to Director Hinton and  
24 he is in agreement with these changes.

25 MR. ROGAN: Second.

1 MR. MCGOFF: Are there any questions  
2 on the amendment?

3 MR. GAUGHAN: Did we have to do  
4 those separately or do we do it all in one  
5 package? All in one?

6 MR. MCGOFF: I believe that we can  
7 do that in one.

8 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay.

9 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else on the  
10 question? All those in favor of the motion  
11 to amend Item 6-A signify by saying aye.

12 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

13 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

14 MR. EVANS: Aye.

15 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

16 MR. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The  
17 ayes have it and so moved.

18 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-A, as  
19 amended, pass reading by title.

20 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

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

23 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

24 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

25 MR. EVANS: Aye.

1 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

4 MS. REED: 6-B. READING BY TITLE -  
5 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 65, 2014 - AN  
6 ORDINANCE SALE OF TAX DELINQUENT PROPERTY  
7 MORE COMMONLY KNOWN AS 94 CRANE STREET,  
8 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, TAX MAP NO.  
9 16620-010-008 TO JOHN GAUGHAN AND MARIE  
10 GAUGHAN, 99 CRANE STREET, SCRANTON,  
11 PENNSYLVANIA, 18505, FOR THE CONSIDERATION  
12 OF \$2,500.00.

13 MR. MCGOFF: You've heard reading by  
14 title of Item 6-B, what is your pleasure?

15 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-B  
16 pass reading by title.

17 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

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

20 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

21 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

22 MR. EVANS: Aye.

23 MR. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed?

24 MR. GAUGHAN: Abstention.

25 MR. MCGOFF: The ayes have it and so

1 moved.

2 MS. REED: 6-C. READING BY TITLE -  
3 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 66, 2014 - AN  
4 ORDINANCE AN ORDINANCE DEDICATING THE  
5 GREENWAY ALONG LEGGETT'S CREEK IN NORTH  
6 SCRANTON TO BE KNOWN AS "DONALD AND EDITH  
7 MCLANE LEGGETT'S CREEK GREENWAY".

8 MR. MCGOFF: You've heard reading by  
9 title of Item 6-C, what is your pleasure?

10 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-C  
11 pass reading by title.

12 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

13 MS. MCGOFF: On the question? All  
14 those in favor signify by saying aye.

15 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

16 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

17 MR. EVANS: Aye.

18 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

19 MR. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The  
20 ayes have it and so moved.

21 MS. REED: 6-D. READING BY TITLE -  
22 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 67, 2014 - AN  
23 ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.  
24 177, 1994 - ENTITLED "AMENDING FILE OF THE  
25 COUNCIL NO. 52, 1903, ENTITLED AN ORDINANCE

1 (AS AMENDED) RELATING TO DOGS, THE LICENSING  
2 OF, AND DOG POUND THEREFOR, AND PROVIDING  
3 FOR A FUND AND REGULATING THE PAYMENT OF  
4 BILLS FOR THE TREATMENT FOR THE PREVENTION  
5 OF HYDROPHOBIA," AS AMENDED BY FILE OF THE  
6 COUNCIL NO. 13, 1963, INCREASING LICENSE  
7 FEES BY AMENDING SECTION 1(A) TO CHANGE THE  
8 FEES OF THE CURRENT DOG LICENSES FOR ALL  
9 DOGS WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS ALONG WITH THE  
10 TIME FRAME OF A DOG LICENSE.

11 MR. MCGOFF: You've heard reading by  
12 title of Item 6-D, what is your pleasure?

13 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-D  
14 pass reading by title.

15 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

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

18 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

19 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

20 MR. EVANS: Aye.

21 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

24 MS. REED: 6-E. READING BY TITLE -  
25 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 68, 2014 - AN

1           ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.  
2           98, 2009 - ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING  
3           FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 242, 2003, AN  
4           ORDINANCE AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.  
5           155, 1999, AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE  
6           LICENSING AND REGULATING OF CONTRACTORS  
7           DOING BUSINESS IN THE CITY OF SCRANTON  
8           INCLUDING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE GRANTING OF  
9           PERMITS AND FEES FOR SAME; PROVIDING  
10          PENALTIES AND RIGHTS OF APPEAL BY INCREASING  
11          THE COST OF PERMIT FEES IN THE CITY OF  
12          SCRANTON" BY ESTABLISHING A NEW PERMIT FEE  
13          SCHEDULE.

14                   MR. MCGOFF: You've heard reading by  
15                   title of Item 6-E, what is your pleasure?

16                   MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-E  
17                   pass reading by title.

18                   MR. WECHSLER: Second.

19                   MS. MCGOFF: On the question? All  
20                   those in favor signify by saying aye.

21                   MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

22                   MR. ROGAN: Aye.

23                   MR. EVANS: Aye.

24                   MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

25                   MR. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The

1 ayes have it and so moved.

2 MS. REED: 6-F - PREVIOUSLY TABLED -  
3 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF COUNCIL NO.  
4 62-2-14 - AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF  
5 COUNCIL NO. 74 -1993 (AS AMENDED) ENTITLED  
6 "CITY OF SCRANTON ZONING ORDINANCE OF 1993"  
7 BY CHANGING THE ZONING MAP DESIGNATION OF  
8 THE JOHN J. AUDUBON SCHOOL FORM R-1-A MEDIUM  
9 LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL TO INSG GENERAL  
10 INSTITUTIONAL IN THE CENTRAL PLANNING AREA  
11 IN THE EASTERN PORTION OF THE CITY OF  
12 SCRANTON."

13 MR. MCGOFF: You've heard reading by  
14 title of Item 6-F, what is your pleasure?

15 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-F  
16 pass reading by title.

17 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

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

20 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

21 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

22 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

23 MR. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed?

24 MR. EVANS: Opposed.

25 MR. MCGOFF: The ayes have it and so



1 moved. I would like to remind everyone that  
2 there will be a public hearing on this  
3 legislation next week at 5:30 in the council  
4 chambers.

5 MS. REED: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR  
6 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC  
7 WORKS - FOR ADOPTION FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.  
8 63, 2014 - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER  
9 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND  
10 ENTER INTO AN ACCESS EASEMENT AGREEMENT  
11 BETWEEN THE CITY OF SCRANTON ("GRANTOR") AND  
12 AMERCO REAL ESTATE COMPANY ("GRANTEE") FOR A  
13 PARCEL OF AND LOCATED UNDERNEATH THE BRIDGE  
14 CARRYING WEST LACKAWANNA AVENUE OVER  
15 CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY.

16 MR. MCGOFF: What is the  
17 recommendation of the Chair for the  
18 Committee on Public Works?

19 MR. GAUGHAN: As Chairperson for the  
20 Committee on Public Works, I recommend final  
21 passage of Item 7-A?

22 MR. ROGAN: Second.

23 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? Roll  
24 call, please?

25 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

1 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

2 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

3 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

5 MR. EVANS: Yes.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

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

11 MS. REED: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION  
12 BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT -  
13 FOR ADOPTION RESOLUTION NO. 106, 2014 -  
14 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE  
15 CITY OFFICIALS FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO  
16 ENTER INTO A LOAN AGREEMENT AND MAKE A LOAN  
17 FROM THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT  
18 PROGRAM, PROJECT NO. 150.34 IN AN AMOUNT NOT  
19 TO EXCEED \$40,000.00 TO TERRA PRETA, LLC TO  
20 ASSIST AN ELIGIBLE PROJECT.

21 MR. MCGOFF: What is the  
22 recommendation of the Chair for the  
23 Committee on Community Development?

24 MR. ROGAN: As Chairperson for the  
25 Committee on Community Development, I

1 recommend final passage of Item 7-B.

2 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

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

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

6 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

8 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

10 MR. EVANS: Yes.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

14 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I hereby declare  
15 Item 7-B legally and lawfully adopted, and  
16 I'd like to wish the proprietors of Terra  
17 Preta a great success in their new  
18 restaurant.

19 MS. REED: 7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION BY  
20 THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - FOR  
21 ADOPTION RESOLUTION NO. 107, 2014 -  
22 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE  
23 CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A  
24 MORTGAGE SUBORDINATION AGREEMENT, AND ANY  
25 RELATED DOCUMENTS, IN FAVOR OF FIRST

1 NATIONAL COMMUNITY BANK CONCERNING A CITY  
2 OECD COMMERCIAL INDUSTRIAL LOAN WITH  
3 WOOLWORTH DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LLC.

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

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

10 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

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

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

14 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

16 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

17 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

18 MR. EVANS: Yes.

19 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

21 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

22 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I hereby declare  
23 Item 7-C legally and lawfully adopted.

24 If there is no further business,  
25 I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

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MR. ROGAN: Motion to adjourn.

MR. MCGOFF: Meeting is adjourned.

C E R T I F I C A T E

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I hereby certify that the proceedings and evidence are contained fully and accurately in the notes of testimony taken by me at the hearing of the above-captioned matter and that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the same to the best of my ability.

---

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR  
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER